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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8155 •

PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100

TANZANIA

FRIDAY 5 MARCH, 2021

### Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

TATO ENGAGES US FIRM TO PROMOTE DESTINATION TANZANIA

**T**anzania's tourism industry is set to benefit from a new partnership with the United States. The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Heritage has engaged the US-based firm TATO to promote the country as a premier destination for tourists.

The firm, which has a long history of working with governments and private sector organizations, will be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive marketing strategy for Tanzania. This includes identifying key markets, creating targeted advertising campaigns, and organizing trade missions to attract investors and tourists.

The partnership is part of the government's efforts to diversify its economy and create jobs. Tourism is a key sector for Tanzania, and the government is committed to making it a more attractive and accessible destination for international visitors.

The firm's work will focus on promoting Tanzania's natural beauty, cultural heritage, and diverse range of activities. This includes highlighting the country's world-class beaches, national parks, and historical sites. The firm will also be working to improve the tourism infrastructure and services, ensuring that visitors have a memorable and enjoyable experience.

The partnership is expected to have a significant impact on Tanzania's tourism industry. It will help to increase the number of tourists visiting the country, which will in turn boost the economy and create jobs. The government is confident that this partnership will be a success and will help to position Tanzania as a leading destination for tourists in the region.

**Tigo's Mount Kilimanjaro tree planting campaign lures top CEOs**

**CEOs**

**S**uccessful business leaders are being encouraged to plant trees on Mount Kilimanjaro as part of a campaign by Tigo. The initiative aims to raise awareness of climate change and encourage environmental stewardship among the country's top executives.

The campaign, which is part of Tigo's broader social responsibility efforts, has attracted the attention of several prominent CEOs. These leaders are being invited to participate in tree-planting activities on the slopes of the mountain, which is one of the most iconic natural landmarks in Tanzania.

The campaign is designed to inspire a sense of responsibility and leadership among the country's business elite. By planting trees, these leaders are contributing to the preservation of the environment and the well-being of future generations. The initiative is also a way for Tigo to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and social impact.

The campaign is expected to have a positive impact on the environment and the community. It will help to improve the quality of the air and water, and create a more sustainable and resilient future for Tanzania. The government and Tigo are proud to have the support of these leaders and are confident that the campaign will be a success.

## National Pg 3

Availability of medicines



## National Pg 5

MNH to research on traditional medicines



## National Pg 6

TAWLA awards EU ambassador



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# Eight banks to merge to meet liquidity threshold

By Francis Kajubi

**A**T LEAST eight banks are in the process of merging so as to meet liquidity and other laid down requirements, the financial sector regulator has said.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor, Prof Florens Luoga made this observation at an occasion to mark the merger of China Commercial Bank Ltd with NMB Bank Plc in Dar es Salaam yesterday, noting that mergers are a healthy move to give struggling lenders a new lease of life.

"Among the eight banks some of them have just filed the merger request. Others are at a good stage of the process while others are finalising the merger process," he elaborated.

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Bank of Tanzania governor Prof Florens Luoga (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting documents on China Commercial Bank Limited to NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna, effectively enabling her bank to take over the ill-fated Chinese bank's operations. The transition comes in the wake of what the central bank referred to as the Chinese bank's failure to meet regulatory requirements relating to capital adequacy. Looking on are BoT deputy governor (Internal Control and Administration) Julian Raphael (R) and NMB's company secretary and head of legal affairs, Lilian Komwihangiro. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

## LAND DISPUTE

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## MALE CIRCUMCISION

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## SPORT

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# Govt, ATE due to roll out girls' mentorship project

By Getrude Mbago

THE government is designing a national mentorship programme for girls in schools and colleges to prepare them for future leadership roles.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan (pictured), told a leadership conference organized by the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) and the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the initiative aims at giving the girl child confidence at a young age.



Themed "Women in Leadership: Harnessing Female Talent to Create Sustainable Organisations," the conference featured an awarding

ceremony of the 4th, 5th and 6th cohort graduates of the Female Future Program.

VP Samia said the decision to design and roll out the programme is informed by the fact that Tanzania still needs more women in top leadership positions for the country to make strides in various development initiatives.

"Various studies have shown that the more there are women in top leadership positions, the faster the pace of development. We have a number of

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# Defective generators cause power outages - TANESCO

By Guardian Reporter

TOP management at the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) has attributed recent power outages especially in Dar es Salaam city to defective generators that TANESCO engineers are working to repair.

Addressing a press conference at the National Grid Control Centre in the city yesterday, TANESCO Managing Director Dr Tito Mwinuka said experts were working

**“**We are tirelessly working to rectify the situation to ensure normal power supply

round-the-clock to enable consumers get uninterrupted power supply.

He said repairs were being undertaken at various power plants especially on emergency basis, with more extensive repairs being undertaken at power generating plants at Kidatu, Ubungu I, Ubungu II, Kinyerezi I, Songas and on the natural gas processing plant at Songosongo.

The repairs will be com-

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# Workshop to see draft plan on methods of fixing climate change woes

By Guardian Reporter

THE Draft National Climate Change Strategy 2021 - 2026 is on the brink of being validated, after incorporating inputs from stakeholders for refinement and finalization. In his opening speech at a validation workshop held in Morogoro on Wednesday, the Permanent Secretary in the Vice President's Office, Joseph Malongo said there is urgent need of taking collective action at the global, regional, national and local levels to deal with climate change.

Tanzania has been facing a number of climate change challenges that threaten the livelihoods of its people and wider socio-economic development, he stated in a speech read by a VPO Assistant Director, Catherine Bamwenzaki.

"These impacts are manifested

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## Govt, ATE due to roll out girls' mentorship project

FROM PAGE 1

graduates from the Female Future Programme. These can support the implementation of the mentorship programme by educating the young girls what it takes for them to become good leaders," she said.

A mentorship programme deliberately sets out to create strong, responsible and effective women leaders in various sectors, she stated, urging the PMO Minister of State (Labour, Youth and Employment) Jenister Mhagama to come up with a better plan on how the programme can be implemented to reach all girls in secondary schools across the country.

"We have to think more on how to support our young girls to become confident and thus deliver the best in the future," the VP underlined.

To meet the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the government has been investing in several initiatives and programs including empowering women and advocating gender equality in the formal sector and regarding informal sector occupations, she stated.

"In recent years, women have proven that they are able to bring changes in organizations and other sectors. Unfortunately 60 percent of companies do not meet the 30 percent of women in boards of directors and senior management positions," she told the audience.

There was a need for the country's institutions of higher learning to consider coming up with special programs for training and changing the negative mentality that men have towards women.

"We, as parents, should also train our male children to grow up valuing girls and women. We have to tell them that women have the same rights as them," the VP emphasised, urging ATE to polish up the strategy to be designed and adopted soon.

ATE must ensure that the forthcoming strategy highlights challenges facing gender equality and how to address the root causes of low representation of women in upper positions so as to put more efforts to address them, she stated.

Women in top leadership positions need to invest their efforts at empowering and pulling up

young women in schools and colleges on how to become good leaders in the future.

"Those who are in positions of power have to support those in the starting ladder by mentoring them on what to do to attain leadership dreams. Employers should also value women at workplaces, those who are in top positions have to ensure that they listen to women's challenges and take good care of them," she urged.

ATE Executive Director Dr Aggrey Mlimuka said the conference was meant to come up with strategies on how to enhance the inclusion of women in leadership positions in the corporate world, putting in place a knowledge base for best practices, and how to increase participation in women leadership in Tanzania.

The focus of discussion was on sharing expertise and examining diverse approaches in mainstreaming gender at workplaces, he affirmed.

Rehema Migambile, the Aviation Commercial Manager at Puma (T) Ltd, a graduate of the Female Future Talent Programme, said the project has given her skills and confidence to deliver the best in work and other areas.

She said the programme has helped a number of women to address gaps of personal development for better productivity at the workplace, including mentorship of female leaders within and outside the alumni forum, which is one of the key areas for discussion.

"If given opportunity and required skills, women can bring positive changes to a company, service institution or any other entity, so we thank ATE for running this programme which has benefited and transformed mindsets of scores of women in leadership positions," she elaborated.

The Female Future Programme, an initiative by ATE in partnership with NHO was launched by the Vice President in 2016 and it is still the most relevant and successful program shaping women from different sectors especially in industries.

Many are at middle management positions working to be eligible for senior positions and participate in boards of directors, the ATE organiser noted.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi presents working documents to Nasser Ahmed Mazrui (R) shortly after swearing him in as Zanzibar Health, Community Development, Elderly, Gender and Children minister at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Workshop to see draft plan on methods of fixing climate change woes

FROM PAGE 1

through increasing temperature, decreasing rainfall, sea level rise, increasing frequency and intensities of extreme weather and climate events especially floods and droughts, with devastating socio-economic and ecological implications," the VPO address elaborated. Analysis of recent climatological data and observational evidence from local communities is overwhelmingly supportive of signs of increased climate variability and climate change over most parts of the

country, the presenter noted. Increasing temperature, notably over highland areas are observed in most parts of the country, along with late rainfall onset and early cessation, decreasing rainfall amounts and seasonal shift in rainfall patterns becoming more common, he said. "As a result the world is already witnessing more frequent and severe weather events, changing rainfall patterns, and sea level rise. Farmers are no longer certain as to when to engage in their different farming activities. Furthermore pests' invasion in agriculture has been a big challenge," he affirmed. Climate change threatens to

increase the frequency and severity of natural disasters - which have already cost the global economy over two trillion dollars for the past two decades. Small Island Developing States like Zanzibar and coastal lowlands are seeing the encroachment of sea water on their lands and ground water, he pointed out. These are examples of impacts of climate change, being felt all over the world but a top-heavy burden from these events is being shouldered by the poorest and most vulnerable people, and by vulnerable countries which lack the means to adapt to what is happening, he

asserted. "Climate action is a concern of the whole society. The role of government is vital, but other stakeholders, including the development partners, private sector, civil society organisations, academics and research should play their part. This will require massive collaboration across all sectors," he emphasised. "However, in order to implement climate action, adequate finance is needed for adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development in general. International support to developing countries to access different financing streams is vital," he added.

## Defective generators cause power outages - TANESCO

FROM PAGE 1

pleted shortly, he stated, expressing regrets that people in some locations had experienced overly frequent power cuts, citing the repair emergency at power generating plants.

"We are tirelessly working to rectify the situation to ensure normal power supply," he emphasised.

At the power plants undergoing repairs, technicians were also replacing valves along the pipeline supplying natural gas from Songosongo, he pointed out, noting that the repairs had affected

power generation at the Songas plant, cutting supply from 180MW to 115MW currently.

Anaeli Samuel, the Songas plant managing director, said repairs along the pipeline began on Thursday last week and were likely to be completed today.

"As for now we are receiving natural gas from the TPDC pipeline. Power generation capacity has been affected as we only receive limited quantity of the gas. But within two days from now power generation at our plant will return to normal," he added.



DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE FROM TENDER AGE: Standard Six student Abubakari Haji of Dar es Salaam's Atlas Madale Primary School pictured on Wednesday introducing himself to his fellow students as an aspirant in the school leadership's 2021-2022 elections. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Eight banks to merge to meet liquidity threshold

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"I see mergers as a positive trend towards strengthening the banking sector because mergers attract more confidence among depositors and investors, hence attracting new ones. They enable the merging banks to expand their services to places they never reached," he declared.

As of September 2020, there were 49 banks in the country, among which 38 are commercial banks, five are community banks, four are microfinance

banks, and two are development banks. The banking sector recorded profit before tax of 590bn/- in 2019, from 313bn/- in 2018, not far from doubling the profit level, he stated.

As to the latest merger, Prof Luoga said that the regulator had conducted thorough research before opting to merge the two banks, to avoid negative impacts on either side of the merged banks.

In exercising its powers under section 56(1)(g)(i) and (iii) of the Banking and Financial

Institutions Act, 2006, last November the Bank of Tanzania placed China Commercial Bank Ltd under its administration for 90 days in order to determine the best resolution to its regulatory challenges.

Normal business operations of the bank were suspended to pave the way for bringing new resolution options, the governor noted, underlining that the BoT exercised its mandate provided under Section 59 (4) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006.

The process of determining

resolution options of the bank has been completed, thus a transfer of assets and liabilities to NMB Bank Plc has been adopted as the formal resolution option with effect from yesterday, he declared.

Without revealing the value of assets and liabilities transferred, Prof Luoga said China Commercial Bank Ltd had big assets value compared to its liabilities.

"As mandated under Section 58(2) (h) of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006, BoT has under acquisi-

tion by operation of the law, transferred all assets and liabilities of China Commercial Bank Limited to NMB Bank Plc," he specified, reiterating the regulator's commitment to protect the interests of depositors, creditors and maintain the stability of the banking sector.

On her part, Ruth Zaipuna, Chief Executive Officer for NMB Bank Plc said that the decision of transferring assets and liabilities of China Commercial Bank is not meant to bankrupt the bank but to en-

able to operate and safeguard interests of depositors and creditors. "I would like to assure depositors and creditors of the bank we have acquired that their monies are in safe custody. We have the capacity and ability of taking over this task and serve our new customers to the best of our standards," she said.

It will take 60 days for customers of the then China Commercial Bank to start enjoying services at NMB Bank Plc branches. The time can be cut further depending on the

'know your customers' process, she elaborated.

The new customers from CCB will after the two months be served at two branches of NMB, namely Bank House and Ohio in the city centre but after the KYC process they will be served at any branch across the country.

"All borrowers of the then China bank are welcomed at NMB for talks on how to continue repaying their loans as per terms and conditions of the agreements," the CEO added.





Specialists with Dar es Salaam's Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute aided by a cardiac resynchronisation therapy device (CRT-D) in conducting an operation on a person with a heart condition. This was at a recent two-day camp held in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Jafo calls on medical officers to ensure availability of drugs at health facilities

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo has called on regional and district medical officers in the country to ensure availability of drugs at all health facilities.

Jafo said the government has disbursed a total of 93.3bn/- to improve health services whereby 41.3bn/- directed to the Medical Stores Department (MSD) for drugs and 52 b/- for other services at the health centres.

At least 35 percent of this, being 18bn is for drugs at the facilities.

He said amount have been released in the past few months of the new government, adding that a lot more will be done.

The minister also directed both regional administrative secretaries (RAS) to closely oversee drugs procurements stating that the government would not tolerate any misappropriation.

He said the money is a revolving fund and that officers from the regional administrative secretary's office the procurement conduct audit.

"The government has disbursed money to all hospitals in the country and there should be excuse that there are no drugs," he said, calling on district executive directors to ensure drugs are available.

Jafo said it is the government agenda

that no public health facility should miss drugs. He warned that payment for the drugs should be done electronically. "Do not do any procurement outside the government system."

The minister made the statement yesterday during the event to launch mobile clinic for male circumcision in Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions.

Under the programme being implemented by IntraHealth and Afya Plus, local governmental organizations, some three mounted mobile medical clinic vans will be used to reach marginalized people.

Speaking at the event, the acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Gerald Mweri noted that the government has invested greatly in health sector, providing health equipment and drugs.

He termed the gesture by the two organizations as a result of strong cooperation with the government.

"This is the first of such programmes in the country and a big step towards reducing deaths," he said.

Speaking on behalf of Shinyanga Regional Medical Officer (RMO) and representing other RMOs, Dr Nuru Hussein said the mobile facilities will help accelerate male circumcision rates in the four regions.

## Majaliwa satisfied with efforts invested to battle desert locusts

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with the huge efforts invested to battle the warms of desert locusts that had recently attacked some parts of the country's northern regions.

The job has been implemented by the ministry of agriculture with close support from the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa-DLCO EA and the International Red Locust Control Organisation for Central and Southern Africa-IRLCO CSA.

Addressing residents at the Engaruka village in Monduli District, Arusha

Region soon after inspecting the exercise, the Prime Minister commended the ministry and experts from the named organisations for their tireless efforts invested during battling of the locusts which have produced positive outcomes.

He acknowledged that experts have done their best to eliminate the insects.

The Prime Minister, however, wanted the ministry to invest more strategies which will enable the country to battle the destructive pests once they come again.

"It is important to have effective measures on hands to battle the

swarms of the locusts, as we are all aware that the pests have high-speed capacity to travel up to 200km per day and destroy over two hectares of crops per day," he said.

"In this exercise, experts from Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Kenya are working hard by using airplanes, helicopters, and other pesticides spraying gadgets to kill the locusts," he said.

Majaliwa also commended the surrounding communities for their support during the whole exercise of fighting the insects.

He further warned local residents to avoid touching or eating any fall-

ing insects since they may contain poisonous substances.

Minister Adolf Mkenda, said that the agricultural experts have succeeded in getting rid of all the swarms of locusts in both Simanjiro and Siha districts so there were no remaining locusts even in other areas.

The minister however said authorities are still closely monitoring the trend of locusts' infestation and will accordingly take necessary actions if the insects attack other areas.

"We decided to camp here at Engaruka to ensure that we eradicate all swarms of these destructive in-

sects and we thank God that we have destroyed all of them," he said.

Early January, this year, huge swarms of desert locusts invaded some of the country's northern regions including Kilimanjaro from Kenya, darkening horizons and causing panic among farmers, who fear destruction of their crops.

Onesmo Biswelu, a district commissioner, said swarms of locusts invaded large-scale plantations at the Ngare-Nairobi ward in the district.

However, the government swiftly deployed special planes to spray pesticides in the affected areas, Biswelu said.

## Lukuvi revokes plot title deed, allocates the land to 74 people

By Guardian

Reporter, Mwanza

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development Minister William Lukuvi has drawn praise from residents of Mhandu Ward in Nyamagana Municipality in Mwanza Region by ordering revocation of land title deed for plot No 153 which will be allocated to 74 people who were in ownership tussle with the former owner.

Giving his decision on Wednesday this week in Nyamagana District where he went to solve the 14-year old land dispute, Lukuvi said the title deed of the person claimed to own the land plot named Abdallah Maliki was supposed to be revoked a long time ago because he has not paid land rent for the last 15 years.

"The title deed should be removed from the register and a Judge has confirmed in his judgement that the former owners of the land were not compensated," said

Lukuvi. He added following the ruling now the residents of the area will need to have the land surveyed according to the size they owned and every one of them will be required to pay 2.5 per cent premium to compensate for the costs which the original owner failed to pay as land rent.

"This man failed to devel-

op the plot and has not paid land rent in the past 15 years, hence the residents should be given that land," he added.

The minister also ordered a 90-day ultimatum should be given to the owner of another land plot - No 154 Abdulkarim Mbaga but occupied by 40 people before legal steps are instituted against his land

plot. Submitting the details of the conflict to the minister, representative of Mhandu Sokoni Ward residents Kazimiri Shimbi said for a long time residents of the area have been in land conflict against a person they did not know, the situation that made it difficult to formalize the land as they were regarded as invaders.



### INVITATION TO BID: NO. ITB 2021 001

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##### Annexes:

<https://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home/opensslAttachment.zip?CO MID=602e6b894>

#### CRUCIAL DATES FOR THIS INVITATION TO BID

Deadline for receiving requests for clarification	Wednesday 03 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 23.59 hrs, CET
Deadline for submission of offers	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 23.59 hrs, CET

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Kahama Oil Mills production manager James Njegela (in yellow helmet) briefs Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (L, foreground) in Kahama on Wednesday on pipes produced by the firm and mostly used in water supply projects. Photo: Correspondent Shaban p/pNjia

## Serengeti, 'Kili' and Tarangire national parks emerge tops

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

SERENGETI, Kilimanjaro, and Tarangire National Parks have won the 2021 quality awards presented by the TripAdvisor Travelers Choice Awards 2021.

Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Damas Ndumbaro, said here yesterday that the Serengeti was the first out of the 25 national parks, which were in the competition due to its unique mobility of wildebeest and the quality of the plains is unlimited.

Dr Ndumbaro (pictured) said for the Tarangire National Park, which is famous for its herds of elephants and Kilimanjaro, which has the highest mountain in Africa due to its diverse conservation of wildlife and natural forests, some of which are not found anywhere else in the world.

He said the awards are based on the quality of the park, the number of millions of spectators, the views of consultant travelers, and the estimates of revenue collections by the institution for the year 2021, where Tanzania has won the three awards.

Commenting on the victory, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in



the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Allan Kijazi said the success was due to the collaboration between the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) with the government to make efforts to preserve the natural ecosystem and natural forests that have been helping wildlife.

Dr Kijazi, who also doubles as TANAPA Commissioner for Conservation said the current strategy is to ensure other parks also take the important awards for the prosperity of tourism and give it a reputation in the country and the world at large.

According to him, among the strategies include continuing to preserve wildlife ecosystems as well as wildlife corridors and to control the degradation in the protected areas for the present and future generations.

## Tanzania-Burundi JPC meeting opens in Kigoma

By Guardian Reporter

THE Sixth Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) meeting between Tanzania and Burundi has officially begun in Kigoma to discuss various issues including how to use the existing opportunities in the two coun-

tries for economic growth. Opening the meeting, the Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Permanent Secretary Brig Gen Wilbert Ibuge said the meeting, among others will discuss five issues that include politics and diplomatic relations, defense and secu-

riety, infrastructural development, and cooperation in the economic and social sectors.

He said the meeting's success will depend on joint efforts in implementing the issue that would be agreed upon and in reaching consensus as part of the aims of

the meeting.

"During the meeting we should be ready to stand by and fully participate in implementing what will be agreed upon and putting in place procedures for reviews on their implementation at least once a year," Ibuge said.

He said Tanzania will put

in place a procedure for reviews from time to time on what would be agreed upon as in doing so the meeting will be realizing goals of the Heads of State of the two countries.

For their part, Burundi's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Develop-

ment Cooperation Isidore Ntirampeba thanked the government of Tanzania for supporting their application to join the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and by continuing to speak on its behalf at international forums to get economic sanctions imposed

removed.

The meeting that was opened yesterday at experts' level will be followed by a meeting by foreign ministers of both Tanzania and Burundi which will culminate in the signing of the agreements reached by the two sides for implementation.

## TADB, WFP deliberate farming opportunities for women, youth

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday met in Dar es Salaam to discuss the opportunities in farming for women and youth and ways of promoting the struggling groups in the country's agriculture value chain.

The forum is part of week-long activities to mark this year's International Women's Day—an annual event which is celebrated on March 8.

The talks were held between TADB's Managing Director Japhet Justine and WFP Country Representative in Tanzania, Sarah Gordon-Gibson. She was accompanied by WFP's Head of Supply Chain Management Riaz Lodhi.

"It is a pleasure to be back in Tanzania, a country, which is full of natural resources and so much potential. I am really looking forward to working with TADB to improve the agricultural value-chain in Tanzania, and see how we can impact more farmers, especially women and youth who are the backbone of poverty alleviation and to the development of the nation," said Gibson.

