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TANZANIA

SATURDAY 1 MAY, 2021

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Increased omega-3 may dramatically cut risk of heart attack - study shows

MultiChoice's Showmax invests in African content for growth

# Samia endorsed as CCM chair

## ● Vows to work on challenges facing party's cadres, build capacity

By Henry Mwangonde

CCM yesterday confirmed President Samia Suluhu Hassan as the party's national chairperson. She immediately outlined her priorities in the post, focusing on challenges facing the party's administrators and how to solve them.

Urging party members to unite and end wrangling and divisions, the new party chairperson given a unanimous vote at the party's national congress in Dodoma, said she will focus on capacity building among rank and file cadres to enable them reach more people, beyond the 12m card holding party members presently.

"We will continue the culture of self-criticism so that the party stays up to date and remains tuned to the needs of the people at this time," she said, emphasising that the party has to keep abreast with changes happening around the world, apart from the local and regional scene.

Elaborating on the theme of openness in the country's political life, the CCM chairperson said she will embrace the party's tradition of holding open and transparent processes when seeking to find contestants for elective positions in the party and representative positions in state assemblies.

Having been in top leadership positions for most of the past two decades has given her the courage and confidence to lead the party at this stage, the chairperson noted, expressing the hope that the unity existing in the party shall enable her to steer the party in its task of leading the country's development to the next level.

She briefly surveyed economic endeavors of the party in the past half decade, saying that a lot has been done to make the party more self sufficient. It has also conducted systematic verification of party properties and designed electronic payment systems to ensure that party revenues and property values are safeguarded.

Revenues rose from 50bn/- in 2016 to 60bn/- in the current year ending June 30, whereas during the verification process, the party's asset value increased from 120bn/- in 2016 to 1.4trn/- in 2020/2021, she stated.

During the ruling party's extra-ordinary meeting which took place at the Jakaya Kikwete Convention Centre in Dodoma, President Samia obtained all the 1,862 votes cast in the meeting, on the basis of results announced by National Assembly Speaker Job Ndogai, who is also a member of the party Central Committee.

Ndogai said that a total 1,862 congress delegates attended the session and cast their votes. "There were no votes against the nominee. Therefore, Samia has garnered all 1,862 votes, equivalent to 100 percent of the votes cast," he declared.

Earlier, Zanzibar's House of Representatives Speaker Zubeir Ali Maulid declared Happiness Mgongo and Rehema Simba new members of the National Executive Committee (NEC) after they collected 839 and 867 votes respectively against four other candidates.

Kulwa Majiyabululu obtained 403 votes while Ashraf Sadru got 434 votes from the congress delegates. Nguvu Chengula had a higher tally of 542 and Salum Ngezi raked up 577 votes, he had earlier stated.



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses the CCM extraordinary national congress in Dodoma city yesterday moments after it unanimously endorsed her as the ruling party's national Chairperson. Photo: State House

## ...Fields new secretariat team



Daniel Chongolo, CCM Secretary General



Christina Mndeme, CCM Deputy Secretary General (Mainland)



Shaka Hamdu Shaka, CCM Secretary for Ideology and Publicity

### ■ Nyalandu emotional in bouncing back to CCM

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo was yesterday named the new CCM Secretary General in the place of Dr Bashiru Ally, who was first appointed Chief Secretary and a month later, became a nominated MP.

The new secretary general was the most prominent among appointments by incoming party chairman, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in an announcement given to a short meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and availed to the media later.

Another highlight of the day's events where President Samia was unanimously elected chairperson of CCM by all 1,862 delegates voting, was the welcoming back to CCM of two notable cadres of the main opposition

## Ex-CAG outlines 'snags' at investment agencies

By Guardian Reporters

LIMITED mandate of officers stationed at the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) one-stop centre for incoming investors hampers investment flows, as TIC provides only four services out of 11 required.

Former Controller and Auditor General (CAG) Ludovick Utouh made this observa-

tion at a breakfast debate organised by Policy Forum, an NGO, in Dar es Salaam yesterday to discuss the "2019/2020 CAG Report on current financial accountability trends in Tanzania.

The former CAG spoke as Executive Director for Wajibu (Institute of Public Accountability), arguing that for Tanzania to implement the Five-Year Development

Plan (FYDP II) 2016/17- 2020/21, the issues must be resolved.

There is need to facilitate public authorities tasked with the mandate to promote, facilitate and coordinate investments, technology transfer, industry and trade to

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## Minister holds talks with 3 envoys in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister ambassador Liberata Mulamula yesterday met and held talks with three ambassadors representing their countries in Tanzania.

They are Burundi's Gervais Abayeho, British High Commissioner, David Concar and European Union (EU) ambassador to Tanzania, Manfredo Fanti.

Ambassador Mulamula also received credentials of the Italian ambassador to Tanzania Marco Lombardi.

The leaders discussed various issues of cooperation between their countries and Tanzania such as health, education, business, investment and cultural matters.

"During our meeting, we have discussed various issues of cooperation as well as how to further cement our bilateral relations," she said adding all the ambassadors have pleaded to enhance their diplomatic relations with Tanzania for a win-win situation.

She added: "We have also discussed strategic issues of cooperation with the EU and the UK government which are to be implemented in this phase."

Burundi Ambassador to Tanzania, Gervais Abayeho said Tanzania and Burundi have enjoyed bilateral relations for many years,

saying he would wish to see the good relations continue growing.

"Our countries have enjoyed bilateral relations for a long period, you have also suggested the implementation of various projects including construction of roads, ports and railways for mutual benefits," said Abayeho.

The British High Commissioner said they have discussed how to improve the current relationship between Tanzania and the UK government and identified some areas of cooperation.

EU Ambassador, Manfredo Fanti said the relationship between Tanzania and EU has lasted for over 46 years, benefitting both countries. He pledged to continue supporting Tanzanians development endeavours.

Meanwhile, Italian Ambassador to Tanzania, Marco Lombardi said: "We have been cooperating with Tanzania in the areas of tourism, investment, education and cultural issues. We will continue to support various projects in the social and economic sectors."

Lombardi added: "We will continue to strengthen our political and economic relations for mutual benefits. Italy will continue to support Tanzania to ensure its diplomatic relations grow further."

## Press Day: Stakeholders to discuss burning issues

By Alima Nkwong

A CROSS section of media stakeholders have lined up a number of burning issues expected to dominate debates and speeches in the coming event to commemorate the World Press Freedom Day.

The day which is observed every 3rd of May is aimed at raising awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments, is expected to bring together stakeholders at an event to take place in Arusha on Monday.

Speaking in separate interviews with this newspaper the stakeholders mentioned the availability of strict laws, President Samia Suluhu's recent speech on media freedom as among key issues expected to take centre stage.

Chairperson of Media Institute of Southern Africa - Tanzania Chapter (MISA-TAN) Salome Kitomari said the push for amendment of some media laws which are seen unfriendly to the media will discuss them among the key issues at the event.

"We have the issue of licences which are given to journalists and are renewable only for one year, we want this to go up to five years to make journalists work freely," she said.

"Another burning issue was that of the structure of media accreditation board which gives powers to the minister responsible to appoint all the seven members which we believe will serve the interests of one side," she said.

The Misa-Tanzania chairperson also elaborated her expectation concerning the access to information law which gives full permission to media practitioners to access information to sources after a 21 days request adding that it is not fully implemented especially as government officials do not cooperate even though information is a public good.

She requested for full implementation of the law which she said was important to facilitate good governance.

She added that during the meeting they expect to also discuss on the economic and social challenges facing the media.

Other issues according to her, was the safety and security of journalists and media and communication and digital literacy.

She further said the media

fraternity was confident that the change of political administration in the country will facilitate media freedom because the new president has indicated her willingness to let the media operate freely.

"We hope that the media industry will continue to grow instead of paralysing" she added.

She also outlined some measures which could be taken so that the media will not go back to its former position of no or less freedom of the press where she said there is need for the media industry to be vibrant and commit to the owners, media practitioners and audience.

Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) Kajubi Mukajanga said that the access to information law should be reviewed because it has weaknesses hinder journalists to conduct their work freely.

"There is need for awareness on the law so that both sides of the government and media practitioners should understand it," he said.

According to the General Secretary of Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) Neevile Meena TEF has so far held two different events ahead of the day.

In their meetings, Meena said key issues were dialoging to develop a route map to empower women leaders in media but also consulting on the best way to work together between the media and government.

"We cannot be fully assured of 100 per cent freedom even though people are rejoicing" said Neevile. Referring to what the new President Samia Suluhu Hassan underscored that the government should handout the freedom of the press and be ready to be criticised not only by parliamentarians but also by the media.

Meena gave an example of a directive by President Samia to reopen media which were closed by the former regimes like online TV but authorities have interpreted it otherwise.

He said that the president has shown that she is media friendly but some senior government officials are yet to accommodate the president's new direction.

He called for the discouragement of a one man show in the country's leadership and said that the constitution should be the leading instrument in decision making.



CCM national Chairperson President Samia Suluhu Hassan flanked by Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, both of whom have previously held the twin positions, shortly after the party's national extraordinary congress endorsed her in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: State House.

## ...Fields new secretariat team

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party Chadema. Shaka Hamidu Shaka, a long-serving militant of CCM Youth ranks will succeed Humphrey Polepole, recently appointed nominated MP, as NEC Secretary for Ideology and Publicity. It was another landmark change in fielding a new secretariat to serve under the new top leadership of the party.

Dr Kakurwa led the party's assets location committee under former chairman President John Magufuli before being appointed to take over

from the long-serving party organiser, manager of presidential campaigns and secretary general for seven years, Abdulrahman Kinana.

The noble returnees from Chadema were former cabinet minister Lazaro Nyalandu and former councilor and erstwhile regional leader for the opposition party, Suleiman Mathew.

Nyalandu served as Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism for a while in the fourth phase government and was among a crowded list of 32 aspirants seeking nomination to carry the CCM flag in the 2015 gen-

eral elections.

He openly disagreed with measures being taken by the fifth phase government and shifted to Chadema, and in the wake of a new air of openness in the country's political scene, plus setbacks in his opposition career, opted to come back and bear witness to the new sense of assurance.

Ruvuma regional commissioner Christina Mndeme is replacing Rodrick Mpogolo as Deputy Secretary General (Mainland), where the NEC statement said he will be as-

signed other duties.

Abdallah Juma Sadallah 'Mabodi' remains CCM deputy secretary general (Zanzibar) while Col.(rtd) Ngemela Lubinga stays put as CCM Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

Soon after electoral processes were concluded by the national congress, the new chairperson convened the central committee for a meeting which approved appointments to the secretariat, and then briefed NEC members, the outgoing publicity secretary indicated.



Allen Magita, plant manager with the Kibaha-based Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd, briefs Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa at the plant's Zegeleni Industrial Area premises in Coast Region earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ex-CAG outlines snags at investment agencies

FROM PAGE 1

deliver, he stated.

The latest CAG report unveiled the presence of an unfavourable environment for supporting investors as Tanzania was ranked 141 out of 190 countries, he stated, noting that from 2015 to 2020 Tanzania's score dropped significantly in global rankings in relation to creating a friendly investment environment.

"There were excessive delays in giving feedback on investors' applications by the relevant authorities from the standard 14 working days to hundreds of days," he said.

Applications for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Environmental Audit (EA) under the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) take a long time to be completed, nearly a hundred days, he stated.

There was similarly a huge budget deficit of 45bn/- equivalent to 49 per cent of the total approved budget estimates for investment promotion agencies, he pointed out, citing a shortage of manpower equivalent to 35 per cent of 513 required staff, while also lacking appropriately skilled manpower.

The latest audit report revealed that investment bodies' board meetings were not properly convened and often had no governing boards or substantive board members.

Public institutions were found to be operating without regulations and strategic plans, citing also delays in government decisions to issue permits for industries established by pensions funds.

The stalled projects are Medical Products factory in Simiyu Region, Mponde Tea factory in Lushoto, Tanga Region and Mbigiri Sugar Production by Mkulazi Holdings Co. Ltd,

he said.

Uncompleted development projects count upwards of 266 development projects with a total value of 184.0bn/- where 101 local government authorities are involved, he stated, noting that delays may touch off an increase of total project costs due to rising prices.

About 55 development projects with a value of 10.6bn/- belonging to 26 local government authorities were not implemented despite of having the funds for implementation of the projects in respective authorities, he added.

## Analyst recommends formation of national education commission

By Correspondent James Kandoya

A CRITICAL analysis of Tanzania's Education and Training Policy (ETP) 2014 recommends the formation of the National Education Commission to oversee the entire learning system.

Conducted by education-focused civil society organization, HakiElimu, the analysis whose report was unveiled in Dar es Salaam yesterday highlights weaknesses, strengths and recommendations aimed at making ETP help the country achieve economic, social, scientific and technological transformation.

Dubbed "The Education We Want", the report a body charged with overseeing Tanzania's education is key to necessary reforms to be made in the sector.

"Establish a national body of education or the national education commission to oversee the entire education system," reads the report.

When presenting the report, Dr Wilberforce Meena from Haki Elimu said that the guidelines on the curriculum was not well conceptualised and competence-based curriculum was not implemented as intended.

Meena recommended that the pedagogical structure and curricula for formal education are supposed to be relevant to the needs and interests of learners at different stages of their development.

"We hope the ministry for education will take on board these recommendations during the review of the ETP 2014 and prepare and new policy that addresses these issues," he said.

He clarified that the recommendations came from HakiElimu and education stakeholders towards achieving quality education that addresses the problems of sustainable development that the country spearheads.

He mentioned other recommendations as to establish a clear limestone for curriculum review and revision processes that are cyclical, led by experts managed by the national committee and informed by evidence. It has been suggested the need for active involvement of private sector and professionals as well as international consultants in textbook writing production and distribution.

According to him, the 2014 policy doesn't not provide clear guideline to align textbooks with the competency-based curriculum and there was no clear framework for guiding preparations of textbook authors

"Our policy does not clearly identify the roadmap for the curriculum development, revision, change and reform," he said.

As a result there was a limited number of qualified textbook publishers and limited facilities for the storage of textbooks in the country.

Other recommendations were internationalise universities to encourage international students by identifying universities in the country and nature them to become world-class universities.

The HakiElimu Executive Director John Kalage said the summary of the critical analysis of policies and guide-



A road in Malinyi town in Morogoro Region rendered near-impassable after heavy rains made River Furu burst its banks and wreaked havoc in the neighbourhood. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

lines were carried towards the ongoing government processes of reviewing the ETP 2014.

He said the 2014 policy does not meet the current demands of education and training in the country, required to achieve economic, social, scientific and technological transformation.

Expressing the government concern, the [permanent secretary, Ministry for

Education, Science and Technology Dr Leonard Akwilao said the government was ready to work with stakeholders to improve the quality of education in the country.

"A would like to assure you that all the government will take on-board all the recommendations in the ongoing ETP review that will kick-start any time," he said.

## WFP reshapes the future of Dar es Salaam's food system

By Getrude Mbagu

IN efforts aimed to improve urban food security in the country, the World Food Programme (WFP) is now investing efforts to support more innovative ideas that are meant to support the objective.

With its project dubbed "WFP-X Innovation Initiative in Tanzania", the United Nations' organisation is facilitating the exploration of disruptive innovations, technologies and business models driving change.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam on Thursday to showcase various innovations meant to support food security in mega cities, WFP programme policy officer Asia Sultan said the organisation is working closely with young innovators on how to reshape the future of Dar es Salaam's food system.

"Implemented under the World Food Programme's Innovation Hub in Tanzania with funds from the government of Luxembourg, WFP-X aims to explore urban food security in megacities of the future where seven problems around nutrition, food waste and climate change have been identified," she said.

According to her, there are over 100 innovative ideas but WFP picked five innovations with the most potential to solve food insecurity problems to showcase their works.

She named the innovative ideas as 'Forever Food', this a natural solution derived from tree sap that prevents food spoilage by extending the shelf life of fruits and

vegetables for up to 20 days and catalyzes the replanting of acacia trees

The second one is 'Novex', an animal feed that turns zero value food waste into bacteria-based protein fodder and sinks carbon in the process

"We also have NextMeat: a clean and nutritious animal meat alternative made from black soldier a fly larva which is harvested in urban areas using organic waste

The other one is 'Mr Bin Gas', a food waste recycling system which returns biogas to the community for clean cooking and last one is 'Mama Lishe Poa', a chain of women-run street vendors, popularly known as 'Mr Bin Ntilie' who serve nutritious and environmentally friendly meals which are affordable and easily accessible to the majority of Dar es Salaam residents

Asia said that Dar es Salaam has been chosen for the WFP-X project because it is one of the fastest growing cities in the world, with its population expected to reach 10 million people within a decade. This rapid growth can present challenges in food and nutrition security, which will require innovative solutions.

"The first step of WFP-X was to define these challenges. Seven specific problems were identified: low production from farmland, post-harvest loss, short shelf life for produce, diets that fail to nourish the body, the cost of eating healthy, cooking's contributing to climate change and food waste," she said. She said WFP-X has also been supported by WFP In-

novation Accelerator and by a team of local and international advisors and mentors representing public and private sector individuals dedicated to the innovation process.

Asia noted that due to growing population, Dar es Salaam and the megacities of the future could have food security issues that do not exist today.

"Our goal is to understand and shape the future of food systems anticipating the solutions before the problems exist. So these innovations will change the landscape of food security for those most vulnerable."

Dar es Salaam is one of the fastest growing cities in the world, with its population expected to increase by 60 percent by 2030. In fact, the population is expected to grow so much that Dar es Salaam is expected to be the second largest city by population in the world by 2100, with a predicted population of 76 million.

Sisty Basil from 'Mr Bin's Gas' said use food wastes to produce gas which can be used for cooking and other uses. According to him, this will help cut down food loss as well as prevent environmental pollution as most of the wastes will now be turned into gas.

"The idea is still young but we have managed to produce a lot of gas which we have sold to some people and this gas is 30 percent cheaper than other gas sold in the town, so we are calling for more support from the government and stakeholders so as to make this innovation sustainable," he said.



### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/NC/NCB/2020~21/50  
FOR

#### PROVISION OF CLEANING & GARDENING SERVICES AT ZRB OFFICE GOMBANI CHAKE CHAKE - PEMBA

- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) has set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for Provision of Cleaning & Gardening Services at ZRB office, Gombani Chake Chake -Pemba.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Providing Cleaning & Gardening Services at ZRB office, Gombani Chake Chake -Pemba.  
  
The scope of services include cleaning of the whole building in tiled areas floor, walls and toilets and bathrooms, cleaning of parking and paved areas, untiled area, generator rooms and guard booth, cleaning and maintaining of garden, to provide all necessary cleaning equipments, chemicals and materials etc.  
  
The above named services constitutes one lot; and bidders must quote for all items and related activities specified in the lot.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Secretary of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Tender Board, P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: [zrb@zanrevenue.org](mailto:zrb@zanrevenue.org) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8.00 AM – 17:00 PM Monday to Friday except for public holidays.
- A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling One Hundred Thousands (TZS 100,000/-). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) ,A/C Name; Commissioner –Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:[zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/)
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Tanzania Shillings Two Million (TZS 2,000,000/-) in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
- All bids in one original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00hrs Friday 21st May, 2021**. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Zanzibar Revenue Board Building- Mazizini- Zanzibar.
- Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O, Box 2072, 2nd Floor, Room No: 209  
Mazizini- Zanzibar



### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION (IFQ) NO: SMZ/F0111/NC/CQ/2020~21/49  
FOR

#### THE PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES AT ZRB OFFICE, GOMBANI CHAKE CHAKE, PEMBA

- The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) has set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for provision of Security Services at ZRB office, Pemba.
- Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified service Provider for provision of security services at ZRB Pemba, the service include the guarding and alarm system services. The scope of services involves provision of two (2) guards for the period of two (2) years.
- You are hereby invited to submit your priced quotation for the provision of the services as described under paragraph 2 above
- Complete set of Quotation in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Service Provider on the submission of a written application to the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling Fifty Thousands (50,000/-). Payment should be by bank payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board through the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) ,A/C Name; Commissioner –Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal:[zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/)
- All quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Securing Declaration in the format provided in the solicitation documents.
- All quotations in one original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00hrs Thursday 13th May, 2021**. Quotations will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Service Providers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference room,4th Floor of the Zanzibar Revenue Board Building-Mazizini Zanzibar.
- Late Quotations, Portion of Quotations, Electronic Quotations, Quotations not received, Quotations not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

SECRETARY  
TENDER BOARD  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O, BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar



Tanzania Investment Centre executive director Dr Maduhu Kazi (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday on the achievements the centre registered between July last year and March this year. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Improvement of the quality of learning should go with monitoring framework'

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

EDUCATION, Science and Technology ministry permanent secretary Dr Leonard Akwilapo has said the main purpose of any education system is to provide students with knowledge, skills, and values for effective participation in society. He said however, However, many countries have no systematic information on learning outcomes.

"A framework that monitors learning outcomes can provide the basis of comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan for assessing how an education system performs over time," he said, adding the framework can be used to monitor learning at national and international levels and that students in schools has to go simultaneously with the availability of learning tools and quality education infrastructure.

The PS made the remarks on Wednesday this week during the launch of the "The Education we Want" prepared by a panel of experts in collaboration with HakiElimu.

Dr Akwilapo said the Ministry well recognizes the 2014 Education Policy which has been the subject of complaints by stakeholders from the private sector without giving any recommendations over what should be done.

He added: "HakiElimu, in recognizing that, has come up with a document "The Education We Want" which has recommendations of what should be done and that will assist the Ministry in the process to improve the policy.

"I hope today's document is very important as it will improve ways to improve the education system and the increase of knowledge to the people."

For his part, the HakiElimu Director John Kalage said one of the reasons for HakiElimu to come up with the document stemmed from many complaints from stakeholders saying the Tanzania education system was not good and does not satisfy the nation's needs.

He said the policy with that is implantable was important in ensuring that Tanzanians get the education that will empower them in the 21st century.

# Students awarded cash after winning challenges

By Guardian Reporter

A TEAM of information technology students from various universities in the country have won cash prize and other items after emerging winners an innovation challenge.

The group dubbed Team Dantics beat five others teams in a challenge that required

them to create a data visualization tool to track and manage data.

The challenge which took place last week was the third leg of a participatory and mentorship platform called Corporate Hackathons that helps students to cultivate their innovation through creating solutions for challenges posed by different companies.

The latest challenge was conducted in partnership with Boomplay and Slide Visuals and according to a statement released yesterday by organizers, Team Dantics bagged 500,000/- from Slide Visuals and some gifts from Boomplay.

"This tool will enable Slide Visuals to understand customer behavior, patterns, and revenue predictions and hence improve efficiency," reads the statement.

The advisory named members of the winning team as Blessing Rweikiza (UDSM), Alice Machive (UDSM), Alex Mkwizu (UDSM), Habil Raphael (UDSM) and Baraka Mafole (NIT). The initiative is a university outreach programme by a Tanzanian tech firm

Smart Codes through its innovation platform Smart Lab and implemented in partnership with Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) and UK Aid.). The programme aims to create a linkage between learning institutions and companies. It is an initiative to get universities more involved in innovation and technology, entrepreneurship and building

high-quality graduates with all the necessary employability skills and empower them with real-world employability skills while linking them with rising corporations in Africa.

