



## POLLS



**DEBATE OVER JOURNALISTS IN NOMINATION RACE**  
**PAGE 3**

## CLIMATE



**EXTREME WEATHER DISRUPTS FISHING**  
**ACTIVITIES PAGE 4**

## INFRASTRUCTURE



**PROJECTS IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS**  
**PAGE 7**

## SPORT



**GET A GLIMPSE ON THE WINNERS AND THE**  
**LOSERS PAGE 20**



## EABC: Ambassador Amina Mohammed at WTO uplifts EAC

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has endorsed the nomination of former Kenyan foreign minister Ambassador Amina Mohammed (pictured) for the post of director general at the World Trade Organisation.

The long-serving administrator will push for a stronger East African Community and realization of the much-anticipated African Free Trade Area, the council said.

"The role of WTO in liberalization of global trade is key to the growth of trade, investments and competitiveness of the East African Community bloc in the international arena," said Dr Peter Mathuki, the EABC executive director.

He said the EAC bloc earned US\$ 25.1bn from the export of goods and services in 2017 and imported consignments valued at US\$ 39bn during the year.

The EABC is of view that Ambassador Mohamed joining the WTO will be timely, as Africa is keenly focusing on the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), he declared.

"She is a strong advocate for the actualization of the AfCFTA and has also chaired the WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi in 2015, the Dispute Settlement Body and the WTO General Council in 2005. Her passion

TURN TO PAGE 2

# Building costs: PCCB riled by estates unit

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma



Members of CCM's women wing in Coast Region pictured yesterday participating in the nomination of aspirants for Special Seats parliamentary seats from among five groups: NGOs, academicians, workers, people with disabilities, and the wing itself. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

JUST a day after President John Magufuli questioned the high cost of its new office buildings, the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has suspended the entire unit responsible for their construction, pending investigations.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, PCCB Director General Brig Gen John Mbungu said all nine members of the bureau's estates management unit who presided over the construction of the seven offices in various districts will stay home until the matter is thoroughly investigated.

He said the probe will take 14 days and is set to begin next Monday, with a view to establishing whether the costs of constructing the buildings were inflated. The quasi-independent probe team is made up of four individuals drawn from outside PCCB, he stated.

"I have also dissolved the PCCB's estates management unit so that it can be reset afresh," he elaborated.

Those found to have engaged in corruption by

TURN TO PAGE 2

## SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



**FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

[cdc.gov/COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID-19)

## NEC sets August 2-25 for taking, returning of forms

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has unveiled the timetable for picking up forms to contest in the presidential,

parliamentary and civic posts those duly nominated by registered political parties.

Addressing reporters here yesterday, NEC Chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kaijage

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Prof Lipumba handed forms for presidency

By Guardian Reporter

CIVIC United Front (CUF) national chairman, Prof Ibrahim Lipumba yesterday collected forms to vie for the Union presidency.

Addressing journalists after being handed the forms, he said that the party's youthful cadres from various parts of the country requested him several times to vie for the top government position.

CUF youth in Dar es Salaam Region decided to take the forms and present them directly to him at the party's headquarters at Buguruni, Ilala District.

The party's of Planning and Elections director, Juma Kilaghai said that the presidential nomination forms are provided at a cost of 500,000/- whereby the youth launched a fundraising programme to collect

TURN TO PAGE 2



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National Electoral Commission chairman retired Judge Semstocles Kaijage (L) briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the schedule for the collection of presidential and constituency candidacy nomination forms for the upcoming (late October) General Election. He is with NEC director of elections Dr Wilson Mahera. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## NEC sets August 2-25 for taking, returning of forms

FROM PAGE 1

said presidential poll candidates will be nominated up to August 25. Picking up forms will thus start on August 2 and end on August 25," at NEC offices located at the Njedengwa in Dodoma.

Those nominated by their parties to vie for civic and parliamentary slots will start collecting NEC forms from August 12 and 25 at ward and respective district council offices all over the country, he said. Campaigns for the three voting areas are slated for August 26 to October 27 ahead of voting the following day.

The NEC chairman appealed to all those endorsed by their parties to vie for various posts in this year's polls to conduct their campaigns by observing the law, up to the polls and subsequently.

He also appealed to Tanzanians to maintain peace and tranquility during this important process in the country's political life.

Judge Kaijage also renamed some constituencies, where Chilonwa becomes Chamwino and Mtera is now Mvumi constituency, both in Dodoma Region. Kijito Upele in the Zanzibar Urban West Region has been

renamed Pangawe.

He said NEC has not altered boundaries of the current 264 parliamentary constituencies ahead of this year's poll but only those name changes.

Boundaries of the 264 constituencies (214 in the Mainland and 50 in Zanzibar) remain intact, with their seats being up for grabs in the polls.

The council is mandated by law to review electoral boundaries and make changes if need be after 10 years but it did not carry out that exercise this year.

As for the name changes for the three constituencies, he said the commission received requests and deliberated on them, after some stakeholders approached it with such propositions.

"We received the requests, discussed them in our meetings and decided to make changes," he said.

Launching NEC headquarters in the capital on Wednesday, President John Magufuli directed security organs deployed to man campaign rallies and polling stations during this year's polls to avoid use of excessive force in discharging their duties.

## Kagame to visit Malawi, hold bilateral talks with Chakwera

LILONGWE

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is due to arrive in Malawi on August 11 for a two-day official visit in what would be viewed as a show of confidence from international leaders, Nyasa Times has learnt.

According to officials at Foreign Affairs ministry, President Lazarus Chakwera and First Lady Monica Chakwera will host the Rwandan leader and his wife "on a two days state visit beginning on the 11th of August, 2020 at New State House in Lilongwe."

The Malawi and Rwandan leaders are expected to hold bilateral talks.

Kagame last visited Malawi in 2007 when Bingu wa Mutharika was president and inaugurated a 3.3km road named after him.

Chakwera, who won the June 23 fresh presidential election, recently said he had spoken to Kagame "as part of my quest to forge strategic partnerships towards the strengthening of Capable Democratic Developmental States across the Great Rift Valley."

He said the aim is "to leverage the bounties of our natural and human resources for the shared prosperity of our peoples."

Kagame is revered for stopping Rwanda's genocide and engineering what admirers call an economic miracle.

In 2000, Kagame inherited a country that had been torn apart by genocide. But he has rebuilt the country to a stable, prosperous, unified and, in large part, reconciled.

AGENCIES

## Building costs: PCCB riled by estates unit

FROM PAGE 1

inflating construction costs, or any other malpractice related to the implementation of the project, will face the severest possible legal action, the director intoned.

Those sent home until further notice are architects Jarudi Nyakongeza, Mohamed Kichewele and Benedict Mabula, quantity surveyors Adam Mandia, Fortunatus Ngilo and Hamisi Masoud.

Others are Nathaniel Otieno (construction manager), Wilhelm Chuwa (engineer) and Mbwana

Malumbo (building engineer).

The nine suspended individuals were in charge of construction of PCCB's district offices for Chamwino and Mpwapwa (Dodoma region), Masasi (Mtwara), Manyoni (Singida), Namtumbo (Ruvuma), Ruangwa (Lindi) as well as the intelligence unit of the bureau's headquarters in Dodoma.

Launching the buildings at Chamwino on Wednesday, President Magufuli smelt a rat, saying that the presented costs of the buildings did not correspond with the structures on the ground.

"I have noticed acts of irregularity

even in the building which I am launching today. The fair cost of the office should be at least 40m/-, not the 143m/- that it is said to have cost," he told the gathering.

"I have built a house, and some of you have built houses. Does it make sense that this building has cost 143mn/-," he demanded.

He further promised to issue 2bn/- for the construction of PCCB staff houses, a job that he directed should be done by the National Service Department, a specialised wing of the armed forces.

He urged PCCB to hasten its pace in case investigation, to file cases in court

on time so that corruption culprits are prosecuted and those found guilty punished to discourage Tanzanians from engaging in the vice.

He tasked regional and district commissioners to set aside buildings or rooms in their councils' offices for PCCB instead of its having to construct new ones.

Brig Gen Mbungu said on Wednesday that the government spent 1bn/- for the construction of PCCB office buildings. What is now in contention, leading to disbanding of the estates management unit and suspension of staff is a portion of that work.

## Prof Lipumba handed forms for presidency

FROM PAGE 1

funds for Prof Lipumba's forms.

After collecting the funds among themselves, the youth contacted the chairman requesting to meet him on Tuesday this week. He said he was in Dodoma so he agreed to meet them on Thursday.

Kilaghai said that the party's youth met him yesterday and requested him to pick the forms and represent the party in the presidential poll.

However, Prof Lipumba said the delay in picking up the party's presidential nomination forms was meant to provide space for other CUF cadres to express their interest to vie for the top government post.

"I wanted to give a chance to other party members to vie for the Union presidency. Some cadres would have worried about picking the forms, if I were the first to do so," he said.

Prof Lipumba outlined his priorities if elected Union president, promising to form a government of national unity.

He said that CUF will form a government that will include the party's cadres as well as professionals and followers of other political parties.

Yesterday, the National Electoral

Commission (NEC) unveiled the timetable for collecting forms for contesting in the presidential, parliamentary and civic posts.

NEC Chairman Judge (rtd) Semstocles Kaijage said that collecting forms starts August 2 to return them by August 25 for presidential candidates at its offices in Dodoma.

The campaigns are scheduled to kick off August 26, ending on October 27 ahead of voting the next day.

The NEC chairman appealed to all those endorsed by their parties to vie for various posts in this year's polls to do so by observing the law before, during and after the polls.

**“I wanted to give a chance to other party members to vie for the Union presidency. Some cadres would have worried about picking the forms, if I were the first to do so”**



Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau director general Brigadier General John Mbungu briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday. He announced the suspension of nine members of the bureau's staff, pending an investigation relating to the construction of seven buildings built by the bureau in various parts of Tanzania. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

FROM PAGE 1

for international trade, exemplary strategic leadership, diplomatic and negotiation skills make her the right candidate for the job," reads part of the business council's statement.

Her being endorsed for the post will be a great opportunity for the EAC bloc and Africa towards championing global economic policy to increase the

## EABC: Ambassador Amina Mohammed at WTO uplifts EAC

continent's share in global trade, the council further noted.

"The business community in East Africa is assured that Ambassador Amina Mohamed will steer the WTO to greater heights. As a former Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and

International Trade of the Republic of Kenya she is bold and proficient, it will be an honour for the continent to have the first African and first woman as the Director-General of the WTO," said Dr. Mathuki.

The envoy is expected to help push

for the full implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement which will reduce trade transaction costs for businesses, by cutting red tape, simplifying and streamlining customs procedures for exports and imports.

The WTO is mandated to administer trade agreements, trade negotiations, settling trade disputes, reviewing national trade policies, building the trade capacity of developing economies and cooperating with other

international organizations.

Africa's active and strategic participation in WTO negotiations is vital to unlock the economic potential of the continent and increase access to international markets, business groups affirm.



Dr Eliezer Feleshi (R), Principal Judge of the High Court of Tanzania, shares a light moment yesterday with the court's Tanga Zone Judge In-charge, Amir Mruma, during the former's inspection tour of the court's activities in Tanga Region. Photo courtesy of High Court

## Work harder, Principal Judge Feleshi urges Judiciary staff

By Guardian Reporter

THE Judge of the High Court, Dr Eliezer Feleshi, has called on court workers to work hard, to sacrifice themselves and work in cooperation.

Speaking yesterday to workers and officials of Kilindi District Court during an official visit in the district, the Principal Judge also called on them to abide by ethics in the performance of their duties to build up a positive image of the judiciary to the people. "Ask from you leaders to be allocated extra duties whenever you see your centre has little number of cases, even assisting the senior Magistrate in research to make it easy for him to write up judgments,

or even to courts nearby to improve judiciary services," he said.

Judge Feleshi advised court officials to establish professional sessions for building each other capacity in their professions.

He said laws and regulations have been undergoing amendments from time to time especially in recent years, including the Civil Procedure Act and The Magistracy Act in order to seek professionalism in the field.

"There is no such thing as rural or urban magistrate, you are all the same in the interpretation of the laws and regulations enacted by the Parliament, hence many such sittings will help in the understanding in performing your

everyday duties in the dispensation of justice," he added.

He also urged leaders to supervise all issues concerning the staff by giving the priority including good understanding at work places, identify challenges facing them, and finding solutions thereof in time.

Judge Feleshi also called on judiciary workers to serve customers without tiring and desist using foul language.

"Many of our stakeholders who come to the courts get different images, hence if they will be made to understand, they will, in order to remove unnecessary complaints," he said.

Meanwhile, Principal Judge Feleshi met with the Kilindi District

Commissioner, Sauda Mtondo in her office including members of the District's Defense and Security Committee for discussion.

In the meeting the DC thanked the Judiciary for establishing Kilindi District Court after long time request.

Judge Feleshi said as for now the Judiciary has been strengthened and stresses the use of information technology to simplify its everyday activities in the dispensation of justice.

He also inspected the area where Kilindi District Court will be built and received report on the progress of its construction.

Judge Feleshi is in five-day visit in the High Court of Tanzania for Tanga Zone.

## Mixed reaction following MCT plea to journos

By Henry Mwangonde

WEDNESDAY'S call by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) to all journalists seeking nomination by political parties to vie for various posts in the General Election later this year to resign has triggered heated, debate with some respondents supporting the body and others disagreeing.

A cross-section of long-serving journalists yesterday expressed different views over the matter, making it a contentious issue whose debate is likely to continue.

In its advisory released on Wednesday, MCT argued that journalists who have openly shown their political alignment cannot go back to the newsrooms and earn public trust.

But one of the senior journalists, Pascal Mayala who sought to be nominated by CCM for Kawe constituency in Dar es Salaam argued that scribes who did so did not err and can continue practicing journalism as long as they observe professionalism.

"There is nothing wrong if a journalist comes back to the newsroom and discharges his or her duties with objectivity, fairness and balanced reportage," said the aspirant who polled one vote in the primaries.

In their comments, some were of the view that the decision on whether to return to newsrooms after vying for a political post should be left to individual journalists while others said media personnel should declare interests.

A senior Editor and Secretary General of the Tanzania Editors Forum Neville Meena said the journalists who have shown interest in some political parties should be left to individuals to judge themselves.

He said this is the right time for media

institutions to come together and come up with friendly restrictions which will guide journalists during such times.

"We should not restrain from vying because they have the right to do so, in my view if a journalist decide to vie for a political post, this should be left to him or her to decide because in the end the burden of a tarnished credibility goes to the journalist himself and the recipient media house," he said.

Vice chairman for the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Tanzania James Marenga said it is very difficult for journalist to be impartial when they have shown interest with certain political parties. "This is a bit tricky because journalists are required to be neutral when reporting, if a journalist has shown interest in a certain political party and went further to seek nomination that is a sign that he or she is a member," he said. Marenga further added that journalists who want to join politics must declare interests because they have the right to do so.

Another long-serving journalist Pili Mtambalike said this is high time media houses formulated policies that are clear on such matters.

She said objectivity and partiality was a key issue that differentiated journalism from others professionals saying when objectivity is compromised the journalist loses credibility.

MCT said that journalists as part of the community have the right be elected to different positions as well as the right to vote adding "Those who took nomination forms to vie for various posts exercised their right to stand for election, but they no longer qualify to continue working as journalists."

The council called upon media owners to provide guidance on the matter so that those who choose to do politics leave newsrooms.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene yesterday called on security organs to improve systems and adopt more technological techniques to fight new rising types of crime that comes due to the development of information and communication technology (ICT).

The minister made the call when speaking during a one-day meeting with top police officials from the headquarters, Regional Police Commanders (RPCs). "There has been incidents of terrorism, production and supply of fake products, cyber-crimes, mineral trafficking, car theft, poaching and other related crimes, all these needs new and modern techniques to fight them," he said.

He tasked the police force to

## Simbachawene calls upon security organs to use ICT to combat crime

maintain the pace and strengthen security during the forthcoming general election while ensuring that the polls are conducted free and fairly.

"You are doing a very great job, and in the forthcoming elections we have to ensure that all the processes go smoothly and peacefully, all illegal actions that could be seen threatening the country's peace should be fought with all efforts," Simbachawene told the police officials.

He however said that for the past few years, crime incidents in the country have declined significantly due to a number of efforts made by the government.

According to him, in past few years

the government invested much of efforts to fight crime related actions including drug abuse, human trafficking and cross-border crime, a move has produced good results.

Simbachawene said that the government under the defence and security bodies has done a tremendous job to reduce crime in the country.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro said the security organs are well prepared to ensure that the forthcoming general elections are conducted peacefully.

He called on the political aspirants and the general public to ensure that they play their part decently and avoid causing chaos.

## There will be no by-elections - Polepole

By Guardian Reporter

THE ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) yesterday cleared doubts among its parliamentary candidates who garnered similar votes in the just ended constituency primaries saying there will be no by-elections.

In a televised interview, CCM Secretary General for Ideology and Publicity, Humphrey Polepole, said contestants who scored similar numbers of votes should not be worried as the party's higher decision-making organs are set to continue with the vetting process and come up with suggestions.

Aspirants who garnered similar votes during the CCM primaries include outgoing Buchosa Member of Parliament and former Agriculture Minister Dr Charles Tizeba and Erick Shigongo. They both scored 354 votes.

Others are Kangi Lugola and Charles Kajege who were contesting for the Mwibara parliamentary seat. They both scored 173 ballots.

"We are aware that in some constituencies two or more candidates garnered a similar number of votes. This happened in Mwibara and Buchosa constituencies, aspirants should not be worried," said Polepole.

He however noted that the party's primaries were not meant to look for winners but it is part of CCM's process towards general elections which is geared to get suggestions and opinions from its members before making final decisions.

A number of outgoing lawmakers who were seeking reelection on the CCM ticket including ministers, passed the first stage of the party's nomination process after leading in the preferential votes cast yesterday.

Those who garnered enough votes to make it to the top three whose names will be forwarded to the party's higher decision-making organs for actual nomination include the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Selemani Jaffo who polled 588 votes in Kisarawe constituency primaries.

Former Home Affairs Minister Mwigulu Nchemba who was seeking nomination for reelection in Iramba West constituency got 677 votes.

The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson polled 843 votes and Livestock and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina bagged 316 votes in his bid to retain the Kisesa constituency seat.

Lands and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi polled 453 votes in Ismani constituency. None of the other aspirants reached 10 votes.

The Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega who is seeking to retain his Mkuranga seat polled 1,138 votes. In Ilmela constituency, the incumbent Dr Angelina Mabula, who is Deputy Minister for Lands, obtained 502 votes.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe polled 367 votes in the Nzega Urban constituency while in Pangani constituency, Deputy Minister for Water and Irrigation Jumaa Aweso polled 282 votes in the primaries.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) Jenista Mhagama garnered 845 votes in Peramiho constituency and Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Godwin Mollé led in the Siha constituency with 148 votes.

Former Deputy Minister for Health Dr Faustine Ndugulile in the Kigamboni constituency polled 190 votes.

### The United Republic of Tanzania MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM



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For more information, kindly visit our website at [www.maliiasili.go.tz](http://www.maliiasili.go.tz) or visit Headquarter Offices at UDOM, in Dodoma or Tourism Zonal Offices located at Mpingo House - Dar es Salaam; PSSSF – Mwanza, Iringa NSSF Block; and TANAPA Head Quarters in Arusha.

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13th July, 2020

## Ruaha National Park uses awards to arrest poaching, and promote conservation

By Guardian Reporter

THE annual environmental conservation award provided by the Ruaha National Park (RNP) has largely contributed to promote wildlife conservation and protect natural resources.

The award has so far been given to communities and individuals who have conserved the environment which includes management and conservation of village natural forest, water sources and natural vegetation. Winners receive between 1m/- and 2m/-.

The awards were officially launched in 2016 with the aim of promoting public participation in conservation issues and making them aware of how environment conservation is important for the wellbeing of the park.

Conservation officer from the parks Good Neighborhood Department, Emakulata Mbawi said that prior to the launch of the awards there was serious destruction of environment which went together with illegal hunting.

According to Mbawi, the awards have stimulated public participation in wildlife conservation and put an end to illegal hunting activities within the park. She said the award has been established in five districts of Wanging'ombe, Mufindi, Kilolo, Makete and Mbalali. Apart from cash prizes, winners are also provided with certificates.

"Communities have been voluntarily engaging themselves in conservation activities to get the award. Many of them are aware of the importance of conserving the environment as well as the wild animals," said Mbawi noting that winners are also trained on conservation issues and offered to visit the park.

She added that participants of the environment conservation award include schools, village authorities, individuals and community groups.

"We have successfully established special security groups involving villagers bordering the park. This

has enhanced security at the park," she added. There are some villages that were known for illegal hunting but after introduction of the awards and security group, the situation has completely changed, she said.

One of the villagers from Tungamalenga, Said Nisan Fungito said they were motivated to take part in environment and wildlife conservation activities due to the good prizes offered by the park. "We were previously involved in environmental destruction and illegal hunting because we were not directly benefiting from the park," he said adding they are working closely with conservation officers to protect the park.

Recently a team of journalists from various media houses paid a field visit at the Ruaha National Park in Iringa region. The tour was organised by the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from Internews -Earth Journalism Network.

Ruaha National Park is a national park in Tanzania located in the Iringa region, with the size of 20,226 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the largest protected area in Tanzania and East Africa. The park is one of the Tanzania birds' paradise with more than 571 species and some of them are known to be migrants from within and outside Africa.

Ruaha is believed to have a higher concentration of elephants than any national park in East Africa. It is also a place where magnificent mammals like Kudu, Sable and Roan antelopes can easily be spotted in Miombo woodland.

The park is also a habitat for endangered wild dogs. Other animals in the park include lions, leopards, cheetah, giraffes, zebras, elands, impala, bat eared foxes and Jackals.

Apart from large animals, the park also harbors a number of reptiles and amphibians such as crocodiles, poisonous and non-poisonous snakes, monitor lizards, agama lizards and frogs.

The park is characterised by semi-arid type of vegetation, baobab trees, Acacia and other species.



NMB Bank Plc's Northern Zone manager, Aikansia Muro (3rd-R), pictured in Arusha city yesterday presenting to Education, Science and Technology deputy minister William ole Nasha seven beds, 25 bed sheets and 302 corrugated iron roofing sheets worth a total of 15m/- donated by the bank for use by Jema and Malambo secondary schools and Ngorongoro District Hospital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tabora RC wants Igunga VETA college to get power connection

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has urged the Vocational Educational Training Authority (VETA) in Igunga to sit down and discuss with the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) to ensure that the newly constructed vocational college is connected to power from the national grid.

During his tour to inspect various

development projects here, Dr Sengati received complaints from the VETA experts that the college is yet to be connected to power due to high connection fees posed by Tanesco.

The Regional Commissioner said that both VETA and Tanesco are public entities so they should sit down and see how to address the challenge.

"I believe by having a talk with each other will enable Tanesco to see how to

reduce the costs so as to install power in the college," he said.

Earlier, the project's supervisor Msabi Masunga said that TANESCO demanded 130m/- so as to install electrical infrastructures in the project area which is too high for VETA to accommodate.

According to him, the authority needs 1.7bn/- to complete the construction of the college so Tanesco has to reverse the expenses.

He said that in the first phase, VETA received 250m/- which has been used to construct various buildings.