For his part, Justine welcomed a fresh partnership with the UN organisation, emphasizing WFP's role on providing technical assistance in order to improve the efficiency and impact of current and potential projects by the bank.

"We need to build models, institutionalize agriculture so that it can be sustainable. That is why we are interested in forming alliances with development partners such as WFP to achieve that. To build not for the moment but for the future," emphasized Justine during the discussion.

According to a statement issued by TADB the two sides held cordial talks, focusing on promotion of women and youth participation in the farming value chain, promotion of WFP technical assistance in strengthening projects supported by the bank, and facilitating the overall value-addition of the agricultural and food industry in Tanzania.

Last year, the two parties partnered in implementing the Farm to Market Alliance (FTMA) project which seeks to boost the agriculture sector and explored ways to scale up the FTMA model and have more smallholders under the arrangement.



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank managing director Japhet Justine (R) has an audience at the bank's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday with World Food Programme Country Representative Sarah Gordon-Gibson (C) and head of supply chain management Riaz Lodhi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Simbachawene orders shifting of remote police station to town

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

HOME Affairs minister George Simbachawene has given two weeks to shift the police station situated five kms out of Mtera Town to the town so that it serves more than 10,000 residents of Mtera Ward in Mpwapwa District.

For many years, the police station, along the Dodoma-Iringa highway has been causing much inconveniences to Mtera residents due to its being far out from the main residential area.

Simbachawene who was on official tour in the ward

in his Kibakwe parliamentary constituency, visited the police station after receiving many complaints from Mtera residents and saw for himself the long distance from the main residential area.

Addressing hundreds of Mtera residents at a public rally, the minister said: "After visiting it I found it was virtually in the forest as you people have been saying, hence it was imperative that it shifts."

He added: "The task of the police is to protect citizens and their property, the police station is far in the forest, with many crimes being committed along the road, robberies, and all other crimes against citizens

are committed in their areas of residence, hence it must move closer to the people."

He said even the police own safety was at jeopardy because "the police draw their strength from the citizens, because when they are overwhelmed they seek assistance from the citizens, so if they are attacked in that remote area who will assist them?"

However after the rally the minister agreed with ward officials that the buildings of the former Mtera dispensary should be used as a police station.

Mtera ward councillor Robert Maulya said the Mtera police station was built a long time ago, and

for a special purpose at that time but now it remains very remote from the human population, hence there is every reason for it to be shifted.

Maulya also thanked president John Magufuli for providing 700m/- last year for starting a water project in the ward, saying up to now pipes have already been laid to supply water to people's homes.

The minister also pledged to donate 10m/- as assistance in refurbishing the Form VI and VI hostel at Mtera Secondary School which will begin taking in students beginning next year.



# Muhumbili: We'll lead the way on traditional medicine studies

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhumbili National Hospital (MNH) intends to lead the way in conducting research on traditional medicine to cure various diseases including Covid-19.

MNH Executive Director Prof Lawrence Museru said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking during the launch of steam therapy and inhalation machines at the hospital.

He said the move to have the machines within its premises was to let experts develop interest into researching on traditional medicine.

"We treat people and we cannot say traditional medicine heals without studies so bringing this closer will help our experts to develop more interest into research-

ing more," he said.

According to Prof Museru the role of the hospital was to explain to the public and speak with evidence on how traditional medicine works but also regulate and come up with proper dosage.

The four machines have been produced by Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

The ministry of health has emphasized on the use of traditional medicine for patients both at home and hospitals as a supplement to specialized treatment they receive from hospitals.

The government chemist has been working to certify a number of natural local remedies that have met safety standards.

Already some Tanzanian-made herbal remedies have been approved by the government in-

cluding Covidol, NIMRCAF, Planet plazplaz, Bingwa and Covontaxer. Others are Uzima, Bupiji and Lemogracy essential oil.

Steam therapy, which entails a concoction of herbs infused with ginger, lemon and neem, among other ingredients, is widely promoted and used in Tanzania as an alternative remedy to fight the highly contagious virus.

The machines have been inserted at MNH's Mloganzila and Upan-ga branches.

The operator of the machine George Buchafye said traditional medicine is very useful if more research is conducted adding that already research has been conducted in the first place but more is in progress to examine more.



TPB Bank Plc technology and operations director Jema Msuya (C) and Airtel Money director Isack Nchunda pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday officiating at the launch a partnership in financial and communications services partnership involving the two institutions. Left is the bank's head of marketing and business development, Deogratius Kwiwukwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Kundo promises to work on poor mobile communication services in Chalinze District

By Guardian Reporter, Chalinze

COMMUNICATIONS and Technology Deputy Minister Kundo Andrea has instructed TCRA Head for the Eastern Zone, Eng Lawi Odiero to immediately act on the application from Chalinze District Council for improving communication infrastructure in order to provide the council with television and radio licenses which have been pending for a long time.

Apart from addressing this issue, the deputy minister's visit to the area also aimed to inspect communications services and challenges its residents face in mobile communications.

The deputy minister was accompanied by officials from TCRA and Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) as well as mobile phone providers' firms.

He said over 1050 villages now access mobile phone services hence "we are going into modern economy from roads to telecommunications contributing to the country's GDP in the process."

For his part, Chalinze Member of Parliament Ridhiwan Kikwete told the deputy minister that robust communication services include other services such as radio and television communication in the District, and the country in general.

"People want to hear of what is happening in their district. They also want to hear what their councillors and Member of Parliament are doing in order to minimize questions during meetings with their leaders," he said.

The deputy minister also used the occasion to thank the Chalinze legislator for being in the frontline in fighting for the development of his constituents.

He said he received reports on the delay in the issuance of radio frequencies for the District Council hence he decided to visit the area as well as to conduct other official business.

Responding to questions about poor reception of mobile communication in some areas of the district, Kundo said there have been challenges in the erection of communication towers, as well as getting the required permits.

"Permits take long time to be obtained - from three to six months. There are people in NEMC who take up to six months, but also the civil aviation authorities, meteorological authorities and others. But I am sure all these will be worked upon and good mobile communication will be achieved," he added.

Chalinze MP Ridhiwan Kikwete thanked the deputy minister for visiting his constituency and his pledge to rectify the situation on better mobile communication environment.

**The deputy minister also used the occasion to thank the Chalinze legislator for being in the frontline in fighting**

## Complete work on Kabanga Teachers College by June, Prof Ndalichako urges SUMA JKT

By Guardian Correspondent, Kasulu

EDUCATION, Science, and Technology minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako has urged SUMA JKT in Western zone to ensure construction of the new Kabanga Teachers College is complete by June this year.

Prof Ndalichako issued the order in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region shortly after inspecting the project construction progress whereas she expressed dismay over the contractor's slow pace implementation.

"Construction of the Kabanga College started on March 19, 2019 and was to be completed by June 2020 after the contractor was given an extension of eight months to complete the project," said the minister.

Minister Ndalichako said the project worth more than 10.6bn/- was to be completed to allow students to shift from the old buildings. She said most of the buildings at the college are dilapidated, hence the need to ensure a good learning environment for the students.

"There are few equipment at the working site, the project has taken too long to complete despite the fact that SUMA-JKT has been paid all the money by the government," she added.

Assistant Director for Teachers Education from the Education, Science, and Technology, Huruma Mageni informed the minister that once completed, the college will be able to accommodate 800 students. He said completion of the first phase will accommodate 400 students.

Mageni said the first phase construction will include a library, two dormitories, a lecture hall, dining hall and a kitchen.

Other buildings include classrooms, administrative block, a dispensary and four teachers' houses.

The project supervisor from SUMA JKT Lieutenant Colonel Onesmo Njau said they are grateful for extra funding from the Ministry of Education. He promised to work on the minister's directives.

## HUBERT KAIRUKI MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



### JOB ADVERTISEMENTS

Hubert Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) is looking for qualified and experienced Tanzanians, to fill the following positions:

#### 1. HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

**Position:** Human resources and Administration Manager reporting to the Deputy Vice Chancellor Planning Finance and Administration

##### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Head Department of Human Resource and Administration.
2. Formulating and implementing human resource corporate policies, procedures and strategies.
3. Reviewing plans for human resource requirement and ensure proper development and utilization of the existing human resource.
4. Reviewing and monitoring staff information including employment records and salary adjustment for incorporation in the payroll on monthly basis.
5. Coordinating recruitment of all university staff and selection process making sure the employment permits for foreign staff are timely requested from relevant authorities.
6. Overseeing pension matters, employees' benefits, plans and compliance with legislations.
7. Ensuring that employee performance appraisals are conducted in a fair and transparent manner as per approved policies and procedures.
8. Ensuring that training needs assessment is undertaken and used to review training and development programmes developed for each category of staff.
9. Ensuring harmonious and productive labor relations.
10. Establishing and maintenance of a Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS).
11. Developing and implementing rewards, policies and incentives systems.
12. Ensuring that appropriate tools like Scheme of Service, Human Resource Policies and code of conduct are in place and are reviewed regularly.
13. Ensuring effective a management of staff welfare.
14. When required, participate in university meetings, which have impact on the HRM functions e.g. Council, Senate, FPC, AHRMC, CDD, etc.
15. Supervising, appraising and identifying training and development needs of the Human Resource Department staff.
16. Carrying out regular Human Resource accounting, audit and inventory of current knowledge and skill needs.
17. Performing any other duties that may be assigned by the Vice Chancellor.

##### Qualifications and Experience

Applicants must be in possession of a Masters degree in Human Resource or related field from an accredited University, and must have a minimum of eight (8) years working experience in a large and reputable institution, of which four (4) years must be at managerial level.

#### 2. FACULTY ADMINISTRATORS (2)

**Position:** Faculty Administrator reporting to the Faculty Deans.

##### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Responsible for day to day administration of the Faculty,
2. Takes minutes of all Faculty level meetings,
3. To act as the principal administrative assistant to the Dean,
4. Prepares the annual budget for the Dean's office and submits to the planning office,
5. Responsible for hosting of academic and social events of the Faculty,
6. Oversees the performance of all junior administration staff in the Faculty through the respective Heads of Departments,
7. Performs any other such duties as assigned by the Dean/DVCAC.

##### Qualifications and Experience:

Holder of a University degree in Public Administration/Education/Human resources or an equivalent qualification.

#### 3. SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER

**Position:** Senior Planning Officer reporting to Planning Manager.

##### Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Handling matters relating to planning and use of the University physical resources.
2. Providing support to the University's planning processes
3. Assisting in the development and implementation of the University's Strategic Plan
4. Collecting and systematically compiling data on College activities
5. Developing methodologies for data collection on various aspects of University operational programmes
6. Finalizing out operational efficiency of the programme using costs and other indicators
7. Assisting in the formulation of the University budget
8. Preparing of estimates for capital development and recurrent budget
9. Compiling of project profiles, including sources of funding, keeping in custody agreements with donors and monitoring reports.
10. Supervising of all aspects regarding financing and investment
11. Informing the University Management of educational priorities and needs and see that these are considered in all planning.
12. Seeking advice from the various academic units in relation to planning for physical facilities, environmental resources, and the allocation of space, and make recommendations to assure effective and responsible use of resources.
13. Attending of meetings of selected University Committees/Boards
14. Performing of any other duties as assigned by the Supervisor.

##### Qualifications and Experience:

Holder of University Bachelor degree in any of the following fields: - Economics/Educational Planning Management/ Engineering Management/ Statistics or any other relevant field with three (3) years relevant working experience in similar position.

#### 4. ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

**Position:** Assistant Accountant reporting to the Bursar

##### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Checking/preparing payment vouchers.
2. Preparing monthly expenditures and revenue reports.
3. Writing tax invoices and cheques.
4. Preparing cash accounts.
5. Reconciling accounts including bank transactions.
6. Performing any other duties as maybe assigned by supervisor.

##### Qualifications and Experience:

Holder of Bachelor Degree in Accountancy or Advanced Diploma in Accounts or its equivalent plus three (3) years working experience.

#### 5. SECURITY GUARD

**Position:** Security guard reporting to the Human Resources and Administration Manager

##### Duties and Responsibilities

1. Verifying of incoming and outgoing properties and goods as per the authorized gate pass.
2. Ensuring safety and legality of all properties getting into the institute's premises.
3. Ensuring day and night security of buildings and properties of the Institute.
4. Making sure that, all the door and windows are properly closed/locked after working hours.
5. Reporting on catastrophic incidents such fire, floods, theft, etc. to the relevant state organs like police and fire brigade.
6. Advising on appropriate means of improving security within the University.

##### Qualifications and Experience:

Form IV certificate with Basic Militia Training, Police/JKT/Fire Brigade Certificate from recognized Institution and working experience of three years.

##### REMUNERATION FOR ALL POSITIONS:

According to the HKMU salary scales and fringe benefits.

##### APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Interested candidates may send their applications with comprehensive CVs and attached copies of their Academic Certificates to Vice Chancellor, HKMU through the following address:-

Vice Chancellor  
Hubert Kairuki Memorial University,  
70 Chwaku Street, P. O. Box 65300, Dar es Salaam.  
Tel. 255-22-2700021/4, Fax: 255-22-2775591  
or email: hram@hkmu.ac.tz

The advert can also be downloaded from the HKMU website: [www.hkmu.ac.tz](http://www.hkmu.ac.tz)

DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING APPLICATIONS IS 31 MARCH 2021.





Rehema Migambile (2nd-L), Puma Energy Tanzania sub-region's aviation commercial manager, joins her colleagues in Dar es Salaam yesterday in holding a certificate at the 3rd annual Tanzania Employers Association leadership conference attended by 64 women from various companies and organisations. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Agriculture minister camps at village to help in fighting off locust invasion

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

AS part of efforts to contain the reportedly invasion of desert locusts in Arusha's Monduli District, Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda camped at the Engaruka area where spray planes from the International Red Locust Control Organisation have started to kill the fast-moving insects with poison.

Prof Mkenda who is accompanied by his deputy, Hussein Bashe told journalists yesterday that after successful control of the desert locust invasion in Longido and Simanjiro districts, the focus is to fight the insects in Monduli District.

"We have camped at Engaruka to support our experts' efforts to fight off the desert locusts. We successfully killed the grasshoppers in Simanjiro and Longido districts by using poison; we will also kill them in Monduli," said the minister.

Prof Mkenda added: "After Monduli our efforts will be directed on the Kenyan side to reduce migration and breeding. Efforts are also done to ensure the desert locust does not cross the borders to our country."

The minister thanked district commissioners for their corporation towards containing the grasshoppers. He said the spray planes from the International Red Locust Control Organisation in Ndola Zambia will remain in the country until the insects are completely killed.

Earlier, when the desert locust invaded Tanzania, they attacked crops causing devastating effects in three districts namely, Siha, Mwanaga and Simanjiro.

The desert locust poses threat to food security due to their flying speed of about 150 kilometers per day.

The grasshoppers' eating capacity differs from one another whereas a single group estimated to have 40 million locusts can destroy crops at an area covering one square kilometer.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recently called on all countries to maintain the necessary survey and control operations to reduce migration and breeding.

It also warned that dry conditions in some areas where the swarms are arriving could facilitate their spread throughout southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya.

By Francis Kajubi

## TAWLA awards EU ambassador

AHEAD of International Women's Day, the Tanzania Women's Lawyer Association (TAWLA) on Wednesday presented a recognition award to the Ambassador of the European Union, to honour thirty years of European Union's support in advocating for women's equality in Tanzania.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the handing ceremony of the award to the ambassador, TAWLA Chairperson, Lulu Ng'wanakilala said that EU support in the past thirty

years has advocated women's rights in regard to access to legal services that in return has proven to empower generations of independent women who provide for their families.

"The relationship between TAWLA and the European Union and its member states including Denmark, Sweden and Finland goes back a long way. TAWLA and its quest to ensure access to justice, especially for women and children in Tanzania has always sought support from the EU and they have been ready to

give support both technically and financially for the past 30 years," said Ng'wanakilala.

Seconding her senior official, Tike Mwambipile, TAWLA Executive Director, said that during the period of partnership with EU, the association has benefited with financial and technical support that enabled it have direct access to over 10 million women who were subjected to legal aids on different issues related to gender violence cases, right to land ownership and other disputes.

"Numerous successes have been so far recorded from our longstanding relationship with the EU, one of them being the advocating of the draconian laws that posed limitations to women on land ownership right. With the EU support, TAWLA achieved in advocating amendment of such laws that led to the establishment of the lands act no. 4 of 1999" said Mwambipile.

She asserted that TAWLA has also during the past 30 years, translated laws to be understood by the majority

especially those referring to women welfare and dignity. According to her, developments in technology have triggered new challenges against fighting gender-based violence as the same cases are going viral on social media hence affecting the victims psychologically.

"We have prepared a module of guidelines that we submitted to the ministry of constitution suggesting the best ways that the general public should adhere to when publishing gender based violence

cases on social media to protect the victims," she added.

Accepting the award, Manfred Fanti, EU Ambassador to Tanzania and East Africa Community said, "The EU is proud to have been recognised by the Tanzania Women's Lawyer Association in our combined efforts in advocating for women's rights in Tanzania. As the European Union we stand in partnership and solidarity with women in Tanzania and support civil society to further improve women's lives"

He pledged that with the EU Gender Action Plan, the EU will further step up its engagement for women in partnership with Tanzania, promoting women's full participation and leadership in public life and in all different sectors of the society.

"One of the EU's guiding principles is leading by example and fostering partnership with all stakeholders, CSOs, public authorities and women's organisations. Its delegation is working together with EU member states in Tanzania as TeamEurope to better achieve its objectives," he concluded.



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e-mail: mantra@uranium1.co.tz; www.uranium1.com

## PRE-QUALIFICATION OF AN EPCM SERVICES CONTRACTOR FOR THE MANTRA'S MKUJU RIVER PROJECT DEMONSTRATION PLANT

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites eligible contractors to express their Interest (EOI) for the provision of Engineering, Procurement and Construction Management services (EPCM) for the Mkuju River Project demonstration plant.

**Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following;**

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
  - a) Brief scope of work
  - b) Value of work in USD
  - c) Contractual Duration
  - d) Clients name

- e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
  - Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
  - Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
  - Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
  - Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; [francis.rweyemamu@uranium1.co.tz](mailto:francis.rweyemamu@uranium1.co.tz) and the hard copy to the below address latest on **19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 16.00 hours.**

Managing Director  
Mantra Tanzania Ltd

Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki, P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255762700440, Dar es Salaam.





An excavator is deployed in efforts to direct Lukosi River in Kilolo District, Iringa Region, back to its normal course – as found earlier this week. The river feeds into the Great Ruaha River, which plays a crucial role in irrigation farming. The diversion was caused by last season's floods. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Asenga

## Govt urged to resolve challenges at ports

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has been advised to take urgent measures to resolve matters which manufacturers and clearing agents face at various ports including increased charges.

The advice was made in Dar es Salaam recently by Ado Maimu, the Managing Director of Ando Roofing Products.

He said the current laid down procedures where the Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation (Tasac) is also a clearing agent of all bulk cargo vessels and at the same time a vessel agent and regulator results in huge charges and loss of business.

He said due to delays in clearing goods at the port many local products becomes price uncompetitive in the market compared to other countries in the East Africa Community (EAC).

Maimu said Tasac is a major player in the country industrialisation drive; hence its functions are clearly defined.

"The government should take urgent measures to solve the challenges which we are facing the port, Tanzania Shipping Agency Corporation (Tasac) cannot be a bulk clear-

ing agent and at the same time a vessel agent and government import regulator it is becoming too difficult for the agency to operate efficiently," he said.

He suggested for the government to adopt the previous system as it works to find solution to the challenges that manufacturers and clearing agents face at the ports.

"Let us go back to the previous system as we prepare and empower Tasac to handle this major input part of industrialisation in our country," he noted.

Maimu disclosed that, due to challenges at the port, Ando Roofing Products has put on hold its plans of exporting its products to other countries.

Recently, at a meeting organised by the Confederation for Tanzania Industries (CTI) with the ministry of Industry and Trade and attended by Exaud Kigaha who is the Deputy Minister, Tasac President Edward Urio conceded that his corporation adds operational cost due to delays in berthing time.

Urio said, being a government agent, they do not lobby, but wait for the port decision on the time to clear the goods.

## Govt inaugurates mobile clinic for male circumcision in four Lake Zone regions

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has launched mobile clinic for male circumcision in Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mwanza and Mara regions, which have low rate of male circumcision.

The mounted mobile medical clinic vans which will also provide maternal services are aimed at reaching people in marginalized areas within the regions.

It is estimated that the national rate of circumcision is 80 percent while at regional level, the four lake zone regions record below 45 percent, thus high cases of HIV/Aid infections, among other sexually transmitted diseases.

The initiative under support of IntraHealth International and Afya Plus, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the country is to be rolled out in 19 regions in

the country.

This free programme is sponsored by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Speaking while officiating at the launch of three vehicles that will be used for the four regions, Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional

Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo called on men and boys in the regions who have not undergone circumcision to voluntarily go for the service.

He stressed on the health benefits of undergoing circumcision, calling leaders in the four regions to encourage men to come in large numbers for the service.

According to the minister, those who have undergone

circumcision have reduced chance of HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases by 60 percent.

"Male circumcision confers a significant level of protection against HIV acquisition among men and we encourage voluntary medical male circumcision," he said adding that the mobile services aimed at moving services close to people.

He thanked IntraHealth International for the support,

saying it is a clear evidence of good cooperation between government and other stakeholders. The minister called on the regional medical officers in the four regions to closely coordinate the use of the vehicles that will be used to provide health service.

IntraHealth International Country Director, Dr Lucy Mphuru while speaking at the event noted that her organisation is committed to help re-

duce spread of HIV/Aids in the country.

She said the organisation has been working closely with the government for over two decades in different areas of health promotion, especially on male circumcision.

Dr Mphuru noted that through her organisation, at least 1.2 million men have been circumcised and 1.8 million health workers trained on safe male circumcision practices.

## Duthumi WMA invaders under orders to move out

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has ordered all people who invaded Gonabis hunting block located inside Duthumi Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and engaged themselves in farming and livestock keeping activities to move out at once as their presence was illegal and contributed to the destruction of the ecosystem.

Early this week the Morogoro District Commissioner Bakari Msulwa gave the order to residents of 11 villages bordering the Wildlife Management Area accompanied by members of the District Defence and Security Committee and other District Council officials.

He said the invaded area was specially reserved for the protection of its ecosystem, inside which there are water sources and breeding habitats for wildlife of the Nyerere National Park.

He added: "We have now reached the stage where we have mobilized ourselves to ensure the natural growth of the ecosystem must be left to evolve, the invaders should leave the area, hence the message to them is that they should begin preparing themselves psychologically to move out."