The hackathons are a participatory and mentorship platform that helps students to cultivate their innovation through creating groundbreaking solutions for challenges posed by

different corporates. "The Corporate Hackathons continue in May with more challenges and partners participating in guiding the students," reads the statement.

Smart Lab's mission is to foster innovative solutions from corporates, startups, and youths that solve challenges within the African community.

## JKT calls on volunteers to report at their camps beginning next week

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Service (JKT) has urged youth who were selected to attend the volunteer training for 2020/21 intake to report to the camps from May 7 to 14, this year.

"These are the ones who were sent back home in February, this year when JKT suspended the training due to internal reasons," he explained.

Addressing journalists, JKT acting head of administration Colonel Hassan Mabena said the youth are those who completed Standard Seven and Form Four.

"Those who completed Form Six, obtained certificate diploma and degree levels as well as engineers should wait for other procedures," he said.

Col. Mabena said the youth will continue learning vocational skills aimed to build them become strong, patriotic and thus be able to employ themselves after completing the training.

"When they are in the camp, we take good care of them, raising them to be ethical citizens as well as patriots for their country," Col. Mabena said.

He further said the young who are expected to graduate from high school (Form Six) soon will be selected and sent to JKT camps for training as per country's law.

"We have started working on this which includes seeking for the lists of the students from respective authorities, so they should get prepared," Col. Mabena said.



Tanzania Horticultural Association managing director Jacqueline Mkindi (L) pictured at Mlangarini in Arusha Region earlier this week presenting to Shepherds Secondary School manager Lucy Moses one of ten laptops UNDP has gifted the school. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

# Plans afoot for construction of reservoirs in drought-stricken regions

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said the document for the construction of dams in the country's drought regions has been completed and 88 dams have been planned for construction.

Agriculture Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe revealed this yesterday in the august House when responding to a question by Manonga MP, Seif Gula-

mali.

In his question, the MP wanted to know when would the government issue funds for the construction of big dams and irrigation schemes at Choma Chankola, Ziba and Simbo of which feasibility studies had been completed for more than six years now.

Responding, Bashe said the document has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Planning for the purpose of seeking funds for implementa-

tion.

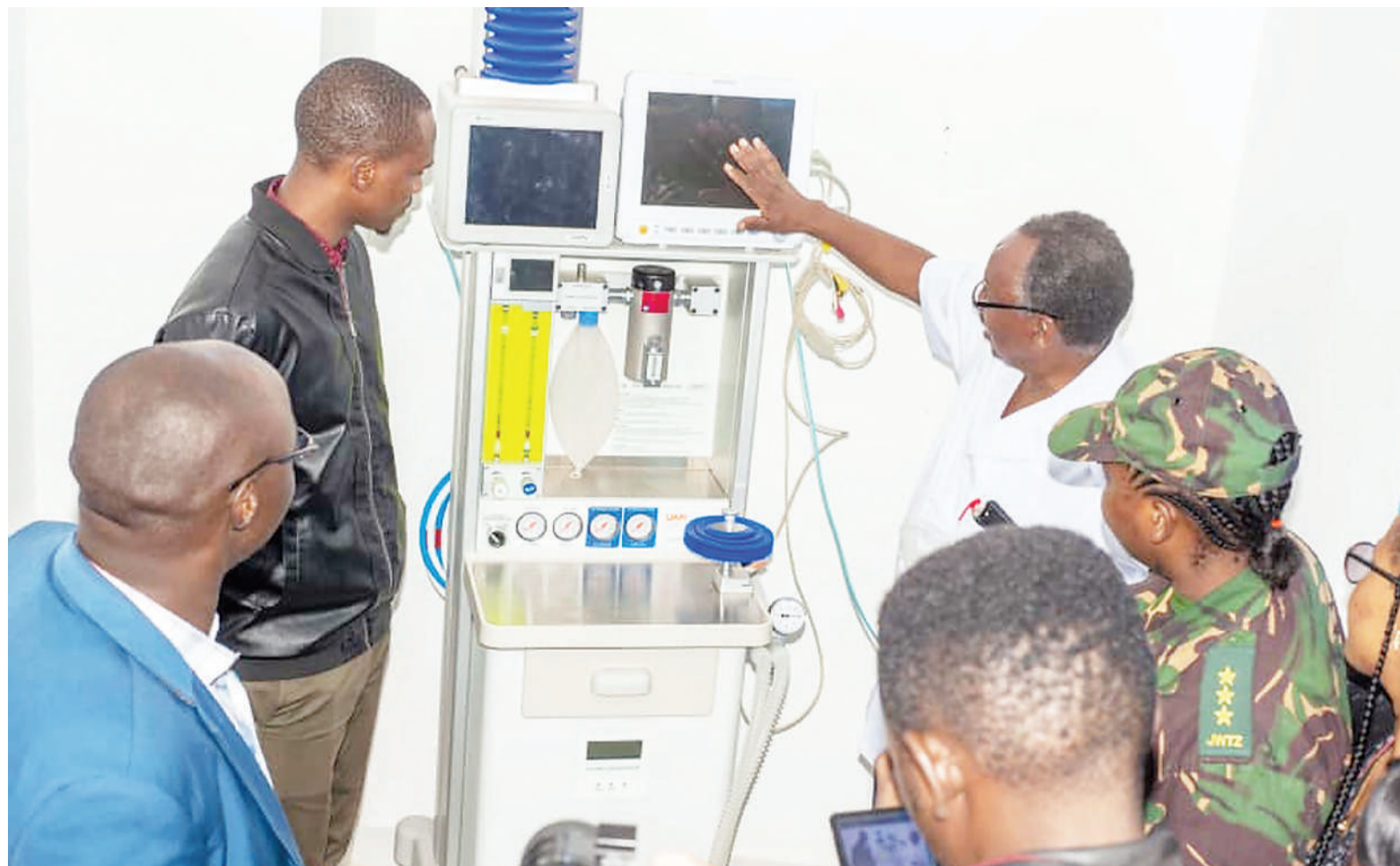
He explained that the feasibility study for the Choma Chankola dam in Choma Chankola Ward in Igunga District shows that it has the capacity to store 6,825,757 litres and the harvested water can irrigate 400 hectares of rice.

However, he said the dam including all valleys in Ziba fit for irrigation had been incorporated in the 2018 Grand Irrigation Scheme for implementation.

He said the government was still seeking funds for the construction of the dams.

He further said in regard to Simbo dam in Simbo Village in Igunga District, its feasibility study had also been completed and has the capacity to store 15,228,318 litres and harvested water can irrigate 1,000 hectares of rice.

"This dam is also in the 2018 Grand Irrigation Scheme for implementation," added Bashe.



Arusha district commissioner Kenan Kihongosi (2nd-L) inspects medical equipment during a tour of a newly built hospital in the district earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

## Kagera referral hospital begins mobile clinics for HIV patients

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

KAGERA Region's referral hospital has introduced mobile clinical services to serve people living with HIV living in remote areas not easily accessible.

Speaking about the service the hospital's assistant supervisor for people living with HIV, Suzan Butela said they have decided to establish mobile clinical services to solve the challenge in the provision of the service to HIV patients. "There is a challenge of service recipients getting 'lost' due to distances and the financial hardships, as some are fishermen, hence they find it difficult to leave their daily preoccupation to go to the clinic, hence we decided to introduce this mobile clinic," she said.

She said apart from having to follow up for their ARVs, others have appointments at the hospital for medical examination but do not turn up, hence many stop using ARVs thereby endangering their lives.

She further said the mobile clinic service has helped them

discover other new people with HIV.

She added that with the service, they were able to reach pregnant women living with HIV who are giving advice on how to serve themselves and deliver babies who are free from HIV infections.

Kagera region medical officer Dr Issessanda Kaniki said all local councils in the region have mobile clinics to simplify health service delivery to areas that are not easily accessed.

He added that there were also plans to build dispensaries in inhabited islands of Lake Victoria.

"Kagera region is well known for having inhabited islands - there are 25 of them and so far we have built dispensaries in five of them, but also we have a motorboat we use to visit these areas for the provision of health services," he said.

According to the hospital's assistant supervisor for people living with HIV, Suzan Butela the hospital serves 2,674 people living with HIV.

## Kairuki pharmaceuticals factory to commence production of drugs

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

THE 45bn/- worth Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited (KPIL) factory in Zegeleni, Kibaha District in Coast Region is set to commence production in June, this year, a move which will help reduce the burden of importation of drugs.

Vice chairperson of Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN), Dr Muganyizi Kairuki said in an interview that everything was on track and they are waiting for final touches includ-

ing connection of electricity and water to start the project.

Kairuki Pharmaceuticals Industry Limited is wholly owned subsidiary company of a parent company known as Kairuki Health and Education Network (KHEN) in which Kairuki Hospital (KH), Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) and Kairuki School of Nursing (KSN) are also incorporated.

Dr Muganyizi said they have already imported raw materials which will be used in production of medicines and they expect them to be in the country this May and they have com-

pleted recruitment of the staff to work in the factory.

According to him, 60 per cent of the medicines will be for the local market while 40 per cent will be for East Africa countries and Southern African Developing Countries SADC countries.

He said the KPIL's factory has the capacity of producing 55 million bottles of intravenous infusion annually and to start with they will be manufacturing nine types of intravenous infusion.

The vice chairman added that in future they will expand to manufacturing of tablets, capsules, suspension and medical

devices.

"We are based on the latest technology of production of intravenous infusion using polypropylene bottles and eurocap, the factory will have 200 direct employment and indirect employment of about 500 people," he said.

"The investment cost is about 20 million USD, and it has been conceived at the backdrop of the fact that Tanzania faces challenges of inaccessibility of affordable and quality pharmaceutical products and the ongoing industrialization drive in the country as articulated in the

2016 - 2020 National Development Plan and Tanzania vision 2025," Dr Muganyizi elaborated.

He said the project also exploits the export potential of IV fluids to the sub-Saharan African market.

"Our mission is to grow and become the pharmaceuticals company of choice for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and our mission is to produce a broad range of high quality pharmaceuticals and medical products for the local and the international market at competitive prices," narrated Dr

Muganyizi.

On production strategy, Dr KPIL is envisaged to proceed in three main phases. He said in the first two phases, the plant will have two production lines with a capacity of producing 576 million

According to Dr Muganyizi in phase one the plant will start with the production of Pharmaceuticals generics focusing on small and large volume solutions - based medications.

He said in phase two, pharmaceutical consumables and disposables will be introduced

while in phase three a broad range of pharmaceuticals, supplements and medical products will be produced.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa visited the industry on Tuesday and commended KHEN for the huge investment where he assured them of full government's support.

Majaliwa said government officials must work hard to help investors instead of frustrating them when they knock to their offices for investment issues because it is through new investments the government expands tax wings.



Hanang legislator Samwel Hhayuma makes remarks at a Nangwa Secondary School graduation ceremony on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## ILO promises continued technical and cooperation to support OSH

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) has promised to continue offering technical cooperation, and support in improving the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) in the country.

In his statement released during the commemorations of World Day for Safety and Health at Work places on 28th April held in Mwanza, ILO country director Wellington Chibebe, said that ILO in Tanzania will continue its support to the government, workers and employers organisations in translating and applying the International Labour Standards (ILS) including on OSH, through social dialogue, as it ensures that procedures and protocols are effectively implemented and accepted at country level.

He said "We commend government's continued commitment in recognising, coordinating and organising the OSH day and for joining the rest of World in commemorating this day, every year."

This provides an opportunity for a country to take stock of OSH progress in the past years, including best practices and challenges so as to effectively plan to address the challenges and improve where necessary. "We acknowledge and appreciate the collaboration that is built

on the spirit of tripartism, in organising these OSH commemorations." ILO recognises and appreciates active engagement and participation of the government institutions and of the social partners; Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and its members, Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) and its affiliates.

Their participation in OSH exhibitions highlight their contributions in improving OSH at workplaces across sectors in the country. He congratulated all SMEs who participated in the training sessions and built their capacities in managing OSH risks and hazards at enterprises level. Chibebe said that building capacities on OSH for SMEs such as; food vendors, does not only improve their working conditions but also provide an entry point in reaching out to other informal economy workers and facilitate formalisation and realisation of decent work, including access to social protection and health services.

The ILO is also pleased to learn that the Government, through Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), has initiated Awards on Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH 2021).

This not only enhances compliances by motivating employers to improve

OSH standards and compliance, but it also encourages investment in OSH infrastructure by employers, which will subsequently improve productivity at work the place/enterprise and national levels.

"As we join the social partners in congratulating employers, both from public and private sectors award winners, we request that these Awards on Occupational Safety and Health be continued in future."

**SAUTI YA UZIMA RADIO COMPANY LIMITED**  
Incorporation number 125531  
The companies Act, 2002  
(section 334(1))

**MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that at a duly convened meeting of Sauti ya Uzima Radio Company Limited (the company/company number 125531 which took place on 9th April 2021 the following special resolutions were passed:

1. that in accordance with section 333(1)(b) of the companies Act 2002, the company should be wound up voluntarily; and
2. that the members have approved the appointment of Linda Allan Mwambete of mikumi house 368 msaani road oysterbay P O BOX 9673, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania as the liquidator of the company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days, claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

**COFFEE HUB COMPANY LIMITED**  
Incorporation number 138836932  
The companies Act, 2002  
(section 334(1))

**MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the general public that at a duly convened meeting of Coffee Hub Company Limited (the company/company number 138836932 which took place on 9th April 2021 the following special resolutions were passed:

1. that in accordance with section 333(1)(b) of the companies Act 2002, the company should be wound up voluntarily; and
2. that the members have approved the appointment of Linda Allan Mwambete of mikumi house 368 msaani road oysterbay P O BOX 9673, Dar Es Salaam Tanzania as the liquidator of the company.

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public and the parties concerned to submit their claims for admission within 30 days, claims lodged after 30 days will not be considered for admission.

## 200 Tanzanians to secure jobs via NTS-Germany's Bosch partnership

By Guardian Reporter

THE new partnership between two automobile service companies, Nas Tyre Services (NTS) and Germany's Bosch service company will see about 200 Tanzanians securing employment.

The partnership demonstrates good business relations between the two countries which is due to the country's conducive business environment.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by Germany ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess during the official launch of the partnership between NTS, the Tanzanian automotive company and one of the largest importers and distributor of tires and batteries with Bosch, a Germany renowned automotive company that operates across the globe.

Ambassador Hess said her government would continue encouraging German investors to explore investment opportunities in Tanzania. She was in support of President Samia Suluhu Hassan's vow to restore investor trust in the country by creating a favorable business climate

noting that this would help in strengthening the economy at individual and national level. "The Tanzanian President has assured that Tanzania is a good place for business, this is a great opportunity for investors including those from Germany to expand their wings here," she said.

NTS chief operating officer, Amin Lakhani said: "We are ourselves proud to supply and provide quality, world-class products and services, for decades now Tanzanians have benefited from our investment in this industry, in that regard, we saw an opportunity for growth in this market hence our decision to partner with Bosch, all in efforts to continue giving our clients the best, yet

cost-effective automotive services."

"With the addition of Bosch services under our belt, Tanzanian mechanics and the youth in general will get training opportunities including specialised training outside the country to advance their skillset, in other words, through this affiliation, NTS is opening doors of opportunities for the Tanzanian youth in this sector," noted Lakhani.

Commenting on the partnership with NTS, Bosch business development manager, Manor Thakkar said NTS has a good rapport in the automotive industry and is well known for its quality, top-notch services.

"From a business perspective, the partnership is a win-win," he noted.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA**  
**DAR ES SALAAM DISTRICT REGISTRY**  
**AT DAR ES SALAAM**  
**EXECUTION NO. 6 OF 2021**  
**EXIM BANK (T) LIMITED.....APPLICANT**  
**VERSUS**  
**ARNOLD MATEMBA t/a KISAKI.....1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT**

**TO:**  
ARNOLD MATEMBA  
a/t KISAKI STORES  
DAR ES SALAAM.  
TANZANIA

**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the above mentioned case has been fixed for mention **06<sup>th</sup> day of MAY 2021 AT 11:00 AM** before **Hon. CHARLES MAGESA -DR** you are required to appear in this court without fail and must produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your case.

**TAKE NOTICE** that in default of your appearance on that day aforementioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

**GIVEN under my HAND and SEAL of Court this 23<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 2021**

**DEPUTY REGISTRAR**  
**HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA**  
**DAR ES SALAAM**

## Major water project for Namtumbo in pipeline

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to implement a huge water project whose water will be drawn from Likiwigi and Libula water sources capable to produce more than 4 million litres per day to solve water woes in Namtumbo District.

Deputy minister for Water, Maryprisca Mahundi disclosed this in the House on Wednesday when responding to a question posed by Namtumbo MP Vita Kawawa (CCM).

In his question the MP said his constituency was experiencing water problems in almost all rural areas including the district headquarters.

"What are the government's plans to solve this problem in the 2020/21 budget?" Asked the MP.

Answering the question, the Deputy Minister said the project's feasibility study has been completed and it would begin in FY

He said the water availability in Namtumbo rural areas was at 69

per cent and in solving the problem the government in its budget for FY 2020/21 through RUWASA has completed two projects.

He mentioned the projects as Mkongogulioni-Nahimba and Mtakuja that serves 9,683 residents in

Mkongogulioni, Nahimba and Mtakuja villages.

"The implementation of the Likuyusekamaganga, Njoomlolo, Ligunga, Lusewa and Kanjele water projects are expected to be completed by May, this year, whilst those for Litola-Kumbara, Luhimbailo-Naikesi are expected to be completed in December, this year," he said.

he said in regard to Namtumbo town, the government was continuing with both short and long term plans.

He also said the exercise to connect 1,500 customers to water service from the 24km main pipeline was continuing and would be completed in September, this year.



Chamwino legislator Deogratius Ndejmbi (R), who is Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has iftar with residents of the constituency on Thursday evening. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

**What are the government's plans to solve this problem in the 2020/21 budget?**

## Prophet TB Joshua to attend daughter's wedding in Arusha

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

DAUGHTER of the popular Nigerian prophet, preacher and TV personality, Serah TB Joshua, will marry a Tanzanian at a wedding scheduled to take place in Arusha next week. The Guardian has learned.

Bride-to-be, Serah Temitope Joshua of Lagos, Nigeria is set to tie knots with Brian Ovin

Moshi of Sinoni, Arusha, next Saturday at the 'Immaculate Heart of Mary' Catholic Parish in Unga-Limited Ward, Arusha, according to the information contained in the wedding invitation cards.

The available information however is yet to confirm if and when the famous charismatic preacher, Temitope Balogun Joshua (Prophet TB Joshua) of

the popular Nigeria's SCOAN Ministry and his wife will attend his daughter's wedding.

TB Joshua first came to Tanzania in November 2015, following the General Election. He reportedly held audience with the two top presidential candidates John Magufuli and Edward Lowassa.

His daughter's wedding in Arusha next weekend, is likely

to bring back the prophet into the country.

According to official information from organisers (preferring anonymity) after Brian and Serah's wedding Mass in Unga-Limited, the follow-up reception and ceremony will be take place inside the 'Lake Nyasa Hall' located at Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) complex in the town

centre.

It is anticipated that the lavish wedding will be the most popular event to occur in Arusha, this year and chances are that the occasion will receive international media coverage due to the popularity of the bride's father who also runs Emmanuel TV in Lagos.

Prophet Temitope Balogun Joshua, popularly known as T.

B. Joshua, is a Nigerian charismatic pastor, televangelist and philanthropist. He is the leader and founder of the so-called 'Synagogue, Church of All Nations, abbreviated as SCOAN Ministry.

TB Joshua is known for his popularity across Africa and Latin America with a social media presence with commanding 3.5 million follow-

ers according to Facebook. His YouTube channel, Emmanuel TV, had over 1,000,000 subscribers and was the world's most viewed Christian ministry on the platform before it was recently suspended for some reasons.

Still, TB Joshua is being described as the 'Oprah of Evangelism,' and remains 'YouTube's most popular pastor.'



Kilolo district commissioner Asia Abdallah briefs journalists on Thursday after participating in a World Vision Tanzania 40th anniversary debate on sexual violence against children and women attended by various stakeholders, among them religious leaders. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya

## Govt calls for patriotism from water contractors

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WATER minister, Jumaa Aweso has called upon contractors working on water projects to be patriotic and help the government to properly spend money on projects aimed at improving peoples' livelihoods.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of a meeting between water experts from the mainland and Zanzibar, Aweso argued that contractors should always have actual research fund estimates instead of overestimating projects costs.

He also challenged all water users' committees to have treasurers and patrons to ensure no money is lost for the sustainability of water projects in the country.

"Experts in the water sector have the mandate to help the government with actual costs of projects rather than overvaluation of projects", said the minister.

The minister told the meeting that he had visited 192 water projects nationwide and by using internal experts, the projects projected to cost a staggering 207bn/- only cost 163bn/- saving 44bn/-.

He also noted that Matamba Kinyika project in Makete District covering seven villages was initially estimated to cost a total of 4.7bn/- but was completed at the cost of 1.5bn/- saving 3bn/-.

Aweso maintained that the nation needs more patriotic contractors, saying, "We have got so many capable contractors in the country and it is important to consider their performances and patriotism in all the projects they undertake".

He however cautioned experts against unfairly hiked water bills, noting that most members of the public do not have proper understanding of water billing system.

The minister reminded the meeting that President Samia Suluhu Hassan has categorically stated that every Tanzanian to have access to water and on the other hand help save water sources.

"In 1961 there were only 10 million people in the country but the number has increased to 55 million currently, unfortunately water sources has remained the same, in fact some have become non-existing" he said, adding that in the past they played in some rivers that no longer there.

Aweso said there is need to have plans to increase water sources, calling on the experts to use their expertise on how best to harvest rain water which in most cases is lost.

The minister was also of the opinion that most projects seem neglected by experts and they sometimes die natural death because of very small problems.

## Plans ready to turn Msimbazi valley into an economic zone

By Guardian Reporter

FEASIBILITY study for the project that seeks to turn Dar es Salaam's Msimbazi valley into a buzzing economic zone is ready, the National Assembly heard.

This is part of the government's plan to transform the river that discharges its waters into the Indian Ocean into an economic hub with

various economic activities.

This was said by the deputy minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Environment) Hamad Hassan Chande when speaking in the National Assembly in Dodoma on Wednesday when he was responding to a question posed by Kinondoni Member of Parliament, Tarimba Abbas (CCM).

In his question the MP asked

when will the government start developing the Msimbazi valley as outlined in the CCM 2020-24 election manifesto.

Answering the question, Chande said in order to realise the pledge, the project's feasibility study has been completed.

"The implementation of the project will start after receiving the government's go-ahead on the use

of the funds, a loan through the Ministry of Finance and Planning," he said. However, he said in order to reduce the effects of floods, the Msimbazi river section at the Jangwani bridge was repeatedly being rehabilitated by TANROADS.

Earlier, he explained that the President's Office (Regional administration and Local Government) is implementing the Dar es Salaam

Metropolitan Development Project (DMDP) through a USD 300 million soft loan from the World Bank (WB).