"The construction of the project is expected to be completed in October, this year and upon completion the college will be able to accommodate a total of 740 students whereby 240 of them will be taking long-term courses and 500 students will be for short courses," Masunga said.



Opposition Civic United Front national Chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (L) collects nomination forms from the party's Ilala District youth wing secretary, Salum Selemani, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. He is aspiring for election as the party's candidate for the Tanzanian Presidency in the General Election lined up for late October. They are with CUF Secretary General Haroub Shamisi. Photo: Correspondent Jumaine Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

## Grab opportunities in farming and livestock keeping, RC urges youths

TABORA Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati has urged youth to fully utilise existing opportunities in farming, livestock keeping and craftsmanship in order to employ themselves for income generation.

He made the call yesterday during his official visit in Igunga District to inspect various development projects.

The RC said the youth in Igunga have no excuse to loiter or sit at jobless corners because they have opportunities in farming, livestock

keeping and craftsmanship that can change their lives and the district if they decide to grab them.

He mentioned the Mwamapuli irrigation scheme, fish farming enabled by big quantities of fish fingerlings breeding site at Mwamapuli Aquaculture Development Centre at

Igunga including joining vocational training colleges.

Dr Sengati also directed livestock officers in Igunga District to ensure they provide training to livestock keepers for better breeding to have profitable livestock.

He said a lot of cattle in the area are

low priced because of their small size that does not benefit livestock keepers at all.

He said it is the responsibilities of livestock officers to ensure livestock keepers have cattle that will enable them earn bigger income for their better lives.

## Extreme weather disrupts fishing activities in Tanga

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

EXTREME weather conditions, cooler temperatures and strong winds are among the factors currently affecting fishing activities in Tanga Region's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Indian Ocean.

The situation is also said to affect businesses at the Kasera and Chumbageni major fish markets due to shortage of fish. The cooler temperatures are not suitable for fish move more when the pressure is changing.

Investigations by this paper revealed that some fishermen are now avoiding conducting fishing activities in the Indian Ocean over fears of being hit by strong winds and high waves.

One of the fishermen, Ally Saleh who conducts businesses at the Kasera fish market said the situation started to change early this month due to extreme weathers which include cold conditions and strong winds.

"We are currently experiencing strong winds and prolonged cooler temperatures which are not suitable for us; most fishers cannot go into the sea when there are strong winds. We are conducting our activities in a difficult environment," said Saleh.

"Some few fishermen attempted to go into the sea; they were hit by high waves and lost control of the fishing canoe. They stayed in the Indian Ocean for more than two days," he said.

Ramadhani Bashiru said: "We are all worried; the ongoing extreme weather and high waves threaten our lives."

He said most of the residents depend on fish for food and business especially the Uwono Msumari and Bangara species which become plenty available during hotter seasons. He said most of the fish species become rare during cooler temperatures.

Some of the women selling fried fish and sardines at the markets said the current weather has resulted in poor supply of fish, the situation which has contributed to fish prices going up.

Sara Mdingo said: "The prices are too high that some of us cannot afford. A small bucket of sardines is sold at a price of between 45,000/- and 48,000/-."

According to Sara they were previously buying a bucket of sardines at a price of between 18,000/- and 25,000/-.

"I have stopped selling fried sardines until there is a stable supply," said Sara.

Recently, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) warned of strong winds and high waves in the Indian Ocean coastal areas and the country's great lakes, saying the situation is likely to disrupt fishing activities and marine transport.

TMA said strong winds reaching 50 kilometers per hour and high waves reaching 3.8 meters were expected over the entire coastal area of Lindi, Mtwara, Tanga and Dar es Salaam.

The TMA weather forecast added that the rough weather was also expected to hit Tanzania's Zanzibar twin Islands of Pemba and Unguja.

According to the forecast, strong winds reaching 50 kilometers per hour were expected in Lakes Victoria, Nyasa and Tanganyika.



**This is an opportunity for our industries to develop, let me call upon Tanzanians to invest in essential products so that they could be supported by the government**



**REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF BANK PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 AND 8 OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT 2014**

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2020 (Amounts in Million Shillings)			INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020 (Amounts in Million Shillings)					CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2020 (Amounts in Million Shillings)		
	Current Quarter 30-Jun-20	Previous Quarter 31-Mar-20	Current Quarter 30-Jun-20	Comparative Quarter 30-Jun-19	Current Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 30-Jun-20	Previous Year Cumulative Profits/Losses 30-Jun-19		Current Quarter 30-Jun-20	Previous Quarter 31-Mar-20	
<b>A ASSETS</b>							<b>I Cash flow from operating activities:</b>			
1 Cash	3 427	3 522	10 642	10 765	20 887	21 187	Net income (loss)	(316)	(599)	
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	5 683	11 307	(4 678)	(4 679)	(9 429)	(9 453)	Adjustment for:			
3 Investment in Government Securities	33 857	33 333	5 964	6 086	11 458	11 734	- Impairment/amortization	1 426	1 834	
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	4 390	2 922	259	534	859	1 096	- net change in loans and advances	(191)	876	
5 Cheques and Items for Clearing	(58)	-	(106)	(719)	(524)	(1 454)	- gain/loss on sale of assets	(10)	-	
6 Interbranch float items	-	-	223	532	703	999	- net change in deposits	(3 773)	6 071	
7 Bills Negotiated	-	-	169	713	350	1 377	- net change in short term negotiable securities	(524)	(281)	
8 Customers Liabilities on Acceptances	-	-	451	79	864	241	- net change in other liabilities	(3 236)	3 301	
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	100 334	102 996	(7 277)	(8 014)	(14 625)	(15 992)	- net change in other assets	(226)	(5 842)	
10 Investment in Other Securities	-	-	(2 486)	(2 792)	(5 021)	(5 327)	- tax paid	(34)	(34)	
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts	127 070	126 880	(4 791.61)	(5 222)	(9 604)	(10 665)	- Net change in SMR	(6 883)	5 325	
12 Other Allowances for Probable Losses	-	-	(316)	(790)	(915)	(1 999)	<b>Net cash provided/(used) by operating activities</b>			
13 Other Assets	32 616	32 390	(34)	(45)	(68)	(91)	<b>II Cash flow from investing activities:</b>			
14 Equity Investments	1 000	1 000	(350)	(835)	(983)	(2 090)	Dividend received	-	-	
15 Underwriting accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-	Purchase of fixed assets	(88)	(82)	
16 Property, Plant and Equipment	3 480	3 583	-	-	-	-	Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	
<b>16 TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>311 799</b>	<b>317 933</b>					Purchase of non-dealing securities	-	-	
<b>B LIABILITIES</b>							Proceeds from sale of non-dealing securities	-	-	
17 Deposits From Other Banks and financial institutions	100 654	97 144					Others (specify)	-	-	
18 Customer Deposits	93 439	100 589					<b>Net cash provided/(used) by investing activities</b>	(88)	(82)	
19 Cash letters of credit	-	-					<b>III Cash flow from financing activities:</b>			
20 Special deposits	-	-					Repayment of long-term debt	-	-	
21 Payment Orders/ transfers payable	-	-					Proceeds from issuance of long term debt	-	-	
22 Bankers Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-					Proceeds from issuance of share capital	-	-	
23 Accrued Taxes and Expenses payable	-	-					Payment of cash dividends	-	-	
24 Acceptances Outstanding	-	-					Net change in other borrowings	-	-	
25 Interbranch float items	-	-					Issue of preference shares	-	-	
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	28	-					<b>Net cash provided (used) by financing activities</b>	-	-	
27 Other Liabilities	2 737	6 150					<b>IV Cash and cash equivalents:</b>			
28 Borrowings	72 301	71 060					Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(6 971)	5 242	
<b>29 TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>269 159</b>	<b>274 943</b>					Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the quarter	120 747	115 504	
<b>30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)</b>	<b>42 640</b>	<b>42 990</b>					<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the quarter</b>	<b>113 776</b>	<b>120 747</b>	
<b>C CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>										
31 Paid - up Share Capital	122 954	122 954								
32 Capital reserves	1 065	1 065								
33 Retained Earnings	(81 099)	(80 526)								
34 Profit (Loss) Account	(983)	(633)								
35 Other capital accounts	704	130								
36 Minority Interest	-	-								
<b>37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS FUNDS</b>	<b>42 640</b>	<b>42 990</b>								
38 Contingent Liabilities	3 207	3 493								
39 Non performing loans and advances	24 477	19 691								
40 Allowances for probable losses	17 171	15 750								
41 Other non performing assets	-	-								
<b>D PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>										
(i) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	13.68%	13.52%								
(ii) Non performing Loans & Advances to total gross loans	17.05%	13.81%								
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	74.32%	72.13%								
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	40.75%	39.91%								
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	85.20%	83.71%								
(vi) Deposit Growth	-1.84%	3.17%								
(vii) Assets growth	-1.93%	2.83%								

**CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Non-Distributable Reserve	General Provision Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year 2020</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	122 954	-	(89 525)	130	0	1 065	43 624
Profit for the year	-	-	(83)	-	-	-	(83)
Issue of share	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(574)	574	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>122 954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(90 082)</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 065</b>	<b>42 641</b>
<b>Previous Year 2019</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	116 014	-	(72 910)	0	1 284	1 065	45 453
Profit for the year	-	-	(8 769)	-	-	-	(8 769)
Issue of share	6 940	-	-	-	-	-	6 940
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	(130)	130	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	(1 284)	-	(1 284)
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the previous period</b>	<b>122 954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(80 525)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 065</b>	<b>43 624</b>

	Name	Signature	Date
Managing Director	I. John		24-Jul-20
Ag. Head of Finance	H. Kharbush		24-Jul-20
Head of Internal Audit	J. Kilato		24-Jul-20

We, the under-named, non executive members of the board of directors, attest to the correctness of the above statements. We declare that the above statements have been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in conformance with the instructions and are true and correct.

	Name	Signature	Date
1 Director	P. Ishengoma		24-Jul-20
2 Director	Mr.R. Dave		24-Jul-20

**MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES**

	PRICING (TZS)	PRICING (US \$ / EUR)	PRICING (GBP)
<b>PERSONAL BANKING</b>			
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>FAHARI</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 50 000.00	\$ 100.00	£ 100.00
Monthly Service Fee	Free	Free	Free
<b>MWANGAZA JUNIOR ACCOUNT</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 20 000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 20 000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 20 000.00	\$ 500.00	£ 500.00
Monthly Service Fee (1 free w/drawal per quarter)	Free	Free	Free
Extra fee for more than 1 w/drawal per quarter	TZS 1 500.00	\$ 2.00	£ 2.00
<b>WEKEZA SAVINGS ACCOUNT (BALANCE BUILD UP)</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	N/A
Opening balance	Free	Free	N/A
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	N/A
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 50 000.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	Free	Free	N/A
<b>CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>			
<b>AMANA</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	N/A	N/A
Opening balance	TZS 20 000.00	N/A	N/A
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 3 000.00	N/A	N/A
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	N/A	N/A	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 2 000.00	N/A	N/A
<b>MARIDHAWA</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	N/A
Opening balance	TZS 25 000.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 6 000.00	\$ 5.00	N/A
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 2 000 000.00	\$ 2 000.00	N/A
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 5 000.00	\$ 10.00	N/A
<b>PREMIUM</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 35 000.00	\$ 30.00	£ 30.00
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 3 000 000.00	\$ 3 000.00	£ 3 000.00
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
<b>SME BANKING</b>			
<b>AMANA BIZ ACCOUNTS</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 100 000.00	\$ 100.00	£ 100.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 1 000 000.00	\$ 1 000.00	£ 1 000.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	TZS 5 000 000.00	\$ 5 000.00	£ 5 000.00
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 20 000.00	\$ 15.00	£ 15.00
<b>CORPORATE BANKING</b>			
<b>CORPORATE CURRENT ACCOUNTS</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 500 000.00	\$ 250.00	£ 250.00
Minimum Operating Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 25 000.00	\$ 20.00	£ 15.00
<b>CORPORATE CALL ACCOUNTS</b>			
Account Opening Fee	Free	Free	Free
Opening balance	TZS 10 000 000.00	\$ 10 000.00	£ 10 000.00
Minimum Operating Balance	TZS 10 000 000.00	\$ 10 000.00	£ 10 000.00
Minimum Interest Bearing Balance	NIL	NIL	NIL
Monthly Service Fee*	TZS 25 000.00	\$ 20.00	£ 15.00
<b>GENERAL CHARGES</b>			
Bankers Cheque	TZS 50 000.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
<b>DISHONORED/UNPAID CHEQUE</b>			
Fund related	TZS 120 000.00	\$ 120.00	N/A
Technical	TZS 60 000.00	\$ 60.00	N/A
<b>Cheque book Processing Fee:</b>			
25 leaves	TZS 15 000.00	\$ 15.00	£ 15.00
50 leaves	TZS 30 000.00	\$ 30.00	£ 30.00
100 leaves	TZS 60 000.00	\$ 60.00	£ 60.00
Uncollected cheque book after 3 months	TZS 15 000.00	\$ 15.00	£ 15.00
3rd party encashment (with 3rd party indemnity)	TZS 25 000.00	10% Per Cheque	10% Per Cheque
Stop Payment Charges	TZS 60 000.00	\$ 60.00	£ 50.00
<b>TRANSACTIONAL SERVICE FEES</b>			
<b>With banks via Standing Orders</b>			
Standing Order - internal same customer ( set up fee - once off)	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 5.00	£ 5.00
Standing Order - internal other customers ( per transaction)	TZS 4 000.00	\$ 3.00	£ 2.00
Standing Order - Other local bank	TZS 40 000.00	\$ 30.00	£ 20.00
Amendment	TZS 5 000.00	\$ 5.00	£ 5.00
<b>DEPOSIT/WITHDRAWAL TRANSACTIONS:</b>			
- Cash Deposit at Branch	Free	Free	Free
- Cash Deposit at Branch small denominations 500 above 500	0.3% Min 1,000	3% On Small denominations	N/A
- Cash Deposit at Branch small denominations (2,000 and below)	0.3% Min 1,000	3% On Small denominations	N/A
- Cash Deposit at Branch coins above 100,000	0.3% Min 1,000	N/A	N/A
With Account Transfers (Internal)	N/A	N/A	N/A
- Cheque deposit	Free	Free	Free
- Cash withdrawal Personal Banking ( over the counter) up to 200,000	TZS 2 500.00	1% Min 10	1% min 10
- Cash withdrawal Personal Banking ( over the counter) btm 500,000	TZS 6 000.00	1% Min 10	1% min 10
- Cash withdrawal Personal Banking ( over the counter) above 500,000	0.15% MAX 200,000	1% Min 10	1% min 10
- Cash withdrawal SME ( over the counter)	0.15%Min 3000 Max 200,000	1% Min 10	1% min 10
- Cash withdrawal Corporate Banking	0.15%Min 7,500 Max 200,000	1% Min 10	1% min 10
- Deposit charges - Financial Institution.	Free	Free	Free
- Deposit charges - Financial Institution - small denominations	Free	2%On small denominations*	2%On small denominations*
Account Closure	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
Dormant Account Reactivation	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
Dormant Account monthly fee	TZS 10 000.00	\$ 10.00	£ 10.00
Premature/cancellation fixed deposit fee		50% Accrued Interest is Forfeited. Breaking 1st month all interest forfeited	50% Accrued Interest is Forfeited. Breaking 1st month all interest forfeited
Monthly statements	Free	Free	Free
Interim Statements (per page)	TZS 5 000.00	\$ 3.00	£ 3.00
Search fee documents (after 3 months)	TZS 80 000.00	\$ 40.00	£ 40.00
Audit confirmation	TZS 75 000.00	\$ 50.00	£ 50.00

## Researchers urge grape farmers to adopt better agricultural practices

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

FARMERS engaging in cultivation of grapes have been advised to learn and adopt better farming practices to increase yields.

Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo, Director General of the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) said the move will increase productivity and yields.

"It is high time for farmers to turn more professional to tap and benefiting from expanded grapes markets within and outside the county," said Dr Mkamilo.

He said the institute is currently working tirelessly to research and invent a number of improved seed varieties to enable mass cultivation of table and wine grapes.

"The Makutupora center has been designated to undertake key grapes researches as well as assisting the farmers to be aware and adopt recommended agronomic practices in cultivating grapes. Farmers should bravely use the professional advises from experts at the center to transform their cultivation statuses," he insisted.

Dr Cornel Masawe, head of the Makutupora center observed that growing grapes was very sensitive hence involved farmers need to be trained on the crop's best farming techniques to be sure of bumper harvests.

"Growing grapes requires systematic and professional treatment throughout all the stages," Dr Masawe said.

He added that grapes are required to be planted in special trenches, whereby each hectare comprises of 20 trenches, under a special dimension of 2.5 meters from one trenches to another.

He said each trench consumes 1 lorry (5 tonnes) of fertilizer, often urea during the growing stage and later on farmers are advised to apply termiticide.

Dr Masawe insisted that farmers should be educated on how to control

common grapes diseases such as fungus, powdery mildew and downy mildew which are chronic.

He urged the farmers to use the forthcoming Nanenane exhibitions by visiting the institute's pavilion in order to maximize their knowledge pertaining to best practices in growing grapes.

He further said that TARI Makutupora has initiated a special 'Farmers Field Day' as part of continuous efforts to progress the performance of farmers, calling upon them to also use the day to benefit accordingly.

The annually-staged day, according to him, has been introduced to give farmers a key platform to freely acquire best farming technologies.

"The main focus over establishment of the day is to allow farmers to visit the centre and learning how to cultivate the crop more commercially. They also get chances to survey our diverse demonstration farms under supervision of experienced experts," he said.

In more efforts to step up production of the grapes and wine sector in Tanzania, he said the center is finalizing processes to introduce into the country at least 13 new wine grape varieties from South Africa.

Tanzania is placed second after South Africa for brewing best wines within the continent, but there are only two wine grape varieties grown in the country, Makutupora Red and Chenin White, a situation which limits production of wider varieties of wines.



**Growing grapes requires systematic and professional treatment throughout all the stages**



Mwamapuli biological growth centre official Joachim Barhe (5th-R, gesturing) shows Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati (to his left) a fish pond at the centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Vincent Tiganya

## Ministry and centre sign ten-year agreement on research into seeds for horticultural crops

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTRY of Agriculture has inked a 10-year agreement with AVRDC World Vegetable Centre, an international non-profit research and development institute in Tengeru Arusha Region to conduct research on better seeds for horticultural crops.

One of the aims of the plan is to make the horticultural sector to increase its contribution to the national income as

other sectors do.

Speaking to reporters at the function for the signing of the agreement, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya said he instructed the establishment of sub committees for monitoring the plan.

He said the government will strengthen agricultural training colleges and other institutions under the Tanzania Agricultural

Research Institute (TARI) for assistance to the plan, adding that that as for now the government is at the forefront in further developing horticulture which is currently among top productive sectors in the country.

He said AVRDC World Vegetable Centre has come up with a good plan and the government will stand by it in its implementation.

The Director of AVRDC World

Vegetable Centre for East and Central Africa Zone Dr Gabriel Lugalema said their aim is to collect, process and store quality seeds and provide experts.

Dr Lugalema said from 2008 to 2018, they were able to provide 400 foreign experts and 2,000 others from various areas in the country, adding that their aim is to see many Tanzanians benefit by the sector in various areas in the country.



Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) Leader Zitto Kabwe addresses the opposition's party's officials and members in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Said Powa

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

HEALTH stakeholders in Kilimanjaro Region have started investing in the production of experts in the nursing and midwifery cadre to fill the shortage gap of health workers at dispensaries and health centres in rural areas.

Zawadi Institute Managing Director Valeria Mrema has said the contribution of these health workers was immeasurable, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic period which put them in the front line.

Mrema was speaking mid this week at Siha village in Kimochi Ward in

## Health stakeholders in strategies to reduce shortage of health workers

Moshi Rural district on the strategies by a group of health experts to support the government in the production of health experts to make good the current shortage. "Apart from the government huge development efforts to the health sector, we as a group of stakeholders in the health sector have been touched by the challenge and we

are ready to work together with the government to produce these health experts," Mrema said.

She added: "Huge achievements that we currently see in the primary health services that will enable us achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), depend on the provision of quality nursing and midwifery services,

and that is why Zawadi Institute has decided to invest in the production of such experts."

Nurses and midwives is the only cadre found in all levels in the provision of health services, from the community health centres to referral hospitals, hence it simplifies the implementation of Universal Health Coverage.

## Experts advise African nations: Have focus on the value of diversity

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN governments have been challenged to base their financial decisions on the value of biodiversity.

Experts on biodiversity, economics and conservation from across the globe made the call on Wednesday when speaking during a virtual meeting.

They observed that ecosystem services have always been underestimated given that the country's economic indicators often capture only goods and services with monetary value.

The experts observed that despite the general recognition of the importance of nature, this is not effectively captured in the fiscal policies, particularly the low budgets given to the environmental and natural resources sector.

Africa regional director of World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Alice Ruhweza, said that nature is an important asset that is a solution to fixing problems in the environment, human, food and animal systems and called on governments to make biodiversity relevant to the people whose lives are to be changed.

He said that the economic potential of gains from biodiversity preservation needs to be factored in ecosystem valuation.

Philip Osano, acting director of Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) Africa Centre said noted that governments require informed policies and actions in the economic and financial sectors in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Kenya's Principal Secretary at the National Treasury John Muia, said that Kenya has over the last decade increased budgetary allocation significantly to support biodiversity conservation hotspots.

"We have developed economic incentives for nature conservation and

the undertaking of natural accounting for the valuation of ecosystem services such as afforestation, water harvesting, and conservation measures," he added.

Abebe Haile-Gabriel, assistant director-general and regional representative for Africa, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) called on governments to empower populations to take conservation and management of biodiversity seriously.

"FAO has data that can be used by African governments to restructure the management and be able to benefit immensely from the natural biodiversity," he added.

The experts called on governments to consider the value rural populations attach to resources in addition to the economic value realized at national and global levels.



**We have developed economic incentives for nature conservation and the undertaking of natural accounting for the valuation of ecosystem services such as afforestation, water harvesting, and conservation measures**

# New UK support to tackle devastating swarms of locusts in Africa and Asia

By Special Correspondent

WITH locust swarms growing 20 times larger since March 2020, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan yesterday announced £18 million of new UK aid in response to the crisis during a visit to British company Micron Group, on the Isle of Wight, which supplies pesticide sprayers to locust-affected countries.

The impact of the upsurge of locusts across Africa and Asia has been made worse by coronavirus, with vulnerable communities facing dwindling food supplies alongside the pandemic.

Funded by UK aid, locust-affected countries are using Micron Group's pesticide sprayers across Africa and Asia. Swarms of millions of insects can cover areas up to 100 square miles or more and these sprayers are able to cover large areas with pesticide.

Since January this year, the FAO has successfully controlled over 600,000 hectares of land, saved 1.2m tons crops with a value of \$372 million and eradicated over 400 billion locusts in 10 countries in East Africa.

Of the new funding announced today, £17 million will go to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's FAO's emergency appeal to help to control the increase of locusts across East Africa, Yemen and South West Asia, as well as reduce the risk of swarms spreading into the Sahel.

The UK will also provide up to £1 million to improve early warning and forecasting systems for desert locusts, so that countries can prepare for their arrival. This support, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge and weather data from the UK Met Office, will help the FAO to target locust breeding sites and control outbreaks before they're able to affect crucial crops and pastures.

