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Strategic priorities for research



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**SMART MONEY**

Cooperatives chief asks lawmakers to mobilise farmers to seek membership

Women can add \$14.58 billion to e-commerce in Africa - IFC

New fund set up to ease debt payment



## Tanzania, Kenya ministers resolve just 30 out of 64 trade contentions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

INDUSTRY and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo yesterday called on the Tanzanian business community to continue exploring the Kenyan market and follow set regional procedures.

He said Tanzanians are free to invest in the AEAC partner states by adhering to regulations, policies, and conditions set by the East African Community (EAC) treaties as well as national laws in each country.

Speaking at the 5th Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) meeting between Tanzania and Kenya held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) that took four days last week, the minister said the government is ready to resolve challenges

facing those willing to invest in neighboring countries..

During the meeting, Prof Mkumbo led a Tanzanian delegation comprising of the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), the Minister for Agriculture, the Minister for Trade and Industrial Development from Zanzibar, along with the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children.

The Kenyan delegation was led by the Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise, Betty Maina, accompanied by the Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania, Dan Kazungu.

The meeting was part of efforts to

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'Children Fun Run', an event held to mark International Day for Protection of Children, in progress in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. It was jointly organised by Raising Up Foundation, Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) and various other stakeholders. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

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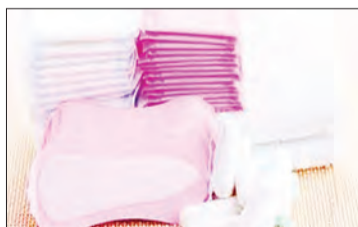
### SECURITY FIRMS

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### SANITARY PADS

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## Samia picks new DCI, annuls RAS selection

Private sector team praises Kenya visit, other measures

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday promoted Senior Assistant Police Commissioner (SACP), Camilius Wambura to Commissioner of Police (CP) and assigned him duties of Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI).

Presidential communications director Gerson Msigwa said in a statement that Commissioner Wambura replaces DCI Robert Boaz, whose next assignment was not given.

The change comes a few days since Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro appointed SACP Wambura to the Dar es Salaam Special Police Zone command, replacing Lazaro Mambosasa, who shifts to Dodoma.

President Samia has also promoted Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Hamad Khamis Hamad to Police Commissioner (CP), to head the Finance and Logistics Division at Police Headquarters. Hamad was



The result was agreement to establish a proper common market that will enable all-round traders to sell and buy products in the larger regional market

earlier the Deputy Director of Criminal Investigations for Zanzibar.

The president similarly retracted the appointment of Aziza Hamad as Simiyu regional administrative secretary (RAS), and assigned Prisca Kayombo to the post, a day following the first appointment.

Kayombo was until now the head of personnel administration at the Treasury, the statement indicated, noting that Aziza who served as a Special Seats MP earlier will be reassigned elsewhere..

Meanwhile, President Samia has commended the leaders of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) for their work in responding to her call to elevate its efforts in the pursuit of greater investments for economic growth, assuring them that the government will lend its support where needed.

She made the remarks at the State House in Dar es Salaam when she met with TPSF leaders, raising trade and investment promotion issues as well as ways on how the government could expand the tax base.

The president promised to act on those and other views to be presented at the upcoming National Business Council (TNBC) meeting later this month.

TPSF chairperson Angelina Ngalula expressed satisfaction with steps the president has taken to strengthen ties between the government and the private sector.

The private sector has begun to see the results of these efforts, following a visit to Kenya where intense

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## MPs berate harsh media laws, fines

Media registration board in the offing, reiterates minister

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday called for wider press freedom, asking the government to come up with a friendly approach to facilitate journalists conduct their work in an unrestricted environment.

The MPs were contributing to debate on the 54.7bn/- budget estimates for the Ministry of Information, Sports and Culture, underlining that despite doing a great job, journalists are operating in an

environment with harsh laws and poor remuneration.

"Let us agree that the media is a watchdog doing the same job as that of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG), therefore we need to facilitate them and not to ban them as has been the norm with the ministry," said Special Seats MP Ester Bulaya (Chadema).

She instead asked the government to help journalists so that they benefit

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## East Africa to align COVID-19 test fees

Countries under orders to waive visa fees, notify readiness to sign EPA accords with EU

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) has urged partner states to review and harmonize COVID-19 testing charges and accord mutual recognition of certificates to facilitate safe and smooth movement of goods and persons in the region.

This came after SCTIFI noted the non-recognition of COVID-19 certificates by partner states and

failures to observe prior notification on procedures, a situation that essentially constitutes a Non-Tariff Barrier (NTB) to trade within the region.

The council noted that partner states have been taking actions that restrict trade within their respective markets, asking the various countries to comply with notification obligations set out in EAC legal instruments..

It also directed partner states to use regional mechanisms or

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## Tanzania, Kenya ministers resolve just 30 out of 64 trade contentions

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strengthen relations between the two countries following high level meeting and directives issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan and President Uhuru Kenyatta when she conducted a two day state visit early last month.

"Today's meeting is a continuation of efforts to take forward improved ties between the two countries as stated by the two leaders," the minister said.

The meeting discussed various trade matters in sectors of agriculture, customs, immigration along with transport and communication, he said, noting that 64 contentious issues were discussed, 30 were resolved while the remaining were put to a different mode of deliberations and a time-frame for solutions.

Some of the issues resolved on the Tanzanian part include enabling soft drinks like juice from Tanzania to cross to Kenya without inspection fees, he said, elaborating that inspection fee has been waived from other products like wheat flour with labels from Tanzanian authorities.

Other measures include enabling the exportation of maize from Tanzania to Kenya and the removal of 25 percent charges on glass products from Tanzania to

Kenya, he stated.

On the Kenyan part, some of the resolved issues include preferential treatment of cement products and soft drinks like fruit juice produced in the country to those imported from non-EAC partner states.

He said that ensuring that perishable goods like milk are given first priority at the border when entering Tanzania was also resolved, along with looking at extending the license validity period to import animal products from 15 to 30 days.

Before the ministerial meeting, there was a meeting of the two countries' sector permanent secretaries on Friday, also in Arusha.

Cabinet secretary Maina expressed satisfaction with the discussions at the meeting, intended to implement directives issued by the presidents of the two countries.

Despite having resolved only 30 issues, the remaining shall be resolved within three months to allow the business community from both countries to operate freely, she affirmed, cautioning however that business operators must adhere to existing regulations, policies and laws in each country to help promote economic growth and the use of regionally made products.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi gifts visiting English Premier League team Crystal Palace player Mamadou Sakho (C) and his wife, Majda Sakho, a souvenir 'Zanzibar door' at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Samia picks new DCI, annuls RAS selection

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deliberations took place with the Kenyan private sector and a Tanzanian business delegation.

The result was agreement to establish a proper common market that will enable all-round traders to sell and buy products in the larger regional market.

There is also a budget plan for 2021/22 that has taken into account the views of the private sector, the TPSF leader noted, urging the government to continue to focus on efforts to further improve the business environment by further implementing measures under the blueprint drawn up

during the fifth phase government.

She also expressed the need for fine tuning the management of tax collection, inspection of local content requirements in executing large projects, while touching on attracting capital, investing in strategic areas and uplifting agricultural development which assures a livelihood for many Tanzanians.

The TPSF leader promised the president that the private sector is ready to cooperate with the government to ensure they further increase economic efficiency in various sectors to boost the economy, create jobs and promote social welfare.

## MPs berate harsh media laws, fines

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from their work but also ensure that the ministry takes the role of a facilitator, underlining that the ministry should work on establishing schemes to help journalists and media workers improve their livelihoods.

"Journalists are paid very low, but they have been doing a great job to inform citizens of this country, but they have lacked who to speak for them," she said.

Bulaya stated that currently the newspaper market is operating in a risky environment because the audience is tired of being fed with the same information, while decrying media bans by the government.

The newspaper market was shrinking due to the fact that press freedom has been restricted in recent years, she declared, urging the government

to issue penalties on the media that are sustainable, as a caution and not strangling a media outlet.

Banning a media house or by clamping it with huge fines locks out hundreds of families from accessing erstwhile assured basic needs, the MP underlined.

Mafinga MP Cosato Chumi said there was a need for the government to support the media with various resources including empowering them to do their work freely.

"Journalists are doing a good job, let us empower them as is the case with the government newspaper. If we want it to compete we need to empower it with resources. I am told government institutions owe the media house money amounting to billions," he said, referring to unpaid advertisement fees.

Earlier when tabling the budget

estimates, the minister, Innocent Bashungwa said the government was in the final stages of formulating a media registration board in line with the Media Service Act 2016, which will be responsible for registering journalists by issuing identity cards to media practitioners and oversee ethics.

The minister however did not say when the board will be finalized, highlighting that the board shall facilitate the formation of an independent media council essentially based on journalists.

The media regulatory bodies will also work on a special fund to uplift research and media-based career development.

The parliamentary standing committee on social services hailed the government for its commitment to set aside funds to constructing sports arenas in various regions countrywide.



Equity Bank executive director Esther Kitoka (R) views handmade bags at a just-ended exhibition organised by Faith Women Vicoba Group in Dar es Salaam. Next to her is Vicoba Groups chairperson Beatas Thomas. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

## Govt outlines strategic priorities for research, technology - Prof

THE government has outlined several strategic priorities which include investing heavily in research and technology so as to support production of enough and quality seeds to boost growth of the agriculture sector.

Other priorities include increasing the size of land for irrigation farming, strengthening markets for agricultural crops, improving access to inexpensive loans for funding agricubostltural, improving preparedness against invasion of pests and crop diseases as well strengthen extension services.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda said this in the House in Dodoma last week when tabling the ministry's budget for 294.162bn/- in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

He said the priorities will be implemented in the next fiscal year and have been prepared based on the Five Year National Development Plan (FYDP) II endorsed by the Parliament in February, 2021 as well as the CCM election manifesto 2020.

"The first strategic priority in order to increase efficiency in the sector was to put emphasis on research through the Tanzania Agricultural Research institute

(TARI) and the Tanzania Seed Agency (ASA)," he said.

In realisation of this, the government has increased TARI's budget from 7.35bn/- in 2020/21 fiscal year to 11.63bn/- in the 2021/22 financial year.

He also said through Section 26(1) of TARI's Act (No. 10 of 2016), an Agricultural Research Development Fund (ARDF) will be established to generate funds for sustainable research.

"We will also invest to increase production of quality seeds, the ministry will develop 13 seed farms of ASA by putting key infrastructures to facilitate sustainable irrigation. Seed production budget has also increased to 10.6bn/- in 2021/22 fiscal year from the 5.42bn/- of the 2020/21 year," he explained.

On improving extension services, the minister said its budget has been increased from 603m/- in the 2020/21 financial year to 11.5bn/- in the FY-2021/22.

He said the funds will be used - among other things - for purchasing 1,500 motorbikes, soil testing equipment, provision of extension kits, smartphones

and establishment of illustration farms by extension officers.

"Extension experts are still very in the country. There are only 6,704 extension officers contrary to the actual current need of 20,538 experts. Thus is among the area which will be given much emphasis to reverse the situation," he said.

He said strengthening irrigation agriculture was another strategic priority area, stakeholders investment will be mobilized as well as completing construction of 13 Asa owned irrigation schemes through the IDF. "Irrigation infrastructures will be rehabilitated, ongoing projects completed, large dams constructed and carry feasibility studies for the new projects," he added.

Prof Mkenda said the ministry will continue coordinating partnership between local crop traders and their counterparts from countries with higher demands of the products including South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mozambique, Kenya, Vietnam and China.

## East Africa to align COVID-19 test fees

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structures such as the EAC Standards Committee and make use of SCTIFI as an appellate instance to resolve disputes among themselves as opposed to effecting unilateral interventions.

The council which met under the chairmanship of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development, Betty Maina wants the countries to comply with the transparency principles enshrined by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the EAC Customs Union Protocol on prior notification of any measure with the potential to disrupt trade in the region.

The ministers deliberated on the elimination of NTBs, directing partner states to remove discriminative fees, levies and charges of equivalent effect.

On customs minimal value, the ministers adopted \$50 as the minimum value where customs duties shall not be collected on goods imported into the community zone, and amend Section 124 of the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004 to that effect.

Changing the protocol will end finding the taxable value of goods via the computed duties method, officials said.

The council also asked South Sudan and Uganda to operationalize the Nimule/Elegu One Stop Border Post (OSBP) by deploying relevant officials to man the border post effectively.

Council members were informed that Nimule OSBP facilities had been built and handed over to South Sudan, pending full operationalisation by placing the relevant officials from border agencies including from Uganda.

The meeting directed South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya to expedite the removal of visa fees amongst themselves, as well as directing South Sudan to communicate the administrative note for waiver of visa fees for Burundi and Rwanda by the end of this month.

Tanzania and South Sudan have waived fees on reciprocal basis as per the Common Market Protocol but Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan still charge visa fees on people travelling to other EAC states except where bilateral accords exist.

Rwanda and Burundi have also waived visa fees for South Sudanese nationals

but were yet to receive confirmation from South Sudan on the waiver of visa charges for their citizens, the council noted.

Kenya was also directed to expedite the rollout of the Integrated Customs Management System (iCMS) to facilitate trade between the partner states by end of October this year, the ministers said in a communiqué.

On the implementation of the summit decision on the EAC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EAC-EU-EPA), the ministers directed partner states who are ready to implement the agreement to submit their implementation plans by end of October in line with the summit decision of February 27th.

The 21st ordinary summit of the EAC Heads of State acknowledged that not all partner states were in a position to sign, ratify and implement the EAC-EU-EPA agreement, though they have accepted it in principle.

The summit concluded that partner states who wish to do so should be able to commence engagements with the EU with a view to starting the EAC-EU EPA implementation "under the principle of variable geometry as provided for in the EAC Treaty."

On the implementation of the standards for used clothing, the council rescinded its previous decision of 2017 to pack in the weight of 23 to 30kg bags, all used textile imports from the US to the community.

Partner states had earlier informed the secretariat that the main challenge with the requirement to pack in weights of 23 to 30kgs was that imported used clothes were still being packed in 50kg at source, forcing traders to unpack and repack on arrival as the exporters could not pack at the specific weight of between 23 to 30kgs just for the EAC market.

The council therefore directed the secretariat to amend the requirement in the EAC Standard 'EAC 356: 2019, Textiles - Requirements for inspection and acceptance of used textile products,' to pack in a maximum weight of 50kg.

On investment matters, partner states were urged to periodically submit relevant investment information for purposes of decision making by investors to the secretariat, the communiqué added.





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has an audience with Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Liberata Mulamula in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Ndumbaro allays fears by TTB's workers over embezzlement report

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has allayed fears from workers of Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) following his receipt of the report from a special committee he formed to probe embezzlement allegations over finances and improper use of TTB human resources.

Dr Ndumbaro made the remarks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend when addressing TTB members soon after receiving the probe report.

He said the panel's recommendations will start being implemented this month as he was now preoccupied with other responsibilities.

He said after receiving the report, he handed it to the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dr

Allan Kijazi for further steps. "I'm directing you - TTB director general to convene a meeting with all TTB officials and workers and call upon them to continue working as normal, we shall issue just decisions at the appropriate time," said Dr Ndumbaro.

He said the board's basic responsibilities should not stall waiting for decisions on the probe report.

April 10 this year, Dr Ndumbaro suspended the former TTB managing director, Devotha Mdachi to pave way for investigations over allegation of financial embezzlement and improper use of the institution's human resources.

*He said the board's basic responsibilities should not stall waiting for decisions on the probe report.*

# Dangote cement factory to begin plastics recycling

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MTWARA-based Dangote cement factory will soon start recycling plastics into new products, a move aimed to assist in the factory and surrounding areas environmental cleanliness.

The factory's senior production manager in Tanzania Abayomi Awofudu made the remarks here over the weekend when handing over waste bins for collection of plastic wastes donated by the factory to officials of Hiari village in Mtwara District.

Awofudu explained that Dangote cement factory will have a procedure of recycling hard waste, particularly plastics into other products.

"Today we are handing over these

waste bins to the village officials whereas the villagers will use them to collect wastes including plastics and store them in the right places, all aimed to protect our environment," said the manager.

He noted that they have selected some of the waste bins that will be specifically used to collect general waste and others for plastic waste which will later be taken to the factory for recycling into new products.

"When I came to work at this factory a found a lot of waste around the factory area, the situation that was hazardous to human health as well as the factory itself," he added.

Mtwara District acting executive director, John Nkoko commended Dangote factory officials for providing

the waste bins, saying they will help Hiari villagers to collect wastes from its various areas.

He said the waste bins have come at an appropriate time since the council will join other communities in commemorating the International Environment Day will be marked from June 1 to 5.

During his meeting with President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the State House in Dar es Salaam, the Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote applauded President Samia for her continued efforts in improving the country's business and investment environment, promising to extend his investments by establishing new projects including construction of a fertilizer manufacturing company.

Dangote said: "We will continue investing in Tanzania to create jobs and revenues which are crucial for improvement of Tanzanian's welfare. We need to support the president in her endeavors; we will continue to invest in Tanzania in support of what she has been doing, but also to create job."

He however pledged to influence his business partners to invest in Tanzania due to government assurance on protection of their investments and improved investment climate.

President Samia commended Dangote for the huge investment in cement production in Tanzania amounting to \$770 million (1.76trn/), emphasizing the government is determined to protect Dangote's

investments as well as projects for mutual benefits.

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SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS DULY PASSED AT THE EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF KISO CHAP CHAP SERVICES LIMITED HELD AT THE REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE COMPANY ON THE 9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: 1. CRAIG PETER BAILEY.....  
 CHAIRPERSON  
 2. NICOLA LOUISE COX GHAI.....  
 SECRETARY

The following special resolutions were duly passed:-

- Members of the Company RESOLVED that, the Company be wound up voluntarily effective from 9th day of February, 2021.
- That, MR. HAZZALI AMIRALI PATWA of H.A. PATWA & CO. be appointed as the liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs and distributing assets of the Company.

We, the undersigned shareholders of the company, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and bona fide resolution passed by the Company on the 9th day of February, 2021.

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**MANTRAC AFTERMARKET**





Ijala district commissioner Ng'wilabuzu Ludigija (R) pictured at the weekend at the site of suburban Dar es Salaam's Ulongoni B bridge, which is being built by Chinese firm Chongkwi International. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt allocates 40bn/- to implementation of irrigation demo farms for sunflower

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 40bn/- for construction of irrigation demonstration farms under the Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) to help production of quality sunflower seeds to facilitate availability of sufficient edible oils in the country.

Deputy minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe (pictured) said in a written response to a question by Singida Region Special Seats Member of Parliament Nusrat Hanje.

The legislator wanted to know government plan to boost production of quality seeds for the crop using farms available to help farmers in Singida improve their harvests.

In response the minister said the government recognizes the contribution of sunflower on the availability of cooking oils in the country whereby about 68.9/- per cent of cooking oils are from the crop while other edible plants such as palm, groundnuts, cotton, Soya and sesame contribute about 31.1per cent of all the oils produced in

the country.

The minister said the aim of the infrastructure development plan, was to produce seeds for various crops such as rice, maize, palm oils, cotton and wheat help farmers end tendency of developing seeds using their harvests.

The minister said construction of the infrastructure will allow increase the production of sunflower seeds from 538.71 tonnes of seeds in 2019/2020 to 10,000 tonnes by the year 2030 which will be enough to cater for 1,250,000 hectares which will produce 500,000 tonnes of cooking oil in the country.

He said in the past three years ASA has increased seed production from 74.2 tonnes in 2016/17 to 166.0 tonnes in 2019/20 while the private sector produced 372.71 tonnes.

The minister said an evaluation on the importance of sunflower, the minister said the government in collaboration with the private sector have worked to produce quality seeds which will be resistant to diseases at a ratio of one to 17 in the year 2019/20.

## Growth in demand for sunflower oil attributed to its shortage - govt

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner, Dr Binilith Mahenge says owing to the challenge faced by farmers over lack of experts for the production of the sunflower crop in the country, the government is forced to spend huge funds in foreign exchange to import edible oil.

Dr Mahenge made the remarks here at the weekend when addressing elders of Singida municipality, in the meeting to introduce himself as the new RC, and at which he sought

their cooperation in various development activities.

He however explained that edible oil shortage is contributed by poor production of the sunflower crop, adding that the situation stems from lack of experts for farmers.

He said despite the existence of the big Mount Meru factory for sunflower processing into edible oil, it was operating for three months only per year due to the shortage of raw materials, the situation that ultimately forced the factory to close down.

Dr Mahenge said the sunflower

crop was inadequate because it was not being produced in large scale from the farms. He said the farmers want to cultivate the sunflower crop to free themselves from poverty, but they should also have a good ready market.

For their part, some of the elders at the meeting, including Rashidi Athumani Mangu said farmers in Singida Region were big onions farmers, but the environment of the area that is used as international market for the crop was not agreeable for buyers coming to purchase the crop.

In regard to the issue of poverty, another elder, Shaban Mwanja, proposed for some of the laws to be revoked to enable the youth who are given loans to be sent to block farming system whereby every youth is given five acres for cultivation.

However, Mwanja, who is a retired community development officer, said "the raw materials used in factories cannot be obtained without cultivation as the youth being given loans they use the loans to hawking belts and insecticides in the street instead of farming."



## Government seeks to combine basket funds - minister

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is working on a thorough assessment made by a team of experts which seeks to combine basket funds providing loans in various groups in the country, in a bid to increase efficiency as well as helping people get

out of poverty.

This was said in the National Assembly yesterday by deputy minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy/Parliamentary Affairs/Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Patrobas Katambi when responding to a question posed by

Special Seats lawmaker, Santiel Kirumba (CCM).

In her main question, the Special Seats MP demanded the government's statement as to when the government would unite these loan funds in order to facilitate smooth provision of loans to special groups.

In his response, Katambi said in total, the country has about 54 different funds insisting: "The government has 54 funds and empowerment programmes which are distributed in four major groups

including 16 of them that provide directly loans to beneficiaries."

The deputy minister added that nine other funds were providing loan guarantees in collaboration with other financial institutions, while 22 funds were providing subsidies as well as seven empowerment programmes.

"Out of 54 basket funds those which were directly being supervised by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) were only three—national economic empowerment council, national youth council and those

which empower people with disabilities," he added.

Regarding combining all empowerment funds, Katambi said the government had formed a joint committee involving different ministries supervising empowerment councils in order to assess their performance.

Already, he said the final report on what should be done had already been submitted and that soon the government would see how best to combine them in order to simplify provision of loans.