However, DC Msulwa and his team failed to reach the wildlife management area to witness for themselves the destruction made due to human activities due to bad roads.

He decided to meet with top officials of the community for the preservation of, and better use of natural resources (JUKUMU) in Duthumi Village and tasked them to oversee the area's preservation.

He also told JUKUMU officials to ensure they perform their duties well including preventing the villagers to continue with their activities inside the wildlife management area.

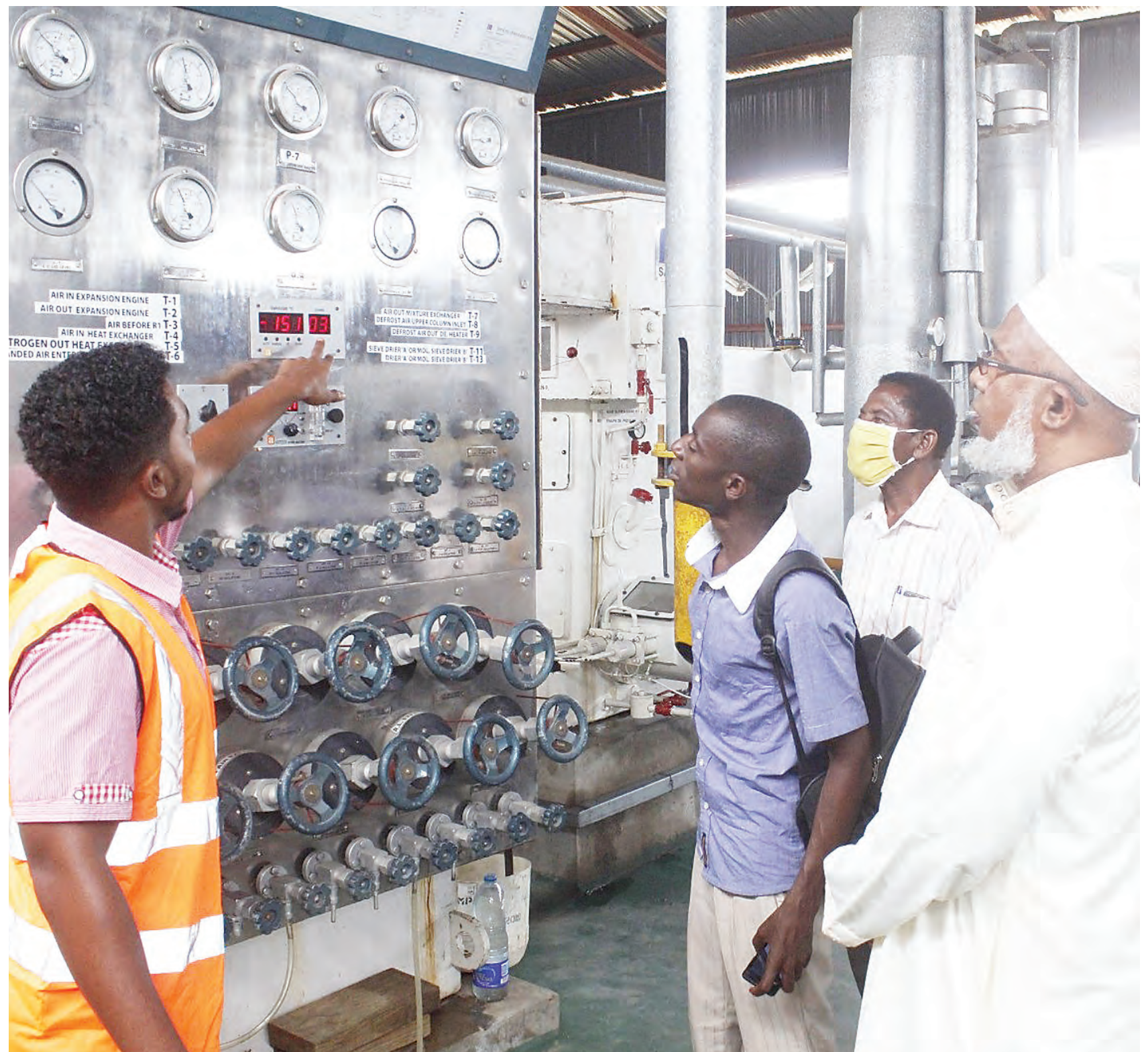
For his part, Morogoro District Executive Director Rehema Bwasi said there was every reason for fresh demarcation of the area by erecting beacons.

She also said the council will make sure the wildlife management area is protected and its use should not be changed as it had immense benefits to the villages, the district and the nation in general.

JUKUMU chairman Galeko Magawa said the area was invaded by herders and farmers and the cause could be the hunting firm –Morogoro Hunting Safari failing to pay them for the protection since 2018 in accordance with the agreement between the two sides.

In the circumstances, he said the company discontinued their hunting operations due to the invasion of the area.

Representative of the company, Ally Kingalu praised the DC's decision but added that the exercise to move out invaders from the area could prove difficult as herders use arrows to protect themselves.



Omar Sayid (L), an engineer with Tanga-based Oxygen Product East Africa Ltd, briefs journalists yesterday on the use of nitrogen in industrial operations. Right is the firm's owner, Mohammed Sayid. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

## 'LITA weighed down by shortage of tutors, rundown infrastructure'

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK Training Agency (LITA) chief executive officer Dr Pius Mwambene has said last year the institution was able to increase students' enrolment from 2,536 to 3,574 this year.

He said due to the increase, LITA has been faced with various challenges, including in-

sufficient students' accommodation, lecture halls, laboratories, libraries and teachers in the livestock health, and as for now there is shortage of 34 teachers.

He also cited the challenge regarding dilapidated infrastructures in the institution including many buildings which need to be demolished and replaced by new buildings.

Dr Mwambene's remarks were given in his

introduction speech at the opening of the 8th LITA Workers Council which was officially opened by the Livestock and Fisheries Permanent Secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel.

Prof Gabriel praised the tendency of meeting regularly, stressing that such meetings should be beneficial to all workers.

He also called on LITA to adhere to eth-

ics and trust in implementing its duties to ensure it acts justly within and outside the institution.

"This is a huge meeting and it carries its own respect hence it is better for it to be used to discuss in-depth on how to reduce or eliminate changes of all workers of LITA's campuses to enable it to produce qualified experts for the country's livestock sector,"

said Prof Gabriel.

He also called upon all campuses to ensure they change their teaching systems to ensure graduates become self-employed instead of waiting to be employed as it is now.

He required LITA to ensure it abides by gender equality in its implementation of its various responsibilities, including giving women positions in levels they deserve.



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FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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## Malaria: We truly still need to get down to real business

SOMETIME just short of half a decade ago, we ran an editorial commentary much similar to this one. We noted, very correctly, that the very mention of the word 'MALARIA' makes many of our people shudder, and this for no other reason than that the disease has wreaked untold havoc in our country over the decades.

We talked of the paradox that the disease is highly preventable but it still kills millions of people every year while there appears to be little let-up in the mortality and morbidity it causes across communities, nations and continents.

Yes, a series of heavily funded global initiatives to tame the disease have made some headway in making the world safe enough, but this amid reservations as to the level of seriousness governments, other institutions and individuals attach to such efforts.

This is, at best, bad news - and the likes of the World Health Organisation (WHO) have remarked as much, though often in diplomacy-coated language.

For instance, the UN agency has had occasion to declare that progress in the war on malaria had levelled off - and this after more than ten years of steady advances.

WHO reported that no significant gains were made in easing the incidence of the disease in the period 2015 to 2017, noting: "Urgent action is needed to get the global response to malaria back on track - and ownership of the challenge lies in the hands of countries most affected by malaria."

Accordingly, on the occasion of World Malaria Day (April 25) that year, the agency said it was joining the vigorously touted RBM (Roll Back Malaria) Partnership to End Malaria, the African Union Commission and other partner organisations in promoting "Zero malaria starts with me".

This is a grassroots campaign specifically designed to keep ma-

laria high on the political agenda, mobilise additional resources, and empower communities to take ownership of malaria prevention and care.

As noted countless times over the years, the killer disease has all but defied national, regional and global to kick it out of circulation, if you will.

Trouble is that the world can ill-afford to retreat or withdraw from this war because doing so would be a sure recipe for a public health catastrophe of untold proportions. So, nations must continue to play ball by doing the most they can to translate into concrete action calls by experts towards that end. Many official websites have repeatedly run heartwarming reports on the progress some countries have made towards taming malaria, even if by merely mitigating the havoc the disease can wreak on national development - public health in particular.

For instance, Zanzibar is credited with once having produced phenomenal gains in implementing malaria prevention and treatment interventions.

Meanwhile, joint efforts by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Tanzania's Ifakara Health Institute have won global recognition for leading applied research to guide malaria control programmes in Tanzania.

Surely, administering highly effective malaria treatment drugs, delivering insecticide-treated mosquito nets, documenting distribution of drug-resistant strains of malaria and undertaking national surveys on quality of antimalarial drugs can make - and have in fact made - much difference. But they by no means constitute a cure-all.

WHO has aptly warned that, despite the advances made globally in the war on malaria, "reaching the next level - elimination - will not be easy".

## TCRA must closely supervise telecom 'bundle' observance

As promised, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has issued a number of rules to place telecom companies on the right foot in relation to issuance of data 'bundles'.

The move comes in the wake of a promise to set right burning grievances as to what the firms offer with respect to airtime bundles.

There are longstanding complaints of people buying bundles for, say, 300 SMS texts but with these drying up after sending only five messages instead of twice as many. Even worse cases were reported.

TCRA has thus moved to address consumers' complaints on the costs and quality of services, but it can't be expected that all the respective service providers will easily reform - if you will.

There needs to be an active monitoring system right from April 2 not just to ensure that service providers do not offer bundles without approval from the regulator, or that data bundle prices are within indicative prices as directed by TCRA.

Of course, there is the issue of some breaches drawing penalties from TCRA, but that may prove a long shot.

The new rules demand that service providers use simple language in data provision for ease of grasp by customers, while being disallowed from arbitrarily

changing and twisting the terms and conditions of the bundles.

While this aspect of communication between service providers and customers has its level of significance, what is more helpful is ensuring that the bundle structure is followed to the letter.

Several provisions in the regulatory intervention focus on what the service provider ought to do to the customer, including issuing an alert on the usage of the bundle in good time.

There is similarly a condition that service providers insert a mobile app to help user know the rate of data bundle usage by downloading the app, which is likely to be of much use for data bundles rather than the wider use voice bundles.

Another point raised in the new regulations is that the service provider will not be allowed to reduce data speed during the use of the purchased bundle or accelerate its rate of expiry in voice bundles. This is a vital input.

But then one still wonders whether this is a matter of being allowed to do so or being disabled from doing that, at the cost of penalties.

To help customers more, the regulator needs to routinely monitor bundle breaches so that wherever and whenever they arise, the customer is appropriately compensated and perhaps an auxiliary fine is imposed on the provider.



## Africa can, and should, decide how best to harness its natural resources

By NJ Ayuk in Johannesburg

PRESSURE is building to phase out petroleum production in Africa to fight climate change. But, harnessed strategically, Africa's oil and gas industry can power a better future for the continent. Are calls to "keep it in the ground" really in Africa's best interests?

Do a Google search for "Help Africa", and you know how many results you'll get? 1.7 BILLION. "Help children in Africa." "African hunger and how to help". "Save Africa from climate change".

There's even a strategy for that last one: Keep Africa's petroleum resources in the ground. The reasoning goes that, if we produce fewer fossil fuels, we'll emit less carbon and be better protected from climate change.

The international community is embracing that idea. BlackRock and Royal Bank of Scotland said that they're moving away from investments that support fossil fuel production.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and the International Energy Agency go even further. Seeing how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected oil markets, they say now is a golden opportunity to phase out fossil fuels and usher in an era of renewable resources, freeing developing countries in particular from "dirty energy sources".

So much helping???????? OK, Global Community, here's how I'd suggest helping Africa. Stop.

Stop trying to apply your Western ideas and priorities to Africa's needs, challenges and aspirations.

Stop piling more aid on top of the billions of dollars that have been poured into the African continent for the last five decades with no results except helping you think of cleansing the guilt of limousine liberators in the name of helping these poor Africans.

And, please, please, stop attempting to dictate how Africa should use its own oil and gas resources. With the right strategies, a thriving African oil and gas industry is the key to alleviating widespread energy poverty, to bolstering economic growth and diversification and, ultimately, to improving the lives of everyday Africans.

Africans have every right



to decide how and when to use their natural resources without interference from the rest of the world, no matter how well-intentioned.

What's behind the vested interest in African oil and gas production? Does the world really have our best interests at heart?

Sure, reining in greenhouse gas emissions is an admirable goal. But consider this. Over the last 300 years, all of Africa has emitted seven times less carbon dioxide than China, 13 times less than the United States, and 18 times less than the combined countries of Europe.

Attempting to phase out Africa's oil industry to prevent climate change is like snuffing out a small, controlled campfire instead of focusing your attention on kilometers of blazing forestland.

It's funny that the keep-fossil-fuels-in-the-ground argument is a Western construct, promoted by countries that developed their economies with fossil fuels. I will not name names.

The head of Africa oil trading for the multinational commodity-trading firm Trafigura said that telling Africa not to develop its resources is akin to making Africa "pay for the sins" of other regions. I say: trying to dictate what Africa does with its own resources is insulting, hypocritical and, frankly, an overstep.

But you know what: I think there's more going on here than just climate change concerns. The oil and gas industry has been painted as a bunch of bad guys that oppress people and steal resources. Wrong.

But if that's true, how do you explain indigenous oil and gas industry companies that provide jobs and training opportunities for local residents - and partner with local suppliers? Same story for the international companies operating in Africa.

But on top of providing jobs, international companies share knowledge and technology and often improve the com-

munities where they operate.

Something else to consider: many oil and gas companies are diversifying their portfolios to include renewable energy assets. In fact, some of them are at the forefront of research that could lead to new renewable energy technologies.

So, if the goal is to move Africa towards increased renewable energy usage a healthy oil and gas industry is a good and cost-effective way to get there. Does anyone care about energy poverty?

But the most important reason Africa should be free to continue hydrocarbon production is this: Africa's huge natural gas reserves are the continent's best shot at alleviating energy poverty.

Today, more than 620 million people in sub-Saharan Africa don't have electricity. That's two-thirds of the population. Hundreds of millions more have unreliable or limited electric power.

What does that look like? Without electricity, you're cooking your food and warming your home by burning wood, charcoal or maybe even animal waste. Your regular exposure to indoor air pollution increases your risk of respiratory infections and chronic conditions.

If you need to go to the hospital for treatment, it will be by lantern light or, worse yet, in the dark. Equipment that requires electricity, like MRI machines and ventilators, is probably not an option.

And that's just one aspect of your life. It doesn't even touch on the impact a lack of electricity has on your children's school or limits economic growth in your community and your employment opportunities.

Gas-to-power technology which, incidentally, generate fewer carbon dioxide emissions can bring reliable electricity to Africa. But we have to be allowed to unleash our resources rather than constrain them.

The good news is that 13 African coun-

tries are using natural gas they produce themselves or import from neighbouring nations to generate electricity.

Yes, I know that renewable energy can help meet Africa's power needs, too. But Africans shouldn't be pressured to make either-or decisions in this area.

Energy poverty is a serious concern. Making the solution more difficult to address is simply wrong.

Now, let's circle back to the idea that Africa needs everyone's help. For more than 60 years, the world has poured financial aid into Africa. And where has that gotten us?

We still have hunger. We still have poverty. We still have violence, infrastructure deficits...the list goes on.

There's no question that other nations and other people want to lift us up. But the net effect of their generosity has been to keep Africa under outside control.

To achieve autonomy, we start by monetising our oil and gas resources. This starts with using oil and gas as a feedstock to create other value-added products - like petrochemicals and fuel. Then we take the revenues to build infrastructure and diversify economies.

Tanzania, Senegal, Mozambique, South Africa, Nigeria, Cameroon, Algeria and Equatorial Guinea have started going down this path. And with the right fiscal, tax and regulatory policies, they will be on their way to being major players in the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) market.

Allowed to continue to use our resource wealth our way, other African countries can follow that lead.

So, you see, Global Community, Africa doesn't need you to help it. Africa doesn't need you to decide how to best protect Africa from climate change. Nobody protects the environment better than Africans. Look at the emission numbers.

Africans need you to respect us and to understand that your perspectives, priorities and solutions are just that: yours.

We have our own goals, and our own paths to get us there. If you'll just stop trying to put up roadblocks, if you stop lecturing, if you stop preaching to us, if you stop talking to us and start talking and working and walking and do a little bit of listening, we'll help ourselves from here and help you too.

**NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, CEO of pan-African corporate law conglomerate Centurion Law Group, and the author of several books about the oil and gas industry in Africa.**



# Data inform better solutions reporting – for immense good

By Matthew Kauffman

**D**ATA Journalism has never been more valuable – or more accessible. With the growing availability of data, an ever-expanding suite of analysis tools and abundant training by journalism organisations and others, data journalism – once the niche province of computer-minded reporters – has become a core skill throughout newsrooms.

Data journalism turns anecdotes into systemic truths. It provides the hard evidence to evaluate policies and hold policymakers accountable. It has become an indispensable part of high-impact, award-winning journalism.

But many newsrooms are missing out on one of the most meaningful uses of data reporting: supporting the growing trend of solutions journalism that relies on rigorous evidence to identify policies and practices with a proven track record.

Journalism has a long and proud tradition of exposing systemic problems – from racial injustice to government corruption to failures in business, education, healthcare and more.

Solutions reporting takes that tradition a critical step forward, seeking out responses that are working and putting a spotlight on the places that are verifiably getting it right.

Solutions Journalism isn't speculative or aspirational or naïve. It's built on a clear-eyed analysis of responses to social problems, built on demanding and independent reporting that tests claims and acknowledges limitations.

When news outlets ask and answer the question: "Who's doing it better?" they help their audience see and explore possible opportunities for change.

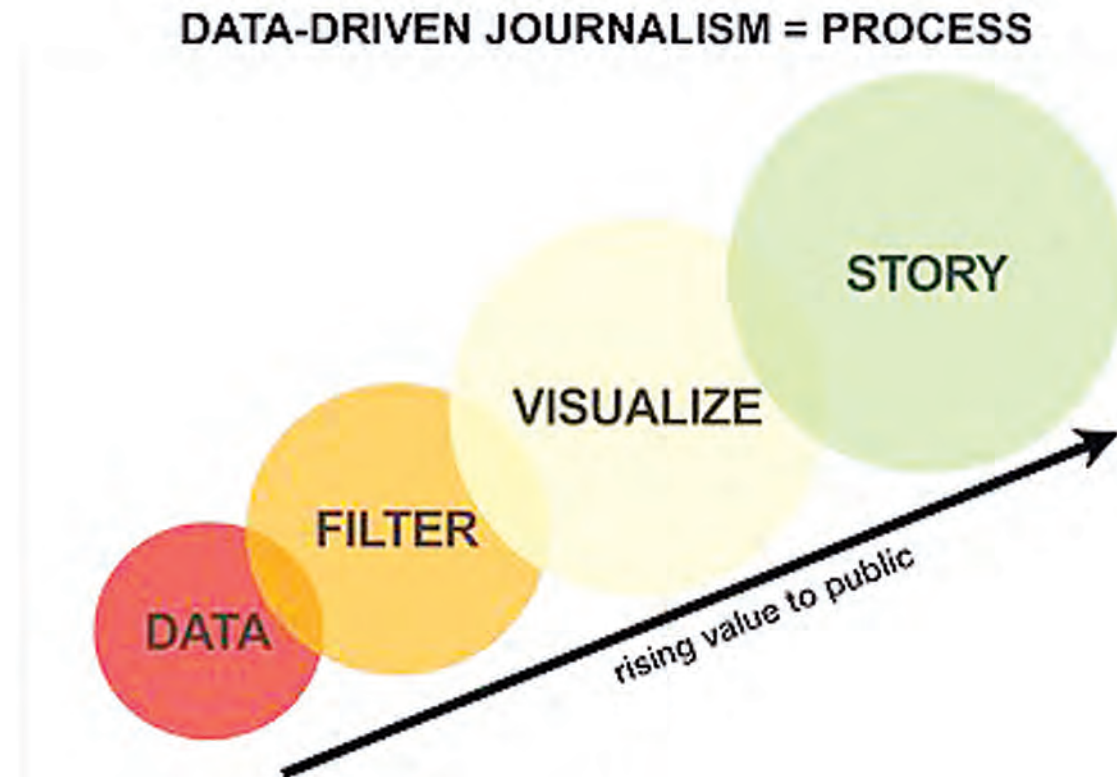
They provide hope, as a welcome alternative to news that too often leaves communities feeling powerless. And they build audience trust and engagement, which have become essential to newsroom survival.

When problems are well known in a community, there is little value in running yet another depressing look-alike story, particularly one built on stereotypes and deficit framing.

But pursuing that same issue through a Solutions Journalism lens – with a deeply reported focus on responses as a foundational element – elevates the work, serves the community and produces the sort of meaningful journalism that readers, listeners and viewers crave.

It is not a replacement for hard-hitting examinations of societal ills. Rather, it is an essential partner, fulfilling a vital journalistic mission by revealing opportunities for reform and improvement.

And it blends perfectly with data journalism. For



instance, when the San Francisco Chronicle took a deep dive into the city's alarming homelessness problem, they explored what might be a viable response 600 miles away in Salt Lake City, where data showed that new programmes helped reduce the permanent homeless population by 85 per cent.

A database of school bus inspections allowed the Hartford Courant to identify the companies with the worst maintenance records and the most dangerous buses.

But the paper also highlighted policies employed by a bus company with a nearly perfect record, obliterating the excuses offered by other owners, and holding government officials to account for failing to hold all firms to a standard that was shown to be achievable.

As concern grew over the failure by many governments to capture demographic information for Covid-19 patients, data pointed to a

possible bright spot: a single county in Nebraska with 100 per cent success in gathering the information. That led to a local news story showing how they did it – and how other governments could as well.

In the lexicon of the Solutions Journalism Network, these potential bright spots are "positive deviants" – responses that appear to drive better outcomes for one community when compared to other communities with similar challenges.

And in the hunt for those positive deviants, data become a powerful companion: many school districts face challenges associated with poverty. Which ones are seeing educational gains despite those challenges?

Drug abuse has devastated numerous communities. Have any beaten the odds and bent the curve downwards?

There is persistent evidence that

non-white drivers are treated more harshly by police during traffic stops. Are there cities that resist or challenge that trend?

Uncovering those positive deviants is just the first step in a reporting process that identifies the policies driving those outcomes, examines how they were implemented, considers the evidence connecting the policies to the outcomes, explores limitations and evaluates whether they are replicable elsewhere.