The World Bank estimates that the cost of supporting farmers and

producers affected by locusts in East Africa and Yemen alone could reach \$8.5bn by the end of 2020.

Speaking during the visit, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

"Vulnerable communities are on the brink of starvation because of the biggest locust outbreak in decades, made worse by the coronavirus pandemic. British expertise is playing an important role in equipping companies with the right tools to combat the swarms and track where they will go next."

"But unless other countries also step up and act now, this crisis will spread and cause even more devastation."

The new funding follows £8 million provided by the UK earlier this year to the FAO appeal, supporting Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Tanzania and Pakistan to destroy these pests. A supercomputer funded by UK aid is also helping countries in East Africa to track the insects' movements around the continent.

During the visit, the International Development Secretary met with the directors from Micron Group to discuss how their sprayers have been key to tackling locusts in highly affected areas across the world. She also saw how the sprayers are assembled at their Isle of Wight factory and took part in a demonstration on how they work in the field.

Anthony Outlaw, Micron Group Operations Manager, said:

"Micron are proud to support the world on the fight against locusts through supplying cutting-edge equipment for the FAO. We have continued to work tirelessly throughout the pandemic to meet this demand. The whole team understand the importance of tackling this outbreak and the impact on food security it has for millions of people."



Paulina Parhiala (R), Norwegian Church Aid Tanzania's country director, makes a remark in Moshi municipality yesterday at an interfaith meeting attended by religious leaders from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara and Morogoro regions. The meeting revolved around the need for clerics to help ensure peace and harmony prevail during the countdown to late October's General Election and thereafter. She is with Father Cloman Siriwa of the Catholic Church, who served as an interpreter. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

# Twelve projects boost people's livelihoods in Manyara Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjoro

TWELVE development projects implemented in Simanjoro District, Manyara Region, have changed the livelihoods of the residents of the area, especially in the improvement to the education infrastructures in both secondary and primary schools.

District's Executive Director, Yefred Mnyenzi said yesterday that projects valued at 46.207bn/- have been

implemented to alleviate various challenges that were facing the people.

He said the money for the development projects that were implemented from 2015 to 2020 was an allocation from the central government through the Basket Fund.

Mnyenzi said out of the money, the council was able to build the District's headquarters that cost more than 1.477bn/- and the residence of the District Commissioner that cost 350m/-

"We have also well implemented the ruling party's manifesto in regard to the education sector by spending 4,097,339,386/50 in the free Primary School Plan, and 2,097,109,137/70 for Free Secondary School Plan," he said.

He said the council also spent 310,523,668/- to refurbish infrastructure of primary schools and 833,576,856/- for secondary schools.

In addition, he said 5,054,117,818/- was spent in the health sector whereby

the construction of the District Hospital used 2bn/- and the Community Health Fund (CHF) 2,554,668,618/-.

"In the road sector - we have refurbished various roads in the district at gravel level as well as bridges. In this sensitive development issue we have spent 2,958,924,742/-.

He said water projects in rural areas had cost 4,798,506,421/- whereas in urban areas 20,543,471,301/- was spent in Orkesumet and Mererani towns.



Arusha regional administrative secretary Richard Kwitega (R) pictured in Arusha city yesterday launching a sustainable agriculture project to be implemented jointly by the National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania and Research, Community and Organisational Development Associates. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

JOHANNESBURG

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved US\$300 million loan to the South African government to help it fight the Covid-19 pandemic and support its budget, the bank has said.

Africa's most industrialised economy was in recession even before COVID-19 started ravaging its economy. Forecasts are now for gross domestic product to shrink by at least 7% this year, and a budget deficit of

# African Development Bank approves US\$288 million virus loan to S. Africa

around 15% of GDP.

The country has recorded the most coronavirus infections in Africa, with more than 380,000 cases.

The AfDB said in a statement that the loan was to protect lives and promote access to essential medical equipment, to protect livelihoods

by preserving jobs, and to support companies in the formal and informal economy.

"South Africa's ability to respond to the pandemic has implications for neighbouring countries as well as the continent as a whole," the bank said.

South Africa has also approached

the International Monetary Fund for financial support in its fight against the coronavirus. The IMF is expected to consider its request next week.

The development bank of the BRICS group of nations approved a \$1 billion COVID-19 loan for South Africa earlier this year.

# Over 10000 health workers in Africa infected with COVID-19

BRAZZAVILLE

THE World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday warned of the threat posed by Covid-19 to health workers across Africa, as more than 10 000 health workers in the 40 countries which have reported on such infections have been infected with Covid-19 so far, a sign of the challenges medical staff on the frontlines of the outbreak face.

This comes as Covid-19 cases in Africa appear to be gathering pace. There are now more than 750 000 cases of Covid-19, with over 15 000 deaths.

Some countries are approaching a critical number of infections that can place stress on health systems. South Africa is now among the worst-hit countries in the world.

"The growth we are seeing in Covid-19 cases in Africa is placing an ever-greater strain on health services across the continent," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa.

"This has very real consequences for the individuals who work in them, and there is no more sobering example of this than the rising number of health worker infections."

So far, about 10 percent of all cases globally are among health workers, though there is a wide range between individual countries.

In Africa, information on health worker infections is still limited, but preliminary data finds that they make up more than 5 percent of cases in 14 countries in sub-Saharan Africa alone, and in four of these, health workers make up more than 10 percent of all infections.

Inadequate access to personal protective equipment or weak infection prevention and control measures raise the risk of health worker infection. Surging global demand for protective equipment as well as global restrictions on travel have triggered supply shortages.

Health workers can also be exposed to patients who do not show signs of the disease and are in the health facilities for a range of other services. Risks may

also arise when health personnel are repurposed for COVID-19 response without adequate briefing, or because of heavy workloads which result in fatigue, burnout and possibly not fully applying the standard operating procedures.

In many African countries infection prevention and control measures aimed at preventing infections in health facilities are still not fully implemented. When WHO assessed clinics and hospitals across the continent for these measures, only 16 percent of the nearly 30 000 facilities surveyed had assessment scores above 75 percent.

Many health centres were found to lack the infrastructure necessary to implement key infection prevention measures, or to prevent overcrowding. Only 7.8 percent (2213) had isolation capacities and just a third had the capacity to triage patients. "One infection among health workers is one too many," said Dr Moeti. "Doctors, nurses and other health professionals are our mothers, brothers and sisters. They are helping to save lives endangered by COVID-19. We must make sure that they have the equipment, skills and information they need to keep themselves, their patients and colleagues safe," director said.

WHO has been working closely with health ministries to reduce health worker infections since the outbreak began.

The Organization has trained more than 50 000 health workers in Africa in infection prevention and control, with plans to train over 200 000 more, as well as providing guidance documents and guidelines on best care practices and the most up-to-date treatment regimes.

Dr Moeti spoke about health worker infections in Africa during a virtual press conference today organized by APO Group. She was joined by Dr Léonie Claudine Lougue, Minister of Health of Burkina Faso; Dr Alpha T. Wurie, Minister of Health and Population of Sierra Leone; and Dr Jemima A. Dennis-Antwi, International Maternal Health & Midwifery Specialist.

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**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Expressions of interest by India, Italy are of benefit for Tanzania

INDIAN and Italian envoys were on record only days ago as having expressed interest in cooperating with Tanzania in various aspects, mostly focusing on industry and agriculture - with agro-processing the most noticeable sub-sector targeted.

There was also significant reference to tourism, and in one case readers were reminded that Italy is the most important single source of tourists for Zanzibar and India is gradually becoming a major source of tourists.

As these events are happening at the same time, it can be taken for granted that it is the foreign envoys who initiated the consultations on the issues.

And there is a specific situation that may predictably call for a review of economic ties: it is none other than Tanzania's recent elevation in global economic standing from the least developed countries group to lower middle income status - a situation that makes a number of economic projections feasible.

A lower middle income country is one that has appreciably built a certain foundation for enhanced economic activity in various sectors, that such capital layout and income generation taken together create a budding market.

It is in a sense a country where 'gear number one' is no longer applicable, as entering even lower middle income requires that some sort of take-off into industry has been initiated already. It is possible to distinguish between 'starting' the take-off and achieving it, but we are there.

In that case, it is evident that the re-classification of the national economy isn't without its dividends as well as a stretch of new responsibilities in that the particular country becomes more attractive for investments as foreign countries get a better picture of the dynamics of the local market.

When a country attains lower middle income status, economic observers no longer have to figure out how it moves into industry but, rather, how it can improve what it is already going. It is known as a 'widening and deepening' of the market - or capital itself.

The responsibilities are also onerous in the sense that the country's economic administrators have the obligation of forging business relationships with foreign countries and pushing to the bottom of their agenda traditional concerns with poverty.

As we have seen during the Dr John Magufuli presidency, this aspect is addressed more conscientiously by looking at how government expenditure is conducted and how well facilitated small traders and the broad agro-sector are.

A lower middle income status also implies also these groups, though still poor, have a wider market from which they can extract some earnings, so long as fairness prevails. For two years or so now, the government has been pursuing a detailed programme of a blueprint for uplifting the business environment in the country.

This comes to a sort of reshaping the BRN (Big Results Now) strategy as touted at the time Dr Magufuli assumed office. This has been given an external impetus, as the private sector will now likely have a stronger voice at upper government levels and in communication with foreign diplomatic missions.

This is in part because poverty issues will no longer take that much of centre stage in discussions. They will however serve as a reminder of what there is to be done at the policy level, with external relations taking a clearer business note.

That is what the round of consultations implies - and our administrators would, or rather should, better get more fully prepared to represent us to satisfaction.

## Getting seeds to smallholders calls for a business approach

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Africa, mostly women, wage silent battles against elements and other forces beyond their control to feed their families, villages and countries.

They have historically taken the lead in feeding Africa and are destined to continue playing this role for the foreseeable future. They are diligent, smart, resourceful and courageous.

They face a host of natural and other threats to their lives and livelihoods. Often, their only defence seems to be more work, more suffering, and reduced expectations for the future.

Most of the world was once caught up in this same struggle. A few vocal anti-technology activists would have us believe otherwise, but the extent to which agrarian societies have emerged from poverty and hunger largely depends on their adoption of modern farming technologies.

Principal among these has been seed of improved, higher-yielding crop varieties. While mechanisation, fertilisers, improved storage and other technologies are all important in making farming more efficient, better seeds are a major catalyst for change - the 'software' that powers crops and lets farmers profitably integrate other technologies.

Without quality seeds, few other attempts to increase farmers' yields succeed or prove sustainable. Yet in spite of much ink spilled, international conferences organised, and money spent, sub-Saharan Africa's smallholder farmers still have limited access to seeds of high-yielding, locally-adapted varieties of their staple food crops.

As it turns out, establishing dependable systems for supplying seed of improved varieties is probably the most difficult part of agricultural development.

Seeds constitute a living technology, and Africa's highly diverse cropping landscape creates micro-climates that require myriad location-specific

varieties.

In Africa, the dream of solving the seed supply problem has seen more than its share of false starts. Governments and donor agencies have intervened with ambitious projects, several failing to account for local farmer preferences or long-term viability. Most have ended badly, leaving a legacy of low quality seed, broken supply chains, rusted seed processors, and disappointed farmers.

Africa's farmers have continued planting whatever seed they have in hand, all the while suffering the indignity of being thought resistant to change and uninterested in new technologies.

It is time things went right for Africa's farmers. Supplying improved seeds is mostly a business proposition - complex and rather unglamorous, but a business nonetheless. We needed people who could understand which seeds smallholder farmers would buy, how much they would pay for them, and how much of the seeds was needed.

For their part, the farmers needed to be made correctly aware of the new seed, including through small demonstration plots on their own land.

Farmer participation in breeding and selecting improved seed varieties can take years. But once a new variety is released, breeders teach local companies how to produce the seed at scale.

Seed companies integrate production, processing and marketing activities based on their ability to supply quality seed to farmers at affordable prices.

National crop breeding groups supported by AGRA have released over 400 new crop varieties in the past seven years. In 2012, a total of 80 seed companies produced 57,000 tonnes of certified seeds.

The picture is promising for Africa's long-suffering farmers. Official crop yield data from countries as diverse as Tanzania, Ethiopia, Mali and Uganda show significant increases in recent years. This is as it should be. It's something to encourage - and build on.

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By Eneadale Assefa

NEEDLESS to say, many of us are confounded by the lenience of the law towards lawlessness. A strange feeling of insecurity is developing in the society; the way enemies of the change wanted it. They will do anything to destabilise the country; and fantasize to regain the power they lost in the nick of time.

No one can literally tell what their next pitfall might be or when and how the next mayhem will take place. And only God knows how many more lives will be claimed and how much property will be lost or robbed.

They are claiming themselves as untouchable hiding behind vindicated citizens. As a result of their brutality, the public is yearning for peace, the kind of which we deserve to sleep without apprehension at night, walk out freely during the day or ride anywhere in the country without concern.

The price of peace is incalculable. Being so much content and blissful of the political change could not mean something; the government should ensure societal peace and security.

Despite the diverse political achievements that was scored in the last two and half years, the struggle for freedom would end up to be a little more than invincible if repeated riots keep on shaking the peace of the nation.

In the existing reality on the ground, parents do worry for their children due to the uncertainty of the future. It is melancholic for a nation living under the supremacy of the law to see the public organise themselves just to protect their lives and property from perpetrators.

The society is undergoing through one of the worst kind of distressing moments; which is eclipsing over the freedom we have cherished two years ago.

We are tired of witnessing vindicated people being murdered in a broad day light. People are locked down in their home towns. Let us say, these are moments when we all should have endured before lasting peace occurred in time.

But how long? Don't expect the ordinary people to have a clear understanding of the power games, conspiracies and how ruthlessly some politicians could kill to attain power.

After all, the majority of the people do not want to bother about politics; so long as they can work and earn their daily bread. The last thing they expect from a government is to cherish them with sustainable peace and equal provisions in all socio-economic public presentations.

Unfortunately, the bona fide peace they aspire for is still awaited. As a result,

## Calculating the value of peace, public protection in Ethiopia

I am afraid to say, the apprehension of beguiling societal anger might one day wash away their confidence on the political platform.

The socio-economic tragedy that has thus far happened has been enormous. A year has elapsed since tertiary education was interrupted throughout the country owing to Covid-19. Adding fuel to the fire, corona has kept many at home for months by now; prohibiting safe movement and the conduct of business freely.

State-wise, the economic downturn has become precarious; and government has done its level best to fill the gap in the budget deficit. Thank God, the government has done its best to come up with a backup plan to do that.

In the worst-case scenario, what happened recently following the tragic murder of renowned singer Hachalu Hundessa has brought about additional confusion. The heart bleeds seeing innocent lives claimed in vain following his death. Some of them even had no idea about what was going on, and were seated or sleeping at home when they were murdered.

Such kind of havoc doesn't evolve out of nowhere. I personally feel that it primarily emanates from few political leaders who evoke the youth. The demonstrators, on the other hand, believe that no serious harm will happen on them even if they move extra miles during demonstrations like the previous regime.

This paves the way for bandits and perpetrators to infiltrate. Few demonstrators also tend to be carried away and get themselves in the middle of criminal deeds.

The perpetrators propagate a pseudo-ethnocentric agenda. Paradoxically, it is amazing to witness many of the resistance coming from few extremist elements in Oromia backed by the defunct and retiring members of Tigray Peoples Liberation Front (TPLF).

What are they expecting more from the Prime Minister? He belongs to Oromo ethnic group; if telling that is need be.

However, he is assuming that position to serve the whole country equally; irrespective of any political and other denomination. That is the oath of his word during his ordination as a Prime Minister of Ethiopia; with over 110 million people.

The law functions blindly. Yet morality and human interference could push it farther to bring out unnecessarily damage. This will not

help for both; and it will defy both the morality and the law by the end of the day.

True, the political change was attained by the blood and bone of the youth in Oromia and Amhara regional state mainly; if not limited to them. The realisation of this, however, should not be a barrier to exercising the law when mayhem arises in any regional government. Whether perpetrators are hiding behind their backs or not, criminals should be judged equally before the law.

At the dawn of the new political transformation, the first and foremost action executed was addressing all political parties found all around the world to come home and participate in the democratisation process of the country.

In principle, that is what can be anticipated from a solemn and democratically sound government. Nonetheless, the execution of which should have been undertaken after reaching consensus on some common grounds so as not to endanger national interest.

This becomes clearer when you see the track records of the few political parties in diaspora that were reputed to be destructive to national unity.

Summoning them with a simple sane mind and trying to harbour them could have led the country into a more serious fiasco. The public should not be executed until common grounds are attained among different political parties.

Why? Innocent citizens that have been deceased so far have equal right to live in their country as citizens with anyone else. The life of any politician could not be worthier than the life of an ordinary citizen.

It was crystal clear from the beginning that the prime minister, with that national sentiment of his, could not get along with deluded ethnocentric activists and politicians.

As a result, Ethiopia is now under a state of disarray. The choice lies between the extreme grudge in the disposition of EPRDF three years ago and rectitude governance of the ruling party; yet this cannot as yet ensure our security as citizens.

No Ethiopian prefers to go back to thrall - or mental slavery. I personally prefer to die a free man than stay alive with mental slavery. We demand that the government set us free from the apprehension and perturbing condition we are living in today.

When the law works to primarily ensure the highest level of peace and

security of citizens, people identify that as the law at its fullest. Even if the law is said to be brutal under such a scenario, it will never be considered wrong by any standard; as law is people-centred. It is rather showing resentfulness and acting otherwise which shall be wrong and unjust.

Reiterating what is stated above, a significant number of people blame the law to have failed them so far in terms of ensuring their security in the last two years. In fact, insecurity has predominated everywhere - even in the capital, let alone for people residing far away from their birthplaces in the last two or more years.

True, hunting criminals and putting them before court is something, and the government is thriving in doing that. Yet, protecting crimes beforehand is the main source of fear, uncertainty and distressful to the citizenry.

The bottom line is that the ruling party is entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding every single one of the lives of Ethiopian citizens residing anywhere in the nation - from criminals to vagabonds and perpetrators.

The public stoutly urges the government to restore our peace and security. The public demands protection at its fullest.

The country is always grateful for the triumph brought to us from the relentless struggle of the Qorro, Fano and other movements of the youth. But the public has all the right to seek protection from the law, regardless of who is hiding behind these gallant fighters.

The youth have been told many times not to serve as instruments of destruction. As they fought for freedom, bidding their lives, they should have also prevented the killing of innocent people whenever and wherever they go out to demonstrate. Otherwise, they will be held equally responsible for all the damages; that is what the law says.

The country's criminal code distinctively asserts responsibility for public damage during such infirmities. Against this backdrop, failure to adhere to the law because of thwarting tolerance would be like having fun in a poker game with human lives. It will be too difficult to reckon further loss of innocent lives.

Therefore, the government in which we entrusted the safety of our lives and that of our property since day one of its victory should execute earnest measures to revoke the deterring scenario.



# A journey into self-awareness

**C**RISES happen to us every day. Most of them are sufficiently low grade, devoid of enduring consequences, so we pay no attention and keep on rolling. A crisis occurs when our identity, our roles, our values, or our road map are substantially called into question, prove ineffective, or are overwhelmed by experience that cannot be contained by our understandings of self and world.

There is a line from Viktor Frankl's memoir about surviving the Holocaust, *Man's Search for Meaning*, that stopped me cold when I read it: "it did not really matter what we expected from life, but rather what life expected from us." I had never thought about what life expected from me. I had only thought about what I expected from life. That was a book putter-downer. It was a look-up-at-the-sky-and-wonder-where-the-fuck-have-I-been-all-my-life? moment.

Growing up, we kept hearing again and again that we could be anything we wanted to be. We had supportive parents insisting we would accomplish more than they had. We saw men and women on television who had families and fun careers. So, if we happened to fail, why was that? The only thing left to blame is ourselves. And we do that quite a lot.

And now, here we are, entering the second half of our lives and our old life compasses no longer work. The magnetic fields have been altered. The new compass that we need cannot be held in our hand, only in our heart. We read it not with our mind alone, but with our soul. Now we yearn for wholeness. We yearn to remember the parts of ourselves that we have forgotten, to nourish those that we have starved, to express those we have silenced, and to bring into the light those we have cast into the shadows. On this quest for wholeness, we realize we must let go of the old clichés of adult life, both positive and negative. Using the best information available, we realize that each of us must find his own way. To varying degrees, all of us are trying to break out of the "life structure" that we have built during the first part of our lives.

But with the new compass also comes a peculiar new problem. We realize that making dreams come true also costs money. Money, we don't have. And ambition and an insatiable hunger for adventure and success. But most of us abandoned the idea of a life full of adventure and travel sometime between graduation



and our first job. Our dreams died under the dark weight of responsibility. A responsibility to take care of one self and sometimes one's beloved(s) with a meager job earning a meager wage all while clearly being overworked but underpaid. Occasionally the old urge surfaces, and we label it with names that suggest psychological aberrations: the big chill, a crisis.

A crisis that so much underscores an inner conflict. Each side of the conflict is likely to be a composite of many partial forces, each one of which has been structured into behavior, attitude, perception and value. Each component asserts itself, claiming priority, insisting that something else must yield, that it MUST be accommodated. The conflict therefore is fixed, stubborn and enduring. It may be impugned and dismissed without effect, imprecations and remorse are of no avail, strenuous acts of will may be futile; it causes yet survives and continues to cause the most intense suffering, humiliation and rending of flesh.

So, you start asking yourself the difficult questions. Can such a conflict be uprooted or excised? Is it an ailment or is it the patient himself? Does it happen to everyone or is it only you? Can the suffering disappear without a change in the conflict? But a change

in the conflict amounts to a change in what one is and how one feels and reacts. So how the fuck do we get out of this loop? When did figuring out what makes you happy become such hard work? How did I get myself to this point where I had to figure ME out? Why didn't they tell us it would be this hard?

In my college psychology class, I had studied theories of adult development and learned that our twenties are for experimenting, exploring different jobs, and discovering what fulfills us. One lecturer, probably a Professor now, warned against putting so much faith in our first degrees, asserting that we were not fully formed yet.

That we didn't know if it's what we really wanted to do with our lives because we hadn't tried enough things yet. That if we rushed into something, we were unsure about, we might awake midlife with a crisis on our hands. "Oh, no, not me." Most of us thought. But alas! I know better now. His words now resounding more clearly than they had back in that chilly morning lecture.

Now, against my deeply held idealism, I have to accept that the world's people are in peril and that my standard ideologies will not always fit the world. We no doubt live in a noisy,

numb, narcissistic age. The talents and attentions of the majority are not invested in personal mastery and social responsibility but squandered on senseless games, voyeurism, and base sensationalism. We have recklessly abandoned what truly matters, the striving to be great as individuals and as a society, for the glamour and thrill of speed, convenience, and vain expression, in a kind of humanity-wide crisis. Gone are the big visions; and in comes the quick wins and the sure things. Effort has lost out to entitlement. In the transition to our age of self-adoration and conceit, the page turned long ago on the dreams to rise as a people. Greatness is so rarely sought, and generation after generation fail to hold the line of human goodness and advancement.

Could it be because we have so often been treated as objects and may have been profoundly affected thereby? Kick a dog often enough and he will become cowardly or vicious. People who are kicked by this life undergo similar changes; their view of the world and of themselves is transformed. . . People may indeed be brainwashed, for benign or exploitative reasons. If one's destiny is shaped by manipulation, then one has become more of an object, less of a subject and has lost freedom.