"The Tanzania government through UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is implementing the Tanzania Urban Resilience Programme (TURP) that aims to assist local government and the central government in fighting

the effects of climate change, he said. He said the programme will soon start solving inconveniences posed by the Msimbazi river valley.

"Already DFID has set aside USD 20 million for the Msimbazi valley, and the WB, through DMDP has agreed to provide an additional loan of USD 100 million for fighting challenges posed by the Msimbazi river valley," he added.



BancABC Tanzania managing director Imani John (R) presents prepaid card to Chief Sheikh Abubakar Zubeiry bin Ally at iftar the bank hosted for its customers in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Mufti applauds BancABC for commitment to driving financial inclusion in the country

By Guardian Reporter

MUFTI of Tanzania Sheikh Abubakary Zubeiry has commended BancABC Tanzania for its commitment towards driving financial inclusion in the country.

BancABC has been collaborating with the government in driving financial inclusion through extending its financial services closer to the people across Tanzania.

The move aims at reducing the percentage of unbanked people as well as improving livelihoods through increasing its footprints in Tanzania.

Sheikh Abubakary Zubeiry made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday during an iftar hosted by BancABC for their customers with an aim of showing love and care especially during this holy month of Ramadhan.

"I have heard what the managing director has said in his briefing on the bank's operations in the country. One of the most important things is what he has said about driving financial inclusion to the people of Tanzania and most to those unbanked populations," said Sheikh Abubakary.

He added: "Other corporate companies and financial institutions should emulate this as it one of best ways of creating economic freedom

to the people of Tanzania and especially those living in remote areas."

The Tanzania Mufti commended BancABC's involvement in Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) activities, which among others is the sponsorship of orphans with medical insurance, which assured them an access to improved health facilities whenever they fall sick.

"I take this opportunity to congratulate the bank's management for supporting orphans as it is one of the groups in our society whom many people don't give them priorities. I pray that you continue with the same heart and the Almighty God shall reward you'.

Earlier, BancABC Tanzania Managing Director, Imani John said the bank has been providing a wide range of products for individual customers, small and medium scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) and local corporates ranging from deposits to loans for different customer segments in a way that its innovation and dedication has been recognized through a couple of awards in the industry.

"For two consecutive years - 2017 and 2018, BancABC Tanzania won the Most Emerging Bank Award in East Africa through the Banker Africa - East Africa Awards hosted in Nairobi due to our innovative solutions offered to our customers," said John.

## East Africa's rice sector stakeholders set to discuss value chain production

By Guardian Reporter

MAJOR players in East Africa's rice sector are set to convene next month to discuss key topics surrounding the region's rice value chain in a bid to increase domestic rice production to fulfill the increasing demand.

The East Africa rice conference (EARC) is slated between 18 and 20 May, this year bringing together government officials, development partners, members of the research and academic community, donors and investors, the private sector, and farmer and civil society groups to lead criti-

cal discussions for the region's agri-food systems transformation and development.

In a statement availed to the media, Hannington Odame, regional coordinator of the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) programme, Nairobi noted that sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration is a worthwhile investment and a step in the right direction for the achievement of national and regional rice self-sufficiency, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods.

He said the discussions will focus on accelerating progress

in rice research & development, inclusive markets & value chains, rice-based livelihoods - gender and youth integration, integrated rice sector development in a changing climate, inclusive finance & investment, and agricultural policy processes & reforms.

"Rice research is the linchpin of scientific innovations and basis for an enabling policy environment that will accelerate agri-food systems transformation to respond to challenges that the region is facing," said Abdelbagi Ismail, Regional Representative for Africa of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

The conference will give impetus to agricultural growth, food, and nutrition security, and rural development as outlined in the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

Additionally, it will optimize gains from national rice development strategies (NRDS) and initiatives by organizations including the Africa Rice Center (AfricaRice), the Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) Programme of the Future Agricultures Consortium, the Center for African Bio-Entrepreneurship (CABE), the Coalition for African Rice Development

(CARD), the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and other organizations.

The conference also provides an opportunity to revisit progress towards the 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods commitments adopted by African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government.

Ultimately, the conference outcomes and recommendations will provide useful multi-stakeholder information and

perspectives to current Africa-wide and worldwide food and nutrition security initiatives such as the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021. "Credible knowledge on rice is critical for informed policy making which is instrumental in increasing the productivity of rice-based agri-food systems and sustainable use of natural resources," says Harold Roy-Macauley, Director General, AfricaRice.

Africa has become a major consumer of rice with an estimated annual import cost of 5-6 billion USD. Between 2010 and 2035, the continent will need

an additional 30 million tons to meet this demand (Seck et al., 2012). According to Kilimo Trust, over 1.5 million farming households in the East African Community depend on rice for food and income security with an average of US\$ 550/household/year from rice production enterprises.

AfricaRice contributes to reducing poverty, achieving food and nutrition security, and improving livelihoods of farmers in Africa by increasing the productivity and profitability of rice-based agri-food systems, while ensuring the sustainability of natural resources.

## TBS to conduct products' health, safety inspection in Iringa Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

OFFICIALS from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) are in Iringa Region to conduct market inspections aiming to ensure that sold products meet the set health and safety requirements.

TBS principal public relations officer, Roida Ndosamile said the market inspection exercise in Iringa Region will mostly target food and cosmetic products.

"We want to check whether the products in the market are of similar quality with those manufactured by factories," said Ndosamile noting they also want to protect consumers.

TBS will also take some cosmetics and food samples which will be tested at its laboratories in the southern highland zone; she said adding that findings will be shared with manufacturers for purposes of improving quality.

TBS quality assurance officer, Ernest Simon said that apart from inspecting shops, they have also provided education to traders on how to properly keep the products.

Simon said they have so far inspected 1,116 shops and issued building permits to 421 traders. He appealed to importers of various

goods to make sure they are certified by TBS in order to protect the consumer.

"We are responsible for protecting Tanzanians from consuming substandard imported products. Imported goods are tested at our laboratories before they are circulated in the markets," said the officer.

He reminded small and medium scale entrepreneurs engaging in production of different goods to formalise their businesses as well as registering with the Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

Some interviewed traders commended the Bureau for coming up with the market inspection system saying it will help manufacturers to improve the quality of their products. One of the traders, Faraj Abri commended TBS for the inspection exercise saying it helps to remove fake goods in the market.

Abri who sells vehicle lubricants and spare parts thanked TBS for the education provided to them on how to differentiate between genuine and fake products because some of them did not have the knowledge.

"We can now differentiate between fake and genuine products; this helps us to also protect our customers from using sub-standard products," he added.



Jenista Mhagama (L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities), issues instructions to North Mara Gold Mine health and safety manager Reuben Esikaia (R) when she toured the mine's pavilion at the World Day for Safety and Health at Work exhibition in Mwanza city on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Rose Jacob

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Non-Communicable Disease Alliance (TANCDAA) has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan by having in her government priorities for the war against non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In its statement to the media TANCDAA secretary Prof Kaushik Ramaiya said: "We also praise her for recognising hardships experienced by many NCDs sufferers by promising to boost health insurance funds to enable them cover all Tanzanians, the issue that has been TANCDAA's cry for a long time."

"Addressing the 12 Parliament in Dodoma on April

## TANCDAA hails Samia on war against

22 this year, President Samia said her government would put its efforts in the prevention and treatment of diseases including NCDs that cause many deaths and cost the government huge amounts of funds."

President Samia also said her government will strengthen specialized health services at regional referral hospitals.

Quoting president Samia, Prof Kaushik said "the government will strengthen health services to elders and put in place special plans to provide medical services

to people suffering from rare diseases.

"My government will strengthen the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) aimed at having Universal Health Cover (UHC)."

The TANCDAA statement further quotes Prof Ramaiya as saying that the Alliance was greatly satisfied by the government's strategy by recognising that sufferers of NCDs increase at a fast rate even affecting young people including children.

He also said scientific researches show that in 2016

42 million people, or 71 per cent of all deaths in the world were caused by non-communicable diseases and 75 per cent of all deaths of people between 30 and 70 years of age.

He explained that NCDs are diseases that have no bacteria that can transmit from sufferers to others, such as heart diseases, cancer, diabetes and mental diseases.

"TANCDAA concentrates more in educating the community to understand these diseases because our research shows that if everyone understands well the diseases, it would be easy for them to avoid them," Prof Ramaiya further said in the statement.

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**Taking A New Look  
At The News**  
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## The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

## Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

## Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

## Africa needs improved infrastructure for sustainable social and economic growth

**I**NFRAStructure is the set of fundamental facilities and systems that support the sustainable functionality of households and firms. Serving a country, city, or other area, including the services and facilities necessary for its economy to function. Infrastructure is composed of public and private physical structures such as roads, railways, bridges, tunnels, water supply, sewers, electrical grids, and telecommunications (including Internet connectivity and broadband access).

In general, infrastructure has been defined as the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions and maintain the surrounding environment. Especially in light of the massive societal transformations needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, contemporary infrastructure conversations frequently focus on sustainable development and green infrastructure. Acknowledging this importance, the international community has created policy focused on sustainable infrastructure through the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Sustainable Development Goal 9 "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure".

One way by which to classify types of infrastructure is to view them as two distinct kinds: hard infrastructure and soft infrastructure. Hard infrastructure refers to the physical networks necessary for the functioning of a modern industry.

This includes roads, bridges, railways, etc. Soft infrastructure refers

to all the institutions that maintain the economic, health, social, environmental, and cultural standards of a country. This includes educational programmes, official statistics, parks and recreational facilities, law enforcement agencies, and emergency services.

The African Union (AU) wants to tap into member countries' sovereign wealth funds to finance much-needed transport and power infrastructure to boost growth and offset rising national debts. It says it is needed to capitalise on a new, continental free-trade agreement to get goods and services flowing around the continent.

As it stands, countries struggle to fund big capital works on their own, the AU said. The plan was revealed by Raila Odinga, the AU's high representative for infrastructure.

The AU wants to collect 5 per cent of the money held by its 55 members in sovereign wealth, insurance and retirement funds. Odinga said it would be more lucrative than having funds 'lie idle'. 'Africa is financially starved as far as the need for infrastructure development is concerned,' Odinga commented.

According to the AU, there is an annual shortfall of between \$60bn and \$90bn, which is preventing the continent from advancing its plans for economic integration.

The AU's vision for Africa rests on a \$3.4 trillion African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). An agreement setting up the area was signed in March 2018, and it came into force in May 2019. This agreement aims to create the largest free trade area in the world.

## Covid-19 drawbacks: No simple solutions to EAC tourism sector

**R**EPORTS say that East African Community (EAC) member countries are estimated to have lost international tourism receipts of up to \$4.8bn in the past year, following the Covid-19 outbreak. This estimation is contained in a study by the East African Business Council, and notably it was supported by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) with the collaboration of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That would imply there was sufficient peer review in what the business council had to say.

An assessment by a top official of the EABC noted that the study surveyed the impact of COVID-19 on the tourism and hospitality industries, along with policy options to generate impetus in activities in the sector as the industry finally opens up, for instance with global 'vaccination passport' schemes. Still it appears that the report was anchored in a Western sort of lobby, seeking ways to protect sector players from COVID-19 disruptions, even raising prospects of what to do about possible future pandemics. It is clear that East Africa isn't in that league; tourism is a top foreign exchange earner - which sector helps it?

Aggregates that were given in the report were somewhat curious from the viewpoint of laymen, as they were not handed in the context of nation-state specificity, rendering the data only partially relevant for policy discussion in the region.

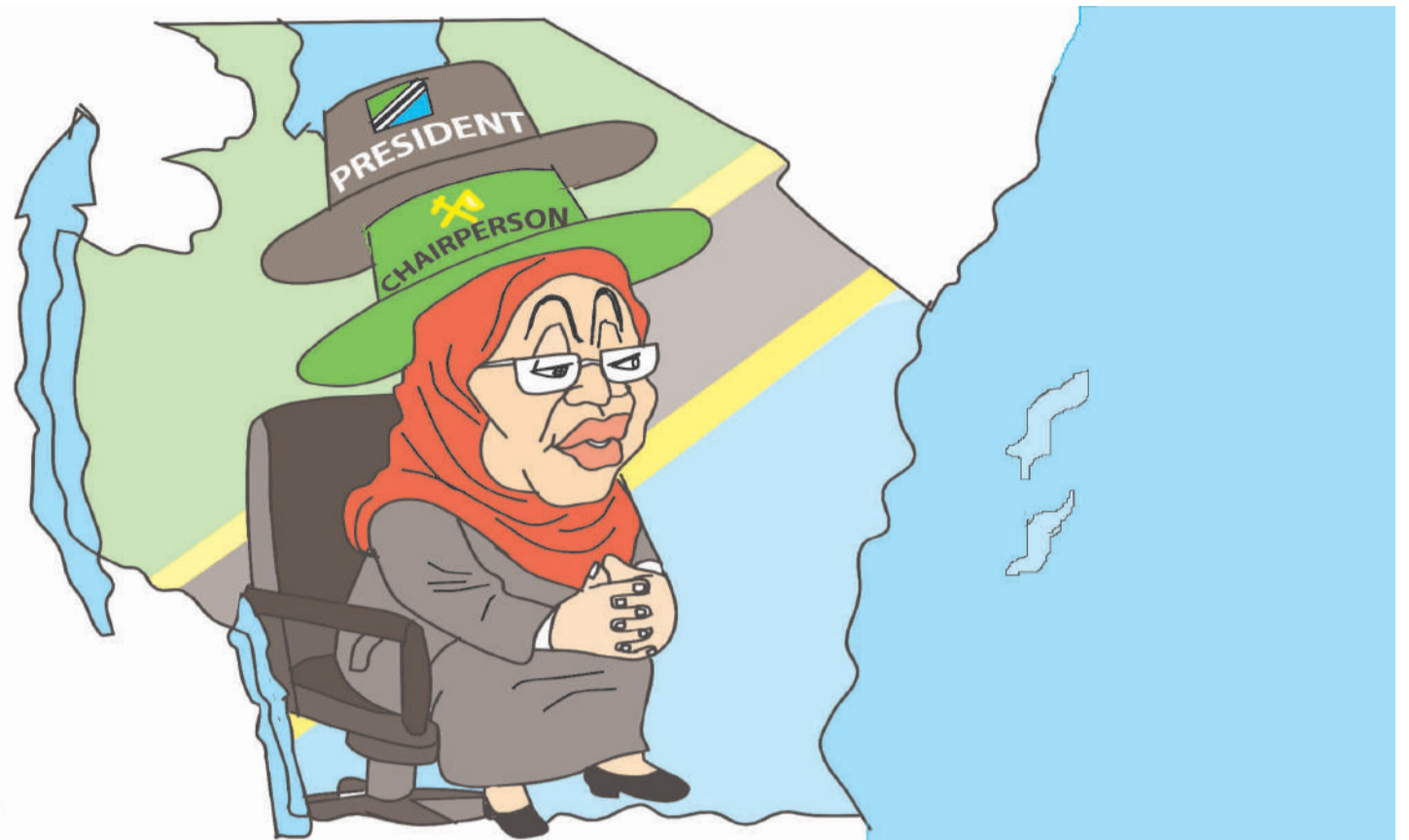
Given the fact that the EAC zone is essentially a customs union and not a common market as yet, the partner states are more in competition than concord in the sector, in which case they can discuss common threats and responses, hardly solutions. The partner

states are more capable of comparing notes in the area as neighbours and partners in a whole range of issues, that's all.

There is a degree to which on the whole there was an alarming situation in the EA tourism sector during 2020 and definitely has persisted in some regards, if unevenly but there were also some bright spots. This lack of a general crisis in the sector diminishes the urgency with which the report or rather study was introduced in an EABC briefing via a stakeholders' 'webinar' and indeed takes toll on some of the solutions proposed. On the whole the solutions have to do with a pre-existing quest for deepening EA business cooperation than pitching for sorting out chaos or losses in the travel industry as it is made out.

Just in a few areas were there glimpses of normalcy, at least to an extent, with around 35 per cent of interviewed respondents saying they reduced staff by more than 50 per cent while 20 per cent reduced staff by a much lesser proportion. Around 32 per cent maintained staff at partial pay and just eight percent of respondents retained most staff at full pay, implying that few businesses were unscathed. That situation is negative but apart from individual ability to access credit, burdens can't be transferred to other sectors.

What was definitely questionable was the urgency to shift to a 'single destination' sort of marketing of tourism, which can be embedded as an aspect but definitely not a solution to Covid-19 drawbacks. It may even play a negative role for instance as Tanzania has a much less visible Covid-19 environment but critics prefer to believe it's lack of statistics. Nor are stimulus packages relevant but some tax relief, just.



@MSAMBA

## Freedom Day: After 27 years, we need a new social consensus and our own inner 'Madiba'

By Jay Naidoo

WE stand on the edge of a new precipice. The world's leading climate scientists have warned there are only a dozen years left for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C. There is no time to lose. We cannot leave a legacy of a wasteland to our children and grandchildren. It's time to rise above our differences, for the sake of humanity and our planet.

"The time for the healing of the wounds has come. The moment to bridge the chasms that divide us has come. The time to build is upon us. We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination."

Nelson Mandela, Inaugural Address, 10 May 1994.

This Freedom Day we celebrate 27 years of freedom on 27 April 2021. And we commemorate the 27 years that Nelson Mandela gave of his life in jail for our freedom.

Twenty-seven years... What can happen in those 10,000 days or so?

What did Madiba do in his 27 years in jail?

He learnt the language of the oppressor. He studied their history, their poetry, their culture to be able to talk to the heart of his "enemies". He went deeply within himself. To know who he was. What he had to do to make his life worthwhile.

In his prison cell, no bigger than a bathroom, he made that most important journey of his life. From the mind, the agitated centre of attachments, desires and ego to the softness, forgiving centre of the seat of the soul, the heart. He understood who he was. What he had to do beyond his political activism, his anger and the tsunami of his churning human emotions. In those uncharted waters of his inner world, he navigated the minefield of ancestral trauma and woundedness of his life.

And as he pierced the veil of pain and suffering, he transcended the limitations of mind, body and intellect. And he saw the incredible trellis of life. The unlimited potential of the intelligence



we possess. That Divine Energy we are all part of. Indivisible. Interconnected. We are one with everything we share our Mother Earth with. The People. The eagle. The land. The forest. The river. The ocean. Everything is sacred.

And that's why he was a priceless gift to us and the world. His forgiving heart, his generous spirit of reconciliation. His endearing hands of compassion, comforting our sorrows, reaching out across the chasms of our deep racial and class divisions. Coaxing us to work together. To rise above our narrow constituencies and our diametrically opposed views to find the common ground. To remind us that every conflict, every war has to end with the protagonists sitting around the table to rebuild the bridges of healing our bleeding wounds and building a more intelligent cooperation.

That was the mandate of the Mandela generation. Nothing more. And as we stepped back from the precipice of racial civil war that would have engulfed us all and destroyed the very foundations of our society, we committed to a democracy based on one person, one vote in a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. The Mandela generation did not promise us anything more than the tools of transforming our society and addressing the deep economic and social legacy of apartheid. They created a safe container of a sovereign progressive Constitution to guide our work.

I am deeply grateful to our founding father and all who selflessly worked along

side him for shepherding us through a dangerous terrain of explosive violence into the opening up of a new chapter in our history.

But history continues to unfold.

What have the last 27 years meant to us? What did we do with the power we were given?

The reality is we are still deeply divided. Not just by race. But also by class. Status. Employment. Religion. Gender. Poverty. Suffering. The syndrome of the "Big Chief", and party bosses who know what is best for the people, have failed us. The toxic masculinity of politics today deepens divisions, using the legitimate grievances of our people to drive personal political agendas. Ascendancy to power does not change the basic fundamentals of deprivation and suffering. It just opens the doors to a new brigade of wannabes to feed at the trough.

The state has become the site of contestation. Not about the delivery of the better life we promised our people. But a fierce war within the political class rearranging their chairs on the Titanic. Our political, moral crisis is dominated by "dirty money" in which decisions are driven by the emissaries of billionaires, both locally and globally. It is that system itself that needs to be challenged, not the individual decisions it makes. For 27 years citizens have surrendered their power to these leaders. Now we need to reclaim our power.

So how do we want to walk together in the next 27 years?

My last 27 years have convinced me that changing the system is not rocket science. The biggest challenge we face is changing the human being. On this Freedom Day, I will ask myself what more I can do to find that "Madiba" within. That is the choice for every citizen. To make ourselves better human beings. To reach out across the chasm in small ways with kindness. And those millions of small actions will achieve more than grandiose promises.

I understand today that we need a new social consensus. One not based on corporatist elites in business, government and labour but on an authentic intergenerational dialogue through grassroots engagement from the bottom up. So reach out as many are doing, and street by street, school by school and village by village we all need to put our shoulders to the wheel of hope.

I am an elder today. I have no ambition to seek position or power. I strive in everything I do to unify the differences and to support an authentic intergenerational dialogue. To listen carefully to the voices of young people. To encourage and nurture their agency. We stand at the edge of a new precipice. The world's leading climate scientists have warned there are only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

There is no time to lose. We cannot leave a legacy of a wasteland to our children and grandchildren.

What will you do in the next 27 years?

We all share a wound of our past. Whether that manifests in the violence of superiority or the resentment of a feeling of inferiority, it is a wound to be healed. If Mandela and many of his generation made such tremendous sacrifices to bring us to this point, then who am I not to continue to be of selfless service to others? Why should I not find that courage to take that journey from my head to my heart and heal myself? And reach out to others as we walk a path guided by ancestral wisdom to rise above our differences. To redefine civilisation beyond our addictive consumption and material accumulation. To see Mother Earth as a co-creator, teacher and symbiotic partner.

Mandela once wisely said, "It always looks impossible, until it's done." On this day let us ask ourselves how the seeds we plant today will yield a harvest of hope and joy 27 years from now. It is time to plan, today, so that our children and grandchildren have a tomorrow.



# Tribulations of a hustler



you to: study hard, get good grades go to college, graduate top in your class and companies will come looking to hire you. You did your part and still job opportunities haven't been forthcoming. Surprisingly, most classmates who weren't serious with their studies landed plum jobs immediately after campus. Their parents might have pulled some strings to make it happen but who in this city cares about how you get ahead? It is all about who you know. Judging from the pictures you've seen on Facebook you are the only one in misery. Former classmates, have bought new cars, live in expensive apartments, frequent fine dining joints, and travel across the world yet you have never seen the inside of a plane!

Your only powerful connection is a distant uncle who works at a government ministry. However, his wife hates your guts, actually, she hates everyone who is not

headed to the city center at that time.

It is crystal clear that the first thing you will do should you land that junior managerial post is to take your mother to a specialist for treatment since the medical personnel at the village dispensary don't seem to know what is ailing her, all they keep doing is prescribing to her more antibiotics. The second thing you would do is to take your sister to form one. She cleared her Necta exams a year ago but your family has not been able to raise the required school fees. You are afraid that if she continues to stay at home the boda boda riders will take advantage of her innocence.

You ride to the city for your job interview unfazed that only a 5000 shillings note is standing between you and starvation. Today you can feel it be your chance. You hope to land the job and move to the other side of the city where you won't have to share toilets, hop over trenches full of raw sewage to get home or have to deal with marauding criminal gangs in your neighborhood. After all, this big city is where dreams come true, they say.