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION**

1. The property will be sold on 'as where is' basis.
2. The successful bidder will be required to pay a deposit of 25% of the amount purchased on the auction day after the fall of the Auctioneer's hammer and the balance of 75% to be paid on or before 14 days after the auction date. In default of the said balance, the amount deposited shall be forfeited and the property will be re auctioned.
3. All charges including transfer charges will be borne by the buyer.
4. The properties may inspected from 09.30 am to 03.30 pm after this advertisement

**FOR MORE DETAILS:-**

Contact the Auctioneer through  
0754/0787/0655 - 363268  
0754 302930

**EXIM BANK**  
+255 22 2293000



Dangote Cement factory general manager Abayomi Awofudu (4th-L) presents refuse bins to Mtwara's acting district executive director, John Nkoko (3rd-L), at Hiari village in the district yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Abdallah Khamis





Dennis Tippe (L), a finger millet researcher with Uyoale (Mbeya Region) centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, briefs visitors to the TARI pavilion at an agricultural exhibition held in Mbeya at the weekend on how the crop is grown. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## NGO trains women and girls with disability on safe menstruation, reproductive health

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Moshi-based non-governmental organisation – Songambe Initiative has engaged on provision of reproduction health and safe menstruation training to women and girls with disabilities. The education is meant to enable them to overcome challenges they face during menstruation. The training is part of celebrations to mark the World Menstrual Hygiene Day which is observed on May 28, every year. The day is observed on 28 May because menstrual cycles average 28 days in length and people menstruate an average of five days each month.

The theme of this year's Menstrual Hygiene Day was 'Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health' which rallies in raising awareness about menstrual health across the world. Singambe Initiative Managing Director, Faustina Urassa said there are still some challenges to people with disabilities (PwDs) when it comes to menstruation because most of them lack awareness on menstrual hygiene and reproductive health. "We also trained other people including schoolgirls so that they are aware of body changes as they approach adulthood," she said adding that the special group is always forgotten when it comes to provision of sanitary towels. Countries that have so far made

sanitary supplies free or tax-free to help fight period poverty are New Zealand, France and Namibia. They are the latest countries to announce such initiatives after Scotland became the first country to provide menstruation products free to anyone who needed them last fall. Tanzania in the 2018/2019 budget decided to join other countries in scrapping Value Added Tax on pads and tampons. The move was intended to enable women to access the sanitary towels at affordable prices. However the tax was re-introduced during the 2019/2020 financial year with the then Finance and Planning Minister, Philip Mpango saying removing the tax was counter-productive, as retailers had not lowered their prices.

## Govt tackles shortage of health workers in Kilwa

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government has deployed about 108 health workers of various specialisations to Kilwa Municipal Council in the last three years in a move to end shortage of workers. The deputy minister for State in the president's Office, Regional Administrations and Local government Festo Dugange said Kilwa has 60 health centres including two hospitals, five health centres and 53 dispensaries. The minister said this in a written response to a question by Kilwa north Member of Parliament Francis Ndulane who wanted the government plans to

deploy health workers in Kilwa which has few health workers, a move that makes delay in service delivery. The minister said in response that from 2017 to December 2020, the government employed and deployed 108 health workers in different specialisations in Kilwa district. "In May 2021, the government via the local government ministry announced employment opportunities for 2,726 for health workers," he said. The minister said the workers will be deployed to various destinations in the country saying priority will be given to Kilwa. He added that the government

will continue with the programme to employ medical workers in various areas with shortages including Kilwa.



**In May 2021, the government via the local government ministry announced employment opportunities for 2,726 for health workers**

## DCC, DIT and SEI teaming up to resolve Dar environment destruction challenges

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM City Council, in collaboration with the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) of Sweden have teamed up to find lasting solution for the control of environmental destruction in the city. As the three institutions were in the process of collecting various data, the City Council received three identification beacons from Sweden on May 3, this year that had been experimented on and began to be applied since May 9, this year in the exercise that would end in August, this year. DIT lecturer, Dr Asinta Manyele said the process has been made possible through "Empowering Cities with big Data" project from SEI Foundation in Sweden. "Dar es Salaam came in on top because it had data on environmental destruction, and the project had dwelt on creating big world cities that by 2030 Tanzania's population will top 130 million," he said. He said the identification beacons have been

installed in four areas that contribute heavily in environmental destruction including homes, streets and in factories. "In this project we have divided among ourselves responsibilities, DIT conducted the project's research, and also we have the means to make identification beacons and installing them, while SEI sponsored the entire project, whereas the City Council will

receive reports from the Institute after making a follow up of the project," said Dr Manyele. "We cannot issue reports at the moment on the research we conducted, the Dar es Salaam City Council is the one to issue the statistics, as it is their responsibility," he added. He said the project received USD 50,000 (more than 100,000/=) sponsorship.

**EMBASSY OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
&  
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION  
DAR ES SALAAM**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE under instructions received from Embassy of the United States of America & British High Commission. We shall sell Household furniture's and Vehicles by public auction on Saturday 5th June, 2021 commencing at 10:00 am. The auction will take place at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street. **Furniture and Computers Bidding Start at 10:00am**; Sofa set, China base, Hutch, Chest drawer, Dresser, Credenza, Dining table, Book case, Office desk, Chairs, Carpet, Beds, Mattress, Fridge Freezer, Washer, Dryer, electric cooker, A/c split units, Photocopy m/c, TV set, Computer set, Multifunction & Colour Printers and etc

**Vehicles Bidding Start at 12:00 hrs.**

Unit	Make	Model	Year	Duty	
2	Toyota Land Cruiser	Hard Top	1HZ Diesel Engine	2012	Not paid
1	Toyota Land Cruiser	Prado TX	Diesel Engine	2014	Not paid
2	Ford Ranger	Double Cabin	PF2H Diesel Engine	2012	Not paid
1	Toyota Hiace	Min Bus	5L Diesel Engine	2008	Not paid
1	Nissan URVAN	Min Bus	ZD30 Diesel Engine	2012	Not paid
2	Suzuki Jimmy	Station Wagon	M13 Petrol Engine	2012/2014	Not paid
1	Land Rover	Freelander 2	SAL Petrol Engine	2012	Not paid
2	Ford Ecosport & Ford Figo		FY & YF Petrol Engine	2012/2015	Not paid

All items may be inspected at Golden Resort Sinza, Lion Street from June 2nd to 4th, 2021 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

**AUCTION CONDITIONS:**

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

**For further information contact:**

UNIVERSAL AUCTION CENTRE,  
(PLOT NO. 5 "E" LION STREET SINZA) DAR ES SALAAM  
CELL NO: 0754 284 926 E-mail: [universalauction@hotmail.com](mailto:universalauction@hotmail.com)  
Insta: [universalauctioncentre](https://www.instagram.com/universalauctioncentre)

**INVITATION TO TENDER**

**Request for the Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Prequalification of Suppliers**

Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) is an international Christian development organization committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the world's poorest countries.

CBM intends to pre-qualify suppliers for the supply of goods, works, and services for the financial year 2021 as below:

Reference No.	Description
CBM/01/2021	Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services- Medical, Group Life Insurance, Pension and General Insurance;
CBM/02/2021	Provision of Garage Services;
CBM/03/2021	Repair and Maintenance of office building including electrical works & Painting,
CBM/04/2021	Provision of Legal Services- labor and employment law, immigration, taxation, litigation, contracts, non-profit regulations and governance, disputes, corporate allegations, legal court cases, corporate reputation damage, investigation procedure etc.
CBM/05/2021	Provision of Courier Services within Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar
CBM/06/2021	Provision of Accommodation (Hotels) for all regions within Tanzania
CBM/07/2021	Provision of Car hire and Taxi services – for all regions within Tanzania
CBM/08/2021	Provision of Catering Services for all regions within Tanzania
CBM/09/2021	Provision of Stationeries and office supplies
CBM/10/2021	Supply of ICT equipment – computers, UPSs, printers, scanners, mobile handsets, and accessories – at Dar es Salaam office
CBM/11/2021	Provision of vehicle fuel with the fuel card system
CBM/12/2021	Provision of bottled drinking water – at Dar es Salaam office
CBM/13/2021	Provision of Office general supplies and consumables
CBM/14/2021	Provision of security services and Alarm systems
CBM/15/2021	Supply of health & safety items, e.g., face masks, gloves, and first aid kits, sanitizers – at Dar es Salaam
CBM/16/2021	Supply of office furniture, i.e., chairs, office table, office drawers, filing cabinet, and filing shelves
CBM/17/2021	Design and print branded promotional materials, banners, flyers, business cards.
CBM/18/2021	Provision of Statutory Audit Services
CBM/19/2021	Provision of Tax Consultancy Services
CBM/20/2021	Provision of Flight booking Services
CBM/21/2021	Provision of Internet Services
CBM/22/2021	Consultant for work Team building
CBM/23/2021	Consultant for the annual Strategic Planning
CBM/24/2021	Consultant for organization development
CBM/25/2021	Consultant for Staff training
CBM/26/2021	Consultant for Partner Assessment (Due-diligence)
CBM/27/2021	Consultant for Monitoring and Evaluation
CBM/28/2021	Consultant for Feasibility Study
CBM/29/2021	Consultant for Situational (Site) Analysis
CBM/30/2021	Consultant for Research (study and surveys)
CBM/31/2021	Provision of Fumigation Services
CBM/32/2021	Provision of Intercom/LAN services

**How to Apply:**  
The interested suppliers must submit their expression of interest by sending an email to [recruit.tanzania@cbm.org](mailto:recruit.tanzania@cbm.org)

In order to access the full tender details and request clarifications, the interested suppliers need to share the expression of interest by 15 June 2021

The selected suppliers are expected to adhere to CBM's values and commit to CBM's Policies on Children and Adult Safeguarding Policy, Anti-corruption, Whistleblower system, and Code of Conduct.

**CBM encourages suppliers with disabilities to apply, including supplier organizations working with persons with disabilities.**





## INSTITUTE OF TAX ADMINISTRATION

Accredited by the National Council for Technical Education

### INVITATION FOR 2021/ 2022 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLICATIONS

The Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) invites applications for entry into its various programmes for academic year 2021/20212. Qualified applicants for admission into its competence-based Customs and Tax Management programmes, are invited to apply for programmes specified hereunder:-

- 1. Post Graduate Diploma in Taxation (PGDT) - 12 months (full-time) or 18 months (Executive). Minimum entry qualification: A Bachelor's Degree in any business-related field or equivalent qualification from a recognized institution.**
- 2. Bachelor Degree in Customs and Tax Management (BCTM) - Three years (full-time) Minimum entry qualification: Either Two Principal Passes at "A" Level in business related subjects with a minimum total of 4.0 grade points or a minimum of Second Class (Lower Division) Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management or any other Ordinary Diploma in a business related discipline. All applicants for the BCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).**
- 3. Ordinary Diploma in Customs and Tax Management (DCTM) - Two years (full-time) Minimum entry qualification: Basic Technician Certificate (NTA level 4) in Customs and Tax Management or in any other business-related discipline; OR One Principal Pass and one Subsidiary Pass at "A" Level in business related discipline. All applicants for the DCTM should have FOUR passes at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).**
- 4. Basic Technician Certificate in Customs and Tax Management (CCTM) - One year (full-time). Minimum entry qualification: FOUR passes in business related subjects at "O" Level (including passes in English and Mathematics).**
- 5. The Institute also invites applications for the East African Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding Practising Certificate (CFFPC) – Four months (full-time) or Six months (part-time). Minimum Entry Qualifications: TWO passes at "O" Level excluding religious subjects**

#### MODE OF APPLICATION

- Applications should be done online through [www.ita.ac.tz](http://www.ita.ac.tz)
- BCTM, DCTM and CCTM** applications must be accompanied with evidence of payment of a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 10,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- PGDT and CFFPC** applicants must pay a non-refundable application fee of **TZS. 30,000/=** for East Africans or **US\$ 30** for Non-East Africans.
- The application fee is paid through **control number** generated during application.
- The deadline for application is 8th September 2021

**Applications for Bachelor in Customs and Tax Management programme will start on 15th June, 2021.**

For more information please contact:  
**RECTOR,**

Institute of Tax Administration,  
P. O. Box 9321, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
Mobile phone +255785 558211, +255783 081348 or +255 22 2216800/1

E-mail: [ita@tra.go.tz](mailto:ita@tra.go.tz)  
[www.ita.ac.tz](http://www.ita.ac.tz)

# Private security guard firms' personnel must register with PSG-P system, says IGP Sirro

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Police Force has called upon all personnel in the private security guard firms in the country to ensure they have registered themselves through Management, Monitoring and Supervision of Security Guards and Companies (PSG-P), saying that the requirement is mandatory.

Speaking here recently on behalf of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro at the Annual General Meeting of Private Security Guards sector, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Isack Katamiti said the police will oversee the directives through Regional Police Commanders to ensure compliance.

"PSGP cannot be bypassed at all. From now on we will be issuing directives to all RPCs," said ACP Katamiti.

He added that the private

security guards sector involves many things, employs very many people hence if the workers are not enrolled in this special database the government stands to lose a lot of revenue.

Through the system, all employees in the private security firms are registered with the special database and provided with Private Security Number (PSN) issued by the Police Force.

ACP Katamiti explained that to ensure the government does not lose revenue from the sector, the system will assist the Police Force to monitor all important activities of the private security guards sector.

Earlier, the ICT Director of DataVision International and which monitors the PSG-P project, said since it is estimated that the total number of personnel in the private security guards sector exceed 500,000 in more than 2,000 security guard firms

countrywide, the government must look for a better way to monitor the sector's activities to attain success.

He said even though the project has undergone so many challenges, especially over the response of the personnel in the firms, he said it has reached a good stage as great number of the personnel have been registered through the system.

For his part, the PSG-P Coordinator Macmillan George said they have visited various regions in the country to mobilise registration, the work which was continuing.

In June last year, IGP Sirro met with directors of private security guard firms and called on them to abide by conditions given by the police in ensuring all their personnel are registered with the PSG-P system, failure of which they would not be allowed to operate.



Advent Tweve, a land officer with the Mbeya District Council, has a word at the weekend with residents of Sinde ward during the identification and allocation of plots. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

## KJ Foundation inaugurates library at Dodoma's Ihumwa Secondary School

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) in partnership with READ International has built a fully equipped library at Ihumwa secondary school aiming to create a bright future for young Tanzanians through education and empowerment.

The investment worth over 33m/- has been stocked with a total of 748 locally published books aimed to benefit 893 students currently at the school and those to come over the years.

Dodoma City Director, Joseph Mafuru graced the ceremony on Friday last week.

READ International Executive Director, Magdalena George said: "KJF has been a wonderful partner in education in Tanzania, one of the key foundation partner is READ because they believe in the cause we do, and this means a lot to us, the government and school community at large because our main target beneficiaries are government schools."

She added that KJF through READ supports schools with libraries, ICT equipment and soft skills to empower both students and teachers to

improve reading literacy and contribute to schools performance.

"Students are now capable of using computers, able to browse learning materials through Soma Connect platform and have books here in the library that they can access easily and whenever they need. We call upon the government to cooperate with KJF and READ to promote reading culture to Tanzanian youth," she added.

KJF has for the past six years supported READ whereas 62, 400 books have been distributed to schools across Tanzania, 64 schools have received books and 17 new libraries have been set up.

A total of 40,854 secondary students have benefited with literacy programs as well as being enabled to become independent readers, improving their self-esteem and self-confidence, through reading clubs.

Yusuf Karimjee, Chairman of Karimjee Jivanjee Ltd and KJF said: "Education transforms the lives of young people and helps eradicate poverty and drive the country's economic growth and sustainable development."

Karimjee noted that KJF's long-term partnership with READ International is vital in creating a bright future for young, curious, and empowered minds.

He added: "We are proud of our work with READ International in continuing to help young Tanzanians to access education resources, providing safe and inspiring spaces to learn and thrive."

The chairman said that KJF also provides educational scholarships, empower reading and learning, support local communities and healthcare infrastructure, advocate science, technology and social entrepreneurship and promote wildlife conservation.

The foundation celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2020, since it was officially registered in 2010 as an important part of the group's corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme.

It has a tangible difference to the lives of thousands of young Tanzanians, through its own scholarship programmes and support to a selected group of education centered NGOs and philanthropic networks.

The foundation's vision is to develop the next generation of leaders, change makers and innovators with the potential to change Tanzania and the world.

READ International believes that the joy of reading should be for everyone, by creating a space that captures young people's imaginations and fosters a love of books.

JOMOO DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (124089)	
SPECIAL RESOLUTION	
EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF JOMOO DEVELOPMENT LIMITED'S (124089) MEMBERS MEETING HELD ON 25TH DAY OF MARCH 2021 AT ITS REGISTERED OFFICES IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.	
It was unanimously RESOLVED by the Members that the following resolution be adopted:	
a)	That the company has failed to operate and as a result it has been generating unsatisfactory financial results over time,
b)	That, the shareholders of the above-mentioned company do not intend to continue with the operation of the company.
c)	That, the company is to be voluntarily wound up.
d)	That the company is appointing MR. FRANK ELIAS KIFUNDA as a liquidator for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the company and distributing the company's assets.
It was further resolved all changes should be notified to the registrar of the companies.	
Chairman	Secretary





Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigahe (3rd-L) presents to TIB Development Bank representative Sonia Mlaki (R) a trophy after the bank emerged top in the Financial Institutions category at an agricultural exhibition held in Tanga city. Others are Morogoro regional commissioner Martine Shigella (R), Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (2nd-R), acting Tanga regional administrative secretary Kasunzu Rashid (L) and Tanga regional TCCIA chamber chairman Rashid Mwanyoka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Ten entrepreneurs to bag 5m/- apiece from second phase Stanbic challenge

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of ten entrepreneurs will take home 5m/- each during the second round of the Stanbic Entrepreneurship Challenge that targets at empowering young people in the self-employed sector to realise their big dreams.

The second campaign round that goes to the end of this month begins at the point that other entrepreneurs had already taken home 5m/- each in last year's campaign launched in May 2020 at the bank's 25th anniversary ceremony.

This year's challenge targets entrepreneurs who are working hard to fulfil their entrepreneurial ambitions through projects that have a social impact on health, education, environment, technology as well as food processing, and manufacturing.

Desideria Mwegelo, Head of Brand and Marketing, Stanbic Bank Tanzania said among the qualifying criteria, the prospective candidates must be based in Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Arusha, Mwanza, Moshi, and Dodoma, and all entry instructions are available on the bank's social media channels and website.

"We are proud to support and encourage the growth of small businesses which are at the heart of our economy. Entrepreneurs have always been game-changers and creators," said Mwegelo adding,

"We are committed to giving Tanzanian dreamers the right tools to achieve their business aspirations through our tailored solutions such as Biashara Direct and with campaigns such as the Stanbic Entrepreneurship Challenge."

Tanzania's SME sector accounts for 95 percent of all businesses in the country and is represented by about 35% of the country's GDP, their stability and growth is crucial to the economy.

"I encourage entrepreneurs to submit their applications and make this the year of fulfilling their dreams - whether it is leading to grow their business or simply to recover from any effect COVID-19 might have had on their business," she added.

Apart from funding, the ten finalists will gain access to financial advisory and mentorship and network with the bank's corporate clients who are looking to partner with SMEs as part of their ecosystem.

The winners of last year's challenge were NovFeed, Pinok Company, Cirlex System, and Central Park Bees.

# Activists call on govt to repeal tax imposed on sanitary pads

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

GENDER activists have asked the government to repeal tax imposed on sanitary pad products, so that everyone can afford to buy it every month.

They said girls in school are still dependent on parents and guardians, so families should be responsible for allocating a monthly budget to purchase the product.

Chairman of the network, information and knowledge centers in Ubungo Municipality, Neema Mwinyi, said that if the tax is removed from the sanitary pad and sold at a cheaper price, every family will be able to afford it.

Neema said this at the weekend during a conference on World Safe Menstruation Day, organised by the Tanzania Gender Network (TGNP) held at Msigani Ward, Ubungo, in Dar es Salaam region.

"Community should break the silence concerning menstruation, the family should also set aside a budget to buy girls' equipment every month to get a pad at school.

"Also in every school there should be a girl's advisor, who will help girls during menstruation period. All councils should allocate a budget to purchase pads in every school," said Neema.

Lukanga said the gender network in Tanzania in collaboration with information and knowledge centers, have organised the forum to remove the silence in the community about safe menstruation and participants are from Ubungo and Ilala municipality.

"A conference like this increases the awareness of this issue, the movement to address problems in the community including the shortage of toilets, water is one of the challenges facing adolescent girls, and inability to protect themselves while in school," Neema added.

Siraji Mwashwa, Msigani ward Councillor, Ubungo Municipality, said in order to promote the issue of safe menstruation as it is natural since creation, society need to get education continuously.

"The problem of poor school attendance, especially for girls, is often due to menstruation. They do not come to school because of menstruation in every month," said Mwashwa.

Earlier, official guest at the forum, Councillor for Special Seats Ubungo Municipality, Hawa Abdurahmani said through council meetings in collaboration with her fellow councillors, she will ensure that, 69 schools in the municipality have access to special exchange rooms for girls.

"I will make sure through council meetings to approve it for girls to get special rooms, the council will also allocate a budget for every school for buying pads for girls at school."

The theme of this year's Menstrual Hygiene Day is 'Action and Investment in Menstrual Hygiene and Health', the day is observed on 28 May, every year, to highlight the importance of menstrual care, and raise awareness about the issues faced by those who don't have access to sanitary products.



**I will make sure through council meetings to approve it for girls to get special rooms, the council will also allocate a budget for every school for buying pads for girls at school**



## SWISSPORT TANZANIA PLC AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

### Commentary

"The Board of Directors of Swissport Tanzania Plc. hereby publishes the audited statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, financial position and cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2020. Compared to the previous year, total income decreased by 25% from TShs 35,814 million to TShs 26,739 million and total operating costs declined by 7% from TShs 32,298 million to TShs 30,003 million. Consequently, the Company reports a net loss of TShs 2,587 million compared to a net profit of TShs 2,311 million reported in the previous year. The decrease in revenue and profit was caused by the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation industry. During the pandemic, airline customers significantly reduced their operations or suspended flights altogether. This significantly impacted number and size of aircraft handled and to a smaller extent the volume of cargo handled. As a result, the Company largely relied on domestic operations which uses smaller types of aircraft that command lower yields. In response to the situation, management implemented drastic cost mitigation measures. However, due to a combination of prevailing fixed costs and variable costs incurred to accommodate operational requirements necessary to serve our airports, the instituted measures did not fully compensate the loss in revenue and total income.

### Dividend to Shareholders

In view of the reported financial loss, the Board has not declared interim or final dividends to the shareholders for year 2020.

### Future Outlook

The future of the aviation industry is still clouded with uncertainties due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to impose travel restrictions and cause declined passenger numbers. However, it is our expectation that the global roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine programs will accelerate business recovery. In Tanzania, business recovery has been modestly encouraging; our ground handling business is now operating at around 55% of the pre-COVID volumes while the cargo business has almost fully recovered. A significant number of our airline customers have resumed operations, albeit with less frequencies, and some are operating smaller aircraft compared to pre-COVID. The Company's business outlook has been prepared on the basis of the current airline performance trend and the expected business recovery rate; management is confident that the Company projections for year 2021 will be achieved.

Management is carefully monitoring the situation and taking appropriate cost mitigation measures to ensure the sustainability of the business. Measures are also taken to protect the safety and health of our staff, and the travelling community, while supporting the airlines as they continue to ramp up their operations and responding to the rapidly changing business landscape.

### Appreciation and commitment

The Board would like to thank all customers, authorities and other stakeholders for their support and our employees for their hard work during these unprecedented times. The Board is committed to implement appropriate strategies to ensure the business remains sustainable in the post COVID-19 era.