If, however, one's destiny is shaped from within then one has become more of a creator, and has gained his freedom. This is self-transcendence, a process of change that originates in one's heart and expands outward. Begins with a vision of freedom, with an "I want to become...", with a sense of the potentiality to become what one is not. One gropes toward this vision in the dark, with no guide, no map, and no guarantees. Here one acts as subject, creator and author.

However, as you become a creator and an author, you also come to realize that you are no different from a lot of people out there. People who want to break away from normalcy. People who want to change for the better. People who have refused to crack under the weight of oppression by this life. In no other generation has so many people harbored such intense ambitions to become authors of their own truths and in extension, writers. The longing for one day to write a book, probably a novel or less likely,



an autobiography lies close to the center of most contemporary aspirations.

This is at one level a hugely welcome development, a consequence of widespread literacy, higher educational standards and a proper focus on the power of books to change lives. But looked at from another angle, it may also, in private, be the result of something rather more haphazard: an epidemic of isolation and loneliness. The army of literary agents, scouts, editors and writing coaches testifies not only to our love of literature, but also, less intentionally, to an undressed groundswell of painful solitude.

Reasons for wanting to write are multiple of course, but the structurally simplest option may also be the most pervasive: we write because there is no one in the vicinity who will listen. We start to long to set down our memories and emotions on a page and to send them out into the wider world because our friends don't bother to hear us, because our partners are preoccupied and because it's been agonizingly long since anyone gave us an uninterrupted stretch of time in which we could be attended to with respect and attention. In short, because we are very lonely.

Writing, for all that it might begin with; experiences of joy or disinterested intellectual fascination, also owes its origins to despair, shame and a lack of someone to cry with. Just as it was with my first ever post. It is when we have screamed a long time for help, and no one came, that we may begin quietly to burn to write a novel instead. Writing can be the solution to a more poignant ambition beneath: to be heard, to be held, to be respected, to have our feelings interpreted, and soothed, to be known and appreciated. French novelist Gustave Flaubert put it at its simplest: if he had been happy in love at eighteen, he would never have wanted to write.

At the start of every journey into self-awareness, we meet the figure of Socrates, who puts forward a striking proposition: writing is not what thoughtful people should ideally be doing with their time, he suggests. For Socrates, writing is a pale imitation of and replacement for our true vocation, which is that of talking to our fellow human beings, in the flesh, in real time, often with a glass of wine on the table, or while strolling through the park or doing some exercise in the gym, about what really matters. The birth of literature is, in the Socratic world view, simply a symptom of social isolation and an indictment of our communities.

Even if we find literature the finest of substitutes, infinitely better than anything else yet invented, it still pays to recognize that substitute is what it might primarily be, that writing is in certain ways an act of very polite and artful revenge on a world too busy to listen to us and that we would never develop such fierce bookish ambitions if we had not first been let down by those we needed so much to rely upon.

A slightly more conscious awareness of writing as compensation may lend us energy to acknowledge our unrequited ache for more visceral forms of contact. Whatever the satisfactions of writing alone in bed at 3 am in the morning, we should perhaps not cease so easily to give up on the ecstasies of mutual understanding and sympathy.

A better world might, from this perspective, be one in which we wanted a little less ardently to be writers because we had collectively grown ever so slightly better at listening and making ourselves heard. Perhaps literature's loss might, in the end, be humanity's gain.

## Maria Ressa: Investigative journalism more important today than ever before

By Neha Gupta

**“**OUR world is dramatically changing; we are standing on the rubble of the old world and we must create what the new one is going to become,” says Maria Ressa, CEO and Executive Editor of the Philippines-based Rappler.

She made the remark during a session of WAN-IFRA's (World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers) recent World Media Leaders eSummit.

The Covid-19 pandemic has doubtless fuelled political divisions and given rise to a spurt in misinformation. Only as recently as last month, Ressa (pictured) was found guilty of cyber libel and faces up to six years in prison over an article that was published in 2012.

In 2018, Rappler, which is known for its extensive coverage of Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte and his war on drugs, was slapped with 11 criminal cases and, last year, with eight arrest warrants.

Human rights and press freedom advocates say the charges filed against Ressa and Reynaldo Santos Jr, a former Rappler researcher and editor, demonstrate how the government is cracking down on media freedom and the independent press in the Philippines.

As Maria Ressa prepared to return to court in Manila this Wednesday (July 22 July), the #HoldTheLine Coalition was demanding that the Philippines authorities drop a barrage of bogus tax and foreign ownership cases against her.

### Press freedom under attack

According to Ressa, technology has taken away the gatekeeping powers of journalism and polarised society. The onus of the global fall in trust levels in

news is not on journalism alone: "Part of the blame lies with the world's largest distributor of news - Facebook. Polarisation is built into social media platforms," she said.

In 2016, Duterte assumed power by using social media to his advantage, the first Filipino president to do so. "In July 2016, the drug war began and social media was weaponised. The attacks were exponential. When Rappler published a propaganda war series and a drug war series, we came under attack that was meant to pound us to silence, and take away our narrative," Ressa says.

The largest television network in the Philippines - ABS-CBN, which employs about 1,000 people - was shut down on May 5, a short two days after World Press Freedom Day. Duterte has since issued a warning for journalists who don't follow quarantine rules to be "shot dead".

"A few people have died, tens of thousands have been arrested," according to Ressa.

In March, the Philippines' House of Representatives passed an anti-terror bill that allows any critic of the government to be designated a terrorist, arrested without a warrant, and held for up to 24 days.

"For the Philippines, and many other parts of the world, technology has enabled the rise of authoritarian, populist style leaders who divide and conquer," Ressa says, adding: "If you're a news group, standing by the values, standards, ethics and mission of journalism is actually good business."

She pointed out that most news groups in the Philippines are in the political middle without an apparent Left or Right leaning. In the past, readers went directly to news companies for information because of credibility.

"However, now, social media has become a big source of news and polarity is the very essence of its growth strategy. If a reader is pro-Duterte, Facebook will encourage you to make friends with people who also like Duterte," said Ressa, adding: "After a point, the reader no longer sees anti-Duterte content or news, and vice versa."

How can publishers create a safe environment for healthy public discourse when the environment is toxic and polarising? In Rappler's case, Ressa says that disinformation networks are government allies.

She elaborates: "We are exposing them. The problem with influence operations is that, combined with technology, it polarises society and if you try to give the readers a fact check, they won't budge because it plays to their cognitive bias."

"Unfortunately, social media platforms prioritise lies, laced with anger and hate. Misinformation is distributed faster there and a lie told a million times becomes a fact, and if facts are debatable, society becomes polarised."

So, what is the solution? For Ressa, before Covid-19 hit, 2020 was to be the year that technology was going to be held accountable. "I still push for enlightened self-interest in technology platforms and think that is the silver lining of the pandemic for them - they are doing things they never would have done for political disinformation," she says.

### Rappler's response to the pandemic

Manila-based Rappler, which was launched in 2012 with 12 people, now clocks 14 million uniques and employs about a 100 people, 63 of them women.



Even though the present appears dystopian, Rappler learned to embrace technology early on and grew from 100 to 300 per cent year-on-year from 2012 to 2016. "Our Venn diagram is an intersection of professional journalism, technology and community, and Rappler sits smack in the middle of it," Ressa says.

When Rappler was launched in 2012, its goal was to break even by 2016. In April 2016, a month before Duterte was elected and the attacks against Rappler began, the publisher saw its first month of net positive income. However, the attacks from the government scared away advertisers.

"By 2017, I realized that the attacks were far from over and hired people to build a new tech platform," Ressa reports.

In January 2018, the government tried to shut down the company, revoking its licence to operate. By April 2018, Rappler's advertising dropped by half and employees took a 20 per cent pay cut. The brand was forced to pivot and find a B2B (business-to-business) model, using data and technology, which helped it make money last year.

"From 2018 to 2020, we have grown by 12,000 per cent. In 2019, Rappler saw revenues of 36 million Philippines pesos or US\$720,000. It's not a lot by Western standards, but diversified revenue helped," Ressa says.

According to Ressa, advertising is not just crumbling - it's dead; and media

organisations that are only reliant on advertising and don't have diversified revenue sources will certainly suffer.

When Covid-19 hit the Philippines, the country's health system collapsed, resulting in a strong lockdown. In March, Rappler had three teams exposed to Members of Congress in the Senate who were declared Covid positive.

"We were under attack from the government. I had to figure out if we had enough money for medical exigencies. Each manager took care of their teams, and maintained medical sheets," reports Ressa.

She adds: That's how closely we were monitoring our employees. How do you reinvent journalism when you're stuck at home? With data. Now that we are thinking of going back to the office, we had to figure out physical distancing, PPE (personal protective equipment), etc."

While constructive journalism might be the way to go for Rappler, accountability journalism is still its soul. "Investigative journalism is more important today than ever before, against the greater powers of the government and the kind of abuses which tech platforms allow. It is more dangerous to be a journalist today," Ressa notes.

"Studies show that anger and fear spread the fastest on social media. What spreads second fastest is inspiration; and where does hope come from? It comes from courage," Ressa says.

Rappler has had a link between citizen journalism and professional journalism ever since it was launched. The company's civic engagement arm, Move.PH, engages with communities, finds out their concerns, and runs workshops around those pressing issues.

"You have to know what your community wants, but at the same time how it fits into the context of our nation," Ressa says.

# Science explains why uncertainty often proves so hard on the brain

By Markham Heid

In a 1927 essay, legendary horror author H.P. Lovecraft wrote that “the oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown”.

What Lovecraft recognised - and decades of psychological research has borne out - is that the human brain is uniquely vulnerable to uncertainty.

There's evidence that an inability to tolerate uncertainty is a central feature of most anxiety disorders and that uncertainty stokes the sorts of “catastrophic interpretations” that fuel panic attacks.

Some researchers have even argued that fear of the unknown is the bedrock fear that human beings experience - the one that gives rise to all other fears - and that a person's ability to weather periods of uncertainty is a fundamental characteristic of a healthy, resilient mind.

As the world grapples with the Lovecraftian nightmare that is the Covid-19 pandemic, and as the rhythms and rituals of American life are indefinitely disrupted, there are lessons to be learned from the research on uncertainty - including some helpful ways to defang it.

According to a 2014 study in the journal *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, uncertainty disrupts many of the habitual and automatic mental processes that govern routine action. This disruption creates conflict in the brain, and this conflict can lead to a state of both hypervigilance and outsized emotional reactivity to negative experiences or information.

In other words, uncertainty acts like rocket fuel for worry; it causes people to see threats everywhere they look, and at the same time it makes them more likely to react emotionally in response to those threats.

“Uncertainty lays the groundwork for anxiety because anxiety is always future-oriented,” says Jack Nitschke, the study's co-author and an associate professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The human brain has the capacity to imagine all the worst things that could happen, Nitschke explains. And the more uncertainty there is - especially if that uncertainty is coupled with gloomy hypotheticals - the more likely the brain is to conjure up and fixate on the worst-case scenarios.

## Wrestling with uncertainty

In some cases, grappling with uncertainty can be even more challenging than confronting a person's worst fears. A 2008 study in the journal *Cancer Nursing*



found that, among women with suspected breast cancers, anxiety levels tended to peak before diagnosis - not afterwards.

The study found that the period of uncertainty following a tumour biopsy was the most anxious time. In these and other scenarios, “having an answer and having something to focus on gives people a sense of control, and in some ways that's easier than uncertainty”, says Michelle Newman, director of the Laboratory for Anxiety and Depression Research at the Pennsylvania State University, who was not affiliated with the study.

Even minor periods of unpredictability can cause significant negative effects. It's one of the reasons it's so hard for people to tear away from the news or Twitter.

Research on traffic congestion, for example, has found that the lack of control drivers feel sends stress and anger levels through the roof. Uncertain bus, train and plane delays are also major sources of uncertainty-triggered distress.

One 2014 study of US bus riders found that giving people up-to-the-minute wait times was an effective way to limit anxiety and frustration. It also found that even if the wait for a bus turned out to be long, removing the element of uncertainty made commuters feel better.

Uncertainty is so vexing that some people are willing to accept a worse outcome in exchange for uncertainty's removal. “In people with generalised anxiety disorder, research shows that they're more likely to make choices that they know in the long run will benefit them less, just because it resolves the uncertainty,” Newman says.

A 2011 study in the journal *Behaviour Therapy* found that anxious people tended to opt for worse odds and lower money payouts in a gambling experiment - as opposed to improved odds and

more money - if this choice cut down the amount of time they had to wait to find out their bet's outcome. Basically, the anxious people were willing to pay to avoid uncertainty.

## Knocking out effects of uncertainty

Different people respond to uncertainty in different ways. Unfortunately, many gravitate towards unhelpful coping strategies.

Newman says that people who struggle with uncertainty often respond to it by worrying. They also tend to think that worrying will somehow help them prepare for what's to come.

This is false. “We just finished a study looking at the effect of worry on problem solving,” she says, adding: “We found that for everybody, not just for people with generalised anxiety disorder, worry wasn't helpful.”

According to Newman, the more people engaged in worrying, the less they felt confident in their ability to solve a problem and the worse their solutions to that problem tended to be.

Nitschke agrees that worrying is unhelpful. “If you're going to spend six or seven hours a day worrying about the coronavirus, you're going to be building up and strengthening neural connections that support this activity,” he says. In other words, your worrying will breed more worry.

Trying to seek out new and helpful information can also backfire. One 2009 study in *BMC Public Health* found that people can only process and make sense of a limited amount of information and that consuming too much new info can lead to confusion and increased uncertainty.

“Information overload may overwhelm people's information processing capabilities,” write the authors of a re-

lated 2008 study that found that cancer patients who sought information online tended to come away “frustrated and confused”.

Regarding Covid-19, Newman points out that much of the information available right now is either educated guesswork or worst-case-scenario prognosticating - or prediction. She says that people who spend a lot of their day consuming everything they can about the virus are more likely to feel confused or frightened than informed.

So what can people do to combat the effects of uncertainty? Both Newman and Nitschke say that focusing on the present can help dispel uncertainty and the anxiety it foments. “Do things you enjoy,” Nitschke says, adding: “Get out a book you've been meaning to read or watch a little Netflix or talk with a friend on the phone - something that gets your brain into the present moment.”

This may also be the perfect time to finally give mindfulness meditation a try - or to revisit the practice. “Being in the moment and embracing the moment, which is a component of mindfulness, can distract us from worry and what may or may not happen,” Newman says.

She says mindfulness is a component of many Eastern philosophical and cultural traditions, and many of these - such as Buddhism - emphasize “letting go” of things one has no control over.

Finally, she says carving out a specific time and place for worrying can help prevent the worrying from overwhelming the rest of your day. For example, you might choose to spend 20 minutes each evening sitting in a chair you don't normally use and letting your mind fret about the latest Covid-19 news.

“It should be the same time and place each day, and not a location that's associated with work or sleep or leisure,” she says. You don't want to encourage your brain to associate your workspace or bed with worrying. Instead, you want to train it to confine its worrying to a convenient time and place.

“We all have to live with some level of uncertainty all the time, but we usually don't focus on it,” she adds. Occupying your brain with work, chores, entertainments, or other activities unrelated to the source or your uncertainty may be the best way to shrink it down to a manageable size.

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

# Inflammaging: The reason experts believe COVID-19 is so harmful to the elderly

By Bo Stapler

WHAT does the term inflammaging mean, and why is it so crucial in the fight against the novel coronavirus? A physician shares his insight.

Much has been discovered about the novel coronavirus over the first six months of the pandemic. Statistical data have established that infection with the virus, SARS-CoV-2, is significantly more deadly in the elderly compared to younger patients. If researchers can find out why, it could lead to important advances in treatment.

Recent data indicate that adults over age 80 are hundreds of times more likely to die from Covid-19 compared to those under age 40.

As the body ages, so does its immune system. Thus, the prevailing thought is that our immune response to the virus becomes defective with increased age.

Why does this happen? Is it because the aging immune system is somehow weaker or perhaps, instead, it becomes hyperresponsive as we age? Interestingly, the answer may be ‘both’. To understand this concept we need to consider each branch of the army that comprises the body's immune system.

## Battle lines

The first branch is called the innate immune system. Cells of the innate immune system are the front-line foot soldiers in the defence against pathogens (disease-causing organisms). They are able to attack foreign invaders quickly but in a nonspecific fashion.

The release of inflammatory particles by the innate immune system is akin to heaving grenades. While useful to respond to the initial assault, such a broad attempt to destroy the enemy virus can result in collateral damage to the body's own organs and tissue.

Conversely, cells of the adaptive immune system are like snipers. These cells receive information about their adversary in the form of an antigen, a viral protein segment recognised as foreign by the adaptive immune cells.

Although this process of intelligence gathering takes time, once activated, the adaptive immune system is able to systematically dismantle the enemy with efficiency and precision.

## Effect on the immune system

Inflammaging results in a pro-inflammatory state that predisposes the innate immune system to overactivity. Evidence is mounting that when an elderly individual becomes infected with SARS-CoV-2, the innate immune response tends to become abnormally heightened. Overactive innate immune cells release cell-signalling particles called cytokines which create a storm of inflammation that damages the body's own tissue.

At the same time, inflammaging blunts activation of the adaptive immune response. Weakened adaptive immune activity allows SARS-CoV-2 to multiply with less resistance, resulting in tissue damage directly from the virus itself.

Vaccine studies with other viruses have revealed

that increased inflammation dampens adaptive immunity by interfering with the process of antigen recognition, subsequently reducing a vaccine's effectiveness.

Interestingly, the opposite is also true as reducing inflammation has been shown to improve antigen recognition and, in turn, the immune response to a vaccine.

## Causes of inflammaging

Experts searching for causes of inflammaging describe multiple potential mechanisms all of which are likely to play a role in certain circumstances.

Inflammaging may be caused by misfolded proteins, a compromised gut barrier, or even the increased number of fat cells that occurs with obesity.

This may, in part, explain why obesity, as well as other chronic conditions, increases the risk of adverse outcomes from Covid-19.

Authors of a recently published article entitled, “Inflammaging: The missing link to Covid-19 age-related mortality?” remark: “Inflammaging is associated with several diseases, including cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, and cancer.” It should come as no surprise, then, that all of these conditions are associated with poor outcomes from Covid-19.

Inflammaging is also caused by impaired removal of dead or dying (that is, senescent) cells from the body. In their recently published perspective in the journal *Science*, professors of immunology Arne N. Akbar and Derek W. Gilroy hypothesize: “Because senescent cells secrete pro-inflammatory mediators and accumulate in every organ in the body during aging, another way to enhance immunity and reduce the inflammatory burden may be to eliminate these cells.”

Studies to explore this theory are increasing in popularity. Research in mice has shown that removing senescent cells can reverse organ dysfunction associated with age.

Now, investigations in humans are under way using drugs called senolytics to remove senescent cells from the body. Agents thought to have senolytic capability include metformin, a drug traditionally used to treat diabetes, as well as a host of other candidates.

## Future aims

While the concept and study of inflammaging remains in its infancy, the premise has likely never been more universally applicable than during the Covid-19 pandemic. Given what has been discovered about how inflammaging affects the immune system, it's no wonder that anti-inflammatory medications like dexamethasone and even colchicine, to a lesser extent, have demonstrated efficacy in treating Covid-19.

Reducing inflammaging and its effects is an essential aspect to improving the treatment of Covid-19, a development many of us eagerly await.

**A Healthcare dispatch. Bo Stapler, MD, is an internal medicine and paediatrics hospitalist.**

# Cooperation between Africa and China should not be stigmatised

By David Muliika

I have a close bond with China. I came to the country for the first time 13 years ago to study aquaculture skills at the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS). In the next couple of years, I also visited China for times to study aquaculture and purchase equipment.

Now, I run a company in Mpigi District, Uganda that is engaged in Mozambique tilapia breeding and fish feed processing. In a manner of speaking, the company would not have come into being without the skills and experiences I acquired in China.

At present, COVID-19 is spreading around the globe. To curb the spread of the disease, the Chinese government has adopted the most comprehensive, strict and thorough prevention measures and made huge efforts, achieving major strategic progress in the battle against the COVID-19 epidemic. Meanwhile, China also shared its experiences in epidemic prevention and control to help other countries better respond to the disease.

African countries, including Uganda, have learned a tremendous amount from China's combat against COVID-19. China's medical team assisting Uganda introduced relevant knowledge of epidemic prevention and control, and Chinese experts exchanged views with Uganda's health departments via video conferences. Besides, Chinese medical expert teams that had fought against COVID-19 on the frontline in China came to Africa to share their valuable experiences. The anti-epidemic materials from China also protected our medical workers and ensured the smooth progress of case screening.

I heard some say that Africans were treated unfairly in China in COVID-19 response in the past April, and my first reaction was “This is a rumor”. I learnt how the thing was from my Ugandan friends in China, and they told me that local governments in China have adopted strict containment measures to protect the health and lives of the residents, and many infected Africans were saved.

The brotherhood between Africa and China shall not be stigmatized. To have more people know the truth, I uploaded a video clip to social media, in which I refute the rumors with my personal experiences and facts. I shared my experience in China in the video. During my stay in the country, all the people I met were friendly. We studied and traveled together, forming a profound friendship. I also received supports from my Ugandan friends. They liked the video and shared it with more people.

At the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit On Solidarity Against COVID-19 held not long ago, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries will be among the first to benefit. This further reinforced our confidence in defeating the virus. I hope the epidemic can end soon, so that I can once again step on the beautiful land of China and reunite with my Chinese friends.



People's Daily

David Muliika (L) learns aquaculture in East China's Jiangsu Province.

# TARI-Ukiliguru in new drive to bolster cotton productivity

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute - Ukiliguru Centre (TARI-Ukiliguru) in Mwanza Region is developing four new spacing technologies for cotton planting to increase production in the country.

For a long time, cotton seeds planting had only one technology in regard to spacing which experts say is outdated.

In the old technology cotton seeds were planted along lines spaced 90 centimetres with 40 centimetres separating the holes.

TARI's Director of Research and Innovation Evelina Lukonge said the 90x40 has been in use for a long time but has not been beneficial to farmers.

She said global climate change has made the old technology obsolete, and added that research on the new cotton planting technologies began in 2017 and will be completed this year in collaboration with Brazil.

"For a long time Brazil has been a leading cotton producer in the world and using the technology which we are researching on with their cooperation," she said.

Efforts done by TARI in collaboration with Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) aims to find out whether the new planting technologies can be adopted in Tanzania to enhance farmers' cotton harvests, she says.

"Through Cotton Victoria project, we're assured that cotton farmers will get what they are desired to get per piece of land. These new technologies make a farmer with one acre to get



twice as compared to a farmer with two acres of farm who used the old spacing techniques," Lukonge attests.

Robert Ngumuo, TARI researcher says the new technologies can also reduce farmers' production costs, as it aims to increase the number of individual plants in a field.

New technologies, which researchers are working on include the 50x30 and 60x30. Others are 70x30 and 89x30, but these can be changed to 50x16.67, 60x16.67, 70x16.67 and 89x16.67, he says.

Munguo adds: "In one acre, a farmer can plant 71,000 cotton seeds and harvest 700 to 800 kgs using the new technology while at the moment he harvests between 350 and 400

kgs from each acre."

TARI researcher at the Ukiliguru Centre Dr Paul Saidia urges cotton farmers to venture into modern agronomic practices which include using improved and recommended seeds, proper spacing, and farm inputs so as to increase harvests and reap big from the sector.