The sun might rise today and your efforts will pay off.

**College Comfort Zone**

*With*  
**Salima Hamisi**

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**saly30@gmail.com**  
**0762 174 124**

ITS 3 am, your eyes are closed but your mind is working overdrive.

Earlier in the day, you received a call from a lady with a trace of British accent inviting you for a job interview the next day. For a moment you thought she was a con but when you checked your email and saw an invitation for the same, you felt happier than you have ever being in a long time.

It's 3 years or maybe 4 since you cleared university and you haven't landed a job yet. Your unemployment status has not been due to lack of initiative because God knows you try.

You have applied for literally all jobs even those remotely related to what you pursued in college. Over hundred job applications sent yet only two firms invited you for an interview. The first job interview was a sham, from how the officials conducted themselves it was clear they had already picked their preferred candidates before the process began.

The second interview was full of drama and left your ego bruised as we. You arrived at the recruitment center at 7 am only to find about eighty candidates at the gate. The officials arrived two hours later, gathered you all at the parking lot where a man in his mid-forties addressed the crowd eager to land a job. He went on about the qualities they desired in a candidate and how great it is working with the NGO.

All this time, you stood there, reciting answers to questions frequently asked in job interviews, like where do you see yourself in five years? Seriously how do you answer that when you have no idea where you will be in a week? Suddenly, everyone except you bolts for the main entrance to the building. Young, old, men and women, in formal attire carrying brown envelopes with impressive CVs and academic papers turned to savages, tearing at each other trying to be the first into the building. Are we under a terrorist attack? If so, why are people running into the building and not away from it?

You decided to run along with the crowd. On getting into the building, you meet a bunch of people, shirts ripped off, elbows grazed and a few missing a shoe. After inquiring for a while about what's happening, a lady about your age fills you in. Apparently while you were engrossed deep in thought, the recruitment manager explained to the crowd the first test. The test involved racing up the stairs to 5th floor. The first twenty to get to the fifth floor would sail through to the second phase of the interview while the rest would go home. You went home a dejected man, unable to understand how running up the stairs could make one a better employee.

Still lying-in bed, you open your eyes. A beam of light from a nearby street light pours into the tiny room through a small window near the top. A huge dark cockroach crawls across the ceiling. Damn these roaches! I barely have enough food yet these roaches

look healthier than I do. You jump out of bed grab a slipper from the floor and aim at the roach, only to miss it by far. The bug scampers to a dark corner. You sit on the edge of the bed and scan the room. Will I ever get out of the slum and move to the other side of the city? You live deep in the heart of an informal settlement in town. The area is overcrowded, no sewage channels are available so raw effluents from toilets flow in open trenches, which characterize the area. When it rains, you are forced to wade through murky contaminated waters to get to the main road, it's a miracle there hasn't been a cholera outbreak otherwise you would all be dead. You stay on the ground floor of a one-storey mabati structure. Toilets and shower rooms are on the furthest. Tenants rarely use them at night when thugs are on the prowl so they relieve themselves just below the wooden staircase making the whole building stink. Your single room is dark, damp and cold, so cold that it permeates through your heaviest blanket.

Compared to most of your neighbors you are wealthy since you own a laptop. An old piece technology you bought from a colleague back in campus. Watching movies on the laptop helps you escape your immediate surround for a moment and take you across to the other side of town where streets are paved and houses have well-manicured lawns. Your other possessions include a gas stove and the bed. The bed serves as a seat for your guests, a desk and underneath is a storage area. An old bed sheet hanging on a sisal rope acts as a partition of the living area and bedroom.

Where did I go wrong?, you question yourself. You did everything that your teachers guided

# Faced with systemic corruption, ANC's is a road to hell paved with good intentions

BY NICK DALL

READING all the ANC statements on corruption made over the years, one after another, is kind of like watching a train bear down on a man chained to the tracks. You know what's going to happen, but there's nothing you can do to prevent it.

As the DA and EFF illustrate almost daily, it's easy to cast aspersions when you're in opposition. But analysis of ANC statements on corruption and wealth distribution dating back almost 70 years does suggest that there was once a genuine desire in the ANC to avoid the kleptocracy we now find ourselves in. A change of government alone will not be enough to fix systemic corruption in South Africa.

Systemic corruption is defined as corruption caused by the weaknesses inherent in an organisation or process. As one of the co-authors of Rogues' Gallery, a book about the loooong history of corruption in South Africa, it's a concept I've had a fair amount of exposure to. In the book, we show how the structure of the Dutch East India Company – which paid measly wages and had no way of checking up on employees in distant Africa – encouraged corruption. And we examine how governments as diverse as those in Paul Kruger's ZAR and Lucas Mangope's Bophuthatswana tossed manure on the seeds of corruption, causing them to flourish beyond all imagining.

But I digress. This column will focus on a series of statements made by the ANC and/or some of its most prominent members on the topic of corruption and distribution of wealth.

**Exhibit A**

The first comes from the 1955 Freedom Charter. The document which famously declared that "The People Shall Govern!" also contained a section on redistribution of wealth which has not remotely come true.

"The People Shall Share in the Country's Wealth!  
"The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

"The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole".

**Exhibit B**

Next, we come to a document entitled Strategy and Tactics of the ANC which was adopted in Tanzania, way back in 1969:

"Our drive towards national emancipation is therefore in a very real way bound up with economic emancipation. We have suffered more than just national humiliation. Our people are deprived of their due in the country's wealth; their skills have been suppressed and poverty and starvation has been their life experience. The correction of these centuries-old economic injustices lies at the very core of our national aspirations."

Sadly, this same document gets even more specific in warning against the very situation we find ourselves in today:



"[Our nationalism] must not be confused with the classical drive by an elitist group among the oppressed people to gain ascendancy so that they can replace the oppressor in the exploitation of the mass."

**Exhibit C**

The next gem is a 1992 ANC statement on the revelations of the Pickard Commission (which had exposed rampant departmental corruption in the final throes of apartheid), "FROM MURDER, CORRUPTION AND MISMANAGEMENT TO DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE AND GOOD GOVERNMENT". This one's worth quoting from at length:

**"Corruption**

"In early May the report of the Pickard Commission was released disclosing extensive corruption in the Department of Development Aid involving billions of taxpayers' money. These disclosures were the tip of the iceberg. Indications are that virtually every arm of the central apartheid state have [sic] been deeply implicated in theft and corruption, including DET, Defence, Law and Order, Health and Welfare, Finance, Foreign Affairs, Justice and Correctional Services... This cesspool of corruption extends far beyond the central apartheid state, to Bantustans, regional and local government. Mangope, Gqozo, De Klerk and others whose insistence on regionalism/federalism is partly motivated by their desire to hang on to these freedoms, to perpetuate their hold over resources and entrench their ill-gotten gains ...

"Our demands on corruption and mismanagement:  
The setting up of an independent commission into corruption and state expenditure – at all levels of government – which would

ultimately come under the direction of the Transitional Executive Council. This Commission should have full access to all government Departments and records.

- The dismissal and, where appropriate, prosecution of all Ministers and officials implicated in the misappropriation of public funds. This would involve most senior Ministers in the current government.
- The seizure of assets of those implicated in the theft of public funds.
- In addition to acting against those responsible for corruption, we should demand the renegotiating of the allocation of public funds. For example, the R5 billion allocated to covert projects should be reallocated to compensate victims of the violence, and to finance reconstruction."

**Exhibit D**

The next quotable quote comes from none other than Nelson Mandela who, in 1997, promised that South Africa would never see "the formation of predatory elites that thrive on the basis of looting of national wealth and the entrenchment of corruption". Ironic when you consider that the Arms Deal was announced just one year later.

**Exhibit E**

And now we come to our fifth and final ANC corruption quote. Readers of this fine rag will probably be familiar with Kgalema Motlanthe's 2007 bombshell, but there was no way I could leave it out:

"This rot is across the board. It's not confined to any level or any area of the country. Almost every project is conceived because it

offers opportunities for certain people to make money. A great deal of the ANC's problems are occasioned by this."

While there are plenty of other quotes along the same lines, I'll stop now. Reading them all one after another is kind of like watching a train bear down on a man chained to the tracks. You know what's going to happen, but there's nothing you can do to prevent it.

In her recent book Systemic Corruption: Constitutional Ideas for an Anti-Oligarchic Republic, the Chilean academic Camila Vergara makes a fairly familiar point when she argues that systemic corruption "cannot be blamed on the actions of corrupt politicians but is built into the very fabric of our representative systems... in which the structure consistently works to enrich the few and oppress the many".

(Even in a mega-corrupt society like our own there have always, thankfully, been some people who manage to resist the temptation to put their fingers in the till. As well as a few who are brave enough to blow the whistle on corruption.)

What's really interesting about Vergara's book is that it goes all the way back to antiquity to show that representative democracy was in fact designed to protect the interests of the already rich and powerful to the detriment of the majority.

She also turns to ancient Greece for a potential solution to the problem – namely "the establishment of anti-oligarchic institutions through which common people can collectively resist the domination of the few".

She explains, for example, that by the fourth century BCE "almost all magistrates were chosen by lottery from a broad pool of citizens who enjoyed isegoria – the equal right to speak to the assembly – and were paid by the state to exercise political power".

Vergara does not suggest for a moment that ancient Greece was free of corruption. But she does think we can learn a thing or two from popular attempts to keep it in check.

# Civilians' targeted looting is behaviour learnt from their political 'masters'

BY THAMSAQA D MALINGA

**T**HE revelations at the Zondo Commission paint a heinous picture of the gross looting that has left the country ungovernable. Maybe this tells us that the governing party has either not let go of its Eighties' call to render the country ungovernable, or it simply does not care.

In the 1980s, while the ANC was in exile, it made a call through its alliance with civil society movements to "make the country ungovernable", using consumer boycotts as part of that strategy alongside the tactic of targeting. What this meant was that delivery trucks belonging to big retailers would be labelled as such, meaning that they should be attacked, stoned and looted if they dared drive into townships.

All that was needed to activate the looting spree was for someone to shout "target!" and out of nowhere, bricks would be thrown at the truck to force it to stop and like ants to a sugar pot, residents would encircle it and loot. In those days, my father drove a truck for one of the big soft drink companies; fear gripped us every time he had to go to work as we never knew if he would make it back or would become a victim of the "target" call in one of the townships he would be driving to.

This tactic eventually led, I remember well, to big businesses hiring armed guards to accompany their trucks into townships. It was no surprise that the "target" tactic gave us the gruesome Trojan Horse killings in Athlone in 1985. Since the attacks had escalated to stoning government vehicles, the stoning of the truck in Athlone was part of the call of ungovernability and trigger-happy police saw an opportunity to mow down young people – casualties of war, martyrs or targets of a racist army? That is a story for another day.

Looking back, the "targets" stratagem, albeit its anti-apartheid intent and debatable success, was the stinging breeding ground for a legacy for which we were to later pay a dear price.

Recently I saw a social media post by former government spokesperson Themba Maseko in which he was commenting on a front-page image in one of the daily newspapers, unrelated to the headline. The image was part of the many that I have seen on social media and private messaging apps depicting the crumbling state of our rail infrastructure – train stations and other rail infrastructure being looted with impunity. The headline was about the testimony presented at the Zondo Commission on the supposed looting at the state intelligence.

Maseko's remark was just one word – "Sh\*t", he wrote. One word, but it said a lot. It is just one word, but it cut a painful cry at the new "target", a state where people have nothing, yet their country is being looted like the delivery trucks of the apartheid era.

The revelations at the Zondo Commission, whatever each side deems them to be, paint a heinous picture of the gross looting that has resulted in the ungovern-



ability of the country. Maybe this tells us that the governing party has either not let go of its Eighties' call to render the country ungovernable, or it simply does not care – like many African despots who have turned their countries into their little fiefdoms.

If the view is wrong, then my question is why do we live in a country where government ministers, the so-called representatives of the people, want to live a Hollywood lifestyle with their own show of "The Real Ministers of South Africa", flaunting ill-gained opulence at the expense of a starving, sick nation without water, bread, roads, education and so forth? How is it that their children, comrades and affiliates are given access to the public purse to live like the spoil children of African dictators – the flamboyant Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangué, the son of the president of the oil-rich West African nation of Equatorial Guinea, and Isabel dos Santos, eldest daughter of former Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, spring to mind.

The Zondo Commission and all the other

revelations we come across daily should push us to question the governing party's operation while in exile and some of the underground activities within South Africa, as well as deliberations at the dawn of democracy. Often when quizzed about its operation in exile, the ANC has done what it does best – create a laager around the issue.

The Hani Memorandum issue is a reflection of how the ANC does not tackle internal malfeasance and its lack of holding those entrusted with power accountable. Hugh William MacMillan writes that Hani and his comrades were "cautioned to treat the matter as highly confidential and in no circumstances to disclose its existence to people who did not belong to the organisation".

Many writers have raised the issue of mismanagement of funds by the movement while in exile and the flamboyance of party leadership against the backdrop of starving freedom fighters in camps is well documented.

We have a crisis of rail infrastructure be-

ing looted – one means of ferrying people to work and goods across the country is being rendered useless – and trucks are burning on the N3, yet the ministers of state security and transport do not utter a word.

It took us years to register in our minds the use of the South African version of crack cocaine – nyaope – as a drug, and while young people were getting hooked, our government was focused on its public purse "target". However, ask about who is on which slate in the ANC, and state security will most probably be able to compile a dossier.

Our country is the post-apartheid "target". The ghost of the Eighties' looting spree is back to haunt us. Like the shout that was used in the townships during the apartheid era for people to attack and loot a delivery vehicle, the governing party, its comrades and their ilk seem to have

responded to a new "target" call and have gone on to plunder the country. We should be bothered, but because we know that nothing will happen to these wicked looters, we have suffered paralysis.

When citizens loot trucks that have lost their loads on the freeway or trash a shop during a service delivery protest, this is behaviour that cascaded from those in power. The hungry ones in the forgotten townships cannot access the "target" (the state purse) and they then take on the nearest "target".

The level of corruption, whether revealed at the Zondo Commission or by investigative journalists, and the accompanying neglect and degradation of the country's infrastructure, as well as the abuse of state agencies for the governing party's benefit, can be only be decried as in Themba Maseko's social media post – "Sh\*t!"

## Combined effort needed to thwart ritual murders

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE murder of three children for what appears to be ritual purposes in just seven months is a worrying dark cloud over Zimbabwe and requires action at both community level and among a number of sections of society.

These are not the first such killings, perhaps just the best publicised for some time since the victims were all seven-years-old and the police moved swiftly and effectively to track down the suspects, with other family members among those arrested and remanded.

There is a superstitious belief among a minority that killing a child or another young person in a particular way, which can be equated to torture before the murder, and then processing certain body parts in a set-down manner will create, increase and maintain wealth.

This is nonsense, and with the competent homicide investigations now in progress it must be becoming obvious that initiating such a killing is totally unlikely to bring anything, but a very long jail sentence for the killers.

Although the death penalty is still on the books for aggravated murder by an adult man, and aggravating circumstances do not come more aggravating than premeditated murder of a child for financial gain, the fact remains that Zimbabwe does not implement death penalties any more, and instead life imprisonment is substituted.

There are already many positive developments that can help to end this practice of ritual killings. It is now clear that communities are willing to take action, rather than quiver in fear and keep quiet.

People are not afraid to stand up and be counted and are willing to pass on whatever information they have to the police.

In fact one of the major problems now in such investigations is that some are passing on confusing fifth-hand hearsay, which still needs to be properly investigated, rather than hard fact of what they saw. But homicide detectives are trained to separate the chaff from the hard fact, and better that too many try and help than too few.

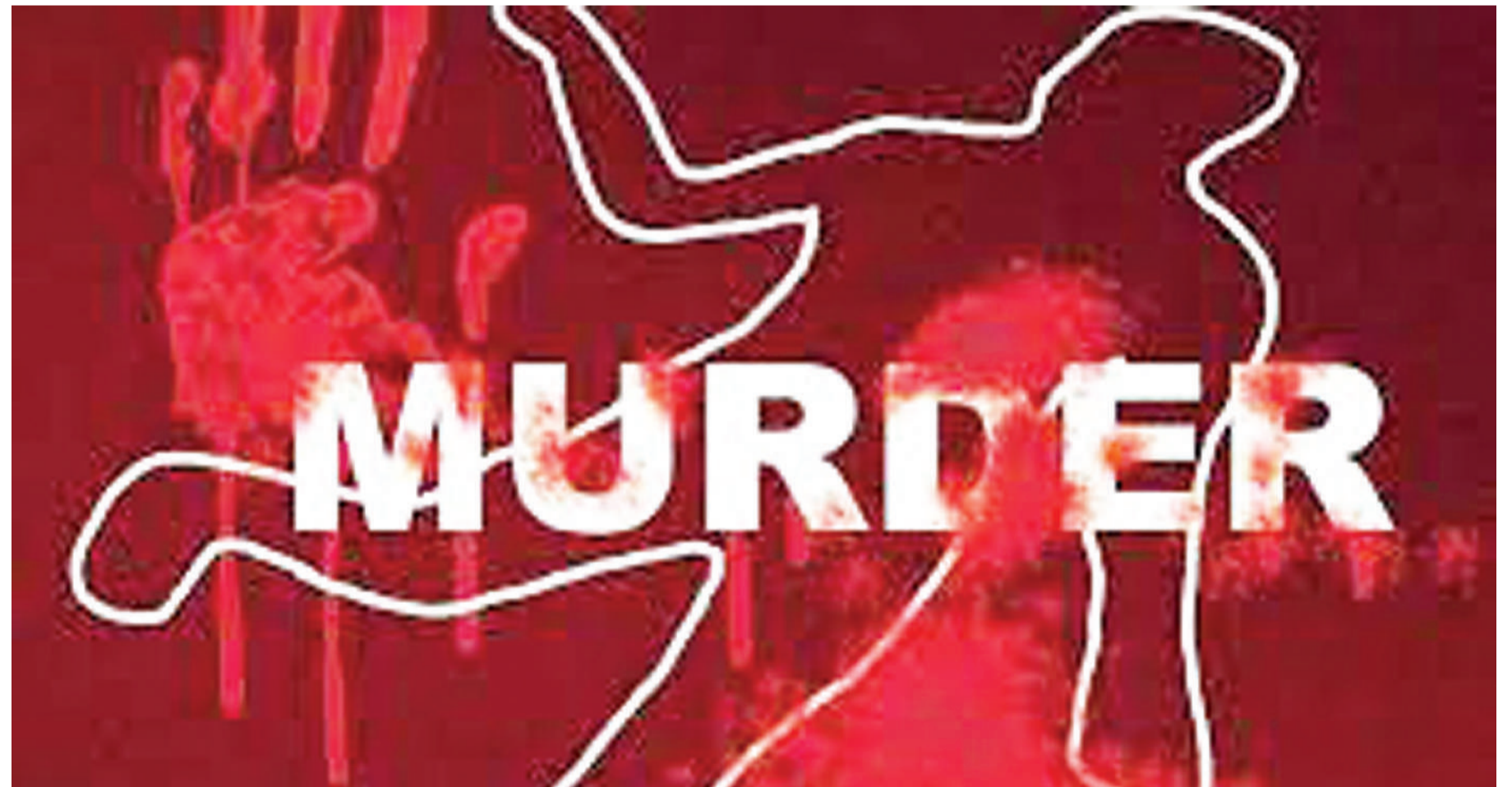
A second problem is more serious, and has already been mentioned by legislators, including recently Senator Michael Nyambuwa who visited the Mutasa families.

We need investigations to be pursued to bring the person who gave the ritual advice and who might well have promised to process any body parts.

Even if they did not initiate the killings, and accept some sort of lie when organs are presented, they are still involved in a murder and can be tried as an accomplice.

N'angas still have a lot of respect and are feared by some, so it can be difficult to get a name, let alone evidence.

Obviously the actual killers believe in the powers of the n'anga they are using; even in the days when the killers were hanged they refused to give the name and walked



silently to the gallows.

Here communities need to encourage people to come forward. There will be a lot of vague and wrong information, but police can then run down the leads. The point is that a person ready to apply their traditional learning to criminal purposes cannot be totally unknown in an area.

The Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association can also become more involved, first by teaching very clearly that such killings do not create wealth, only misery, and then encouraging people to come forward.

In fact traditional healers in a particular area might well have a better idea of which one of their number has turned to the dark side than the average lay person, and should be encouraged to pass on this information.

Traditional leaders, who have already made their abhorrence of such crimes very clear, can also go further in prevention, as well as doing what they do now by calling on their communities to assist after a crime.

The ideal is to have a murder trial with both the killers and the n'anga who offered advice all in the dock, with sufficiently good evidence that all can be convicted and then go to jail together.

Detectives chosen for such investigations might need to be carefully selected; there is still a significant number of superstitious people, and even some Christian churches who worry about the creativity of evil, although this is a heretical belief in mainstream Christianity.

Such severely aggravating murders also stress the need for Zimbabwe to upgrade its sentencing laws for murder, now that we have effectively abandoned the death penalty as an active punishment.

The reforms need to give judges setting sentences more discretion, and as we have argued before we need a system of parole.

In his latest clemency order, the President, with Cabinet consent and what must have been detailed advice, in effect set 15 years behind bars as the absolute minimum for a life sentence. This is not unreasonable and is the effective minimum period of incarceration in many jurisdictions for an "ordinary" murder.

However, countries that have formally abolished the death penalty and substituted life imprisonment usually allow the sentencing judge to make a recommenda-

tion over the minimum term in each case.

In most cases this is whatever the standard is in that country before parole can be considered, frequently 15 years.

But where there are aggravating circumstances the judge can set a longer minimum term before release can even be considered and, in exceptionally aggravating circumstances, can even call for a "whole life" sentence, or "life imprisonment without any possibility of parole", as some American states word it.

Because the killer is not executed this can always be adjusted later if perceptions change or new evidence emerges, but meanwhile the deterrent is in place.

A parole system also means that a released lifer is monitored for the rest of their lives, forbidden to do certain jobs, enter certain businesses and possess anything on a list of prohibited items, such as anything that could be used as a weapon.

And parents clearly need to be protective. This is always difficult, of deciding where do you draw the lines. But one general rule is safety in numbers and having older children helping to shepherd younger children.

## UN High Commissioner for refugees urges support for Burundians returning home

By Guardian Reporter

THE UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi has praised progress made towards helping refugees find long-term solutions in the heart of Africa's Great Lakes Region.

Ending a two-day visit to Burundi, Grandi noted that in a region marked by violent and complex conflicts resulting in forced displacement, he was encouraged to see an increased focus on finding solutions for refugees, especially for Burundians.

Since 2017, at least 145,000 Burundian refugees have been helped to return home, with more than 25,000 coming from Rwanda in recent months. On average, 2,000 people are being assisted to voluntarily return each week from Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Tanzania.

The High Commissioner accompanied the most recent convoy from Rwanda transporting 159 Burundian refugees returning home after years of living in exile. He spoke to families who were aware of the challenges awaiting them but expressed happiness to finally be going home.

Grandi reiterated UNHCR's commitment to continue facilitating the return of Burundian refugees who have made an informed and voluntary choice to go back.