Jeroen de Clercq  
Board Chairman

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	2020	2019	% Change
For the Year Ended 31 December	TShs M	TShs M	
Revenue	26,419	35,446	(25%)
Other operating income	320	368	(13%)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>26,739</b>	<b>35,814</b>	<b>(25%)</b>
Total operating expenses	30,003	32,298	(7%)
<b>Operating (loss)/profit</b>	<b>(3,264)</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>(193%)</b>
Finance costs	287	209	100%
<b>(Loss)/profit before income tax</b>	<b>(3,551)</b>	<b>3,307</b>	<b>(207%)</b>
Income tax claim/(expense)	964	(996)	(197%)
<b>(Loss)/profit for the period</b>	<b>(2,587)</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>(212%)</b>
Other comprehensive income/(loss) net of tax	58	(1,225)	(105%)
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year</b>	<b>(2,529)</b>	<b>1,086</b>	<b>(333%)</b>
Earnings per share	(71.86)	64.19	(212%)
Dividend per share	-	32.10	(100%)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	2020	2019	% Change
As At 31 December	TShs M	TShs M	
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Intangible asset	14,510	16,920	(14%)
Property and equipment	16,345	16,131	1%
Right of use of assets	1,930	1,099	76%
Deferred tax assets	1,421	513	177%
Staff receivables	148	157	(6%)
<b>34,354</b>	<b>34,820</b>	<b>(1%)</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories	423	408	4%
Trade and other receivables	7,720	6,944	11%
Income tax recoverable	1,935	1,678	18%
Cash and cash equivalents	7,735	3,435	125%
<b>17,861</b>	<b>12,465</b>	<b>43%</b>	
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>52,215</b>	<b>47,285</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	360	360	-
Retained earnings	28,021	30,550	(8%)
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>28,381</b>	<b>30,910</b>	<b>(8%)</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease Liabilities (long term)	1,510	587	157%
Interest bearing loan	2,574	-	100%
Retirement benefit obligations	2,567	3,027	(15%)
<b>6,651</b>	<b>3,614</b>	<b>84%</b>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	14,605	12,192	20%
Interest bearing loan	2,055	-	100%
Lease Liabilities (short term)	523	569	(8%)
<b>17,183</b>	<b>12,761</b>	<b>35%</b>	
<b>Total equity and liabilities</b>	<b>52,215</b>	<b>47,285</b>	<b>10%</b>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS	2020	2019
For the Year Ended 31 December	TShs M	TShs M
(Loss)/profit before income tax	(3,551)	3,307
<b>Adjustment for:</b>		
Depreciation of property and equipment	2,300	2,414
Amortization of intangible assets	2,410	2,312
Depreciation of right of use of assets	665	609
Loss on disposal of property and equipment	(6)	(141)
Interest expenses on lease liability	253	186
Interest expense	34	23
Provision for retirement benefit obligation	392	436
Provision for loss allowance	312	63
Rent concession	(169)	-
<b>Working capital adjustment</b>		
Increase in inventories	(15)	(16)
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	2,938	(675)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	(1,036)	710
<b>4,527</b>	<b>9,228</b>	
Retirement benefit paid	(422)	(1,354)
Interest paid on lease liability	(253)	(186)
Income tax paid	(387)	(1,496)
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>6,169</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment	6	162
Purchase of property and equipment	(2,514)	(2,416)
<b>Cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(2,508)</b>	<b>(2,254)</b>
<b>Financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from loan	4,595	-
Loan repayment	-	(959)
Dividends paid to Company's shareholders	(802)	(3,246)
Payment of principle lease liabilities	(450)	(552)
<b>Cash generated/(used) in financing activities</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>(4,757)</b>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	4,300	(842)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	3,435	4,277
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>7,735</b>	<b>3,435</b>

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From landing to take-off: we care!

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Chief Executive Officer

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Chief Financial Officer



TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Plaudits to NMB Bank youth skills initiative, but change lies with govt

**I**N working towards the realization of the sixth phase government's vision of modernization of the productive sector after the fifth phase nearly completed the modernization of infrastructure, each sphere of economic activity has a role to play. Some other spheres connect productive spheres to that their potential can be realized, for instance in the case of banking solutions generated by a platform designed by the NMB Bank to empower young Tanzanians. The initiative is meant to nurture them to acquire the sense of financial responsibility, making them economically productive and socially citizens, in fact.

This is essentially what Patrobas Katambi, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth and Employment) was saying, commending the bank for coming up with the platform, when he officiated at its launch late last week in Dar es Salaam. He said that introducing that initiative was timely and worth the investment, referring to the 'GO with NMB' initiative which is youth-focused and aligned with the NMB vision. The bank partially defines its role as also related to constructively engaging young men and women, as part of efforts to build a stable future clientele, not just horizontal expansion work.

The remarks of the deputy minister were on the whole reflecting the dilemmas the government faces in taking up the youth segment of society is a strategic human resource on which the country's future and prosperity hinges, and it on the other hand marginalised in productive activity. In that case there is plenty that is encouraging in enlightening youths on money matters, engage them financially, extending support to their commercial ventures and work towards economic empowerment where it is feasible. It isn't easy.

## Milk Day should encourage establishment of industries for value addition of products

**W**ORLD Milk Day is an international day established by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.

World Milk Day was first designated by the FAO in 2001. June 1 was chosen as the date because many countries were already celebrating a milk day during that time of year.

The Day provides an opportunity to focus attention on milk and raise awareness of dairy's part in healthy diets, responsible food production, and supporting livelihoods and communities. This is supported by FAO data showing that more than one billion people's livelihoods are supported by the dairy sector and that dairy is consumed by more than six billion people globally. The fact that many countries choose to do this on the same day lends additional importance to individual national celebrations and shows that milk is a global food.

In spite of a rapid increase in the number of small scale milk producers and expanding demand for milk in Tanzania, marketing functions of the dairy industry seems to be lagging behind. Unlike the beef marketing system where cattle markets,

"The 'GO with NMB' platform has virtues of enabling young people address the challenges they encounter in trying to take up gainful activity in a competitive world where the services sector is chocking with activity, and productive sectors are prohibitive by their capital base needs. The productive base can't be expanded by youth efforts but when there is ample room for elders with savings to move into such activity, a well trained and skilled youth is a contributing factor, of ample skilled but rather cheap labour. That is why the government has to put its mind to creating new sources of capital, not circulating loans.

Countries in South East Asia, often known as the 'tiger economies' whom we tried to emulate during the past decade, or at least the first five years with the 'Big Results Now' programme that later became a huge infrastructure modernization strategy, offer some clear lessons. China started real modernization not with its 1949 Revolution, its 1958 Great Leap Forward or its 1969 Cultural Revolution but with the 'Four Modernisations' with Deng Xiaoping, 1978. The coastal belt was converted into a special economic zone.

Earlier efforts at modernisation focused on creating an environment for investors but did not actually extend the country's fixed assets to form part of that environment. For instance the youths can participate in agro-based crop rearing and processing industries, on condition that they work for entrepreneurs for a regular wage.

It requires land ownership modernization by individual title deeds as in urban areas. It is quickly commercialized and create jobs when individuals rent out blocks of land to commercial farmers, or sell but as an individual decision. Clans or village committees wither away, excluded from decisions.

holding grounds, slaughtering houses/slabs and butcheries are found in most urban and rural areas, marketing system for milk is less organised.

Tanzania needs to examine marketing functions of milk by small scale producers with the ultimate objective of identifying priority areas of improving the efficiency of the marketing systems.

Also it is important to evaluate the performance of dairy industry in country and the impact of changing socio-economic environment in milk demand. The socio-economic changes considered are liberalisation of markets, rapid urbanisation, urban agriculture including livestock keeping and changes in demographics such as human population age distribution. We should as well review milk marketing systems in Tanzania with special attention to milk marketing channels (agencies), inter-regional comparison of milk price and seasonality and trends of milk price.

Milk production in Tanzania registered an increase of about 400 million litres between 2003 and 2018 but consumption remains low at only 47 litres per capita per year. Production of the highly nutritious liquid food is currently estimated at 2.4 billion litres a year from about 2 billion litres in 2003. That is in sharp contrast with the 30.5 million heads of cattle the country has, among other milk producing domestic animals.

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By Ori Ben-zeev

## It is breaking point for the rule of law: Peace cannot exist in absence of justice

**W**HAT we fail to realise is this axiomatic principle: peace can never exist in the absence of justice, because at our very nature all humans despise and resist injustice. When people are removed from their homes, when their protests are repressed, and when their sacred places and times of worship are disrupted and violated, the law loses legitimacy.

Laws are seen as the epitome of social order and reason, and the bulwark against violence and chaos. Through law we ritualise conflict and we distil disputes so that an outcome may be reached that is respected by both the victor and the loser. It is on that basis that the rule of law is portrayed as the keystone upon which civilisation may exist and continue to exist.

The rule of law is a passage by which we can seek to escape the chaotic state of conflict and attempt to find the utopian world of peace and reason. Because of this, it is disturbing when the rule of law is disrupted - the wilderness is dark outside the confines of the legal shelters that we create. But just as the rules of physics can be used to predict the strength or collapse of a building, there are core humanistic principles that a society or a government ignores at its own peril.

The recent events between Israel and Palestine are illustrative of this fact.

Although this is a situation that has raged for decades, the recent violence was sparked by, among other things, the threat of eviction of the Palestinian community from Sheikh Jarrah. The purpose here is not to examine the merits or demerits of that case, or to discuss the ongoing events. It is simply to demonstrate that laws have a breaking point at which they can no longer achieve the order and peace that we would like them to achieve.

The legal system is often defined as a means by which society attempts to manage or regulate human behaviour. But it is much more than that.

Humans seek certainty and a degree of predictability in the world. We grasp on to human-made laws for the same reason that we steadfastly work to discover the laws of nature: so that we have a clear sense of what should happen next.

Even though we know that laws are not necessarily always just, we accept them as the best reflection of justice that we may have, because, after all, justice is an asymptotic ideal that is pursued but not necessarily reached.

We confer upon law the legitimacy of justice because it is

the only way that we can elevate it to a status akin to natural laws - something sufficiently permanent and dependable so that we may predict the manner in which we should govern our lives.

When we appeal to the law, therefore, we attempt to tap into some greater narrative that we hope will tell us who the villains are and who the heroes are, as well as how the story should end. Just like the servants in the opening scenes of Romeo and Juliet, we co-opt the law to our side. If the other side is outside the law - outlaws, literally - then they are the villains, not us, and we should be entitled to write the conclusion of the conflict.

When the law is recognised by all the parties involved in the dispute, and is therefore legitimate, no difficulty arises. A decision is made in accordance with the rules and the way forward - the ending of the story - is spelled out. The outcome is accepted by everyone, whether favourable to them or not; violence is ritualised, the dispute is processed and resolved, and social order is maintained.

But when the law is not recognised by all the parties or its façade of justice falters, then it can no longer maintain or restore social order. At that point it ceases to be a tool for justice or for quelling violence and chaos. Instead, the appeal to legal narrative becomes the very catalyst of violent engagement itself.

It was this dilemma that prompted St Augustine in the fourth century to warn that an unjust law is not a law at all. This is not to suggest that laws do not or cannot exist outside the abstract framework of justice - of course they do. Instead, it is a caveat: an unjust law is unable to serve a social function in the form of maintaining social order or ritualising violence.

I believe that this level of catastrophic failure is not inevitable except when a breaking point is reached. Injustice operates on a spectrum ranging from slight inconveniences to real and significant threats. It is at that point, where the innate fight or flight response is triggered, when our lives, our dignity, our families, our homes and our livelihoods are so seriously threatened, that unjust laws will be ripped apart in a pursuit of justice.

It is that human core that, if violated, may place law itself at risk.

It was perhaps this understanding that, in part, led to the development over the last century of an international code

and system of human rights. The underlying premise of human rights law is that there must be an immutable core of principles that protect each human being at a fundamental level - a line that should not be crossed, even by the most sophisticated legal system or by the most powerful government, lest the entire system of laws collapse in a heap of injustice, violence and chaos.

Seen in this light, the concept of human rights is no mere nicety to which lip service should be paid. By enshrining the protection of that most sacred human space, it is the mainstay that supports the entire legal system. If they are abandoned, the entire body of law is put at risk.

Resistance to the principle of fundamental rights ordinarily comes from the privileged and the powerful. Frequently, the criticism is that the vulnerable and the powerless are afforded "more" rights than others. But this is a mischaracterisation on two levels.

First, the vulnerable and powerless depend on fundamental human rights more than the privileged and powerful do because this is the only protection afforded to them by a hierarchical system that, by its very nature, is oppressive and harmful. They are not afforded "more" protections: they are afforded basic fundamental protections that they desperately need.

Second, the criticism arises from a false, and sinister presupposition: the vulnerable and powerless are somehow categorically different from the critic, and the critic would never find themselves dependent on those core protections. In a sense, the accusation is that it is only "outlaws" that rely on their human rights. There is a perpetual failure to understand that if we were placed in the same scenario, and we were subjected to the same abuses, we would all probably respond in similar ways. We fail to do so because we are unable to look past our own grasped narrative and see that the division between hero and villain is paper-thin.

Insofar as the complaint is that the core defence afforded by human rights in some form or another attenuates an extant privilege or power, this again misses the point. Human rights do not exist to undermine existing rights. They exist to protect against, and to prevent, an incursion into that sacred core of humanity.

Therefore in the 2012 judgment in City of Johannesburg v Blue

Moonlight Properties, Justice J van der Westhuizen, speaking on behalf of a unanimous Constitutional Court, indicated that a property owner that was not itself at risk of homelessness "may have to be somewhat patient" in the eviction of occupiers who would be rendered homeless. This did not suggest that the rights of property owners were of any lesser stature. The court clearly sought to balance the threat of homelessness against the inconvenience of the pecuniary rights of the owner. The court simply recognised - as it has many times before - that homelessness is so severe and inhumane an outcome that one could not simply allow it to occur without a real assessment of its gravity.

This is not to suggest that no incursion may be made against the fundamental rights of a person. Rather, it is that those incursions should not be made lightly. The seriousness of the line being crossed must be the central concern. Laws by their nature are a necessary inconvenience, but we maintain them because we recognise the importance of limiting our behaviour so as to maintain a peaceful, stable and predictable society.

What we fail to realise is this axiomatic principle: peace can never exist in the absence of justice, because at our very nature all humans despise and resist injustice. When people are removed from their homes, when their protests are repressed, and when their sacred places and times of worship are disrupted and violated, the law loses legitimacy.

The rule of law is a critical system that preserves a peaceful and orderly society. But if the law violates the sacred core that we all hold dear, it may not survive the repercussions.

There are limits to what laws may achieve.

There are lines that cannot be crossed. If the most basic recognition of human wellbeing is not maintained, then that injustice within the rule of law will be the cause of its own demise.

Just like the proverbial horseshoe nail that lost the kingdom, a violation of a person's rights does not only place the interests of that individual at risk, but rather it threatens the existence of the entire legal system.

This is not a hypothetical or exaggerated statement: it only took one court ruling, one eviction, and the response to one protest, for violent resistance and a reaction thereto to erupt which claimed hundreds of lives.



# Is sharing more than water the key to transboundary governance across the Meghna River Basin?

DHAKA

KAJOL Miah is a rice farmer from the Bangladesh side of the Meghna River Basin. And in towns on the Indian side of the river basin, Bangladeshi rice is in great demand.

The example is a simple one that highlights the concept of benefit sharing between riparian countries. Benefit sharing goes beyond the mere sharing of water resources. It includes equitably dividing the goods, products and services connected to the watercourse.

According to Raquibul Amin, country representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Bangladesh, benefit sharing can provide a solution to conserve water resources and ensure integrated and cooperative management of the Meghna River Basin.

"Negotiations on benefit sharing are based on the principles of the International Water Law, such as reasonable and equitable utilisation of the shared water resources, not inflicting harm, and achieving win-win outcomes for multiple stakeholders," Amin told IPS, adding that governance based on benefit sharing was more holistic than traditional governance, which has historically been about allocating water.

One example of traditional water governance is the 1996 Ganges Water Treaty between India and Bangladesh, which is based on sharing volumes of water.

But, according to Amin, parties negotiating a benefit sharing agreement are usually not interested in the water itself, but rather in the economic opportunities and ecosystem services that can be obtained and enhanced through the joint management of a river basin.

The Meghna River Basin is significant to both Bangladesh and India as it supports the livelihoods of almost 50 million people.

The area is also considerably large – almost twice the size of Switzerland – with 47,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the basin located in India and 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> located downstream in Bangladesh.

Close to 90 percent of the forest or watershed of the Meghna river basin is located in India and is the source of river water flowing downstream into Bangladesh. For example, the Meghalaya plateau

in India is rich in forests and is the source of many transboundary tributaries of the Meghna river system, such as the Umngot and the Myntdu, flowing from Jaintia hills into the haor region of Bangladesh, known for numerous wetlands of considerable areal extent representing important sites for fish breeding.

Tanguar haor and Hakaluki haor are examples of wetland ecosystems rich in aquatic diversity and a roosting place for many migratory species of birds. Both are Ramsar sites, and Hakaluki haor holds the designation of Bangladesh's largest inland waterbody.

But what happens upstream, affects downstream. This can be seen in the nearly 6 million tonnes of sediment that flows from the Indian side of the basin, down to Bangladesh's haor region which creates problems for the management of these wetlands.

"The benefit sharing approach to water dialogue will allow the two countries to engage in joint management of the forest and wetlands. The natural infrastructure of the Meghna Basin is critical for the maintenance of its hydrology," Amin said.

Amin noted that Bangladesh and India can discuss ways to jointly manage the forest of the basin for improving flood and silt management – two main challenges that affect the productivity of the fisheries and agriculture sector in the Surma-Kushiyara region in the Upper Meghna Basin in Bangladesh.

Miah, who is a resident from Kalmakanda in the Netrakona District, has also experienced recurring floods.

"We, the haor [wetland ecosystem] dwellers, are dependent on Boro [rice] paddy as there is no alternative to cultivating other crops in haors. But, flash floods frequently damage our lone crop for lack of proper flood forecast, putting our life in trouble," he told IPS.

The fortunes of rice farmers of the haor also impacts Bangladesh's food security as their rice production constitutes 20 percent of the country's total rice production.

The dialogue of benefit sharing for the Meghna River Basin is part of a larger project by IUCN called Building River Dialogue and Governance in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna river basins (BRIDGE

GBM), funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the Oxfam Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) programme.

The Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna or GBM delta is a transboundary river system that traverses the five countries of Nepal, India, China, Bangladesh, and Bhutan.

"IUCN is providing a neutral platform for facilitating transboundary dialogues and joint research among the relevant stakeholders from Bangladesh and India. These have documented a variety of ecosystem benefits provided by the Meghna River Basin, and identified priority areas, such as joint management of forest for flood and erosion control, development of transboundary navigation and ecotourism circuits where the two countries can work jointly to enhance these benefits from the basin," Vishwa Ranjan Sinha, Programme Officer, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia Regional Office, told IPS.

IUCN also facilitated joint research and data sharing on land use and socio-economic changes across the Meghna River Basin to create data and evidence for the bilateral dialogue. Institutions conducting research include the Dhaka-based think-tank Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) and the Asian Centre for Development as well as India's Northeast Hill University and the Institute of Economic Growth.

Dr. Malik Fida A Khan, executive director of CEGIS, is optimistic of the advantages of benefit sharing. If done well, he told IPS, local communities of both countries will come forward to support the joint management of the basin because it provides for their livelihoods. He said their mutual benefit could also lead to data sharing for each other's benefits.

Freshwater Conservation is one of the themes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which will be held from Sept.3-11, 2021 in Marseille. One of the Congress sessions will specifically focus on nature-based solutions that have been used as a tool to strengthen inclusive governance in the BRIDGE GBM project.

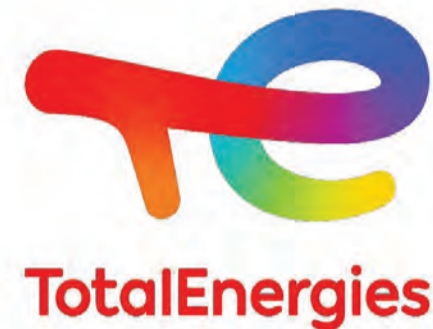
IPS



PRESS RELEASE

## Total is Transforming and Becoming TotalEnergies

Paris, May 28, 2021– At the Ordinary and Extraordinary Shareholders' Meeting, shareholders approved today, almost unanimously, the resolution to change the company's name from Total to TotalEnergies, thereby anchoring its strategic transformation into a broad energy company in its identity. In tandem with this name change, TotalEnergies is adopting a new visual identity.



"Energy is life. We all need it and it's a source of progress. So today, to contribute to the sustainable development of the planet facing the climate challenge, we are moving forward, together, towards new energies. Energy is reinventing itself, and this energy journey is ours. Our ambition is to be a world-class player in the energy transition. That is why Total is transforming and becoming TotalEnergies," declared Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TotalEnergies.

This new name and new visual identity embody the course TotalEnergies has resolutely charted for itself: that of a broad energy company committed to producing and providing energies that are ever more affordable, reliable and clean.



### About TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies is a broad energy company that produces and markets energies on a global scale: oil and biofuels, natural gas and green gases, renewables and electricity. Our 105,000 employees are committed to energy that is ever more affordable, clean, reliable and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, TotalEnergies puts sustainable development in all its dimensions at the heart of its projects and operations to contribute to the well-being of people.

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The Meghna River Basin is significant to both Bangladesh and India as it supports the livelihoods of almost 50 million people.



# Australian seed vault breeds hope for preserving biodiversity

SYDNEY

**A**BOUT 60 kilometres southwest from Sydney's central business district, locates the Australian PlantBank with a huge seed and tissue culture collections.

Facing the International Day for Biological Diversity, researchers of the seed vault hope their work would bring more hope for conservation of biodiversity. "Here at the PlantBank, our focus is wild native seeds from across Australia, particularly species in New South Wales (NSW). Our main focus at the moment is the threatened species.

Here is the main repository for NSW threatened species seed," said Dr. Peter Cuneo, manager of the Seedbank and Restoration Research of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust.

Australia is home to more than 25,000 plant species. Land clearing, agriculture, habitat fragmentation, the spread of non-native invasive species, and climate change impose continuing pressures on the biodiversity.

To collect, research and store seeds of different plants provides an insurance policy against extinction of native plants in the wild.

Cuneo told Xinhua that researchers need to go out into the wild, gather the data on the location including the habitat, the flower colour, the seed, the soil, record all the ecological information available into database, and collect seeds.

The seeds will be sorted and dried in a drying room under a temperature of 15 degrees centigrade and 15 percent relative humidity for about four weeks at least.

Then they will be processed, put into hermetically sealed foil packets and stored into the Seed Vault under the temperature of minus 20 degrees centigrade for long term storage. The researchers will also take a sub sample of the seeds for germination tests.

Research staff at the Seed Vault, Dr Justin Collette told Xinhua the germination test is very important, which will help people know how to make use of these previous storage. "The elements are changing as the climate is changing.

To use the seeds that we have in storage here, we need to know how to germinate them. So we investigate what elements lead to the best germination for those species," Collette said. "To germinate, the seed needs moisture from the environment.

It also needs certain temperatures. Some types of seeds need smoke, some need different light regimes, some need to be physically disturbed, like getting eaten and cracked, opening the seed coat. These are all things that we can sort of simulate in the lab to try and get them to germinate."

Cuneo said every 10 years researchers will pull the seed collection out and germinate some more just to make sure that they are still vi-



Dr Peter Cuneo, manager of the Seedbank and Restoration Research of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust, introduces the Australian PlantBank in Sydney, Australia, May 12, 2021. About 60 kilometres southwest from Sydney's central business district, locates the Australian PlantBank with a huge seed and tissue culture collections. Photo: Xinhua

able, that the viability is not declining over time. With more than 11,000 individual collections and over 5,300 species, the PlantBank has played an important role in re-establishing threatened species and scientific research.

"We also use the seeds for restoring natural areas here at the Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan, where we've cleared major weed problems re-establishing local woodland habitat.

The seeds are also used in threatened species programs to establish new populations in the wild," Cuneo said.

There are over 400 threatened species being held in the seed vault, and these collections were used to establish 10 threatened species into wild locations.

"We have requests from around the world with people looking for and wanting to research particular seeds. So we would find seeds for that. A lot of this work is done through our partnerships such as the Millennium Seed Bank in the UK," Cuneo said.

Besides seeds, the PlantBank also culture and bank tissues for plants that are not suitable for seed banking or plants that don't produce seeds.

However, there are still some "desiccation sensi-

tive" plants that cannot be dried down and stored, such as rainforest trees, which need further research on preservation and highlight the importance of protecting natural areas.

"There is no doubt that we are continuing to lose forest cover worldwide. The loss of biodiversity is globally significant. In many cases, forest can be cleared before you even know what species are there," said Cuneo.

"There are really unique animals in Australia, but they rely on the native plants and habitats to survive. So we really need to preserve those natural areas and national parks, have those well reserved areas and look after them."

The PlantBank offers a few programs, such as educational experiences to school and tertiary students, providing training for conservation professionals in Australia and overseas, and hosting workshops to share expertise in seed conservation and translocation.

Cuneo also encouraged people to engage in protection of environment and biodiversity from their daily life. "I always say to people, conservation always starts in your local area, if you can volunteer and help your local council preserve and maintain bushland and natural areas by joining bush care groups.

If you've got an existing forest like we have here, you can get rid of the weeds. So if you can preserve your local habitat, that's a really positive thing for biodiversity," he said. **Xinhua**

# Chinese farmers' income goes up as high-quality development pays off

By Gao Yuncai, Chang Qin

**T**HE average per capita disposable income for Chinese rural residents reached 5,398 yuan (\$839) in the first quarter this year, up 16.3 percent in real terms, according to statistics released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Rural economy has maintained sound operation, with the value added of the country's primary industry exceeding 1.13 trillion yuan, up 8.1 percent year on year.

"I made a right decision to return home and start a business, given the huge development potential of the countryside," said Sun Zhongling, owner of a ranch in Sunzhuang village, Guandu township, Zhongmu county, central China's Henan province. Establishing a stock cooperative and inviting agricultural experts to the village for training sessions, the man is quite confident about his future development.

According to Liu Jianyu, a villager that works for the ranch, he can earn 50,000 to 60,000 yuan a year. Now, the ranch has become an important vegetable supplier

for Zhengzhou, capital of Henan province, and is offering 400 jobs for rural residents.

It is estimated that every startup project initiated by entrepreneurs returning to rural areas can create 6.3 stable jobs and 17.3 flexible jobs, said Ye Xingqing, director-general of the Research Department of Rural Economy of the Development Research Center of the State Council. A total of 19 million returnees to the countryside have secured jobs near their homes, he added.

As technological innovation is upgrading agricultural production, the income of many farmers is on a rise. In the fields of Qingyihu township, Shuyang county, east China's Jiangsu province, 30 agricultural drones are employed by grain grower Teng Yunfei, who has contracted over 13,000 mu (867 hectares) of land. Thanks to technology-backed grain-growing, the man made more than six million yuan last year, with each mu of land generating an income of 500 yuan.

Green planting is also benefiting many farmers including Zhang Jian from Wangji township, Siyang county, east China's Jiangsu province. By replacing chemical ferti-

lizers with organic fertilizers, and pesticides with sticky traps and bug zappers, Zhang's peaches were certified as green products and put on the shelves of major supermarkets in Shanghai. "Greenness is a golden signboard that makes our peaches more valuable," Zhang said.

Chinese people's demand for quality and green products is growing even stronger as they embrace a better life. It is reported that over 97 percent of agricultural products have met or exceeded quality standard in the first three months of this year, and there were over 53,800 types of green, organic and GI (geographical indication) products available on the market.

In order to better meet the demand of the upgrading consumption, the country will advance the green development of agriculture from a higher level and on a broader range, said Zeng Yande, head of the Department of Development and Planning of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Apart from green products, improved rural environment is also leading to prospering rural tourism. For instance, a modern agricultural park in Cangxi county,



A woman picks tomatoes in an agricultural park in Deqing county, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, May 8, 2021. (File photo)

southwest China's Sichuan province, is visited by nearly 10,000 tourists on a daily basis. "There are 86 B&Bs and hotels in the township, and all of them are almost fully booked," said Duan Yongxi, a local villager who runs an agritainment facility and had once received more than 200 tourists a day.

Duan's agritainment facility is jointly run by himself and his son and

daughter-in-law who quit their urban jobs and returned home. "It's really great to operate the business together with my family," he told People's Daily.

Duan is not the only one that's benefiting from the business. By running B&Bs and restaurants, each local household has increased annual income by 30,000 yuan on average. The rapid growing leisure agriculture is expanding the functions of the countryside and increasing added value for relevant industries. Last year, the sector generated total revenue of over 600 billion yuan, and 150 tourism routes and 200 tourism villages will be built this year.

The high-quality development of agriculture is injecting new vitality into the countryside and driving the income growth for farmers, said Zhang Hongyu, deputy dean of the China Institute for Rural Studies, Tsinghua University.

Giving priorities to ecological progress and promoting high-quality development will only make even stronger impetus for increasing farmers' income, he added.

**People's Daily**

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Call: Overhaul nation's education curricula for our youth's benefit

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

EDUCATION stakeholders have urged government to change curriculum as a means of solving youth unemployment which yet is a big challenge both to the national and international level.

This was during a breakfast meeting which took place in the country's economic capital with the aim of analyzing 2021/22 national budget; Curbing youth unemployment in Tanzania.

A participant Richard Mabala who is also an author said that the state should take into consideration the short and long term measures while addressing youth unemployment in the country whereas having more other plans which will help them attain economic development.

"When the economy grows obviously it will create more employment," he said. "If we want to broaden our economy, we have to give more priority to local investors who don't have tax holidays and hence create more employment," he added.

He also said that, the ability to be employed is not only determined by the ability to write a curriculum vitae but to a greater extend is influenced by the number of employment opportunities available in the country.

Mabala encouraged that youth employability should correspond to work studies of the 21st century, which according to him are critical thinking and creativity respectively, adding that these will cause many students to work their brains in an analytical perspective so as to suit world changes.

"We need to prepare the children for the next world, where are the critical thinking and creativity in our current curriculum?" He lamented.

"What we now do in schools is just to teach people to sit for their examinations, but we don't educate them. So, what is mainly done is to force students to cram instead of understanding what they are taught/ studying," he explained.

"Teaching students to memorize can't help them get employed. So, we need to change our curriculum so that they correspond with what other people have seen taking place across the globe." He added

He also pointed out that, students cannot be taught about creativity and critical thinking in a language which they do not master. Adding that students are forced to learn in a language of which 90 per cent of Tanzanians are not in the environment of learning using that language as a medium of instruction.

"So, if we want to be employable, we need to change our education system," he said.

The Executive Director of Open Mind Tanzania (OMT) Dominic Ndunguru, advised the government and development partners to earmark and improve all potential leading sub-sector economy among which creative sector, digital and innovations, sports and transport and services such as saloon for youth employment.

"In this way many skilled youths will feel comfortable to work thus, increasing decent employment and widening the tax base in the national economy," he intoned

He further directed as a medium term measure, the concentration of more financial resources in the development and funding of Technical and Vocational Education training (TVET), as a great potential for transforming the youth into an 'opportunity' and 'asset' in the process of industrialization.

Ndunguru also expressed a high need to embrace the spirit of East African Cooperation as curricular, budgets and development programs should be set according to the East African standards/regional standards so as to avoid surprises in competitive skills development as we move to a common competitive labor market (movement of labor).

"If we do not focus on building a common standard, the idea of free movement of labor will not be embraced by all state partners, as some will have less skills to compete, hence integration will be delayed," he said.



Participant Richard Mabala makes a remark on youth employment during Policy Forum's breakfast debate in Dar es Salaam on Friday. Photo courtesy of Policy Forum

He added that rare skills such as MC, DJs, composers, film makers, Sound Engineering, animal keeping, sports and games, fishing need to be given priority in TVET as they employ many youths.

"We recommend provision of loans on higher economic productivity sectors through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including high-value added and labor-intensive sectors, so as to reduce unemployment for young women and men," he advised.

He urged the government to adopt affirmative actions and strengthen healthy policies and enforceable legislations for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of young girls in provision of loans to the youths.

"Provision of youth funds, needs to be institutionalized with common systems, databases and procedures in all

youth fund offices. While elaborating that it should be accompanied with digitization of applications for funds which will be common and easy for youth to access information," he emphasized

OMT Executive Director said as long as the recovery of loans issued to the groups is concern, we recommend that there should be prior preparation of the Youth groups before loans are issued and this will help them to be supported with capacity building with regards to the businesses they are planning to start or support.

He added that the government should promote development oriented policies that support productive activities with provision of loans to go hand in hand with other social services such as social security and health insurance. This will create youth enterprises to provide decent jobs and hence be sustainable.

"Councils should set practical policies and systems that enhance young people to graduate from a 4 per cent lending scheme to join microfinance institutions to expand access to finance for their enterprises." He cautioned

He also called on the government to give priority to groups that include youth, women and people with disabilities. Saying that the available budgeting data is not disintegrated in gender and inclusiveness which makes it challenging for the public to know exactly how many young women are benefiting from the funds.

He encouraged the government to emphasize and support adaptation of technology and digital skills in youth skills, which is key for the post Covid-19 world.

He stated that without proper technological infrastructure connectivity, research and developments, the country and its

people will not be able to compete.

"It's crucial to invest more in sectors which employ many people in the production and processing chain. This should go together with formalization of resources," he said, adding that the Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the unemployment situation as many businesses have collapsed or changed their working modality due to introduction of new technology.

According to Ndunguru, Tanzania youth unemployment stands at 11.5 per cent. However, NBS '2019: Tanzania in figures' of June 2020 showed that the unemployment level went down from 10.1 in 2015 to 9.6 in 2019.

Statistics further showed that the unemployment rate of female was higher 12.3 per cent compared to that of males by 8.2 per cent. Young persons aged 15 to 24 years are more vulnerable to unemployment, 13.7 per cent as compared to other age groups followed by elderly 65 years and above with 10.8 per cent.

In Tanzania it is estimated that around 700,000 to 1,000,000 youth enter the labor market. But only 50,000 to 80,000 are formally employment (decent work).

In Africa 10 to 12 million youth enter the workforce each year, only 3 million formal (decent) jobs are created. In Africa, 85.8 per cent of employment, and 95 per cent of youth employment, is informal.

# WHO vows to support African govts in curbing tobacco use

By Guardian Reporter

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) has reaffirmed commitment towards supporting African governments to meet their obligations under the WHO framework convention on tobacco control.

WHO regional director for Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, made the commitment yesterday in her message ahead of this year's World No Tobacco Day, celebrated on May 31 worldwide.

"As WHO, we are supporting countries to scale-up programmes to help people quit tobacco, especially at the primary health care and community levels. So far support to quit is available in primary health care facilities in 11 countries and in Angola, Botswana and Zambia these services are offered at no cost to consumers."

The WHO official said that national toll-free lines where tobacco users can call and get advice are available in six countries. Nicotine replacement therapy is sold in pharmacies in 19 countries with governments fully covering the costs in Eswatini, Mauritius and Seychelles. Nicotine replacement therapy is included in the essential medicines list in Algeria, Ethiopia and South Africa. Burkina Faso is implementing "mTobaccoCessation," a mobile text messaging-based solution.

"This promising progress now needs to be expanded to more countries in the WHO African Region," she said, asking African governments and communities to be alert to industry tactics to attract new users and keep people using tobacco, even when they are trying to quit. "Products such as electronic cigarettes and nicotine

pouches are highly addictive and not recommended as strategies to reduce tobacco use."

"As WHO, we remain committed to supporting Member States to meet their obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. These include the development and implementation of programmes to promote quitting tobacco in schools, universities, health facilities, workplaces and sporting environments. Services to diagnose tobacco dependence and help people quit, should be included as an integral component in national health and education programmes, plans and strategies."

Dr Moeti said: "I call on governments to improve access to these services, using a combination of approaches, such as toll-free quit lines, nicotine replacement therapy

(such as gum, patches, sprays and other products), and digital solutions to empower people to quit. These interventions can be phased in where resources are limited."

"Together, let's support people with the tools and resources needed to successfully quit and to reduce the demand for tobacco. This will save lives, save money and create healthier societies," she said

She however said: "The World No Tobacco Day reminds everyone that tobacco kills half of its users." According to her, every year, around 1.2 million non-smokers die from exposure to tobacco smoke.

Tobacco use harms nearly every organ in the human body. Even smoking one cigarette a day can seriously harm a person's health. Tobacco use can lead to lung, mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach, bowel and other cancers. It increases the risk of

chest and lung infections, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and other conditions. There is no safe form of tobacco.

The theme this year is "Commit to quit" because the choice to stop tobacco use is in our hands. Millions of people have been motivated to quit tobacco during the COVID-19 pandemic because of evidence showing tobacco smoking impairs lung function, making it harder for the body to fight off corona viruses and other diseases.

Of the 1.3 billion tobacco users globally, 60% have expressed the desire to quit but only 30% have access to the tools to do so successfully. Digital solutions can help to fill this gap and so at WHO we have introduced "Florence" a digital health worker who gives brief advice on how to quit and links people with the tools and solutions that can help.

# Over 190,000 needy children benefit from SATF programme

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

THE Social Action Trust Fund (SATF) has for years been working to support vulnerable children and those living in difficult conditions whereas over 190,000 children have so far benefitted with the program which is implemented in 15 regions and 32 districts across the country.

According to SATF, the problem is much bigger in Ruvuma, Kigoma, Coast and Lake Zone regions.

Speaking in Morogoro Region over the weekend during a stakeholder's conference which brought together 17 SATF implementing partners, the Chief Executive Officer, Beatrice Mgaya said they have been providing children with all the necessary support to ensure they complete their studies and attain their targeted life goals.

The meeting which is convened once after every two years aimed at reviewing programs implemented during the five-year strategic plan which ends in 2022 as well as discussing successes and challenges observed during the particular period.

"Through our implementing partners, we provide education support to children from primary to university and college levels," said Mgaya noting children are assisted to become productive members of the society.



Social Action Trust Fund (SATF) chief executive officer Beatrice Mgaya addresses the organisation's partners at the stakeholder's conference in Morogoro municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The CEO added that apart from school fees, children are provided with stationeries, uniforms and sanitary pads for girls. She said family members of the enrolled children are also provided with free medical services through the Improved Community Health Fund (ICHF).

Those who cannot continue with further stud-

ies at colleges and higher learning institutions are trained on life and vocational skills before they are given the needed equipment to be able to employ themselves.

Mgaya added that SATF has been spending 1bn/- each year for the children, saying the amount will increase to 1.2bn/- this year due to

the increased number of children.

"The number of children in need of assistance is too big compared to our financial capacity. We enroll at least 2,000 vulnerable children including orphans every year," said the CEO adding SATF invests in various economically viable projects to raise funds for its operations.

"We have recorded a number of successes due to good cooperation from the government. We have been working closely with local government leaders at village and ward level who have been assisting us in ensuring children stay at schools, but also sensitizing parents on the importance of taking their children to school," asserted the SATF boss.

Mgaya said there a number of supported children have graduated from colleges and universities and are now working at different public and private institutions. She said SATF has so far produced a number of professionals including accountants and doctors.

On challenges, she said they have been experiencing delays in report submission by some implementing partners. Adding, they are now establishing a database that will see implementing partners submitting information and reports on time.

Sister Annuciata Chacha is the Coordinator at Jipemoyo Centre in Mara Region, she said: "We have 180 children at our center; we are grateful for the support from SATF because we can take care of the children, provide them with the basic necessities and make sure they attend to school."



# Political chaos following Mali coup risks further Ecowas isolation

NINE months after the 18 August 2020 coup that removed former president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, history repeated itself in Mali, throwing the country back into political chaos.

On 24 May, a group of military officers arrested transition president Bah N'Daw and prime minister Moctar Ouane in Bamako. They both resigned the next day, after vice-president and leader of the August junta Assimi Goita announced he had "placed them out of their prerogatives." He accused them of violating the transition charter by excluding him from negotiations around a government reshuffle.

Goita's move itself oversteps the transition charter, which doesn't grant the vice-president the power to dismiss the country's civilian leaders. It reveals the absolute power of the August 2020 junta, which has run the country despite the façade of a civilian transition.

The 24 May takeover is really a continuation of the militarised state leadership since the August coup. A tailor-made vice-presidency was created for the junta leader, and several of his companions were given top positions in key institutions. These included the National Transitional Council and the ministries of defence, security, reconciliation and territorial administration, which is responsible for organising elections.

In November 2020, several governor positions were entrusted to carefully picked military officers, consolidating the junta's capacity to manage the political process from behind the scenes. Their move to officially dissolve the committee that overthrew Keita helped present the international community with the appearances of a civilian transition.

N'Daw and Ouane's cabinet reshuffle threatened the military's influence. It removed two former junta members from the ministries of defence and security, replacing them with higher-graded officers with no direct affiliation to those responsible for the August coup. By proceeding without Goita's approval, they tested their leeway against the junta, and the result confirms where the power lies.

The junta's reaction throws the country back into uncertainty. At a time when Mali faces widespread conflict and insecurity in its northern and central regions, the new coup destabilises an already fragile administration. In 2012, similar circumstances allowed violent extremist groups to make significant inroads, taking advantage of the general confusion in Bamako.

The latest coup also creates serious economic risks and compounds a tense social climate. Massive union actions that have been recurring since 2018, the impact of Covid-19 and sanctions by the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas) after last year's coup have damaged Mali's economy. Further isolation from regional or global economies could take it beyond the tipping point.

The most substantial impact of the latest 'coup de force' is that it interrupts the transition process halfway through and revives the political crisis the country had been grappling with for a year.

In the 25 May communiqué, Mali's de facto military leadership announced that elections scheduled for early next year remained on track. However, there are serious concerns about how realistic that is. The electoral calendar confirmed in April already seemed overambitious, with seven different polls scheduled over five months. Civil society organisations raised the alarm about the tight deadlines and the lack of consensus on the electoral framework.

Their concerns include establishing an electoral management body that can guarantee a reliable voters roll and mitigate the risk of the military running the polls through the territorial administration ministry, which they control. The military's renewed power grab has compounded all these challenges.

Any path towards elections and a return to constitutional order will require a good dose of realism, which



Assimi Goita, president of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People (CNSP) in Mali, is seen at the Economic Community of West African States meeting in Accra, Ghana, on September 15, 2020, as part of several efforts to resolve the political crisis in Mali.

means acknowledging that the military cannot be sidelined merely by international pressure. The system that allowed the military to stay in charge over the past months while maintaining civilian figurehead leaders shows this.

Besides, the international community can't take the moral high ground. Just a month ago, most actors who would have condemned power grabs by Mali's military indulged the same in Chad. Principle-based condemnations now have less credibility, and a precedent has been set that the Malian junta cannot have missed.

Ecowas's 30 May decision on Mali seems to acknowledge this and tries to balance pragmatism and principles. Despite the political and symbolic decision to suspend Mali's membership, the West African bloc made no mention of sanctions this time around. It also "called for a new civilian prime minister to be nominated immediately", but didn't question Goita's self-promotion as the

new transition president, especially after Mali's Constitutional Court confirmed it.

The position taken by Ecwos might set the tone for others in the international community. Lessons from the previous coup show that a durable solution must be negotiated among Malian actors. International allies must be prepared to accept terms they may dislike as long as there's consensus among national stakeholders.

For their part, Malian political and social actors must reclaim their seat at the table. Keita's removal in August 2020 and the death of opposition leader Soumaïla Cissé in December left the main political parties dazed.

The new coup highlights the need for these actors – and the broader political class – to rise again and provide a counterweight to the junta's ambitions. The opposition coalition, M5-RFP, has started its rebirth, leading to speculation that it may play a leading role in the next government.

But it shouldn't be alone. Many voices are needed if the transition is to lead to credible elections.

A reset of the national political dialogue should be used to correct the course of a transition falling short of many Malians' expectations. But this will only succeed if it involves continued consultation rather than another one-off event as happened in the past. Less emphasis should be placed on who heads the transition and more on the benchmarks and results.

Finally, a course correction will require matching the transition's timelines with its agreed ambitions. With just 10 months to go, there isn't enough time to accomplish everything laid out in the roadmap. Either the aims of the transition must be modified or its timelines extended. There are no easy answers, but neither should there be taboos.

DM



# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

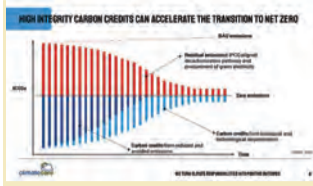
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**Radio One**





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# Cooperatives chief asks lawmakers to mobilise farmers to seek membership

By Francis Kajubi

**S**MALLHOLDER farmers in the country have been challenged to join primary cooperative societies in the areas so that they can benefit from products and services rendered by the apex body, Tanzania Federation of Co-operatives directly.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week about preparations for this year's Co-operative Day celebration to be held at national scale Tabora Region on July 3, TFC Executive Secretary Florian Haule urged lawmakers to mobilise farmers in their constituencies to join the cooperative movement because it is a collective bargaining vehicle for them.

"Some of members of parliament have been blaming cooperatives for being selective when it comes to accepting non-members to sell their crops through them, they are not well informed. This is a wrong perception because cooperatives are established to serve their members first. Non-cooperative members can only benefit from the unions under specified arrangement," Haule argued.

He said some lawmakers are not conversant with TFC's mandate and that of its grass root members hence the complaints being made in the ongoing marathon budget session. "We will need some time to meet with the legislators and sensitize them on the matter," he added saying smallholder farmers need to affiliate themselves with TFC in order to profit from its clout to demand fair market access and prices for commodities.

The TFC chief executive further noted that farmers who complain against the amount of fees that they have been paying to the cooperative movement have their products accepted and sold to the third parties the movement.



Gerald Kusaya, until recently Permanent Secretary in the Agriculture ministry, speaks during celebrations to mark Cooperatives Day last year.

He asserted that some of the legislators have been proposing for the abolition of the fees charged on non-members while in actual sense get counselling from cooperative officers when selling commodities at grass root

markets.

"The first priority for any cooperative union is to serve its members first but other farmers who are not members but happen to be at the market where cooperative officers are available also enjoy their expert services," he argued saying being in a cooperative helps one not only in having access to markets but also easily access funds from financial institutions.

This year's theme for the cooperative day is 'Co-operatives we rebuild together,' and is aimed at encouraging members to maintain and safeguard their unions by rebuilding those that have collapsed or are in the process of doing so.

In Tanzania the celebration marks its 20th anniversary because it was first celebrated in 2001. At global level, the celebrations are marking the 27th anniversary since 1994 when they were first held. Tanzania has 8,040 primary and regional cooperative unions with 1,432, 978 individual members and 57,483 institutional groups.

# Women can add \$14.58 billion to e-commerce in Africa - IFC

Lagos

A new report, published today by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in partnership with Africa's leading e-commerce firm Jumia, has said Africa's e-commerce market could grow by more than \$14.5 billion between 2025-2030.

The report says this can be achieved by increasing the number of women selling on online platforms and by providing them with better training and financial support to help them match sales made by men.

The report shows that women comprise half of all active e-commerce vendors in Africa, though they tend to run smaller-scale businesses and feature promi-

nently in high-competition, low-value segments like beauty. On the Jumia platform, just over a third of businesses in Côte d'Ivoire and over half in Kenya and Nigeria are owned by women.

Juliet Anammah, Chairwoman Jumia Nigeria and Group Head of Institutional Affairs, said, "It is absolutely essential for women to be factored in, given the future of e-commerce. Africa is just at the start of its e-commerce growth trajectory. Now is the time to ensure women entrepreneurs are the leaders of Africa's digital journey."

The report, Women and e-commerce in Africa, found that COVID-19 has accelerated the growth of e-commerce and digital entrepreneurship in Africa and that more women have embraced digi-

tal business. However, it also noted that more can be done to promote women's entrepreneurship and help women overcome e-commerce challenges. For example, e-commerce marketplace platforms are well-positioned to target women-owned businesses with training and to encourage women's participation in higher-value segments such as electronics.

Women could also strengthen their businesses by taking advantage of emerging fintech offerings, such as in-platform loans, which women currently access at much lower rates than men. The report leveraged data from leading e-commerce firm Jumia, as well as from surveys of vendors in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, and Nigeria.

"E-commerce in Africa is thriving, yet we are already seeing a widening gender gap in the sector. IFC's report not only highlights the



Juliet Anammah, Chairwoman Jumia Nigeria.

gap, but also shows how it might be addressed so that women entrepreneurs can succeed in this impor-

tant and rapidly growing marketplace," said Sérgio Pimenta, IFC Vice President for the Middle East and Africa. Supporting women entrepreneurs has taken on renewed urgency since the outbreak of COVID-19. In the first year of the pandemic, women-owned businesses in the three countries studied suffered reduced sales of 39 percent, compared to only a 28 percent drop for men-owned businesses.

The research was undertaken by Digital2Equal, an IFC-led initiative conducted in partnership with the European Commission, which brought together 17 leading technology companies operating across the global online marketplace to boost opportunities for women in emerging markets. Additional funding was provided by the Umbrella Fund for Gender Equality. The research was carried out by IFC in partnership with global advisory firm Kantar Public.

# New fund set up to ease debt payment

Nairobi

KENYA has created a special fund to ease future cash flow pressures on government revenues arising from fast-maturing debts which are forecast to double to nearly \$1 trillion in the next three years after expiry of grace period.

Treasury secretary Ukur Yatani has gazetted rules to set up and manage the "Sinking Fund" whose cash will, among others, be spent on paying off maturing debt, buy back bonds when interest is low and retire some of the debts earlier to avoid higher costs in future.

"The Fund shall be used to cushion for amortisation of liabilities arising from national government loans, redeem maturing ...loans to alleviate rollover risks and facilitate debt restructuring and smoothing of maturity profile," read the Public Finance Management (Sinking Fund) Guidelines.

Debt redemptions are projected to jump from estimated \$499.66 billion in the current financial year ending June to \$608.90 billion next fiscal year, \$715.67 billion in the one ending June 2023 and double to \$990.69 billion in June 2024.

The rules empower director-general for public debt management at the Treasury Haron Sirima to "build up resources for

meeting maturities of loans" from bilateral and multilateral lenders as well as bonds issued locally and internationally (Eurobonds).

Dr Haron Sirima, the administrator of the fund by virtue of his office, has also been authorised to borrow and deposit into the fund cash equivalent to what has been budgeted for redemption of domestic and external debt as approved by Finance Cabinet Secretary.

Additional sources of cash include fees and commissions earned by debt management office, foreign exchange gains and income invested from the balances after settling redemptions due. This is the second time that Kenya is creating such a fund after the one, set up in 1960s under the Internal Loans Act, remained dormant and its winding up is pending before the National Assembly.

"It provides flexibility to undertake debt management operations to lower cost and minimise risks in the public debt portfolio," Dr Sirima told the Business Daily mid-February. Public debt obligations have hitherto been paid from the Consolidated Fund Services which also caters for other obligatory and priority payments such as pension and salaries for some independent constitutional office holders.



Dr Haron Sirima.

# Chipper Cash joins the league of African Unicorns with \$100m Series C increase

KAMPALA

FRESH from raising \$30 million in series B funding led by Ribbit Capital and Bezos Expeditions in November 2020, Chipper Cash announced that it has raised \$100 million in a new Series C raise.

In June 2020, Chipper Cash also raised \$13.8 million Series A funding round led by Deciens Capital. With this new raise, the African cross-border fintech startup has joined the league of African Unicorns including Flutterwave, Interswitch, Fawry and Jumia

The new raise led by SVB Capital, brings total funds raised to \$152.2 million. Other participants in this round include existing investors - Deciens Capital, Ribbit Capital, Bezos Expeditions, One Way Ventures, 500 Startups, Tribe Capital, and Brue2 Ventures.

Chipper Cash was founded by Ham Serunjogi (Uganda) and Maijid Moujaled (Ghana) in October 2018 and currently has offices in Ghana and Nigeria. It offers no-fee, P2P, cross-border mobile-money payments in Africa. It is currently present in seven African countries - Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Africa, Kenya - and one non-African country, United Kingdom.

In a discussion with Techcrunch, the CEO Ham Serunjogi said the company has launched cards products in Nigeria and it has also launched its crypto product. He said that the company will be also launching its US stocks product in Uganda, Nigeria and a few other countries soon.

Early last year, the company partnered with Visa in its plan to expand its reach in Africa. Chipper Cash intends to use the new funds to introduce more products and grow its 200+ team by hiring 100 staff throughout the year.



# Can Carbon Finance pay for the protection of forests?

By Jo Anderson

LAST month the world celebrated Earth Day, 51 years after the first mass gatherings were held recognising the fundamental importance for human societies of our planetary life-support system. On the 5th June we are urged by the United Nations Environment Programme to celebrate World Environment Day, being promoted as a chance for our generation to "make peace with nature," by joining the #restorationgeneration.

There is no shortage of evidence, both scientific and anecdotal, about the importance of nature, and natural ecosystems, to human well-being. Ever since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, successive reports have sounded the alarm about how damaging the loss of nature will be to our ability to live sustainably on the earth by highlighting the impacts that human activities have on the environment.

More recently research organisations and economic analysts have sought to frame these impacts in more conventional economic terms, clearly demonstrating that economic growth and prosperity is contingent on global ecological health. And very few people are unaware of how important it is to mental and physical health for people to spend time in the outdoors surrounded by nature, an experience that needs no measuring or scientific proof!

## Man vs nature vs climate change?

And while protecting nature and its critical biodiversity is a specific challenge in its own right, it is inextricably bound up with the need to address climate change, which itself threatens to undermine the economic systems that support human societies. Some commentators have taken to attempting to separate the two issues, but this is no simplistic Godzilla vs Kong scenario!

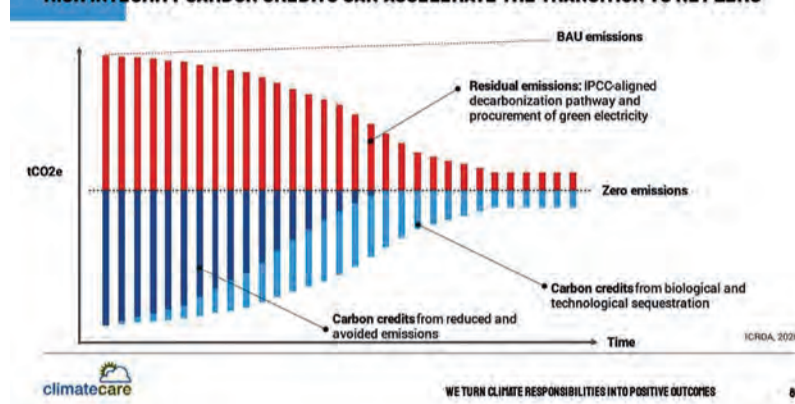
Protecting large, intact ecosystems such as coral reefs, freshwater marshes and natural forests is important as these systems provide the clean air, fresh water and fertile soils needed for human activities such as farming and manufacturing, but we are increasingly coming to realise that they play a critical role in regulating our climate system through their role as carbon cycle sinks - as such nature is one of our most effective allies in the efforts to curb climate change.

## Financing the fight

Some of the recent reports on the issue attempt to put a value on nature, to determine how we might put a price on the services that nature provides and including this cost into our business models and economic policies and planning. In the realm of climate change this thinking has already taking a very strong foothold, and integrating the financial risks of the impacts (framed as economic costs) of unmitigated climate change is now core to most major government and large companies' strategies.

This has resulted in the current momentum behind significant financial commitments, by business, philanthropy and governments, to "invest in nature" as a key strategy to mitigate climate change. After years of under-investment in nature, the world has woken up and is now seeking to deploy previously unimagined amounts of capital to initiatives, companies, organisations and countries that can put this money

## HIGH INTEGRITY CARBON CREDITS CAN ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO



to work in the service of protecting the environment.

A good example of this flow of capital can be seen in the Voluntary Carbon Markets where companies, that have committed to net-zero emissions strategies in order to contribute to the Paris Agreement target of limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 Deg C above pre-industrial levels, are seeking to finance activities that reduce carbon emissions from nature, funding so-called "Nature-based Solutions" to climate change. The options for such companies are nonetheless limited by the number of organisations and projects that are currently generating genuine climate impacts from natural ecosystems - demand far outstrips supply.

## Paying for nature's services

As can be seen from the graphic below, produced by our friends at ClimateCare, there are two main ways for companies to transition to a net-zero situation. In reality most companies can be considered to be at the far left hand side of this graphic, that is to say, they are very much at the beginning of their net-zero "journey," but the critical thing is that they are at least on the road!

In the near to medium term the only way to deal with their emissions is to "offset" them through the purchase of carbon credits from activities that reduce and avoid carbon emissions (this includes avoiding deforestation and other habitat loss), and then later, as their total emissions decrease over time, other options for balancing out these emissions become available through the purchase of carbon credits from activities that actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (such as technological carbon capture and storage and nature-based carbon removal (sequestration), including tree-planting projects and forest restoration and regeneration).

The key aspect of this schematic to note is that credits from sequestration can only be accessed later in the cycle because 1) carbon capture from technological means is not yet available at the required scale and 2) it is not possible to generate significant carbon removals from tree-planting and habitat restoration immediately - the credits from such activities will be produced after several years as

the growth cycles of the trees progress.

The message here is that avoiding emissions from deforestation and other habitat loss offers the greatest short to medium potential for companies to deal with their emissions. Protecting natural, wildlife-rich community forests using the REDD monitoring mechanism for generating carbon credits is one way of achieving this, and relies on companies on a net-zero pathway buying the resulting carbon credits.

Recently the validity of the carbon credits created in this way, and the subsequent right of companies to use these credits for net-zero claims, has been questioned through a report published by Unearthed. The article references findings of a scientific paper that identified some cases of over claiming the effectiveness of forest protection in the Brazilian Amazon, and its findings have been strongly rejected by VERRA, the organisation responsible for verifying the integrity of the carbon credits.

## Time to decide

The exchange goes to the heart of the question of how the protection of nature could, and should, be financed. As the title of the graphic indicates, those working to protect nature by linking it to the measurable climate change mitigation outcomes it provides know that in the short to medium term high integrity offset payments are an immediate and effective way to protect important biodiversity, often in the form of standing tropical forests, and as of now there are no other serious funding options being offered by the global community, so efforts to generate high quality, nature-based carbon credits which channel benefits to the local communities who live in and around these forests must be supported by companies that are genuinely committed to their net-zero pathways.

While projects employing REDD as their monitoring framework have enjoyed mixed success due to greatly varying contexts, pre-conditions and institutional capacity, this is no reason to dismiss the validity of many current initiatives that are successfully generating emission reductions by protecting forests while also bringing huge benefits to rural indigenous communities around the world.

Jo Anderson is Carbon Tanzania's Director of Finance and Sales.

# Coffee buyers to pay 2pc research levy

NAIROBI

The State will impose a two percent levy on wholesale buyers of coffee to raise funds for research, regulation and development grants to counties that grow the crop if MPs enact a new Bill into law.

The Office of the President wants the Coffee Bill, 2020 amended to impose the levy on persons who engage in buying clean coffee for blending, roasting, grinding and packaging for resale in the local or export market. The levy will be apportioned between the Coffee Board of Kenya, the Coffee Research Institute and county governments for development of the crop.

"The levy imposed under subsection (2) shall be apportioned as follows- 1 percent to the Institute, 0.5 percent to the Board for regulatory and coffee promotion purposes, and 0.5 percent to the coffee growing County Governments for coffee development as conditional grants," Prof Joseph Kieyah said in a memorandum on the Senate sponsored Coffee Bill 2020. Official data from the government shows that Kenya last year produced 24,416.4 metric tonnes of coffee which was sold at an average price of Sh452.56 per kilo, netting Sh11billion from sales.

This means that the Coffee Board of Kenya will receive more than Sh221 million annually, being two percent of the Sh11 billion, for coffee development. The presidency, through the Coffee Sub-Sector Reforms Implementation Standing Committee (CSRISC) chaired by Prof Kieyah, seeks to empower the Agriculture Cabinet Secretary (CS) to impose the levy.



Kenya's Agriculture cabinet secretary (minister), Peter Munya.

The the Senate committee on Agriculture chaired Njeru Ndwi-ga (Embu) had invited CSRISC to submit comments on the Coffee Bill, 2020. CSRISC, chaired by Prof Kieyah was appointed by President Uhuru Kenyatta to coordinate, oversee and monitor the implementation of the coffee subsector reforms.

CSRISC is the successor of the Coffee Sub-Sector Implementation Committee which spearheaded the formulation of the Crops (Coffee) (Regulations), 2019 and the Capital Markets (Coffee Exchange) Regulations, 2020.

Prof Kieyah criticised the Agriculture CS Peter Munya for introducing a parallel Coffee Bill, 2021 in the National Assembly. He said the Munya led-Bill reintroduces the role of coffee marketers which regulations scrapped.

# One Acre Fund-TUBURA partners with agro-dealers to boost farmers' yields

KIGALI

ONE Acre Fund-TUBURA is implementing a new programme dubbed "Amaduka Akorana na One Acre Fund" Shops partnering with One Acre Fund: Shops partnering with One Acre Fund" aimed to ensure that more smallholders farmers get agro-inputs on credit so as to increase agricultural productivity

Founded in 2007 in Rwanda, One Acre Fund-TUBURA is an agricultural development organisation currently serving over more than 600,000 farming households, delivering farm inputs on credit direct to the cell level to increase their yield.

The organisation trains farmers on the latest agricultural practices, and how to sell harvest surplus and also offers other products on credit, like solar lights, which improves their quality of life. Evariste Bagambiki, a communications specialist at One Acre Fund-TUBURA said that new program currently working with 66 agro-dealers and quality seeds and thus increase productivity.

"Some smallholder farmers face challenges like lack of cash to buy sufficient inputs for their farms and also lack access to credit. One Acre Fund-TUBURA wants to serve more farmers by also working with agro-dealers to sell agro-inputs on credit," he said.

In order to ensure agro-dealers who sell farm input on credit continue to have liquidity, One Acre Fund-TUBURA immediately pays the agro-dealers so that farmers will gradually pay back the credit to One Acre Fund-TUBURA in installments.

Through this arrangement, farmers can access all kinds of inputs from the dealers on credit, including fertilizer and hybrid maize seeds, as well as high-quality harvest storage bags, spray pumps, pesticides, fungicides and solar home systems. He said that working with agro-dealers will also ensure smallholder farmers get inputs especially for season C in which One Acre Fund-TUBURA itself doesn't supply much from its own stores.

The programme is currently operational in the districts of Gakenke, Gicumbi, Kayanza, and Rwamagana with plans to expand it in four new districts for the 22A season - namely Ngoma, Kirehe, Rulindo, and Burera. He said that loans have been provided to more than 34,000 farmers in the 21AB season so far.

"We urge more farmers to work with agro-dealers under this programme to ensure they have constant supply of inputs irrespective of whether they have cash or not." Through the programme, One Acre Fund-TUBURA

has deployed shop officers to mobilize farmers to buy the agro-input on credit from agro-dealers shops.

After buying their inputs, farmers receive training so that they go home knowing very well how to use those products. The organization has also hired farming promoters in communities and these were trained by the government's Twigire Muhinzi programme and offers training on improved planting techniques.

Each agro-dealer shop is equipped with a small box of earth that is used for live planting demonstrations. "Partnered agro-dealers can see input sales volumes grow by 50% or more in just the first year of partnership," Bagambiki said.

## Agro-dealers, farmers commend programme

Immaculee Mukamuhoza, an agro-dealer from Binunga cell Munyiginya sector in Rwamagana district said that her sales volumes have hugely increased. "Since the programme started, I have more clients because farmers were mobilized and facilitated to buy fertilizers, seeds and other agro-inputs on credit," she said.

"Before benefitting from this programme I used to supply six tonnes of agro-inputs to farmers per season but this has increased to 20 tonnes. When we provide agro-inputs to farmers, One Acre Fund Tubura pays us in one week then the farmers will pay Tubura gradually as they get money," she said. Jacqueline Uwera in Bwana cell of Munyiginya sector is a farmer who has been buying fertilizers on credit from agro-dealers under the program.

"Before this credit programme, we would even plant crops without fertilizers or delay planting due to lack of financial capacity. Therefore the agricultural productivity was always very low. Thanks to the credit program my produce has increased from 200kg to one tonne," she said. She has also received fertilizers on credit to grow Irish potatoes on 80 acres this season. "I pay back the credit in installments as I get money," she said

She said that the fertilizers have also improved her fruit productivity from which she got a harvest worth Rwf5 million. "I have since managed to build a house and set up a shop thanks to the initiative," she said.

Janvier Habimana another farmer said that before working with agro-dealers through One-Acre Fund Tubura, he used to count huge losses on his farm. "I once prepared my land but lacked the financial capacity to buy fertilizers for beans. I lost over Rwf400,000. Thanks to the credit programme, my seasonal yield has tripled."



Immaculee Mukamuhoza, an agro-dealer from Binunga cell Munyiginya sector in Rwamagana district said that her sales volumes have hugely increased thanks to partnership with One Acre Fund Tubura.

# Woolworths opens new concept standalone Jo'burg liquor store

JOHANNESBURG

THE dedicated store offers a broader selection of crafted wines, co-created with leading wineries, as well as additional lines to cater for different tastes, such as an edited assortment of beers, craft beers, ciders and spirits.

The store design is intended to create a warm and safe ambiance. The WCellar store will also offer in-house expert advice on wine and liquor, in the form of an in-store sommelier (WCellar consultant). The consultant will be on-hand to help guide customers on their journey, making suggestions and recommendations.

"At Woolworths, we are constantly looking for ways to innovate and improve on our offering of quality products, so we're really excited about the launch of the WCellar brand extension," says Rebecca Constable, senior wine buyer for Woolworths. "The selection of drinks has been carefully curated by our team of experts, and we're confident that our customers won't need or want to go anywhere else for their complete shop," she says. "Customers will experience the Woolies difference, receive help with their selection and find a range to suit any occasion."

Woolworths strives to bring its customers wines that are sustainably sourced and ethically made, and as such the liquor range at WCellar has been expertly selected, making sure to please every taste; from the distinguished wine connoisseur to the whiskey lover searching for the perfect malt.

The launch will be celebrated with local loyalty members. WRewards cardholders who live in the area will receive a voucher which entitles them to R100 off any purchase over R300. WCellar Wine Club members can also find exclusive discounts in-store at a dedicated feature wall. An exclusive discount of 20% off Chardonnay (in celebration of International Chardonnay Day on 27 May) is currently on offer, for example.



# The practical challenges associated with rebates and Value Added Tax Act, 2014

By Evance Tairo

REBATES (also known as volume discounts/bonus discounts) are financial incentives or advantages given by a manufacturer/supplier, in order to motivate customers or the group of individuals to purchase in bulk.

The supplier rewards those buying in bulk by providing a reduced price for each good or group of goods. Volume discounts allow businesses to purchase additional inventory at reduced cost and allow suppliers, to reduce inventories by selling more units to bulk buyers who are incentivized by the lower price.

The volume discounts can take on a variety of arrangements with the most common being retrospective in nature and are often tiered - that is, a specific discount is applied to X number of units within that tier. The discount increases as for tiers that include larger and larger numbers of units. Upon determining the discount amount, additional volume is supplied to the buyer of the same value of discount offered.

## Importance of rebates

Business practice between suppliers, distributors and retailers, demonstrates that the granting of discounts often constitutes the cornerstone of their relationships. As practiced throughout the world, some of Tanzania's suppliers employ rebates in encouraging their distributors, to buy large volumes of products and attain common loyalty between supplier and distributor. In Tanzania, suppliers of bulk products such as cement, petroleum, soap and cooking oil apply volume discounts in their distribution chain.

It is also important to note that, for most of these arrangements, distributors sell products down the supply chain with unit price higher than the unit price they bought with from the suppliers. Their profits arise solely from the extra volume earned through the rebate arrangements. So, distributors' position in the supply chain exists only due to the presence of rebates.

Rebates around the world in relation to value Added Tax (VAT)

Countries such as United Kingdom (UK) and South Africa, understand the importance of volume discounts to further trade, incorporated its practices in their VAT legislations over the years. In the UK, a supplier can issue a credit note upon a buyer reaching a pre agreed volume of purchase to cover the discount. The supplier is later allowed to reduce the amount of output by the discount allowed while the recipient decreases input by similar amount in their VAT returns. The adjustments can be done over multiple deliveries.

In South Africa, a supplier granting volume discounts can claim an input



an audit by the Revenue Authority, rebates usually result into significant adjustments on VAT payable by the Suppliers.

## Recommendations

It is important to understand that adjustments relating to rebates for both the supplier and the recipient in the VAT returns would not result into a loss of revenue by the Revenue Authority. Further, the importance of rebates cannot be understated in a growing economy such as Tanzania, in terms of driving forward trade (both domestic and exports) and expanding employment through the distributors.

The scheme can also be used to stimulate growth of industries by easing coverage through distributors, aiming to make profit through the volume discounts. Because of that, it is in the best interest of both, the taxpayers (distributors and the manufacturers) and the Revenue Authority that a harmonious trade environment is provided to ensure that trade thrives, and tax revenues are collected correctly and as quickly as possible.

The adjustments done by the Revenue Authority usually results into disputes with the taxpayers that in most cases end in courts. This results into time wastage, exorbitant legal costs and disruption of the trade, as a lot of human resources would need to be allocated on trying to resolve the issue. This is on top of the actual VAT amount that usually becomes payable by the manufacturers as a result of loss of the legal battle.

Further, this creates uncertainties to potential investors from other parts of the world, whose pricing structure and sale volumes largely depend on rebates. With the unfolding globalization, effecting how business are operated all over the world on day to day basis, it is important that tax laws change to cater for this dynamic. The legislative body as well as the enforcers of laws needs to be aware the rapid changes in the business environment as well as how they can be incorporated in the legislation so that tax can be collected correctly and quickly.

In the issue as significant as this, it is imperative that all stakeholders (manufacturers, distributors and Revenue Authority) are involved in forming a solution. A committee could be formed, comprising of all stakeholders, to review the importance and difficulties of practising rebates in relation to the Act, and further, how Legislations can be altered to fit the practice, without compromising the tax base.

**Evance Tairo (pictured) (etairo@kpmg.co.tz), ACCA, a tax advisor at KPMG in Tanzania. Views expressed here are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of KPMG.**

## Global economy's recovery will be significant but uneven, OECD says

PARIS

THE global economy is set for a "significant but uneven" recovery this year due to swift policy actions and rapid Covid-19 vaccine distribution in some countries, though headwinds still persist, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said.

The world economy is projected to rebound 5.75 per cent this year and nearly 4.5 per cent in 2022, following a 3.5 per cent contraction in 2020, the 37-member country OECD said yesterday in its economic outlook. That marks a slight increase from its March forecast when the Paris-based policy forum estimated an expansion of 5.6 per cent in 2021. In April, the International Monetary Fund raised its global economic outlook forecast to 6 per cent this year, compared with a previous forecast of 5.5 per cent.

A fast-growing manufacturing sector, strong rebound in trade as borders reopen, a gradual resumption of travel, a surge in consumption and higher number of hours worked are encouraging signs and should "limit the scars" from the crisis, the OECD said.

"The world economy is currently navigating towards the recovery, with lots of frictions," Laurence Boone, OECD chief economist, said. "The risk that sufficient post-pandemic growth is not achieved or widely shared is elevated."

While the global economy has returned to pre-pandemic activity levels, it remains below its pre-pandemic growth path. In many OECD countries living standards by the end of 2022 will not return to the level expected before the crisis, the report showed. Looming over the brighter economic outlook are risks related to the changing nature of the coronavirus, household savings and conditions in emerging market and developing economies, the OECD warned.

Emerging and low-income countries are not receiving enough vaccines, exposing them to a "fundamental threat" because they have a reduced capacity to provide support than more advanced economies, the organisation said.

A new and much-debated risk is the possibility of higher inflation as central banks and governments pump trillions of dollars to support economies. Commodity prices have been rising fast while bottlenecks in some sectors and disruptions to trade are creating price tensions, according to the OECD.

In addition, "substantial uncertainty" remains around new, more contagious and more fatal virus variants that are increasingly resistant to existing vaccines, unless effective vaccines are deployed quickly and widely. This could mean reinstating strict containment measures, with the ensuing economic costs related to lower confidence and spending, the report said.

Amid this uncertain environment, governments need to continue adopting flexible and sustainable policies. The OECD urged policymakers to prioritise distributing vaccines quickly to save lives, preserve incomes and limit the negative impact of containment measures.

"Stronger international efforts are needed to provide low-income countries with the resources to vaccinate their populations for their own and global benefits," the report said. Sharing knowledge, medical and financial resources, and avoiding harmful bans to trade, especially in health-care products, are all essential to address the pandemic-induced challenges.

Governments in advanced economies must maintain the current accommodative monetary policy, and temporary overshooting of headline inflation should be allowed provided underlying price pressures are contained, the OECD said.

Globally, governments provided \$16 trillion in fiscal stimulus last year, backed by \$9tn in monetary support from central banks. Continued income support for households and companies is warranted until vaccination allows a significant easing of restraints on high-contact activities, the OECD added.

The strong fiscal policy stimulus being implemented this year is appropriate but some moderation in support appears likely in 2022, according to the organisation. Structural reforms aimed at strengthening economic resilience and mitigating climate change are needed to help reallocate workers and resources towards sustainable sectors, it said.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# Emerging markets offer litmus test for traders' bold rate bets

JOHANNESBURG

WHEN it comes to betting on higher borrowing costs in the developing world, some investors may be getting ahead of themselves. In markets from South Africa to Mexico and South Korea, traders are penciling in a faster pace of interest-rate hikes than what economists say is currently warranted based on the inflation outlook.

"Almost all of them are overpricing tightening," said Shamaila Khan, the head of emerging-market debt at AllianceBernstein in New York, whose \$4.7 billion high-yield bond fund has topped 86% of peers in the past year.

The positioning reflects a common motif in markets: After months of Covid-19 lockdowns there's a risk that policy makers run their economies hot, only to backtrack with sharper-than-expected rate hikes down the line.

But the debate carries extra weight in emerging markets, an asset class that's particularly sensitive to the Federal Reserve's stance. And it suggests how trades could quickly unwind on any signs of policy staying loose, potentially rewarding investors willing to look past the bearish outlook.

In Mexico, for instance, the swap-market pricing suggests a hiking cycle could start as

soon as August, even though the majority of economists say the central bank will refrain from tightening until at least February.

It's a similar story in South Africa, where forward-rate agreements are pricing in a 70% probability of a 50-basis-point jump in six months, whereas Bloomberg's monthly survey shows the rate staying unchanged until year-end. Meantime, South Korea's forward-rate agreements are pricing in close to a 25 basis-point rate increase in the next six months. In contrast, most economists predict no change.

Against this backdrop, AllianceBernstein's Khan said her fund favors the local debt of South Africa, Mexico and Russia, "where markets have priced in too much in terms of the policy rate path." US central bank officials may be able to begin discussing the appropriate timing of scaling back their bond-buying program at upcoming policy meetings, Federal Reserve Vice Chair Richard Clarida said last week.

Inflation overshoot At the same time, the coronavirus continues to spread in large swathes of the developing world, underlying the need for more stimulus. In India, traders unwound their rate-hike wagers last month as policy makers turned to a bond-buying program to support the economy against another wave

## Hawkish Wagers

Money markets are leaning toward South African rate tightening this year



Source: Bloomberg

of infections.

The Reserve Bank of India is likely to keep its benchmark interest rate unchanged on Friday and announce further bond purchases as the economy struggles with localised lockdowns implemented by most states.

HSBC Holdings Plc says the prospect that central bank support gets scaled back later than what current market pricing implies suggest there's value in the front-end of the rates curve, including in South Korea and Poland.

It's a view echoed by Edwin Gutierrez, the head of emerging-market sovereign debt at Aberdeen Asset Management in London. "We are long South Africa and Mexico as we do think that the curve

prices in a rate hiking trajectory that is not likely," he said.

Market correction

That's not to say caution isn't warranted. The Citi EM Inflation Surprise Index is at the highest since 2008, a reminder of how many investors were caught off guard by the resurgence of inflation. "Risks are likely skewed toward faster tightening, rather than slower," said Duncan Tan, a strategist at DBS Bank Ltd. in Singapore.

Inflation data from South Korea to Turkey and Poland this week may offer clues on the path for monetary policy. In Mexico, traders will monitor the central bank's quarterly inflation report on Wednesday for signs that the monetary authority could adopt a less dovish outlook.

"Unless near-term data releases provide a confirmation to what is being priced, the current market pricing is vulnerable to a correction," said Eugenia Victorino, head of Asia strategy at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB in Singapore. "The market is already pricing in more hikes than what fundamentals are suggesting," she said.



## WORLD

# W. African bloc suspends Mali over coup, but no new sanctions

ACCRA

WEST African regional bloc ECOWAS on Sunday suspended Mali's membership in response to last week's coup and said authorities must stick to a timetable for a return to democracy, but stopped short of imposing new sanctions.

Leaders of the 15-member Economic Community of West African States held an emergency summit in Ghana's capital Accra to agree a response to the Ma-

lian military's ouster of a president and prime minister for the second time in nine months.

Mali's neighbors and international powers fear the latest revolt will jeopardize a commitment to hold a presidential election next February, and undermine a regional fight against Islamist militants.

In a communique after the summit, ECOWAS said Mali's membership in the bloc was suspended with immediate ef-



President of Ghana and Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Nana Akufo-Addo, center, addresses dignitaries at the ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit on the situation in Mali, in Accra, capital of Ghana, on Sunday. (AFP)

fect.

However it did not announce sanctions like those it imposed after the coup last August, which saw members temporarily close their borders with landlocked Mali and halt financial transactions.

It also did not call for new interim President Assimi Goita to step down. The army colonel, who led the August coup and last week's revolt, was declared president on Friday.

Instead, ECOWAS said a new civilian prime minister should be nominated and a new inclusive government formed to proceed with the transition program.

"The date of 27th February 2022 already announced for the presidential election should be absolutely maintained," the leaders' communique reads.

There was no immediate response from Goita, who attended the summit.

Goita, a 38-year-old special forces commander, was one of several colonels who overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita last year.

He ordered the arrests last Monday of interim President Bah Nday and Prime Minister Moctar Ouane. Both resigned on Wednesday while still in detention. They were later released.

ECOWAS and Western powers including France and the United States worry the political crisis could exacerbate instability in northern and central Mali, a home base for regional affiliates of al-Qaeda and Islamic State. **Agencies**



This April 28, 2021, photo provided by the South Korean Defence Ministry shows a South Korean soldier receiving the first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at the Armed Forces Capital Hospital in Seongnam, south of Seoul. (AFP)

## S. Korea reports 1st case of blood clots linked to AstraZeneca shot

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea yesterday reported its first case of rare blood clotting linked to AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine.

The patient is a man in his 30s who got the shot on April 27 because of his job at a medical facility, Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) director Jeong Eun-kyeong told a briefing.

He felt a headache on May 9 and sought medical treatment before being hospitalized on May 12 as it continued and he suffered muscle cramps, Jeong said.

"His condition has improved since then and we understand there is no big problem though he still needs monitoring," she said.

Jeong said the symptoms are curable if detected early and treated properly.

Around 3.27 million people in South Korea have received at least one dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine so far.

Reports from around the world have involved extremely rare clotting, mainly a type of blood clot called cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST), seen in combination with low blood platelet levels, called thrombocytopenia.

South Korea reported 430 more cases of COVID-19 as of midnight Sunday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 140,340.

The daily caseload was down from 480 in the previous day, marking the lowest in 63 days since March 29. The daily average caseload for the past week was 554.

The daily number of infections hovered in triple figures since Nov 8 last year due to small cluster infections in Seoul and its surrounding Gyeonggi province as well as imported cases.

Two more deaths were confirmed, leaving the death toll at 1,959. The total fatality rate stood at 1.40 percent.

## Liaison office of central govt in HKSAR condemns intimidation against judge

HONG KONG

THE Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Sunday condemned the criminal intimidation against a judge, saying the intimidator must be strictly punished.

After handing down sentences on Jimmy Lai and nine other defendants who were convicted of organizing and inciting others to participate in an illegal assembly, Amanda Jane Woodcock, the judge in charge, received phone calls that threatened to harm her and her family.

The intimidation against a judge is appalling and outrageous in Hong Kong, a place known for the rule of law, a spokesperson of the office said, stressing that it blatantly jeopardized the law and order, and harmed the public interests.

The office firmly supports the judiciary in assuming their responsibilities according to the law and supports the police in taking resolute actions to safeguard the rule of law, the spokesperson said.

After the national security law in the HKSAR took effect last year, many extremists and radicals who committed crimes during the social unrest have received the punishment they deserved, which helped restore peace and order in Hong Kong, demonstrated the rule of law, and responded to people's demand, the spokesperson said.

Judges and other people working in the judiciary should be respected for their unbiased and selfless work, and their safety should be under good protection, the spokesperson said.

Intimidation will not lead to fear but only stimulate the strong will of safeguarding the rule of law and the judiciary independence, the spokesperson said.

The rule of law is one of the core values of Hong Kong as well as the cornerstone of its prosperity and stability, and judges should exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference, the spokesperson said.

**Xinhua**

## CPC achievements beacon for people across world, says British party official

BEIJING

CHINA'S achievements in ending absolute poverty and defeating COVID-19 under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) are "a beacon" for the people of the world, a senior official of the Communist Party of Britain (CPB) has said.

"The achievements of the Communist Party of China are not just for the people of China. They are as a beacon for people across the world," CPB International Secretary John Foster told Xinhua in a recent interview via video link.

Foster (pictured) said China's accomplishments were striking during his several visits to the country in recent years, and he was particularly "amazed at many of the technological achievements in industries, from artificial intelligence to aeronautics to space."

But the most important

achievement is on the ground, Foster said, recalling "the villages and towns" he has visited in China where he saw how people's living standards had been improved.

Foster said he was particularly impressed by how the goals outlined by the CPC during his visits have all been achieved, one after the other.

"The goal that was set for the previous year (2020) was the elimination of absolute poverty," and it has been achieved in the context of COVID-19, he said.

Foster stressed that China's ability to so effectively bring the pandemic under control is a testament to the country's governing system and the role of the CPC.

"Because as we understand it, the ability of China to overcome the pandemic depends very much on the strength of the links between the Communist Party as a mass party organized



in villages and towns with the mass of the people," the senior official noted.

The CPC leads China "from a perspective of developing socialism in its own country and mutually beneficial relationships with other countries," Foster added.

He said China's dedication to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind is equally important, and some Western countries' an-

tical order," the initiative said.

The initiative calls for establishing mutually beneficial relationships built upon common interests and understanding while respecting differences, according to Foster.

During the meeting, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that political parties from different countries should explore the building of a new type of party-to-party relations that seeks to expand common ground while reserving differences and enhances mutual respect and mutual learning.

"It was innovative in so far as it brought together parties from across the world with differing political perspectives, not communist parties or socialist parties alone, but a whole range of parties," Foster said.

He believes that Xi's proposal "could bind countries together and develop a level of mutual understanding that has not previously existed." **Xinhua**

## Russia is surprised why EU stays passive as US ruins arms control – Lavrov

MOSCOW

MOSCOW is surprised by Brussels' passive reaction to Washington's policy of running the system of arms control, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said yesterday while speaking at the opening of a conference on Russia-EU relations.

"The European Union's reaction to the systematic ruining through the US fault of arms control regimes is surprising," he said.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin's detailed and concrete proposal for preventing the emergence of



ground-launched intermediate range missiles has been left unnoticed," Lavrov said. "Let me stress it once again that in particular they try to

play down the coordination of a verification mechanism envisaging absolutely concrete procedures, such as visits to the Kaliningrad Region in ex-

change for visits to US missile defense bases in Poland and Romania."

Lavrov stressed that anti-Russian rhetoric in the West was transforming into a military buildup against Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister also noted that it is time to resume political contacts between the EU and Russia, namely with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

"So far, we have established technical contacts on regulatory and other issues between the commissions."

However, we think that the time has come for political contacts as well," he said on

Monday during the opening of a conference dedicated to Russian-EU relations.

Lavrov noted that it is necessary to use the comparative advantages to co-existing on the same continent, which is considered "the locomotive of global economic growth," to fix the current state of relations.

"We can start small and launch stable cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union and the European Union. We have been calling on our European partners to do this for a while," he pointed out.

**Agencies**

## Pollutant transfer on Yichang section of Yangtze River gets smarter

AS a container vessel from Shanghai was berthed at an anchorage ground along the Yangtze River, China's longest watercourse, in Yichang, central China's Hubei province, Xi Yingjun, captain of the vessel, submitted a list of pollutants generated by the crew members in nearly 10 days, including 2.5 cubic meters of domestic sewage, on a mobile app.

Then the list was received by Zhang Shouzhi, captain of a ship responsible for receiving the pollutants, who later commanded his crew to pilot the ship to a designated area to pick up the garbage.

Ten minutes later, the two vessels were berthed shoulder to shoulder, and the domestic sewage was

pumped to Zhang's ship, after which both captains received an electronic bill indicating the time and transfer volume on their mobile phones.

The Yichang section of the Yangtze River stretches 232 kilometers and is passed by around 60,000 vessels each year.

Therefore, it's not rare to see a vast number of vessels anchored there waiting for inspection before passing ship locks.

In order to save time and reduce cost, most ships choose to have their pollutants transferred while they are waiting for inspection, according to Hu Jixue, head of a law enforcement detachment for waterway transport in Yichang.

"Vessels often spend a long time in the section due to the huge traffic, and the handover, transfer and disposal of pollutants are a big headache for us," Hu told People's Daily.

Apart from domestic sewage, vessels also produce residential waste and oily wastewater, the disposal of which is supervised by different regulators, for example, the housing and urban-rural development bureau, urban management law-enforcement bureau, and environmental authority, Hu said.

In addition, ships and ports are administered separately by the department of maritime affairs and transport department, which made it even more difficult to efficiently

and properly remove and dispose pollutants from passing vessels, he said.

"Where do pollutants come from and where will they be taken? No one could explain it clearly because of the lack of communication in the past," Hu added.

In 2019, Jingxiaoyi, which literally means "a clean Yichang" in Chinese, a collaborative governance information system for addressing pollutants from ships was launched by Yichang. Comprising a mini-program on WeChat, a backend database, and a big display screen, the system is both an instrument for receiving, transferring, and disposing pollutants from vessels and

an open platform for collaborative supervision and control among different authorities.

After Zhang once again opened the mini-program at noon and submitted an application to transfer the domestic sewage he received from Xi's container vessel, the sewage pump on his ship was connected to a sanitary sewer on the riverbank under the operation of Yang Hongxin, a dispatcher at a wharf where received pollutants are transferred. Then the sewage entered the municipal sewage pipe network for bio-safety disposal.

Meanwhile, the whole process of the transfer was displayed in real time on the big screen of an

intelligent management center of Yichang's bureau of transport, so that the whereabouts of the pollutants are totally trackable for supervisory and regulatory authorities.

"Domestic wastewater is transferred by the wharf before being directly discharged into the municipal sewage network. Domestic solid waste is taken care of by the environmental authority, which transfers it to solid waste treatment center by sanitation vehicles."

And oily wastewater is taken to oil refineries by oil tank trucks after pretreatment at the wharf," introduced Li Xian, an executive with the intelligent management center.

**People's Daily**



## Sudan's national currency sharply declines amid rising inflation, continued prices hike

### KHARTOUM

Sudan is witnessing an accelerating economic decline amid continued deterioration in the exchange price of the Sudanese pound, a rising inflation rate and a great hike in the prices of essential commodities.

Sudanese economic experts have warned that the country could fall into economic recession due to the loss of purchasing power, uncontrolled commodity prices, and the collapse of the local currency.

"There is a clear economic deterioration, and the state must intervene through its mechanisms to stop the collapse of the (Sudanese) pound, curb the inflation and control the prices hike," Kamal Ahmed Yousif, dean of faculty of commerce at Al Neelain University in Sudan, told Xinhua.

He attributed the decline in the exchange price of the Sudanese pound against other currencies to weakness of production and the donors' failure to fulfil their promises to support Sudan.

"The productive sectors must be strengthened, cash exports be increased and unnecessary imported goods be reduced," he added.

According to dealers in the foreign exchange market in the capital Khartoum, the Sudanese pound continued its decline against foreign currencies with an exchange rate of 505 Sudanese pounds per U.S. dollar on Sunday against its official exchange rate of about 420 pounds.

Al-Samawal Fadlessid, a Sudanese economic analyst, blamed the government for the decline of the local currency. "The government is the biggest buyer of the dollars on the parallel market to secure its foreign exchange needs," Fadlessid told Xinhua.

"There is a large monetary base moving outside the banking system for speculation in the prices of the dollar, where there is a steady increase in foreign currency exchange rates around the clock," he added.

The expert expressed his concern that the situation would end up in economic collapse and a general recession, unless the government intervenes to redress the matter. In the meantime, Sudanese Finance Minister Jibril Ibrahim on Sunday accused unnamed parties of attempting to sabotage the national economy.

"The prices of the dollar in the parallel market are illogical and have nothing to do with the reality of the market.

They are intended to cause more turmoil and confusion in the national currency market and to create problems that negatively affect the national economy," said Ibrahim in a statement.

"The state is able to intervene to provide the required resources for the market of basic and strategic commodities," he said, stressing the availability of foreign exchange in the Central Bank of Sudan and the ability to meet the demands of individuals.

The continued decline of the Sudanese pound against foreign currencies led to a great hike in the prices of necessary commodities, which has exacerbated the suffering of the citizens.

In February, Sudan's transitional government sharply devaluated the national currency in a bid to end the economic and monetary imbalances.

In March, according to a report of Sudan's Central Statistics Bureau, the inflation rate in Sudan jumped to about 342 percent. Sudan has been undergoing an economic crisis since the secession of South Sudan in 2011, due to which Sudan lost 75 percent of its oil revenues.

Xinhua

## Russia ready to resume dialogue with NATO, waits for reply to its proposals, says Lavrov

### MOSCOW

RUSSIA is prepared for a resumption of the dialogue with NATO, and it is waiting for a reply to its proposals, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference in Moscow yesterday.

"We will be prepared to resume the dialogue. We are waiting for an answer to many of our proposals that the North Atlantic alliance has considered for more than a year now.

Their implementation might considerably help de-escalate tensions, which keep growing, in particular, in view of the permanent expansion of NATO's military infrastructures towards our borders," he said.

Lavrov stressed that Russia-NATO cooperation had been stalled since the 2014 government coup in Ukraine.

He pointed out that the dialogue between Russia and the alliance must not be shallow.

"Its purpose should not be to let NATO officials use the meetings of the Russia-NATO Council each time to make the absolutely biased statements that they voice in public to blame us for all conceivable sins in connection with the Ukrainian crisis," Lavrov said.

## Iran says progress made in nuclear talks but issues remain

### DUBAI

IRAN and six world powers have made significant progress in talks to revive their 2015 nuclear deal but important issues still need to be resolved, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Iran and the powers have negotiated in Vienna since April to work out steps that Tehran and Washington must take on sanctions and nuclear activities to return to full compliance with the nuclear pact.

"Each round of talks in Vienna could have been the final round. We should not rush. We have made significant progress but key issues remain," Saeed Khatibzadeh said during a televised weekly news conference.

"There has been no stalemate on the Vienna talks."

After former US President Donald Trump ditched the deal three years ago and reimposed sanctions on Iran, Tehran has been rebuilding stockpiles of low-enriched uranium, enriching it to higher levels of fissile purity and installing advanced centrifuges to speed up production.

Agencies

# Germany seeks clarification on report US spied on Merkel

### COPENHAGEN/BERLIN

THE German government is following up on a report that the United States used a partnership with Denmark to spy on senior officials of neighbouring countries, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a government spokesman said yesterday.

"The federal government has taken note of the report and is in contact with all relevant national and international bodies for clarification," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said at a regular news conference.

"As a matter of principle, and you already know this, I would ask you to understand that the federal government does not openly comment on matters concerning intelligence activities."

Danish state broadcaster DR reported that the US National Security Agency (NSA) used a partnership with Denmark's foreign intelligence unit to spy on senior officials of neighbouring countries, including Merkel. The findings are the result of an internal investigation in the Danish Defence Intelligence Service from 2015 into NSA's role in the partnership, DR reported, citing nine unnamed sources with access to the investigation.

According to the investigation which covered 2012 and 2014, the NSA used Danish information cables to spy on senior officials in Sweden, Norway, France and Germany, including former German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and former German opposition leader Peer Steinbrück.

Danish Defense Minister Trine Bramsen declined to comment on "speculation" about intelligence matters in the media.

"I can more generally say that this government has the same attitude as the former Prime Minister expressed in 2013 and 2014 - systematic wiretapping of close allies is unacceptable," Bramsen told Reuters in a statement.

In Washington, the NSA did not immediately reply to a request for comment and the Office of the Director



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

of National Intelligence (DNI) declined to comment. A spokesperson for the Danish Defence Intelligence Service declined to comment.

Denmark, a close ally of the United States, hosts several key landing stations for subsea internet cables to and from Sweden, Norway, Germany, Holland and the UK.

Through targeted retrievals and the use of NSA-developed analysis software known as Xkeyscore, NSA intercepted both calls, texts and chat messages to and from telephones of officials in the neighbouring countries, sources told DR.

The internal investigation in the Danish Defence Intelligence Service was launched in 2014 following concerns about Edward Snowden's leaks the previous year revealing how the

NSA works, according to DR.

Snowden fled the United States after leaking secret NSA files in 2013 and was given asylum in Russia.

Following DR's report, Snowden posted a cryptic Danish-language comment on Twitter saying: "If only there had been some reason to investigate many years ago. Oh why didn't anyone warn us?"

Steinbrück told German broadcaster ARD he thought it was "grotesque that friendly intelligence services are indeed intercepting and spying on top representatives" of other countries.

**"Politically I consider it a scandal."**

Swedish Defense Minister Peter Hultqvist told Swedish SVT broadcaster that he "demanded full infor-

mation". Norwegian Defense Minister Frank Bakke-Jensen told broadcaster NRK that he took the allegations seriously.

In Paris, French Minister for European Affairs Clement Beaune told France Info radio that the DR report needed to be checked and that, if confirmed, it would be a "serious" matter.

"These potential facts, they are serious, they must be checked," he said, adding there could be "some diplomatic protests".

A decision in August last year to suspend the head of the Danish Defence Intelligence Service and three other officials following criticism and accusations of serious wrongdoings from an independent board overseeing the agency centred on the 2015 investigation, according to DR.

Denmark said last year it would initiate an investigation into the case based on information from a whistleblower report. That investigation is expected to be concluded later this year.

Agencies

## Captain fully responsible for grounding of Ever Given in Suez Canal - authority

### ISMAILIA

EGYPT'S Suez Canal Authority (SCA) announced on Sunday the captain of Ever Given was fully responsible for the grounding of the huge cargo vessel that blocked the canal for six days in March.

"It is due to the captain's re-

peated orders in a very short time," Captain al-Sayed Shuaisha, head of the SCA's investigation team, told reporters at the SCA's headquarters in the Suez-Canal city of Ismailia. In April, the Egyptian authorities seized Ever Given, one of the largest container ships in the world. The 400-meter-long,

200,000-ton giant vessel ran aground across the canal on March 23 and halted the canal's traffic for six days.

"The data from the ship's black box proves that it is not the error of the SCA's mentors," Shuaisha said, adding that the data showed three other ships crossed shortly before the Ever

Given.

On May 25, Egypt offered to cut its compensation claim down from 916 million U.S. dollars to 550 million dollars against the impounded vessel after the SCA obtained the estimated financial value of the goods on the ship. On Saturday, an Egyptian economic court

postponed the trial on the ship to allow for further negotiations on the compensation value. Linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal lost between 12 to 15 million U.S. dollars in daily revenues during the blockage, according to statistics of the canal authority. Xinhua

## Expressway construction reveals China's rapid development



A super large bridge along the Pingxiang-Lianhua expressway in Pingxiang, east China's Jiangxi province is being constructed, May 4, 2021. (File photo)

IF you enter the Xiwu exit ramp of Fenghua, Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province along the Shenyang-Haikou expressway and drive all the way westwards along Dacheng East Road, it will only take three minutes to reach the downtown area of Fenghua.

Now, the Shenyang-Haikou expressway, the Ningbo loop expressway and the Ningbo-Jinhua expressway, which all pass through Fenghua, have formed a fast and convenient regional transport network after being connected by link roads.

A vast number of vehicles are running on these expressways every day, injecting constant energy into regional development.

Expressways mirror the rapid development of China's urban and rural construction.

According to local residents in Fenghua, poor transportation was once a barrier that hindered investment projects in the past. Years ago, Ye Taihai, an entrepreneur of Fenghua descent returned to the district and invested in local road construction. What he did enabled Fenghua to enjoy the dividends of China's reform and opening up.

Today, transportation is not any longer a weak link of Fenghua, and all of its townships can get to an expressway within 30 minutes. The convenient transportation has even become an advantage of the district in attracting investment.

From muddy roads to modern road networks, cities today are closely connected, which can better facilitate economic and cultural exchanges, as well as the flow of personnel. More and more counties are witnessing faster industrialization and modernization driven by the construction of expressways.

Expressways mirror the improved livelihood of the Chinese people. In the past, it took at least half an hour for residents in Qixi township, Quzhou, Zhejiang province to get to neighboring townships to ship and fetch express delivery parcels. The poor transportation was standing between local residents and a well-off life.

At the end of 2018, an interconnectivity project linking the Huangshan-Quzhou-Nanping expressway and the Qianjiangyuan National Forest Park in Quzhou was completed. It now serves as a channel for local residents to sell their farm produce to every part of China and makes it more convenient for tourists from surrounding provinces to visit the park. The project also prospered tourism, and local residents are embracing a better life by running agritainment facilities and B&Bs. Connecting cities and the countryside, expressways are bringing tangible benefits to the people.

Expressways also mirror the synergetic development of China. Due to the special landforms in Zhejiang province, the progress of expressway construction was uneven. Thanks to the completion of the Wencheng-Taishun expressway during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), all onshore counties of Zhejiang have been connected to expressways.

In the following five years, to optimize industrial, urban-rural and regional structures for common prosperity will be a focus of Zhejiang province. It will transform single-mode transport into a multidimensional one, improve its comprehensive transport capability, and modernize its traditional transport, so as to make its transportation greener and safer with better quality.

From building the very first expressway of China - the Shanghai-Jiading expressway - in October 1988, China had constructed a total of 160,000 kilometers of expressways as of the end of the last year. The criss-cross expressways are connecting not only mountains and rivers, rural areas and cities, but also cultures and economy. They are showcasing the speed of China's development.

People's Daily

## WHO agrees to study major reforms, meet on virus treaty

THE World Health Organization, battling to coordinate the global response to the coronavirus pandemic, agreed yesterday to study recommendations for ambitious reforms made by independent experts to strengthen the agency.

Under the resolution put forward by the European Union, and adopted by consensus, member states are to be firmly in the driver's seat of the reforms, which follow criticisms of the global handling of the crisis.

The new virus has infected more than 170 million people and killed nearly 3.7 million, according to a Reuters tally of official national figures.

Health ministers from WHO's 194 member states will also meet from Nov 29 to decide whether to launch negotiations on an international treaty aimed at boosting defences against any future pandemic.

"We really do welcome the recommendations within the resolutions and also the decision to take this forward to an international agreement or framework convention on preparedness and response for pandemics," WHO's emergencies director Mike Ryan told its annual ministerial assembly.

The decisions, approved in committee, are due to be formally adopted in plenary later on Monday, the last day of its week-long ministerial assembly which WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is scheduled to address.

One panel, headed by former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a former president of Liberia, said that a new global system should be set up to respond faster to disease outbreaks to help ensure no future virus causes a pandemic as devastating as COVID-19.

The experts, who found crucial failures in the global response in early 2020, said that the WHO should be given the power to send investigators swiftly to chase down new disease outbreaks, and to publish their full findings without delay.

"The world was hit by this virus unprepared. And if another virus emerged tomorrow this would be still be the case," Björn Kümme, deputy head of the global health division at Germany's federal health ministry, told the WHO talks last week.

"A green light for this treaty process is the greatest commitment to learn from this crisis that this Assembly could have sent out. It the most effective way to make sure that the global health crisis becomes the final one," he said.

Agencies





# SPORT



Lions Cricket Club's players discuss match tactics before taking part in one of this season's regional club competitions, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

## Lions Cricket Club tightens grip on DC Kazim Nasser League's Division B top spot

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS Cricket Club has kept on enjoying the driver's seat in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division B, notching a 28-run win over Union Sports Club last weekend.

Gulraiz Haideri had the best batting showing as Lions Cricket Club raced to 140 runs for nine wickets in 20 overs once the squad was presented with the chance to bat first.

The opener ended six runs short of a half-century, cracking eight fours in his spell.

They efficiently dealt with the early dismissal of Mohamed Salim that opened the innings with Haideri.

Salim was dismissed for duck having been caught Union Sports Club's wicket-keeper, Shiraz Shokat, from experienced pacer Hasnain Damji's bowling.

Salim had made his way back to the pavilion with Lions Cricket Club recording 25 runs after 1.3 overs.

Haideri's presence at the crease was ultimately ended by Union Sports Club's Shahmeer Rizvi who caught the former from a spinner

### Shabbar Rattansi's bowling.

The opener had left Lions Cricket Club with 68 runs after 7.2 overs, having dropped two wickets.

Mubin Hassan took the crease once Salim had been dismissed and went on to significantly push the squad's score with his 27 runs, which included five fours.

Lions Cricket Club was, once again, dealt a blow with three quick dismissals, leaving the team with 86 runs after 11.2 overs with five wickets down.

Rijali Fentu, one of the batsmen that suffered an early exit, ended two runs short of a two-digit score.

There was a two-digit score by skipper

Yasser Abdulhamid, as the team fought to complete the innings with an imposing total.

The skipper registered a four in his stint, before being dismissed by Union Sports Club's Seif Khalifa.

Shamil Hameer and Ramadhan Mbunde ended the innings with the bat in hand, Hameer posted 13 runs not out, which included a six.

Mbunde ended three runs short of a two-digit score cracking a boundary.

Union Sports Club's Rattansi was the most impressive bowler, posting three wickets in his four overs, leaking 19 runs.

Spinner Athumani Kakonzi made his presence count, as he ended with two wickets, conceding 16 runs in four overs.

Chasing 141 runs to post a win turned out to be a tall order for Union Sports Club's cricketers, they posted 112 runs for the loss of seven wickets in 20 overs.

They got off to a frustrating start, as opener Kakonzi had a day to forget at the crease, ending six runs short of a two-digit figure.

Khalifa, who had opened the innings with Kakonzi, put some good knocks to show, notching 19 runs which included three fours.

Skipper, Sameer Mussa, slotted in as top order batsman went on to turn into their top run-getter given he posted 30 runs which included two

Mussa exited the crease with Union Sports Club having posted 98 runs after 17.5 overs with six wickets, his dismissal happened to be a huge blow to the team.

Shokat, equally featuring as top order batsman, chipped in with 13 runs which included two fours.

Middle order batsmen could not live up to expectations, with Rizvi and Abbas Sayed completing the innings with the bat in hand much as they could not chip in handsomely.

A bowling spell by Lions Cricket Club had Abdulsamad Ahmed posting two wickets, leaking 23 runs in four overs.

Abdulhamid, Hameer, and Fentu recorded one wicket each, effectively weakening Union Sports Club's batting unit's resoluteness.

## Mwakinyo: I'm ready to take on local opponents

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER clinching African Boxing Union (ABU) Super Welterweight title, Tanzanian boxer Hassan Mwakinyo has outlined his plans, noting he is now ready to again fight any boxer in any country, as long as the fight meets his criteria.

Mwakinyo won the Super Welterweight title on Friday night at Masaki's Next Door Arena in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking after winning the ABU title with a ninth-round Knockout (KO) victory against Anthony Mayala of Angola, Mwakinyo said his dream of becoming an ABU champion has come true.

"I have to move on, how am I going to move? It's about fighting and continuing to do well, wherever I take part in a boxing match, whoever wants to step on the ring with Mwakinyo should come, as long as the fight is of my interest," he said.

He said the ABU championship is a good start for him towards his dream of fighting to one day become a World Boxing Council (WBC) champion, one of the biggest boxing titles in the world.

Commenting on the ABU championship, former prominent boxer, who was as well former president of the Tanzania Professional Boxing Commission (TPBC), Chaurembo Palasa, said it was a good start for Mwakinyo to enter the WBC title race.

He noted: "However, he must first defend his ABU belt several times, and there should be a promoter to prepare him for the WBC title fight."

He said the WBC championship is not an

easy task and it is a championship that is being contested by world champions.

"If he gets a chance to seek to win it, he will have to look for it abroad and not here in the country, although he now has the opportunity to fight for WBC Silver here in the country," he said.

In one of last weekend's undercards, which needed clarification, Tanzanian Ibrahim Mgendera won by points against South Africa's Sibusiso Zingane.

The fight divided the fans, considering a section of the fanatics said that Mgendera had not won fairly, while the boxer maintained he has won legally and at some point, his opponent was tired and that led to points deduction the latter experienced.

Palasa disclosed much as Mgendera, alias 'Class', fought below standard, he won.

He noted: "He didn't have strong punches, of course, it's due to not exercising more power, but he won and what carried him was winning more rounds than his opponent."

"Although there are some rounds Mgendera was beaten, they were few compared to the ones he won and collected points," he said.

He said the reason why Class was seen by some fans as having not emerged victorious fairly, the victory came about due to his preference for fighting differently, in a style that was not expected by many.

He said in professional boxing, only one round can give a boxer results, even if he was overwhelmed and beaten in other rounds, and that was the case for Mgendera who was beaten in three rounds and won the other five rounds.

## SPORTS

## Pundits positive about Kim Poulsen age, experience mix in Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THERE seems to be pervading agreement among soccer pundits on the selection made by the newly installed 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen as to the positive character of youth and experience in the squad.

For one thing, Poulsen is in a position to pick that side as he has been with most of those players, some of whom were already professional or premier league players in his earlier period in either of the national soccer sides, and some were in his youth squads. There was a blend of talent that he furthered.

One pundit who made this admission of good diversity of players from premier league sides seemed to somewhat regret that situation, underlining that the top sides, which he cited as three rather than the traditional archrivals, that is, to include Azam FC, are dominated by foreign professionals.

It would appear that he wished for a more extensive selection of local players from the top city sides, but then there are professionals bestriding the three teams, which is to him regrettable. So in what sense could it be sad?

There is no soccer rule that when players of the national side don't come principally from one club side they will not be cohesive enough to play well at the national level.

There are instances where a national team is an extension of a dominant club, but it happens in 'fits and starts,' once in a while in whatever country, for instance, Germany has habitually constructed their national side around Bayern Munich.

Other countries don't have especially dominant clubs but intermittent club reign with some special talent.

In that context, having four players from Simba and four from Yanga isn't on the negative side, despite that worries may come up if there are as many players in either club that are fit for the national squad, instead of one being higher than



Senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach

the other.

Assuming that the city rivals each have ten foreign players as per the rules, it follows that they would also have a better crop for Stars compared to Yanga as they had a free hand in registration, picking the best players all over.

It thus depended on combinations, formations the coach expects to use, and thus blending his players' mix to suit that purpose, not just pick 'galactics.'

This diversity and that selecting players from Yanga and Simba on an equal basis, and inferring that it is the presence of foreign players in a dominant role explains this situation - negatively - merits examination.

Given the fact that there are 18 premier league clubs (set to be pruned to 16) getting four players is a fairly good score, as it is likely that other good players will be on other premier league sides to get playing time, not sit as reserves with 'galactics.'

So a team can't have all the players that a national side selection will take, especially when they have to compete with specially recruited foreign professionals.

Coming back to the pundit's observation, it appears that he would wish there were fewer professionals in the three city sides in particular so that more players could be recruited from these sides.

Whatever the merits of recruiting six or seven players from either rival, it can't also be said that they would have been better - or even as good as they are - without the significant presence of foreign professionals.

The latter make teams enhance team tenacity, implacable in defense hard to stop their forwards or battle it out with the holding midfielders.

Coaches at each premier league encounter have to look for formulas to contain them.

Saying that even with this kind of input, how to play

well enough to contain the professionals laden city rivals, isn't a major input to improving play and performance in premier league sides is gratuitous, lacks merit.

It is to say that if the local league was simply without professionals it would be even better than it is at present, as more local players 'would feature more regularly for Simba and Yanga.'

Does putting on the shirt of Msimbazi Street or Jangwani Street outfits make a player better, or it rather depends on the kind of contest he meets on the pitch, the sort of players he has to tackle with precision at each encounter?

This is the lesson that some pundits, even when they can read the game in a fairly enlightening way, keep making, either as fashion or as some intricate conviction that somehow foreign players curb local talent, whereas the competition improves the hurdles local players face.

When they have to tackle especially good players in matches with two or three clubs in the premier league, which arithmetically means in every five matches (next season, as this season it was six matches) they face good opposition, with players that are deft and hard to mark. Saying this spoils our players, and the national team is just false.

## TV rights deal - a game-changer



Azam Media Limited's Managing Director, Tido Mhando (seating L), and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, sign a contract for Mainland Premier League's television rights worth 225.6bn/- in Dar es Salaam last week, which will see the company gain the top flight broadcasting rights for 10 years. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

RECENTLY, domestic football underwent a bona fide sea change that was positive for the better.

In what was a landmark and historic deal, Azam Media Limited inked a whopping 225.6 billion shillings television rights contract with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for the next ten years.

Indeed, the deal is a win-win for all the central actors involved and it can be fittingly described as a veritable game-changer.

For example, the funds will ensure that top-flight clubs will be able to finance their operations each season, and consequently, this will partly reduce their reliance on sponsorships.

The fine details of the deal also reveal that each club will be earning a cool amount each month which is between 40 million shillings and 50 million shillings.

Compared to the slim pickings that cash-strapped clubs were used to earning in the past, their forthcoming and massively bumped-up revenue undoubtedly seems like quite a princely sum.

Indeed, this game-changing deal also

means that all clubs, particularly those that are traditionally regarded as the small fry of the top tier domestic league, will be able to jostle for honors more competitively and as a result, this can only enhance the inimitable spectacle that is the Mainland Premier League.

Hopefully then, in the seasons to come, more minnows in the league will be able to mount astonishingly impeccable campaigns reminiscent of the then lowly Mbeya City, who a couple of seasons ago, slacked many a jaw with their giant-killing displays that saw them finish unforgettably in the 'top four' at the end of the season.

Moving on, as I once opined in an earlier piece on these pages, the newly elected president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), the deep-pocketed South African entrepreneur, Patrice Motsepe, recently made the bold declaration that it is one of his aims to see an African team one day clinch the coveted football World Cup in the men's game.

In that earlier commentary here on The Guardian back pages, I gently admonished the CAF president to remember that no men's African team has as yet advanced to the semi-

finals of the men's World Cup, which is a sobering reminder of that popular saying which goes 'one must be able to walk before they can run.'

However, today I'm changing tack to highlight the plight of women's football on the continent.

Indeed, I feel duty-bound to point out to the newly installed CAF leadership as a whole not to forget about the noble cause of women's football on the continent, which has long been shamefully neglected.

Indeed, to date, no African women's team has ever qualified for the latter stages of the prestigious Women's World Cup.

In addition, women football players on the continent are still cut a morale-draining raw deal where remuneration and league sponsorship is concerned in stark contrast to the men's game.

Aside from the aforementioned drawbacks, the women's game on the continent still crucially lacks requisite levels of promotion, which seriously curtails its growth.

Still, as the saying goes 'hope springs eternal so fingers crossed that as time unfolds, women's football will justly get the attention it has long deserved.



## Zidane: Real didn't give me the trust I needed

MADRID

ZINEDINE Zidane has criticised Real Madrid and the club's president Florentino Perez in an open letter, blaming a lack of "trust" and "messages leaked to the media" for his decision to quit as head coach.

Zidane resigned last week after two years in the job in his second spell in charge, following his failure to land a trophy during the 2020-21 season.

He had not spoken publicly about his reasons, with no farewell news conference -- until a surprise move on Monday, when he wrote an open letter published in the Madrid-based sports newspaper *Diario AS*.

"I'm leaving, but I'm not abandoning ship and I'm not tired of coaching," Zidane said. "In May 2018 I left because after two-and-a-half years, with so many victories and so many trophies, I felt that the team needed something new to stay on top. Today things are different. I'm leaving because I feel the club is no longer giving me the trust I need, it isn't offering me the support to build something medium-to-long-term."

"I know the demands at a club like Madrid, I know that when you don't win you have to go. But a very important thing has been forgotten here... I'm a born winner and I was here to win trophies, but beyond that are human beings, emotions, life, and I have the feeling that these things haven't been valued."

Zidane signed for Real Madrid as a player in 2001 and spent five years at the club before announcing his retirement. He later returned as an advisor to Florentino Perez, became assistant coach to Carlo Ancelotti, and managed reserve team Castilla, before taking over the first team in January 2016.

He won three consecutive Champions League titles from 2016 to 2018, resigned, and then returned 10 months later.

His second spell was more challenging, coming under pressure during 2019-20 -- before bouncing back to win the league for the second time as coach -- and then again after defeats in La Liga and Europe in October and December 2020.

"I want what we've done together to be respected," he continued. "I would have liked my

relationship with the club and the president in recent months to have been a little different from that of other coaches. I wasn't asking for privileges, of course not, but rather a bit more memory. Today the life of a coach on the bench of a great club is two seasons, not much more. For it to last longer, human relationships are essential.

"That's why it hurt me a lot when I read in the press, after a defeat, that they were going to sack me if I didn't win the next game. It hurt me and the whole team because these messages, intentionally leaked to the media, created negative interference with the staff, they created doubts and misunderstandings."

Zidane praised his players -- describing them as "fantastic lads who were with me to the end... when things got ugly, they saved me with great victories" -- and reiterated his thanks to Perez for bringing him to the club.

"Spending 20 years at Madrid has been the most beautiful thing that has happened to me in my life," he said. "I know that I owe it exclusively to Florentino Perez who took a gamble on me in 2001, who fought for me, to make me come when there were certain people who were against it. I will always be grateful to the president for that. Always."

The French coach, who clashed with the press last season when his position was at risk, also slammed the media's focus on "controversy."

"I've done hundreds of news conferences and unfortunately we've spoken very little about football," he said. "Without meaning to criticise or teach you lessons, I would have liked it if the questions weren't always directed towards controversy, that we would have talked more often about the ball and above all about the players, who are, and always will be, the most important thing in this game."

Real Madrid are yet to appoint a successor to Zidane ahead of next season.

ESPN has reported that Massimiliano Allegri was a leading candidate before choosing to re-join Juventus, and club legend Raul Gonzalez has been under consideration, with other names also on the shortlist.

(Agencies)

## Argentina no longer hosting Copa America - CONMEBOL

ASUNCION

THE South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL) said on Sunday that Argentina would no longer host the Copa America, throwing the troubled tournament into doubt just 13 days before it was due to kick off.

The tournament, featuring 10 South American nations, had been due to be held in Argentina and Colombia between June 13 and July 10, the first time in its 105-year history with joint hosts.

However, Colombia was removed as co-host on May 20 after a wave of protests demanding social and economic change spread across the country and Argentina has now followed due to what CONMEBOL said was the "present circumstances".

CONMEBOL did not disclose the nature of the circumstances that led to the decision but Argentina is currently experiencing a surge in COVID-19 cases.

"CONMEBOL is analysing offers from other countries that have shown interest in hosting the continental tournament," it said in a short statement. "Updates will be announced soon."

Officials from the organisation will meet on Monday to decide on the next steps for the tournament, which was held over from 2020 due to the pandemic.

Sunday's stunning decision was announced shortly before 11 p.m. in Argentina at the end of a weekend in which opposition to the tournament grew both inside and outside the gov-

ernment.

Argentina saw COVID-19 cases grow quickly in May and prompted the government to mandate a strict new lockdown.

Thursday saw a record one-day number of new cases and the overall death toll had hit 76,693 by the weekend, according to data from the World Health Organisation.

Even some players who had returned to South America to prepare for the tournament expressed doubts, with Luis Suarez of Uruguay telling reporters on Friday, "we have to give priority to the health of human beings".

Gonzalo Belloso, CONMEBOL's secretary general, said last week the organisation had spoken to Chilean officials with a view to perhaps hosting some matches there.

Organisers are reluctant to call the tournament off because of its importance financially. The last Copa America, held in Brazil in 2019, brought in \$118 million and was the second biggest annual source of revenue after the Copa Libertadores, the equivalent of Europe's Champions League.

This year each competing nation is to receive a minimum of \$4 million, with the winner receiving an additional \$10 million, CONMEBOL said. CONMEBOL's reputation has taken a battering in recent years, with the organisation forced to move the second leg of the 2018 Copa Libertadores final to Madrid due to fan violence in Buenos Aires.

AFP

## Guardiola's overthinking beaten by Tuchel's simple approach

PORTO, Portugal

AS Thomas Tuchel and Chelsea celebrated, Pep Guardiola walked straight past the Champions League trophy without giving it a single glance. Manchester City were outplayed in a 1-0 Champions League final defeat, and this was the closest Guardiola would get to touching the European Cup since he last won it 10 years ago.

Guardiola might as well have been a million miles away as, runners-up medal in hand, the City manager kept his head down. It was probably through a mixture of anger and exasperation, but there was also likely to be a heavy dose of regret, given how -- not for the first time -- he overthought his line-up and tactics, when simplicity would have been sensible.

"I did what I thought was the best decision [with my selection]," Guardiola said after the game.

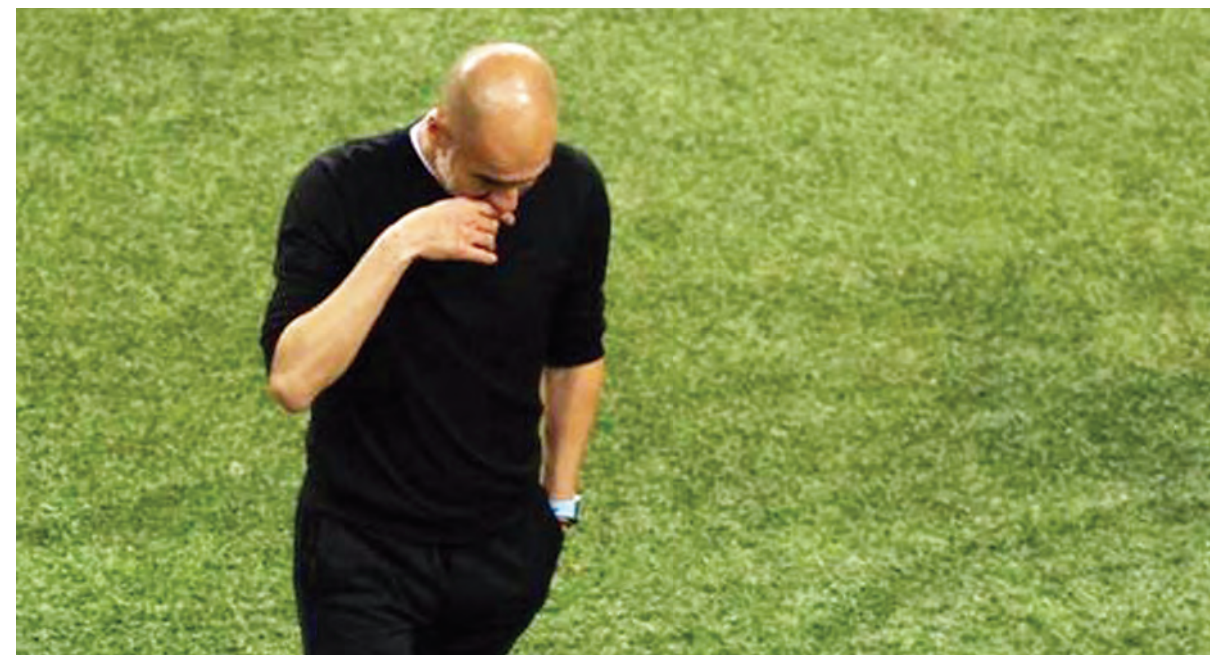
But this was further evidence that, coaching genius though he undoubtedly is, the two-time Champions League winner has a habit of picking the wrong time and the wrong place to experiment.

Instead, it was Tuchel who took the spoils, having kept his approach simple and stuck to tried and tested methods. In the stadium where Guardiola's old rival Jose Mourinho built his first Champions League-winning team with FC Porto, Chelsea used a counterattacking game, based on rapid breaks from defensive positions, to land a knockout blow on City for the third time in less than two months.

Kai Havertz's 42nd-minute goal, which came when the Chelsea club-record £72 million (\$102.2 million) signing exploited a gaping hole in the City defence before rounding goalkeeper Ederson to score, was enough to send the European Cup to Stamford Bridge for the second time and leave City still waiting for their first triumph.

Champions of England for the third time in four seasons, City were strong favourites to win in Portugal despite having suffered recent Premier League and FA Cup defeats against Chelsea. But a flaw resurfaced that has beset Guardiola ever since he was coach of Lionel Messi, Xavi & Co. at Barcelona: Win or bust.

Guardiola's tactics were de-



Pep Guardiola

signed for City to score early then allow their possession game to take control and pass Chelsea into submission. But just as in past Champions League exits against Monaco, Liverpool and Lyon, there were too many changes, both in terms of personnel and approach, which left players uncertain what to do.

For only the second time this season, City played without a defensive midfielder; Fernandinho and Rodri were both named as substitutes, which meant Ilkay Gundogan, who has spent the majority of this season in an attacking midfield role, was chosen to fill the void in front of the back four.

Guardiola would later say that "Ilkay has played that role many times before," adding "I picked a team to win the game." But the former Borussia Dortmund player was simply overrun by Chelsea's energetic attackers: Havertz, Mason Mount and Timo Werner.

With centre-forwards Sergio Aguero and Gabriel Jesus also on the bench, Guardiola selected the out-of-form Bernardo Silva and Raheem Sterling. Bernardo's selection was designed to give City an additional creative player to keep Chelsea penned in, but the Portuguese midfielder was anonymous before being substituted in the second half.

The lack of impact could be said of Sterling, whose selection on the left took Phil Foden away from the position in which he has been so

effective in recent weeks. Sterling too did not complete the game.

Perhaps most damaging of all, though, was Guardiola's decision to deploy Kevin De Bruyne as a false nine, which took City's best player out of his favoured midfield role and left him looking confused as to where exactly he was supposed to play. A heavy collision with Antonio Rudiger on the hour forced De Bruyne off.

With just one shot on target, City were unrecognizable as Chelsea pressed, harried and disrupted. Even the loss to injury of Thiago Silva before half-time was no setback; every one of Tuchel's players gave at least an 8/10 performance, with the immense N'Golo Kante dominating the game and deservedly winning the man of the match award.

While Tuchel has won the Champions League within four months of replacing Frank Lampard at Stamford Bridge, the wait goes on for City and Guardiola, who was hired to be the difference-maker in this competition but has become prone to tripping himself up at the wrong moment.

Maybe this just wasn't meant to be City's year. After all, they were initially banned from this season's competition, and next, having been found guilty of breaking Financial Fair rules by UEFA. Having successfully overturned that penalty on appeal, winning the European Cup might have been too great a plot twist.

And they will be back. Having invested almost £2 billion on players since buying the club in 2008, City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al Nahyan, who did not attend this final, will continue to fund the team until, and after, they finally win the Champions League.

"It was the first time we were at this stage," Guardiola said. "Hopefully, we will be here again in the future."

But as the beaten City boss walked past the trophy at the end of this game, Sir Alex Ferguson's famous half-time speech during the 1999 final came to mind.

"At the end of this game, the European Cup will be only six feet away from you, and you'll not even be able to touch it if we lose," Ferguson said. "And for many of you, that will be the closest you will ever get."

Manchester United famously recovered from a goal down to beat Bayern Munich that night in Barcelona and claim a treble that, at one point this season, City looked set to claim.

Instead, Tuchel and Chelsea tripped them up on multiple occasions, leaving the sense that, if Guardiola continues to allow his judgement to be clouded on the biggest stage, it might be one of his successors who finally enjoys the sensation of bringing the trophy back to the Etihad Stadium.

ESPN

## Tuchel factor brings new life to Premier League race

PORTO, Portugal

IF Manchester City thought next season's Premier League was going to be a repeat of the last two campaigns, fending off Liverpool and Manchester United again, then Saturday's Champions League final defeat to Chelsea will surely have made them think again.

Liverpool should indeed be a bigger threat with a fully fit squad including Virgil van Dijk and some new additions, and United are expected to invest heavily on key upgrades.

But the Thomas Tuchel factor makes Chelsea a genuine contender. In just four months, the German manager has transformed Chelsea from a team struggling to qualify for next season's Champions League into the new European champions.

City manager Pep Guardiola will relish the challenge and believe that his own recruitment moves this off-season will give him everything he needs to push for a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

But he will also need no reminding that Tuchel has rapidly become a specialist in beating his team.

Saturday's final was the third time that the former Dortmund and PSG coach has masterminded victories over Guardiola's team -- following wins in the FA Cup semi-final and at the Etihad Stadium in the league.

And even amidst the celebrations at the Estadio do Dragao, Tuchel was beginning to focus on the challenge ahead next season.

"Now is the time to celebrate for some days, to enjoy, to let it sink in. Of course, this is the time to reflect on it for one or two weeks but then surprisingly, it does not (do) a lot to you," he said.

"I think that is good because nobody wants to rest, I don't want to rest. I want the next process, the same level of quality and consistency and I demand to be



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel celebrates with the trophy after winning their UEFA Champions League final match against Manchester City. (Agencies)

a part of it. "The level is now set from when the celebrations are over and when we have digested this experience, it is the moment to evolve and to use it, become better to learn. It is absolutely crucial. We have young players, now it is a big challenge to stay hungry and go for the next one," he added.

The youthful talent in the Chelsea side, Saturday's goalscorer Kai Havertz, midfielder Mason Mount, American winger Christian Pulisic and wing-back Reece James, are only going to get better

while the hugely influential 30-year-old French midfielder N'Golo Kante doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

Tuchel will likely look to strengthen his defensive options with Brazilian Thiago Silva nearing the end of his career and space in his squad for a younger, quality central defender.

But at a time when Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal are struggling, the Premier League as a competition needed Chelsea to provide a contender from the capital to take on the trio of teams from

the North West.

The Tuchel transformation of the West London club creates more fixtures that will generate global interest, just as the Premier League heads into a round of international television rights deals.

The new rivalry between Tuchel and Guardiola, based not on rhetoric or cheap 'mind games' but deep respect and tactical challenges, creates a fascinating additional element.

Another German, Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp, will have watched Saturday's final with his competitive spirit already kicking in and United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will have been hoping his hierarchy understood from that encounter why he is asking for reinforcements.

But Tuchel will also have a strong hand when he sits down with Chelsea's Russian owner Roman Abramovich to discuss plans. "I am looking forward to this. I can assure him that I will stay hungry. That I want the next title. That I feel absolutely happy as a part of a really ambitious club, a strong group that suits my beliefs, my passion about football in the moment perfectly, so my desire is to go for more victories".

Game on.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Guardiola's overthinking beaten by  
Tuchel's simple approach

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam Institute of Social Work's netball squad's player, Winifrida Robert (2nd R), attempts to stay in possession when her squad played Majumba Sita team in a tournament for selecting squads that will win promotion to Second Division League, which took place at Kampala International University in Tanzania (KIUT)'s court in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

## Sulle, Damas flop in South Africa race

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FOUR Tanzanian runners, who competed at the Retail Capital Langa Marathon in South Africa, have posted poor results in the show-down.

The event, which took place on Saturday, was used as a qualifying race for Tokyo Olympics.

Athletics Tanzania (AT) secretary general John Bayo said the four Faraja Damas, Jackline Sakilu, Augustine Sulle, and Micheal Sanga did not perform well at the event.

This means athletes Felix Simbu, Gabriel Geay, and Failuna Matanga, are so far the ones who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

The AT official promised the association will look for other qualifying events for field athletes.

Bayo had recently noted he is confident that Sulle, whose best time is 2:07.46, will qualify for the Tokyo Olympics.

Sulle set the record in 2018 at Toronto Waterfall Marathon, but this national record was broken by Gabriel Geay on Sunday at Mirano Marathon where he clocked 2:04.55. Geay has qualified for the Olympics.

The closing date for Olympics qualifying athletics events was May 31 and Tanzania's athletes, Simbu, Failuna, and Geay, make the list of the country's representatives in the Olympics.

Bayo said AT is doing its best to see all 14 local athletes who are in camp in Arusha get qualifying events.

He also disclosed that they are in final talks with a potential sponsor to financially support three athletes to compete at the Langa Marathon.

"We are doing all we can to see that our athletes attend Olympics qualifying events, we have many events and currently, we are arranging for three athletes to compete at an event which will be held in South Africa," he said.

One of the Viena Marathon organizers, Thomas Krejci, said the event is for elite runners as the aim is to give them a chance to get time for qualifying for the Olympics.

He added: "Time is passing by and the qualification period for the Olympic Games in Tokyo will end on May 31st. Unfortunately, nearly all City Marathons had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions and other options to qualify are very rare."

"This situation motivated us to look for solutions and finally, we decided to organize an invitational marathon race by ourselves to assist all of you who want to qualify for the Olympics or just want to improve their personal bests. We will try our best to offer you perfect conditions to make your dreams come true," he stated.

He said the race will take place on Highway S7 construction road. The start area is located 10min drive from Fürstenfeld.

Krejci said according to recent Austrian measures tackling Coronavirus, entries for half and full marathons are limited to 200 athletes who must be registered at National Athletics federations.

He also disclosed that the organizers plan to have pacemakers (experienced Kenyan athletes) for groups focusing on posting 2h 09minutes, 2h 11minutes, and 2h 29minutes.

Meanwhile, Bayo disclosed that AT plans to send local athletes who qualified for the Olympics, Simbu, Failuna, and Geay, to an international event to keep in shape ahead of the Olympics.

## Yanga midfielder now return to action

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER being out of action for a long time, having sustained a foot injury, Yanga midfielder, Mapinduzi Balama, was yesterday expected to start special training on the pitch.

Balama (pictured) broke his leg in training in preparation for last season's Mainland Premier League matches and he as a result not been seen on the pitch for several months.

Yanga information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said: "According to the doctor, Balama has already recovered and he is expected to start training on Monday when the team returns to camp."

He stated: "He was out for a long time, so when he comes back the doctor and the technical bench will sit down and see if they will give him his training."

He disclosed: "As for the other players who were injured, the doctor will issue a report when they will return to camp on Monday."

Apart from Balama, Said Ntibazonkiza, Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos', and Abdallah Shaibu 'Ninja' are also out of action after sustaining injuries.

Meanwhile, former Yanga chairman, Francis Kifukwe, who more-over constituted 'Yanga Family', a section of the club's fanatics financially backing the squad, has said that if Simba will confront Yanga in the Federation Cup final, Simba should not expect to lift the title.

Simba is scheduled to play Azam FC in the Federation Cup semi-finals while Yanga will face Biashara United on the stage.

If Simba and their age-old rivals will come out victorious in the last four, they will meet in the final.

"We don't fear facing Simba, if they are doubting us, then let's play a friendly match with them before July 3," he stated.

Kifukwe has been a member of various Yanga committees for many years.

The sports follower, who was involved in Yanga's success in the early 2000s, said he had no doubt Yanga would reach the Federation Cup final, so Simba should not look for a reason to avoid Yanga.

He disclosed: "We are praying for our outfit to face Simba in the final."

He said what happened on May 8, the previous day of the squads' Vodacom Premier League match, which eventually was postponed, was hardly caused by Yang's fear.

Simba chairman Murtaza Mangungu noted his club's goal is to win the Federation Cup and the Premier League once again.

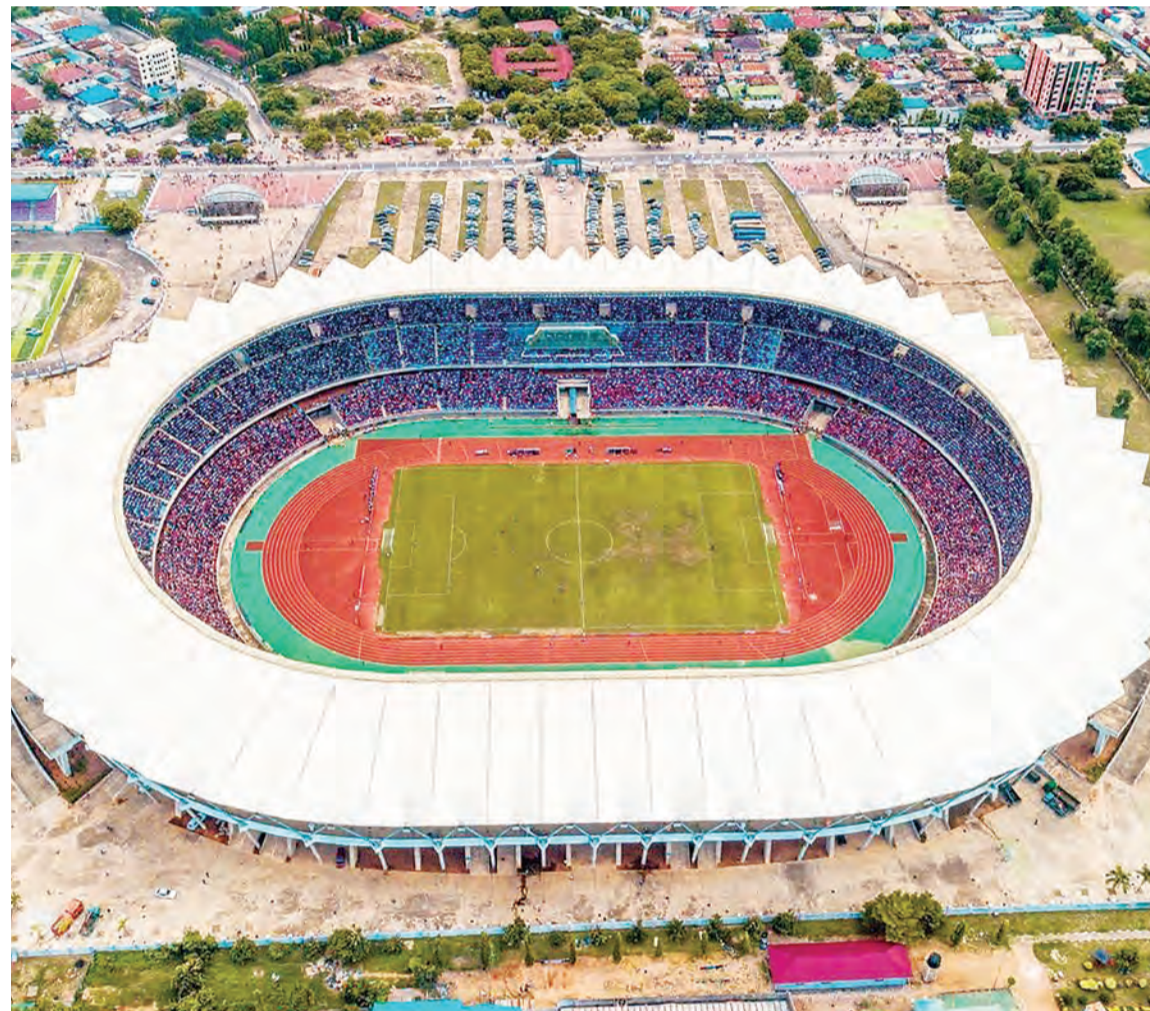
"With the quality of our squad, the way we have organized ourselves, and the record we have, nothing will stop us from winning the Federation Cup and the league as well," he said.

He said they would play in the Federation Cup semi-finals, admitted Azam FC is the best team, but Simba is aiming at winning and reaching the final.

"We want to achieve the goals of winning the Federation Cup and league titles," he said.



## MPs: Sports facilities should be improved



Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday unanimously called for the need for improving sports infrastructure including stadiums in the country to facilitate shaping talents and promoting sports in the country.

The MPs issued the call when debating budget estimates for the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday.

The ministry requested the parliament approve 54.7bn/- for the year 2021/22.

Dodoma Urban Constituency's MP, Anthony Mavunde, said the country's football pitches are in bad shape.

He noted that there is an urgent need for coming up with a plan to install artificial pitches in various places to improve football and other sporting activities in the country.

Makete Constituency MP, Festo

Sanga, said the country needs to have special stadiums and pitches for various sporting activities.

He maintained currently the country is lagging in international competitions because there are no special areas for sports events.

"Let me tell you that sporting arenas such as those of basketball are not only very important in shaping talent but also preparing youths for various competitions," he said.

Legislator for Mafinga, Cosato Chumi, said that the country's national football team should stop participating in international tournaments for a while for the country to come up with a strong team that will be able to compete in the showpieces.

Chumi argued that the country is faring dismally in regional and continental competitions because there are few academies domestically that train youths to prepare and improve their skills and talents.

Special seats MP, Esther Bulya, further asked the government through the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports to work on establishing schemes to help journalists and media workers improve their livelihoods.

"Journalists are paid very lowly, but they have been doing a great job to inform citizens of this country, but they have lacked people who can speak for them," she said.

The MP moreover decried media bans by the government saying the newspaper market is shrinking because press freedom has been strict in recent years.

She asked the government to consider giving punishments to the media which should be sustained.

She disclosed that banning a media house, as well as having the media outlet paying huge fines locks hundreds of families from getting abreast of various events.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV**  
**TONIGHT @ 9:00**  
**TUESDAY**

**NIRVANA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

*Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.*

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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