He said that the Institute has been working closely with farmers by establishing model and research farms so as to train them on better farming methods.

"In our research farms, we use all the required essential tools such as fertilizer, and seeds, a move which has been producing more harvests.

He noted that, most farmers were still lacking sufficient knowledge and skills on how to grow cotton commercially.

"That's why we're encouraging farmers to change their old ways of farming and embark on modern farming techniques for their benefits."

Dr Saidia advises farmers to seek knowledge and skills from experts on better soil conservation.

However he says that there are also a good number of farmers who have responded well on application of modern seeds and fertilizer but they still need to increase investment by adopting the updated ones.

"We currently researching new seeds and there are some farmers who are conducting trials in the regions of Simiyu and Mwanza, so after the completion of the research, I am sure that more farmers will start reaping big from cotton farming," he says.

"Farmers have to be serious especially in the area of farming procedures; they have to ensure that they apply the right measures during planting season. The new proposed planting dimensions include 80 by 30 centimeters, 70 by 30, 60 by 30 and 50 by 30, with this, farmers will witness increased yields," he explained.

He said that in efforts to ensure that Tanzania produces quality cotton the government has been working closely with various stakeholders to grow quality seeds, loans to farmers groups and regular training.

Some of the farmers who are in trial of the new proposed farming methods and technologies commended TARI saying that the move would transform lives of a good number of farmers in the country.

"I set aside half an acre of farm and applied all the new farming methods as proposed by TARI experts, I used the 70 by 30 centimeters rule and I used organic fertilizer, what I harvested tripled compared to what I have been harvesting for years, so I encourage my fellow farmers to adopt these new methods and witness the changes," said Omar Sayi, one of the farmers under the TARI's research.

Martine Kaganda, a farmer from Kwimba District in Mwanza Region, urged TARI to expand services and make sure the new technologies reach the majority of farmers including those in remote rural areas.

# Uses Covid-19 zeal to fix continental problems, panelists plead

By Special Correspondent

PANELLISTS in a virtual conference have jointly called for the translation of the zeal that triggered the rise to the challenge of the Covid-19 fight in Africa to catapult it into a self-sufficiency zone.

The Leadership, Ethics and Values-Initiative conference on the theme: 'Home-Grown Solutions for the Socio-Economic Transformation of Africa post-Covid-19, aimed to realign Africa's transformation through leadership, values, public good and resources'.

The panelists said many global speakers from the developed world referred to the continent in a derogatory manner suggesting that the pandemic

would sweep through Africa but the reverse is the reality.

They said the resoluteness with which Africa's leadership rose to the challenge without available resources and equipment and improvised, stunned the world and that that enthusiasm must be applied to the new normal post-Covid-19.

They believed Africa's home-grown solutions could be systematically identified, developed, resourced and scaled up for the collective good.

Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, a panelist said the Coronavirus pandemic was deepening poverty, malnutrition and hunger in Africa and urged leaders to rise to this challenge

by turning the fortunes of the continent around.

She said the process of undertaking this enormous task requires a particular type of values, mindset consciousness, self-belief and self-confidence especially within leadership at all levels and spheres.

She called for radical investment in ICT and IT infrastructure as well as technical and vocational studies to bridge the vast potential of the continent to leapfrog into finding home-grown solutions to its issues.

Mohammed said only 20 countries were contributing to the ICT platforms with 66 innovative products in e-health, e-participation, e-agriculture, e-payments and e-commerce.

The Deputy Sec-Gen said Af-

rica and Africans must look within themselves with their shared values, ideas and ideals, knowledge innovations and ingenuity for solutions.

Wamkele Keabetswe Mene, Secretary-General, Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat said the Covid-19 crisis demanded that Africa should reconfigure its existence as weaknesses in industrialisation has exposed the continent to the global supply-chain, exacerbating the crisis and called for the establishment of manufacturing centres of excellence across Africa.

He said the future for Africa is heavy industrial development, investment in the capacity of health and agriculture and safeguarding the intellectual property rights across the public health

spectrum.

He said Africa needs the legal framework and appropriate instruments to leverage on China's influence on the continent, which suggests we build stronger safeguards to avoid over-dumping that could lead to job losses when the AfCFTA is tended to create more jobs for the teeming population of the continent.

He said transshipment of goods and preferences are not permitted under the AfCFTA.

Kojo Parris, Chair-person of KBA Africa, a business incubation entity was excited how African leaders are handling the pandemic.

Ndidi Okonkwo Nwuneli, co-Founder of Sahel Consulting based in Niger advocated that agriculture should be taught in

schools as agribusiness in Africa rather than being a science subject saying treating agriculture as a business broadens the scope of the subject and becomes attractive to the youth to explore.

She said Africa is resilient, resourceful and brave, "what we need is to redesign and recreate the destiny of the population of the continent to collaborate and connect."

She said food insecurity has doubled rendering the continent fragile with the lockdown situation having a negative impact on food production, access to soft loans flaccid and pointing at increasing hunger and malnutrition.

Madam Nwuneli said Africa needs data, scorecards to improve productivity for shorter

value-chains that have the potency to open up the food ecosystem, ensure local sourcing policies to unlock local value-chains.

Madam Bridgette Motsepe Radebe, South African Businesswoman, said western solutions cannot work for Africans and time has come for Africans to look for home-grown solutions to fix its challenges because we know our environment.

She said though 53 per cent of the global cobalt comes from Africa, the end product is missing in the production chain, which demands a change in mining laws so industrialisation and productivity could be enhanced.

She said COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call for Africa to integrate.

# Sisters encourage Maasai mothers to turn to medically assisted deliveries

By Special Correspondent, Simanjoro

IN this remote, deeply traditional corner of northern Tanzania, Reginah Bennet stood outside her mud-walled hut and recalled the horrible ordeal she went through while giving birth to her fourth child with the aid of a traditional midwife versed only in folk medicine – a choice that nearly killed her.

"My first, second and third born, I went to a birth attendant. Everything went well," said the 30-year-old mother of four, amid sounds of bleating goats and crying babies in an area predominantly occupied by the Maasai tribe. "My fourth born was a scare." She said she bled profusely after the midwife performed a rough, physical exam. "I felt my life draining out of me and I lost consciousness. I was certain I was going to die."

Bennet's placenta had peeled away from the wall of her uterus before delivery, decreasing the baby's supply of oxygen and nutrients and causing heavy bleeding. The midwife, who had no formal training, was battling to save

her life and the baby's, she said.

However, she was rescued and taken to the hospital for safe childbirth by the Sisters of Notre Dame, who are fighting high maternal mortality in the region through improved quality of care.

"I nearly died when I was giving birth to this child," recalled Bennet, shifting her 9-month-old son from her back to her bosom. "The sisters really saved my life and my baby's life. I bled excessively and the sisters had to rush me to their hospital for safe delivery."

Bennet is one of many Maasai women in this region who have been rescued by women religious in this way. Sisters with the support of the church have built several hospitals in the region in an effort to change the high incidence of maternal and infant mortality at childbirth in the Maasai community.

Although significant efforts have been undertaken to reduce child mortality in the country, the neonatal mortality rate among newborns under 28 days old remains high, at 32 per 1,000 live births, according to a report by Tanzania's Ministry



Reginah Bennet by her children outside her mud-walled hut in Loiborsiret village in Simanjoro District, Manyara Region.

of Health and Social Welfare. That figure accounts for almost half of the infant mortality rate among babies up to 1 year old.

The maternal mortality rate (deaths due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth) in the East African nation has remained high over the last few years, reaching a 2017 level of 524 per 100,000 live births, according to an interagency group that includes the World Health Organization, UNICEF, World Bank Group and UN population researchers.

Tanzania is rated among the 20 countries with the highest maternal mortality rate, according to U.S. Central Intelligence Agency 2017 estimates. One woman dies every hour due to complications that arise during pregnancy and childbirth in Tanzania, where 2 million women give birth every year, according to World Health Organization, UN Population Fund and Tanzania health data.

Fewer than half of all births in Tanzania take place in a health care facility, with 46% being assisted by a skilled health care worker, which results in a higher maternal mortality rate, says a report released in 2015 by Tanzania's Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

Out of the 53% of home deliveries, 19% are as-

sisted by traditional birth attendants, and 31% are performed by family members, the report says.

No survey has been done to determine accurate maternal and infant mortality rates in every village, said Sr. Anita Kyorimpa, a community nurse at Loiborsiret Health Centre, but the risk is apparent.

"Babies born at home under the direction of midwives are at high risk of dying," she said. "They [midwives] have no skills, and they force pregnant women to squat while pushing, which is dangerous for the infant in case it slips and hits the ground."

Nevertheless, in a bid to change the trend, Catholic nuns have built health clinics and launched sensitization campaigns in local churches and villages with the aim of reducing maternal deaths. The World Health Organization defines maternal death as loss of life from preventable causes while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy.

Kyorimpa said they have set up manyattas, a village hut, inside hospitals to encourage Maasai pregnant mothers to feel comfortable in a clinical setting rather than risking their lives by delivering at home.

Sisters discourage village birth attendants from tending to expectant mothers because they lack the skills needed to offer safe deliveries. The sisters

encourage pregnant women to deliver their babies in hospitals and even offer incentives to birth attendants to take the women to health facilities for prenatal care and childbirth assistance, she said.

"We try to educate [pregnant women] on the benefits of delivering in hospitals in case of emergencies such as obstructive birth," said Kyorimpa, a Sister of Notre Dame from Uganda who said they have been working in the region for the last decade. "We give them free antenatal care, ambulance services and vaccination."

The move comes amid growing interest in Africa and elsewhere to reduce maternal mortality and achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal Number 3 that seeks to ensure health and wellbeing for all, at every stage of life. The goal addresses all major health priorities including maternal and child health. The new goal commits countries to reduce maternal deaths to fewer than 70 for every 100,000 live births by 2030. The global maternal mortality ratio stood at an estimated 216 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015.

M4 c.jpg

Fr. Micheal Shaji, who is a local priest at Loiborsiret Parish and administrator of the health center, said the sustainable development goals are ambitious but attainable if countries can deliberate about their priorities. The church is working in the Maasai region to reduce neonatal mortality to 12 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births and to reduce mortality for children under 5 to 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births, he said.

"We are helping and encouraging pregnant women to deliver their babies in hospitals to reduce the rate of maternal mortality," said Shaji, who works with sisters to offer quality health services to expectant mothers and the entire community. "We also encourage them to bring their children to the clinic for vaccines and checkups every month."

Shaji said the most common causes of

maternal death in the region are hypertension and hemorrhage. But obstructed labor and unsafe abortions also contribute, he said.

Mary Ngaon, 55, a former traditional birth attendant who now works with sisters to ensure women in her village deliver their babies in hospitals, said it was risky to give birth at home with only a "traditional birth attendant" – a person who assists the mother during childbirth and initially acquired her skills by delivering babies herself, according to a definition by WHO.

Ngaon said she couldn't deal with the complications arising in some of the home deliveries. She is now helping sisters to distribute information in the villages about the benefits of giving birth in the maternity ward.

"The sisters helped me with information, and I was able to deliver my remaining babies in hospitals," she said, sitting on a makeshift stool. "Every pregnant woman should deliver in the hospital to avoid risks that arise from complications during childbirth. I used to help with home deliveries, but now I tell pregnant women to go to hospital for safe delivery."

Maasai women, who have been able to attend prenatal clinics, deliver their babies in hospitals and attend postnatal clinics, have praised the sisters for saving women from losing a child during complications arising from childbirth.

"I felt very happy and comfortable when I delivered in hospital," said Juliana Moringe, 33, a mother of five. "My baby is now very healthy, and I would still go back to hospital in case I get pregnant again."

Sr. Rashmi Mattappally said the number of Maasai women now giving birth at the health centers has increased to an average of 25 every month, which is a remarkable improvement compared with the three births a month experienced when the sisters came to the region a decade ago.

# Swiss watch exports see ‘unprecedented’ drop in H1

GENEVA

SWITZERLAND'S watch industry experienced an “unprecedented crisis” in the first half of this year due to the coronavirus pandemic and a temporary halt in production and sales, the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry (FH) warned on Tuesday, adding that it expects a market contraction of around 30 percent for 2020.

The sector exported the equivalent of 6.9 billion Swiss francs (7.4 billion U.S. dollars) in the first half of 2020, far from the 10.7 billion posted for the same period last year, representing a year-on-year fall of 35.7 percent, industry data released by the Federation showed.

The most severe consequences of the pandemic were felt in the second quarter, which saw watch exports plummet by 61.8 percent.

“Consumer confidence is a key element in the recovery. At a time when all eyes are on China, which is showing the first signs of a return to normal, there are still numerous factors affecting the recovery process,” the FH said in a statement.

Swiss watchmakers are bracing for the worst year in the modern history of watchmaking as the coronavirus pandemic led to factory closures, shuttered shops and travel bans. Switzerland's two biggest watch trade shows – Baselworld and Watches & Wonders Geneva – were both canceled due to the coronavirus.

“Unfortunately 2020 will be remembered as the ‘annus horribilis’ (horrible year) for the world and more specifically for the whole luxury industry,” Oliver Mueller, founder at LuxeConsult based in Geneva, wrote in emailed comments to Xinhua. “I expect 2021 to be a much more stable year, mainly thanks to the Chinese market which is gradually regaining momentum,” Mueller added.

The Federation said that the return to normal for Swiss watchmaking will be a medium- or even long-term process. “Watch exports are likely to reflect a market contraction of around 30 percent overall in 2020, with certain

marked differences between key players,” the FH said. Switzerland exported 5.5 million timepieces during the first half of the year, compared with just over 10 million last year, a drop of 44.9 percent.

All markets fell sharply between the first half. China was the exception, with a decline of only 14.6 percent, the data showed. “Overall, demand from China is very strong indeed. Chinese consumers are not traveling, and spending their luxury dollars in China.

This creates a mechanical boost in sales in China,” Luca Solca, managing director of luxury goods at Sanford C. Bernstein, said in an email. “I also expect that the macroeconomic pain in China is going to be lower than in the U.S. and in Europe, supporting discretionary demand,” Solca said.

China's economy bounced back to growth in the second quarter, expanding by 3.2 percent year on year, as the country gradually resumed work and production, official data showed last week. “It is safe to say that the brands being strong in China such as Omega, Longines or Rolex will take advantage of a recovering Chinese economy which represents the biggest market worldwide for luxury products,” Mueller wrote.

Swiss watchmakers were hit hard by the coronavirus outbreak in China as their business heavily depends on demand from Chinese shoppers.

“The high-end watch market will slowly recover, lifted by e-commerce, and thanks to valuable partnerships made by Swiss watchmakers and e-commerce giants Alibaba and JD.com,” said Thierry Huron, founder of The Mercury Project, a Swiss watch and jewelry consulting firm.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also spurred a digitalization across the luxury industry. Traditional Swiss brands like Swatch, Tissot and TAG Heuer are trying to keep pace with digital trends and have started to produce both luxury as well as more affordable smartwatches for the younger consumers and millennials who increasingly want digital



A staff member shows a limited-edition Swiss watch at the Lifestyles exhibition area during the second China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on Nov. 6, 2019. (Xinhua)

wristwear.

“I think most Swiss brands underestimated the threat from smart watches and tried to underplay them. This was a mistake,” Solca said.

The Apple Watch was released in

2015. Sales estimates by Strategy Analytics showed that Apple shipped nearly 31 million devices in 2019, a 36-percent jump over the previous year. In comparison, the Swiss watch industry only shipped an estimated 21.1 million units in 2019, a decline of 13 percent over 2018.”

The Swiss have once more – after the quartz crisis in 1975-

1983 – ignored a technological game changer,” Mueller wrote in an email. “It seems that some brands are – finally! – recognizing the urgent need of a response in the mid-price segment with Tissot, TAG Heuer or Alpina launching new interesting products. Is it too late? Time will tell.” (1 Swiss franc = 1.07 U.S. dollars)

Xinhua

# Relaxation of adherence to COVID-19 guidelines fuels rise in Zambia cases, deaths

LUSAKA

STAKEHOLDERS in Zambia have expressed worry that people's laxity in adhering to preventive guidelines against the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the cold weather, has resulted in a rise in cases and deaths.

Minister of Health Chitalu Chilufya says the country has seen a rise in

both cases and deaths in the last 10 days, an indication that the pandemic has taken a new twist in the country.

According to the latest figures, Zambia has reported 3,326 cases and 128 deaths, with the health minister indicating that the cases may continue to rise up to August unless people changed their attitudes towards adhering to the guidelines.

The health minister said the coun-

try is in a dangerous surge of the virus due to the cold weather and that high cases may be persistent until August. According to him, collective action is needed in order to contain the pandemic.

The situation has been compounded by the fact that many people have dropped their guard as they have stopped following the laid-down preventive measures such as wearing face



Workers disinfect the Zambezi market in Lusaka this May 15. (Xinhua/Martin Mbangweta)

masks, avoiding handshakes, maintaining social distancing, and sanitizing, among others.

Another issue fuelling the spike in cases is that some Zambians believe that the pandemic is not real but just a hoax. Stakeholders have expressed worry about the sudden surge in cases and deaths.

The Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection (JCTR), an influential economic and social lobby organization, has warned that laxity among citizens on preventive measures will result in the death of many citizens.

Father Alex Muyebe, the organizations' chief executive officer said it was unfortunate that compliance with the stipulated preventive measures is not the same as it was around April. “It is worrying that laxity on COVID-19 preventive measures in Zambia has come at a time when community transmission is steadily increasing.

It is evident that people in the communities have prematurely dropped the guard,” he is quoted as saying by local media.

According to him, the failure to comply with the preventive measures was a recipe for disaster. The country's human rights body, the Human Rights Commission (HRC), is

also concerned at the relaxation to adhere to guidelines.

The human rights body, which conducted a random survey in selected urban and peri-urban areas, said one of the reasons behind relaxation to adherence is the myth that the pandemic is a hoax.

Mweelwa Muleya, the human rights body spokesperson called for a change of attitude and revival of the campaign to combat the global pandemic. The human rights body also established that some people do believe that the pandemic does not kill hence the move to relax in observance of health guidelines.

According to him, there is a need to have a national communication strategy to provide comprehensive guidance to various stakeholders in order to avoid any misinformation and ambiguity in the fight against the pandemic. Indeed, COVID-19 is real and not a hoax and if people continue with their attitude of disregarding the health guidelines, the country will continue seeing a rise in cases and deaths.

Zambia needs to take a warning from the World Health Organization (WHO) which has stated that South Africa's surging numbers could be a “precursor” for outbreaks across Africa.

Xinhua

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 112 00--

**WORD-FIT**

1 O U R N A L I S T  
2 S O P  
3 E D A U R A L  
4 S R O U N D C  
5 S M G M E N  
6 I N E R A L S U  
7 A L N O A  
8 I S H I R I L

**CROSSWORD**

1 New country in Africa  
5 laid by female birds  
7 a church decree  
8 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas  
10 deploy as a means of achieving something  
11 to choose  
13 a chemical substance soluble in water, sour in taste  
15 a piece of writing on a topic  
17 officials who watch matches to ensure that rules are adhered to  
19 a thought  
20 something forming an edge or border

**SOLUTIONS**

3 LETTERS: CRY, ICE, ORE  
4 LETTERS: LOAD, SOME, ODDS, RACE, AIDE GOLD, MALL  
5 LETTERS: ADAPT, DODGE, SEMEN, ACRES CHEER  
6 LETTERS: EMPIRE, MAIDEN, AGENDA, ASSIST ENDURE  
7 LETTERS: MANDELA  
8 LETTERS: CLIMATES  
10 LETTERS: SUGARCANES

**CLUES: Across**

1 stalk of a plant  
2 to try to make someone to do something  
3 a kind of freehold tenure based on interrupted possession to awaken  
4 the exchange of goods for money  
7 part in the middle  
9 responded to something  
12 Lake Victoria in Kenya  
14 fear, horror  
16 a soft lustre on a surface  
17 one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest  
18 money charged for something

My Magazine: 07554929240 | fchvmmagazine@gmail.com

# MAWENI LIMESTONE IN TANGA REGION LAUNCHES TRIAL PRODUCTION AT UPGRADED CLINKER PLANT

By Property Watch Reporter

**T**ANGA-based Maweni Limestone has ignited the kiln and begun trial production of clinker at its newly upgraded 750,000 metric tons per annum limestone clinker plant.

In a statement, Chinese based Huaxin Cement which acquired Maweni in May, said upgrading work of the kiln line started in June although only 14 Huaxin Cement management team members remained in the country due to the company withdrawing staff to China prior to the coronavirus lockdown.

Huaxin Cement said that it will not upgrade the plant's grinding unit for some reasons noting that "Subject to the epidemic prevention and control situation, the company will send an excellent management team to implement advanced cement process technology and management."

"We are committed to turning Maweni Limestone into a benchmark industrial enterprise in Tanzania and promoting the local cement industry to achieve quality," the company stated in its statement.

The Chinese cement producer said it targets to invest US\$16 million into Maweni Limestone to settle its liabilities while another US\$30 million will be used to complete plant construction and an upgrade after acquisition from ARM Cement.

The Huaxin Cement and ARM agreement dates back to September 2019, when it was publicly announced. The acquisition is part of the Chinese expansion plan in Sub-Saharan Africa which



Maweni Limestone Plant in Tanga.

started in 2013.

ARM Cement has seriously suffered financial constraints since 2017 when cement demand fell in Kenya, a coal import ban in Tanzania caused production issues at its Tanga plant and increased competition hit both countries.

It entered administration in the summer of 2018 and previous owner Pradeep Paunrana has been fighting PricewaterhouseCoopers' attempts to sell the business to local rival National Cement in Kenya.

In some respects the timing of this deal may also be bad for Huaxin Cement given that it's just suffered a 36 percent year-on-year drop in sales revenue to US\$542m in the first quarter of 2020, due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The real trend here in Chinese expansion strategy by its cement sector is a move from imports, building plants and co-financing projects to outright asset acquisition. West China Cement completed its purchase of a majority stake in Schwenk Namibia for US\$104m in January 2020.

An outlier from the more traditional Chinese routes of either supplying equipment and/or co-financing cement plants in Africa has been the CNBM/Sinoma plan to build a seven million tons per annum mega plant in the country.

Once completed it will nearly double local clinker production. Together with the Huaxin Cement purchase, once the CNBM project completes, Chinese companies will own the majority of cement production capacity locally.

## Silver rockets higher, gold nears record high in flight to havens

LONDON

SILVER surged to the highest in almost seven years and gold continued its march toward a record on expectations there'll be more stimulus to help the global economy recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Investors have flocked to the metals on surging demand for havens amid a resurgence in virus cases, slowing growth, negative real interest rates in the U.S., flaring political tensions and a weaker dollar. The vast amounts of stimulus unleashed by governments and central banks have also aided prices and, after the success of a European rescue package this week, focus turns to negotiations on legislation to prop up the American economy.

Silver jumped more than 8% - the biggest gain since March - and has been getting an added boost from supply concerns and optimism about a rebound in industrial demand. Holdings in exchange-traded funds backed by silver are at a record, while gold ETF holdings rose the most since mid-June on Tuesday and also sit at the highest ever.

"It's a typical low liquidity summer market where prices tend to be easier to push, especially when momentum has been established as per the trifecta of support," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity

strategy at Saxo Bank A/S. "The closer gold gets to its record high the stronger the magnetic field will become and that could see it challenge that level before long."