It is a meaningful approach to journalism that can be embraced by any news outlet, of any size, starting immediately.

Take the Nebraska story on Covid-19 and race. As the virus spread, headlines cropped up across the US revealing that governments were failing to track adequate racial information for those infected, making it more difficult to address the pandemic.

A database created by the Solutions Journalism Network put hard numbers behind the problem, showing that in many cities, counties and states, racial data were missing for a large percentage of cases – and in some locations, such as Baltimore County, for the majority of those infected.

But the data also pointed to one place that seemed to be doing it better: Douglas County, Nebraska.

With data providing a tip, a journalist with The Reader in Omaha (the largest city in Nebraska State) reported the story, digging more deeply into the numbers and interviewing officials about specific policies the county had put in place, including tripling the number of staff members tasked with gathering demographic information.

While other jurisdictions shrugged their shoulders and insisted that there was nothing they could do to assemble more-complete information, The Reader's story illustrated that it can be done, and afforded other communities a roadmap for making it happen.

A more-traditional approach might have focused solely on those governments doing a poor job – and those data-informed revelations are important accountability journalism.

However, pursuing data stories through a solutions lens heightens accountability by reporting on where and how people are doing better against a problem – removing excuses and setting a bar for what communities should expect from institutions and governments.

That's what ABC News did with a data analysis of Covid-19 testing sites – showing that, overall, sites in minority neighbourhoods face higher demand than those in whiter areas of the same city.

But Oakland, California, was an outlier, with the data showing no additional burden on people of colour seeking a test. And the story offered possible reasons why Oakland's response was working: a conscious decision to place sites near communities of colour, who are hit harder by the coronavirus; establishing a walk-up site for those without cars; not requiring online appointments; and making phone information available in multiple languages.

That section strengthened the accountability aspect of the news report, muting the ability by government officials elsewhere to say that there was nothing they could do to solve the problem.

**A piece originally published by the Solutions Journalism Network. It was republished by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Matthew Kauffman is an investigative reporter and data journalist.**

## With vaccine deliveries to Accra and Abidjan, the race for equity begins

By Dr Solomon Zewdu

**F**EBRUARY 24 saw 600,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine arrive in Accra, Ghana. Two days later, another 504,000 doses arrived in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

These were the first international deliveries of Covid-19 vaccine through the COVAX Facility and – with the first doses administered in both countries just days later – the first steps in what will be the largest immunisation campaign in world history.

Hopefully, these milestones represent a turning point in the world's response to the pandemic.

COVAX is a wide-ranging coalition of international public health organisations and other partners meant to ensure that every nation, regardless of resources, gets the vaccines needed to protect its people from the devastating coronavirus.

A large part of the developing world, including most of Africa, has too often been forced to wait for life-saving innovations and treatments. Because of this, chronic lack of equitable access, disease and poverty linger.

COVAX was created at the start of the pandemic to mitigate these inequities. It plans to deliver 2 billion vaccine doses all over the world this year, including 1.3 billion doses to low- and middle-income countries.

This ambitious international campaign is especially crucial given the deep disparities that have marked Covid-19 vaccine distribution so far.

Until very recently, the world's richest nations had received almost all of the vaccine supply. As a result, even as some high-income nations have already immunised more than 20 per cent of their population with at least one dose, only a few African countries have reached even 1 in 1,000 people.

It is, frankly, impossible to defeat the virus if these disparities persist. If everyone doesn't have the chance to get immunised, the world economy could lose as much as US\$9.2 trillion and twice as many people could perish needlessly.

Nonetheless, these first introductions in Accra and Abidjan coming less than three months after Covid-19 vaccines were first introduced in high-income nations represent proof that pooling resources can help shorten the time it takes to get vaccines to lower-income countries after they are developed.

Before Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, launched the Pneumococcal Advance Market Commitment in 2009, for example, it could take up to 15 years for life-saving vaccines to reach lower-income countries.

Through donor commitments, this innovative funding mechanism has dramatically increased the speed with which vaccines reached lower-income countries and has helped 60 lower-income countries introduce pneumonia vaccines at more affordable prices.

Gavi is an international organisation created in 2000 to improve access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.



Collaborations like COVAX and its Advance Market Commitment build on these successes and are similarly helping to narrow the gap in access to Covid-19 vaccines.

To keep closing this deadly gap, however, additional resources from governments, donors and the private sector will be needed. The mid-February commitment by G7 nations to the doubling of COVAX funding is an excellent start, but more will be required to immunise everyone.

With that in mind, we must recognize that vaccines arriving at international airports are an important and laudable logistical feat – but constitute only the first step. The job will not be done until these vaccines get into people's arms.

Even some of the world's wealthiest nations, with access to substan-

tially more doses and with expensive health systems, have struggled with their vaccination campaigns. Thus, the job could be exponentially harder in countries with far fewer doses and public health resources.

That is why governments and public health organisations across Africa are working overtime to make sure that their health care systems and workers are ready to

get these vaccines moving.

Many African countries have expertise in conducting rapid and effective mass vaccination campaigns, often immunising millions of people in a single week.

In 2016, for example, 41,000 health workers and volunteers were recruited and trained to administer yellow fever vaccines to 14 million people in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in just ten days.

The following year, Nigeria – despite political conflict – was able to immunise 4.7 million children against measles in only two weeks.

And even amid the pandemic, Ethiopia was able to vaccinate 13 million children against measles and nearly 2 million people against cholera, thus averting the catastrophic consequences of missed vaccination campaigns.

These countries and many others in Africa already know first-hand what a successful mass vaccination campaign takes and have invested in many of the essential components.

Among these are detailed planning, real-time communication, building health worker capacity and, critically, developing public trust in vaccines.

Some nations, such as the DRC, even have experience with the ultra-cold temperatures needed for some Covid-19 vaccines, largely thanks to their efforts to inoculate more than 300,000 people against Ebola.

These experiences offer key lessons for vaccine delivery that the rest of the world can benefit from and will assuredly be helpful as African nations work to immunise their citizens against Covid-19.

It will take enormous effort, resources and dedication from everyone – both in Africa and around the world – to scale up vaccine delivery to the levels that are needed.

Getting vaccines to Accra, Abidjan and cities all over the planet is a vital first step in defeating this pandemic. Now, the real test of whether we can achieve vaccine equity begins.

**Dr Solomon Zewdu (pictured) is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's deputy director for health in Africa and its Africa Covid-19 response coordinator.**



# Coronavirus pandemic: A crisis with a woman's face

By António Guterres

As the world marks International Women's Day in the midst of a global pandemic, one stark fact is clear: the Covid-19 crisis has a woman's face.

The pandemic is worsening already deep inequalities facing women and girls, erasing years of progress towards gender equality.

Women are more likely to work in sectors hardest hit by the pandemic. Most essential frontline workers are women - many from racially and ethnically marginalised groups and at the bottom of the economic ladder.

Women are 24 per cent more vulnerable to losing their jobs and suffering steeper falls in income. The gender pay gap, already high, has widened, including in the health sector.

Unpaid care has increased dramatically owing to stay-at-home orders and school and childcare closures. Millions of girls may never return to school. Mothers - especially single mothers - have faced acute adversity and anxiety.

The pandemic has also sparked off a parallel epidemic of violence against women worldwide, with skyrocketing domestic abuse, trafficking, sexual exploitation and child marriage.

Meanwhile, even though women represent the majority of healthcare workers, a recent study found that only 3.5 per cent of Covid-19 task forces had equal numbers of men and women. In global news coverage of the pandemic, just one in every five expert sources was a woman.

All of this exclusion is itself an emergency. The world needs a new push to advance women's leadership and equal participation. And it's clear that such action will benefit all.

The Covid-19 response has highlighted the power and effectiveness of women's leadership. Over the past year, countries with women leaders have had lower transmission rates and are often better positioned for recovery.

Women's organisations have filled crucial gaps in providing critical services and information, especially at the community level.

Across the board, when women lead in government, we see bigger investments in social protection and greater inroads against poverty. When women are in parliament, countries adopt more stringent policies on climate change. When women are at the peace table, agreements are more enduring.

Yet, women make up a mere quarter of national legislators worldwide, a third of local government members, and just a fifth of cabinet ministers. On the current trajectory, gender parity will not be reached in national legislatures before 2063. Parity among heads of government would take well over a century.

A better future depends on addressing this power imbalance. Women have an equal right to speak with



authority on the decisions that affect their lives. I am proud to have achieved gender parity among the leadership of the United Nations.

Pandemic recovery is our chance to chart a new and equal path. Support and stimulus packages must target women and girls specifically, including through scaled up investment in care infrastructure. The formal economy only functions because it is subsidised by women's unpaid care work.

As we recover from this crisis, we must chart a path to an inclusive, green and resilient future. I call on all leaders to put in

place six key building blocks.

First, they need to ensure equal representation - from company boards to parliaments, from higher education to public institutions - through special measures and quotas.

Second, they have to invest significantly in the care economy and social protection, and redefine Gross Domestic Product to make work in the home visible and counted.

Third, they ought to remove barriers to women's full inclusion in the economy, including through access to the labour market,

property rights and targeted credit and investments.

Fourth, they should repeal all discriminatory laws in all spheres - from labour and land rights to personal status and protections against violence.

Fifth, each country should enact an emergency response plan to address violence against women and girls, and follow through with funding, policies and political will to end this scourge.

Sixth, all need to shift mindsets,

raise public awareness and call out systemic bias.

The world has an opportunity to leave behind generations of entrenched and systemic discrimination. It is time to build an equal future.

**This piece by the UN Secretary General is meant to coincide with the commemoration of International Women's Day - March 8.**

## Six life lessons many people commonly learn too late

By Eric Sangerma

If you could go back in time, what would you tell your younger self? As a dad, I keep thinking about the mistakes I made in the past. If I can turn my regrets into useful advice for my children, that makes it all worth it.

Of course, this is a work in progress - I keep finding new ways to think about my own strengths and weaknesses. I also keep making new mistakes. But here's what I've got so far:

One: You can't avoid making mistakes. We all want to be flawless. Even when saying 'Nobody's perfect, so don't sweat it!' - secretly, we wish we were a little closer to perfection.

But the only way to gain true knowledge is to learn from your mistakes. Sadly, you can't skip the embarrassing, dispiriting parts of life.

As Sophocles once put it: "All men make mistakes, but a good man yields when he knows his course is wrong, and repairs the evil. The only crime is pride."

If you're not sure how to learn from your mistakes, here are the basics: acknowledge that you messed up, don't try to excuse it, but don't berate yourself too much either - feeling bad about yourself is just another kind of self-indulgence, it's not actually useful, and write down what happened and revisit it later when you can be more objective about what happened.

Remember, mistakes aren't character flaws! Don't turn them into a big deal, treat them as useful data.

Two: Don't waste time on fear. Fear makes it harder to decide things. It tempts us to procrastinate. We end up stagnating and waiting for life to happen to us.

This is part of why analysis paralysis is on the rise. It's all too tempting to delay big decisions "until you have all the data" - and we now have access to more free information than ever before. So when we feel reluctant to get started, there's always more preliminary research we can do.

But the truth is that, sadly, we're still not psychic - and we can't know every outcome in advance. At some point, we have to decide that we have waited enough. So, learn to take leaps of faith.

Three: Your phone really is out to get you. I know, I know - this advice is a cliché and everyone knows we overuse smartphones.

All I have to add to it is that I remember life without pervasive smartphone use. We had far more privacy and freedom. We watched the news once a day, and there was more of a distance between our private life and our public life. At the end of the workday, we could switch off and relax. We weren't always 'on'.

Sure, we can't all give up our smartphones, and it's impossible to undo some widespread changes in society,



But it's important to develop some defence mechanisms - times when your phone is turned off, times when you stop scrolling and put the device aside.

Always keep in mind that the social media are designed to be addictive and the point is to make a profit based on your engagement.

Four: Some people won't ever like you. This isn't a curse; it's a blessing. There's always going to be somebody who doesn't agree with you. Some people will dislike you for no reason you can see. My experience is that the happier you are, the more likely you are to encounter hostility.

This shouldn't stop you from doing what you love. In fact, you can use it as fuel. Spite is a great motivator when you feel stuck (though you shouldn't let it impact the big decisions in your life - your enemies aren't important enough to have a say).

How do you deal with people who dislike you? Develop good boundaries and don't let the naysayers or cynics get into your head. You can even learn to be kind to them - though learning to tolerate and ignore them is usually enough.

Five: Only you are responsible for your emotions. Here's a problem that plagues many young people I know. It impacts their dating choices, their career decisions, and it makes them even more reli-

ant on the social media.

We all want to be liked, and we want someone to tell us we're worthy. When we're going through tough times, we want someone to share them with us. And there's nothing wrong with relying on other people.

But we should never stop building our emotional resilience. Understand that you're the only one responsible for your own feelings, and you have to learn how to cope with them.

You can get help from your partner/spouse, your friends, family, or even your online followers - but they can't participate in every crisis.

All these people have problems and lives of their own and, sometimes, they can't handle your issues on top of it. Plus, you need to be there for them just as they're there for you.

For me, daily journaling (that is, keeping or writing a daily record of news and events of a personal nature; a diary) was the key to becoming more emotionally independent.

Every morning, I spend some time with my thoughts. I figure out what's bothering me and what I can do to fix it. Doing this has improved my relationships and it helped me get through this exhausting year.

Six: Big changes take time. One of the most dangerous fantasies is the 'clean slate' fantasy. You may swear that you'll turn your life around starting from Monday (or from New Year, or as soon as you get a promotion). The truth is that you likely won't.

I have heard of people who dropped all their bad habits at once, but I'm not sure whether they really exist. Here's what always seems to happen instead: you get started with your new life. You're full of enthusiasm, you can see the glorious future in front of you. Then, the illusion fades, and you start slipping back into your old ways of doing things.

We are creatures of habit and we're not designed for sudden and massive changes. But we can still improve life - we just have to look at the big picture.

Don't despair if you need to improve your health, your mindset, or the way you work - all of that is possible. But it's just not going to happen overnight.

Plan ahead, accept that you'll backslide occasionally. Celebrate every small victory, and don't compare your progress to anyone else's.

It Won't Be Easy, But... There's one more thought I'd like to share, and I think it's a hopeful one. Time doesn't heal all wounds. But it does give you the strength to cope with them.

When you are young, everything seems like a huge deal. You feel every betrayal keenly. The world seems overwhelming and you think that nobody has ever had to deal with the things you're facing now.

I'd like to end on an upbeat or optimistic note and tell you that it'll all become easier over time. But I can't promise that. Here's what I can promise: you are becoming tougher every day.

You're learning new coping skills just by living your life. The next time you face a tough situation, you'll be a little wiser and more prepared.



## Embrace good parenting practices to address GBV, Tanzanians told

By Correspondent Daniel Sembereya

LEGAL practitioners have suggested the need for Tanzanians to embrace good parenting practices in order to address gender-based violence (GBV) in the country.

They aired their views over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, during Policy Forum's Breakfast debate whose theme was "Violence and abuse: What needs to be done to address gender based violence in the workplaces?"

Harold Sungusia (pictured), advocate of the High Court and Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public says parenting requires interpersonal skills and makes emotional demands—most parents learn parenting practices from their own parents.

"That's why it is important to put in place good parenting practice to address GBV, which is deep-rooted in our cultural values which have been passed on from one parent to another," he says, adding:

"We need to have proper parenting in place in order to address gender violence in our communities."

Presenting a paper at the forum, Advocate Sungusia says: "Most of what is happening in communities as GBV is a repetition of violence that is being repeated in the society."

"If we have proper parenting, meaning that the up-bringing of children will be very positive from the beginning. The emphasis on respect of human dignity needs to be inserted to children while they are still young, if they grow up knowing that they have a duty to respect human dignity as part of their values, they will reduce a lot of gender violence and human rights abuses generally."

"If you don't do this from the beginning, you will be dealing with symptoms like what is happening today," the legal expert says, calling on parents to be role model and good example to their children to enable them become good citizens when they become adults and hence build communities which are free from gender violence and other human rights abuses.

According to him, violence and harassment are not in-born traits but are infused into different personalities due to social decay - emphasis on proper parenting needed to take cause in order to effectively prevent violence and harassment especially at places of work.

"We are all victims of violence and harassment of consequences of such violence or harassment at work place - the current global efforts can help us changing the narrative."

He urges all players in society to use holistic approach to combat gen-



der violence at home and at work and this should go hand in hand with economic and educational empowerment of women.

Sungusia recommends that since bullying, violence, abuse and sexual harassment do not occur in a vacuum. Often are related to mental health challenges, a lack of workplace satisfaction and insufficient diversity are all related issues. These dynamics need to be understood and addressed collectively. Stress management tools

and sessions must be adopted to assist the potential perpetrators.

Engagement with children and youths may be a long term struggle but meaningful one. Children and youths especially females are disproportionately impacted by bullying and sexual harassment.

So, if involved in issues touching their daily lives they will play a major role in developing and implementing solutions and shaping workplace culture in future.

Continuous gathering of data

and improve transparency data about the nature, prevalence and impact of violence harassment is important.

"Once we have the data, we need to be open about it. Transparency will help us to address these issues and persuade the decisions makers to take actions."

He suggests the need for every profession to be engaged and take ownership of the campaign to address violence and harassment at working places. "This is every-

one's problem".

Sungusia also calls on the government to ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 which has been adopted as an additional layer of standards that will enhance the fight against violence and harassment

He says there are many benefits the government was going to gain, and one of them is that it will be used to address the scourge.

Female future programme coordinator from Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Annabahati Mlay says that positive working environment reduces harassment and increases productivity of a given company, organisation or institution.

She suggests: "Every institution needs to have strong mechanism to report any incidence of harassment. Appropriate measures are supposed to address gender based violence in the world of work."

Mlay calls for coming up with a policy that will deal with gender based violence and harassment in the world of workplace.

Programme Coordinator Actionaid, Jovina Nawenzake said that behavioural change among perpetrators was crucial in addressing gender based violence in the world of workplace.

Nawenzake has urged the government and other key players to ensure the present labour laws which are currently being practiced in formal sector to be also implemented in the informal sector, as a way of addressing gender based violence and harassment believed to be rampant there!

## Six new climate finance ideas for a sustainable recovery

By Babalwa Bungane

THE Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance (the Lab) has selected six new climate finance ideas for its 2021 acceleration programme.

The Lab is an investor-led initiative that identifies, develops and launches promising solutions to drive critical public and private investment to action on climate change in developing economies. Each year, the Lab competition selects promising, early-stage ideas for sustainable investment and rapidly develops these ideas into fundable, scalable investments and business models.

In the 7th year of its annual competition, this Lab class of instruments will address barriers that can unlock investment to sustainable development challenges and opportunities for a post-COVID, green economic recovery. For 2021, the Lab chose one idea for each of its thematic streams: food systems, energy access and cities, two for its Brazil programme and one for its Southern Africa programme.

Dr Barbara Buchner, Global Managing Director of Climate Policy Initiative, the Lab's secretariat: "The 2021 class put the Lab over the 50th instrument mark and closer to mobilising \$3 billion in sustainable finance in emerging markets. We're proud to look back at what we've accomplished but our



drive is looking forward to enabling a true transition as the world recovers from the pandemic.

"The new Lab class presents a set of innovative instruments capable of driving private resources to rebuild an inclusive, sustainable and resilient economy."

This year's six selected ideas will now undergo a 7-month period of analysis, stress-testing, development and preparation for launch later this year. Winning ideas will receive guidance and support from high-level leaders from the public and private sectors,

who contribute their expertise, political capital and financial capital to the instruments.

Lab members chose the 2021 class of ideas out of a highly competitive shortlist of 13 finalists, narrowed from a field of more than 160 initial proposals submitted by leading development finance institutions, global NGOs, prominent project developers, asset managers and financial services firms and entrepreneurs.

Stefanie Fairholme of the Rockefeller Foundation: "The Rockefeller Foundation is

committed to supporting sustainable, equitable development where it is needed most by unlocking private capital for impact at scale, especially in the area of reliable, renewable energy access for all.

"The Lab's track record of bridging this investment gap is impressive, and its contribution to closing the global energy access gap through innovative approaches is more critical now than ever. We are eager to see this work continue and for this year's selected ideas to come to fruition."

Lab Member Gustavo Fontenele of Brazil's Ministry of Economy: "The Lab, as we see it, is a crucial institution for developing new financial instruments that address climate and sustainability challenges in the country."

"The Ministry of the Economy of Brazil expects the instruments selected today to contribute to attracting private resources to foster a green sustainable economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. The exceptional work the Lab performs helps expand Brazil's engagement of stakeholders towards achieving our NDCs."

Chosen climate finance ideas  
Sustainable food systems: The Smallholder Resilience Fund (SRF) deploys 'synchronised investments' to SMEs across entire value chains of high-value, climate-friendly crops allowing them to manage larger vol-

umes. This equips smallholders to achieve higher incomes, greater climate resilience and carbon sequestration.

Investments will be de-risked and accelerated via support and capacity-building from the One Acre Fund. SRF will initially target Kenya and Rwanda to prove the concept.

Sustainable energy access: Data-driven energy access for Africa expands lending for renewable energy while reducing lending portfolio risk by using data-driven technology to better assess end-user credit risk. The technology allows for segmented pooling of loans to better match lender risk appetite and replace physical assets with cash flow as collateral. The proponent, Nithio, is looking to pilot the instrument in several African economies, with potential to scale the model in other regions.

Sustainable cities: Sustainable urbanisation for West Africa aims to scale up climate infrastructure investment in West African cities. The instrument is a unique blended-currency fund vehicle with credit enhancements and will refinance initial USD equity with local-currency debt after projects are operational to offer stable long-term returns to institutional investors, recycling the equity into new project development. The proponent ARM Harith has a \$100 million pilot is planned for Nigeria.

## Child marriage still rife in Lake Zone regions

By Guardian Reporter

A 16-year-old Zainabu Mshetwa in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, today makes school uniforms from a sewing machine that she received when she completed a three-month tailoring course in Musoma Municipality, Mara Region.

Her present situation, however, probably would have been any other, we don't know, but she might as well have remained a married teenager today. Child marriage isn't uncommon in these parts of the country, and like many other young girls of school age it didn't happen by her will, but rather her father decided for her.

This and numerous other suppressive traditions continuously deny girls the possibilities of becoming who they want to in future, and in essence withholding their full rights.

Additionally, they suffocate opportunities to access these rights, which are the cornerstone of the Access to Justice Program that Legal Services Facility (LSF) implements countrywide.

At 14, her young life took an unfortunate turn, one day while she was away at a wedding, two young men arrived at her family home, one had accompanied his friend, whose aim was none other than to make known his desire to marry her.

Her father, who was home at the time, informed them that, she was away and that they would be welcome to return when she is back.

"When I returned home from the wedding, my mother came to me and informed me on that marriage proposal. I simply kept quiet as I had nothing to do. My mother protested against the decision telling my father that, I was too young to be married, but he wasn't having any of it;

"I refused to get married. I remember my mother and I travelled to Maswa, and behind our backs, my father accepted five heads of cattle as dowry, and went far as to move the animals away from home. When we returned, he ordered me to move to my suitor, but when I refused, he forced me out, and I had to go," recalls Zainabu.

She lived with the man for four months that she only describes as ab-



solute hell - intercourse against her and beatings when she didn't submit became regular features of her life. Fearing for her life, she returned home, but her husband withheld her belongings in an attempt to maintain a degree of control over her.

Lulu Abdallah, the paralegal, who led us to Zainabu, says the case was brought her attention by neighbours.

"Neighbours who saw her suffering contacted me and explained what was taking place, and so before even involving her mother; I took the initiative to work on the matter, and try to extricate her from that terrible situation. The man that married her was 25 years-old and

he treated her in a nasty manner. It was also claimed that, he smoked marijuana and whenever he got high he turned onto her;

"So, with the help of my colleagues, we summoned the man in a bid to address the matter and eventually end the marriage, but he wouldn't budge. We however succeeded in getting both sets of parents together; however, Zainabu's father was less cooperative. We persisted against huge odds, but finally, we were able to separate them, and she returned home," she explains.

Zainabu was medically examined and she was found to be healthy and not expecting. The man's family then demanded their dowry back, but weren't successful be-

cause Abdallah and her colleagues stood firm and told them that, the marriage was illegal from the onset and for that matter, they couldn't redeem the dowry.

Kabula Sagalala, Zainabu's mother, says: "My husband left with the dowry cattle and settled in Mpanda with his other wives leaving me to take care of every family need - food, the children's schooling, clothing and everything else all on my own. I work the land that my sister has apportioned me and that's how we live on a daily basis."

Last year a circular was distributed in the ward, alerting the public about an upcoming programme for girls between the ages of 14 and 18 that would provide them with skills training for personal economic empowerment.

When the programme finally kicked off, Abdallah says, she made arrangement to enroll Zainabu and help her build her future. She was accepted onto the programme and went off to be trained as a tailor.

The programme later provided each girl with a sewing machine, which we found Zainabu using when we visited her.

What's her outlook for the future? "I didn't want to get married and now I'm enjoying my work. I use my skills to make school uniforms and ordinary clothes, which I sell and

the money we get from them helps us take care of everyday needs such as food, and also importantly buying medicine when one of us falls ill. My biggest need is fabric, which if I can acquire easily will allow me to do more work," she says shyly.

Abdallah calls on parents to prioritize the welfare of their children, particularly girls and suppress the strong elements of greed that often put young girls' lives at risk. Girls also need to learn to stand firm, and never relegate their dreams.

Reports have it that Shinyanga Region has one of the highest prevalence rates of child marriage in the country, where 59% of girls are married by the age of 18. Young girls are forced into marriage for a variety of reasons - both cultural and economic - that are deeply entrenched. Child marriage itself is a form of abuse but it also most often results in limited educational and economic outcomes, especially for women and girls, contributing to continued cycles of poverty. Married to much older men, these young girls never finish school, become mothers themselves well before adulthood, and suffer a life of poverty and abuse that often goes unreported and ignored by government authorities.

Three in 10 girls in Tanzania are married before their 18th birthday, according to United Nations estimates.



# What near-death experiences teach us about the brain

By Markham Heid

**T**HE truck driver's story sounded far-fetched. The man claimed that in the middle of his quadruple bypass heart surgery - during which he was fully anaesthetised and his eyes were taped shut - he had "come to" (regained consciousness) and found that he was looking down at his own body and the doctors preparing to operate on it.

He described the scene in detail, and he recalled that his surgeon had waved his elbows in the air as if he were mimicking a bird flapping its wings.

Later, when asked about his patient's peculiar account, the truck driver's surgeon confirmed that he had indeed waved his elbows in the air.

He explained that, in order to avoid contaminating his gloved hands before a procedure, he would place his palms on his chest and point with his elbows - an uncommon practice that his patient couldn't have seen or anticipated.

Bruce Greyson, MD, is a professor of psychiatric medicine at the University of Virginia. In his new book, entitled *After*, he describes the truck driver's near-death experience (NDE) and many others like it.

Greyson spoke with both the truck driver and with his surgeon, and he tried to pin down the source of the man's weird recollections. But his efforts only deepened the mystery of the man's apparent out-of-body perceptions.

After studying NDEs for decades, Greyson says that much of what he's learned has been hard to square with prevailing notions of how the mind and brain work.

"Our common assumption is that the mind, or consciousness, is just what the brain does," he says. In other words, the mind and the brain are one and the same. They're inseparable.

"There's a lot of evidence for this. When you get drunk or you get hit on the head, you don't think very well," Greyson adds.

But, paradoxically, NDEs often occur when the brain is heavily disabled or even measurably inactive.

Greyson explains: "The evidence we have from NDEs seems to suggest that the mind and brain can dissociate under extreme circumstances. Somehow, the mind can continue to function when the brain seems to stop."

## What is known about NDEs

For one thing, they're surprisingly commonplace. Estimates vary, but most research efforts have found that somewhere between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of people who come close to death - for example, they suffer a serious accident, or their heart stops - say that they exper-



rienced one or more features of an NDE.

For a 2014 study in the journal *Resuscitation*, researchers found that roughly one in ten people who survived a cardiac arrest episode reported an NDE. Furthermore, 2 per cent of these survivors were able to recall some of what was happening as doctors worked to save them - recollections that the study's authors could not explain.

NDEs are not only common but their features are also fairly consistent. The sense of floating above one's body and also the ability to recall in detail events that took place during periods of apparent unconsciousness, are not rare.

Some other distinctive features of NDEs are an awareness of being dead or near death, a surge of pleasant or euphoric sensations, the perception of time slowing down, encounters with god-like entities or deceased loved ones, and lucid recall of memories - almost like a detailed highlight reel of one's life.

Not all of these experiences are unique to NDEs. Some researchers have drawn parallels between near-death experiences and REM (rapid eye movement) sleep disturbances, which can likewise induce vivid hallucinations and out-of-body sensations.

Other experts have highlighted the apparent overlap between NDEs and the experience of taking psychedelic drugs such as ketamine and N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT).

Like NDEs, these drugs can induce the sensation of leaving or transcending one's body, of time slowing down, and of perceiving or communicating with supernatural entities.

Some have pointed to these parallels as evidence that, while bizarre, NDEs are surely the output of neurochemical processes or other conventional brain operations.

"Near-death experiences are the manifestation of normal brain function gone awry," wrote the authors of a 2011 study in *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*.

While this seems almost self-evident, Greyson disagrees with this conclusion. He says that scientists who take this view tend to simply ignore the many documented NDEs in which people describe, in startling detail, events that took place around them during periods of unconsciousness.

He adds: "People who have had both an NDE and a psychedelic drug trip say that they are not the same experience. The accurate out-of-body perceptions - you don't have those with drug trips."

Far from establishing that NDEs can be firmly tied to the brain, Greyson says that the research on psychedelics leads one in a different direction.

He explains: "Studies on psychedelics consistently show that the more elaborate mystical experiences are associated with decreased brain activity, not increased, which is the opposite of what you'd expect."

He also brings up a documented phenomenon known as terminal lucidity, in which people who have severe brain disorders - such as those with end-stage dementia - somehow regain their ability to communicate, to remember, and to think clearly shortly before they die.

These are people who have brains that are sometimes visibly ravaged and disfigured by neurological illness. "There's no medical explanation for how they can regain lucidity," Greyson says.

All this evidence has led him and other experts to consider alternative explanations for NDEs - including some that fundamentally challenge the relationship between the brain and the mind.

## The brain as a 'filter' for consciousness

If NDEs are not the result of "normal brain function gone awry," what are they?

Greyson says one theory is that the brain, rather than creating consciousness, is more like a filter for conscious experience - a filter that blocks out some information while letting other bits through.

He says that it's possible that, during an NDE, the brain's filtering ability may "break down" in a way that somehow allows consciousness to expand.

Other researchers are more vociferous proponents of this filtering theory. When it comes to consciousness, "our brain has a facilitating function, not a producing function", says Pim van Lommel, MD, a Dutch cardiologist, NDE researcher and author of *Consciousness Beyond Life*.

Van Lommel says that contemporary neuroscience regards activity in the brain - and, specifically, in the brain's cerebral cortex - as a "necessary condition" of conscious experience.

And yet, for people who experience NDEs during cardiac arrest, research has found that consciousness seems to persist - and even broaden - despite an absence of measurable brain activity.

All of this is controversial, to say the least. But if consciousness is not a product of the brain, then where ex-

actly does it come from?

While Greyson punts - "I don't have an answer for that," he says - van Lommel proposes a theory that he and others have termed "nonlocal consciousness". The gist here is that consciousness comes from "informational fields" that exist outside of our minds and bodies - and even outside of time and space.

In some of his published work, van Lommel compares the brain to a television set - that just as a TV can convert electromagnetic waves of information into sights and sounds, perhaps the brain and body are mere conduits for consciousness.

This, he says, could explain many of the features of NDEs that science's current conceptions of the brain fail to elucidate.

Many scientists surely scoff at van Lommel's ideas or dismiss them out of hand. But Greyson doesn't. He also doesn't endorse them. He says that his research on NDEs has taught him to embrace ambiguity and uncertainty - especially when it comes to the human mind.

"I think we're still at the very beginning of understanding the brain and what it does," he says, adding: "In 100 years, I think people are going to look back at today's models and laugh at how naive we were."

**Elemental**

## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



### FRIDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	HIZI NAZO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05HRS	KIPIMA JOTO
23.00 HRS	WEEKEND SHOW

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



FRIDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-20:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
20:00-21:00HRS	SPORTS
21:00-23:00HRS	KIPIMA JOTO
23:00-01:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
01:00-05:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 163 00--

**WORD-FIT**

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

3 LETTERS: ACT, MAT, AOK  
 4 LETTERS: SCAR, ALLY, ABLE, ROON, EELS, UNIT ALOE,  
 5 LETTERS: PORTS, YEARN, THEME, HORSE, TONER  
 6 LETTERS: DETECT, PRESET, KRACKEN, PHASES, SENATE,  
 7 LETTERS: CHANNEL  
 8 LETTERS: MEANDERS  
 10 LETTERS: SLAVE TRADE

**CROSSWORD**

CLUES: Across  
 1 Deepest lake in East Africa  
 2 to encounter  
 3 monetary unit of Nigeria  
 4 an evil spirit  
 5 a pigsty  
 6 partial darkness  
 7 device for giving light  
 8 the lawn around someone's house  
 9 the act of causing to exist  
 10 a metal coin equal to one penny of a dollar  
 11 the opposite of sinister

Down:  
 1 minutes, hours, days etc  
 2 call for, demand  
 3 Monetary unit of China  
 4 unarmed combat using the hands and feet to deliver and block blows  
 5 behave in a particular way  
 6 Oslo is the Capital city  
 7 building where dramatic performances are presented  
 8 abet, aid  
 9 a flat dish  
 10 at a higher level  
 11 Ruling party in Tanzania  
 12 the final part of something

**SOLUTIONS**

WORD-FIT: TANGANYIKA, SLAVE TRADE, CHANNEL, MEANDERS, DETECT, PRESET, KRACKEN, PHASES, SENATE, HORSE, TONER, PORTS, YEARN, THEME, ALOE, ALLY, ABLE, ROON, EELS, UNIT, ACT, MAT, AOK.

CROSSWORD: 1 Lake Tanganyika, 2 Encounter, 3 Naira, 4 Evil spirit, 5 Pigsty, 6 Darkness, 7 Light, 8 Lawn, 9 Cause, 10 Penny, 11 Sinister, 12 Minutes, 13 Demand, 14 Yuan, 15 Karate, 16 Behave, 17 Oslo, 18 Theatre, 19 Aid, 20 Dish, 21 Higher level, 22 CCM.



# TATO ENGAGES US FIRM TO PROMOTE DESTINATION TANZANIA

By Property Watch Reporter, Arusha

**T**HE Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) is in talks with a marketing agency in North America in its latest initiative to promote the country as a safe destination amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

TATO under the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is currently implementing the "Tourism Recovery Strategy" in an effort to revive the tourism industry in order to spur other businesses, recover thousands of lost jobs and generate revenue for the economy.

TATO, a 38-year-old advocacy agency for a multi-billion dollar industry, with 300-plus members across the natural resources-rich East African country is currently engaging CornerSun Destination Marketing to undertake the marketing and promotion of Tanzania in the North American market.

CornerSun Destination Marketing is a New York-based consultancy focused on promoting national tourist boards to the North American market with a specialty in working with African destinations.

The firm provides full-service marketing, communications, and strategic consulting services including planning, training, and long-term economic development. They have previously worked with Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Sierra Leone and Ethiopia in a similar capacity.

"Our talks are at an advanced stage and hopefully, we are going to ink the deal very soon to allow CornerSun Destination Marketing to hit the ground running in terms of a marketing blitz in North America" said TATO CEO, Sirili Akko.

Ideally, the company would, among other things, amplify the visibility of Tanzania's tourism destinations in the North American market in order to attract tourists from their end.

The marketing firm will also create awareness of Tanzanian tourism products amongst North American tour operators and travel agents in an initiative to include the country into their itineraries.

"Basically, we intend to spur tourism business to individual TATO members by generating awareness and publicity of Tanzania as a destination in North America," Akko told a press conference.

"As private sector drivers have decided to develop tourism recovery measures, we are restoring traveler confidence by deploying a



UNDP Resident Representative Christine Musisi recently tests an ambulance to serve tourists in Arusha.

state-of-the-art fleet of ambulances and rethinking the marketing strategies in the height of COVID-19 crisis and for the future," he said.

Quoting the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, the UNDP Resident Representative, Christine Musisi said: "It is imperative that we rebuild the tourism industry, because it is one of the world's most important economic sub-sector. To aid recovery UNDP in collaboration with the Government and other partners have adopted an integrated approach to build-back the tourism in the new a post-

COVID-19 economic era with the concept of leaving no one behind."

Musisi said that this approach includes, improving the environment for private investment and recovery of tourism value chain, strengthening institutional capacities in delivery of tourism sector services, facilitating access of affordable financial services and products for recovery and investment of SMEs in the tourism value chain.

For his part, the Permanent Secretary, Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry, Dr Aloyce Nzuki commended the move,

saying TATO has been a close partner of the MNRT for nearly four decades now.

"The organization and individual operators have spent enormous amounts of money in not only promoting their companies, but also the Destination Tanzania, thereby complementing the Government promotional undertakings, coordinated by the Tanzania Tourist Board" Dr. Nzuki explained.

He added: "The move to promote Destination Tanzania in North America is very much welcomed and commendable".

The PS further said that he believes that

the campaign will go a long way into tapping into the countries, especially the United States of America, being one of the most significant tourist source markets for Tanzania.

TATO, a member-driven trade association that promotes better tourism, is also playing the role of connecting businesses and individuals within the trade to facilitate knowledge sharing, best practice, trading, and networking across the entire tourism value chain.

A fortnight ago TATO, in partnership with the Tanzania government, rolled out the Coronavirus specimen collection center at Serengeti National Park in an effort to make COVID-19 testing easy and convenient for tourists.

Foreign exchange earnings from tourism in Tanzania have dropped to a 10-year low during the year ending October 2020, due to travel restrictions imposed by countries across the world in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bank of Tanzania (BoT) figures show that Tanzania earnings from tourism for the period under review plunged by over 50 percent to \$1.2 billion compared to \$2.5 billion earned in a similar period in 2019.

The amount was last recorded in October 2010 when the country earned \$1.23 billion from the tourism industry.

Wildlife tourism in Tanzania continues to grow, with nearly 1.5 million tourists visit the country annually, earning the country \$2.5 billion, equivalent to nearly 17.6 percent of GDP, cementing its position as the country's leading foreign currency earner.

Additionally, tourism provides 600,000 direct jobs to Tanzanians and over one million others earn an income from the industry.

As countries begin to recover and tourism restarts in a growing number of destinations, Tanzanian authorities have reopened its skies for international passenger flights from June 1, 2020, becoming the first country in the East African region to welcome tourists to visit and enjoy its endowed attractions.

# Tigo's Mount Kilimanjaro tree planting campaign lures top CEOs

By Property Watch Reporter

**S**OME of the country's top chief executive officers and managing directors are rallying behind their peer, Simon Karikari, the CEO of Tigo Tanzania in donating trees to support the telecommunications company's campaign targeting to plant 28,000 trees around Africa's rooftop.

"I am honoured to donate 100 trees in addition to the 10,000 trees already donated by Tigo Tanzania," said Karikari after joining forces with his company to back the campaign which has since lured top CEO and MDs in the country.

"I would like to take this opportunity to challenge my entire executive committee to donate 400 trees for this cause and I also want to challenge my good friend Sanjay Rughani, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank and Chairman of CEOs Round-table to donate 100 trees for this cause," said Karikari.

Little did he know that the campaign will soon gather strength online with Minister of Information, Arts, Sports and Culture, Innocent Bashungwa joining the course thanks to an invitation from Clouds Media Group CEO, Joseph Kusaga who also donated 100 trees.

"I have received the challenge thrown to me by Clouds Media Group's CEO, Joseph Kusaga to support this noble cause of conserving the environment at Mount Kilimanjaro and therefore contribute 110 trees," said Bashungwa who then threw the ball to CRDB Group CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela to play his part.

Nsekela added 150 and ropped in Air Tanzania Company Limited's Managing Director, Engineer Ladislaus Mwamanga who donated 200. "I challenge my peer, Hamza Johari of Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority to back this campaign.

With a target to plant 28,000 trees before



A glacier cap is seen on top of Africa's highest point at Mount Kilimanjaro.

the end of this year, the "TigoGreenForKili" campaign seems to be an all CEOs and MDs affair although everyone is welcomed to participate and indeed may ordinary people have already joined.

The price of each tree seedling is only 5,000/- and members of the public including those that reside around the iconic mountain playing a key role in the campaign. According to environmental experts, over the past 50 years, the glacier cap at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro has been diminishing because of global warming blamed on human activities including indiscriminate cutting of trees.

Experts say that rampant deforestation around Africa's rooftop has caused critical changes in local weather patterns and rainfall hence causing the rapid thawing of the glacier cap. Studies have also shown

that, if left unchecked, the glacier cap at Mount Kilimanjaro, will disappear by 2033.

Currently, 85 percent of the cap has disappeared over the last 100 years which in turn has caused major changes at the over 5,000 metres high mountain. "As sponsors of the Tigo Kilimanjaro Half Marathon for six consecutive years, we are starting off 2021 on the right foot by helping to conserve the environment

around Kilimanjaro as well as help bring back the snow on Mount Kilimanjaro," said Tigo Tanzania Northern Zone Director, Godfrey Kinabo when he kick-started the campaign earlier this year.

Kinabo said the Tigo Green For Kili-One Step One Tree campaign is involving all members of the public who are concerned with environmental conservation to ensure that the next generation of Tanzanians have

a feel of their beautiful heritage.

"Apart from sponsoring the annual half marathon event which attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world, we at Tigo felt that we have an obligation to contribute towards the conservation of the area around Mount Kilimanjaro," Kinabo noted saying the telco's corporate social responsibility policy backs conservation.

The Tigo Director further explained that, the telco is ambitious to help restoring what has been taken away from the iconic mountain which several decades back had a massive glacier at the peak. "That is why Tigo Tanzania in collaboration with the charitable-based organization called Voice of Empowered Women Foundation (VOEWOF) came up with 'Tigo Green For Kili' project," Kinabo noted.

On her part, VOEWOF Director, Asifwe

Mallya applauded Tigo's management for coming up with the noble project to conserve Africa's roof top. "We are looking forward to the afforestation of the whole region as we kicked off this project in collaboration with Tigo Tanzania. The move is a major step towards reaching a target of making the area greener for future generations," Mallya explained.

Chief guest at the launch, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Dr Anna Mghwira also paid tribute to Tigo Tanzania for coming up with the unique project to restore Mount Kilimanjaro's virgin ecology. "Take this project as yours, and I urge all stakeholders to join forces and donate tree seedlings, so that the great Mount Kilimanjaro can continue to maintain its snow cap," the RC insisted.

Residents of the mountain's neighbourhoods have welcomed Tigo's initiative with anxiety and a pledge to support the noble cause. "We are looking forward to work with Tigo and other likeminded people to ensure that reforestation of all areas around Mount Kilimanjaro succeeds," said Benson Ndosi, Chairman of Maiputa location in Hai District where the campaign was kick-started.

Ndosi acknowledged that rampant tree felling by residents who heavily rely on biomass as a source of energy is the reason behind rapid deforestation of the slopes of Africa's highest mountain. "I urge all stakeholders to join forces and donate tree seedlings for the campaign to succeed," he said while pledging to mobilize residents of his area to play a leading role in the yearlong campaign.

During the event, the Iringa-based diary industries company, ASAS donated a total of 1,000 trees, while the Tanzania Forest Services pledged to donate a record 10,000 tree seedlings, as TFS Zonal Deputy Manager in Northern Zone, Neema Mawanja said.



# FIRMS MAINTAIN PAY CUTS FOR FOUR MONTHS IN ROW

NAIROBI

**K**ENYAN private firms sustained pay cuts for the fourth month in a row in February, citing slowed growth in sales amid weak supply of cash in a soft economy.

Staff costs dropped at the fastest pace since July 2020 when authorities started gradual re-opening of the economy, according to a monthly poll of corporate managers in key sectors such as manufacturing, services and agriculture.

This is a pointer to reduced wages for employees.

Findings of the Stanbic Bank Kenya's Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) showed that corporate chiefs blamed the salary cuts on need to maintain the current staff numbers rather than layoffs in anticipation of an uptick in demand in coming months.

"Firms often commented on efforts to maintain their current workforce sizes amid a drop in revenues due to Covid-19," analysts at Stanbic Bank and UK research firm, Markit, wrote in the February PMI report.

Businesses, which were already grappling with flagging sales even before coronavirus struck mid-March 2020, have struggled to sustain sales.

The Covid knocks saw economic activity contract 5.5 per cent at the height of travel restrictions and trade shutdowns in the April-June 2020 period, before the slump slowed to a 1.1 per cent in July-September after easing of some of the measures.

The overall headline PMI reading—a month-on-month gauge of private sector activity such as output, new orders, backlogs (outstanding work) and employment — was the most sluggish since businesses deals started recovering in July 2020 from economic fallout as a result of Covid-19. The PMI reading came in at 50.9



Kenyan private firms workers gathered at a political rally. FilePhoto.

in February from 53.2 a month earlier, just staying above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction.

"The pace of the post-pandemic recovery slowed down in February on account of a marginal

increase in demand," Mr Kuria Kamau, a fixed income and currency strategist at Stanbic Bank wrote in the PMI report.

"The improvement in demand was negatively impacted by subdued cash flows in some sectors

of the economy which resulted in limited household and client spending."

Expenditure was also hurt by higher purchase prices after the value added tax (VAT) reverted to pre-Covid rate of 16 per cent

from 14 per cent which was in place between April and December 2020, while fuel prices edged up on recovering global crude oil prices amid a weaker shilling.

## Register all MFIs, BoT directs district councils

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

BANK of Tanzania (BoT) has directed all the district councils to register all the microfinance institutions (MFIs) at their specific areas for them to start operating in accordance with The Microfinance Act 2019.

Central bank's Director in Mbeya Region, Ibrahim Malogoi gave the order yesterday when speaking at a capacity building training on new MFIs registration system. The three days training is offered to district community development officers from Mbeya, Songwe and Rukwa regions.

According to Malogoi, BoT in collaboration with other authorities have

prepared guidelines for registration of all the microfinance institutions. He said the law requires all the microfinance institutions to be registered by April 30th this year.

"We aim at building the capacity of community development officers across the country to facilitate smooth registration of MFIs," said the official.

Representing Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Mbeya Regional Commissioner, William Ntinika raised concerns that some MFIs provide loans at higher interest rates.

Ntinika said the regional government has been closely monitoring the microfinance institutions so that they offer loans at reasonable interest rates.

He however assured the BoT official that efforts will be made to ensure all the MFIs are registered in accordance with the law, insisting to take stringent legal measures against those who will not register.

Community Development Officer from the Ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Zahara Msangi said that district community development officers are responsible for ensuring proper implementation of The Microfinance Act 2019 which includes registering the MFIs.

The central bank has given all the MFIs registration responsibilities to local governments, said Msangi.

MFIs including the Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS), Village

Community Banks (VICOBA) and the Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)

Last year, BoT extended for six months the deadline for MFIs registration until April 30th this year.

Earlier, BoT gave until October 31st this year for MFIs to register and acquire licenses as The Microfinance Act 2019 was set to be applicable from November 1st 2020.

The registration is in accordance with the new regulations on MFIs meant to ensure the protection of clients and the stability of institutions, enhancing financial inclusion, operations, regulation, and supervision in a move to help resolve the challenges facing the microfinance industry.

## Net zero omission 'disappointing- CIOB

LONDON

THE Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) has welcomed 2021 Budget measures to help construction businesses recover from the pandemic, but criticised the lack of environmental measures.

Welcoming the support measures, the CIOB highlighted the fact that 244,100 construction workers are still on furlough, with the top 50 contractors claiming £1.1m in December alone. The furlough scheme has been extended until September.

It also hailed a new recovery loan scheme, which will see the government back loans up to £10m for businesses, and an extension of the Self-employment Income Support Scheme, under which 747,000 people in construction have made a claim so far.

It added that it was hopeful that the 'super-deduction' tax incentive for companies investing in plant and machinery, announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak will provide a "valuable boost" for struggling construction firms.

There was praise too for Sunak's announcement that the Stamp Duty Land Tax holiday will be extended to 30 June for homes under £500,000, and the nil-rate band extended to homes under £250,000 until 30 September 2021. The Stamp Duty holiday has provided "essential support" to housebuilders and propped up the housing market throughout the pandemic and comes after CIOB joined the Construction Leadership Council in calling for the holiday to be extended, it said.

But in other areas, the CIOB voiced concern.

It said the government had "missed an important opportunity" to strengthen the impact of its investment in Covid-19 support measures by failing to suspend the implementation of the Construction Services Domestic Reverse Charge (also known as the VAT reverse charge).

The CIOB added: "Coupled with changes to IR35 which will significantly increase the administrative burden placed on construction businesses, this charge threatens to severely restrict cash flow to those lower in the supply chain, hitting small and medium sized firms the hardest at a time when many are already at risk of insolvency." It called on the government to withdraw the charge.

Meanwhile, it said it was also concerned by the lack of any measures to address the environmental impact of the built environment within the Budget. The CIOB said: "Significant and urgent action must be taken to decarbonise the built environment if we are to meet net zero by 2050, yet recurring failed policies continue to deplete the time we have left to address the climate emergency. It is therefore vital that any measures to address built environment emissions are designed in conjunction with the sector to ensure their successful delivery."

The CIOB has been calling for national retrofit strategy to help create stable, green jobs beyond 2022. It said it wanted to see a move away from a "piecemeal approach" towards a "coherent and sustained programme of activity" to improve the energy efficiency of our buildings.

## Cement giant LafargeHolcim predicts 'strong momentum' in 2021

BERN

AFTER posting a 1.5 percent increase in like-for-like sales in the three months to 31 December, Switzerland-headquartered LafargeHolcim, the world's biggest cement maker, said it expects higher demand in 2021 thanks to big Covid stimulus drives such as US President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion "Build Back Better" programme promised during his election campaign.

Releasing its 2020 results Friday, the company said net sales in the year were down 13.4 percent on 2019, but that

a surge in fourth quarter sales signalled a better year ahead as projects delayed in the pandemic got started.

In the run-up to the US election in November, Biden campaigned on a pledge to rebuild America's "crumbling infrastructure", including roads, bridges, water systems and electricity grids, and to retrofit buildings and build affordable housing.

"We are going into 2021 with strong momentum," said chief executive Jan Jenisch. "We expect further demand in H2 2021 from a broad range of stimulus programs." He also cited India's

similarly sized 'National Infrastructure Pipeline' and plans for higher housing and infrastructure spending in the UK, predicting "positive trends in all regions".

"The numbers will be significantly higher," Jenisch told reporters. "It will be almost unreal for quarter two."

During his campaign, Biden pledged a "second great railroad revolution", featuring electrification and new light rail systems, upgrading four million buildings, weatherising two million homes, and building 1.5 million new housing units.





## CONSTRUCTION

# HOW BIM WILL EVOLVE THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN 2021

## TOKYO

**T**HE disruption experienced by the construction industry last year was unprecedented, and ranged from ongoing projects being paused, to project starts being delayed, to stalled progress around the evolution of some construction practices such as Building Information Modelling (BIM).

Developers believe a focus on BIM will be around data relevance. There will be increased effort to think about data and information exchange requirements, with organisations identifying what project information they most need and why. This relevance-based approach will be a key use of digital information to, say, speed up an automated cost estimation or for benchmarking.

The industry will look to identify the actual benefits of machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) to the organisation and/or project. Some organisations will move quicker than others because the industry is so fragmented. Either way, data relevance will be key, with employers (or exchange) information requirements (EIR) taking on even more importance in 2021.



Digitisation will expand how we're currently working with BIM, common data environments (CDEs), and digital twins,

bringing a greater appreciation of the value of digitising the physical world. In construction, this means creating digital

representations of physical assets to continually improve how we're developing those assets.

Digital twins will become more pervasive in 2021. However, assets need to be captured in their context alongside 4D simulation and time elements added to information in BIM to be sufficient to develop a digital twin.

In 2021, the success of digital twins will depend on improving the quality of data we capture, store, share, and analyse. This will require two categories of solutions/platforms: Those focused on operations, maintenance, asset management and/or facilities management; and Those focused on architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) solutions.

Modern platforms will use filters to enhance the quality of uploaded data and also apply rules for data that has already been captured. Such technology will also add criteria to the schedule and zoning of the

data, as well as engage in more consistency checks. We'll even see model clashes being resolved in a cloud environment.

Standardisation advanced in 2020, with the digital twin working group within buildingSMART producing a positioning paper, entitled "Enabling an ecosystem of digital twins". The next step will be to move to the "activity stage," where the group will define activities or prototypes of digital twins in 2021.

We'll also see moves to standardise across information exchanges with BIM Collaboration Format (BCF) 3.0 - supporting communication of model-based issues between BIM applications; and Industry Foundation Class (IFC) 4.3 - depicting infrastructure constructions within Railways, Roads, Ports and Waterways.

The areas of deployment, transparency, and predictability of the standardisation processes initi-

ated by buildingSMART will continue in 2021. With tightening project budgets, the benefits of BIM such as cost reduction and optimisation of processes and resources will see BIM utilised for better designs as well as operations and maintenance.

A greater enablement of open-source software will see BIM become more open around movement and accessibility of data. Finally, non-proprietary data standards will be given a growing push from asset owners and regulatory bodies that see open data as a much better way forward.

Overall, BIM in 2021 could see a growing push for a more open and accessible environment based on industry-agreed standards, with a greater focus on data relevance and quality. Such changes should lead to broader adoption of BIM across project teams and pave the way for greater use of digital twins.

## NAIROBI

NAIROBI County Assembly has set aside Sh246 million in its supplementary budget to cater for car grant for its members, becoming the first assembly to implement the BBI carrot dangled by President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The new development will now see car loans advanced to the 122 MCAs at the city assembly converted into car grants.

Interestingly, the supplementary budget was tabled on the same day the assembly was set to debate the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2020, which was unanimously approved by the House with 114 members voting in support of the bill.

Assembly Clerk Edward Gichana said the move follows the presidential pronouncement on the issuing of Sh2 million car grant to MCAs and speakers of county assemblies.

Thereafter, the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC), through circular dated February 9, 2021, provided guidelines on implementation of the conversion of car loan grant.

"In honour of this directive among other financial

## Nairobi County sets aside Sh246m for MCAs car grant



City Hall: "County taxation will breach well known principles of fiscal efficiency. File Photo.

obligations this supplementary will focus to address the following... additional of Sh246 million for transfer of funds

to the County Assembly Fund account to cater for car grant," said Mr Gichana.

In late January, in a meeting

with MCAs from Mt Kenya region to drum up support for BBI bill, President Kenyatta pledged to help MCAs achieve

their demands for a Sh2 million car grant each.

Early last month, SRC gave a thumbs of approval for Sh4.5

billion car grants for MCAs and their Speakers, paving the way for its implementation.

The Commission's Chairperson Lyn Mengich said they had reviewed and directed the conversion of the car loan benefit to a transport facilitation benefit in form of a grant for the MCAs.

The SRC said conversion of the car loan facility to a car grant will be undertaken within the available car loan facility funds of Sh4.5 billion and will not affect the counties' expenditure ceiling.

According to the SRC, MCAs are entitled to car loans of up to Sh2 million payable at three percent interest within their term in office.

"Upon conversion, the existing car loan shall cease and the speakers and Members of the County Assembly who have already benefited on the existing car loan shall convert their car loan to transport facilitation benefit in form of a car grant," read in part the letter.

But after the approval, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) said they are looking into getting a pie of the cake advanced to the MCAs.

KRA Commissioner General James Mburu said the taxman is looking into car grant with a view to taking 30 percent from the grant, a move that if effected, will leave the beneficiaries with only Sh1.4 million from the initial Sh2 million.

## Wealthy Kenyans cut aircraft orders by half

## NAIROBI

WEALTHY Kenyans and private aviation firms last year cut purchase of aircraft by half in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic that reduced the millionaires' net worth and demand for commercial flights.

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA) registered 32 new aircraft last year, down from 63 in 2019, pushing the total number of planes in the country to 1,525, excluding those owned by the National Police Service and the Kenya Defence Forces.

The drop in registration of new aircraft came in a year when the coronavirus pandemic that caused a slump in air travel, reducing the need for purchase of commercial flights.

The virus, which disrupted businesses and hammered most assets classes, reduced the net worth of wealthy Kenyans and saw the rich drop aircraft purchase plans from the priority list.

Kenya's business magnates, politicians and new millionaires have in recent years taken to flying as the preferred mode of transport - expanding the market for leasing and

private ownership of planes.

"Covid-19 might have delayed a few plans for people to invest in the airline business in Kenya. This is partly to blame for the drop in the number of aircraft we registered last year," KCAA Director-General Gilbert Kibe told the Business Daily in an interview Wednesday.

The aviation regulator registered two aircraft owned by individuals last year, down from 13 in 2019, as the rich reduced their appetite for helicopters and small jets.

This marked a break with the increased purchase of aircraft by the rich over the past decade.

Aero Club of East Africa - a lobby group of private aircraft owners - attributed the recent growth in the number of registered planes to Nairobi's rising status as the region's business hub and a growing number of wealthy individuals with the means to own and maintain an aircraft.

But Covid-19 has not spared the rich after Kenya's economy dipped to a recession last year.

The economy's performance in 2020 was hit by the effects of restric-

tions that were put in place to contain the spread of the virus -- including business closures and layoffs.

The latest instalment of the Knight Frank Wealth Report shows the number of Kenyans with a net worth of at least \$30 million (Sh3.3 billion) including their primary residence dropped to 90 last year, from 106 in 2019.

Kenya's group of high-net-worth individuals, defined as those with at least \$1 million (Sh109 million) including their primary residence, dropped by an even larger margin.

The report says that 912 Kenyans fell out of this club last year when their numbers stood at 3,323 compared to 4,235 in 2019.

KCAA reckons that government agencies, which bought three planes in 2019, failed to make an order last year.

Private aviation firms cut their orders to 30 planes from 47 a year earlier, reflecting a drop of 36.1 percent.

The pandemic has caused a slump in air travel, with African airlines expected to have lost \$6 billion in passenger revenue in 2020.

Kenya in March confirmed the first



Covid-19 case, which prompted the government to suspend domestic and international commercial passenger air travel. Although domestic air travel resumed in July, followed by international routes a month later, demand has stayed below pre-pandemic levels.

Besides convenience,

wealthy individuals have also acquired aircraft to satisfy their ambitions for reliable and personalised travel.

Air operators say that the biggest headache in owning an aircraft lies in operational and maintenance costs, including high jet fuel prices, airport landing fees, parking fees, insurance and spare

parts. Wilson Airport in Nairobi handles about 90 per cent of domestic flights that mainly comprise chartered and commercial flights to holiday destinations such as Masai Mara Game Reserve, Mombasa, Amboseli National Park, Lamu, Kilimanjaro, Diani, Lolkichogio and Nanyuki.



## WORLD

## Meghan now accuses Buckingham Palace of 'perpetuating falsehoods'

LONDON

PRINCE Harry's wife Meghan has accused Buckingham Palace of "perpetuating falsehoods" about her and her spouse, saying the royal couple would not be silent in telling their story.

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, made the comments to American talk show host Oprah Winfrey in an interview about why they quit their royal roles that is due to be broadcast on U.S. television on Sunday.

An advance excerpt of the interview was released on Wednesday, hours after Buckingham Palace said it was "very concerned" about reports in the Times newspaper that assistants working for Meghan two years ago had been bullied by her.

Harry and Meghan issued a statement denying that she had bullied anyone.

"How do you feel about the Palace hearing you speak your truth today?" Winfrey asks Meghan in the excerpt.

Meghan responded: "I don't know how they could expect that after all of

this time we would still just be silent, if there is an active role that The Firm is playing in perpetuating falsehoods about us." The Firm is the name that the British royal family sometimes uses to describe itself.

"And if that comes with risk of losing things, I mean, there's a lot that's been lost already," Meghan added.

The interview was recorded before The Times newspaper ran a report citing unnamed sources as saying an aide to Harry and Meghan had raised a complaint in October 2018 alleging that Meghan had reduced some of her assistants to tears and treated others so badly that they had quit.

The paper said Harry had urged the aide, who has now left their staff, to drop the complaint, and it never progressed.

The Times said it had been contacted by former staff members who wanted the public to gain insight before the Winfrey interview aired - and that lawyers for the couple had labelled the allegations a smear orchestrated by the



Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, arrive at the Endeavour Fund Awards in London, Britain, March 5, 2020. (File photo)

Palace.

Reuters could not independently verify the report.

"We are clearly very concerned about allegations in The Times following claims made by former staff of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

The Royal Household "does not and will not tolerate bullying or harassment in the workplace", it added.

It said its HR team would look into the allegations, and that members of staff involved at the time would be invited to participate.

## "SADDENED BY ATTACK"

A spokeswoman for Meghan said earlier that she was "saddened by this latest attack on her character, particularly as someone who has been the target of bullying herself

and is deeply committed to supporting those who have experienced pain and trauma".

Meghan and Harry, who married in May 2018, stepped back from their official duties in March last year to forge new careers and a financially independent life in California.

That decision was confirmed last month, when they also handed over all their royal patronages. They said their move was fuelled in part by intense press intrusion.

However, Meghan had also previously indicated that she felt she did not have the full support of the royal family.

In court documents submitted as part of her successful privacy action against the mass-circulation Mail on Sunday, her lawyers said she had felt "unprotected" while she was pregnant with their son Archie.

## Why the world keeps close eye on China's 'two sessions'

BEIJING

AS national lawmakers and political advisors are gathering for the "two sessions," the world is keeping a close eye on how China's annual political event will guide and influence the country's development for the years ahead.

This year's gathering, which has returned to the regular March schedule after last year's postponement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, takes on special importance. China, a country with a population of 1.4 billion, has just declared a complete victory in eradicating absolute poverty, and will embark on a new journey with the next five-year plan.

During the "two sessions," lawmakers will discuss the economic and social development plan for the 2021-2025 period as well as the long-range objectives through the year 2035. The blueprint that will guide China's development has attracted much global attention.

In the coming years, China will move faster to pursue a new development pattern featuring "dual circulation," where the internal and external markets can

reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

In this process, the world community expects China can give full play to the advantage of its super-large market and continue to expand it by boosting domestic consumption. Beijing's firm commitment to greater opening-up means more dynamics and benefits for the global economic recovery and sustainable growth.

The world economy is struggling with a deep recession under the shadow of the pandemic. As the virus is still spreading, the road to recovery will be long and highly uncertain.

China has largely brought the pandemic under control and became the only major economy with positive growth last year, and that will give more certainties and possibilities to the world in this stormy moment.

Global investors have cast their votes of confidence in the Chinese market. According to the United Nations (UN) Investment Trends Monitor report in January, global foreign direct investment in 2020 has slumped by 42 percent from 1.5 trillion U.S. dollars in 2019, while China saw a 4-percent increase in this field in the same year.



Photo taken on May 28, 2020 shows a view of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. (Xinhua)

"The most attractive market among global markets is China's domestic market," said Kiyoyuki Seguchi, research director at Japan's Canon Institute for Global Studies. "This is a consensus not only among Japanese companies, but also among world-class companies."

As the global fight against poverty has also been beset by the pandemic, many countries are looking to draw inspirations from China in this regard, and to learn more about China's plan for the next stage of development through the "two sessions." Poverty has long been a hard nut to crack for the world, and the pandemic makes the problem all the more difficult to solve. According to the latest UN World Economic Situation and Prospects, job and income

losses have pushed an estimated 131 million more people into poverty in 2020.

China, however, did not give up on delivering its promise to end absolute poverty in the country in the face of the pandemic. Last year, all of the country's nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line cast off poverty after eight years' efforts, achieving the UN poverty reduction goal a decade in advance.

By doing so, China has blazed a poverty reduction path and formed an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics. It has also set an example for many other developing countries facing similar challenges.

In the next five years, China will continue to promote mul-

tilateralism and build an open world economy with its global partners so as to boost common development.

Last year, China signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership free trade deal with 14 other countries, and concluded negotiations for an investment agreement with the European Union. Those achievements were truly hard-won against the backdrop of a raging outbreak and rising tide of isolationism and protectionism. The "two sessions" will show the world China's continued commitment to greater openness and closer cooperation in the world stage. China has been a valuable partner, Serbian legislator Zarko Obradovic said, noting that China has shared development achievements through the Belt and Road Initiative and others.

The global community has been overshadowed by a prolonged pandemic and slow recovery for quite some time. It is hoped that those around the world who are searching for ways to get back on their feet can find in China confidence, new impetus and inspirations, and press forward. *Xinhua*

## Russia strictly adheres to Chemical Weapons Convention – Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA strictly adheres to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and expects reciprocity from its counterparts, Russian presidential spokesman, Dmitry Peskov commented on the US conditions for the cancellation of

sanctions against Russia to the media on Thursday.

"Many years ago, Russia declared and verified elimination of all chemical weapons in its territory. It has strictly complied with the provisions of the corresponding convention," Peskov said, adding that "there are no chemical weapons in Russia's

territory." "Incidentally, we expect some of our counterparts to comply with the provisions of that convention, too," he said.

The United States is one of the countries that still possess chemical weapons so Washington's accusations against Moscow seem to be aimed at disguising attempts to contain Russia,

Dmitry Peskov went on. "You know, there are countries that still possess chemical weapons, and the US is one of them," the Russian presidential spokesman emphasized.

"That said, such statements completely lack logic. In fact, they are nothing but an unsuccessful attempt to disguise a pol-

icy aimed at containing Russia," Peskov noted.

The US Department of State said earlier that Russia had "used a chemical weapon against its own nationals, in violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention," which was the reason for new US sanctions.

Agencies

## Europe divided over vaccine alliance

BY JONATHAN POWELL

CONCERN over the European Union's slow-moving COVID-19 vaccination strategy has sparked division on how to tackle the pandemic.

A planned "vaccine alliance" between Austria, Denmark and Israel threatens to undermine the European Commission's coordinated purchasing effort, with plans said to already be at an "advanced stage" between the three nations.

A report in the Financial Times said Austria's Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen will this week travel to Israel, which is not in the EU, to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for discussions on a new "joint approach".

Netanyahu said in public remarks on Monday the leaders will also talk about the idea of "an international corporation for manufacturing vaccines", Reuters news agency reported.

Kurz told German newspaper Bild that the European Medicines Agency, or EMA, is "too slow" to approve vaccines. "We should no longer be dependent only on the EU for the production of second-generation vaccines," he said.

The Financial Times said "at the core of discussions" were plans "to construct in-country production facilities for mRNA vaccines", with producers Pfizer and Moderna.

It comes as EU member state Slovakia announced it has acquired 2 million doses of the Russian produced Sputnik V vaccine, which has not yet been approved by the EMA. Another EU member, Hungary, has already begun rolling out jabs produced by Russia and China, and the Czech Republic said on Sunday it would approve use of the Russian jab. Poland's President Andrzej Duda announced on Monday he would buy vaccines from China.

## Programme criticized

The European Commission's joint vaccine procurement program for member states has been criticized for being too slow to agree deals with manufacturers, with reports citing production problems and supply chain issues.

During one of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet meetings last month, Finance Minister Olaf Scholz reportedly strongly criticized the European Commission's combined vaccination effort.

Anxiety around the vaccine rollout is escalating in Germany, which has administered only 6.2 million doses of the jab, compared with 75.2 million in the United States and 21 million in the United Kingdom.

Germany's initial response to the pandemic last year was widely praised as it went into lockdown early, quickly controlled the virus with contact tracing, and had one of the lowest infection rates in Europe. But a second wave in the winter hit much harder.

The Financial Times noted that with 2.3 million of the nation's acquired shots still sitting unused, "criticism has shifted to the German authorities and their seeming inability to administer all the shots they have".

Officials said the unused shots are being held back for the required second dose, but critics say there is vaccine hesitancy, and point to the fact that the Oxford-AstraZeneca shot has been restricted to under-65s, based on clinical data about its efficacy.

The nation's digital platform for booking vaccine appointments has been severely criticized as "inflexible", adding to frustrations.

The paper quoted Ulrich Weigelt, head of the German Association of General Practitioners, who said: "It was bad enough that the EU ordered too little vaccine, too late, but now we have all these jabs being stockpiled, unused. It's a scandal."

France on Monday lifted restrictions on use of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine after additional clinical data proved its efficacy among people aged over 65. The FT said the policy shift would likely mean other EU countries "will abandon age limits on the vaccine".

Agencies



An aircraft of the Slovak Army carrying doses of the Sputnik V vaccine against COVID-19 stands on the tarmac upon arrival from Moscow, at the International Airport in Kosice, Slovakia, on Monday. (AFP)

## US House passes sweeping poll bill, Senate prospects unclear

WASHINGTON

THE Democratic-controlled US House of Representatives passed a flagship election reform bill on Wednesday that would update voting procedures and require states to turn over the task of redrawing congressional districts to independent commissions.

The bill passed by a mostly bipartisan vote of 220 to 210.

The legislation, numbered "H.R. 1" for the importance Democrats attach to it, "is designed to restore the voices of Americans who felt left out and locked out for too long," its original sponsor, Representative John Sarbanes,

said in remarks outside the US Capitol before the vote.

The bill is one of many that the House Democrats are voting on early in the Congress on a number of priorities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, policing and the environment.

US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, has said he would sign the bill into law if it cleared both the House and the Senate.

But the bills face long odds in the Senate, where all 48 Democrats and the two independents who caucus with them would need to be joined by 10 Republican senators to overcome a fil-

buster.

"We're going to do everything in our power - I think Chuck Schumer's going to do everything in his power - to make sure that the agenda that we are working on and promised the people will in fact be the agenda we put forward and hopefully pass," Representative Steny Hoyer, the No. 2 Democrat, said at a news conference on Tuesday.

Already, some Democrats have trained fire on the filibuster and called for its elimination. Hoyer called it "undemocratic" on Tuesday, while James Clyburn, the No. 3 Democrat, described

how it had been used to deny rights to Black citizens.

A move to destroy the filibuster would face severe opposition. Democratic Senator Joe Manchin has repeatedly said he would "never" vote to get rid of it, while Biden has said he opposes overturning it.

Some Democrats have suggested a compromise of a carve-out could be possible.

Asked about the possibility of a carve-out for voting rights issues, Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock told a reporter on Tuesday, "I think that the issues are urgent enough to leave all options on the table."

Democrats have argued the legislation is necessary to lower barriers to voting and make the US political system more democratic and responsive to voters.

But Republicans say it would take powers away from the states and fail to do enough to combat fraud, and the influential right-wing Heritage Foundation think tank has urged lawmakers to vote against it.

The bill has particular importance this year because the US Census Bureau is set to turn over population data states use to redraw congressional district maps ahead of the 2022 elections, in which every House law-

maker's seat is up for grabs.

States use different criteria and procedures for drawing the maps. In 33 states, state legislatures control at least part of the process, the National Conference of State Legislatures says.

Parties in control of state legislatures have often wielded the power to draw the maps in a way that benefits the party in power. Some states have also used this process to target Black voters.

The measure also comes as lawmakers in 43 states have introduced legislation to place more limits on voting, according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Agencies



# China advances technology-led poverty reduction

By Wu Yuehui, Gu Yekai

SCIENCE and technology are fully exploited by China to help its poverty alleviation efforts, which has increased income for huge batches of farmers.

Since 2012, China's science and technology community has established 1,290 platforms to encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in rural areas that fostered 77,000 pairs of mutual assistance and dispatched 289,800 experts to rural areas. Investing over 20 billion yuan (\$3.09 billion), China's science and technology community has implemented 37,600 sci-tech projects at different levels, and promoted more than 50,000 advanced and practical technologies.

In Wuyi County, east China's Zhejiang province, a demonstration base of fungus cultivation was established under the assistance of a research team headed by Cai Weiming, a researcher with Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences. Over 20 production lines have been built at the base, benefiting more than 90 percent of fungus farmers in the county and increasing their income by over 100 million



A sci-tech expert introduces grape management skills to villagers in Shanting District, Zaozhuang, east China's Shandong province, July 29, 2020. (Photo by Wang Qimeng/People's Daily Online)

yuan.

Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) Deng Xiuxin promoted a new planting technology in Zigui County, central China's Hubei province, which effectively expanded the picking time of fruits, making Zigui County one of the orange production areas in China that enjoy the longest supply period. This technology alone has increased 30 percent of income for local farmers.

Panam is a county situated

4,000 meters above the sea level in Shigatse, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. It enjoyed over 10 consecutive years of harvest of highland barley due to sufficient sunshine and large temperature difference. However, the income of local residents is still average due to the stable price of highland barley.

Zhang Ming, an expert of vegetable growing who went to Panam to assistance from Jinan, east China's Shandong province,

led local farmers to grow fruits and vegetables by improving soil and introducing new varieties. After years of development, the county is now home to over 10,000 greenhouses where 140 varieties of fruits and vegetables are grown. Covering a planting area of 933 hectares, these greenhouses generate annual revenue of 200 million yuan.

In October 2018, Panam County was officially removed from the poverty list. Over



Impoverished farmers receive a training course from an expert at a poverty alleviation base in Dajishan Township, Quannan County, Ganzhou, east China's Jiangxi province, April 10, 2020. (Photo by Chen Shengnian/People's Daily Online)

4,000 residents have grown rich by planting vegetables or fruits. As a Chinese saying goes, it's better to pass on fishing skills than to hand out fish. China's science and technology community also launched sci-tech training programs and science popularization projects in rural areas to stimulate farmers' potential for self-development.

Academician Zhu Youyong of the CAE started a sci-tech training program with his team in Lancang County, southwest

China's Yunnan province to pass on professional agricultural skills to impoverished residents. Villager Ma Zhengfa, who signed up for two courses of potato and orchard planting, has not only increased his income, but also led 10 other registered impoverished families to get out of poverty.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, the central government of China has allocated a total of 2.14 billion yuan since 2014 to cultivate

sci-tech personnel in former revolutionary base areas, ethnic minorities areas, border areas and impoverished areas, training a total of 20,000 people.



## Energy projects lead to remarkable progress of China's poverty alleviation

By Ran Yongping, Gu Zhongyang

LARGE numbers of energy projects have been built across China to give a leg up to the country's poverty alleviation efforts, and remarkable progress has been made.

Photovoltaic (PV) power stations are now an important source of income for many impoverished regions in China. At present, China's poverty alleviation PV power stations add up to 26.36 GW, benefiting nearly 60,000 poor villages and 4.15 million impoverished households. They generate revenue of around 18 billion yuan (\$2.79 billion) each year. Village-level PV stations can help each village increase annual income by 200,000 yuan.

"Poverty alleviation PV stations are like a bankbook that gets me bonus each year," said Liu Haipeng from Yaoqu village, Jixian County, central China's Shanxi province, who was once trapped in poverty due to paralysis. It were the PV stations that improved his financial situation.

"Now I work at the photovoltaic park in Talatan. I can earn over 30,000 yuan each year, including the bonus," Ma Shengjian, villager from Gonghe County, Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture of northwest China's Qinghai province told the People's Daily.

Apart from PV stations, China is also making efforts to build other types of energy projects to help develop economy in poor areas and create jobs for local residents.

The country has invested over 2.7 trillion yuan in large energy projects in impoverished areas since 2012. A total of 336.2 billion yuan was invested in power transmission lines in impoverished areas of western China, which led to direct economic gains of more than 860 billion yuan. Besides, a batch of large hydropower stations, modern coal mines and clean and efficient coal mines were built in impoverished areas, creating more than 100,000 jobs.

During the past five years, China steadfastly upgraded rural power grid in counties that are key targets in the



Photo taken on Jan. 11 shows photovoltaic panels set up in a village in Shiyan, central China's Hubei province. (Photo by Yang Xianyou/People's Daily Online)

state poverty alleviation development program, contiguous impoverished areas with serious difficulties and former revolutionary base areas, so as to better help these regions improve their independent development capability.

The efforts paid to supply three-phase electricity in rural areas are a guarantee to develop modern agriculture. "Irrigation is easier and cheaper nowadays," said Li Qingrui, a villager from Shangguantun village, Gao Tang County, east China's Shandong province. The man now waters his crops with motor-pumped wells, the cost of which is less than 5 yuan per mu (667 square meters), while it took at least 25 yuan in the past to irrigate his farmland with the water pumped by a diesel engine.

According to an official from the National Energy Administration, a total of 150 million mu of farmland is now facilitated with motor-pumped wells connected to the power grid, which helps farmers cut irrigation cost by 10 billion yuan each year.

The solid power supply also offers stable support for industries targeting at poverty alleviation. Last December, the Ngari prefecture power grid and central Tibet power grid interconnection project officially started operation, supplying stable electricity to regions along its route.

"Our machines can finally play a big role," said Kelsang Nyima, general manager of an agricultural development firm in Rutog, Tibet Autonomous Region.

Due to insufficient voltage, the de-



Photo taken on Feb. 15 shows a wind farm in Ganzhou District, Zhangye, northwest China's Gansu province. (Photo by Yang Yongwei/People's Daily Online)

VICES were always in off mode in the past, so the firm was able to only produce rough wool fabrics manually, which were sold at only 7 yuan per kilogram. Now with the machines, the firm can make wool comforters, and every piece is sold at 900 yuan. Besides, the company also built a processing plant for roasted barley flour and Tibetan incense. "The average annual income of our workers has reached 40,000 yuan," Kelsang Nyima said.

From 2018 to 2020, the construction of power grid has drove the establishment of 25,000 processing plants of agricultural products in "three regions and three prefectures" which refers to Tibet Autonomous Region, Tibetan areas of Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, and Yunnan provinces, as well as Hetian,

Aksu, Kashi, Kizilsu Kyrgyz in the south of Xinjiang Autonomous Region, and Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan, Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture in Yunnan and Linxia Hui Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu.

The income of featured husbandry and tourism in these regions also increased by 2.7 billion yuan.

Last year, the power consumed by processing plants in rural areas of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture went up by 26.57 percent, and urban enterprises there also consumed 11.27 percent more of electricity from a year ago.

Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan saw a year-on-year growth of 17.73 percent in its tourism industry's power consumption.

## Ecological poverty-relief programmes in China help increase income for rural residents

By Gu Zhongyang, Yu Jingxian

FOR nearly 10 years, forestry and grassland bureaus at various levels in China have actively practiced the philosophy of "lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets", and vigorously advanced the country's poverty alleviation campaign through ecological compensation, afforestation, and the development of ecological industry.

These bureaus have completed all the tasks and targets set in the country's programs designed to promote poverty reduction through ecological conservation and restoration, lifting over 20 million poor people out of poverty.

Li Yuhua, a forest ranger in Gongshan Derung and Nu autonomous county, southwest China's Yunnan province, is often seen walking through the mountain forest beside the Derung River in local ethnic clothes.

According to Li, she gains a subsidy of 800 yuan (about \$124) per month by taking care of the forest. The forest ranger has also been able to take care of her family and engage in various forms of under-forest industries, such as planting black cardamom, growing

traditional Chinese medicinal herbs, and raising bees.

In 2020, Li secured an annual income of over 100,000 yuan.

Over 4,000 forest rangers in the county like Li have been able to work in their hometowns and shake off poverty while guarantee the management and protection of the county's more than 5.71 million mu (about 3,807 square kilometers) of forests.

In some regions of China, rangers are also assigned tasks of managing and protecting grasslands and wetlands.

Tashi Tsering, a ranger in Changjianguan village, Golmud city, northwest China's Qinghai province, feels a sense of mission from guarding the ecology of the source of China's Yangtze River.

The ranger's routine work includes checking on local grassland and monitoring whether the grassland is over-loaded by cattle and sheep.

Qinghai province has created public welfare jobs for protecting and managing forestry and grassland resources. It has hired 49,900 qualified poverty-stricken residents as rangers. By increasing the average per capita annual income of these people by nearly 20,000 yuan, the province has lifted the families of these rangers out



Wu Zhenhua, a forest ranger in Yifeng county, Yichun city, east China's Jiangxi province, feeds wild macaques, Feb. 3. (Photo by Zhou Liang/People's Daily Online)

of poverty.

China's forest and grassland areas that suffer from destruction, major areas for ecological protection and regions that are ecologically vulnerable are usually severely impoverished areas.

They are the main battlefields of China's fight against poverty as well as the core of forest and grassland programmes.

China has blazed a path of poverty

alleviation that features ecological compensation in these areas, said Li Chunliang, deputy head of China's National Forestry and Grassland Administration, adding that the country has hired over 1.1 million registered poor villagers as rangers and lifted more than 3 million people in impoverished areas out of poverty.

Li noted that China has increased the area of forest and grass

resources under management and protection by nearly 900 million mu, thus achieving win-win results in protecting ecology and increasing residents' income.

In response to the government's call for treating Horqin Sandy Land in Tongliao city, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, Chun Mei, a local villager, and her husband have created a wood of pinus sylvestris, acer monoes, and aspens around their house.

Every year, the couple takes part in afforestation projects launched by local government. While Chun earns 100 yuan per day by planting and watering trees, her husband gets a daily wage of 400 yuan by leveling the ground with tractor and digging pits for saplings.

"As the sandy land turns greener and the grasslands could support more cattle, we have also become better-off," said Chun, who has recently renovated her house. Last year, her family gained an income of 100,000 yuan.

Under the project of returning farmland to forest, Chama town, Qinglong county, southwest China's Guizhou province, has tapped into the huajiao (Sichuan pepper) indus-

try according to local conditions in recent years. The Sichuan pepper trees have helped 11,700 local residents shake off poverty.

"I earn over 20,000 yuan every year by working in a local Sichuan pepper planting base, and receive a subsidy of 1,200 yuan for each mu of farmland that I have changed into forest and used to grow Sichuan pepper," said Yi Hongzhong, a villager of Chama town who has bid farewell to poverty.

While protecting ecology and exploring tourism, Baichao township, Guangyuan city, southwest China's Sichuan province, has endeavored to develop itself into a tourist town featuring eco-healthcare.







Filbert Bayi

## Bayi to attend Museum of World Athletics launch

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC)'s secretary general, Filbert Bayi, has been invited by World Athletics to attend the first virtual preview of the Museum of World Athletics (MOWA), to be held in Monaco, France next week.

World Athletics, through its president Sebastian Coe, said MOWA will be launched soon.

"On behalf of World Athletics, I am delighted to invite you to the exclusive virtual preview of the soon to be launched Museum Of World Athletics (MOWA) that will take place on 11 March 11," said Coe's invitation sent to Bayi.

Coe said the event will honour the extraordinary history of athletics and he said he is looking forward to speaking to Bayi.

Bayi stated it would have been imperative if Tanzania had its museum to honour athletes who brought honour and glory to the country.

He disclosed that TOC plans to have its museum at the committee's offices, noting that plans are in the pipeline.

Bayi stated: "This is an invitation and information from World Athletics's president, Lord Sebastian Coe, it would have been better if Tanzania has its own museum to honour its athletes who did a lot for the nation."

"The TOC has plans to have the committee's museum at its offices, we are planning to build it," he said.

The World Athletics invitation further said: "Given the times we are all living in at the moment it is challenging for people around the world to access museums, culture and sporting events, so, we are proud that MOWA will be the first 3D virtual sports museum of any kind globally, bringing a new level of innovation and creative technologies to the sporting arena."

The World Athletics' president, Coe, described MOWA as an accessible and

sustainable museum platform, saying it was created to excite, entertain, and educate the world about athletics' history.

He said: "We would be delighted if you would join us and some champions of our sport on this interactive journey."

"We hope you will discover more about the legends of our sport and be able to explore the highlights of past World Athletics Championships," he said.

The MOWA is under World Athletics' heritage department. According to World Athletics, the heritage department's goal is to better employ athletics' history, its heroes and heroines, their artefacts and the documents, video and photographs that portray them, to engage with the stars and fans of the present and future.

"The core concept is based around the creation of a historic collection of athletics memorabilia associated with iconic athletes, their performances and major competitions and events in the history of athletics which will augment the document and video archive already held by the IAAF."

"This combined collection will form the basis of a travelling exhibition which will visit IAAF competitions, with the medium to long term aim of establishing a permanent museum for the sport in Monaco near the IAAF headquarters."

"Working with established IAAF projects such as Athlete Ambassadors and the annual Athletics Awards Night, IAAF Heritage will endeavour to put the feats of athletics' glorious history into context, making the connection between a sport born nearly three thousand years ago with the millennials of today," the World Athletics said at the unveiling of the heritage department.

## Gospel artiste vows to diligently promote genre

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA'S gospel musician, Joel Lwaga, has said he does not think of moving into 'Bongo Flava' music genre because gospel music is the right place for him.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently, the musician, who is doing well in the gospel music industry, said he enjoys what he is doing and that is what gives him peace in his life.

"I never thought of singing other musical genres because I enjoy singing gospel music even though it would seem Bongo Flava is the one with the most money, but gospel is a genre I was called to serve," said.

Lwaga said he is still dreaming of scaling great heights and is looking for a chance to do much more in gospel music in the future.

He said even if he currently earns less money, he believes he will earn a lot of cash as his music is making tremendous progress.

Lwaga is one of renowned domestic gospel music artistes, whose songs are accepted by many people regardless of the latter's religion.

Many Bongo Flava artistes have been asking to repeat his songs because the tracks' message, which



Joel Lwaga

touches the emotions of many.

Some of his best performing songs are in Swahili, namely, 'Sitabaki kama nilivyo', 'Mimi ni wa juu', 'Nafasi Nyingine', 'Wanitazama' and 'Usipigane'.

Lwaga is a new gospel sound pioneer in Tanzania whose music revolves around hope, truth, and the love of God.

His music styles also entail praise and worship. Lwaga has been in the music industry for five years after starting out as a gospel minister in the country.

Lwaga debuted in 2015 with his album, known as 'Ananipenda', with the album's tracks receiving massive air time in local radio stations.

The album earned Lwaga a lot of fans across the entire East Africa region.

Following the success of his album, Lwaga came up with the 'Mimi ni wa juu' as his second studio album.

He later released the inspiring songs packed album, 'Umejua Kunifurahisha,' with his latest Extended Play (EP) being 'Unaweza' released in 2019.

Lwaga is a Tanzanian Gospel minister and recording artiste. He was born and raised in a Christian family from Dar es Salaam.

## Simba SC heads to Khartoum minus Ame, Morrison

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA Sports Club announced a 25-man squad that left for Khartoum, Sudan on Wednesday ready to face Al Merreikh in this season's CAF Champions League's Group A clash, slated for tomorrow.

The players, who left for the fixture, are Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, Ally Salim, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Paschal Wawa and Erasto Nyoni.

Also in the list are Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Jonas Mkude, Rally Bwalya, Mzamiru Yassin and Luis

Miquissone.

The list also includes Hassan Dilunga, Ibrahim Ajibu, Clatous Chama, Francis Kahata, Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Miraji Athuman, Chris Mugalu, Peter Muduhwa, Thadeo Lwanga, Kennedy Juma and David Kameta.

Three players, defender Ibrahim Ame and wingers, Benard Morrison and Perfect Chikwende, did not travel with the team.

Ame and Morrison have not made the trip because of unspecified reasons whereas Chikwende is cup-tied.

Simba had signed Chikwende from Zimbabwe's FC Platinum, whilst the winger was turning out for the latter in the premier continental tournament at club level.

Didier Gomes, Simba's head coach, said they have trained well and his players are ready for the battle scheduled to kick off at 4pm local time at Al Hilal Stadium.

Gomes said they are facing an uphill task ahead of the match and that his players are aware of their commitment to come out with the best results.

"We have followed our

opponents. So, we know how to counter them in the duel. Al Merrikh have some of the best players and I predict the encounter is going to be one of the toughest because they have not won a single game in the group stage," said Gomes.

Simba SC tops Group A with six points after winning two opening matches.

They cruised to 1-0 victory DR Congo AS Vita Club in Kinshasa and the Tanzania club, against all odds, went on to notch 1-0 win over Egypt's Al Ahly, the showdown's defending champions, in Dar es Salaam.

## Simba Queens announce Monalisa as club spokeswoman

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA Sports Club has announced Tanzania's prominent actress, Yvonne Cherrie 'Monalisa', as a spokeswoman for the club's women side, Simba Queens.

The outfit's social media forums had, on Wednesday, posted a picture of Monalisa being introduced by Simba Queens' matron, Fatema Dewji, with the latter handing over the club's jersey to the former.

Simba SC disclosed in a statement: "Our matron, Fatema Dewji, has officially welcomed Monalisa as the spokesperson for Simba Queens."

"We are confident that Monalisa will do her best to disseminate all the information related to Simba Queens to our community," the statement pointed out.

"From Monalisa's



Simba Queens' matron, Fatema Dewji (R, hands over the side's jersey to actress, Yvonne Cherrie 'Monalisa', when the latter was announced as the outfit's spokeswoman in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA

experience, we believe she will be the best spokesperson for our team and will fully exploit the experience she

grew up with in the community."

The statement said: "Welcome to Simba Queens our spokesperson,

Monalisa."

Monalisa commented on the new position through her social media accounts saying: "I am a Simba Queens' fanatic."

"I want to praise my country and I also want you to know my happiness."

"Thank God, thank you all at Simba and lastly thanks to Simba Queens' matron, Fatema Dewji, for giving me an opportunity to speak for my beloved Simba Queens," she disclosed.

She stated: "Now is the time for me to work, the time to show the world Simba Queens' greatness, where you are really happy."

"Finally, I would like to make an official announcement that every girl/woman in this country is a Simba Queens' fan."

## CHAN 2021 finals game's winners announced

By Correspondent Saada Akida

TOTAL Tanzania, through the company's Relations Director, Marsha Msuya, has announced five winners, who managed to predict the two teams that entered the semi-finals of this season's Total African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals.

The CHAN, organized for local players, took place in Cam-

eroon from January 16 and ended on February 7 this year.

Speaking to The Guardian in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Marsha said the CHAN gave his company's customers in 40 countries the opportunity to win five Samsung HD Televisions via participation in a game.

He mentioned the winners as Aman Ephraim, Innocent Mchimo, Salehe Athumani, Godbless

Mboya and Stephen Emmanuel, who successfully predicted the two teams that entered the CHAN finals.

He stated: "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Tanzanians who participated in the competition."

"Total, who sponsor CHAN, AFCON and the CAF club championships, will continue to organize various competitions

through our social media," he disclosed.

Tanzania's national team, Taifa Stars, participated in the CHAN. The team did not do well in the showdown, as the squad crashed out of the group stage.

Taifa Stars were drawn in Group D of the competition, which included Zambia, Namibia and Guinea



## Klopp, Solskjaer question players at WC qualifiers

LONDON

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp and Manchester United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer have questioned the feasibility of players having to spend 10 days isolating in a hotel after returning from World Cup qualifiers in countries on the UK's COVID-19 Red List.

Direct travel to and from Red List countries is banned in the UK, with the whole of South America and Portugal still under those strict measures. Liverpool have three Brazil internationals -- Alisson, Fabinho and Roberto Firmino -- and Portugal forward Diogo Jota all likely to be called up by their countries later this month.

Anyone that returns from countries on the Red List must quarantine in an airport hotel for 10 days, with no exemptions for elite athletes, and Klopp admitted his concern about the potential impact of players flying around the globe for the World Cup qualifiers.

"Having more information would be great, but we don't get the information," Klopp told a news conference on Wednesday. "I think that FIFA was kind of clear, saying we don't have to let the players go this time and I think all the clubs agree that we cannot just let the boys go and solve the situation when they come back, with our players having a 10-day quarantine in a hotel or whatever.

"That is just not possible. I understand the need of the different FAs, but this is a time when we cannot make everybody happy. So we have to admit that the players are paid by the clubs, which means we have to be first priority. That's how it is.

"It means we all have understanding for different needs, with competitions coming up in the summer, I get it. But you cannot make everybody happy at the same time in this period of our lives.

"People need time to make decisions and we don't think too much about it because we are not influential in it, but we just deal with things other people decided.

"But I think everybody agrees -- we can't let the players go and play for their country and then quarantine for 10 days in a hotel. That's not how we can do it."

Solskjaer, speaking after United's 0-0 draw at Crystal Palace on Wednesday, also questioned whether it worth for players to travel.

"We've not sat down and made a proper call on that one but it doesn't make sense if you lose your player for 10 days of isolation, of course it doesn't," Solskjaer said.

"We're the ones paying the players and from what I understand FIFA have given the rules that they don't have to be released. So I would think that's going to be a hard call to make to let them go and play in red list countries, yeah."

Among the players United could lose to isolation would be Portugal midfielder Bruno Fernandes ahead of crucial Premier League clashes.

"I want Bruno of course, ready against Brighton and hopefully that we are through in Europe and against Tottenham after that break, of course I do," Solskjaer added.

(Agencies)

## No beer for you! Blades boss bans victory brews

LONDON

SHEFFIELD United's players won't be able to celebrate their 1-0 victory over Aston Villa on Wednesday as they have another Premier League game on Saturday, so their manager Chris Wilder plans to drink their victory beers instead.

The bottom-of-the-table Blades secured their fourth win of the season despite losing defender Phil Jagielka to a red card in the 57th minute, with striker David McGoldrick getting the goal.

"I just said to the players, I'll celebrate for them tonight. They have another big game on Saturday -- all the beers they might have drunk tonight, I'll do that in place of them. I'll give it a good go," Wilder said.

"It's everything you want out of a performance. We've defended at times poorly this year and been architects of our own downfall, but you saw some top-drawer defending their tonight late on."

Wilder praised his team, saying they never lacked character despite a poor season that has left them rooted to the bottom of the table and favourites to go down.

"There's always been that [character], it's quite easy to criticise my team when the results don't go for you," Wilder said, adding that injuries, mistakes and a lack of consistency in team selection had not helped their cause.

Villa manager Dean Smith was disappointed with his team's attacking effort.

"When they went down to 10 men they threw their bodies on the line, and the quality was probably the difference, but we should have won that game comfortably," he said.

"We've given a really sloppy goal away. That's their only effort really that I can remember Emi [keeper Emiliano Martinez] being in trouble with," Smith added.

Sheffield United host Southampton on Saturday and Villa play Wolverhampton Wanderers.

(Agencies)

## The key questions for Euro 2020: Will it go ahead? Will fans be allowed?

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

EURO 2020 is due to start in 100 days, on June 11, with Italy scheduled to face Turkey in Rome in the first game of a tournament that was postponed last year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. But with the vast majority of European countries under strict lockdown measures, UEFA has yet to decide precisely how, and where, the delayed Euro 2020 will take place.

The original plan of a 24-team competition in 12 different cities across the continent, from Dublin, Ireland in the west to Baku, Azerbaijan in the east, remains in place, but question marks loom large over many aspects of the 51-game European showpiece.

A final decision on the format of Euro 2020 will be made at the UEFA Congress in Switzerland on Apr 20. Here's what we know, and what we still don't, about this summer's flagship competition.

With additional reporting from Stephan Uersfeld and Julien Laurens

### Are the Euros certain to take place?

Yes. The worst-case scenario is a tournament played in a secure bubble with no fans allowed inside stadiums, mirroring the format used last August to conclude the Champions League and Europa League in Portugal and Germany, respectively.

From a financial perspective, many of UEFA's 55 member nations depend on the funds generated by the quadrennial championships. UEFA is committed to all 55 receiving the revenue agreed upon in 2018. As such, €371 million in prize money is at stake for the 24 nations that qualified, while another €775m will be distributed to all the member associations over the next four years. UEFA is using its reserves to pay the bill, so the money generated by broadcasting and sponsorship revenue (Editor's Note: ESPN is a rights holder for the Euros) will be crucial and a big reason why Euro 2020 will go ahead.

(Agencies)

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LONDON

SHEFFIELD United's players won't be able to celebrate their 1-0 victory over Aston Villa on Wednesday as they have another Premier League game on Saturday, so their manager Chris Wilder plans to drink their victory beers instead.

The bottom-of-the-table Blades secured their fourth win of the season despite losing defender Phil Jagielka to a red card in the 57th minute, with striker David McGoldrick getting the goal.

"I just said to the players, I'll celebrate for them tonight. They have another big game on Saturday -- all the beers they might have drunk tonight, I'll do that in place of them. I'll give it a good go," Wilder said.

"It's everything you want out of a performance. We've defended at times poorly this year and been architects of our own downfall, but you saw some top-drawer defending their tonight late on."

Wilder praised his team, saying they never lacked character despite a poor season that has left them rooted to the bottom of the table and favourites to go down.

"There's always been that [character], it's quite easy to criticise my team when the results don't go for you," Wilder said, adding that injuries, mistakes and a lack of consistency in team selection had not helped their cause.

Villa manager Dean Smith was disappointed with his team's attacking effort.

"When they went down to 10 men they threw their bodies on the line, and the quality was probably the difference, but we should have won that game comfortably," he said.

"We've given a really sloppy goal away. That's their only effort really that I can remember Emi [keeper Emiliano Martinez] being in trouble with," Smith added.

Sheffield United host Southampton on Saturday and Villa play Wolverhampton Wanderers.

(Agencies)



UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin is still hopeful Euro 2020 will go off in the original 12 host cities as planned. (Agencies)

some fans in stadiums. As yet, no city or country has pulled out, but sources have told ESPN that the appetite for host games is waning in Dublin and Bucharest.

### Surely there are concerns about a pan-European event in 12 cities during a pandemic?

Within the game, executives, coaches, and players are planning for a 12-city tournament, but there's a sense of confusion and concern about the likelihood of it going ahead in the original format. In February, Champions League and Europa League matches were moved from their original "home" locations to neutral venues because of differing COVID-19 protocols -- Arsenal and Benfica played their last-32 fixtures in Rome and Athens, for example -- while travel between some nations is prohibited. For instance, the UK is not allowing any travel to or from Portugal at present.

In short, football is at the mercy of the pandemic and governments could veto games on their soil.

### This isn't just about UEFA then?

No. Every major tournament requires the support of the host government. That's complicated enough, but UEFA are working with 12 different national administrations -- with differing infection and vaccination rates -- to make Euro 2020 happen.

Some host nations have started to relax their COVID-19 restrictions, while others have extended them. There are also political issues at play, with governments having to assess the public desire to stage Euro 2020 games in the absence of travelling fans. It's still unclear whether some governments will allow fans to cross borders.

### When are UEFA going to make a final decision on the format of tournament?

Initially, UEFA had hoped to finalise details in early March in order to allow national associations, governments, broadcast partners, and fans enough time to adjust to any changes, but the second wave of COVID-19 has prompted a further delay. UEFA will confirm the Euro 2020 format at Congress on Apr. 20, seven weeks before the tournament is scheduled to begin.

Sources have told ESPN that although the situation across Europe will be unclear by then, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin is

determined to make a decision with as much up-to-date information as possible.

### Is it possible that the tournament will be staged in one country?

It's unlikely, but yes, it remains a possibility. That said, finding a suitable host would prove problematic.

### Which countries could be considered to be "in the running" for hosting?

According to sources, England, Germany, France and Russia are the realistic options because of the need to be able to accommodate and provide training bases for 24 teams.

England has the stadia, training grounds, and hotel network. Sources have said that the tournament could even be held solely in London at grounds like Wembley, the Emirates, Stamford Bridge, the London Stadium, and the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. UK prime minister Boris Johnson claimed Tuesday that England is willing to step in and host additional matches, but sources have also told ESPN that, in the wake of Brexit, UEFA would be under intense political pressure to avoid a scenario in which Europe's major football tournament is being rescued by the London government.

There is a similar political issue with Russia. With modern stadiums built for the 2018 World Cup, Russia could comfortably host. But with the country banned from all major sporting events for two years by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) because of a doping scandal, UEFA would be unlikely to risk the negative publicity.

Germany has little appetite to take on the responsibility. In public, no one has spoken out against hosting the tournament, but there's little in the way of support. The Social Democratic Party (SPD), one of Germany's two governing

parties, said in a statement earlier this month that the idea of Euro 2020 in its current format is "not convincing" and that "a tight territorial region, no fans and a good hygiene concept would be desirable [in order to allow] the tournament to go through."

Meanwhile Philipp Lahm, the former Bayern and Germany legend serving as the German FA's ambassador for their Euro 2024 hosting bid, ruled it out. "Currently, this is absolutely no scenario, I can clearly say that," he told Sportbuzzer. "No one can predict what will happen in the coming months, but right now it's open to debate that Germany will stage the tournament alone."

France has also made no moves to step in. A source told ESPN that even before the French Football Federation (FFF) could raise the possibility of hosting, the government said there was no chance of them approving it, not least after the logistics of organizing and hosting the 2019 Women's World Cup. The specter of presidential elections this year are a further obstacle.

Meanwhile, Gabriele Gravina, president of Italy's national football association (FIGC, or Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio) contradicted talk of a single nation hosting the tournament. "These are unfounded rumours, we have a lot of confidence in our government authorities and we are convinced that we will catch up with the vaccination policy. We are confident. We are ready for the kick-off of our first match in Rome."

### What about the players? Are they going to be in bubbles throughout the tournament?

Unless the COVID-19 infection across Europe drops dramatically between now and June and allows for unrestricted movement, all competing squads are likely to have to adhere to the same regulations that have been in place in the

club game since football returned last summer. Sources have said that it is highly likely that teams will be in bubbles for the duration of the tournament, with regular testing of players, coaches and officials.

### Will UEFA push for players to be vaccinated?

Sources have said it is "very doubtful" that UEFA will insist on players being vaccinated, although the organisation is still to agree a confirmed position on this. A person familiar with the discussions told ESPN that UEFA will take a similar view to the Premier League, which has adopted a "wait our turn" position on vaccines. The UK government has been rolling out the vaccine to the population on the basis of age and vulnerability.

### Any plans in place in the event of an outbreak / new wave of infections during the tournament?

UEFA has yet to draft a protocol that would cater for the impact of a potential COVID-19 outbreak in the summer, but sources have said it's likely to follow a similar format to the protocol used in the Champions League and Europa League. In those competitions, a suitable alternative venue is identified if a game cannot take place as originally planned. In the Champions League Round of 16, RB Leipzig's home game against Liverpool was moved to Budapest, while Atletico Madrid staged their home fixture against Chelsea in Bucharest.

UEFA are confident that any localised outbreak would not affect the whole tournament.

### How about fans inside stadiums? Will that happen?

It's increasingly likely that fans will be able to watch games inside stadiums in some venues. Up to 10,000 fans will be allowed back into football stadiums in England starting May 17 and, according to government plans, all restrictions on numbers will be lifted on Jun. 21, which raises the prospect of Wembley hosting up to 90,000 fans for some games. However, sources tell ESPN that it's extremely unlikely.

While England is making progress towards fans returning, sources have told ESPN that fans won't be allowed to attend games in Ireland until September, suggesting that Dublin's four games at Euro 2020 will be played behind

closed doors at the Aviva Stadium. Yet Jonathan Hill, CEO of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), said this weekend that they were briefed by UEFA over the weekend on the topic.

"UEFA wants to see fans in all 12 of the stadia and all 12 of the cities, and we are planning on the basis that we will have fans in the Aviva Stadium," said Hill. "That is the current situation, and that is the plan. It's now a situation whereby all 12 of the cities are working with UEFA and their governments to work out how many fans they can get safely into their individual stadia. In reality, we're all learning from each other in terms of the approaches that are being taken."

In Germany, the goal is to further reopen once the country goes under 35 infections per 100,000 for a seven-day period. Protocols in France are still strict, with a national curfew in effect and strict closure rules for hotels and restaurants. There are also no plans to welcome fans back to sporting events until after the summer. (Some discussions of hosting test events in Lyon, among other cities, won't be happening with fans in stadiums for a "few weeks," according to Sports minister Roxana Maracineanu.)

By mid-April, UEFA expects to know which countries will allow fans and which will not, and that could be a factor in deciding whether cities drop out or continue as hosts.

### UEFA have already sold 90 percent of tickets for a tournament with fans. How will they resolve that?

This is a headache for UEFA, although cancellations and refunds are a strong possibility because of the likelihood of games being played in front of vastly reduced crowds. One option: UEFA could resell tickets to fans in local markets, but there's still no certainty as to how many fans will be able to attend in each city. The most likely scenario is for crowd limits to be set in April and tickets sold accordingly.

### Will fans be able to travel?

Once again, this is dependent on the border policies of the current 12 host nations. Some may allow travel by June and July, others may not.

Sources have told ESPN that Euro 2020 will almost certainly be played out in front of domestic crowds, with no supporters able to travel from outside countries.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

The key questions for Euro 2020: Will it go ahead? Will fans be allowed?

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## Unbeaten Simba Queens, Yanga Princesses meet in Women Premier League's crunch clash



Yanga Princesses' fullback, Anastazia Nyandago (L), challenges Simba Queens' player during the Serengeti Lite Mainland Women Premier League's first phase tie played at Bunju in Dar es Salaam on December 12 last year. The tie ended in a 0-0 draw.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE men's football game in Tanzania has discovered the women's game, and it is no surprise Simba SC and Yanga are bound to dominate the Mainland Women's Premier League, just like they do in the other side of the gender. Hours cannot pass quickly enough until this afternoon's mouth-watering Dar Derby takes place.

Yanga Princesses host Simba Queens for just the sixth time in professional competition.

They will welcome Simba Queens at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in a crunch, top-of-the-table Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League clash. The game kicks off at 4pm.

Friday's matchup features two teams that are vying for the Mainland Women's Premier League title.

While Yanga Princesses are the first in placement with 38 points, Simba Queens are positioned second with 36 points.

It is a direct confrontation that can decide the winner of the league.

This will be the sixth Dar Derby in the Mainland Tanzania Women Premier League, with Simba Queens having the upper hand heading to this fixture.

Simba Queens won four of the first derbies but the last outing ended with both sides splitting points with a barren draw after 90 minutes of beautiful football.

Yanga Princesses have made a tremendous step forward this season that has seen them avoid a derby defeat for the first time and go unbeaten in the first 14 matches.

They come with confidence following their 5-1 victory over Mlandizi Queens.

The Jangwani Street based Princesses' high spot is Aisha Masaka, who is the club's top scorer this season with 20 goals.

Besides her, Grace Yusuph and Philomena Daniel are having a fantastic season each with the two players having scored six goals apiece so far in the campaign.

Simba Queens, who are hoping to defend their crown, come from a 4-0 victory over JKT Queens.

They know they will take top spot from their rivals if they win today's crucial meeting.

Simba Queens have the best attack of the season, with 62 goals, 12 more than Yanga Princesses.

Tanzanian girls Opa Clement, Mwanahamisi Omar and Shelda Boniphace are Simba Queens' highlights.

Opa is the current promise of the side, making a lot of difference on the field and topping the league's scorers' chart with 22 goals.

The more experienced Mwanahamisi and Shelda have scored 11 and 10 goals respectively.



Simba SC's head coach, Didier Gomes.

## Simba SC anticipates for tough 2021 CAF Champions League encounter in Sudan

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's representatives in this season's CAF Champions League, Simba SC, say they anticipate a tough encounter against Sudan's Al Merreikh in the competition's Group A clash, which will take place in Khartoum tomorrow.

Simba are already in Sudan for the game, and the club's head coach, Didier Gomes, told the media that the match will be very tough for his side.

He said the Sudanese giants are coming from two defeats, a 3-0 loss away to Al Ahly of Egypt and a 4-1 loss at home to AS Vita of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Gomes, the former Al Merreikh's head coach, disclosed the squad will come into tomorrow's game seeking to notch victory.

If the Sudanese side lose tomorrow's game, mathematically it will mean the outfit cannot qualify for the quarterfinals, and knowing this well Gomes said his charges are well prepared for the game as they know the benefits of a win in Khartoum.

"We anticipate a very tough game against Al Merreikh, it will not be an easy fixture, our opponents are coming from two losses in CAF Champions League and they will do all they can to stop us."

"I was coaching them, so for sure they will try to prove to me that despite my departure they are still a strong team, they will come out flat to frustrate us, but we are well prepared for them," he said.

He said his team will do their best to record good results in the game.

Simba are leading the group with six points from victory in two games and the return leg against Al Merreikh will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam next week.

Simba players who are in Sudan for the game are Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, Ally Salim, Shomari Kapombe, Joash Onyango, Paschal Wawa, Erasto Nyoni, Gadiel Michael, Mohamed Hussein, Jonas Mkuide, Rarry Bwalya and Mzimiru Yassin.

Others are Luis Miquissone, Hassan Dilunga, Ibrahim Ajibu, Clatous Chama, Francis Kahata, Meddie Kagere, John Bocco, Miraji Athuman, Chris Mugalu, Peter Muduhwa, Thadeo Lwanga, Kennedy Juma and David Kameta.



Various domestic athletics officials, led by Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s vice-president John Bayo (sitting 2nd L), speak at the launch of the Arusha Youth Athletics Championship (AYAC), which is expected to take place in Arusha on March 28. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Arusha set to host Youth Athletics Championship

By Correspondent Nassir

Nchimbi

ARUSHA Youth Athletics Championship (AYAC), involving children aged 6-14, will be held at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in the region on March 28.

The event targets to boost children's participation in sports as well as promoting a generation that will have a professional understanding of athletics.

Speaking to reporters in Arusha, the AYAC's organizer, Juliana Mwamsavua, said they have opened registration for the race.

According to Juliana, the showpiece will involve 302 primary and secondary school children from various schools in Arusha city.

She said the competition, hosted in collaboration with

the Arusha District Athletics Association, will have various races including long, medium, relay race and steeplechase.

"We have issued invitations to various schools but we ask them to provide confirmation in advance, as only those who will be able to participate and we have set a specific number that only 302 children will participate," she stated.

She explained that the children who will win the AYAC will be sponsored to compete in the East Africa events and international competitions.

Parents, therefore, should give children the opportunity to participate in the championship, given they will, via sports, can achieve success.

"Parents should give their children chance to come

and take part in the competition as athletics contributes to the national income and you never know the kind of person the youngster may turn into in future, we have opened the registration from now on and they can contact us via 0754 623517," she disclosed.

Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s vice-president, John Bayo, expressed his regards to the race's organizer for investing in children, who are the country's future athletes, much as some schools are doing less.

Arusha Regional Athletics Association's secretary general, Rogath Stephen, said that the championship is very important as it involves young children, who will take part in many races, to ensure they sharpen their talents.

## Azam FC coach satisfied with VPL match results

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AZAM FC's head coach, George Lwandamina, has praised his charges for playing well in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) fixture against Kagera Sugar, which took place at Kaitaba Stadium in Kagera on Wednesday.

The Dar es Salaam squad beat the hosts 2-1 courtesy of goals scored by Bryson Nkuluma and Prince Dube while Kagera Sugar goal was scored by midfielder, Peter Mwalyanzi, through a spot kick.

The win saw Azam FC remain on the third spot with 40 points from 22 games while Kagera Sugar, who have featured in the same number of games, have notched 24 points to stay 12th.

Lwandamina said the Wednesday game was extremely tough, but he thanked his charges for playing according to plan.

"It was not an easy match, my boys did their best to collect all three points. I really thank them for the good job, our opponents did all they could, but we stood strong," he said.

The coach stated the focus now is on Saturday's game against Mwandui FC who are anchoring the 18-team league table.

Kagera Sugar head coach, Mecky Mexime, who had in the previous interview promised that his outfit will do its best to win the match against Azam FC, conceded defeat.

He stated they did all they

could to win the game but they failed to make use of chances.

Mexime promised to rectify his outfit's problems before the squad's next game.

"This is football, we did our best to equalize and win the game, but we failed, we will work on the problems which occurred during the game and hopefully we will come back strongly in our next game," he said.

Mwandui FC has posted 15 points from 22 games and will host Azam FC at Mwandui Complex in Shinyanga on Saturday.

Lwandamina said it will not be an easy match, considering that the hosts are struggling to avoid relegation in the elite league.

The Azam FC's gaffer stated they need to prepare well for the encounter.

"We should now focus on our next game against Mwandui FC. It will not be an easy clash, I am sure they will come out looking for good results," he said.

Mwandui FC lost 1-0 to Namungo FC in a VPL tie, which took place at Mwandui Complex on Wednesday.

In other games which took place on Wednesday, Mbeya's Ihefu FC lost 2-1 to Gwambina FC at the former's backyard, Highland Estate Stadium.

Gwambina FC goals were scored by Rajabu Athuman and Paul Nonga while the hosts' goal was netted by Andrew Simchimba.

Ruvu Shooting' woes continued on Wednesday when they lost 2-0 at home to Dodoma Jiji FC.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