"The return of refugees places great responsibility on the shoulders of the government, especially in ensuring security in areas of return," said Grandi. "Returnee reintegration must include access to property and services and the ability to provide for themselves and their families, otherwise those returning may end up being displaced again."

During his visit the High Commissioner was received by President Évariste Ndayishimiye. They discussed the importance of continuing to build conditions for refugees to return in safety and dignity.

Additionally, they agreed that more support must also be given to the often-impoorished communities to which refugees are returning, for reintegration to be successful.

In February, UNHCR together the government of Burundi and 19 partners launched the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan, which appeals for US\$104.3 million from the international community to assist returnees and the communities where they are returning.

Less than 10 per cent of the funding needed to support re-integration in Burundi has been committed, despite the increase in refugees returning from around the region.

The High Commissioner also commended Burundi for continuing to extend hospitality to some 80,000 Congolese refugees despite the serious social and economic challenges the country faces. He called for additional international support to improve the conditions in the refugee camps hosting them.



By Peter Muiruri

## Talk rages on age of consent

KENYAS judges and child welfare organisations are embroiled in a fresh debate on whether to lower the age of consent.

Some members of the judiciary believe the age of consent should be lowered from 18 to 16 for heterosexual acts (gay sex is criminalised at any age, punishable by up to 14 years in prison) because boys and girls have "reached the age of discretion and are able to make intelligent and informed decisions about their lives and their bodies".

According to the Kenya Demographic and Health Survey, 15% of women and 22% of men aged between 20 and 50 had their first sexual experience by the age of 15. Nearly a quarter of Kenyan women gave birth before 18.

Proponents say lowering the age of consent will reduce the number of

teenage boys convicted and jailed for "defilement" (the abuse of a child in Kenyan law) after having consensual sex with a girl.

They are concerned that aspects of the country's Sexual Offences Act conflict with the Children's Act, and disproportionately punish teenage boys.

The Sexual Offences Act does not make exemptions for any child found guilty of sexual offences. Children are punished as adults, and remanded in custody with adults. It has no specific provisions on how to deal with a case where two minors are involved.

The Children's Act, however, states that minors - those under the age of 18 - are to be tried in a children's court, unless charged with a capital offence, such as murder. When a child is found guilty in a children's court, they should

be, among other measures, put under the care of a "fit person, whether a relative or not, or a charitable children's institution willing to undertake his care", rather than be sent to jail.

Debate on the issue of consent has been ongoing since a controversial ruling in 2016, when Justice Said Chitembwe, who was recently considered for the post of Kenya's chief justice, freed a 24-year-old man who had been jailed for the statutory rape of a 13-year-old girl. In his ruling, he stated that "she was behaving like a full grown-up woman who was already engaging and enjoying sex with men."

The judge added: "It is true that under the Sexual Offences Act, a child below 18 years old cannot give consent to sexual intercourse. However, where the child behaves like an adult

and willingly sneaks into men's houses for purposes of having sex, the court ought to treat such a child as a grown-up who knows what she is doing."

The ruling received international condemnation, with the Women's Link Worldwide awarding it the 2017 Gold Bludgeon award because it set a "dangerous precedent assuming that girls who consent to sex before age 18 should not be afforded special protection".

But a national debate on lowering the age of consent to 16 was sparked two years ago, after three judges of the appellate court reversed a 15-year sentence on a man, who was over 18, accused of the statutory rape of a 17-year-old girl. The man had already served eight years in jail.

"Our prisons are teeming with

young men serving lengthy sentences for having had sexual intercourse with adolescent girls whose consent has been held to be immaterial because they were under 18 years. The wisdom and justice of this unfolding tragedy calls for serious interrogation," said the judges.

Public forums and discussions followed, but a final report, Minimum Age of Consent for Sex: Addressing the Dilemma, recommended that the age of consent remain at 18, adding that any reduction could negate gains made by the country on gender equality.

It stated that the primary objective of the minimum age of sexual consent should be to protect children and adolescents from any form of sexual abuse and the consequences of early

sexual activity on their rights and development.

Joyce Mutinda, who chairs the National Gender and Equality Commission, said people under the age of 18 are incapable of making comprehensive decisions and judgments about their sexuality: "Children under 18 are not adequately developed socially, mentally and psychologically to consent to sex. Earlier sexual debut exposes children to physical and psychological effects."

However, the debate has been reopened in past weeks by the high court judge Luka Kimaru. During public hearings by the Power of Mercy Advisory Committee, which is currently reviewing some of the country's laws, Justice Kimaru said: "Challenges arise when teenagers experiment, when they try to discover their sexuality. Some of them go overboard, and that is why we have these teen pregnancies."

## Over 15,000 residents of Mnyamani Ward enjoy benefits of 'nature solutions' project

By Getrude Mbago

OVER 15,000 residents in Mnyamani ward, Ilala District in Dar es Salaam Region have benefited from a 'Nature Based Solutions (NBS) project which has helped to improve sanitation and waste management systems in the areas.

Implemented by the Centre for Community Initiatives (CCI) with support from a Swedish based organization- SwedBio, the one year project involved construction of enabling infrastructures to control wastes, installation of solar energy-street lights as well as construction of modern latrines.

Festo Makoba, CCI sanitation engineer said this in an interview with The Guardian that residents in the Mji-Mpya street in Vingunguti area are now living a happier life as they no longer suffer from impacts of wastes and poor sanitation.

On sanitation, a number of households now have improved latrines after CCI came up with a natural technology to transform human-waste into energy (bio-gas).

"This involved construction of bio-fill technology toilets (bio-digesters), which naturally processes the human waste into energy which is later used for cooking," he said.

Biofil Toilet Technology' is an on-site waste water treatment option that offers integrated

treatment of sewage in a manner that poses minimal risk to the environment and public health, and the opportunity of sustainable economic returns on natural biological treatment of waste in the long term. The process involves the bacteria which feed upon the faecal matter inside the tank, through anaerobic process which finally degrades the matter and releases gas that can be used for cooking.

Makoba said so far, a total of 12 households in Mnyamani have been connected to the biofill toilet technology and expected to connect 30 households more in the coming months.

"The connected households now have improved latrines as previously they were using local toilets, the houses have also been connected to gas which is produced through the bio-fill technology, a move which has reduced charcoal spending and saved the environment," he said.

Makoba said that waste water control was one of the big challenges facing the residents and the implementation of the project has transformed the situation for good.

He added that CCI also supported the residents to control soil erosion which was going on in the area by planting grasses and trees.

He however said in implementing the project, CCI also educated the public on proper waste management and sanitat-



Sakina Gumbo of Mjimpya Street in Vingunguti, prepare iftar for her family using gas energy produced through a 'biodigester' plant constructed by the centre for community initiatives (CCI). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

tion systems as well as encouraging inter-sectoral strategies and creating a platform for inclusive, co-funded interventions with government actors to foster resilience to multiple risks.

"We have also enhanced understanding of multiple primary and secondary hazards in the city, foster interdisciplinary, holistic strategies to promote urban resilience which include coming up with

approaches in improving sanitation, solid waste management in informal settlements," he said

He noted: "Low-income communities in Dar es Salaam use a range of formal and informal infrastructure and service providers, including for sanitation and solid waste management. Reports show that fewer than 10 percent of city dwellers have access to piped sewerage, and the rest must rely largely upon pit latrines or septic tanks."

Makoba said the nature-based solutions are important for all aspects of sustainable development and combine biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource management with a view to addressing many social and environmental challenges including climate change and its impacts. Nature-based solutions include ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Sakina Gumbo, chairman of the project in Mji Mpya said the project has helped them a lot especially in waste management and sanitation.

"I've never thought that one day me and my family will use this modern toilet, we have been using local holes toilets for years and it was so hard for us especially during rain season; using water after defecating was a nightmare among us, but w=now we have improved latrine," said Sakina.

She said that since CCI came up with the project and sup-

ported a number of households to have improved toilets, things have changed, and the environment has become very clean.

According to her, prior to the project, she was spending a lot of money to hire people especially during the rainy season to help remove the human waste after the toilets were full.

"I was spending 150,000 to 200,000 in every rain season to remove the human waste from the toilet, this was too cost for me, but for now I enjoy the sustainable solution brought by CCI, through the current bio-fill technology, we only contribute 4500/- per month to enable the system work which is so cheap as we also get a number of benefits," she said.

Sakina said that her house has also been connected to gas, a move which serves as a great savior as it has reduced charcoal spending.

"I use the gas to cook breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner, we thank CCI for supporting us with this project, we hope that more residents will be connected to service," she said.

Isaya Selestine, also a Mnyamani resident said that apart from the sanitation initiatives, CCI has also supported the residents to build a strong bridge which enables people to cross from one side to the other easily.

"They have also installed street lights and this has improved security and reduced theft especially during night," he added.

(CCI) is the national support NGO formed by Tanzanians with a desire of providing technical and financial assistance to the community living in informal settlements and the Tanzania Urban Poor Federation (TUPF), Established in 2004, CCI strives to create inclusive cities with united and empowered communities of the urban poor who have the capacity to voice, promote, and negotiate for their collective interests.

In partnership with organized communities of the urban poor, CCI works to increase access to secure land tenure, adequate shelter, and provision of basic services such as water and sanitation for the slum communities and public services. The key to these services is innovation in terms of technologies and affordable costs to ensure sustainability.

## Efforts to reform Liberia education: Case of challenges facing education

By Special Correspondent

**L**IBERIA stands upon the dawn and view the eventualities of the past and foretell those of the future. The states stands in need of assets not liabilities to manage its affairs, as guardians of public honor, as administrators of public peace, and as makers of laws that are to meet the legislation of other developed nations, and which must bind great men whose minds have been liberated and at the same time don't fail to make provision for the commoner folks, these men must be intelligent else the old ship of the state will be driven upon the strata of icebergs which will lead to the floodgate of perennial confusion.

They must be able to give heed to the fascinating lures of national sirens and to distinguish gifts from bribes. If Liberia must be preserved, if she must bask in the sunshine of national prosperity and always be able to dictate her own policies, the strata of ignorance which has widened within her borders must be totally uprooted. Premium must be put on Education, for it alone promises prosperity for posterity.

As our nation Liberia presses forward, from the inertia of fragility to stability, a monster enemy called corruption has overwhelmed if not any sector of the Liberian society then it might be the education system. This monster is gradually delaying our education quest for rapid reform and transformation from the woes of malpractices, moral ineptitudes and behavioral pitfalls.

The need for reform to our Liberian system of education is a dire concern. It has been the fearless march to the barricades of our Intrinsic values in the fight for educational reform and progress where failure loomed large as a possibility and victory as a dream so farfetched and abstract that now compels us to give our admiration to the fight others fought and are still fighting!

These scars are testimonies to our gallantry and accordingly we feel that we can entrust them with the sacrosanctity of posterity to carry us into the future.

To alarm the challenges of education in Liberia is a fast track of the reform process where issues hindering our progress could be simplified and corrected.

The depletion of moral values by political fortune hunters during the course of the Civil upheaval in Liberia is evidential to the

reasonable minds; their exposure of the youthful generations to high level of academic indignities and ill-preparedness has culminated to the deform Educational System of our glorious Land of abundance and Prospects.

The pillage of our nation's sacrosanctity from December 24, 1989 to October 1, 2003 along with the tearful woes of the Ebola Virus Disease resulted into exorcising the spirit of Academic Excellence. The reason for which our system of education has greeted retrogression with heroism rather than progression is due to the doctrine of allowing perpetrators of shocking crime to go with the culture of impunity.

How would those individuals who denigrated the sacredness of our Human intellects be the ones raining platitudes and absurdities on a system they spoiled in the past. Indeed it has been a tragedy for us and posterity. The planter of the evil tree should be more demonic than the evil tree, had it not been the planter there wouldn't had been an evil tree, therefore those who sow youths as seeds of illiteracy in the past now tried to reap what they sowed. After they used them as child soldiers disguising them off the pangs of Academia and transfiguring them as militants to the thick Belleh forest, sidelining that they would have developed more and more had they not influence their roles in society. When will such ravished prestige of Academic Excellence be reinstated in Liberian Schools?

When will they admit to their corruption of Liberian system? We will preserve our race if we premier education and raid-it off the stupor.

As we become acquainted with the laws of health and to know ourselves as centers of creative evolutions, when we realize that we are generating points around which great circles can be described, we become more careful with our lives so as to live void of disease contamination that might impede our divine ennoblement.

If we must be prosperous as a generation, we must have a sound mind in a sound body, these challenges cannot afford us a sound mind and body. Since our nation most sacred task is to prioritize a universal education which will reach all of her citizens.

Therefore education should be solely under the control of Government, because it is she that will deal with such people -- have them solve her problems and sympathize her hardships. It is a



very good thing for the Liberian government to know that the greatest peril of our fragile democracy, which we are fond and proud to boast of, lies in the illiteracy of the Liberian Youths. But it is still better to have the Youth become not wholly satisfied with her narrow, low standard and misleading sort of education that is imparted by some whose chief motives are to dwarf intellectual capabilities and to make an easy livelihood in this glorious land of Liberty.

The challenges of Education in Liberia are recurring features which have purveyed in a continuous function through the corridors of academics -- bribery, corruption, bad labor practice, and exploitation, infrastructural and technical vices. THE QUEST TO REFORM LIBERIA EDUCATION appears in the context of a crusade guided by morals and ethics. It seems a journey of remarkable breakthrough from grass to grace.

Cogently, Self-judgment awaits us all for our role we played in facing the challenges to protect and promote the sense of mankind. Our individual effort in achieving the goals to diminish corruption, sideline inept morals and activate the potential of moral competence, compels every Liberian student, Liberian teacher/administrator and our Liberian darling parents/guardians toward their stake of the reform process.

However, the fundamental question has been: Have they individually performed their duties as called for in the reform process? Importantly, I have to stress here today that, our leaders' appointment of corrupt officials to the nation's most consecrated seats unarguably plays a pivotal role to the contempt they envisaged for Liberia in 2030.

After pronouncing free primary education, they sent their children away to learn so as to validate their arguments that the sys-

tem is contemptuous. So then, why criticize a system that you bear the greatest burnt of its backwardness as evident to your deeds of the past as it haunts you today. After appointing enemies to the progress of the state they are expected to do nothing positive but to corrode the system more and more. How could an Imam be giving the task of a pastor? It's certainly intolerable in the religious society, simply because the Imam's orientation coupled with his passion is awkward to the duties of a Pastor, thus the division of Labor which is a driving tool for societal advancement will be silenced if the Imam is given such task.

Therefore, enemies to the progress of the state should not be placed in such positions. When these elements whose chief motives are to hold the security of the nation under systematic hostage are placed to their positions all they tend to do is live flashy lives forgetting to note the forward mobility of a country whose progress lies in the youths.

Importantly, Educational facilities and authorities become dysfunctional and lopsided because of unqualified individuals' infiltration to our educational corridor; they only think of self-enrichment at the detriment of the pupils rather than preserving the future.

Every living creature anticipates a positive future, but for posterity, it cannot guarantee a positive future because authorities have frowned on building the foundation of youths in consonance with effective policies and laws governing our educational sector.

The result of their ascendancy is to rape national covers because they have already been labeled as money-mongers who disguised themselves as vision bearers.

The proliferation of International Schools in our country has been given a negative picture from the labor practice. Concerned Lecturers seeking compensation immediately after the Covid-19 pandemic during which time Private

authorities were demanding parents to defray their children arrears as the only guarantee to the MOE pronouncement of compulsory promotion for the unprecedented virus overwhelmed academic year.

Currently, instructors at one International school located on the Tubman Boulevard had been on a go slow for the past ten (10) working weeks.

Again another group of concerned lecturers at another International School are alleging that their employer collects more than one hundred thousand Liberian Dollars (LD \$100,000) per Senior Secondary student but refused to pay according to what is called for in the Decent Work Act of 2015 instead pay as high as ten thousand Liberian Dollar to a senior high instructor who needs the aid of technology and essential research materials to adequately prepared the students.

This is the current woe which in its modulo beclouds the journey to the fantasy in the reform-land. However, we could justifiable affirm that the position of the Monitoring and Evaluation Team of the MOE has been accelerated to a very floppy inertia. While we hold with esteem the glorification of educational reform, we have to alarm that Senior Secondary Institutions must begin to employ Laboratory Demonstrators so as to keep Liberian Students on par with regional and continental standards of education.

There are lots more Senior High schools operating with no Laboratory and neither Demonstrator yet Liberian students are compelled by the standards of the regional test they also do Practical but they are lacking aspect of the sciences, they then encounter difficulty on their journey to the Examination hall and subsequently to college.

The Monitoring and Evaluation team will need to make itself visible and proactive to lead the vanguard in this crusade for reform.

## Dangote's \$500m sugar complex and quest for sufficiency

By Special Correspondent

**A**S an avid observer of developments in the global economy, I was taken aback recently when international trade watchdog, World Trade Organization (WTO), recently released its thought-provoking statistics. According to WTO's data on "Leading Exporters and Importers of Commercial Services for 2020", Nigeria was ranked number one importer in Africa and 25th largest importer in the world, while Egypt emerged second on the continent and 28th globally.

Meanwhile, the big economies of the world—United States, China, United Kingdom, Japan, India, Singapore, that made it to top positions of the "leading Importers", also featured on top the list of "leading exporters". The shocking and disturbing aspect of the report that should elicit national discourse in Nigeria is: when it came to ranking of top exporters in the world, Nigeria was conspicuously missing while Egypt and Morocco made it to number 26 and 27, respectively.

These two African countries were rated ahead of Nigeria in exports. This is very pathetic. Nigeria—so-called giant of Africa, ignobly got the crown of infamy as the "dumping ground" of the world, because when you're consuming via importation without corresponding exportation, your economy is in doldrums. We only export raw crude oil without the capacity to refine—even for our local consumption. We are the only OPEC-member country that imports refined petroleum products.

The million-dollar question here is: how can you export products and services that you're yet to achieve self-sufficiency in? This is the big national question that African industrial giant—Dangote Group, is providing answers to. From building the largest refinery in Africa—to help Nigeria achieve much-needed self-sufficiency in local refining of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS)—and its by-products, to igniting what I describe as sugar revolution in the country.



The ongoing construction of Dangote Integrated Sugar Complex in Tunga, Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, is another industrial wonder to behold. In line with the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP), especially Backward Integration Project (BIP)—one of the critical aspects of the master plan, Dangote Group via one of its subsidiaries—Dangote Sugar Refinery, is building \$500 million worth of sugar complex.

The Integrated Sugar Complex, will comprise 60,000

hectares of sugar plantation and industrial complex with capacity to crush 12,000 tons of cane per day (tcd); two sugar factories with projected capacity to produce 430,000 tpa of refined white sugar—representing about 30% of Nigeria's sugar consumption. Ninety megawatts of electricity will be generated in the Complex for the Company's use and that of neighboring communities, using ethanol. Some 500km of roads will be constructed to enhance transportation within the complex and adjoining

communities.

Another landmark stride of this project is: for the first time in history of Nigeria, drip irrigation will be installed on a commercial scale to substantially improve the yield of sugarcane, and simultaneously conserve water and fertilizer consumption. When fully installed, both plants will have Ethanol Distilleries, to produce ethanol from molasses. The ethanol will be blended with gasoline at Dangote Petroleum Refinery to have greener fuel. You can see the synergy.

The Dangote Integrated Sugar Complex is expected to commence production by 2023, with potential to create more than 150,000 jobs. When fully operational, this project will not only uplift the economy of host state—Nasarawa by enhancing its Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), but reduce Nigeria's dependence on importation of raw and refined sugar.

Quoting Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, who was wowed when he visited the site, Nigeria spends between \$600-\$1 billion dollars annually on importation of sugar and its raw materials alone.

The Apex bank indicated its intention to place importation of sugar and wheat on its forex restriction list because Federal Government considers wheat and sugar as second and third most important commodities after rice, respectively, in its strategic food policy. But there must be a deliberate attempt to localize its production 100%.

Nigeria is one of the sub-Saharan Africa's largest importers of sugar. To curb this ugly trend, the ambitious project embarked upon by the Dangote Group, is a welcome development and provides ray of hope for the nation's goal via Nigerian Sugar Master Plan, to attain self-sufficiency in local sugar production.

The import of this landmark initiative is beyond imagination, because it has the tendency to revolutionize Nigeria's sugar industry, create much-needed jobs for our teeming youths, reduce pressure on the limited foreign reserves and strengthen the naira.

## BUSINESS



Andrea Rademeyer, founder and CEO of Ask Afrika.

## CONCERN

## Like their global compatriots, many South Africans remain fearful of COVID-19 vaccines

## JOHANNESBURG

In the same week that the World Health Organisation celebrates World Immunisation Week (24-30 April) with the theme 'vaccines bring us closer' to show how vaccination connects us to the people, goals and moments that matter to us most, research conducted locally has revealed that many South Africans are still concerned about the safety and efficacy of Covid-19 vaccinations, potentially impacting vaccine take-up.

According to latest results of the Ask Afrika Covid-19 Tracker study for the period 26 March to 7 April 2021, although perceptions around vaccine safety improved between February and March this year, misconceptions continue to be very prevalent with the most common of these being that the vaccine interacts with your DNA, causes side effects and contains the actual virus.

The main aim of the pro-bono study, which has been conducted since April 2020, is to understand the socio-economic impact that the coronavirus, lockdown and gradual re-opening of the economy has on South Africans.

In July 2020, more than 60% of respondents were concerned about the likelihood of Covid-19 vaccines reaching South Africa before the end of the year. Eight months later, three out of five respondents have said they will take the vaccine when it is offered to them, indicating a 10% increase in positive sentiment over the past month. However, despite high levels

of willingness to receive the vaccine, there is an almost equally high level of concern around getting vaccinated which has also risen in the last month.

Asian respondents are significantly more likely to feel ambivalent about getting vaccinated than white respondents, while 55 year-olds and older of all races are significantly less concerned about getting vaccinated than those who are 34 years and younger.

The main drivers behind vaccine rejection are mistrust, particularly around vaccine safety. However, apathy is also an issue, particularly amongst males. While vaccine safety is a top priority for South Africans, this is followed by efficacy. However, the speed of the roll-out is becoming more important for people as lockdown continues.

Although confidence in the rollout of the vaccine has declined over the last month, greater awareness levels are bolstering this lack of confidence. In fact, reveals Andrea Rademeyer, founder and CEO of Ask Afrika and the project lead on the Covid-19 Tracker study, awareness of national vaccine efforts have increased as the pandemic has continued.

Those surveyed in the Covid-19 Tracker study strongly believe that the entire African continent should unite in the fight against the virus and that South Africa should develop its own vaccine given concerns that the USA will buy up all the experimental Covid-19 vaccine stock.

## ACTIVISM

## Cape Town brothers dig deeper to help supply local feeding projects

## CAPE TOWN

Two brothers from Elsies River in Cape Town are digging deep to help feed their neighbours after converting a dumping spot and area previously used as an escape route by criminals into a flourishing community garden supporting several feeding projects.

Geronimo de Klerk, 18, and Valentino de Klerk, 20, proudly showed off their work to Western Cape Agriculture MEC Ivan Meyer, who visited the fruit and vegetable garden outside the Trinity Place flats last week to see their progress. The brothers said they started the initiative to help deal with what they call the hunger crisis on the Cape Flats.

"We've witnessed that funding for many feeding schemes has started drying up due to the effects of Covid-19, and this is very sad," Geronimo said. The open space in Elsies River has been transformed into a community garden supporting several local feeding projects in the area. The brothers have been granted access to an additional 10 open spaces.

"We intend to establish food gardens in each of them to help out youths. The high level of unemployment in the area limits their



Cape Town brothers Geronimo de Klerk, 18, and Valentino de Klerk, 20.

access to resources. The garden, however, provides a place for youth to contribute positively to food security and climate change while at the same time acquiring skills."

The De Klerk brothers said youth unemployment in the area is very high and has increased dramatically during the lockdown period. Meyer said over the past three months the provincial government has supported the establishment of 1249 household gardens, 27 community gardens and eight school gardens.

"Food security is a fundamental human right. On this basis, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture initiated its One Home, One Garden Campaign last year to support households, schools and communities to produce their food," he said.

"Over the next financial year, the [department] will implement 1 800 household gardens in impoverished communities across the province to enhance household food security. "This is a revolution that we are starting here in the Western Cape." During his

visit, Meyer handed over gardening equipment, seeds, fertiliser, wheelbarrows, compost and a water tank with a capacity of 10 000 litres.

Two Elsies River brothers have started a fruit and veg garden to help those less fortunate. Before starting the initiative, the brothers, together with other locals, underwent agricultural training. They said 33 fruit trees are growing in the garden, as well as a variety of vegetables, including potatoes, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and green peppers.

They also have a keen interest in community development. During Meyer's visit, Geronimo spoke to him about the issues plaguing his neighbourhood. "We spoke to the minister about how the garden initiative started and how it can become a source of job creation for the unemployed youth in the community," he said.

According to Geronimo, the MEC has promised to invite the brothers to the Western Cape legislature and the Elsenburg Research Farm. "We hope the Department of Agriculture can support us to make this project a success within the Elsies River community because food and food security (are) always important," he said.



Omega-3 bottles.

## BREAKTHROUGH

## Increased omega-3 may dramatically cut risk of heart attack - study shows

## NEW ORLEANS

The most comprehensive analysis of its kind shows that increased omega-3 fats may reduce multiple types of cardiovascular risk, including heart disease, a condition that accounts for over 17 million deaths globally each year.

The US study, an in-depth review of over 40 clinical trials, shows that consuming more EPA and DHA omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids may significantly reduce the risk of fatal heart attack by up to 35% and coronary heart disease by 10%. In South Africa,

cardiovascular disease is responsible for about six deaths per day, while almost five people have heart attacks every hour.

"The study supports the notion that EPA and DHA intake contributes to cardio protection, and that whatever patients are getting through the diet, they likely need more," said study author Dr Carl Lavie, cardiologist at Ochsner Medical Centre, New Orleans.

The study also noted that cardiovascular benefits appear to increase with dosage and that adding an extra 1,000 mg of EPA and DHA per day decreased the risk of cardiovascular disease by

5.8% and risk of heart disease by 9%. The study looked at dosages of up to 5,500 mg/day. Health expert Vanessa Ascencio said the latest research follows scores of studies supporting the role of omega-3 in heart health and its safety and low interaction with other medication.

"Eating fatty fish such as salmon, anchovies and sardines is the best source of omega-3. But, since most of us eat less than the recommended amount, supplementing with a high-quality potent supplement like Purest Omega 3 may help. Purest Omega 3 delivers a potent dose

of EPA and DHA and has tested purity, is free from mercury and other pollutants, is created from a sustainable source and offers superior triglyceride form and a market leading TOTOX (quality of oils) score," said Ascencio.

"Support your heart health by following a healthy lifestyle and increase the intake of nutrient-rich whole foods, dark green leafy vegetables, fruits and healthy fats. Try to avoid fried or processed foods, quit smoking, cut down on alcohol, exercise regularly, get enough daily restorative sleep and manage stress to improve heart health," she added.

## CONCERN

## MultiChoice's Showmax invests in African content for growth

## NAIROBI

MultiChoice's online streaming platform Showmax is investing in producing its own local content for African audiences as it competes for their attention against Netflix on the continent, a senior executive told Reuters.

MultiChoice is Africa's largest pay-TV group, available

in 50 African countries. Its streaming service Showmax, launched in 2015, is available in 46 African countries and also in several Western countries, including Britain and France, which have sizeable African Diaspora populations. The company is focusing on developing movies and shows set in its biggest markets of Nigeria, Kenya and South

Africa, senior executive Yolisa Phahle said in an interview.

"For us, it really is about getting the local entertainment which we know African audiences enjoy, programming in their languages, stories reflecting their realities, their hopes and their dreams," said Phahle. She did not say how much MultiChoice was investing in the production of

local content.

The company released six new original productions last year to add to its catalogue of content from the U.S.-based cable channel HBO. It also offers global football, including the English Premier League, on its Showmax Pro platform. Some of the shows released so far this year include a reality TV series from Nigeria and a

police procedural drama set in Kenya.

As the Covid-19 pandemic forced people to spend more time at home, there was an initial increase in viewership for Showmax, Phahle said. Last week, MultiChoice said it would charge Showmax mobile subscribers across Africa on average 20% less for access on a single mobile

device, in recognition that some users may not be able to afford such luxuries during the pandemic-induced economic slowdown affecting most countries.

Broadcasters of all kinds on the continent are under huge pressure to keep viewers engaged, said Phahle: "They simply have hundreds and hundreds of other places

where they can take their eyeballs or their wallets."

The company is co-producing programmes with HBO and Cinemax on productions set in Africa to global audiences, she said. "They know that the stories that we are telling from our own backyard will find global audiences," she said of HBO and Cinemax.

## ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# A professor and his 'tiny' trees

NAIROBI

What piques your interest when you look at a tree? Is it the size or colour of its flower? For Ahmedali Hebatullah, who lives in Nairobi, it is the branches and roots; how they look like, how they are growing, and to which direction. To him, trees are living works of art. From them, he draws inspiration that he applies to his art of making Bonsai trees. Bonsai trees are miniature versions of real-life trees.

Exceptionally detailed, with every prune and bend Mr Hebatullah's bonsai trees are specially crafted to draw people in aesthetically and elicit in them feelings of relaxation and rejuvenation. "I've been creating bonsai trees for two years now," Mr Hebatullah says. "But my love for the craft is many years old."

## Over 100 trees

The professor at the Aljameatus-Saifiyah Arabic Academy in Nairobi's Karen grew up mingling with trees, plants and flowers in orchards and nurseries. While at it, he stumbled upon bonsais. Showing interest, his mother bought him a book. Years later, he is putting his knowledge to use.

His backyard is an Eden of bonsais with more than 100 trees. Some are growing in clay pots, others in training boxes, alone or as miniature forests. Some are growing over rocks. Some have flowers cascading down while others are growing leaning towards one side. The "wind-swept style", he called it.

As he shows me around, he does so with passion. The nature-loving professor has miniaturised jacaranda, jade, acacia, olive, sausage and fig trees among others. He spends an hour each day in his workshop and watches a YouTube video daily to sharpen his craft.

He shows me a Desert Hi-



Ahmedali Hebatullah during an interview at his home in Nairobi on April 21, 2021.

biscus that he is propagating through air layering. It is "doing very well." Air layering is a method of propagating bonsais where a propagated part of the tree continues to receive water and nutrients from the parent tree as it slowly develops its roots.

Once the roots are fully grown, the propagated plant is cut off and transplanted. Mr Hebatullah sources his trees from his garden and nurseries. He looks for three things while choosing one for miniaturisation. The thickness of its stem, its shape and the size of its leaves. Small leaves are preferred.

Bonsai is about small leaves and making the tree old through bends created by wiring. A large trunk is ideal for this because it adds age to the bonsai tree. The tree must be above three years old. As for the shape, it must be aesthetically pleasing.

## At his sunroom

The oldest trees he has used are 15 years old. A pink-flowered jade (*Crassula ovata*), the umbrella tree (*Schefflera abricola*) and a Chinese banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*) whose roots, he crafted to grow over a rock. These are the welcoming displays at his sunroom, where he hosts visitors. Before working on a tree, he studies it to understand how it grows while it is in a training box.

His tools of trade are few. Differently sized aluminium wires for the bending, a pair of gardening scissors and sheers for pruning small and large branches respectively, pliers for wire cutting and bending, a chopstick and the tree itself.

Wires are "the paintbrush of bonsais" but should be removed if they start eating into the tree. The tree's main roots are removed leaving only the hairy, fibrous roots. This is because, with a reduction in the size of the tree, big roots are unneces-

sary. However, in the case of a cypress, he maintains a rootball.

The tree is thereafter repotted in a well-draining clay pot filled with river sand, compost pumice rock in a 5:3:2 ratio. Once a month, he adds NPK fertiliser. "We use river sand because normal soil holds a lot of water leading to root rot. The chopstick is my hoe. I use it to till the soil," he explains, adding that the fibrous roots are adequate to absorb nutrients for the now dwarfed tree.

Compost provides nutrients and the pumice rocks are a soil amendment. The tree is then left to grow. Styling may be done as it grows. The tree can be repotted every two years or have its roots trimmed to maintain the same post size. Pots are a crucial detail. Mr Hebatullah sources his pots from South Africa, China and India since such are difficult to find in Kenya.

## The prices

While pricing his bonsais for sale, he factors in the cost of the pot, time and age of the tree. The small leaf golden jade costs Sh14,500. Other bonsais cost as much as Sh40,000.

He sells his creations through his social media page, Bonsais R Us. Covid-19 has proved to be a peak season for him as people rediscovered gardening pleasures. He also does online training on the art of bonsai trees. While the art of bonsai making started in China, it has found roots in Kenya, as more people keep bonsai as masterpieces in their homes.

Should you want to venture into bonsai making, "Arm yourself with knowledge, be passionate and patient. Don't despair when plants die. It's normal. Finally, remember it's a partnership. Do your part faithfully and leave the rest to God," Mr Hebatullah says.

## FUNDRAISING

## SA's surf brand Mami Wata out for crowdfunds for scaling of its business abroad

CAPE TOWN

South African surf brand, Mami Wata, is raising growth capital through European equity crowdfunding platform Crowdcube to scale the business abroad. The investment raised will be used to launch the business internationally with an initial focus on the US.

As a premium apparel brand that celebrates Africa's diverse and expressive surf culture, Mami Wata, whose name means 'Mother Water' is challenging the global surf industry's image of what it means to be a surfer, and to redefine surfing globally.

"We're on a mission to connect the world to the power of African surf culture," says Mami Wata co-founder Selema Masekela. "Much of the last sixty years has told us you need to emulate being from Southern California, or the south coast of Australia to fit the description of being a surfer. African surf culture will redefine the manner in which people will perceive the activity known as surfing and the lifestyle that comes with it."

Mami Wata's ambition is to become the world's first global African surf lifestyle brand. "We're challenging what we believe is a stagnant \$9bn global industry, ready for disruption. Through our partnership with Crowdcube, we're looking for investors who believe in the power of purpose, brand and design to create an exciting, meaningful global business," says Nick Dutton, co-founder and CEO.

"Since our launch in Cape Town in 2017, we've proven the concept by generating over \$500,000 sales to date and extensive global PR. We are now primed to launch internationally and scale the business," adds Dutton.

Working in conjunction with Crowdcube, Mami Wata will give investors the opportunity to join its mission and invest alongside entrepreneurial investors including Simon Mottram of Rapha, Tom Singh OBE of Rianta Capital and Pollyking & Co.

Mami Wata manufactures its full range of premium products in Africa to create jobs and build skills. The brand says its mission is to make the term 'Made in Africa' synonymous with quality. Mami Wata supports African surf therapy organisations that directly improve lives and advocates for responsible surf tourism to the African continent. This in turn supports local surf communities and their economies.

"Mami Wata has a deep purpose to be a creative force for good in Africa," says Luke Lang, Crowdcube co-founder and CMO. "It's a purpose which will resonate with many of our investors. As a brand, they're challenging an industry, and this also aligns with our mission to help nurture the growth of innovative businesses. We've no doubt the campaign will be a real success."



MamiWata members on the beaches of Cape Town.

## EU Parliament underscores strategic relations, pledges support to Morocco

BRUSSELS

The European Parliament stressed, on Wednesday, the strategic aspect of relations between Morocco and the European Union (EU) and recommended more support for the Kingdom of Morocco.

In a report on the implementation of the EU general budget for the financial year 2019 adopted in a plenary, the EU Parliament consid-

ered that the funds allocated under the budget support programs and the neighbourhood instrument yielded positive results within the framework of cooperation with Morocco, "a long-standing and strategic neighbour and partner."

Stressing that EU cooperation has contributed to the implementation of reforms in the Kingdom of Morocco which had a positive impact

on the socio-economic development of the country, the report recommended strengthening the orientation of sectoral budget support and improving the political dialogue strategy.

Relations between Morocco and the EU date back to more than 50 years. They are governed by an Association Agreement and Multisectoral Cooperation Instruments. The Kingdom of Morocco is

the main beneficiary of the EU Neighbourhood Instrument in the region.

Having an advanced status with the EU, Morocco also maintains distinguished relations with the twenty seven countries within the framework of political dialogue and is their key partner in the fight against terrorism and against illegal immigration.



EU and Moroccan flags intertwined to symbolises strong bilateral relations between the parties.



## WORLD

## PM Johnson risks probe by UK parliament's conduct watchdog

By Bloomberg

THE UK parliamentary sleaze watchdog may probe whether Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the code of conduct for Members of Parliament by failing to properly declare how the refurbishment of his government residence was funded.

Labour MP Margaret Hodge on Thursday wrote to Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards in the House of Commons Kathryn Stone requesting the investigation, a day after the Electoral Commission announced its own probe into the matter. Johnson has denied wrongdoing.

"With this matter the prime minister would appear to have repeatedly broken the general principles of the Code of Conduct, failing to be either honest, open or accountable when questioned by the media and in Parliament," Hodge wrote, according to the letter released by her office.

Johnson's government is already mired in

a series of sleaze investigations that threaten to dent the prospects of his Conservative Party ahead of local elections across the country next week.

Even so, a YouGov poll for The Times late on Thursday showed the Tories enjoy an 11-point lead over the main opposition Labour Party, which has spent weeks trying to capitalize on the slew of negative headlines for the government. Conservative Members of Parliament told Bloomberg earlier this week that the stories of sleaze aren't cutting through with voters.

## Sanctions

If Stone decides to investigate the matter, it would be at least the fourth probe into the renovation of Johnson's flat at 11 Downing Street, adding to ones by Cabinet Secretary Simon Case, Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests Christopher Geidt, who was appointed to that role by Johnson on Wednesday, and the Electoral Commission,



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

which regulates political donations.

Several Parliamentary committees are also probing the access the now defunct lender Greensill Capital had to ministers and officials as it sought access to government contracts and emergency coronavirus aid programmes.

Unlike the Electoral Commission, which is investigating the action of Johnson's party, Stone is able to probe his personal conduct. If she upholds the complaint, she can refer the case on to Parliament's Committee on Standards, which is able to recommend suspension or even expulsion of an MP.

The probes follow weeks of

speculation about who paid for the renovations to Johnson's apartment and when, amid UK media reports that the works cost as much as 200,000 pounds (US\$279,000).

Johnson's office has been facing questions over whether he used a loan from Conservative donors to pay for the refit of his residence last year - and whether he disclosed the funding properly to regulators.

The controversy exploded last Friday when Johnson's former aide Dominic Cummings went public with claims that the premier tried to get party donors to pay for redecorating the apartment.

Agencies

## China's climate goals show great courage, strong commitment, says UN climate chief

BERLIN

AS a developing country with a huge population and loads of socio-economic priorities, China has demonstrated great courage and strong commitment in its climate goals and efforts, Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has said.

China champions global climate actions in such aspects as technology-based advancement of renewable and clean energy, ensuring access to clean electricity in remote regions, and sparing no effort in afforestation, Espinosa said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

"I am very impressed by the efforts of the Chinese government in making the transformational changes towards building a green and low-

carbon circular economy. It is apparent that climate actions have become the strategic undertaking in China's transition to a sustainable economic growth," she said.

These efforts have helped create policy certainty and reflect the Chinese government's determination in its policy objectives, she added.

China has remained committed to reducing the use of coal and has become a new global leader in renewable energy, showing tremendous opportunities in the energy sector, according to Espinosa.

"I am confident that with a clear roadmap and action plan, China will be able to achieve its ambitious goals," said Espinosa, adding that China's efforts will in turn contribute greatly to the 1.5-degree-Celsius targets under the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement is a



Patricia Espinosa

legally binding, multilateral agreement and "we need a just transformation that leaves nobody behind" the complete global economic and social transition to a sustainable path required by the agreement, said Espinosa.

"And this can only be achieved through multilateral cooperation," she said. "No single nation can solve this global problem on their own, and my sincere thanks go to

China for emphasizing the need for multilateral cooperation."

Speaking of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" that China proposed for the global climate governance, Espinosa said it is also a principle of the UNFCCC and called on all parties of the Paris Agreement to commit to it.

Espinosa said that as countries were busy grappling with

the pandemic during the past year, much of the urgent work in climate remained outstanding, she said.

It is crucial to "get back on track" of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, which was scheduled for November in the British city of Glasgow, she said.

"Above all, governments need to agree on the rules to implement the Paris Agreement. This critically important work can only succeed with strengthened cooperation among all nations, and especially among the major powers," Espinosa stressed.

"It is a time for leadership, courage and solidarity among global leaders, especially the major powers. It is also a time for ambition, commitment and political will to achieve the milestones that need to be achieved this year," she said.

Xinhua

## African leaders renew pledge to end hunger, malnutrition

NAIROBI

AFRICAN heads of state and government on Thursday renewed commitment to eradicate hunger and malnutrition that has derailed socio-economic progress on the continent.

Speaking at the High-Level Dialogue on Feeding Africa virtual forum, the leaders said it was possible for the continent to achieve hunger-free status subject to the transformation of agricultural systems through leveraging on technology, financing, irrigation and improved post-harvest management. Macky Sall, President of Senegal said that Africa's ability to achieve food and nutrition security hinged on scaling up climate-smart

farming combined with access to capital, markets and technology for smallholder farmers. "Establishing resilient food systems in the continent is imperative given the hunger and malnutrition crisis that has been worsened by climate change and COVID-19 pandemic," said Sall.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in partnership with the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the CGIAR System Organization, co-organized the event. Akinwumi Adesina, President of AfDB said the aim of the two-day forum to be held from Thursday to Friday is to galvanize political good-will required to revitalize the

food security agenda in a continent where about 246 million people suffer from hunger. "The continent must scale up efforts to feed its growing population while promoting environmental sustainability," said Adesina. "Strong and accountable political leadership, policy reforms, investing in research, technology and innovations is key to transform farming systems and boost crop yield," he added.

Adesina said that empowering African small-holder farmers who produce nearly 80 percent of food in the continent should be at the heart of hunger eradication programs. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia said the high-level dialogue summit will provide a platform for African leaders,

policy-makers and scholars to share best practices that can be harnessed to hasten the realization of the zero hunger goal. "Dialogue is required to develop a new roadmap for the realization of sustainable development goals on hunger eradication in the continent. We need to harness technologies that boost food production," said Zewde. She said that the COVID-19 pandemic reminded African leaders of the urgency to strengthen the resilience of food systems amid disruptions to key value chains that suppressed the availability of staples.

Gilbert Houngbo, President of IFAD said that African countries should prioritize domestic resource mobilization, improved land-use prac-

tices and adoption of climate-resilient crops in order to end the hunger and malnutrition crisis. "Incentivising the local private sector could help bridge a financing gap that has slowed down agricultural transformation in Africa," said Houngbo. He said that governments should encourage small-holder farmers to take up crop insurance alongside nature-based climate adaptation models in order to sustain the production of key staples like maize, rice and legumes. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana said that diversification, mechanization and greater farmers' outreach could unlock the potential of Africa's agriculture to achieve food security and boost rural incomes.

Xinhua

CHINA National Offshore Oil Corp, or CNOOC, said on Thursday that its "smart" natural gas project in the South China Sea will help make offshore oil and gas production in the country more digital and intelligent.

The "smart" natural gas project, or an intelligent production control center, uses technologies like the internet of things, big data and artificial intelligence. It can also conduct real-time monitoring, forecasts and diagnosis, remote control, integrated sharing, coordinate operations and assist decision-making, all of which will sub-

## 'Smart' project enables collaborative fuel output

stantially improve the production efficiency of offshore oil and gas fields, the company said.

"The production control center is the central pivot and brain of the entire smart gas field, which supervises production conditions in the cluster," said Cui Rong, managing director of the Dongfang oil and gas fields.

"It not only supervises the high-risk operation, but also follows the potential hazard rectification progress, monitors all mechanical equipment

with fault diagnosis implementation and collates production data to enable collaborative production of various gas fields."

The Dongfang gas fields cluster, consisting of 10 offshore production platforms, one onshore processing terminal and several oil and gas offshore pipelines, is the biggest self-run gas field in terms of production located in the western part of the South China Sea, according to CNOOC.

After two decades of development and construction, the

annual gas production from the region has exceeded 5.7 billion cubic meters, making it the most important gas source for Hainan province's domestic and industrial sector, said CNOOC.

According to Tang Guangrong, deputy director of CNOOC's Hainan branch, offshore gas production will not only be more secure, but also more efficient with the digitalized production control center.

"The remote control of the various types of gas production will allow faster distri-

bution and dispatch while substantially increasing the production efficiency," he said.

The intelligent gas distribution system, which analyzes the gas fields' upstream and downstream flow conditions, will make the distribution 10 times faster than in the past.

"The intelligent patrol robots and the real-time monitoring equipment are also more precise than the manual inspection, making the gas output more secure and guaranteed. It also ensures the steady supply of gas even under extreme

conditions like typhoons, so that there are no disruptions in gas supplies."

Experts said the digitalization of offshore gas fields will promote high-quality development, with production costs gradually decreasing as more high-tech personnel are deployed in the control center.

Cao Lujia, an analyst at BloombergNEF, said: "The smart gas field will further improve the modernization of the country's oil and gas industry chain."

"This is also in accordance

with the 2021 energy guidance of the central government, which emphasizes innovation in energy infrastructure construction, digitalization in oil and gas fields as well as pipeline networks," she said.

Digital renovation on the Dongfang offshore gas field commenced in 2018. It became the country's first unattended wellhead platform that can resume production via remote control in 2019, thereby reducing the production resumption time from the previous two hours to 20 minutes.

Agencies

## Modi opponents seen leading in India polls amid virus mayhem

By Bloomberg

INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party appears to be trailing in exit polls in key state elections that are seen as a barometer of his popularity amid the world's worst outbreak of COVID-19 infections.



As ballots drew to a close late Thursday in an electoral exercise that stretched over a month, voters in the battleground state of West Bengal look set to hand victory to the incumbent All India Trinamool Congress Party, according to most exit polls. Four other elections were also held, in the states of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and union territory of Puducherry. Ballots will be counted on May 2.

The coronavirus pandemic overshadowed the elections and has overwhelmed India's fragile health system, with daily infections topping 300,000 for the past week. Modi has come under increasing pressure as hospital run out of beds, oxygen and even medical supplies in many parts of the country.

The death toll has been mounting and images of crematoriums working non-stop have flooded newspapers, television and social media.

India's benchmark equity index fell Friday amid the exit polls and the extension of lockdown-like curbs in some states. The S&P BSE Sensex slipped 0.8 percent to 49,378.82, as of 12:23 pm in Mumbai, while the NSE Nifty 50 Index dropped 0.6 percent.

"With hundreds of thousands affected directly by the health crisis, and so many more impacted by the hit to their livelihoods, the BJP will not be able to avoid the blame," said Shumita Deveshwar, senior director of India research at TS Lombard.

"His policies will now face greater scrutiny than ever before, making it a far harder challenge for him than it would have been had his government managed the COVID-19 crisis better."

## Fierce campaign

Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party mounted a fierce campaign in West Bengal to unseat the regional leader Mamata Banerjee, one of his main challengers. He faced extensive criticism for addressing rallies that drew thousands of voters in the middle of a raging pandemic.

The BJP attempted to use these elections to expand the party's footprint in the eastern and southern parts of the country. Exit polls indicate it has retained power in north-eastern state of Assam, where a religion-based citizenship act was a major issue. If confirmed, its victory there could further embolden the government to implement the controversial law across the country.

A coalition including a regional party and the main opposition Congress may win in Tamil Nadu, while a left-led alliance looked set to retain power in Kerala, exit polls showed.

"If the Trinamool Congress wins, Mamata will become the most important opposition leader in India," said Neelanjan Sircar, assistant professor of politics at Ashoka University and a senior visiting fellow at the New Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research. "She will have shown that she can craft a narrative to take on the majoritarian vision of the BJP."

Agencies

## Kenya to close two refugee camps by June 2022

NAIROBI

KENYA on Thursday announced decision to close two refugee camps permanently by June 30, 2022.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta held talks with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in Nairobi to discuss issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers in the region.

According to a statement issued by Kenya's Ministry of Interior and Coordination, a joint team comprising officials from the government and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) will thus be formed to finalize and implement a roadmap on the next steps toward a humane management of refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

There are currently 433,765 refugees living in Dadaab and Kakuma camps.

"We are serious about completing the repatriation program which we started in 2016, in full view of our international obligations and our domestic responsibility. We therefore reiterate our earlier position to close both Dadaab and Kakuma camps by 30th of June, 2022," said Fred Matiang'i, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and Coordination, in the statement issued in Nairobi.

Matiang'i said Kenya has been sheltering refugees for over 30 years and its capacity to host them longer under the minimum standards of humanitarian action has been overstretched, adding that the move to shut the camps is in the country's public interest.

Xinhua



# Biden govt 'hesitant' to drop Trump's China policy

WASHINGTON

UNITED States President Joe Biden has largely continued many of his predecessor's confrontational policies toward China but also has sought de-escalation, as both nations will benefit by working together or be harmed otherwise, experts said in reviewing the first 100 days of his presidency.

The US researchers said that from tariffs to personnel exchanges, the Biden administration has yet to initiate any substantive rollbacks, and that among the three aspects "adversarial, competitive and cooperative" of US-China relations as described by Biden's top diplomat Antony Blinken, competition is dominant while cooperation has yet to ramp up.

"Despite his stated desire to change the US approach toward Beijing, Biden has been hesitant to quickly undo several of his predecessor's China policies," said Paul Haenle, the Maurice R. Greenberg director's chair at the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center at Tsinghua University.

In his first speech to the US Congress on Wednesday night, Biden talked tough on China, saying "China and other countries are closing in fast".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said on Thursday that China has noticed media reports on the speech. It is normal to have competition between China and the US, but cooperation should be the mainstream of bilateral relations, he said.

Speaking at a news briefing in Beijing, he said that the two countries should compete with each other for excellence instead of beating each other.

"We need to improve ourselves rather than undercutting each other and seeking malicious competition and a zero-sum game," Wang said.

The spokesman said China has been committed to improving the livelihoods of the Chinese people. Some

people in the US who cannot stop talking about China are actually led by a Cold War mentality and ideological bias against China, he said, adding that it shows their lack of confidence.

"We hope the US will... view China's development in an objective way and take on the demeanor a major country should have," Wang said.

Haenle, of the Carnegie-Tsinghua Center, said in a recent article that on matters that Beijing considers its sensitive core interests, the administration has picked up where former US president Donald Trump left off, most recently easing restrictions governing US officials' engagement with Taiwan.

He noted, however, that the Biden team has sought to improve the overall tenor of the relationship by toning down the "antagonistic and adversarial" rhetoric while maintaining a competitive tone, indicating that the administration wants to avoid continuing tit-for-tat escalations while still appearing tough on China.

"While no one expected the administration to make drastic changes to the bilateral status quo right away, the danger moving forward is that the Biden administration could fail to meaningfully differentiate its approach from that of the Trump team and may end up with little flexibility to adjust course," Haenle wrote.

Norman J. Ornstein, an emeritus scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, said on Tuesday that Biden's worldview is "radically different" from that of Trump.

But, he said, "It is difficult to make a complete turnaround in policy, including foreign policy, and so we've seen caution on the trade front and caution in other areas when it comes to relations with China."

## Important nuances

David Dollar, a senior fellow at the John L. Thornton China Center of the Brookings Institution, also agreed



that when it comes to China, Biden is largely continuing Trump's approach but with some "important nuances".

While Biden has emphasized rebuilding partnerships with allies attempting to counter China, most of them are not interested in a new Cold War, according to Dollar.

The US allies have deeper trade and investment relations with China than the US does, evidenced by the fact that since Biden's election, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have signed new economic agreements with China, Dollar noted.

"It is likely that over time, Biden's China policy will have to become either less confrontational or more unilateral," Dollar wrote.

While some experts com-

mended the Biden team for eliminating counterproductive containment rhetoric toward Beijing and vowing to enhance cooperation with China on climate change, others said the administration lacks a practical China strategy.

Michael Swaine, director of the East Asia program at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, said that the Biden administration has thus far failed to present a "realistic strategy" toward Beijing that reflects a recognition of the "urgent need" to stress shared leadership and military restraint over primacy and zero-sum rivalry, and prizes constructive cooperation over zero-sum economic and technological competition.

Rachel Esplin Odell, a researcher on East Asia at the Washington-based Quincy think tank, said that among the "most disappointing" aspects of Biden's China policy has been his failure to take swift action to revitalize the people-to-people exchanges with China that

were gutted in the final year of the Trump administration.

"These exchanges are essential for enhancing mutual understanding and preventing conflict," Odell said, adding that Washington also needs to take steps toward reopening China's consulate in Houston, which was closed in July.

Ryan Hass, a senior fellow in the foreign policy program at Brookings, said that the relationship will stay tense for a while, but some positive things are unfolding.

"We no longer are spending our time analyzing tweets for clues as to the future direction of American policy toward China," because there are "real meaningful, serious conversations" taking place behind closed doors again about the future of the relationship, Hass said.

"I expect that this process will intensify when there are new ambassadors that arrive in each of our respective capitals," said Hass, who served as the US National Security Council's China director from 2013 to 2017.

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia's Tigray not being met, says UN

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED Nations humanitarian on Thursday said they are failing to meet the emergency response needs of the people in Ethiopia's embattled northernmost Tigray region.

"The complex and unpredictable security situation in Ethiopia continues to impede the freedom of humanitarian movement to reach people in need," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

"Additional capacity, funds, as well as unimpeded and safe access, are needed to scale up to the level needed to respond across Tigray." Food insecurity remains dire, with an estimated 4.5 million people in need of food assistance across Tigray.

The humanitarian office estimated about 5 million people lived in Tigray around the start of the fighting in early November 2020. Nearly six months into the conflict, most rural areas are without communications and electricity, OCHA said.

Such a disruption mainly impacts access to health services and water supply, disrupts communications in the northwestern, central Tigray and parts of the east and southeast, delaying the reporting and monitoring of aid distribution.

However, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners are scaling up the aid response, including identifying and supporting survivors of gender-based violence. Partners are targeting all people in need of food assistance in the region, OCHA said.

The World Food Programme said it distributed nearly 9,000 metric tons of food, reaching almost 529,000 people in the northwestern and southern zones and nearly 34,000 people in towns in the eastern zone since the end of March.

## China open to working with other nations on space station

China is open to cooperating with other nations on its space station project, an official said.

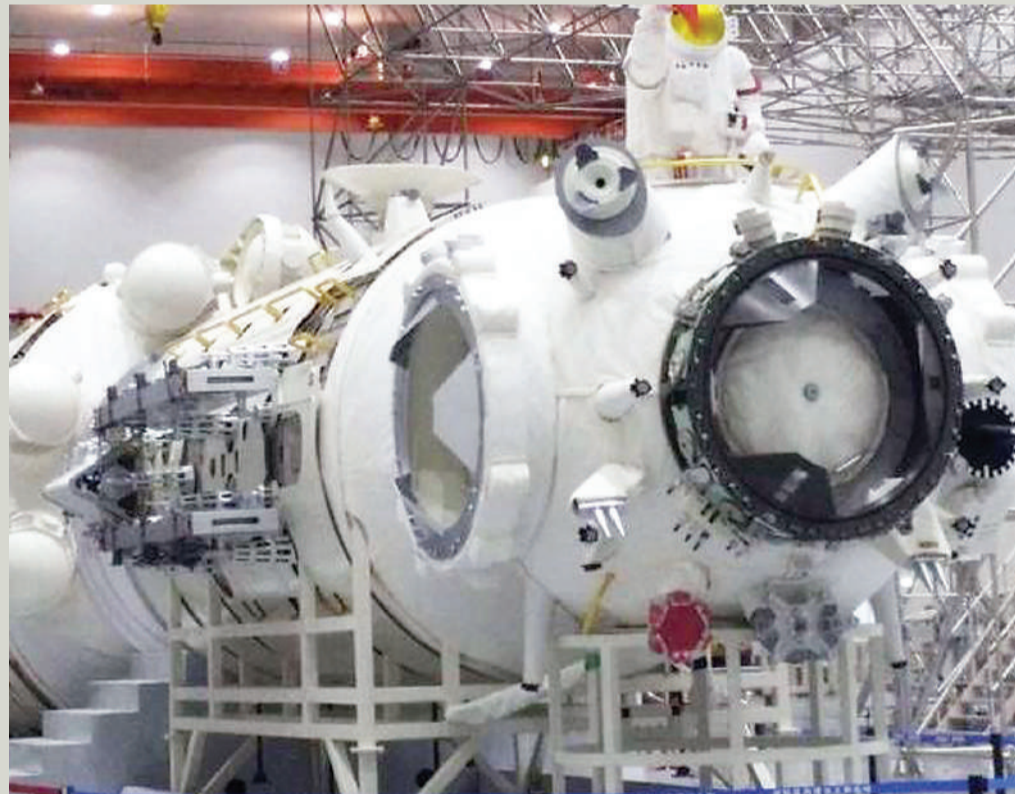
According to Hao Chun, director of the China Manned Space Agency, the agency has signed agreements with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs on space station cooperation. The two organizations have jointly issued a statement inviting scientists from around the world to submit their research proposals for an opportunity to conduct their own experiments aboard the Chinese station.

"As of now, 17 nations have confirmed their participation in nine scientific tasks on our station, with related work proceeding well," Hao said. "We will continue working with the UN's outer space office to solicit proposals for future scientific collaborations."

The official said there will be more than 20 cabinets aboard the station reserved for scientific instruments that were designed in accordance with international standards, adding that they will be available for collaborators.

Moreover, Hao said there definitely will be foreign astronauts on the Chinese station.

"A lot of foreign space organizations have told us that they



This undated photo shows the core module of China's space station in research.

hoped we could open our station to their astronauts. Some foreign astronauts have begun to learn Chinese. We will start selecting foreign participants and preparing for joint flights in due course according to the conditions on the station," Hao said.

"We are determined to make

our space station a shared platform for scientific and technological research to benefit all people around the world," he added.

Hao also said his agency will strive to make sure that it makes the best use of the station to advance space science, technology and application.

He said scientists will be able to take advantage of the facility's unique environment to perform mutation breeding experiments, produce special medicines and create new materials, thus generating scientific, technological and economic benefits.

Agencies

## Beijing slams Washington's claim that China, Russia use COVID as infowar tool against US

BEIJING

CHINESE authorities have castigated a statement made by Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lieutenant General Scott D. Berrier, who speculated that Russia and China are using the pandemic for an "informational war" against the West, branding it politicized slander, says Foreign Ministry Spokesman Wang Wenbin.

"Instead of solving the pandemic problem from a scientific standpoint, certain American politicians engage

in its politicization," he said, commenting on the US official's remark. "They put labels on the coronavirus, disseminate false information and seek to unload their own hardships on someone else's shoulders. They slander other countries."

According to the diplomat, the coronavirus "is the enemy of all mankind, and China is actively fighting the pandemic, while maintaining transparency in relevant matters."

"The US has cutting-edge technologies, but it also has

the highest case count. [...] Washington must stop politicizing the pandemic issue and make greater efforts on establishing international cooperation in order to counter the coronavirus," Wang Wenbin said.

On Thursday, Berrier claimed that Russia and China allegedly use the pandemic for an "informational war" against the West. According to the US official, Moscow and Beijing do it in order to undermine the governments of Western states.

Agencies

## Vaccinated Europeans outnumber confirmed COVID-19 cases: WHO's Kluge

COPENHAGEN

MORE Europeans have been vaccinated against COVID-19 than have been confirmed to be infected, Hans Kluge, the World Health Organization's (WHO) regional director for Europe, said on Thursday.

"Based on numbers of confirmed cases, 5.5 percent of the entire European population has now had COVID-19, while 7 percent has completed a full

vaccination series," Kluge said in a press release. To date, some 215 million vaccine doses have been administered in Europe, he said. Approximately 16 percent of the WHO European Region's population has received the first vaccine dose. The WHO European Region has so far registered 51,506,373 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,076,173 deaths. Despite the recent decline in new cases, hospitalizations and deaths, Kluge reiter-

ated his dire warning to citizens in the region to be vigilant and remain "conscious of the fact that vaccines alone will not end the pandemic."

"Without informing and engaging communities, they remain exposed to the virus. Without surveillance, we can't identify new variants. And without contact tracing, governments may need to reimpose restrictive measures," Kluge said.

Xinhua

# US embassy in Russia to reduce consular services

LONDON

THE US embassy in Moscow will reduce consular services starting on May 12, according to a message published on the embassy's website on Friday.

"Effective May 12, US Embassy Moscow will reduce consular services offered to include only emergency US citizen services and a very limited number of age-out and life or death emergency immigrant visas.

These service reductions are necessary due to the Russian government's April 23 notification of its intention to prohibit U.S. Mission Russia from employing foreign nationals in any capacity.

Non-immigrant visa processing for

non-diplomatic travel will cease," the message reads.

According to the embassy, "provision of emergency services to U.S. citizens in Russia may also be delayed or limited due to staff's constrained ability to travel outside of Moscow."

The embassy recommended that US nationals whose Russian visas are about to expire should leave the country "before the June 15 deadline set by the Russian government" or visit a local Ministry of Internal Affairs office to start the necessary paperwork.

"We regret that the actions



of the Russian government have forced us to reduce our consular work force by 75%, and will endeavor to

offer to U.S. citizens as many services as possible," the US embassy added.

On April 15, US President

Joe Biden signed an executive order imposing sanctions against Russia. In particular, the document

"prohibits US financial institutions from participation in the primary market for ruble or non-ruble denominated bonds" issued by Russia's Central Bank, Finance Ministry and National Wealth Fund after June 14.

In addition, the US Treasury Department sanctioned 16 entities and 16 individuals "who attempted to influence the 2020 US presidential election at the direction of the leadership of the Russian Government."

Sanctions have also been imposed on five individuals and three entities related to Crimea, including members

of the regional government. Besides, the US announced the expulsion of ten personnel from the Russian Embassy in Washington DC.

On April 16, Russia announced retaliatory measures. The US ambassador was recommended to return to Washington for consultations.

Ten US diplomats were told to leave Moscow and a procedure was launched that will prevent US diplomatic missions from hiring Russian and third country citizens.

Moscow also imposed an entry ban on eight current and former US high-ranking officials and persons responsible for developing and implementing anti-Russian policies.

Agencies

## SPORT

## Coach Makata laments lack of concentration as Dodoma Jiji FC's pace slackens



Dodoma Jiji FC's players (L-R), Peter Mapunda, Dickson Ambundo, Jukumu Kibanda, Saif Abdallah and Agustino, jubilate when their outfit posted a goal in a recent Federation Cup clash against Iringa's Kipigwe FC, which took place at the former's backyard, Jamhuri Stadium. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JIJI FC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DODOMA Jiji FC's head coach Mbwana Makata has blamed the team's 3-1 defeat to Simba SC in the Vodacom Premier League on the lack of concentration among his players, especially in the second half.

The Dodoma-based club came into the match, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, seeking to avenge the first-round defeat but Simba were the ones who ended up sealing a double over them after goals from Chris Mugalu (two) and Luis Miquissone.

Simba had taken a deserved lead through Mugalu but Dodoma Jiji FC were level three minutes later, courtesy of midfielder, Cleophae Mkandala.

In the second half, Miquissone and Mugalu scored to end Dodoma Jiji FC's hopes of getting a win against the top flight's defending champions.

Makata disclosed after a good display by his side in the first half, their level of concentration dropped in the second period, allowing Simba to take advantage and carry the day.

"The game was good, we have managed 90 minutes by losing the first half. We played very well with tactical discipline, and we also managed to contain them by sealing all the loopholes," Makata said.

He noted: "We also managed to play some counter-attacking football but I think we all know Simba are good especially when playing at this venue, they can use their space and ball well, and what we did we denied them space and tried to use the counter-attack and it helped us go to the half-time break at 1-1."

He stated: "In the second period, my players lost concentration and allowed Simba into the game, they gave them much space to move the ball easily and we got punished with the two

goals."

"We did not defend as a unit like it was in the first period, and we were beaten."

He said: "But to be honest, we must congratulate Simba for winning the game, I concede defeat because they managed to penetrate and spoil my plans, it means they have experienced players, they are good and on top of their game now, we now must focus and return to winning ways in our next match."

Mkandala, who scored the lone goal for Dodoma Jiji FC, said: "We knew we were playing against a big team, who are representing us in CAF Champions League, and we planned to face them with confidence and we also wanted to earn revenge since they had beaten us in the first meeting but it was not easy for us, because we all know what Simba can do."

"They are approaching to win the league and so they are dangerous to face now, we played according to the coach's instruction but let me admit the best team won, Simba were the better side and deserved to win."

On scoring twice against Simba in the two matches so far this season, Mkanda said: "I am happy to score against Simba twice, it is not easy, to score against them [home and away] and it gives me the confidence to face other teams."

"I will continue to score goals, I now have three and I want to add to my tally, I don't have to score against Simba only but must fight to score against every team in the league."

The win saw Simba reach 61 points from 25 matches, four more than second-placed Yanga, who have 57 from 27 matches while Azam FC are placed third on 54 points from 28 outings.

The two teams will now shift their focus to the Federation Cup whose matches will be played this weekend.

## Lugalo golf competition attracts over 100 players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

PROFESSIONAL golfers from various golf clubs in Tanzania are looking forward to taking part in a major tournament, slated for this weekend at Lugalo Golf Club course in Dar es Salaam.

The professional golfers will be accompanied by more than 100 consent partners who have so far registered to accompany their counterparts in the tournament.

Lugalo Golf Club's information officer, Selemani Semunyu, said so far 25 professional golfers have confirmed to compete in the tournament which will be unique.

He said that professional players have always been coaches of consent players so they expect to see a fierce competition with the highest standards that are not shown by the consent players.

He noted: "Lugalo has started

implementing its annual calendar as the club's chairman, retired Brigadier General Michael Luwongo wants to see great progress in golf." "That is why this tournament has professional players so that they have a good chance to gauge their skills when it comes to consent competition," he said. "So on April 30 and 31 the professional players will complete and we hope we will in the next day of the tournament get the 10 best players who will be presented with prizes and so far 25 players have confirmed to participate in it," he noted.

Lugalo Club's professional player, Frank Mwinuka, said he and his fellows are fully prepared for the tournament as all they want is to do well to retain the title at home.

The club's consent player, Lunacho Kigome, said they have done enough training to strengthen themselves with a view to showcasing stiff opposition to other participants.

## Yanga supporters should be patient with defender

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SOMETIMES Yanga's defender, Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto, who also features for senior national football squad 'Taifa Stars', is often blamed for some unnecessary mistakes he does on the pitch.

It is true. At some point he has cost Yanga for his sluggish defending on the pitch.

Why is Mwamnyeto being watched and monitored by the eagle's eye by many fans with strong emotions?

This is so because his bid from Coastal Union to Yanga shocked many football fans in the country and Yanga's main sponsor GSM Group was forced to present Coastal Union a two-year sponsorship deal for Mwamnyeto's signature.

And now all eyes are on him. He could be the most expensive domestic player right now in the country.

It is common to see people either seek to know or ask each other 'what extra quality does Mwamnyeto brings to the Jangwani Street big guns?'

Yanga did what they had to do to make sure their age-old rivals, Simba, do not acquire Mwamnyeto's signature before the former.

It is not uncommon for an expensive player to be investigated through his performance for legitimacy of his price tag.

Even the most expensive European players find themselves in a difficult time.

They are more scrutinized than players bought at low price.

Mwamnyeto is a good defender, he has a good size for today's defensive role.

He is more clinical on the field than his shortcomings. This is the most basic aspect.

He has the ability to defend and he too has the ability to play from the back.

His basic problem is playing aerial duels, which have been his main problem.

His other problem is his overconfidence. There are times when he finds himself giving away the ball to the opposing team's attackers and unfortunately for him he is a last defender.

Lack of concentration in his outfit's 18 yards becomes



Yanga defender, Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

easier for him to be punished by the opposing sides' attackers.

The mistake has been committed more than once since he started donning the yellow and green jerseys.

However, today I stand by his side. In Tanzania we have one basic problem. Our players are late to mature.

In recent years we have been lauding senior defenders Kelvin Yondani and Erasto Nyoni.

We forgot that it took them many years to mature in football.

It takes a lot of investment in the body and mind of a Tanzanian player to give fans what they want.

For now Mwamnyeto has shown the potential to be a good player, but the truth is that he is not a perfect defender because he is yet to grow as a defender a club may rely on.

If soccer fanatics look the likes of Sergi Wawa and Joash Onyango, they are players who have played their defensive positions for a very long time and in various international tournaments.

Nyoni and Yondani took a long time to play various challenging domestic and international matches to eventually be perceived as heroes today.

It is hard for an outfit to find a perfect player from Coastal Union.

It could have been possible for teams to find perfect players in those teams several years back but it is hard these days.

When did Coastal play in a continental tournament to be able to give us a perfect player?

This is a big problem for our country's football. Players are late to reach maturity.

It is possible that our Premier

League is not very competitive, it is also possible that our tacticians will not be able to successfully nurture young players in a short period of time.

However the story is different from European players. One should take a good look at Erling Haaland, how does he look and how has he matured early.

He may still need several years to be more mature but if one looks at him today he or she will get a picture of how he plays as an adult. For us a 20-year-old player cannot play like Haaland.

Mwamnyeto is in the process of becoming a full-fledged defender, he may not be complete at the moment but he will one day be there on top amongst Tanzanian great defenders if he works hard.

He needs to play a lot of tough international matches with Yanga and Taifa Stars.

These matches will help him mature but at the moment he is still immature.

Fans and analysts should not be too quick to complain to him whenever he makes a mistake.

Players, who are weak psychologically, are more likely to get lost if they are under too much pressure.

They find themselves no longer confident. Some find moving to mid-table teams where they later emerge as good players again and big teams start looking for their services.

Midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, is a good example. When he was at Yanga, most of the team's fans possibly did not appreciate his displays.

I do not know what did they expected from a young player of his kind.

He was thrown into a pile

of prominent midfielders including Thaban Kamusoko, Haruna Niyonzima and others and people were still expecting great things from him while he was still trying to adjust himself and mature.

Mwamnyeto has nothing to lose for now, he has safe and better days ahead of him because he is a good defender and his physique is very rare among many players in this country.

He needs to play for a long time before he matures.

We have this misfortune here in the country. Today's players can hardly be compared with such a gifted former midfielder, Edibily Lunyamila.

Lunyamila grew up in school and he was called up to the senior national team after completing his Form Four examinations. Such a player like Mwamnyeto needs time.

Soccer fanatics should try looking at Simba defender Shomari Kapombe, he is now a matured player.

Every time I look at Yanga defender, Kibwana Shomari, I find myself looking at Kapombe of the last seven years.

Few years from now Shomari will be like Kapombe.

He just needs time for now. He needs to play many international matches with Yanga and Taifa Stars.

Soccer enthusiasts should learn to know the players. Many players get lost because of either distrust or verbal attacks by their team's fans.

Even midfielder, Simon Msvuwa, was at a young age being booed by Yanga fans.

He is today he is dependable player for Morocco soccer giants, Wydad Casablanca, and he moreover shines for the outfit in this season's CAF Champions League.

Do the soccer supporters believe that this the same Msvuwa they used to scold?

I am neither sure if they remember those moments nor certain whether the fans have such records in their heads.

One can leave the matter to football fans and club members but sometimes he or she may find that even a team leader does not know how to nurture a player.

The official inadvertently enters a wave of a group of club fans to attack his player without realizing that the player in question needs a good process to become a successful player.

## K&amp;P Constructions cricketers tighten grip on DC Gymkhana Cup's Division A top spot

By Guardian Reporter

THE K&P Constructions cricket team have tightened their grip on the top spot in Group C of the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup League's Division A with five-wicket victory over Dar Black Panthers in the city early this week.

The duel, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue, saw Dar Black Panthers go in to bat first and score 95 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs.

Opener Imrankhan Pathan put several good knocks to show early on as Dar Black Panthers sought to get off to a good start in their innings.

Pathan recorded 15 runs which consisted of three fours.

The team's pursuit of a good total was then



Dar Black Panthers Cricket Club's players pose for picture after taking part in a recent club tournament, which took place in Dar es Salaam. The side suffered five-wicket loss to K&P Constructions Club in a 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup's Division A match, held early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAR BLACK PANTHERS

dealt a blow, as top order batsmen Mahesh Soneji and Shahab Ahmad succumbed to early dismissals.

Prasad Baraskar and Munish Kumar thereafter gave their all in an effort to give their squad a much needed boost, posting 17 runs and 14 runs respectively.

Kumar's spell saw the batsman notch two

fours.

Middle order batsman Gurvinder Singh was ultimately the one with the best innings, he scored 26 runs which consisted of three fours.

Masood Khan chipped in with not out performance, notching nine runs not out

The K&P Constructions squad's Shaik Abdul Shaheel and skipper

Lakshminanth Sukavasi took two wickets apiece as their squad sought to prevent their opponents from ending with a bigger total.

Needing 96 runs to notch victory, K&P Constructions side hardly wasted time, posting 97 runs for the loss of five wickets in 15.3 overs to grab the victory.

Opener Hema Suryakant Mullanpudi made certain of the squad's victory, putting solid showing at the crease.

Mullanpudi notched 51 runs, which turned out to be the most impressive displays in the clash.

He was in the end voted as the man of the match because of his batting exploits.

Fellow opener, Naga Gurijala, and Suman Emuru chipped in with 15 runs and 13 runs respectively.

Shaik Abdul Shaheel was two runs short of two-digit figure, his exit, nevertheless, could not frustrate the chase.

The K&P Constructions squad, consequently, bounced back from four-wicket loss to Annadil Burhani Club in a clash played on March 14.

The victory over Dar Black Panthers has helped K&P Constructions squad continue leading the rest of the pack in Division C, having recorded six points from three wins and one loss.

Second place Annadil Burhani are two points below the group leaders, given the former have notched victory in two outings and lost one match.

Patel Brotherhood and Dar Black Panthers are placed third and fourth respectively, with both squads having recorded victory in one match.



## Inter on brink of Serie A title as Juve battle for Champions League spot

MILAN

INTER Milan are on the brink of the Serie A title which they could claim for the first time in over a decade this weekend while Juventus scramble for a Champions League spot.

Antonio Conte's Inter travel south to basement club Crotone on Saturday where a win would allow them to put one hand on a trophy they last won in 2010.

If Inter win and second-placed Atalanta, who are 11 points off top spot, fail to claim all three points at Sassuolo on Sunday, Inter will lift their 19th Serie A crown with four games to go.

Inter could also be crowned champions with a draw if Atalanta lose, but other results would have to go the league leaders' way.

Inter's Chinese president Steven Zhang returned to Milan this week for the run-in to the title celebrations.

And despite the pressure midfielder Nicolò Barella said the team were in a "calm frame of mind" having come close last season.

Inter finished one point behind Juventus last year, having also lost the Europa League final in 2020 to Sevilla.

"We had the same objective last season. We lost a final and this galvanised us," said Barella.

"We transformed the experience into something positive. This year, we're in the position we wanted to be in.

"We're a well-balanced side that has found an identity."

Barella scored in Inter's 2-0 win over Juventus in the San Siro in January, "the match that made us aware of our strength," the Italian said.

"Beating the team that had dominated for years was important."

Top Inter scorers Romelu Lukaku (21) and Lautaro Martínez (15) will be eager to find the net having both failed to score in the past four games.

Crotone, meanwhile, can count on Nigerian forward Simy, the third top scorer in Serie A with 19 goals this campaign, who scored last weekend in a win over Parma to delay relegation.

Juventus are fourth with coach Andrea Pirlo under increasing pressure as they travel to Udinese fighting not to slip out of the top four.

Juve lost their last trip to Udine back in July, and have been shaky on the road this campaign, dropping points in 10 away games.

They are equal on points with third-placed Napoli and AC Milan, in fifth, with Lazio lurking five points off fourth place with a game in hand.

AC Milan host 18th-placed Benevento at the San Siro with Zlatan Ibrahimovic set to return as the side come off back-to-back defeats.

Milan have struggled at home this campaign, while five of Benevento's seven wins have been away.

Lazio host Genoa looking for a club record 11 straight wins at home, as city rivals Roma, six points behind, travel to Sampdoria, smarting from a 6-2 mauling at the hands of Manchester United in the Europa League, semi-final, first leg on Thursday.

At the bottom of the table, relegation rivals Torino and Parma go head-to-head on Monday.

One to watch: Cristiano Ronaldo

Cristiano Ronaldo has cut an increasingly frustrated figure despite leading the Serie A scorers' chart with 25 goals in 29 games. The 36-year-old has failed to score in Juventus's last three league games. "Success happens when your dreams are bigger than your excuses," said the Portuguese forward on social media, targeting the top scorer honour for the first time since arriving in Turin in 2018.

### Key stats:

- 17 - Inter's unbeaten league run
- 11 - Inter's advantage on second-placed Atalanta
- 7 - AC Milan's points from the last five games
- 7 - Atalanta's winning league run against Sassuolo
- 6 - Juve's wins away in 16 league games
- 3 - Udinese have lost their last three home games

Fixtures (all times GMT):

### Today

Hellas Verona v Spezia (1300), Crotone v Inter Milan (1600), AC Milan v Benevento (1845)

### Tomorrow

Lazio v Genoa (1030), Bologna v Fiorentina, Napoli v Cagliari, Sassuolo v Atalanta (all 1300), Udinese v Juventus (1600), Sampdoria v Roma (1845)

### Monday

Torino v Parma (1845)

AFP

# Man Utd aim to keep Man City title celebrations on ice

LONDON

MANCHESTER City could wrap up a third Premier League title in four seasons on Sunday, but Manchester United can keep their local rivals waiting by inflicting further damage on Liverpool's hopes of a return to the Champions League next season.

City's 10-point lead with just five games remaining means it is a matter of when, not if, they will collect the second trophy of a potential treble.

Pep Guardiola's men lifted the League Cup for the fourth consecutive season last weekend before taking a huge step towards the Champions League final with a 2-1 semi-final, first leg win away to Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

The return leg against PSG is likely to play a big factor in Guardiola's team selection for Saturday's trip to Crystal Palace.

However, one of the hallmarks of City's success this season has been their strength in depth, giving Guardiola plenty of options should



Pep Guardiola

he choose to rotate his squad once more.

Raheem Sterling, Gabriel Jesus, Sergio Agüero, Fernandinho, Ferran Torres and Aymeric Laporte are among those who did not get off the bench in Paris in midweek and could start against the Eagles.

Palace have won just once in their last seven

games as they meander towards the end of the season with safety in the top-flight secured for another season.

United 'expect to win'

Should City move to within three points of the title on Saturday, all eyes will turn to Old Trafford as last season's champions will look to

clinch them the title.

Liverpool are far more desperate for the points than United with their chances of Champions League football next season fading fast.

Jürgen Klopp's men are four points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea and could be seven behind by the time they kick-off with the Blues hosting struggling Fulham on Saturday.

United finished 33 points behind Liverpool last season as the Red Devils only secured a top-four finish on the final day of the season.

Ole Gunnar Solskjær's men have turned that gap around this season as they are set to match their best league finish since Alex Ferguson retired as boss in 2013.

But United captain Harry Maguire insisted they cannot settle for being second best.

"It's a big game whenever we play Liverpool," Maguire told ESPN. "We want to win and we expect to win."

"I joined the club to win trophies, to lift trophies. Every player who plays for Manchester United expects to win trophies. In recent years, we haven't managed to

do that, so we've got to improve."

### - No complacency for Chelsea -

Chelsea may be in pole position for the fourth Champions League place, but Thomas Tuchel's men can ill afford to be distracted by the second leg of their Champions League semi-final against Real Madrid on Wednesday when facing Fulham in a west London derby.

The Blues opened up a three-point cushion over fifth-placed West Ham with a 1-0 win at the London Stadium last weekend.

But Chelsea face a tough run in with matches against City, Leicester and Arsenal plus another meeting with Leicester in the FA Cup final in the final month of the season.

Any slip-ups could not only offer encouragement to West Ham and Liverpool, but also Tottenham and Everton's slim chances of Champions League qualification.

Spurs host already relegated Sheffield United hoping to put their cup final disappointment behind them.

Everton are six points off the top four with a game in hand and need to end a wretched run at home when they face Aston Villa on Saturday to remain in the hunt.

Third-placed Leicester look to have learned from their mistakes in falling out of the top four in the final weeks of the campaign last season.

Victory at Southampton on Friday would take Brendan Rodgers's men 10 points clear of the chasing pack with just 15 left to play for.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

### Today

Crystal Palace v Manchester City (1130), Brighton v Leeds (1400), Chelsea v Fulham (1630), Everton v Aston Villa (1900)

### Tomorrow

Newcastle v Arsenal (1300), Manchester United v Liverpool (1530), Tottenham v Sheffield United (1815)

### Monday

West Brom v Wolves (1700), Burnley v West Ham (1915)

AFP

# Solskjær backing up claim that he's right for Man United

MANCHESTER, England

MANCHESTER United under Ole Gunnar Solskjær have been more evolution than revolution, and his team took another step forward at Old Trafford on Thursday night.

Following four straight semifinal defeats, United lead AS Roma 6-2 after the first leg of their Europa League last-four tie. Anything but a heavy defeat in the Italian capital in a week's time will earn the Norwegian a place in his first final since becoming manager. It will be another box ticked on his to-do list ahead of what he hopes will be a first trophy.

He likes to joke that United never do it the easy way, and the same was true on Thursday. Two away goals have given Roma something to cling to, but the way Solskjær celebrated the sixth goal with two clenched fists and a scream suggests he believes it's as good as over, although he's not the type to admit it.

"No, I don't feel the job is done, but it was a good job done," said Solskjær. "We did well but we know they have quality. They scored two goals from the two chances we gave them."

"The character showed that they came back and didn't lose their heads. Maybe five or 10 minutes at the end of the first half, we didn't look great but we got ourselves together. The two goals are junior, schoolboy errors that shouldn't happen at this level."

It was United's season encapsulated in 90 minutes. There were moments of wonderful, flowing, attacking football coupled with an apparent desire to shoot themselves in the foot and, obviously, the obligatory Bruno Fernandes penalty.



Ole Gunnar Solskjær

Roma, who sit seventh in Serie A, lost three players to injury in the first half, including goalkeeper Pau Lopez, but still went in at half-time 2-1 up thanks to a Lorenzo Pellegrini penalty conceded by Paul Pogba -- the France international has given away four of the past six penalties conceded by United at Old Trafford -- and a tap-in from former Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko. But as so often is the case, United decided to wait until the second half to turn it on, and five goals in 38 minutes mean they are in firm control of the tie. As long as they don't fancy doing more self-inflicted damage at the Stadio

Olimpico next week, they should book their place in the final against either Arsenal or Villarreal in Gdansk, Poland,

on May 26.

Fernandes scored the first and the fourth from the penalty spot.

Edinson Cavani got the second and third, and Pogba, excellent all night, headed in the fifth. Mason Greenwood, on as a substitute, scored the sixth after a pass from Cavani that was so good the Uruguay forward stopped to admire it.

In the end, Roma got off lightly, having conceded 20 shots and 11 on target. Roma coach Paulo Fonseca said afterward his team "didn't exist" in the second half.

"It's difficult to explain how the same team that did so well in the first half had that kind of second half," he added. "It's hard to play against a side like United without having the substitutions. In the second half we got everything wrong."

It's a shame the fans weren't inside Old Trafford to see it because it was a night when the stadium would have been bouncing. Had they been there, they would have seen United become the first side to score six times in a major European semifinal since Real Madrid in the European Cup in May 1964.

"We know we have got creative players who can create big moments," said Solskjær. "Paul Pogba's position today was very good in that position, he's allowed

some freedom. He's got the foundation behind him. The difference today is we took most of our chances.

"Edinson was excellent; a centre-forward as he should be playing; creating chances and scoring goals. I'm delighted with him. You can see the difference in him when he's worked on his fitness."

United have a maximum of seven games remaining this season to cement the sense that progress is being made under Solskjær. A positive result against Liverpool on Sunday -- set to be played against a backdrop of anti-Glazer protests outside the stadium -- will go a long way to securing Champions League football and a second-place finish in the Premier League, while anything but disaster in Rome will mean a first final and a golden chance to win some silverware.

Solskjær has never faltered from his belief that he is the right man for the job and that his plan to take the club forward is the right one. Finishing the job against Roma and winning the Europa League would be more evidence to back it up.

ESPN

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Man Utd aim to keep Man City title celebrations on ice

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## Simba SC to face Kaizer Chiefs in CAF Champions League last eight



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League, Federation Cup and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Simba SC will play against South Africa soccer giants Kaizer Chiefs in the last eight of the CAF Champions League.

The showpiece's quarterfinals' draw was conducted in Egypt yesterday by CAF Director of Competitions, Samson Adamu, who was assisted by Cote d'Ivoire soccer legend, Abdoulaye Traore.

Two pots were used for the draw, pot one contained all teams, which ended second in the group stage, namely Al Ahly SC of Egypt, Algerian sides CR Belouizdad and MC Alger, and South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs.

Pot two contained Simba SC, Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, Wydad Casablanca of Morocco and Esperance du Tunis of Tunisia, which ended first in group stage.

Simba SC will start away to Kaizer Chiefs between May 14-15 and the return leg has been

scheduled for few days later.

Prior to the game, Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes was reported as saying his charges are ready for any opponent in CAF Champions League quarterfinals.

"We are always ready to play against any team, all we need is to prepare well, our aim is to reach the finals of the tournament, the good thing is that we will start away," he noted.

Simba led Group A with 13 points, followed by Al Ahly of Egypt, AS Vita Club of DR Congo and Al Merreikh of Sudan.

Other games in CAF Champions League last eight will see Mamelodi Sundowns lock horns with Al Ahly, MC Alger host Wydad Casablanca and CR Belouizdad face Esperance du Tunis.

In another development,

Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium will be a battlefield this evening as Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s defending champions, Simba SC, and Kagera Sugar clash in the showdown's last 16 match.

Both sides desperately need to win the encounter to advance to the showdown's quarterfinals.

It will be a grudge match as Kagera have a score to settle with Simba, having suffered three defeats to the Vodacom Premier League defending champions.

Apart from seeking a place in the last eight, records are also at stake in this encounter as Simba are the only local club enjoying rich form.

The winning team in today's encounter will join Azam FC and Biashara United, which reached the quar-

terfinals on Thursday.

Simba SC has turned the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium into their fortress as the last time they tasted defeat at the venue was a year ago when they lost to Spanish giants Sevilla FC in an international friendly match.

Today's encounter will be the sixth assignment for Francis Baraza who since he took over as head coach of Kagera, he has never steered the side to a win but ahead of today he said they are not intimidated by the clash.

He, however, admitted that facing Simba would be a real test, but they are well prepared for the encounter.

Baraza said they are well prepared to face Simba and hopefully they will win the game.

"We are not looking too

much into Simba's good form this season, all we want is to play our game and win, with determination, it is possible," he said.

If the Francis Baraza-coached side loses today's game, it will be the third time in a row this season that the Kenyan tactician has lost to Simba SC.

Prior to the game, the two teams have had a mixed fortune in Premier League matches, as Kagera Sugar lost 2-1 to Biashara United while Simba beat Dodoma Jiji FC 3-1.

Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes said they are well prepared for today's tie.

"We know that teams put spirited displays when they face us, they come well prepared. What we need is to pull our socks to beat them," he said.

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Aali & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SLEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**TONIGHT ON EATV**  
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders limited can improve your home decor.

And Tanix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus.

**It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM**

**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**

## Defender Onyango now lauds Simba SC's leadership

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Kenyan defender, Joash Onyango, has explained the differences he sees between his current outfit and his former team, Kenya's Gor Mahia.

Onyango moved to Tanzania to join Simba SC, nicknamed 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', where he has been a key player, after earning fame with Gor Mahia, nicknamed 'K'Ogalo'.

He claimed some officials at the Kenyan club fail to perform their duties in a professional manner, something that is not witnessed at Simba.

"What I can say is that the two clubs are managed in different styles. I hope they will forgive me for saying this," Onyango said.

He disclosed: "There are certain individuals at the club [Gor Mahia] who have been given leadership positions but are not doing what is expected of them. If you are the chief executive officer, you ought to do your job properly and if you are the chairman, you ought to do your job properly."

He noted: "The situation is so different at Simba. Here, they cannot ask you to achieve a task without providing the appropriate environment."

He added: "The coach always gets the right kind of support from the Simba management and you will hardly hear the technical bench complaining about their requests being ignored."

The former Western Stima defender also drew parallels between the 'Mashemeji Derby' - a contest between Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards- and the 'Dar Derby' that pits Yanga against Simba SC.

"The difference between the two derbies is in the commitment of the fans. I realised that whenever Leopards lost in the 'Mashemeji Derby' continuously, there was a gradual downturn in the number of fans attending their subsequent matches," Onyango explained.

He disclosed: "In Tanzania, fans are entirely ecstatic about a derby and each of them try as much as they can to attend the match regardless of where they are."

He added: "Sometimes the stadium is so filled up to an extent a special screen is set for those who cannot find seats in the stands. You can easily feel the passion Tanzanian fans have for their teams."

The central defender also revealed how he scooped the monthly award for as the best player as voted by Simba SC fans.

He saw off competition from Luis Miquissone and Aishi Manula.

"I wish to appreciate all the Kenyan football fans who cast votes in my favour when I was feted Simba Player of the Month for March award, honestly, I didn't see the award coming given defenders rarely bag man of the match awards," he said.

He added: "Many people asked me to send them the link so that they could rally behind me and there are those who also called to assure me I would bag the award."

He opined: "Initially, goalkeeper Aisha Manula had taken an early lead but then everything suddenly turned out in my favour as Kenyans swarmed the link to vote."

Onyango and teammates qualified for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals and they are also on top of the Premier League table while having two games in hand.

## National beach soccer team drawn in tricky group

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S national beach soccer team have been drawn in Group A of this year's Beach Soccer Africa Cup of Nations tournament to be held in Senegal from May 23-29.

Tanzania have been drawn in Group A ahead of the showpiece's kick off in the West Africa country.

They have been pooled alongside hosts Senegal, Democratic Republic of Congo and competition's debutants Uganda.

Tanzania qualified for the continental showpiece after defeating Burundi on 12-9 aggregate in a two-legged final qualifying hurdle.

The squad is expected to play its first match against Uganda before facing Democratic Republic of Congo and five-time champions of the tournament, Senegal.

Egypt, Mozambique, Morocco and Seychelles, the other nations that set to complete the tournament, have been placed in Group B.

Before the tournament kicks off, Tanzania will play two friendly matches against Senegal.

Tanzania are moreover



National beach soccer team.

in the process of finding another match to identify their shortcomings and work on them quickly as their strategy is to do well in the tournament.

In the previous interview, national beach soccer team's head coach Boniface Pawasa

said: "In this tournament we are going to meet some of the toughest teams so in order for them to do better than last season, we have to make preparations that will enable us to be better to be able to compete with other greats who

have qualified for these finals."

The national beach soccer side's charges are in an intensive training camp ahead of the tournament with the team having been made up of experienced players.

The national beach soccer

team are made up of Ahmed Juma, Adam Oseja, Eric Manyama, Daniel Mwainyekule, Roland Msonjo, Jaruph Juma, Ahmad Abdul, Kashiru Juma, Yahya Tumbo and Abdulkadir Tarib.

Others include such experienced players like Steven Mapunda, Said Morad, Ally Daud Ally, Stanley Mkomola, Hakim Mohamed, Ibrahim Ibad, Fulgence Maganga, Benjamin Asukile, Nurdin Chona and Ismail Gambo.

This is the second time in a row that Tanzania has qualified for the finals after successfully performing well in 2018, in which the squad finished eighth in the 52 countries in Africa and the world rankings.

The host nation Senegal have won the tournament the most, five times (2008, 2009, 2013, 2016, 2018) since the tournament was founded in 2006, with South Africa being the first host nation.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

HOW MANY ANTS DOES IT TAKE TO FILL AN APARTMENT?

TEN-ANTS