Silver should also continue its run as long as it has support from higher gold, as well as a weaker dollar and bets for more industrial demand, he said. Spot silver jumped as much as 8.1% to \$23.0282 an ounce, the highest since 2013, and was at \$22.91 by 1:11 p.m. in London. Spot gold climbed as much as 1.3% to \$1,865.81 an ounce, nearing 2011's record high of \$1,921.17.

Investors also weighed mounting Sino-American tensions after China vowed retaliation after the U.S. forced the closure of its Houston consulate. The State Department said it took the measure "to protect American intellectual property and Americans' private information." The fear of missing out "is driving a flood of speculative money into gold, piling on top of January-June's heavy physical demand," said Adrian Ash, director of research at BullionVault.

Still, some investors have turned to selling given the recent rally. BullionVault saw gold trading volumes double from the prior 30-day average in the last 24 hours, with sales rising faster than purchases. Movements in silver were even more dramatic, he said.

Both metals' relative-strength indexes are above 70 too, suggesting that they may have become



Silver has surged to the highest level since 2013.

overbought. "Silver has now reached an extreme value. We do not expect silver prices to continue to rise at the

same rate," said Alexander Zumpfe, a trader at Heraeus Metals Germany GmbH & Co. KG. "However, we also

believe that a significant correction in the current environment is unlikely."

## Zantel introduces 'middle income' status carry forward bundle

By Property Watch Reporter

AS the country celebrates 'middle income' status announced by World Bank recently, Zantel has introduced 'Halikati' bundle that allows customers to transfer remaining minutes and date from old expiring bundles into newly acquired ones.

Speaking at the launch in Zanzibar earlier this week, Head of Zantel in the Spice Islands, Mohammed Khamis Mussa said the offer intends to give customers more relief and ability to use remaining voice and data packages to allow customers have affordable communications services.

"Reliable communications services remains to be one of the key pillars towards development. 'Halikati' service is designed to ensure that our customers unlock all the potentials that come with communications especially in facilitating their daily activities from tourism, agriculture and fishing without being in short supply of airtime to cater their needs," Mussa said.

He pointed out that under its slogan, 'The choice of communication is yours,' the Zanzibar based telecommunications

company's latest offer allows customers to utilise their hard earned cash to the maximum.

"The new bundle feature gives customers more value for their money with all the freedom to choose any package from the menu and enjoy unlimitedly communication through voice and data," he added.

The new bundle which is the first of its kind in the market, comes as big relief to customers as many bundles forfeit airtime upon their expiry. In addition, it means customers will be in a position to save more money because they can purchase a new package and get all the remaining airtime from previous package.

"There is no need to wait until your package runs out, with this offer you just need to purchase a new package before the existing one runs out and you will get all the two bundles with more talk time, data and SMS," said Zantel's Head of Mobile Business, Aneth Muga who noted that the telco is committed to ensure that its customers remain connected as the country moves towards attaining higher income status.



Zantel's head in Zanzibar, Mohammed Khamis Mussa (L), speaks during the launch of 'Halikati' bundle in Zanzibar earlier this week. He is with the telco's head of mobile business, Aneth Muga. Photo courtesy of Zantel.

# BREWER CONFIRMS ITS 'DON'T DRINK & DRIVE' CAMPAIGN'S BEARING FRUIT

By Property Watch Reporter

LIVES are being saved while property worth billions has been protected against destruction by road carnage in the past year thanks to Serengeti Breweries Limited's 'Don't drink and drive' campaign which involved motorcycle taxis popularly known as 'Bodabodas.'

Although there are other factors that are attributable to road accidents such as human error, poor roads, substandard vehicles and careless pedestrians, drink-driving equally plays a central role in causing un-called-for road accidents.

This is why the government, through traffic police department, invites the support of private sector stakeholders to support awareness creation in the public, especially drivers on the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption while on the wheel.

SBL is one such stakeholder that has responded positively to the call by deploying resources through its campaign. The domestic market's second leading beer manufacturer through its 'Don't drink and drive' campaign has reached out to thousands countrywide with the message.

The crusade has so far spread to more than 10 regions across the country hence contributing to reduction of road accidents this year, which, according to the government, had gone down by 26 per cent between July 2019 and March 2020.

Minister for Home Affairs, George Simbachawene said while tabling his ministry's budget estimates for 2020/21, that a total of 1,920 accidents were recorded within the period compared to 2,593 accidents recorded during a corresponding period last year. "This means there was a decrease by 673 accidents, equivalent to 26 per cent reduction," Simbachawene told lawmakers during the budget session which ended in June.

On fatalities recorded during the period, the Home Affairs Minister said that a total of 1,084 people were killed as opposed to 1,216 deaths recorded between July 2018 and March 2019, a reduction of 11 per cent. He added that injuries recorded from the accidents during the period also decreased from 2,639 to 2,129 thus accounting for 19.3 per cent, attributing the drastic reduction to efforts by the police and other stakeholders in combating the menace.



Singida regional traffic police commander Edson Mwakihaba (L) and Serengeti Breweries Limited's government relations manager, Neema Temba (R), present reflective safety jackets to Abdul Misigo, chairman of Singida Urban Motorcycle Riders Association, as part of 'Don't drink and drive' campaign in February this year. File photo.

In seconding Simbachawene's remarks, SBL officials have reaffirmed their commitment to continue with the 'Don't drink and drive' campaigns in order to ensure that government efforts

to get rid of traffic accidents pay off sooner rather than later.

SBL's Director for Corporate Relations, John Wanyancha and the brewer's campaign which was designed to promote road

safety and ensure that motorists, pedestrians, 'Boda boda' riders and the public in general remain safe, will continue for the foreseeable future.

"Responsible drinking means

more than just limiting yourself to a certain number of drinks because it also means not getting drunk and not letting alcohol control your life or your relationships," Wanyancha said

adding that, "It is quite risky to one's life if driving or using the road while under alcohol influence."

He noted that the campaign also recognizes that drunk-driving is a complex problem that requires society's concerted efforts to tame. "This is also a call to friends not to allow fellow colleagues to drive while drunk- a clear emphasis on the shared responsibility we all have to ensure the safety of people and property around us," he elaborated.

According to the World Health Organization, traffic accidents in Tanzania kill 32.9 per 100,000 people per annum. "Although several interventions have been implemented to reduce road carnage in Tanzania," the WHO noted, "Fatalities are still high and above the recommended 20 per 100,000 people per annum."

The WHO statistics paint a gloomy picture considering that of the reported deaths, a tangible number is contributed by the 'Bodabodas' which caused over 8,000 deaths during the past 10 years, translating to 800 deaths per year.

Senior Assistant Commandant of Police (SACP), Fortunatus Musilimu said while presenting data from a research conducted between 2009/18 to the media in Dodoma last year, that 35,231 people were injured from 'Boda boda' accidents in the past decade.

Musilimu explained that within the period, 2013 led with death toll from motorcyclists at 1,098 out of 6,831 accidents while 6,578 survivors sustaining injuries. The SACP noted that although the data showed a decrease in crashes over the past five years with the death toll dropping by almost 50 per cent, the trajectory was still 'unacceptable,' adding that the number of those killed and maimed was still high and therefore, 'we must keep fighting the menace.'

## Gran Meliá Arusha facility adds world class hotels in Arusha

By Property Watch

A NEW world class hotel has officially added a world class tourist facility to Arusha City's skyline at a place where Hotel 77 stood over a decade ago.

Gran Meliá Hotels & Resorts which is managing the hotel owned by Dubai based Albawardy's Investment Group announced the opening of its first property under the flag in Africa.

Based in the heart of Arusha City, the exclusive east African resort will be the perfect base for visitors looking to explore the natural beauty of some of Africa's most striking landscapes, including the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro.

"Gran Meliá Arusha is a new addition to the extensive collaboration between Meliá Hotels International and Albawardy Investment," the company said in a statement posted on its website last week.

"The luxury hotel will boast a convenient location for both international and regional travellers, located just a 45-minute drive from Kilimanjaro International Airport and 20-minute drive from Arusha Airport," the statement stated.

Among other things, Gran Meliá Arusha will feature 171 exquisitely decorated rooms and suites designed with earthy interiors and contemporary furniture to provide a relaxing atmosphere for guests.

Albawardy owns three hotels in Tanzania which include Hyatt Regency Kilimanjaro Hotel in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam, Meliá Zanzibar and Meliá Serengeti Lodge through the company Albawardy Investment.

The Kilimanjaro Hotel was the country's flagship state-owned hotel until it was sold to Albawardy in 2002, under the government's privatization exercise aimed at selling ailing state owned companies. Hotel 77 was also a state owned facility. The Kilimanjaro Hotel opened its doors in August 2005 as a five-star hotel, overlooking Dar es Salaam Port



Gran Meliá Arusha Hotel.

which is one of the finest waterfront sites in the commercial capital. Gran Meliá Hotels

& Resorts which is a leading Spanish luxury hotels brand said the Arusha's soft opening

to the public was done in September 2019.

## Transcorp Hotels to raise N10 billion through a Rights Issue

LAGOS

SHAREHOLDERS of Transcorp Hotels Plc, owners of the Transcorp Hilton Abuja and Transcorp Hotels Calabar, have unanimously authorised the Board of Directors to raise N10 billion in its proposed Rights Issue to fortify its balance sheet.

The approval given at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the company, which took place on Monday, 29th June 2020, in Lagos was to issue 2,659,574,468 Ordinary Shares of 50 kobo each by way of a Rights Issue to the Shareholders based on 7 new Ordinary Shares for every 20 Ordinary Shares of 50 kobo each held at a price of N3.76 per share.

The shares will be issued from the authorised share capital of the Company which is currently at N7,500,000,000 comprising of 15,000,000 Ordinary Shares of N0.50 each, and the resultant issued and fully paid-up share capital will be N5,129,989,184 consisting of 10,259,978,368 Ordinary Shares of N0.50 each.

The Chairman of Transcorp Hotels Plc Mr. Emmanuel N. Nnorom noted that "This approval and endorsement of shareholders empowers the Board and management to look to the future with confidence despite the current harsh operating environment."

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proval and endorsement of shareholders empowers the Board and management to look to the future with confidence despite the current harsh operating environment."

Speaking at the meeting, Mrs. Dupe Olusola, Managing Director/CEO of Transcorp Hotels Plc also welcomed this approval adding that "our track record of excellent service delivery has positioned us

as the first choice for international and local guests alike noting, we are not resting on our oars but working round the clock to innovate new products and services to further delight our guests, notable of such is the launch of asset-light strategies to deepen our hospitality footprints across Africa."

She further added that the world has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with

the hospitality industry being one of the hardest hit. However, we are optimistic about a great recovery for the sector and your approval today shows that you also share in this mindset. We will continue to play our part in ensuring a significant recovery to the Nigerian hospitality industry."

"A Non-Executive Director of the Company, who also represents the Ministry of Finance

Incorporated on the Board, Mr. Alexander M. Adeyemi mni, said "Given the challenging times the hospitality industry faces, it has become critical to inject funding into the business for a stronger balance sheet. Transcorp Hotels has maintained a history of excellent performance in the hospitality industry, and this is a bold step towards the achievement of its long term goals."

## TECHNOLOGY

## BHP FACES BIGGEST CLASS ACTION IN THE UK OVER BRAZIL DAM COLLAPSE



The Fundão Dam.

## MANCHESTER

**M**ORE than 200,000 Brazilians are asking British judges for the right to sue BHP Group, the world's biggest mining company, in U.K. courts over the deadly collapse of a dam five years ago.

Residents, businesses and local governments say BHP bears ultimate responsibility for the collapse of the Fundão Dam, which killed 19 people and caused lasting environmental damage. The facility was run by a company jointly owned by a BHP unit and Vale SA.

At an eight-day hearing starting Wednesday in Manchester, U.K., judges will rule on whether British courts have jurisdiction over the case. If it goes ahead, it would be the biggest class action in U.K. history with the local groups seeking a total of 5 billion pounds (\$6.33 billion).

This is the latest in a series of group claims brought in the U.K. against

British companies for the actions of their foreign units in developing countries. Melbourne-based BHP's shares are listed in both the U.K. and Australia.

In a landmark ruling last year, the U.K. Supreme Court allowed Zambian villagers to sue mining company Vedanta Resources Plc in Britain over pollution caused by a mine, opening the door to similar claims. Last month, thousands of Nigerians sought permission to sue Royal Dutch Shell Plc in London over damage caused by oil spills in the Niger Delta. "Until there is a change in corporate behaviour, I think this type of litigation is likely to increase," said Tom Goodhead, a lawyer representing the plaintiffs at law firm PGMBM.

But BHP said that the Manchester case duplicates legal proceedings in Brazil and shouldn't be allowed to go ahead. "BHP's overarching position remains that the proceedings do not belong in the U.K.," BHP said in a statement.

Safety warnings

The Fundão Dam was used to store iron ore tailings, a toxic waste produced during the processing of mined mineral. Its collapse destroyed entire villages, polluted rivers and devastated natural habitats.

The joint venture, Samarco, allegedly ignored safety warnings as it increased iron ore production and tailings storage at the dam, PGMBM said in court filings ahead of the hearing. BHP representatives had been informed of serious structural failings in a report two years earlier, the claimants said.

BHP said it is committed to supporting ongoing remediation and compensation through the Renova Foundation, an out-of-court compensation scheme, to which the company made a provision of \$1.7 billion.

The Renova Foundation had announced it was suspending payments to thousands of victims it alleged had provided false information, but a Brazilian judge ordered the Foundation to resume aid last week. Thousands of individual claims against Samarco are ongoing in Brazil.

An appeal is currently pending against the dismissal of a class action filed in New York on behalf of Samarco bondholders, while a separate class action by BHP investors has been filed in Australia, according to company filings. Brazilian prosecutors are also continuing to challenge the dismissal of some criminal charges in the case, BHP said in a February statement.

Other cases linked to large-scale environmental damage have taken decades to be processed in the Brazilian courts, and the claimants are hoping to obtain quicker results in the U.K. The current proceedings in the British courts don't target Vale. Work to reopen the joint venture in Brazil has been slowed, in part because of measures to respond to Covid-19, BHP said in a separate statement this week.

## Demand in Saudi Arabia housing market to move towards rentals

## RIYADH

THE residential sector in Saudi Arabia is expected to see increased demand for rental units in the short to mid-term as households in the kingdom face higher costs due to the rise in value added tax, according to JLL.

In May, Saudi Arabia tripled VAT from 5 per cent to 15 per cent to shore up the country's finances that have been hit by low oil prices and the coronavirus pandemic. The move affected a wide range of sectors in the kingdom including real estate.

"A reprioritisation of household spending will continue, and we expect to see a shift towards the rental market as it becomes comparatively more attractive and cost competitive," Dana Salbak, head of Research for JLL MENA, said. "This could see performance trends reverse, whereby sale prices begin to slowdown and rental rates will pick up in the longer-term."

In order to soften the impact of a hike in VAT on the property market, the country's minister of housing agreed to absorb the tax increase for first time buyers on units worth 850,000 Saudi riyals or less in an effort to stimulate demand for affordable homes in the country.

During the second quarter of this year, average sale prices in Riyadh rose 3.5 per cent year-on-year, while average rental rates slid 1 per cent. In Jeddah, average sale prices and rental rates both fell, by 6 per cent and 5 per

cent respectively. In Dammam, the average sale price rose 1.5 per cent and in Makkah, sale prices and rental rates dropped 2 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively.

"The increased VAT could also potentially drive land prices down from their current inflated levels. If developers are unable to buy land at current rates, the market would balance itself at lower levels of land pricing. Ironically, an increased tax could therefore actually benefit developers by reducing their overall cost of development," Ms Salbak said.

Thousands of new units are expected to be delivered in the second half of this year across Saudi Arabia, according to the report. In Riyadh, 15,000 units will be delivered while in Jeddah and Makkah, the numbers are expected to be 8,000 and 6,000 respectively.

The retail market across the kingdom will also remain pressured due to the VAT increase and the suspension of public sector allowances. The entertainment market, however, is expected to grow, with demand exceeding the available supply.

Saudi Arabia's office sector also saw rental rates slip during the second quarter. "Looking ahead, many corporates will be focusing on alternative ways to optimise and streamline workspaces to include a shift into smaller, fitted-out units, allowing for a reduction on capital expenditure, particularly in light of VAT," the report said.

## UK's decision to lift stamp duty threshold confirmed bonus for Middle East property

## LONDON

THE threshold at which people start paying the residential property tax has been quadrupled to £500,000 in a bid to stimulate the housing market.

A decision by the UK government to temporarily lift the threshold on which people pay stamp duty is expected to encourage investors from the Middle East to buy property in the country, according to consultancy Knight Frank.

Buyers will now pay stamp duty, a form of property tax, only on properties worth more than £500,000 in the UK, which is four times the previous threshold of £125,000. The higher limit, introduced to stimulate the market in the wake of the coronavirus, will remain in place until March 31 next year.

"The announcement will provide a welcome boost to property transactions across the UK property market," said Henry Faun, partner at Knight Frank Middle East. "Interest and activity levels from Middle Eastern parties in the UK has recently seen an upsurge and the recent SDLT (Stamp Duty Land Tax) changes will make the buying of [completed] property that much more attractive in the coming months." The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the global economy to slide into a recession that is expected to be the worst since the Great Depression, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The UK, the world's sixth-largest economy, which already faced the impact of Brexit before the pandemic, is set to shrink by 10.2 per cent, a steeper decline than the previous 6.5 per cent contraction forecast in April this year, according to the fund.

UK chancellor Rishi Sunak said the government pressed ahead with the decision to lift stamp duty to stimulate more deals in the market, encourage people to move home and to support jobs, both across the UK and from global real estate investors.

"Moving house has a multiplier effect on the wider economy to the benefit of businesses of all sizes. Gulf-based clients already benefit from an attractive exchange rate, this will add an additional lift to their buying ability in the UK," Mr Faun added. The stamp duty announcement comes on the back of renewed activity in the UK property market as the government eases coronavirus-related restrictions.

"A large number of buyers registered their interest after an eight-week lockdown but what's happening is bigger than that," said Tom Bill, head of UK residential research at Knight Frank. "Sellers are coming back in meaningful numbers and deals are being agreed at record rates. You can question how long it will last but right now the market is as robust as it has been in years."

## Troubled shipping firm puts Singapore office building on the block for S\$350m

## SINGAPORE

FINANCIALLY-TROUBLED Pacific International Lines, Singapore's largest container shipping company, has put its office building near the city's Raffles Place central business district on the market for an indicative price of S\$350 million (\$252 million), a source familiar with the transaction told Mingtiandi.

The 17-storey building at 140 Cecil Street is primarily occupied by PIL, which has been streamlining its operations since the 53-year old firm pulled out of the trans-pacific shipping market in February as the Covid-19 pandemic spread around the world. The loss-making company has also been divesting some of its vessels and is currently in talks with a unit of Singapore government-owned investment firm Temasek for a \$400 million capital injection.

Based on the indicative price and the building's existing net lettable area of 107,200 square feet (9,959 square meters), the property is being sold at S\$3,265 per square foot, according to Mingtiandi's calculations.

While the indicative price looks high compared to recent transactions in the area, such as ARA Asset Management's S\$340 million purchase last December of the Robinson Centre, which changed hands at S\$2,570 per square foot, some brokers believe the price to be fair considering the redevelopment potential of the building.

Buyers eye redevelopment potential "The more enthusiastic bidders would look at the potential buildable space and that would show the price to be more reasonable," said Regina Lim, Singapore-based head of capital markets research for Asia Pacific at JLL. "There are high net worth investors and family offices from Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea looking for investment opportunities in



The PIL Building occupies a prime site on Cecil Street.

Singapore. The PIL building is a very digestible size for such investors."

Cushman & Wakefield, which is handling the sale of the PIL Building, has been marketing the property since May, a source told Mingtiandi. At the close of the bidding on Friday, about eight parties expressed interest to purchase the asset, the Business Times reported on Monday. PIL declined to comment for this story, while a representative from Cushman & Wakefield didn't reply to Mingtiandi's emailed query.

According to a term sheet obtained by Mingtiandi, the property has the potential to be redeveloped into a 30-storey commercial building with a gross floor area of 218,434 square feet based on the government's 2019 Master Plan – a nearly 33 per cent boost from the building's current GFA of 147,315 square feet.

While the sale comes at a challenging time amid the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic, the limited supply of commercial properties in Singapore continues to drive a favourable outlook for assets in the CBD, where no new sites have been made available over the past past three

years, JLL's Lim said.

Singapore office outlook remains bright

"The government has also been encouraging owners of ageing buildings that are more than 20 years old to redevelop their properties with incentives such as higher plot ratios," Lim said. "There will be a lot of demolition and less office space in the next few years due to the redevelopment of these older buildings. The outlook is looking very favourable."

Under the government's master plan, owners of office buildings in the older parts of the CBD are encouraged through provision of higher plot ratios to transform their properties into creative lifestyle developments with hotels and residences to reshape the community in Singapore's urban core.

Some of the older office CBD buildings up for redevelopment include the AXA Tower. The 50-storey property near the Tanjong Pagar MRT station will be redeveloped by Alibaba Group in partnership with Perennial Real Estate as the headquarters of the Chinese e-commerce giant in the city-state, the partners announced in May.

**STAMP  
DUTY**

## WORLD

# China refutes US claim of coronavirus originating in Wuhan lab

BEIJING

THE Chinese Foreign Ministry on Wednesday refuted the claim by some U.S. politicians that the novel coronavirus originated in a laboratory in Wuhan.

Spokesperson Wang Wenbin made the remarks at a daily press briefing when asked for comments about the so-called latest evidence of the origin of the virus as recently revealed by an internal cable of the U.S. State Department.

With respect to the management and research of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV), Yuan Zhiming, director of the National Biosafety Laboratory at the institute, had given a comprehensive introduction during an inclusive interview,

Wang (pictured) said.

"The laboratory has high-standard biosafety facilities and a strict management system. All the researchers must undergo systematic theoretical and operation training, and obtain the qualification and approval before entering the laboratory," Wang quoted Yuan as saying.

The spokesperson said that a few politicians in the United States spread rumors and even claimed to have "a large amount of evidence" to support their so-called "truth," showing they have no morals at all.

"The contents disclosed by the relevant reports have enabled the world to see once again how little truth is in the so-called evidence and truth of the United

States," Wang said, noting even U.S. experts agree that there is no evidence in the diplomatic cables to support the claim that the novel coronavirus came from the laboratory.

"Speaking of the truth, we do hope that the U.S. government will tell the truth about issues such as the Fort Detrick biolab and give an explanation to the American people and the international community," he said.

When asked for comments about reports that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised Britain's recent move on China, saying that the two countries should build a coalition against Beijing, Wang said Pompeo had recently spared no effort to attack and slander China, wantonly carrying out ideological attacks on China and playing up the threat of China.

"His remarks were full of lies, exposing the serious strategic misjudgment of the United States in its China policy, and full of McCarthyist bigotry," Wang said.

The spokesperson said the United States is form-

ing cliques and provoking ideological confrontations in international relations, running counter to the trend of the times embodying peace, development and cooperation as well as to the wishes of the majority of countries.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, China has always shared information with the international community in an open, transparent and responsible manner, actively carried out global cooperation in the fight against COVID-19, and provided assistance and support to other countries within its capacity, he said.

"China's efforts and achievements in the international fight against the epidemic are recognized by the world," Wang said, adding that as a responsible major country, China will firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests, reject bullying and injustice, insist on strengthening dialogue and cooperation with other countries, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Xinhua



## Renowned UK expert on global health denounces Pompeo's WHO attack

LONDON

A RENOWNED British expert on global health has said he did not recognize the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo who attacked the World Health Organization (WHO) during his visit to Britain.



According to British media reports Tuesday, Pompeo launched an extraordinary attack on the WHO during a private meeting with MPs in London, claiming it "is a political, not a science-based organisation" and its Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was "bought" by the Chinese government.

David Nabarro, the British candidate who ran against Tedros for the role of WHO director-general in 2017, told The Daily Telegraph that he has been working with Tedros on COVID-19 since Jan. 31.

"In all the time that I've worked with him since then I've seen him being fair-minded and responsive to all nations, and concentrating on what matters the most, which is getting on top of this pandemic," he was quoted by the British newspaper as saying.

"I just don't recognize the kind of remarks made by the U.S. Secretary of State," he added.

Having over 40 years of experience in international public health as a community-based practitioner, public servant, director and diplomat, Nabarro is now working as a special envoy of the WHO director-general on COVID-19 preparedness and response. He is also currently co-director and chair of global health at the Institute of Global Health Innovation, Imperial College London.

He added that it was imperative that all countries worked together to fight the massive global catastrophe of COVID-19 and he could not understand why the United States was withdrawing its support to the WHO "just at the time when the world needs it most", the newspaper reported.

Reacting to Pompeo's remarks in London, a WHO spokesperson said: "WHO is not aware of any such statement but we strongly reject any ad hominem attacks and unfounded allegations. WHO urges countries to remain focused on tackling the pandemic that is causing tragic loss of life and suffering," said the newspaper.

Earlier this month, the United States formally notified the WHO it was quitting, despite widespread criticism and an almost complete lack of international support for the move in the midst of a pandemic.

The Guardian newspaper said it is believed that Pompeo was trying to encourage British lawmakers to lobby for Britain to consider joining the ranks of the United States.

However, Chris Bryant, one of two Labour MPs present in the private meeting with Pompeo, told the Guardian "he said nothing that appealed to our side".

Xinhua

## Global efforts sought to curb African swine fever

NAIROBI

THE World Organization for Animal Health, or OIE, and the Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO, have called on countries and partners to join forces against African swine fever, which has become a major crisis for the pork industry.

The organizations said the fever is causing massive losses in pig populations and generating drastic economic consequences. Pork is the most consumed meat in the world, representing 36 percent of global meat consumption.

On a global scale, they said the sustained spread of the fever poses a threat to food security, economic and rural development.

The organizations said the disease represents a barrier to the agricultural sector to reach its full potential, generate employment and alleviate poverty, and acts as

a disincentive to investment in the sector.

Global control of African swine fever will thus contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, notably goal one which seeks to alleviate poverty and goal two that seeks achievement of zero hunger, they said.

The disease is currently affecting several countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as Europe. With no effective vaccine, the disease is not only impeding animal health and welfare but has detrimental impacts on the livelihoods of farmers.

"Today, 51 countries are affected by African swine fever. And amid the difficult situation posed by coronavirus, the fever continues to spread, intensifying the current health and socioeconomic crises," said Matthew Stone, the deputy director general for international



Workers sterilize pigs to prevent African swine fever at a pig farm in Jinhua, East China's Zhejiang province.

standards and science at the OIE.

### Lack of resources

Stone said many countries that are affected by the disease lack sufficient human, financial or technical resources to rapidly detect, respond and contain animal diseases.

Maria Semedo, FAO deputy director general, said in the current globalized world, where diseases can spread rapidly across borders, timely sharing of the latest scientific information, international collaboration and notification of African swine fever outbreaks are

needed to prevent transboundary spread and minimize the impact.

Building upon the experience of the long-standing collaboration between the OIE and the FAO for the management of animal health related risks, the joint Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases developed a global initiative with the aim of fostering national, regional and global partnerships.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening control measures and minimizing the impact of the complex and challenging disease.

It aims to improve the capability of countries to control, prevent, respond, and eradicate the fever using the OIE international standards and best practices that are based on the latest science.

Agencies

## Russia will open borders on reciprocal basis, no specific decisions yet – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA will open its borders with other countries on the reciprocal basis, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Thursday, commenting that these issues are being discussed with the foreign partners but no specific decisions have been made.

"Certainly, the border opening

will be implemented on the reciprocal basis. As it is known, the contacts now are ongoing but no decisions have been made," he stressed.

The Kremlin representative reiterated that this issue is controlled by the Russian government and its anti-coronavirus crisis center.

Due to the spread of the coro-



navirus Russia fully suspended regular and charter international flights on March 27, carriers could only operate special flights to return passengers home.

Russia's government also instructed to restrict temporarily cross-border movement through automotive, rail, pedestrian, and other checkpoints of Russia's state border starting on March 30.

Earlier, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko in an open interview with TASS First Deputy Director General Mikhail Guseman said that the issue of possible opening of Russia's borders with the EU countries is linked directly with the citizens' safety. He also spoke against the attempts to politicize this issue.

Agencies

## Village in south Xinjiang builds straw-themed park to propel local tourism

A straw-themed park in a village in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region has been contributing to advancing local tourism and developing economy.

The theme park, covering an area of about 31,082 square meters and located in Wensu county, Aksu prefecture, southern part of Xinjiang, combines ecological leisure, science popularization and education, as well as agricultural production.

Developing eco-cultural tourism is a priority for Aksu in recent years, said Uthman Turgun, Party chief of the village, adding that the village

also wanted to test the water in this field as it boasts a tradition of rice farming and convenient transportation.

Last winter, the village turned its rice paddies into an ice park, and equipped it with skating facilities. The village attracted many tourists and earned 150,000 yuan (about \$21,434) in a single month, according to Uthman.

However, the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic upset the village's plan. After discussion, Uthman and his fellow villagers decided to pursue a more stable and sustainable path of developing rural tourism - establishing a theme park



Tourists take a selfie at the straw-themed park in Wensu County, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (File photo)

with local characteristics.

This April, the village raised over 300,000 yuan and started the construction of the straw-themed park.

The park officially opened on June 1, the Children's Day. By selling barbecue in the ice and snow park, a villager named Amanguli Amuk earned over 9,000 yuan in a month. She is confident of making more money as the number of tourists increases.

The theme park has attracted both children and adults, either to enjoy the cartoon sculptures or embrace nature and relax themselves. It also becomes as a great choice for

couples to host wedding ceremonies.

The village is now planning to upgrade the theme park by setting up entertainment facilities for children, building an outdoor food market, improving the surrounding roads and establishing a cooperative to make and sell straw sculptures.

It is also organizing performances with local features so that tourists could learn about the Uygur customs and culture.

"The profits made by the park will be used to improve the infrastructure in the village and living conditions of the villagers," said Uthman, adding that the village aims to

build a tourism brand and attract more visitors, thus creating more jobs and generating more income for the villagers.

Wensu county has continuously increased the investment in the tourism sector, especially rural tourism, and explored various activities for urban residents to get closer to the beautiful sceneries and learn about agricultural production in the countryside.

From January to June, rural tourism accounted for 30 percent of the county's tourism industry, compared with about 15 percent in 2019.

People's Daily



# International experts criticise US abrupt request to close Chinese consulate general

BEIJING

THE U.S. decision to close the Chinese Consulate General in Houston has drawn criticisms worldwide. Multiple international experts called the move a unilateral U.S. political provocation, which seriously violates international law and basic norms governing international relations, and undermines China-U.S. relations.

On Tuesday, the U.S. side abruptly requested the Chinese side to close its Consulate General in Houston.

Hussein Ismail, a researcher at Egypt State Information Service, said that the U.S. move is a unilateral political provocation, a serious violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations, a reflection of the arrogance of the U.S. government and a destruction of China-U.S. relations.

Ali Sarwar Naqvi, executive director at the Islamabad-based Center for International Strategic Studies in Pakistan, said the U.S. move has shocked the world because people got scared

of the direction in which the United States is taking the world.

Such a condemnable and immature decision is totally against the diplomatic norms and a sheer violation of the Vienna Convention, he added.

Regarding the U.S. move as a petty and vile provocation, Andrey Manoilo, doctor of political science at Moscow State Lomonosov University, said from a diplomatic point of view, this is a clearly unfriendly act of the United States.

Cavince Adhere, an international relations researcher specializing in China-Africa relations in Kenya, said the U.S. move that risks escalating the diplomatic friction between China and the United States may further rock bilateral ties.

The closure of the consulate will adversely impact the daily lives of the Chinese living in the United States and blunt efforts to promote cultural exchanges among the people of the two countries, Adhere added.

The United States is using "China



card" so that U.S. President Donald Trump can turn the election situation in his favor, said Volodymyr Volya, an expert at the Ukrainian Institute of Politics. This has already made a small negative impact on global economic development, said Volya, warning that further deterioration of China-U.S. relations is possible.

On Wednesday, Chinese Embassy in the United States said in a statement that "China strongly condemns and firmly opposes such an outrageous and unjustified move which sabotages China-U.S. relations."

Over the years, Chinese diplomatic missions in the United States, including the Consulate General in Houston, have been performing duties in strict accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, and are dedicated to promoting China-U.S. exchanges and cooperation and advancing the two peoples' mutual understanding and friendship, the statement said.

Xinhua

Rwanda capable of stemming transmission of imported COVID-19 cases after airports' reopening -- official

KIGALI

PREVENTIVE measures against COVID-19 put in place in Rwanda will help protect its residents from being infected by travelers, Rwandan Minister of State in charge of Primary Healthcare Tharcisse Mpunga told Xinhua recently.

There are robust systems beginning with the airports to curb infection by imported cases, which include screening, testing and requirements on wearing face masks and keeping social distancing, Mpunga said in a telephone interview earlier this week on the country's preparation for reopening airports for commercial flight operations on Aug. 1, four months after the central African country suspended commercial flights to stem COVID-19 spread in the country.

People travelling to Rwanda are required to test for COVID-19 within 72 hours before travelling and those who test positive will not be allowed to visit Rwanda, said the state minister, noting that arrivals will receive another test.

"We believe all those measures will help the country to prevent infection from travelers," he said.

According to him, the decision to reopen airports was made because of the concrete measures taken by countries to contain the spread of the virus as well as measures put in place by the Rwandan aviation.

The Rwandan government is building the capacity of testing, treating and tracing contacts at provincial levels so that health personnel in the capital city Kigali could focus on the work at the national level, he said.

"The capacity is changing over time. We are trying to purchase (testing) kits and build the health system according to our future projections," he added.

According to health officials, Rwanda currently can test 4,000 to 5,000 samples per day, increasing from the initial 300 to 400.

Rwanda has seven sites that can test samples and the capacity is going to increase, said Mpunga, adding that the country has ordered over 200,000 testing kits to increase its testing capacity.

Xinhua

# Cash handouts could curb virus in poor nations - UN

By Bloomberg

TEMPORARY basic income payments could stem the spread of the coronavirus pandemic by allowing the world's poorest people to stay at home, according to a new report from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

A six-month guaranteed handout for 2.7 billion living below or just above the poverty line in 132 developing countries would cost around US\$199 billion per month. Russia, for example, could lift 48 million people to the country's "vulnerability threshold" for US\$5.3 billion per month -- roughly 0.12 percent of GDP. India would need US\$18.4 billion to do the same for 658 million people.

Money for such efforts could come from a variety of sources, the agency said, including the reallocation of external debt service payments.

The Group of 20 leading economies has offered a Debt Service Suspension Initiative to the world's poorest nations that runs through December. So far, 42 countries have requested help under the plan, and US\$5.3 billion in repayments has been suspended.

"Unprecedented times call for unprecedented social and economic measures," Achim Steiner, the UNDP's administrator said in a statement. "A temporary basic income might enable governments to give people in lockdown a financial lifeline, inject cash back into local economies to help keep small businesses afloat, and slow the devastating spread of COVID-19."

Income Guarantees

Even before the pandemic, so-called universal basic income policies had been edging into the realm of the possible. In a 2016 pilot program in Fin-



Indians line up for free food distributed during lockdown to curb the spread of new coronavirus, in Ahmedabad, India, Monday, April 27, 2020. (AP)

land, 2,000 residents received about US\$670 per month for two years, no strings attached. Tech executive Andrew Yang made US\$1,000 monthly pay-

ments a centerpiece of his brief US presidential campaign. Now, with economies shuttered, emergency cash subsidies have emerged as popular measures

in Spain, Japan, Australia and elsewhere.

Low-income countries have also initiated cash transfers. Togo, for example, has distrib-

uted more than US\$19.5 million in monthly payments to more than 12 percent of the population, mostly women working in the informal sector. But rich nations still account for the lion's share of spending, Steiner said.

The UNDP authors acknowledged the significant challenges to this kind of wide-scale relief effort, including administrative and logistical obstacles. But, they say, the money to cover a half-year cash assistance plan is "within reach" for most developing countries in the world.

The plan would require 12 percent of the expected total financial response to pandemic in 2020, which is equivalent to one-third of what developing countries owe in external debt payments this year, the UNDP said. The program could also be funded by energy subsidies, after a decline in oil prices, and through emergency cash transfers.

Agencies

# US 'confrontation game' disobeys justice

THE China-US ties are facing the most serious challenges since the two countries established diplomatic relations, which has caused widespread concern in the international community.

This situation came from some U.S. politicians' wrong strategic comprehension on China's development, as well as their efforts to build a "tough" image for domestic politics by adopting a seemingly "aggressive" diplomacy.

While the COVID-19 epidemic is steadily worsening in America, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is intent upon creating and spreading political viruses, as well as dressing China up as a rival, even an enemy of the U.S., in a bid to shoulder his so-called "responsibility" of "protecting" American interests. Such a hegemonic and evil political scheme will never be tolerated by justice.

It should be noted that the U.S. will neither defeat the pandemic nor get rid of its long-standing social issues by interfering in the affairs of other countries as a "global sheriff" and advocating adversarial diplomacy.

The poor pandemic response by the U.S. government, the mis-

eries happening to U.S. citizens, as well as the frequent occurrence of the deep-seated racial problems are all domestic governance issues that the White House must address.

However, the ridiculous and arbitrary practices by some U.S. politicians have astonished the world. Rather than taking efforts to find solutions to the problems and protect the health and well-being of the American people, they have been engaged in picking faults and blame games.

When the U.S. is facing huge risks in its people's lives and its social and economic development, these American officials are doing nothing but scapegoating others for their own misconducts, which only made them clowns.

As a matter of fact, the surging governance deficit of the U.S. has drawn reflection of the U.S. society.

After the Cold War, the U.S. has waged many wars against other countries and thus put itself into infinite self-consuming. Domestically, it is haunted with excessive expansion, racial conflicts, social differentiation and political polarization.

"When the virus came here, it found a country with serious underlying conditions, and it exploited them ruthlessly," said a recent article published on The Atlantic. Chronic ills—a corrupt political class, a sclerotic bureaucracy, a heartless economy, a divided and distracted public—had gone untreated for years, the article continued.

Some U.S. politicians are devoting themselves in populism, unilateralism and protectionism, ridiculously believing that these are the remedy to social panic. However, anyone insightful could see that the wrong prescriptions will only make things even worse.

The international landscape is undergoing profound changes and the epidemic has made such changes more distinct.

In a world full of instabilities and uncertainties, what determines the competitiveness of a country is its ability to improve the governance and solve its own problems, not its ability to bully other countries and even destroy the international system.

What the U.S. really needs to think about is how to meet the real demands of the society by

developing healthy and benign foreign relations. Only by finding a correct solution can the U.S. manage to alleviate its social conflicts.

Like China, the U.S. needs a peaceful international environment so that it could recover from the damage caused by the Cold War and subsequent foreign military intervention, according to Charles Freeman, an American expert in Chinese studies.

Americans need to focus their wealth and attention on domestic reconstruction and need a sound relation with China to do so, he added. The "confrontation game" designed by the U.S. will definitely hurt both China and itself, and even the world at large.

Of course, the U.S. has to pay a price for such confrontation, and the consequences include huge consumption of American resources, worsening social conflicts, and the loss of interests of the U.S. public.

Whether to choose win-win cooperation or conflicts and confrontation is a question that tolerates no wrong answer, and shall be responded to based on justice. Any motive of the U.S. politicians that runs counter to justice is doomed to fail.

People's Daily

# Russia's embassy hands note of protest to US over attack on Russian reporters in Portland

WASHINGTON

RUSSIA'S embassy to the United States has handed a note of protest to the US Department of State over an attack on reporters of Russia's Channel One in the US city of Portland, Ambassador Anatoly Antonov said on Wednesday.

The Russian diplomatic mission said on its Facebook page quoting Antonov (pictured) as saying that in the early hours of July 22, "correspondent Yulia Olkhovskaya and cameraman Vyacheslav Arkhipov were inadmissibly treated by local police."

"The press workers identified themselves loudly and clearly, showing press cards and offering no resistance," Antonov stressed.

"A note of protest has been sent to the Department of State over this outrageous fact. We demand that a thorough investigation should be conducted and we should be informed about its results," Antonov said adding that the US authorities had not replied yet to the "May 31 note of protest over a police



attack" on RIA Novosti correspondent Mikhail Turgiyev.

"We promptly contacted the Russians. Their health is not worrying and they do not need medical assistance," Antonov added. "We recommended that they keep a safe distance from the opposing sides."

The ambassador said that according to human rights activists, "the number of incidents with the press has already surpassed 500."

"This year, the United States will evidently top the world ratings in this nomination," the Russian ambassador assumed. "I would like to point out that

our journalists are given neither solidarity nor moral support by local media workers," the diplomat concluded underlying that the embassy intends to "insist that the incident be taken into consideration by the human rights organizations that monitor violations of media workers' rights in the United States."

Earlier, Channel One's press office said that its film crew were injured in an attack by "camouflaged men" in Portland, where protests have been ongoing since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in late May.

Agencies

# China's GDP up 3.2% in Q2, becomes 1st major economy to return to growth in wake of COVID-19

CHINA'S GDP contracted 1.6 percent for the first time in the first half of a year in nearly three decades, battered by COVID-19 headwinds. But in the second quarter, the economy grew 3.2 percent, reversing from a 6.8-percent contraction in the first quarter, a sign of the resilience deeply rooted in China's economy amid a global freefall when the coronavirus pandemic has plunged most major economies into a near standstill.

Retail sales plummeted 11.4 percent year-on-year to 172.2 trillion yuan (\$246 billion) in the first half. Industrial added-value contracted

1.3 percent, while fixed-asset investment slumped 3.1 percent to 28.16 trillion yuan, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Thursday.

The unemployment rate was 5.7 percent in June, a 0.2 percentage point decrease compared with May, the data showed.

"The second-quarter performance was better than expected, as production on the supply side picked up and investment caught up. The economy in the latter half of the second quarter moved from post-virus recovery to periodic climbing up to a certain

extent," Tian Yun, vice director of the Beijing Economic Operation Association, told the Global Times.

In June alone, retail sales sank 1.8 percent year-on-year, narrowing from a 2.8 percent contraction in May. Industrial value-added rose 4.8 percent, marking the third consecutive month of renewed growth.

Despite what might be the low single-digit growth in the second quarter, China could still achieve best-in-class results among the world's major economies and lead the global recovery in the wake of the pandemic, analysts said.

Given the current trajectory, China is expected to surpass the US in terms of GDP output by 2030, although on a per capita level the catch-up will take much longer, analysts said.

In late June, the IMF lowered its forecast for the global economy this year to a decline of 4.9 percent. The US economy is expected to shrink 8 percent in 2020, while China's GDP is projected to grow 1 percent.

Tian noted that China's swift economic rebound in the second quarter also shows the way for the rest of the world, including the US and India, where the coronavirus resurgence is

wiping out progress. The lesson is to pay a certain price to control the virus, then shore up the economy with stimulus measures.

In the first quarter, China's GDP shrank by 6.8 percent for the first time in decades as economic activity ground to a halt amid stringent anti-epidemic measures.

However, economists noted that China's GDP is unlikely to achieve a V-shaped recovery due to sluggish domestic and foreign demand.

"Consumption - the chief engine of the Chinese economy - is climbing, but at a slower-than-expected rate.

We don't see momentum in releasing pent-up demand to date," Tian said.

He noted that the coronavirus outbreak had caused about 1,000 yuan in losses for every Chinese person on average so far. That money should have gone into consumption, and it's therefore hard to recoup.

Looking into the second half, the economy is expected to continue its recovery and outperform the second quarter, due to improvements on both the supply and demand sides, Liu Xuezi, a macroeconomics expert at the Bank of Communications, told the Global Times.

Tian estimated that China's economy could achieve 3-4 percent growth in the second half and 1-2 percent growth for the whole year, as the second half accounts for more than half of China's normal annual economic output.

Liu warned that a declining global economy and the potential worsening of the COVID-19 pandemic may continue to weigh on China's export growth and disrupt global supply chains, despite the better-than-expected export figures recorded in the first half.

Global Times

The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



A man wearing a mask against the spread of the new coronavirus walks in front of a countdown calendar showing 365 days to start Tokyo 2020 Olympics Thursday, July 23, 2020, in Tokyo. The postponed Tokyo Olympics have again reached the one-year-to-go mark. But the celebration is small this time with more questions than answers about how the Olympics can happen in the middle of a pandemic. That was before COVID-19 postponed the Olympics and pushed back the opening to July 23, 2021. (AP Photo)

## Postponed Tokyo Olympics hit 1-year-to-go mark -- again

TOKYO

THE Tokyo Olympics have hit the one-year-to-go mark -- again. But few are in a mood to celebrate.

Tokyo observed the original date a year ago. That was before the COVID-19 pandemic postponed the Olympics and pushed back the opening to July 23, 2021. Fireworks cascaded over Tokyo Bay back then, and local celebrities unveiled the medals in a highly choreographed show.

There's none of that this time.

Organizers produced a 15-minute, no-fans event on Thursday inside the new national stadium; screening a video to promote next year's opening. They also teased the presence of the Olympic flame, which arrived in Japan in March and had been hidden away ever since.

The low-key event on a rainy day captures the local mood.

A poll a few days ago from Japanese news agency Kyodo repeated the results of recent surveys: Japanese are skeptical the games should go ahead, and doubtful they will. The poll showed 23.9% favored holding the Olympics, 36.4% said the Olympics should be postponed again, and 33.7% said it should be canceled.

Organizers and the International Olympic Committee have ruled out another postponement. The Tokyo Games would be canceled this time if they can't be held.

"I don't think that people have a sense of anticipation in a happy way to celebrate a one-year-to-go event," Yoshiro Mori, the president of the organizing committee, said last week.

In an interview Wednesday with Japanese broadcaster NHK, Mori was blunt. He was asked: "If this kind of situation (with COVID-19) continues, is it possible to hold the games?"

"If current situation continues, we couldn't," he replied, though he said he was optimistic about a vaccine and confident the pandemic would recede.

Tokyo is staking its hopes on "simplification." Organizers have come up with roughly "200 items" that may be simplified, downsized, or cut out. The rigor is driven by soaring costs and the risk of the Olympics becoming a petri dish.

Estimates in Japan suggest the postponement will cost \$2 billion to \$6 billion. The IOC and organizers acknowledge the "massive costs" but say it's too early to give a number.

This is on top of the \$12.6 billion that Japan says it's officially spending on the Olympics. However, a national auditor says the real cost is twice that much. All but \$5.6 billion is public money.

CEO Toshiro Muto has said the 206 national Olympic committees, dozens of sports federations, sponsors, broadcasters, media, and hospitality providers, have been asked to find ways to reduce the size of their delegations arriving in Tokyo.

Muto said organizers are "reexamining service levels and requirements in every possible area." IOC President Thomas Bach has said "nothing is taboo" as billions in costs pile up.

## Winners and losers: Player vs club in English Premier League, local ties

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

RESULTS of any fixture affects players of that side in a variety of ways, depending on where they stand in the club and where the club stands in the market, and vice versa. The recent penultimate English Premier League encounter between Aston Villa and Arsenal was such an example, as it may help to seal chances of retaining Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as an Arsenal player or Dar soccer fans continuing to see Mbwana Samatta in the English Premier League. It is the latter expectations which marginally pulled off, as the club stands a good chance of maintaining its edge over Watford FC in the last match, by latest standing.

When joining the Birmingham-based club, Samatta expressed the hope that the club side will not be relegated, partly giving the impression that his presence there would also help to make the difference. How far there was indeed a change of prospects by his being in the side is as usual a matter of debate but he appears to have had a greater impact at the start than at late season. Still he is a regular on the starting line up so he is important to the club, and now his expectations are close to being completely realized.

On the other side of things there is Aubameyang, who is linked with moving elsewhere because his current club is not achieving, or what is but the same thing in soccer parlance, it isn't ambitious enough. It is an indication of the different levels of significance for the two players, one whose hopes are to see his club side remaining in the premier league, and another wishing to see the club side in the UEFA Champions League or at least in Europa League. And as neither of the two is apparent, opts to leave the club - which makes sense as he was already a superstar in the Bundesliga, brought to help lift up Arsenal.



Mbwana Samatta

It is entirely possible that the matter of the two players and their respective clubs has been solved by the match outcome, where rank underdogs Villa outwitted much-fancied Arsenal 1-0 and more or less settled in the bottom of next seasons qualifying clubs, or of those remaining. Three clubs are already gearing for promotion from what is known as the championship, the first being Fulham FC, a well known side in its numerous seasonal appearances in the premier league. By contrast, time may have run out for Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta to convince Aubameyang to stay, unless the Covid-19 atmosphere alters transfer plans owing to the fact that incomes are being scaled down; the club may signal a rather high fee for him.

That sort of situation has its local parallels, when Yanga did all it could to retain star forward Bernard Morrison only to mess up not just in soccer but

in discipline in a crucial game for club seasonal expectations, the Federation Cup semi-final. This kind of scenario comes up because of the low sense of professionalism in this part of the world, where distaste for the club is demonstrated even on the pitch, whereas a player is supposed to play and act professionally until he signs a contract with another club. Players conduct themselves on the pitch or in the club as street toughies, start with insults and then leave.

Incidentally, outcomes of the premier league match that had plenty of Tanzanian fans following, and the alter ego archrivals' clash that settled Yanga hopes for the season were remarkably parallel in more than one aspect. First the results were way off course the usual run of play, as Yanga isn't a side to be trounced 4-1 by Simba in ordinary circumstances, nor is Arsenal expected

to fall 1-0 to Aston Villa while they were chasing a Europa Cup slot. Luck appears to have abandoned the losing sides for a misdemeanor often compared with 'harlotry' in certain moral writings, as they carved idolatrous images out of players.

Despite that there are intense variations of style, and even of contents, the core of the issue is the same, that the two clubs went out of their way to convince or even beg the two key players to remain. Arsenal have of course been seeking Aubameyang to stay in a generally professional manner but the sort of statements Arteta has been making could never have been heard from more resolute managers, perhaps if one may pick Diego Simeone at Atletico de Madrid who lost - or sold - star forward Antoine Griezmann to Barcelona without shedding a tear. The club just needs to state a price, not cry all the way to his exit.

From what appears to have transpired, Yanga went on all fours to seek the loyalty of Morrison, and Simba were doing what they could to either lure him, to the club quite simply, or even encouraging him to play foul with his erstwhile employers. For this one wouldn't rush to blame Msimbazi Street club officials as the player is seemingly well known for his lack of discipline. He would be easy to tempt to play foul - especially if indeed he hadn't received salary for two months, which is routine there but sacrilege to him.

## Kim Kardashian asks for compassion as Kanye West struggles with bi-polar disorder

LOS ANGELES

KIM Kardashian on Wednesday asked for compassion and empathy for her rapper husband Kanye West's struggles with bi-polar disorder that have led to a series of rambling public remarks on subjects ranging from politics to his marriage.

Kardashian's statement on her Instagram stories account was her first public comment on weeks of interviews, public appearances and Twitter comments by West that have raised concern about the Grammy-winning singer's mental health.

"As many of you know, Kanye has bi-polar disorder," she wrote, calling him a "brilliant but complicated person."

Kardashian did not mention West's stated plan to run for the White House in the November 2020 election. West held a rally in South Carolina at the weekend under his self-styled Birthday Party banner but has not outlined any coherent political policies.

"Those who are close with Kanye know his heart and understand his words some times do not align with his intentions," Kardashian wrote.

Kardashian's comments followed another late-night series of tweets from West, including one where he said he was trying to divorce Kardashian. His tweet was swiftly deleted. The couple married in 2014 and have four children.

Earlier this week West tweeted that his family was trying to get him committed to a psychiatric institution.

West announced he had bi-polar disorder in 2018 and has in the past lamented that he feels medication stifles his creativity. He was hospitalized for psychiatric treatment in 2016.

Bi-polar disorder is a form of mental illness characterized by unusual mood swings between extreme energy and activity and depression, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. It can be treated with a combination of medication and therapy.

Kardashian, a cosmetics businesswoman who first found



Kim Kardashian - Kanye West

fame on the TV reality show "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," said she and her family were trying to get help for West, and spoke about the stigma and misunderstandings around mental health. "Those that understand mental illness or

even compulsive behavior know that the family is powerless unless the member is a minor," she said.

She said individuals themselves have to engage in the process of getting help, no matter how hard family and friends try.

"I kindly ask that the media and public give us the compassion and empathy that is needed so that we can get through this," she added.

REUTERS

AP

## 3 teams to chase 2 Champions League spots on EPL's final day

LIVERPOOL, England

CHELSEA was too charitable as Anfield title party guests.

Before collecting the Premier League trophy, Liverpool won 5-3 on Wednesday to prevent Chelsea from sealing a Champions League spot.

It leaves two of the four spots in Europe's elite competition still up for grabs in Sunday's final round of games.

Chelsea just needs a point against Europa League-chasing Wolverhampton to seal a top-four finish. And there will be a Champions League qualification showdown between Manchester United and Leicester.

For the first time since September, United is back in the top four and Leicester has dropped out after Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side drew 1-1 with West Ham on Wednesday.

Liverpool as champions and second-place Manchester City have already qualified for the Champions League.

### ANFIELD THRILLER

The title sealed last month, all that was at stake for Liverpool against Chelsea was preserving its unbeaten record in the league at home this season. It's now 18 wins out of 19. The only dropped points were from a draw against Burnley in the previous home game.

Naby Keita's thunderbolt of a shot, Trent Alexander-Arnold's stunning dipping free kick and Gini Wijnaldum's close-range strike sent Liverpool into a 3-0 lead.

Olivier Giroud was able to pull one back before halftime after goalkeeper Alisson parried Willian's shot into the striker's path.

But Roberto Firmino waited until the final home game of the season to end his wait for a league goal at Anfield this campaign, heading in from Alexander-Arnold's cross ten minutes into the second half.

Chelsea threatened a comeback when Christian Pulisic set up Tam-

my Abraham's goal and got on the scoresheet himself, swiveling before striking into the net.

But Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain completed the job for Liverpool with a fifth goal in front of the Kop where the players later collected the trophy. The presentation took place on a podium placed where fans sat before the pandemic shut them out of stadiums.

### GREENWOOD TO RESCUE

One of the revelations for the season at Old Trafford has been 18-year-old forward Mason Greenwood who clinched the point against West Ham. A 17th goal of the campaign moved him level with George Best, Brian Kidd and Wayne Rooney as United's top-scoring teenager in a season.

The goal canceled out Michail Antonio's penalty that was awarded after Paul Pogba's handball. A point was still enough to secure Premier League survival for West Ham, which is led by former Manchester United manager David Moyes.

### PROMOTION

On the final day of the Championship season, West Bromwich secured a return to the Premier League after a two-year absence by drawing 2-2 with Queens Park Rangers.

The central England team joined champion Leeds in claiming the second automatic promotion spot ahead of Brentford.

Brentford still has a route into the Premier League for the first time via the playoffs where the west London team will play Swansea in the semifinals over two legs, Cardiff or Fulham will await in the final at Wembley Stadium next month.

The third tier awaits former Premier League sides Hull, Charlton and Wigan after they ended the season in the bottom three of the Championship. Wigan, however, is appealing against a 12-point deduction for being placed in administration – a form of bankruptcy protection.

AP

## 'The others won't sleep': Klopp wants even more from Liverpool

LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp believes his side will need to keep improving to hold off the chasing pack next season after lifting the Premier League trophy.

The Reds clinched the title last month, but finally got their hands on the silverware after a 5-3 win over Chelsea on Wednesday.

Chelsea have already strengthened ahead of next season with the signings of a long-term Liverpool target Timo Werner and Hakim Ziyech.

Klopp also expects Manchester City and Manchester United to bolster their squads.

But the German believes there is still improvement for his players to make despite becoming English, European and world champions over the past 14 months.

"We should not stop, we have internal challenges to improve," said Klopp.

"We have the chance to make another step, but we have to because the others will not sleep."

"Chelsea is such a talented team, we had to bring everything on the pitch tonight. Man Utd, Man City (will contend), there are no guarantees for anything, but we will try."

AFP

## UK cybersecurity centre says Premier League clubs targeted by hackers

LONDON

BRITAIN'S National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) warned on Thursday that hackers are increasingly targeting soccer clubs in the Premier League in a wider attack on the country's sports sector.

In a new report bit.ly/32RVNq2 on cyber threat to sports organisations, the NCSC highlighted a case where the emails of a Premier League team's managing director were hacked before transfer talks, resulting in the 1 million pounds (\$1.27 million) fee nearly falling into the hands of the hackers.

The report did not name the af-

fecting clubs and individuals, nor who could be behind the attacks.

The agency's report, the first of its kind on threats to the sports industry by hackers, recommended Britain's sports sector to tighten its cybersecurity measures.

Describing the sports sector as "a high-value target" for attackers, the NCSC said that at least 70% of Britain's sports institutions suffer a cyber incident every 12 months, more than double the average for UK businesses.

About 30% of those incidents caused financial damage with an average cost of 10,000 pounds per incident, with the biggest single loss amounting to 4 million pounds.

# Liverpool celebrate long-awaited title in front of empty Jurgen Klopp

LIVERPOOL, England

LIVERPOOL's players finally got their hands on the Premier League trophy on Wednesday in a muted presentation ceremony in front of an empty Kop after a thrilling 5-3 victory over Chelsea in their last home game of the season.

The club's first English title for 30 years had been sealed almost a month ago with seven games remaining, following a three-month stoppage because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kenny Dalglish, the last Liverpool manager to deliver the title, presented the medals wearing a red face mask before handing the trophy to captain Jordan Henderson who raised it to the night sky as fireworks and tickertape filled the air.

Sadly, because of the pandemic that interrupted Liverpool's charge to the title, the fans missed out on what would have been a momentous night at Anfield stadium.

Merseyside police had issued a 48-hour dispersal order to stop fans gathering in large numbers across the city, as they did when the title was won on June 25 when nearest rivals Manchester City were beaten by Chelsea.

Many did gather outside, however, letting off flares and fireworks.

Despite the sanitised ceremony in the 53,000-seater stadium, Liverpool's players did their best to fill the void, belting out a rendition of the club's anthem "You'll Never Walk Alone" along with manager Jurgen Klopp and his staff.

"If you don't see that we do it for you I can't help you," Klopp said when asked for his message to the fans.

"You made us happy, we all should celebrate at home. Prepare for a party and when this virus has gone we will have a party."

Liverpool chief executive Peter Moore said the players and fans will "come together to celebrate" when the time is right.

"It's been an amazing season," Henderson told former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher at pitchside.

"It's been a journey, a process, and every single player has been part of it."

A trophy presentation without fans was always



Liverpool's players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Premier League at Anfield, in Liverpool, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

going to feel a little flat, although the real fireworks have been provided over a sensational season by a superb Liverpool side.

Liverpool missed out by a point last year to Manchester City despite losing only one game.

Although they won the Champions League title last June, the English crown is what the red half of Merseyside has craved for three decades.

During that time they have watched arch-rivals Manchester United, Arsenal, Chelsea and Manchester City dominate the league.

The manner in which Liverpool took it back suggests it will not be a one-off.

"This won't be the last one for this team," former Liverpool midfielder

Graeme Souness said. "This club is geared to be a very successful football club, this is Liverpool back to where they were 30 or 40 years ago."

"They will be challenging for this and the Champions League for the next decade."

Meanwhile, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard has said Premier League champions Liverpool should not become too arrogant after being left unimpressed with the behaviour of their bench during Wednesday's 5-3 Premier League defeat.

Lampard was involved in an exchange with Liverpool's bench after a free kick was awarded against Chelsea's Mateo Kovacic. Trent Alexander-Arnold found the net from the free kick to make it 2-0.

"For me it wasn't a foul from Kovacic."

REUTERS

## Klopp delighted by trophy lift after Liverpool hit Chelsea for five

LIVERPOOL

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp said having the opportunity to lift the Premier League trophy at Anfield meant the world to him despite having to do so in an empty stadium with fans shut out due to coronavirus.

The Reds sealed a first top-flight title for 30 years last month, but had to wait until after a thrilling 5-3 win over Chelsea in their final home game of the season to lift the Premier League trophy for the first time.

"You make the best of what you can," Klopp told Sky Sports. "Today our families are allowed to be there which is incredible. It means the world to me."

"Everything would be better with fans but for months we knew that would be impossible. A few months ago I thought it was impossible that we play football."

"I couldn't be happier to be honest, it would be perfect if the stadium would be full but we cannot change it. What we tried to do is make it clear to the people that we really do it for them. It's an absolutely great moment."

Despite pleas for fans to stay away on the night Liverpool finally got their hands on the trophy, supporters crowded around the stadium even prior to kick-off, while the second half was accompanied by the constant crackling of fireworks lit by fans outside the ground.

On the field, Klopp's men ensured a memorable night was accompanied by a positive result after just two wins in five previous games since they clinched the title.

And the German again promised the fans a proper party with a parade planned through the city once restrictions are lifted.

"You have to prepare for a party," he added. "When I don't know, when this virus is gone then we will have a party all together."

The result had far bigger consequences for Chelsea as they slip to fourth and leaves Frank Lampard's men still needing a point at home to Wolves at Stamford Bridge on Sunday to secure a place in the Champions League.

"In our hands" -

"It's huge, we know the situation," said Lampard.

"It's in our hands to get a result against a very good Wolves team."

Chelsea have already bolstered their attacking options for next season with the signings of Timo Werner and Hakim Ziyech, while they are reportedly closing in on a deal for the 90-million euro (\$103 million, £81 million) rated Kai Havertz of Bayer Leverkusen.

But it is at the other end Lampard clearly has to find solutions as they completed an entire league season with just one clean sheet away from home and have now conceded 54 times in the Premier League this season.

Liverpool were 3-0 up inside 43 minutes as sweet strikes from Naby Keita, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Georginio Wijnaldum gave Chelsea a mountain to climb.

They nearly did so even after Roberto Firmino



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp believes his side need to improve again next season to stay ahead of the Premier League competition (AFP Photo)

scored his first league goal at Anfield all season restored Liverpool's three-goal cushion to cancel out Olivier Giroud's strike just before half-time for the visitors.

Christian Pulisic was surprisingly left on the bench by Lampard from the start and he changed the game after he was in-

troduced alongside Tammy Abraham and Callum Hudson-Odoi.

The American skipped past four challenges before squaring for Abraham and then fired powerfully into the roof of the net with the Liverpool defence all over the place.

But Chelsea were undone again at the other end as a blistering break from inside their own box saw Liverpool surge forward and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain smashed home Andy Robertson's cross at the back post.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Liverpool celebrate long-awaited title in front of empty Kop

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Ilala Boys' batsman puts his skills to show in his outfit's TCA Development League's clash with Upanga Warriors, which took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

## Ilala Boys team thrash Upanga Warriors in 2020 Development Tournament

By Guardian Reporter

ILALA Boys' cricketers have issued sound warning to the rest of the TCA Development League's participating clubs, cruising to a resounding 58-run victory over Upanga Warriors at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam early this week.

Skipper Arslaan Premji and Nyenje Hashim were impressive with the bat as the eventual winners raced to 195 runs all out once they won the toss and chose to start batting in the 40-over clash.

They were dealt an early blow in their innings after opening batsmen Jay Hirwania and Ivan Ismail were sent back to the pavilion after managing a few knocks.

Ivan could only manage seven runs, which consisted of a four, as his spell was brought to an end by Upanga Warriors' Faraj Athumani who caught the former from Abdulrahman Akida's delivery.

Premji saw to it that his squad's quest for a convincing total was still there, as he recorded 56 runs, which included four fours.

Ilala Boys were again pegged back by an early exit of Ashish Shah, who batted at number four, as he was run out by Athumani with four runs to his name.

Nikhil Sawant and Zamoyoni Ramadhani also stayed at the crease for a while to post 11 runs and 12 runs respectively.

Hashim later boosted his club's total with his 62 runs, which included two fours and three sixes.

Athumani and Akida stood out of the rest of Upanga Warriors' bowlers, given they ended their respective spells with four wickets and three wickets respectively.

Athumani leaked 28 runs and he had one maiden over in 4.5 overs, Akida leaked 27 runs in eight overs.

Chasing 196 runs to win, Upanga Warriors got off to wobbly start in the innings, given skipper, Dhruvit Mehta, who opened the outfit's innings with Akida, was bowled clean by Ilala Boys' pacer, Ramadhani.

Akida withstood Ilala Boys' pressure to post 21 runs which included three fours.

Abdullah Jabir and Vaibhav Bhatia made the squad's quest for successful chase known, notching 17 runs and 16 runs respectively.

Athumani later boosted the chase with his 25 runs which consisted of four fours, only to see the chase wane because of quick dismissals of the rest of the side's middle order batsmen.

Low order batsman, Ally Hafidh, somewhat attempted to improve the chase with his 14 runs, his efforts, nevertheless, ended in vain after he had been dismissed by Ilala Boys' Ismail.

The club's hopes for successful chase went up in smokes after night watchman, Sayan Vijay Jobanputra, was sent back to the pavilion with two runs to his name, leaving the squad with 137 runs all out in 35.1 overs.

Premji took three wickets, leaking 18 runs in eight overs, to lead Ilala Boys' bowling onslaught, fellow bowlers Ismail and Ramadhani took two wickets apiece to eventually foil Upanga Warriors' chase.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)-organized league, which has sides locking horns in 40-over encounters, has brought together six teams, with a view to promoting cricket in the country.

Kinondoni Development, Al Madrasa Boys, Upanga Warriors, Women Combine, Lions Academy and Ilala Boys are the teams participating in the showdown.

The competition's participating players, according to TCA information officer, Atif Salim, are a product of club academies, U-19 players and senior players who have come through the association's development program.

He stated: "The idea is to offer a strong platform for the national U-19 cricket squad's players, who are going to take part in the ICC U-19 Africa Qualifiers' Division 2, to be held in Dar es Salaam in January 2021."

Salim disclosed the national cricket governing body also thought that the league can be a good platform for the women's cricket team to gain experience by playing against U-19 boys.

## Minziro lobbies for Mbao FC supporters' backing

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

MBAO FC head coach, Fred Felix Minziro, has requested the side's fans to attend the outfit's Premier League clash with Ruvu Shooting, to be played at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Sunday, to cheer the hosts.

The Mwanza club has recently enjoyed an amazing spell in the Premier League, winning six games in a row, to boost hopes of clinging on to the top flight spot next season.

Minziro (pictured) insisted Mbao FC supporters should turn up at the venue in big number to cheer the outfit and see to it they feature in the Premier League next season.

Mbao FC on Wednesday made short work of Lindi's Namungo FC in a league fixture which took place at the stadium, thrashing the latter 3-0.

The results have put Mbao FC in good position in the quest for maintaining their place in the top flight.

Minziro noted the victory has offered his outfit much needed impetus to come out victorious in the encounter with Ruvu Shooting.

"I'm so happy with our results, but I have told the players we have yet to finish our work. I request supporters to flock the venue to keep on supporting us so we can assure ourselves of competing in the top flight next season," the coach stated.

He disclosed the 16th spot his squad is currently placed in (before yesterday's fixtures) has yet to fully prove they have a spot in the Premier League.

"Our last duel is more important to us, that will assure us of a place in the top flight if we win it, all I want is Mbao FC fans should cheer us in the clash," he said.

Mbao have recorded 42 points, victory in the weekend match will have the squad record 45 points, which will make certain of their presence in the Premier League.



Simon Msuva

## Le Havre now make bid for Simon Msuva

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

FRENCH Ligue 2 side, Le Havre, are attempting to sign Tanzanian international striker, Simon Msuva, from Morocco's Difa' El-Jadida, according to a report from L'Équipe.

Le Havre are still looking to replace Zimbabwean striker Tino Kadewere, who moved to Ligue 1 side Lyon in the January transfer window.

They have made an opening offer for 26-year-old Msuva who is regarded as one of the brightest exports from Tanzania.

He was part of the country's senior national soccer side 'Tanza

Stars' at last year's African Cup of Nations finals in Egypt.

Msuva, who joined Difa' El Jadida in 2017 in a three-year deal from Tanzania's Yanga, has 12 months remaining on his existing contract after he extended his stay last year.

However, Le Havre are reported to have turned their attention to Msuva after experiencing difficulties in negotiations for 24-year-old Moroccan striker, Karim El Berkaoui, who plies his trade with Botola Pro side, Hassania Agadir.

Hassania Agadir have no intention of selling him before their season ends on September

25.

The Botola Pro resumed this week after four months since it was suspended due to the global Coronavirus pandemic.

In France, Le Havre are renowned for nurturing top talent and then cashing in on for a tidy sum.

Indeed, they have sold some pretty big names down the years, including Paul Pogba, Riyad Mahrez and Benjamin Mendy and Dimitri Payet, who starred in the lucrative English Premier League.

Msuva has been Difa' El Jadida top scorer for three seasons, but managed just five goals

this season in which he has appeared to have been distracted by news linking him away from Morocco.

And while no financial details have been disclosed, Difa' El Jadida will be looking to recoup the \$170,000 transfer fee they paid Young Africans where Msuva spent five seasons and won four Tanzania Premier League titles.

Recently, Msuva who is expected to play a key role in Taifa Stars' Africa Cup of Nations qualification campaign when international football resumes, was linked with Greek outfit, Olympiacos, as well as Benfica.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

MY LOVE WAS THAT OF FIRST SIGHT, HIS WAS THAT OF AFTER SECOND THOUGHTS...



**EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

**Friday Night Live** The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs. Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM