



### TAXATION



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A game warden (L) on the lookout yesterday as Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (gesturing) has a word with visiting foreign conservationists deep inside Arusha National Park - just in case the herd of the buffaloes roaming not far from the spot "decide to misbehave". Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

## SADC extends to Tanzania 13bn/- for the southern corridor railway

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has given Tanzania USD6 million (over 13bn/-) for conducting feasibility studies and preparing a detailed design of a railway from Mtwara Region to Mbamba Bay in Ruvuma region.

Speaking during the opening of the SADC virtual meeting of the committee of ministers of finance and investment and peer review panel, held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning) Jamal Kassim Ali said the plan was part of a strategy meant to boost trade within the regional economic bloc.

Key issues to be discussed at the meeting include the establishment of the SADC member states' development fund which will

be spent on financing projects within the bloc and a debt service suspension programme on countries affected by Covid-19.

"We want to use one of our member states, South Africa, which is a member of the BRICS, to deliver our concern on the debt service programme - which is beset with some challenges," he said.

BRICS is the acronym coined to associate five major emerging economies, namely, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs. Originally the first four were grouped as 'BRIC' (or 'the BRICS') before the induction of South Africa in 2010.

The Mtwara Development Corridor is a spatial development initiative (SDI) comprising southern Tanzania, northern

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## Would-be retirees prepared for leading life out of work

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has embarked on nationwide seminars for civil servants about to retire to prepare them for life out of work, including proper management of their terminal benefits.

The seminars are being conducted under the theme "Education on investment for sustainable life after retirement" and are chiefly meant to enable those nearing retirement to get appropriate knowledge on how to face life after employment.

Speaking here yesterday during the opening of the first such seminars, PSSSF acting director general Mbaruku Mgawa said the training would be held in every region in country, targeting civil servants with less than two years before retiring.

He warned that there were a lot of "confidence tricksters waiting pounce on gullible retirees and snatch any little money they have", and hence the need to equip would-be retirees with understanding on how evade such snares and invest in sustainable projects.

"Owing to the rise in the number cases of fraud and confidence tricks targeting civil servants who have retired, we have deemed it wise to engage them in empowerment seminars on how to avoid such challenges," he said.

Mgawa explained that since there were numerous cases of corruption and conning, officials from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) and the Tanzania Communication Regulation Authority (TCRA) have been

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## Business community up in arms against hawkers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Tanzania Business Community has said it is of vital importance for the government to review its policy on hawkers, complaining that they are left to operate unhindered even in right front of licensed shops.

The community's national secretary general, Abdallah Mwinyi, said at a meeting held here yesterday that politicians were to blame for entertaining and supporting a policy against "disturbing" hawkers or



...but what they do must also be valued so that they too pay due taxes to the government

vendors which has turned the whole matter into a nuisance to licensed businesses".

He said there is now a simmering conflict between his community and hawkers, a scenario he referred to as a ticking time bomb that ought to be addressed before it gets out hand.

Mwinyi noted that licensed traders contend with rents to pay for their business premises in addition to tax returns to file "yet there are small traders

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## Rhinos to be reintroduced on Mount Meru, says govt

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE world's most endangered wildlife species, rhinos, will soon be re-introduced to the foot of Mount Meru, Tanzania's second highest mountain, in fresh efforts to boost tourism in the Arusha National Park.

Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro declared as much

during a familiarisation tour of the park.

While there, he learned that rhinos used to roam the tourist attraction many years ago but, much like in many other parts of the country, the ferocious mammals disappeared for various reasons - including the infamous horn-hunting poaching.

"Arusha National Park is the most accessible tourist destination in the country, being very close to both Arusha City and Kilimanjaro International Airport," said the minister, adding that the park should be the easiest attraction to international market but also needs more and exciting saleable products.

The park's Deputy Conservation Commissioner in-charge, Albert Mziray, told Dr Ndumbaro that they were planning to re-introduce rhinos, with the minister advising that they could make use of the

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (3rd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday with Finance and Planning ministry deputy commissioner Janeth Hiza (L) and commissioner Dr Charles Mwamaja (2nd-L) as well as Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) board chairman Dr Edmund Mndolwa (3rd-L), TCB director general Sabasaba Moshingi (2nd-R) and Dar es Salaam regional administrative secretary Hassan Rugwa shortly after launching the newly named bank (formerly TPB Bank). Photo: Guardian Correspondent



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## Business community up in arms against hawkers

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popularly known as machinga moving freely with their wares to the extent of blocking shops”.

He cited remarks made in the past by “some politicians” that hawkers should not be disturbed, which he said made them “a kind of untouchable lot invading other people’s places of business with impunity”, adding that the situation ought to be reviewed if traders with fixed business premises are to make a profit.

“There is a conflict pitting the hawkers against licensed shop owners while the government heavily - and rightfully - depends on taxes from the traders for running the country. As such, allowing hawkers to operate freely in front of shops could lead to worse problems in the near future..” he said.

He described hawkers as traders who need to be reared by the government to develop, “but what they do must also be valued so that they too pay due taxes to the government”.

He appealed to the government to take immediate steps to ensure an end to the conflict between hawkers and traders with licences, complaining that it appears the latter were treated more favourably than themselves.

“The government ought to protect licensed traders for them to grow and pay even bigger taxes to the government, while also assisting hawkers for them to pay taxes as well. However, as things stand, the hawkers seem to be receiving favourable treatment,” Mwinyi noted.

He said doing anything to the contrary could negate or destroy the entire concept of doing decent business.

Regarding business situation in the country generally, he said most traders are now more at peace than they were in the past.

He said, previously, licensed traders had few “guardians” to turn to in times of challenges.

Mwanza Region’s Business Community secretary Mohamed Ibrahim meanwhile said traders were intermittently being harassed by the militia, making some traders from outside Mwanza City desist from coming to the region to purchase goods.

Mwinyi also complained that some Mwanza city streets are virtually impassable, especially in the city centre, with hawkers closing roads at will.

In late December 2016, then president John Magufuli ordered local authorities not to evict hawkers from urban centres, asking them instead to find commercially suitable locations for the traders. This has been an oft-repeated but seldom implemented move for years.

In Dar es Salaam, for instance, hawkers literally operate as they wish, blocking shops and offices in most suburbs while caring little for orders to move to alternative sites lined up by municipal and other authorities.

In places such as the sprawling Kariakoo and Mwenge market zones, hawkers keep turning some pedestrian pavements into stalls for selling their wares. Efforts to find alternative business premises have come to little effect.



Tanzania’s delegation led by Jamal Kassim Ali (2nd-R, foreground), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President’s Office (Finance and Planning), sings Mozambique’s national anthem in Dar es Salaam yesterday moments before the start of a virtual meeting of the Finance and Investment minister of Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries’ involved in the Peer Review Panel. Others include William ole Nasha (L, foreground), Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office (Investment), and Finance and Planning ministry deputy permanent secretary Amina Khamis Shaaban (R, foreground). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## SADC extends to Tanzania 13bn/- for the southern corridor railway

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Mozambique, northern and central Malawi, and eastern and northern Zambia.

The SDI’s aim is to develop a transportation corridor to provide these regions with easier access to Tanzania’s Mtwara port as well as other transit corridors within the project’s focus areas.

To address the transportation bottlenecks developing in the region, an upgrade of infrastructure

was required with the future development and rehabilitation of roads and bridges, sea and lake ports, telecommunications, air transport facilities and ferry services being the objective of the project.

The railway envisaged is to span 1000 km from Mtwara port to Mbamba Bay on Lake Nyasa through Mchuchuma and Liganga areas.

Tanzania is currently expanding

Tanga, Dar es Salaam and Mtwara ports in a deliberate effort to improve trade and clearance of goods.

The government decided to construct the 2,561-km SGR (standard gauge railway) network that links Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kigoma, Katavi and neighbouring land-locked countries including Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo chiefly to boost the economic

growth and improve people’s social lives.

Tanzania’s SGR, the first of its kind in East and Central Africa to use electricity to power locomotives, will have capacity to accommodate passenger trains travelling at 160 km per hour.

The project has so far created employment opportunities to thousands of Tanzanians and improved the standard of living of many people.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi (L) bids farewell to Ethiopia’s Ambassador to Tanzania, Yonas Yosef Sanbe, who visited him at Zanzibar State House yesterday to introduce himself. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## EAC fetes KfW country director

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

OUTGOING German Development Bank (KfW) country director, Annika Calov, has saluted efforts made by the East African Community in ensuring regional integration which she said has also inspired other regional economic communities in Africa.

During her farewell regards to EAC Secretary-General Peter Mathuki on Wednesday in Arusha, Calov highlighted the progress made by the community on the four pillars of integration, with other African nations now emulating.

“I am proud of the positive developments taking place in regional integration in East Africa,” the director intoned, reaffirming KfW’s commitment to support EAC’s programs and projects especially in

the health and education sectors.

“We believe that it is vital to support the secretariat and the EAC partner states to be better positioned when it comes to epidemics and pandemics,” she affirmed.

On her part, the incoming country director, Jennifer Wörl pledged to continue supporting the EAC particularly in health and education efforts. “It is my sincere hope and trust that EAC cooperation with KfW will grow stronger based on an already existing robust foundation of our common goals,” she declared.

Mathuki hailed Calov for her successful tour of duty and strengthening relations between EAC and KfW while assuring Wörl that the EAC Secretariat was focusing on a few priorities that are likely to yield maximum impact on the lives of EAC citizens.

## Would-be retirees prepared for leading life out of work

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invited to make presentations on the problems and how to go about them.

He said that various financial institutions have also been incorporated in the annual seminars to provide education on investments and judicious expenditure, adding that the Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) would also chip in by equipping the trainees with knowledge and skills on investing in small industries.

Opening the seminar, Dodoma Regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka called on all those nearing retirement to make investing gainfully a priority and to do business with credible banks and other financial institutions.

He said some financial institutions are not trustworthy and have been involved in corrupt activities,

adding that retiring civil servants get an avalanche of enticing but not necessarily credible information, including from fraudsters.

The RC urged retirees to be “extremely careful” with their terminal benefits and avoid being swindled by people with ill motives, “some claiming to be money lenders with small interest rates, only to take up almost every cent at the end”.

“I appeal to all of you who are just about to retire to be extra careful with your benefits. Desist from getting involved with people with bad motives whose backgrounds are not clear, lest you start moving from office to office looking for sometimes elusive support on how to get your rights,” he said.

Mtaka also welcomed the would-be retirees to his office for advice if they need to borrow money from financial institutions claiming to charge low interests.

## Samia starts two day Burundi state visit

● Hold talks with UAE State Minister in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan lands in Burundi for a two day state visit starting today, State House spokesperson Jaffar Haniu said in a statement yesterday.

Samia’s visit follows an invitation from Burundi President Evariste Ndayishimiye.

While in Burundi, the president is expected to hold talks with her counterpart and witness the signing of cooperation agreements as well as addressing the media.

She is also scheduled to address Tanzanian and Burundian business leaders, with delegates expected to discuss business and investment opportunities available in the two countries.

Meanwhile, President Samia yesterday held talks with a special envoy from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Shakhboot bin Nahyan Al Nahya at the State

House in Dar es Salaam.

Sheikh Al Nahya who is Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation assured President Samia of his country’s commitment to continue supporting Tanzania’s development efforts and improving gender equality. He said that the UAE supports President Samia’s efforts in the fight against COVID-19 insisting his country is ready to provide Tanzania with a consignment of the vaccines.

President Samia assured Sheikh Al Nahya of continuing to cement existing bilateral relations for mutual benefit, noting that the UAE is a vital development partner for Tanzania, involved in infrastructure projects. The trade volume between the two countries was also rising, with the various interventions taken by Tanzania to improve business and investment environment, she added.

## Rhinos to be reintroduced on Mount Meru, says govt

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rhinos being bred at the Mkomazi National Park sanctuary.

“If you take six rhinos from Mkomazi and replant them here, eventually they will reproduce and soon the animals will roam the park en-masse again,” said the minister.

“Black rhino are natives of this location, for they once roamed the slopes of Mount Meru,” explained Mziray.

William Mwakilema, Tanzania National Park’s (Tanapa) Deputy Conservation Commissioner for Conservation and Business Development, meanwhile said they intend to boost the park’s visitors from the current 64,000 tourists to 250,000 visitors and eventually to hit the half-a-million mark in five years’ time.

Arusha National Park has almost every feature that can be found in various other destinations such as a mountain, a lake, a crater, savannah

plains, dense forests, rivers, historical sites and rich variety of wildlife, but the destination still needs more attractions to graduate into an all-in-one park.

The relatively small park was established in 1960, making it the oldest after Serengeti and Ngorongoro, and is home to common animal species like giraffes, Cape buffaloes, zebras, Warthog, the black-and-white Colobus monkey, the Blue monkeys, elephants, bushbucks and giant pythons, one of which the minister came across during his trekking.

Leopards are also to be found in the park although they are quite shy and are thus rarely seen.

The park also boasts a variety of birds’ species, including the Narina trogon, the bar-tailed trogon and flamingoes. There are also aquatic animals like fishes and hippos residing in the Lake, which offers opportunity for canoeing safaris, a staple in the park.





Geoffrey Mwambe, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) and legislator for Masasi, cuts ribbon when presenting one vehicle to each of three secondary schools in the constituency – Masasi Day, Masasi Girls' Boarding and Anna Abdallah. Those witnessing the event include Masasi district executive director Gimbara Ntavyo and Masasi district commissioner Claudia Kitta. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# TRA seeks dialogue with large taxpayers

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) has conducted a series of dialogue with taxpayers in Arusha Region, to come up with mutual agreement on how both parties can work without hurting the other.

That comes after the government's recent stance in ensuring that tax payments among business persons and entities remain a friendly and voluntary process unlike in the past when most people regarded revenue collection as some form of extortion, creating enmity between them and the taxman.

"We are here to hear from taxpayers on how the Tanzania Revenue Authority can further improve voluntary payment of government revenues because unless people are willing to settle their dues, it will be difficult for us to collect state taxes with ease," explained the TRA Director General, Alphayo Kidata.

Among the topics discussed was how TRA would update, repair or replace defunct electronic fiscal devices used by its clients, he said.

A meeting with business representatives took place at the Arusha International Conference Center (AICC), officiated by Regional Commissioner John Mongella. He

asserted that listening to customers was the best way of ensuring long time profitable relations.

"The reason for the government to introduce the e-filing system as well as EFDs was to ensure that cumbersome paperwork processes that used to irk taxpayers are removed so that much of the procedure is done at one's own convenience," he said.

"The TRA has taken the right step in meeting, hearing from and talking to taxpayers so that any problem arising can be mutually solved," he stated, pledging that his office was working on the same strategies in ensuring that the business community here remain on good terms with authorities.

Richard Remed of the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), lauded TRA for taking the initiative of consulting taxpayers on how the two parties can best work together.

"At the end of the day, most problems arising were not even problems but rather a communication breakdown between TRA and the business community," he declared.

Arusha, which contributes around 5.2 percent of total revenues ranks third after Dar-es-Salaam and Mwanza, thus an important centre for tax collection.

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

# Zanzibar readies new port managerial style

ZANZIBAR is to install an integrated port management system to enable port officials to better handle the flow of vessels, visitors and improve revenue collection.

A revamped vessel traffic management system will be put in place alongside information systems, traffic simulation systems as well as a supply chain management system for proper handling of harbour activities.

Finance and Planning minister Jamal Kassim Ali announced the plan here yesterday during a working tour of the main port of Malindi.

There was still a challenge for a better communication system between the various authorities as it is done by paper, creating hardships to traders and occasioning delays in clearing their goods from the port, he said.

The government wants to have in place a single integrated technological system that will ease revenue collection, reduce costs and time used in conveying reports needed to clear containers from the port, he stated.

In the coming week the ministry will call experts with experience in developing the necessary software, like ZAN-Malipo or for the Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB)

to start the work for the required digital system, the minister affirmed.

He praised efforts by the Zanzibar Ports Corporation in seeking solutions to containers congestion at the port, as the problem has significantly eased, urging it to persist in these efforts.

"We understand that they have a problem of space and working tools, but they should make more

efforts in loading and offloading containers in order to enable traders to import big volumes of cargo," he emphasised.

He promised to find solutions to challenges facing the corporation, by examining the issues in collaboration of other ministries, so as to improve services at the port.

For his part, the Director of Ports Operations, Mansour Rashid said as

for now the challenges facing cargo clearance are virtually nonexistent as offloading staff is deployed 24 hours so as to reduce the congestion of containers.

In three months the port has moved from over 2,600 containers waiting at the port to around 1,800 at present, he said.

Port staff need to clear 100 to 181 containers each day with improved procedure now in place. This has also reduced time for ships to load cargo from five to three days, he added.

# 'Mbeya Region has Covid-19 patients'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government in Mbeya Region has admitted having Covid-19 patients receiving treatment at various centres set aside for the purpose, while appealing to the people to take precautionary measures to protect themselves as advised by health experts.

Regional Commissioner Juma Homera told reporters yesterday that strategies by the region against the pandemic were being drawn up, but declined to issue data on the number of cases, saying he needs authorisation on the matter.

Issuing statistics on Covid-19 patients is preferably the work of the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, the Prime Minister or the President, he stated.

Due to the rising infections, district commissioners in collaboration with local council health committees need to provide education to the people on how to protect themselves against the disease, he asserted.

He appealed to concerned officials to work together with stakeholders to come up with strategies to fight the pandemic so that it does not spread.

He said the region has identified several strategies including

calling on the people to frequently wash their hands using soap and running water, avoiding unnecessary gatherings and wearing face masks.

He also directed that all students in the region begin wearing face masks when at school except those under eight years of age, with other guidelines expected on other procedures.

"We have also directed all passenger transport vehicles to carry passengers at seat level, and they should wear face masks.

"In addition we have directed that all bus stops should have hand washing

facilities," he stated.

All people in places with gatherings including bars and houses of worship must wear face masks, with hand washing facilities outside, and they also must observe distancing when seated.

Anyone who feels he has Covid-19 symptoms has to immediately visit the nearest health centre for treatment, he urged.

Various centres have been set aside for treatment of Covid-19 patients including Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital and district facilities, he added.

**AZANIA BANK LIMITED**  
The One Stop Financial Centre

**NOTICE TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS**

Notice is hereby given to minority shareholders of Azania Bank Limited who wish to subscribe to the new shares that was approved by the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting to submit their formal interest to the company secretary through the following address;

Company Secretary  
Azania Bank Limited  
Ground Floor, Mawasiliano Towers  
Sam Nujoma Road  
P. O. Box. 32089  
Dar es Salaam  
Email: info@azaniabank.co.tz  
Telephone: +255 222 412 025  
+255 222 412 026  
+255 222 412 027  
Mobile: +255 713 442 473

The communication can be made to the Company Secretary through either postal address, email or telephone indicated herein above within a period of 14 days from the date when this advertisement was issued in a newspaper.

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Minerals Corporation Limited  
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NORTH MARA

**REQUEST FOR TENDER**

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Tender Reference	Description of Service to be Procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1 NM11/2021	<b>Borehole Drilling:</b> 5 shallow boreholes at 30m deep and 5 deep boreholes at 150m deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Excellent safety records with relevant standards and procedures.</li> <li>ii. At least 5-years' experience of monitoring borehole drilling of 150m deep.</li> <li>iii. Ability to demonstrate track record and evidence/references of at least 3 similar projects.</li> <li>iv. Experienced and competent key personnel for drilling, installation and pump testing.</li> <li>v. Compliance with the Local Content Regulations.</li> <li>vi. Ability to conduct pump test and borehole installation capping as well as taking samples at various intervals of boreholes.</li> <li>vii. Demonstrate that all drilling fleet are serviceable and available with valid documentation</li> </ul>
2 NM12/2021	<b>Corrosion Protection:</b> Surface preparation and application of protective coating on Process Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evidence of suitable HSE, OSHA compliance and site safety program</li> <li>- Copy of registration and incorporation certificate</li> </ul>
	steel structure as per recognized corrosion protection standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Past experience on similar projects by having list of clients with LPO/signed contract and certificate of completion.</li> <li>- Experiences on surface preparation, sandblasting, coating application and quality control methodology</li> <li>- Compliance with local content regulation by having local content plan approved by mining commission</li> <li>- Evidence of suitable resources availability – equipment, systems and qualified personnel (Applicators &amp; Inspectors) on corrosion protection</li> </ul>

**Expression of Interest**  
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com).

Applicants must quote the references "NM Borehole Drilling" or "NM Corrosion Protection" in the subject line of the email, depending on the submission.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

**Key Dates**  
Last date to submit EOI July 16, 2021

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited**



## People more hopeful than in 2017 - REPOA

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE impacts brought by the Covid-19 pandemic in economic growth, most Tanzanians say the government is managing the economy well and it is also moving in the right direction, Afrobarometer survey findings released by REPOA have indicated.

The study affirms that citizens' assessments of the government's performance on a wide range of issues have improved compared to 2017. Despite that only one-third describe their personal living conditions as good, a majority are optimistic that economic conditions will improve in the coming year.

Presenting the survey findings in Dar es Salaam this week, researcher Stephen Mwombela said the survey takes place biannually. "The survey results indicate gains in the government's provision of basic health care, water and sanitation, as these needs plus electricity are key components of the government's goal of an industrial economy," he said.

Surveyed opinion shows that the government is managing natural resources such as gold and tanzanite, fighting corruption, addressing education needs, maintaining the inflation rate and addressing the needs of young people, among others.

He said that the respondents have highlighted top three major challenges that the government should address as health, water supply and roads.

Despite positive response from the public on economic progress as well as their personal living conditions, there is still a need to pursue poverty-reduction strategies for more inclusive growth, the survey indicated.

The study's findings further indicate that a growing share of Tanzanians are optimistic about the future as more than half (53 per cent) now believe that the country's economic situation will be better or much better in 12 months time.

Also the majority of Tanzanians

approved the government's performance on a wide range of issues, including 84 per cent who say the government is handling the economy fairly well or very well. The assessment has improved across the board compared to 2017, the researcher noted.

Tanzania formally graduated to lower-middle-income country status in July 2020, but the pandemic-induced global economic shock slowed real GDP growth.

REPOA Executive Director Dr Donald Mmari said Afrobarometer is a Pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluation of democracy, governance and quality of life. Afrobarometer conducts face to face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice, he stated.

The survey takes place every two years, but due to the pandemic they failed to conduct it last year so they had to compensate for the work in February and March this year. About 2,398 adults were interviewed, in another edition of Afrobarometer that took off in Tanzania in 1999.

Tanzania is doing well in implementing various sustainable development goals but still needs more efforts especially in goal number eight focusing on promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It also envisages full and productive employment in decent work for all, which is listed as goal number 13.

"This is a scientific survey that provides a chance to people to air their sentiments on their current situation and expectations. Today we are focusing on the economic conditions of people. Afrobarometer covers a range of areas including governance, market, service delivery and many more aspects," he added.

*Tanzania formally graduated to lower-middle-income country status in July 2020, but the pandemic-induced global economic shock slowed real GDP growth.*



Coastal Travels Limited official Maynard Mkumbwa (4th-R) with other staff shortly after the firm presented with an IATA Standard Safety Assessment certificate in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Sources said the firm was the first African airline to be awarded the certificate, this after completing two years of mandatory training and assessment for its pilots. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

BETWEEN seven and nine million youths in African countries are unemployed, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has declared.

ILO resident manager for skills development projects, Comoro Mwenda made this observation at a training seminar for the water sector, with various public and private institutions taking part, to prepare better education apprenticeship curricula.

The inclusive capacity for African countries to create formal employments for the youth stands at two to seven million openings annually, he said.

"As for now it is estimated that by 2050 Africa's population

## Seven to nine million youth in Africa unemployed - ILO

will be 830 million and every year between 10 and 12 million will be entering the job market, hence there will be multitudes of unemployed youth," he pointed out.

In large measure these youths will have skills acquired from informal systems, with one of ILO's aims being to assist member countries to initiate training programmes for countries that take up ILO strategic plans, he stated.

ILO in collaboration with Water

Resources College and others assist in the development of programmes for imparting required skills appropriate for the job market, he stated.

"We have given training to college experts and help them to prepare better curricula as they need it to enhance their understanding of apprenticeship education," he specified.

For his part, Permanent Secretary Anthony Sanga said that changes to the curricula will assist in enhancing skills to students after

graduation from water colleges.

Dar es Salaam Water Institute principal Adam Karia said the institute conducted research to find out why many youths are unemployable and found out that many of them had no skills to satisfy the job market.

Godfrey Muhangwa, an expert with the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) in the Lake Zone said the curricula to be prepared will assist students to acquire better skills suitable for the needs of various sectors.



Information, Culture, Arts and Sports deputy minister Pauline Gekul speaks at an event in Babati, Manyara Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Initiate housing projects, minister calls on NHC

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development deputy minister, Dr Angeline Mabula has called on the National Housing Corporation (NHC) in Morogoro Region to initiate new construction projects for the region to enable the corporation to generate income, instead of depending on earnings

from its old houses.

Dr Mabula made the remarks here on Wednesday, addressing the region's NHC staff during a visit to hear complaints and provide solutions thereon.

She said it does not make sense for the corporation to depend on the houses built during the colonial period without having new construction plans for it to own new

modern houses to enhance revenue collection.

Morogoro Region still has great demand for housing for renting, chiefly in newly built areas, she said, emphasising that NHC has no choice but increase the pace in developing new housing projects.

"I see that you are still in olden times. You have no construction projects for new houses, you still

depend on these built during the colonial period. You must now pull up your socks," the deputy minister intoned.

The regional NHC manager Constantine Yuda needs to liaise with municipal and district authorities for land allocation where new housing projects would be started, including houses for council staff, she added.

## COVID-19 disrupts childhood vaccinations all over the world

By Guardian Reporter

ABOUT 23 million children missed out on basic vaccines through routine immunization services in 2020 compared to 3.7 million who missed the jabs in 2019.

Official data published yesterday by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Fund for Children (UNICEF) showed that the majority of countries last year experienced drops in childhood vaccination rates.

Most of the children, up to 17 million - likely did not receive a single vaccine during the year, widening already immense inequities in vaccine access, the report stated.

Most of these children live in communities affected by conflict, in under-served remote places, or in informal or slum settings where they face multiple deprivations including limited access to basic health and key social services.

WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that even as countries clamour to get their hands on COVID-19 vaccines, "we have gone backwards on other vaccinations, leaving children at risk from devastating but preventable diseases like measles, polio or meningitis."

"Multiple disease outbreaks would be catastrophic for communities and health systems already battling COVID-19, making it more urgent than ever to invest in childhood vaccination and ensure every child is reached."

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said that this evidence should be a clear warning, that the COVID-19 pandemic and related disruptions "cost us valuable ground we cannot afford to lose - and the consequences will be paid in the lives and wellbeing of

the most vulnerable."

"Even before the pandemic, there were worrying signs that we were beginning to lose ground in the fight to immunize children against preventable child illness, including with the widespread measles outbreaks two years ago.

"The pandemic has made a bad situation worse. With equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at the forefront of everyone's minds, we must remember that vaccine distribution has always been inequitable, but it does not have to be," she declared.

Disruptions in immunization services were widespread in 2020 with the WHO Southeast Asian and Eastern Mediterranean regions most affected.

As access to health services and immunization outreach were curtailed, the number of children not receiving even their very first vaccinations increased in all regions. As compared with 2019, 3.5 million more children missed their first dose of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine (DTP-1) while three million more children missed their first measles dose, the director added.



**...cost us valuable ground we cannot afford to lose - and the consequences will be paid in the lives and wellbeing of the most vulnerable**





Tanga city mayor Abdulrahman Shiloo (L) has an audience with Majengo locality leaders yesterday on the need to rehabilitate old schools including Chuda and Masiwani alongside Milango wa Chuma market. He was on a routine tour in the ward. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Guardian Correspondent, Masasi

## MP delivers vehicles to three secondary schools

STATE Minister in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments), Geoffrey Mwambe yesterday handed over three vehicles to three secondary schools in Masasi District, Mtwara Region in a new drive to improve education in the area.

Handing over the vehicles, Mwambe who is MP for Masasi said the support is part of government efforts to improve the education environment and raise students' performance.

"Today I am handing over these vehicles to you to address transport challenges," he said, noting that the vehicles were provided to three schools—Masasi Day School, Masasi Boarding Girls' School and Anna Abdallah School.

The schools must take care of the vehicles so that they last long, he emphasised.

Apart from the vehicles, the government in the ministerial budget has allocated 1.6bn / - for the construction of secondary schools in the area, he stated.

District Commissioner Claudia Kitta commended the MP for his efforts to bring development in the state and asked the residents to cooperate with the MP to

achieve the government's goal of bringing development in the area.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our MP for his efforts and indeed we're seeing the results, and I ask my brothers and sisters to support the MP as he has shown interest in bringing us real development in this area."

Masasi Day High School headmaster Emmanuel Kumira commended the lawmaker for providing the vehicles which

will largely go to help solve transportation challenges when students need to be rushed to hospital, for instance, underlining that the vehicles will be a catalyst and part of education improvements in the schools.

Providing vehicles was among the MP's campaign promises to improve education provision, where he also outlined various initiatives to improve the health sector, water, roads and energy in the district.

# WCF basks in stakeholder accolades as fair winds up

By Guardian Reporter

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) has emerged the second runner up in the category of institutions handling social security protection and insurance services at the just ended 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

The award was presented by Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla at the closing ceremony.

Interviewed stakeholders commended WCF saying the award is testimony of the fund's improved compensation services. This recognition has to be catalyst for it to continue offering better services as well as educating Tanzanians on its various compensation benefits, they said.

Athumani Saidi who visited the WCF pavilion at DITF was impressed with the way they attended to people seeking information about the fund. "They should continue to educate people on the compensation benefits through stakeholders' workshops," he suggested.

Speaking shortly after receiving the trophy, WCF Director General Dr John Mduma said that being announced the second runner up in the category is a source of motivation for the fund to further improve its services.

WCF expects to work on the recommendations from stakeholders who visited its pavilion, with intent to further improve its services and make it

one of the best compensation fund providers in Africa, he said.

"This award shall result in increased productivity in service provision," he declared.


WCF was established to provide compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the course of employment under the Workers' Compensation Act of 2008. The Act applies to employees in the private sector and the public service.

The act requires employers to make contributions to the fund with private sector employers contributing one percent and public sector employers contributing 0.5 percent of their annual tax bill.

DITF brought together over 3000 exhibitors from inside and outside the country, among them 76 exhibitors from 15 countries including the United States (US), China, Kenya, Ethiopia, Syria, Ghana, India, Pakistan, UAE, Rwanda, Burundi, Egypt, Singapore, Indonesia and the Comoros.

DITF serves as a major driver to industrialization as it provides opportunities for large, medium and small business to showcase and market their products, innovations and technologies locally and among foreign viewers turning up for the annual occasion.

The trade fair started in 1962 as the National Agricultural Trade Fair and became the National Trade Fair a year later. In 1977 the exhibition was improved and renamed the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair, officials noted.



# BARRICK

NORTH MARA

## REQUEST FOR TENDER

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following services:

Tender Reference	Description of Service to be Procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1 NM11/2021	<b>Borehole Drilling:</b>  5 shallow boreholes at 30m deep and 5 deep boreholes at 150m deep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Excellent safety records with relevant standards and procedures.</li> <li>ii. At least 5-years' experience of monitoring borehole drilling of 150m deep.</li> <li>iii. Ability to demonstrate track record and evidence/references of at least 3 similar projects.</li> <li>iv. Experienced and competent key personnel for drilling, installation and pump testing.</li> <li>v. Compliance with the Local Content Regulations.</li> <li>vi. Ability to conduct pump test and borehole installation capping as well as taking samples at various intervals of boreholes.</li> <li>vii. Demonstrate that all drilling fleet are serviceable and available with valid documentation</li> </ul>
2 NM12/2021	<b>Corrosion Protection:</b> Surface preparation and application of protective coating on Process Plant  steel structure as per recognized corrosion protection standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of suitable HSE, OSHA compliance and site safety program</li> <li>• Copy of registration and incorporation certificate</li> <li>• Past experience on similar projects by having list of clients with LPO/signed contract and certificate of completion.</li> <li>• Experiences on surface preparation, sandblasting, coating application and quality control methodology</li> <li>• Compliance with local content regulation by having local content plan approved by mining commission</li> <li>• Evidence of suitable resources availability – equipment, systems and qualified personnel (Applicators &amp; Inspectors) on corrosion protection</li> </ul>


**Expression of Interest**  
If your company meets the pre-qualification criteria and would like to be considered to receive the invitation to tender (ITT), an expression of interest (EOI) including your company profile and evidence of compliance with pre-qualification criteria may be submitted to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com).

Applicants must quote the references "NM Borehole Drilling" or "NM Corrosion Protection" in the subject line of the email, depending on the submission.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit an EOI through this advertisement.

**Key Dates**  
• Last date to submit EOI July 16, 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited



## MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA,

### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO AUDIT THE MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA (MCT) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

**1.0 General overview of the MCT**  
The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) is a not-for-profit organisation established by media practitioners in the country at a General Convention held in Dar es Salaam on June 28, 1995 and was registered in 1997 under Societies Ordinance 1954, later the Societies Act 2002. MCT operates on both sides of the Union and is registered in Zanzibar under Societies Act no. 6 of 1995.

The mission of MCT is to create an environment that enables a strong and ethical media that contributes towards a more democratic and just society whereas its vision is to see a democratic Tanzania with a free, responsible and effective media.

**The objectives of MCT include:**

- a. To promote, assist, safeguard and defend freedom of the media and allied forms of public communication in the United Republic of Tanzania;
- b. To oversee that journalists, editors, broadcasters, producers, directors proprietors and all those involved in the media industry in Tanzania adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards; and
- c. To receive and conciliate, mediate and/ or arbitrate upon complaints from the public, governmental and other bodies and amongst the media inter se against alleged infringements of the Code of Ethics.

**2.0 Audit Firm Required**  
After expiry of the term of its previous Auditor as per MCT policy, the Council is now looking for a reputable audit firm to undertake statutory external audit of its Financial Statements for the period ending 31st December 2021 in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and other relevant regulations.

**The audit firm required must at least meet the following basic criteria:**

- Be registered by National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) and have valid certificate of practice;
- Have a VAT/TIN registration and trading license;
- Have proven experience in auditing donor-funded projects;
- Be internationally recognized; and
- Have proven track record in providing timely, cost effective and value-for-money audit.

MCT would wish to have the following information from

tenders for evaluation, therefore, include them in tender proposal:

- Firm's profile with proper contact addresses;
- Details of the proposed audit team and qualifications of the team members;
- Audit approach and methodology expected to be applied in accomplishing the assignments; and
- Audit fees and other audit expenses and conditions for payments.

It is important to note that omission of any information requested under item 2.0 may render the tender proposal non – responsive. Also note that the tender winner may not necessarily be the lowest bidder.

**3.0 Tender Submission**  
Tender document in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked "Tender for Audit of MCT Financial Statements 2021" must be delivered to the following address by registered post or deposited below **on or before 11.00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, August 03, 2021** with TZS 200,000 cash as non-refundable fee. Payments in cheque and other forms shall not be accepted for whatsoever reason.

Kindly, note that telegraphic, telex, e-mail and other electronic tender proposals as well as late tender proposals shall not be considered whatever the circumstances.

Secretary to the Tender Board,  
Media Council of Tanzania,  
Tegeta Skanska, Along Bagamoyo Road,  
House Number KUN/MTN/532,  
P. O Box 10160,  
Dar es Salaam.

Two copies of proposals, one original and a copy, shall be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend the opening at the Media Council of Tanzania offices, located in Tegeta Skanska, along Bagamoyo Road, House No. KUN/MTN/532.

The tender documents shall be opened in public on the deadline for the submission of tender documents (August 03, 2021 at 11.00am). Bidders whose documents do not comply with initial requirements shall be disqualified openly for the next evaluation stage during the ceremony.

SECRETARY TO THE TENDER BOARD  
MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA



## Charter firm obtains IATA validation nod

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

COASTAL Travels Limited has been awarded an International Air Transport Association (IATA) Standard Safety Assessment (ISSA) making it the first plane charter firm in Africa to validate its compliance to globally accepted safety standards and recommended practices.

The IATA Standard Safety Assessment (ISSA) program is an internationally recognized and accepted evaluation system designed to assess operational, management and control systems of an airline or charter company.

Speaking shortly after receiving the certificate in Dar es Salaam yesterday, managing director Maynard Mkumbwa said the achievement is a reflection of the airline's commitment to safety and compliance with the dynamic aviation market today. That relates particularly to how it affects the travel market globally, he stated.

"It is critical that airline operators raise their standards with regard to safety and compliance. This is what Coastal Travels has achieved with this certification from IATA," he said.

Mkumbwa said the airline has been focusing on safety and that has made it one of its top agendas after completion of two years of vital training and assessments for its pilots and hence introducing two crew MCC (multi-crew coordinated) mode in all its flights.

"We are now digging deeper. Our team goes through regular re-evaluation - there is a constant eye on our day-to-day operations and ensuring that we are following our standard operating procedures," he said.

"It is an everlasting journey with an elusive destination, but it contributes to passenger reassurance and comfort. That chronic sense of unease is what will keep us alert and ready to respond," he declared.

The continual training and assessment of its pilots has further evolved, as they have established a standards department responsible for ensuring that all of its pilots and flights follow the Coastal standard.

"We take feedback from multiple sources, including our own internal reporting, feedback from customers and other operators, to bring our teams to task."

Mkumbwa mentioned some of the benefits and opportunities for ISSA certification as Reduction of redundant audits, marketing and commercial advantages such as codeshares and interlines agreements, Reduction of insurance premiums and Preliminary step to IOSA (IATA Operational Safety Audit).

IATA Vice President for Africa, Kamil Al Awadhi said that ISSA certificate for coastal travels Limited is just a begging of its safety assurance journey and its huge success, therefore they should maintain safety standards per the ISSA standards.

Al Awadhi urged Coastal Travels Limited to issue its ISSA certificate to its agents so that they award goes far and become well known in the country and other countries.

Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority Acting Director Safety Regulation, Clara Mpili said ISSA is a program in which small airlines accept and enter into an agreement with the International Aviation Organization (IATA) therefore coastal Travels Limited have been qualified and it's a huge progress for Tanzania especially airlines sector.

"Airlines are audited in accordance with the criteria and regulations of the IATA organization, if the company is able to meet the criteria it is licensed, in Africa, Coastal travel of Tanzania is the ones who have ISSA licenses and have been registered with IATA. Coastal Travel will be monitored regularly to ensure that they are performing well and complying with standards" said Mpili.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (L, foreground) in jovial mood yesterday alongside residents of Kisabi village in Kibaha District, Coast Region, after resolving a long-standing land-related dispute between them and an investor. Photo: Correspondent Hassan Mabuye

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

LANDS, Housing and Human Settlements Development Minister, William Lukuvi has resolved a seven-year old land conflict pitting one investor—Dimara Company and Kisabi villagers.

Lukuvi did so during his recent visit to areas with land conflicts in Coast Region.

At Kisabi village, the minister directed all invaders who appropriated land plots to be evicted and relocated to the 51-acre land that was recently returned to the government.

He gave the instructions to the Kibaha District Council to revive the land boundary of the area for

## Minister solves seven-year land conflict in Coast tour

better land use through surveying and sale, in collaboration with the investor.

He said he was not ready to tolerate invaders in areas that are legally owned by investors.

"I have decided to come to Coast Region because you lead in invading land areas without following the laws. My job is to protect those who own land by law, including customary land laws. I want to restore respect," he

said.

He said the villagers will be relocated to the 51-acre land area whose title deed was revoked by the president and returned to the government, and they will have to pay for the title deeds after the area is surveyed.

He also directed regional and district commissioners to visit areas with land conflicts and evict invaders to eliminate this illegal practice.

He warned land officers to make sure that when they refer to the minister names of undeveloped areas, they should do so justly and with evidence," underlining that disciplinary measures will be taken against those who go against this directive.

Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge early week launched a campaign to end land conflicts in areas that are have authorised legal occupancy.



National Assembly deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L, with microphone) addresses motorbike and three-wheeler taxi operators in Mbeya city on Wednesday. She was closing special training for them on road traffic laws and regulations. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

## Mweka builds hostel, students in line for Bugiri-Chato field tours

THE College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka (CAWM-Mweka) has constructed a students' hostel for more than 2.4bn/-, a move aimed at improving performance among scholars who now have to walk 16 kilometres to Moshi town for accommodation.

Speaking during an inspection tour by the Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Damas Ndumbaro, the project's chief engineer Cyprian Moshia explained that construction of the dormitory has been completed by 50 per cent.

"The ongoing construction of the hostel that has the capacity of accommodating 294 students at once has 85 bedrooms whereby 15 of them are self-contained and we are going to complete them within the coming four months," he said

The minister expressed satisfaction to the pace at which

construction of the hostel was being done while emphasizing the importance of sustainable safety for academic performance of the students.

The minister paid tribute to the board of governors and the management for accomplishments in viable wildlife management and boosting tourism.

He commended the CAWM-Mweka leadership for introducing new programs which he said would help to solve various conservation and wildlife management challenges.

"I would like to applaud the college for this important step and I believe that employers and other tourism stakeholders will see these

new programs as an opportunity to enhance their professional capacity to increase operational efficiency," he stated.

The CAWM-Mweka Rector, Jafari Kideghesho underscored that the college has started taking students to newly introduced national parks starting with the Burigi-Chato national park for feasible conservation and tourism. The college will continue taking students for field trips to other newly introduced national parks, he said.

"On behalf of the CAWM-Mweka community, I would like to congratulate President Samia Suluhu Hassan as we recognize that she has done justice to the

natural resources and tourism sectors," pointing out that under her leadership the government has battled the chronic challenge of poaching, which threatened the presence of wildlife especially elephants in a very short period.

"That is why we are making every effort to improve our college so as to complement her efforts," the rector emphasised

He further highlighted that the college plans to increase the number of local and foreign students after the completion of the new hostel.

CAWM-Mweka has so far released more than 9,000 students working in various wildlife management and tourism entities, he added.

## Covid Delta variant: Pastor for vigilance

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

WARENESS on the COVID-19 Delta variant has been launched upon groups of churches for the reinforcement of measures to prevent the rapid replication of the virus in gatherings organized in places of worship.

An awareness session took place late last week in the City Harvest chapel, a Pentecostal church, under the coordination of pharmacist Christopher Msemu who for over 30 years has worked as a medical officer and as a pastor.

He said the third wave of COVID-19 is more ferocious than the Beta and Alpha viruses earlier, noting that information from organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO) corroborate the view that currently available vaccines can assist in containing the virus, cautioning people to be careful because viruses only operate on host cells like human beings, animals and plants.

"Themselves as viruses, they have no harm but they enter a host cell they develop very fast, they propagate themselves and they create illnesses," he explained.

Msemu underscored that the Delta variant is more infectious than the previous viruses, noting that initially young people were sort of safe and those considered at high risk were those above 60 years. The current situation is different because youths are equally at risk, he emphasised.

"We need to be more vigilant, making sure that we take infection prevention control measures which include wearing face masks, avoiding unnecessary gatherings, using sanitisers whenever possible, and making sure that one washes hands with running water and soap as advised by local medical experts

and the World Health Organisation," he specified.

Key characteristics of the COVID-19 Delta variant is that they change form when in host cells and have a higher affinity to multiply themselves than the other variants.

"It is true that the Christian community has been trying its level best to ensure that social distancing and other preventive measures are observed to make sure that people are not cross infecting one another but that doesn't stop them from being more watchful," he told the gathering.

The health authorities have gone as far as preparing short video clips to educate parents and school owners to ensure that infection control measures are observed for kids who go to school by bus, he said. "Bus owners and school administration should make sure that they are observing prevention measures particularly because this variant is also causing havoc in that age group which initially were thought to be safe," he pointed out

Children under eight years should not use masks especially those with a health complication like asthma or cardiac complications, he said, noting that the health authorities trust that these children will be identified and families informed on how to cope with the current situation as the kids will be more at risk if they use masks.

"The lungs of the younger ones are still developing so exposing them to longer times in using masks will be risky to them. Some of them might develop other illnesses which have not yet been identified," he cautioned.

Parents also need to train and counsel their kids on how to behave in public environments so as to shun gatherings that may get them infected, he added.





Masasi district commissioner Claudia Kitta (in black-and-blue dress) views machines used in the making of charcoal from cashewnut and groundnut peels as well as coconut shells at a village in the district yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasri

## Posts and ZIC ink agreement

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Insurance Corporation (ZIC) has entered into an agreement with the Tanzania Postal Corporation (TPC) to expand its operational scope and increase the efficiency of its services all while facilitating access to insurance services especially in rural areas.

The Permanent Secretary, President's Office (Finance and Planning) Dr Juma Malik Akili said the move would help to increase revenue for both organizations.

He called on various government agencies and institutions on the Mainland and Zanzibar to establish operational relationships to increase the scope of service delivery.

Speaking at the signing ceremony yesterday, Dr Akili said through such agreement stakeholders are in a better position to reduce operational costs, expand the scope of services and therefore increase revenue.

"This agreement means that Zanzibar Insurance Corporation can now provide its services nationwide through existing offices of the Postal Corporation. This is a good business strategy and I urge other organizations to follow," he emphasised.

The two organizations need to ensure that they make annual self-assessment to determine effectiveness of the partnership, he said, observing that the government will work close with the organizations to ensure that "the partnership does not break but encourage more organizations follow their example."

On his part, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport, Amour Hamil Bakari, assured Dr. Akili that the government is already committed to ensuring that it vigorously protects the relationship while continuing to encourage other institutions and

organizations to follow suit.

Speaking at the event earlier, ZIC Director General Arafat Haji and Acting Isles Postmaster General Macrice Mbodo mentioned three key partnership areas to include agency role by the Postal Corporation to ZIC.

These include the use of Postal Corporation network to deliver documents and letters and finally to look at and use available opportunities between the two organizations, including buildings and land resources.

"Through this partnership, there are ZIC services that will be used by the Postal Corporation including the Insurance Service on the Postal Corporation's assets like motor vehicles and buildings. The implication of what we have done here is that everywhere the Post Office is located Zanzibar Insurance Corporation is present too," said Arafat.

The decision will reduce operational costs, increase revenue and enhance customer service that was previously not reached by the insurance agency, he said.

For his part, Mbodo emphasized that the partnership would be more productive for all parties, especially at a time when the postal service, with more than 350 branches across the country has also invested heavily in digital services.

"We also believe that through online shop we can sell and advertise ZIC services all over the country and around the world. We believe this partnership will continue to attract other stakeholders to come and cooperate with us because the Post Office is here to serve everyone," he declared.

ZIC board chairman, Ambassador Juma Abdallah Ali, said apart from the practical and economic benefits, the partnership will help improve the existing relationship between the Mainland and Zanzibar as services from the two organizations will reach people in both sides.

## TMRC lists 8.9bn/- in third tranche DSE bond issuance

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd (TMRC) has listed a 8.9bn/- bond at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), providing investors with more room to access funds for housing and settlements development initiatives.

This is the third segment of the five-year 120bn/- corporate bond programme which the TMRC will issue in tranches.

Speaking during the event, the commissioner for financial sector development in the Treasury, Dr Charles Mwamwaja hailed TMRC for taking up its role of improving the housing sector by financing affordable loans using stock markets.

TMRC has enabled the floating of reduced interests for loans, with beneficiaries of its mortgage loans

being low income earners apart from middle and high income earners, he stated, noting that the government's zeal is to enable citizens to get safe and better homes.

Before TMRC was introduced ten years ago the average mortgage loans interest charge stood at 25 per cent, but soon after it commenced operations the rate dropped to 16 per cent at present. Loan payment period has been extended from five to seven years to 15 to 25 years, he elaborated.

TMRC and other institutions need to continue working hard to ensure that more people access affordable mortgage loans.

TMRC chief executive officer Oscar Mgaya said the third tranche listed on Thursday is a follow up issuance after successful issuance of tranche one and two which were

oversubscribed by 4 and 2 per cent respectively in 2018 and 2019.

For the third tranche the company managed to collect 8.89bn/- thus surpassing the target of collecting 7bn/-, an over subscription of seven percent, he said.

This tranche has performed better due to investors and citizens' awareness, while also showing how TMRC is trusted by local and foreign investors, he asserted.

Moremi Marwa, the DSE chief executive officer, said the amount to be collected from this corporate bond sale will provide cheap loans to people and finance other development projects in order to improve the housing sector.

The number of banks offering mortgage loans has increased to 31 as of March from three in 2010 and mortgage interest has decreased

to 16 and 19 per cent from 22 and 24 per cent respectively, he elaborated.

Marwa urged that banks, financial institutions and district councils join capital markets so as to access funds and facilitate implementation of various development projects with their areas.

TMRC is a private sector financial institution established in 2011 to support banks in mortgage lending by refinancing their mortgage portfolios. The company has recorded impressive growth in interest income, net interest income in refinance and pre-finance mortgages over the last five financial years.

Each financial indicator grew at compounded annual growth rate of 47 percent, 19 percent and 40 percent respectively during the period 2012 to December 2017.

## Geita RC showers praise on mining firm for empowering entrepreneurs

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Regional Commissioner Rosemary Senyamule has commended the Geita Gold Mine Ltd capacity building program for entrepreneurs, run by GGML in collaboration with the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

Senyamule paid a familiarisation visit to GGML last week for a firsthand view of different mining operations.

Accompanied by regional and district security committee members, the new RC was interested to learn how GGML conducts its business in compliance with set government regulations.

"I have learned from the media that GGML had been the recipient of several awards as a top taxpayer and a leading mining company. On this first visit I would like to commend GGML for the manner in which you conduct your business and simultaneously fulfil your corporate social responsibility obligations," she said.

She expressed admiration for the capacity building program, noting that it helps to empower Geita locals to get business opportunities from GGML, thus it is commendable because it uplifts Geita's sustainability. "I urge GGML to execute more projects with sustainability impact even after the life of the mine," she told her hosts.




Summarising the company's achievements over the past 21 years, partnerships manager Manace Ndoroma highlighted GGML's commitment to the sustainable development of the Geita community.

"We have continuously demonstrated social investment commitment by actively partnering

with the government in improving social services including education, health, water and roads as well as other economic activities for the community surrounding the mine. GGML has spent over 30bn/- to execute several community projects in partnership with Geita local authorities after the amendment of the Mining Act in 2017," he added.



Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (C) holds talks with health stakeholders and Germany's Ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess (2nd-L), who have just been on a tour of health facilities and sisal plantations in the region. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchala

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**  
**END OF HDIF PROGRAMME**

The Palladium Group-led consortium has been implementing the UKAID-funded Human Development Innovation Fund programme (HDIF) since September 2013, working closely with the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

The HDIF programme was initiated with the aim to identify and support innovative and market-driven solutions that have the potential to create social impact in Education, Health and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) across Tanzania. For over the past 7 years, HDIF focus has been on providing financial and technical support to innovative projects, catalysing the Tanzanian innovation ecosystem, and contributing to the improvement in innovation enabling environment through sharing learning, convenings and engagements with key stakeholders. The programme has achieved and learnt a lot through the 48 funded projects, 27 start-ups supported through various innovation challenges, the many learning workshops and convenings for various stakeholders, through the curation of and support to numerous innovation events including the most successful Innovation Week. Through these initiatives and many others, HDIF has contributed immensely to the growth of the Tanzanian innovation ecosystem.

After close to 8 years of implementation, the HDIF programme will be closing on 31st July 2021, paving way to other initiatives such as the UNDP-coordinated FUNGUO Programme which will sustain the innovation ecosystem support work.

For anyone with any pending claims with the HDIF programme or Palladium Group Tanzania Ltd, please get in touch with our Director of Finance & Administration, Mr. Revocatus Vedasto at [revocatus.vedasto@thepalladiumgroup.com](mailto:revocatus.vedasto@thepalladiumgroup.com).

**BY MANAGEMENT**



FRIDAY 16 JULY 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Ministry shouldn't 'hide' from land conflicts logic

THESE are new ideas on how to resolve land-related wrangles pitting livestock keepers against farmers in various regions, with regional commissioners tasked to form committees of relevant experts to assess the conflicts and propose solutions.

The Livestock and Fisheries ministry issued an appeal to this effect in a recent meeting with Coast Region government officials while on a two-day tour of the region. The region is one of those which have experienced a series of such rows, and hence the need for the committees.

While the reports talk of what the ministry said and it is evidently expected that regional authorities will take up the matter, it isn't clear enough if there is a reciprocal sentiment that this method will yield the results expected.

For instance, what was aired is that local leaders said there are conflicts that have been running for decades, and that they are costly to the nation and must be put to an end.

It is easy to see that these leaders wanted a solution from the government, not the government to ask them to find a solution.

Yet this is the gist of what the ministry apparently directed, for instance in setting out the terms of references for the committees of experts, that they should visit conflict-hit areas and discuss the issues at the district and village levels.

The crucial part is that the experts will interview the relevant parties to find those aggrieved so as to propose solutions. The committees are expected to identify areas that have been invaded by so that steps are taken against those in the wrong.

Though it is unavoidable that

the picture has to be balanced somewhat, in which case the committees will need to identify the actual needs in regard to livestock infrastructures, it is something else to figure out exhaustively the livestock populations and their locations.

It is unclear if the herders' population could be cooperative enough in this, as they need the presence of economic facilities and welfare provisions without 'being counted'.

Seeing their needs differently from those of local residents won't reassure them in participating in those interviews or surveys - indeed, as part of suggested solutions catering for them too.

For better results, the government ought to have worked for a specific mode of resolving the issues in question, including convening meetings with regional officials on measures to implement the recommendations.

The idea of forming committees to make in-depth assessments is one step, while figuring out the solutions to the land-related rows in Coast Region or elsewhere is another.

This is because the underlying causes go beyond regional capacities, with migratory herders staunchly believing that they have the right to settle anywhere, not by law but basing on traditions that lie beyond the law.

What makes them 'stubborn' with respect to the conflicts is that customs give them the legitimacy to occupy and use open land.

Thus, unless land rights are redefined to have ownership of defined land, and not by merely 'plans' of land use in this or that district, scuffles will persist. The ministry's stand on this should be unequivocal.

## Deloitte East Africa financial advisory fine, as Covid-19 waves unpredictable

A GLIMMER of hope was being raised on economies in the East Africa region, with a report saying they could rebound with a growth rate of three per cent this year.

The just-released report, by global audit and financial analysis firm Deloitte, looks at the economic impact of Covid-19 on Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda.

The company says that East African economic activity will likely pick up this year with a three per cent growth in comparison to 0.9 per cent last year.

That is on the assumption of other things being - that is, that Covid-19 rates won't rise any further. But listening to reports in Uganda and even in the more transparent situation in Tanzania at present, it is hard to say that the pandemic is scaling down. There is reason for optimism, all the same.

One clear reason is that, with the ongoing vaccinations roll out in advanced countries the global economy will be more open than earlier.

This is because lockdowns are becoming rarer now that sprouts of Covid-19 are being met with greater vaccination, and weaker exposure to fatal infections.

The Covid-19 picture at the local level isn't all that reassuring but the wider outlook is positive, first for the global economy rebounding, vaccine roll out in Tanzania, and a gathering speed of the rollout elsewhere in the region.

Yet the fact of having a different

sort of virus compared with the beginning, and its sharper infection and fatality rate, is worrying.

There is hence no doubt that there will be greater private consumption and domestic demand. However, as the presenters of the report noted, there is a recurrence of lockdowns, slow vaccine roll-out across the region, restriction in movements and budgetary pressures in major economies - and all this will have a negative impact.

What is somewhat unsettling but nevertheless true is that the pandemic is now considered part of the new normal, though navigating through this new reality is expected to be bumpy and slow.

This is meanwhile as the clear optimism that full recovery and rebound is on the line for 2021 is uncertain, which the report admits.

But it does so on an ascending note, virtually predicting it, while regional hospitals now need ready supplies of medical oxygen facilities and cylinders as the third wave seems to be picking up.

There is thus trouble along the way and 2021 looks more like a better year for outward flows, but vaccines could help.

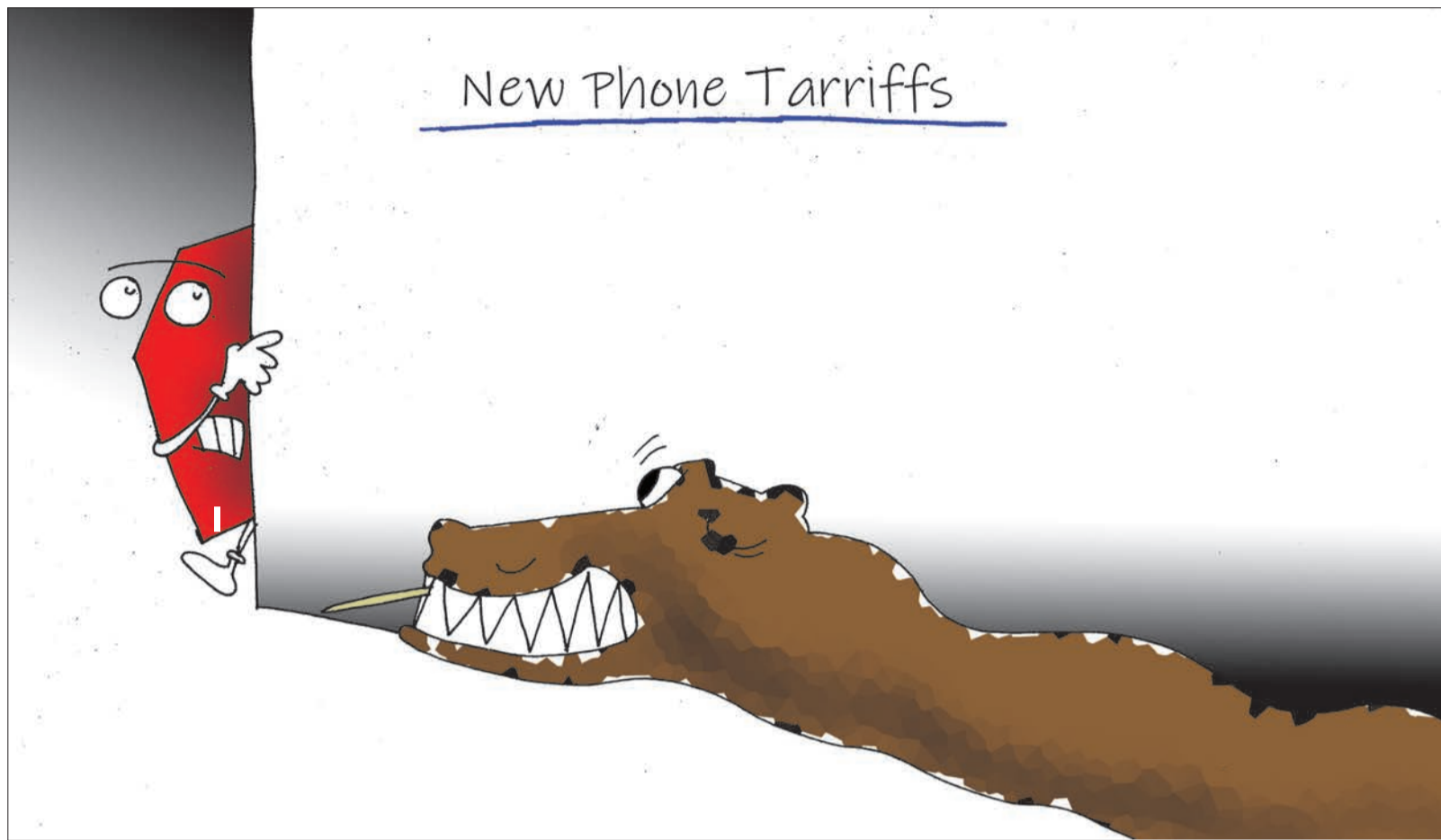
The vaccine record in major economies isn't reassuring, though, as lockdowns and partial openings remain, with regional governments making decisions.

The Delta variety threat is rising, whether it is in India where it started or Europe, etc. That hardly augurs well for infection rates in our own country, and hence the need for continued vigilance and the heeding of advice by experts.

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## US Independence Day, the Delta variant and the relentless Covid pandemic story

By Jon Allsop

OVER the Fourth of July (US Independence Day) weekend last year, with the pandemic raging in the US, then-President Donald Trump gave a pair of speeches in which he downplayed the threat of the coronavirus and played up the threat of rampaging left-wing mobs.

Swathes of the press characterised his rhetoric as "dark and divisive", implicitly situating it, as I wrote at the time, in stark contrast to America's post-revolutionary trajectory of shared purpose.

Over the Fourth of July weekend this year, with the Covid-19 pandemic having waned thanks to a speedy rollout of effective vaccines, President Joe Biden gave a speech that was altogether more palatable to the pundit class.

"History tells us that when we stand together, when we unite in common cause, when we see ourselves not as Republicans or Democrats but as Americans, there is simply no limit to what we can achieve," he said.

"Today, we see the results of unity of purpose. For together we are beating the virus," he added.

CNN and MSNBC carried the speech live. Fox opted not to, but did show it later.

It wasn't just Biden's speech - a number of outlets and TV shows used the Independence Day holiday itself as a peg to recentre the pandemic in the national conversation. Some of the coverage had a sweeping, retrospective quality.

"We have gone from the leading example among industrialised countries of how not to handle a pandemic to a nation tentatively declaring its independence from the virus as other countries face renewed lockdown," Chuck Todd said, at the top of Meet the Press.

The American television journalist is the 12th and current moderator of NBC's Meet the Press. He also hosts MTP Daily on MSNBC and is the political director for NBC News.

Not that the retrospection meant finality. Biden's warning that the pandemic isn't yet over trickled down through news stories and segments.

And a lot of the coverage dwelled on the monster at the White House garden party: the Delta variant, a more transmissible strain of Covid-19 already dominant in many countries, is now gaining a foothold across the US.

While the hopeful allusions to Independence Day were often national in scope, and maybe even nationalistic, coverage of the variant emphasized regional disparities in vaccination take-up within the US, and international disparities in vaccine access.

At the top of ABC's This Week, Martha Raddatz reported on worrying levels of vaccine hesitancy in West Virginia; on Meet the Press, Todd interviewed Dr. Seth Berkley, of the international vaccine alliance COVAX.

"We have to keep in mind that this may not be the last variant," Berkley said, of the Delta variant, adding: "We're not really there yet in terms of getting the coverage we need."

As media attention has grown along with the prevalence of the variant in the US, there has been some debate as to the proper proportion between the two.

Last week, CNN's Oliver Darcy acknowledged that the variant is "a serious story that warrants serious coverage", but argued that the press should be careful to situate it within "the big picture about the state of the pandemic here in the US", which is "quite good" - as long as you're vaccinated.

Dr James Hamblin, a science writer, told Darcy that the media are apt to cover potential problems over things broadly being fine, adding that hypothetical alarmism about the variant threat, in the absence of actionable information, risks causing reader fatigue.

Dr Jonathan Reiner, a professor of medicine at George Washington University, argued that "the big story" of this moment "is the success story" of mass vaccination and American resilience.

Not every expert agrees, though. Dr Leana Wen, also of GWU, told Darcy that while vaccinated people "are generally fine to go about their normal lives", the press has been partially responsible for giving unvaccinated people "the false impression that the pandemic is over".

More broadly, while vaccines are effective against the variant, questions remain about the precise extent of that effectiveness.

For now, a central disagreement here seems to be the extent to which Covid-19 coverage should focus on people who are vaccinated as opposed to those who aren't.

This is an interesting debate, echoing broader questions around the media's duties to accuracy and actionability - and the balance between the two.

It's also, at this stage of the pandemic, a very American debate, reflecting a country that has both a lot of vaccines to distribute and a lot of people who aren't willing to take one, often - though by no means always - for explicitly political reasons.

Coverage in other countries where the Delta variant is spreading looks different, reflecting a lack of access to vaccines and/or more immediately concerning levels of viral spread.

The UK, for example, is quickly becoming a closely watched international story owing to the rapid spread of the variant there. The country has fully vaccinated many of its most vulnerable residents, but demand continues to outstrip supply, and cases have surged - though, crucially, hospitalisations and deaths have not to the same degree.

Perhaps as a consequence of these trends, British media coverage of the variant has focused less on the gulf between those who have been vaccinated and those who don't want to be, and more on collective risk - a phenomenon that has just come into sharper focus when UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson effectively confirmed that the majority of remaining coronavirus restrictions will end in two weeks.

The political right generally supports an end to restrictions, while many on the left see it as reckless with cases rising so sharply. That divide has been on full display in the pages of the nation's newspapers, which are, collectively, a reliable bellwether or "indicator" of partisan sentiment.

The right-wing Daily Mail took aim at "gloomy scientists", while The Sun pictured (PM) Johnson standing on a giant England flag with the headline "FREE LIONS", a reference to England's (currently successful in the rescheduled Euro 2020) soccer team, whose badge features three lions.

Left-leaning papers, by contrast, painted the reopening decision as a gamble. The left-leaning Daily Mirror went with the headline "MASKING FOR TROUBLE", a reference to Johnson's decision to scrap mask mandates.

Many factors here, including the opinionated orientation of leading newspapers, are specific to the UK. But the sweeping questions underpinning the coverage there - What constitutes the end of the pandemic? What is an acceptable daily case rate? What about deaths? What does normal look like? - are

universal.

In the US, raising them in the context of Independence Day resulted, at least in much topline framing, in a narrowness of focus and analogy - Give me liberty or give me Delta -when it may have been more fruitful to use a wider lens.

The Delta variant arriving in the US is an important story; so, too, is what America could send out to a world in which it is no longer a plucky or fearless underdog.

Reiner is right that the development of the vaccines constitutes a success story, but their international distribution, so far, does not. These are all global questions and challenges. Their answers are interdependent, not independent.

There is understandably more, much more, on the Covid-19 pandemic - one being distrust. Writing for Undark, Timothy DeLizza makes the case that media narratives around vaccine hesitancy in Red States reveal "a remarkable lack of curiosity and empathy regarding the complexity underneath these beliefs".

Conservative white vaccine skeptics are typically presented as anti-science conspiracy theorists, but poor white people, in particular, have legitimate reasons to mistrust the medical system, DeLizza argues.

"The suspicions felt in Black and Brown communities likely aren't all that different from the suspicions felt by White people," he writes, adding: "In each case, focusing on outlandish vaccine conspiracy theories glosses over genuine underlying concerns."

The Delta variant is meanwhile increasingly causing concern in Israel, despite the high level of vaccination in that country.

Health officials there have said that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has only proven 64 per cent effective against catching the variant there, though they also said that it remains more than 90 per cent effective against hospitalisation and severe illness.

Some health experts have challenged the methodology behind the analysis by the country's Health ministry. A British study previously found the Pfizer vaccine to be 88 per cent effective at preventing symptomatic illness.

Covid-19 cases may be at low levels in the US, but the pandemic continues to intersect with other major news stories.



# Covid-19 pandemic puts renewed focus on media sustainability in Zimbabwe

By Lungelo Ndhlovu

**E**NSURING the sustainability of digital media has always been challenging, and especially so during Covid-19.

While media organisations in Zimbabwe are searching for new business models, including turning to the government for support, media practitioners have acknowledged that the challenges are not only financial.

"The impact of Covid-19 on journalism in Zimbabwe has been huge. It shifted everything to virtual and digital," said Samm Farai Monro, creative director at Magamba Network.

He added: "You see, the transition that was happening to digital use was going to take another five years or so, but because of Covid-19 it was condensed into the space of a year. There has been a rapid shift into digital."

However, the enhanced use of digital platforms isn't enough. The harm inflicted by Covid-19 on companies' bottom lines cannot be overstated, according to Nigel Nyamutumbu, a programme manager at the Media Alliance of Zimbabwe, a coalition of media organisations in the country.

"What we have observed over this pandemic period is that most media organisations are downsizing. Some have actually gone as far as retrenching, and there is a

serious dwindling of resources whether you look at advertisers, sales and circulation - which is something of concern," said Nyamutumbu.

Also of concern is the fact that the government didn't prioritise financial relief for news organisations, despite the critical role they play in informing the public, noted Nyamutumbu.

He elaborated: "In this Covid-19 era, access to information is what anchors people's survival - and it is tied to citizens' right to life. Obviously, we need to reflect on adapting, first by investing in digital media or online media, embracing convergence and ensuring that we begin to reflect on how we can monetise these online spaces."

Monro agreed that monetising online spaces should now be a priority as there is an increasing rise of alternative digital media startups and community media organisations in Zimbabwe.

"For media companies to be sustainable in the new normal, I think there has to be a complete rethinking of the business models of media companies. I think everything has changed, so there has to be a really new innovative way of approaching news, realising the fact that digital is here to stay," he said.

For newsrooms to survive post Covid-19, they need to rethink the funding models beyond the tradi-

tional advertisers and sales, said Nyamutumbu.

He noted: "We need to be developing sustainability models that are within the reality and context of the global family of nations that are going to be under lockdown for at least some time. People have also now re-adapted to how they consume news and information."

Njabulo Ncube, a national coordinator at the Zimbabwe National Editors Forum, meanwhile said that most news organisations lack a back-up plan to deal with the pandemic's challenges.

"It is a tricky situation for the industry; you will find that most media organisations don't have a fall-back position. That is why there is an outcry for a relief fund," he said.

Monica Mutsvangwa, the country's information, publicity and broadcasting services minister, acknowledged that there is a need to safeguard the media's future in the post-Covid-19 era.

Speaking in a televised address to mark World Press Freedom Day last May 3, she said that the Zimbabwean government was committed to supporting the country's news media by allowing them to be part of essential services and ensuring journalists that freely carried out their duties during the national lockdown.

Still, media practitioners believe that the government needs to do even more to provide resources



and policies that can support media sustainability.

This would build on previous efforts such as the existing broadcasting fund established under the Access of Information and

Protection of Privacy Act.

"It is our considered view that a multi-tax regime has to be reviewed to support this critical sector, and that is where the government plays a critical role," said

Nyamutumbu.

**A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.**

## What you need to know about the coronavirus right now

**T**HE Australian state of Victoria was ordered into a five-day lockdown yesterday following a spike in COVID-19 infections, joining Sydney as the country's two main population hubs battle an outbreak of the Delta variant.

From midnight, the state of 6.6 million people was told to stay home except for grocery shopping, essential work, exercise, healthcare and getting vaccinated. The lockdown in Australia's second-largest city of Melbourne is its fifth since the pandemic began a year and a half ago.

Indonesia is already grappling with a "worst-case scenario", a senior minister said yesterday, adding the government was preparing for a further climb in cases.

Indonesia began its vaccine rollout in January, but only about 5.8% of its 270 million people have received both shots.

Wednesday's tally of more than 54,000 cases was the latest of many peaks in the past month, and up more than tenfold on the number of infections at the start of June.

Singapore races to find karaoke guests, hostesses

Singapore was racing yesterday to find people linked to a growing cluster of infections that were traced to KTV lounges in a fresh outbreak that has prompted a wider crackdown on vice and nightspots breaking social distancing rules.

The city state has been largely successful in preventing the spread of virus, but the advent of the Delta variant has heightened concern.

The 56 new local cases reported on Wednesday were the highest daily tally in 10 months, and three-quarters were traced to KTV clubs.

Thailand says AstraZeneca asked to delay vaccine delivery

AstraZeneca has asked Thailand to extend the timeline for the delivery of 61 million doses of its vaccine by five months, a deputy minister said on Thursday, a move likely to further disrupt the country's sluggish vaccine rollout.

The reported request points to a slow production ramp-up at its local manufacturing partner, which had initial production and delivery issues.



Shoppers wearing protective face masks line up to scan a QR code before entering a store on the first day of eased coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions for the state of Victoria following an extended lockdown in Melbourne, Australia (File photo)

Germany's BioNTech denied it was in talks with Thailand's Thonburi Healthcare Group for a deal to import 20 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine to Thailand.

Most Britons want restrictions to remain  
Two thirds of people in Britain think at least some coronavirus restrictions should stay in place after July 19 when Prime Min-

ister Boris Johnson plans to do away with them in England, according to an opinion poll published on Thursday.  
Sixty-six percent of people taking part

in the poll by Kantar Public wanted some, most or all of the restrictions to remain and 60% thought everyone should continue to wear face masks in shops and on public transport.

Johnson has said people in England should use their own judgement about whether to use masks after July 19.

Thousands rally in Greek capital against vaccinations

More than 5,000 anti-vaccine protesters rallied in Athens on Wednesday to oppose Greece's coronavirus vaccinations programme.

Shouting "take your vaccines and get out of here!" and calling on Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to resign, the protesters gathered outside parliament under a heavy police presence.

Police in Paris clashed with protesters railing against President Emmanuel Macron's plan to require a COVID-19 vaccine certificate or negative PCR test to gain entry to bars, restaurants and cinemas from next month.

Risk of COVID spread from athletes is 'zero', IOC chief says

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach said on Thursday there was "zero" risk of Games participants infecting Japanese residents with COVID-19, as cases hit a six-month high in the host city.

"Risk for the other residents of Olympic village and risk for the Japanese people is zero," Bach said, adding that Olympics athletes and delegations have undergone more than 8,000 coronavirus tests, resulting in three positive cases.

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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 HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	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 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUVAYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



## Move faster to cut emissions, developing world tells the rich

By Fiona Harvey

RICH countries must move faster to cut greenhouse gas emissions and provide financial assistance to their less wealthy counterparts to cope with the climate crisis, governments from the developing world have said.

Poor nations have been frustrated with the slow progress at the recent G7 leaders' summit and meetings of the G20 group of major economies.

More than 100 developing country governments have joined together in Thursday's demand for clear action from the rich world before Cop26, the vital UN climate talks to be held in Glasgow in November.

Cop26 is the most important meeting on the climate emergency since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015, and is intended to put the world on track to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Sonam P Wangdi of Bhutan, the chair of the least developed countries (LDC) group at Cop26, said: "Despite Covid understandably taking the headlines, climate change has been getting worse over the past year as emissions continue to rise and the lives and livelihoods on the frontline suffer."

"We vulnerable countries are not asking for much - just that richer countries, who have caused this problem, take responsibility by cutting their emissions and keeping their promise to help those their emissions have harmed."

Countries responsible for about two-thirds of global emissions have declared long-term targets of reaching net zero emissions by around the middle of this century, but many have not set out clear plans for doing so. Scientists say emissions must halve this decade to stay within 1.5C, beyond which extreme weather will take hold.

The LDC group has published five demands, calling for developed countries to bring forward and strengthen their national plans for cutting their emissions this decade; provide \$100bn (£73bn) a year in climate finance to the poor world; help poor countries to adapt to the ravages of extreme weather; accept their responsibilities in contributing to loss and damage to poor countries from the impacts of climate breakdown; and bring the Paris agreement into full effect.

One of the major sticking points for the Cop26 talks is the rich world's failure to make good on a promise originally made in 2009 that \$100bn a year in climate finance would flow to poor countries by 2020 to help them cut emissions and cope with the impacts of global warming.

Tanguy Gahouma-Bekale of Gabon, the chair of the Africa group of negotiators, said: "Developed countries are currently not pulling their weight or keeping their promises on their obligations to provide climate finance. Like any negotiation, you need to have faith that pledges and commitments will be met. In 2009 and 2015, they promised to deliver climate finance by 2020. Yet this is still to be met, and we don't have a clear plan to achieve it."

As the host of Cop26, the UK has caused particular concern among poor nations by cutting overseas aid by about a third, from 0.7% of GDP to 0.5%, a cut MPs confirmed in a vote this week. Climate experts, senior diplomats and political leaders in the developing world have repeatedly



said this sends a poor signal to developing countries, whose backing will be crucial to seal a climate deal at Glasgow ahead of Cop26.

Gahouma-Bekale said Cop26 "comes as countries are rebuilding from the Covid pandemic. This is a rare chance to build back better

and put the world on course for a safe climate."

The LDC group's five points are similar to the aims set out by the UK presidency, including strengthening targets on emissions cuts. In setting out their aims three months before the talks begin, however,

developing countries are showing their frustration with the slow pace of negotiations.

Mohamed Adow, the director of the think-tank Power Shift Africa, said that developing countries see the lack of progress being made by the likes of the G7 and G20 and

have fired the starting gun on the negotiations. "Considering the lack of leadership we've seen from richer countries, it's good we're seeing vulnerable nations upping the urgency," he added.

## Rwanda's fight against malaria gets \$53 million boost

By Nasra Bishumba

THE government has received a \$53m grant from the Global Fund as a contribution towards a whopping Rw295bn (\$280 million) required in malaria prevention and treatment efforts running between 2020 and 2024.

The Global Fund is a global partnership designed to accelerate the end of AIDS,

tuberculosis and malaria epidemics in more than 100 countries.

As of February 2019, the Global Fund had invested about US\$1.4 billion in Rwanda since 2003, and was running US\$210m in active grants.

However, Rwanda is not only a beneficiary but it is also a donor, having pledged \$3.5m to the Fund's Sixth Re-

plenishment between 2011 and 2022.

By September last year, the government had managed to obtain funding commitment of about \$206.8m (equivalent to 74 per cent) but was sourcing funds to a tune of \$73m to roll out a plan that is aimed at momentum towards eliminating malaria.

No details are available of the total amount that has so

far been received from the commitments.

In an exclusive interview, the Head of the Malaria and other Parasitic Infections Unit at the Rwanda Biomedical Centre, Dr Aimable Mbituyumuremyi, said that with effect from this month, the Global Fund package will be broken down and used over the next three years to cover specific areas.

Mbituyumuremyi explained that the funds will be impactful and will continue to play a significant role in reducing the number of malaria deaths and infections.

"The Global Fund money will mainly go to indoor residual spraying in six districts for the next three years, procurement of treated mosquito nets and procurement of malaria commodities which

include testing kits, malaria drugs, and supporting community health workers," he said.

In this phase though, the component of community health workers has been tweaked not only to include comprehensive social behavioural change communication based at community level as the main focus but also support in terms of in-

centives.

Besides the Global Fund, Rwanda also received funding from the US through the Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) to the tune of around \$18m.

This money will particularly go to spraying in three districts, procurement of mosquito nets and malaria drugs.

Meanwhile, Mbituyumuremyi said that the ongoing

## IFAD's new investment drive targets rural businesses, small-scale farmers

By Guardian Correspondent

RURAL businesses, which are vital for transforming food systems, will get a much needed boost from an ambitious new financing programme launched on Wednesday by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a UN agency.

The funding is part of IFAD's broader efforts to address rising hunger and poverty levels in the world's poorest countries.

The Private Sector Financing Programme (PSFP) is meant to spearhead an increase in much-needed private investment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), farmers' organizations and financial intermediaries servicing small-scale farmers, which are too often neglected by investors.

It will provide loans, risk management instruments (such as guarantees), and equity investments.

IFAD President Gilbert Houngbo said the agency can help countries end poverty and hunger. "But to achieve this, we urgently need to stimulate more private sector investments in rural areas and unlock the immense entrepreneurial potential of millions of rural SMEs and small producers. With access to capital, they can attract more investors and partners, grow their businesses and create employment opportunities - especially for young people and women."

With the growing hunger and poverty and the urgent need to make food systems more sustain-

able and equitable, 'business as usual' should not be an option, he stated.

"We need to innovate now. This is why IFAD is creating new instruments to catalyse increased private investments to rural areas where they are needed most."

As part of its launch, the PSFP announced its first loan of US\$5 million to a Nigerian social impact enterprise, BabbanGona, which has a strong background in successfully moving small-scale farmers from subsistence to a more market-oriented model.

The loan will help BabbanGona support 377,000 small-scale rice and maize producers in Nigeria with a comprehensive package of training, quality inputs and market services. BabbanGona will also store and sell the harvest on behalf of its farmers when prices are higher. They aim to create up to 65,000 jobs for women and 66,500 jobs for youth by 2025.

By committing these funds, the PSFP aims to stimulate larger contributions from other investors and help BabbanGona meet its target to raise \$150 million to reach millions of small producers.

Lack of financing and access to financial services prevents rural SMEs and small-scale farmers from harnessing opportunities offered by a growing demand for more diverse and nutritious food globally.

SMEs involved in food processing, packaging, transport and marketing are essential to small-scale farmers, providing them with ser-



vices, inputs, and market opportunities, which contribute to increasing their income and employment.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, financial service providers only met about 30 percent of the \$240 billion that rural households required in their demands for finance. In addition, the lending gap to agricultural SMEs was around \$100 billion annually in Sub-Saharan Africa alone.

IFAD aims to mobilise \$200 million for the PSFP from public, private and philanthropic sources to leverage a total of \$1 billion in private investments. This will improve the lives of up to five million small-scale farmers. The PSFP will focus its investments on job creation, women's empowerment, building farmers' resilience and accelerating climate change mitigation.

IFAD's investments, combined

with its 40 years of experience working with rural communities, global field presence and large portfolio in agriculture, give it an advantage in attracting private investors who may be cautious about investing in agriculture and rural economies.

The PSFP is part of IFAD's wider ambition to increase its engagement with the private sector to reach millions more rural people

and double its impact on eradicating hunger and poverty by 2030. To this end, in 2019 IFAD amended its founding agreement to enable it to invest directly in private sector entities.

Previously, IFAD only channelled investments to rural areas through grants and sovereign loans to governments. IFAD's loan to BabbanGona is its first loan to a private sector entity.



# Hints on Covid-19-time reporting on malnutrition

By Taylor Dibbert

**I**NCREASED unemployment rates and frequent lockdowns during the Covid-19 pandemic have limited families' access to food markets.

These two factors, among others, have led to an increase in food insecurity and negatively impacted people's health.

During an ICFJ webinar entitled "Malnutrition Before and After Covid-19," Dr Francesco Branca said disruptions in the food supply chain have led to price increases and heightened concerns about food security.

Dr Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development at the World Health Organisation, said 3 billion people in the world cannot afford a healthy diet - meaning that the food system is falling short of what's needed during the current health crisis.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us that food systems are vulnerable," he said, then went on to discuss the devastating effects the pandemic has had on people's nutrition and health as well as how social protection mechanisms such as health services have been insufficient.

Branca noted that children have been hit hard by malnutrition, as school closings eliminated an important source for nutritious meals.

Although data have been difficult to collect during the pandemic, some nutritionists anticipate that an additional 6.7 million children have experienced malnutrition during the past year - an increase of almost 15 per cent. There is an urgent need to ensure that children have continuous access to nutritious food throughout the remainder of the current global health crisis and beyond.

Branca said solutions include: promot-



ing access to nutritious, affordable diets; investing in maternal and child nutrition; scaling up services for the

detection and treatment of child wasting; maintaining access to nutritional meals at school for vulnerable chil-

dren; and expanding social protections to preserve access to both nutritious meals and essential services.

There is a lack of reporting in the media explaining why people living in poverty are struggling with malnutrition. Branca mentioned that people tend to generalise, when what's needed is a deeper exploration into the dynamics that drive poverty. It's a matter of understanding the circumstances behind the statistics, he said.

On the other hand, the positive stories include instances where there has been public investment in nutrition. "Ethiopia is a success story of stunting reduction," Branca said, noting that this was largely a result of government investment and intervention in a host of areas.

According to UNICEF, the Ethiopian government took decisive action "in health and other nutrition-specific sectors to put in place policies, programmes and large-scale interventions to significantly reduce all forms of malnutrition among the most vulnerable groups, young children and pregnant and lactating women."

Will Moore, CEO of the Eleanor Crook Foundation, meanwhile noted: "Most people don't know this, but in today's world malnutrition is still the leading cause of child deaths worldwide. For millions of families each and every year, malnutrition means the slow and painful death of a child."

**Taylor Dibbert is a programme manager at the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ).**

# China's high-quality development means more opportunities to world

BEIJING

**A**MID high uncertainties of global economic recovery from the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, China's resilient, stable and solid growth will pump more confidence and opportunities into the pandemic-ravaged world.

Data from China's National Bureau of Statistics showed on Thursday that the country's gross domestic product expanded 12.7 percent year on year in the first half of 2021, while other key economic indicators also demonstrated a steady momentum.

The double-digit growth is a powerful reflection of China's economic resilience. Nearly one year and a half into the pandemic, prospects of the global economy remain highly uncertain as new virus mutations and the accumulating death toll continues to raise concerns, and economic recoveries in different sectors and countries across the world are diverging.

As the first country to take the pandemic under control, China has made all-out efforts to provide medical supplies and vaccines to the world and stabilize global supply chains, which has greatly boosted heavily-hit manufacturing industries worldwide and international trade.

According to official figures, China has offered anti-pandemic supplies to over 200 countries and regions since the onset of the public health crisis. During the 2020 March-December period, China exported a total of 2.51 trillion yuan (390 billion U.S. dollars) of products such as laptops and mobile phones, meeting the enormous global demands when people were staying at home.

Helge Berger, the International Monetary Fund's China mission chief and assistant director in the Asia and Pacific Department, said China, as one of the world's largest economies, plays a large role in Asia's recovery and global recovery, not only due to its share in global growth, but also its growth spillovers.

What behind those visible products are China's complete industrial chain, fully-equipped infrastructures, advanced manufacturing clusters, as well as the new development philosophy the country adheres to, which features innovation, coordination, greenness, openness and sharing.

In its pursuit of quality economic development, China has been committed to working with the rest of the world for a more open and free global economy by promoting trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, and creating a more attractive business environment, so as to bring more cooperation opportunities to others and give further impetus to global growth.

From setting up free trade zones and ports to joining in free trade agreements, China is forging ahead with steadfast footsteps toward a more open and integrated world, although the international situation is increasingly complex, and economic globalization is riding into protectionist headwinds.

With a total of 21 pilot free trade zones so far, China has become a more popular destination for overseas investors. Foreign direct investment into the Chinese mainland, in actual use, surged 35.4 percent year on year to 481 billion yuan (74.5 billion dollars) in the first five months of this year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Compared with the



Workers work at the general assembly line of truck maker FAW Jiefang in Changchun, northeast China's Jilin Province, July 7, 2021. Xinhua

same period of 2019, the volume increased 30.3 percent.

In the latest American Business in China White Paper released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China, about two-thirds of survey respondents remain optimistic about growth opportunities in China and plan to increase their investments in the Asian country in 2021.

China's concrete measures to open up its market wider and expand win-win glob-

al cooperation have shown its sincere willingness to share opportunities of growth and development with the whole world.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), China is sharing its experience in a variety of pillars including trade, infrastructure development and people-to-people exchanges, Kenya-based international relations scholar Cavince Adhere said, noting that these pillars are crucial to the economic modernization of BRI

participating countries and overall global well-being.

Looking ahead, China will continue to follow the path of high-quality development with its doors opening even wider, and remain actively engaged in international cooperation and common growth of the world. Meanwhile, the global economy will also reap more opportunities and benefits from the country's development.

Xinhua

# RADIO One

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One



Radio One



# HELP TANZANIAN TECHNICIANS PERFORM BETTER, GOVT ADVISED

By Beatrice Philemon

**A** Dar es Salaam-based firm has appealed to the Industry and Trade ministry to carry out a countrywide survey to identify the number of technicians in the country, what they manufacture, the major challenges they commonly encounter and how they would like the government to support the national industrialisation drive.

Ramadhani Muzii, a technician with JPW Robot Machinery Company Limited, made the call in the city on Tuesday while briefing journalist on the main challenges he said technicians in the country are faced with in their activities as innovators and entrepreneurs.

He said the main idea is for the government to help them operate their businesses more effectively, with a view to benefit more from their education, training and experience.

"We need government supervision and other support because there are so many highly skilled innovators and technicians across the country who manufacture - and can manufacture - high-quality machines suitable for small, medium and large enterprises but they are not well-known and therefore do not earn enough from their activities," he said.

Muzii said the survey he had in mind would help the government to have enough accurate data on technicians in the country and therefore more effectively address the challenges they are faced with and therefore help both



JPW Robot Machinery Company Limited technician, Ramadhani Muzii (2nd-R) explain to a visitor on how bar soap making machines operate. This was at the just-ended 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair.

technicians and innovators deliver more and better on their needs and expectations.

"The Industry and Trade ministry should feel obliged to oversee and incentivise us more so that we can be known more globally for what we manufacture for industrial use and later have greater access to local and foreign markets," he said.

He noted that, with government supervision, it would be easier for them to import the machine tools they badly need instead of having to do so individually.

Muzii elaborated: "As technicians, we normally import modern electric motors, gear boxes and other tools from China without being very clear about basic things such as quality. Without government's support, it will be very difficult for most Tanzanian entrepreneurs to move from where they are and produce high-quality products that can compete with those from Asian and other countries."

With regard to start-up and running capital, he called on the government to help technicians access credit facilities to help them manufacture quality machines to meet market demand.

The ministry should also come up with more effective modalities of helping innovators and other manufacturers have reliable markets for what their products, he added.

He meanwhile made an impassioned appeal to the Tanzanian public to cultivate a culture of buying locally made machines and other products "because even our country produces all manner of superior quality goods, and that is why we need government support so that we fare even better and feed all sorts of markets more profitably".

## Innovator puts Tanzania on the map in the world of engineering

By Guardian Correspondent

MKONO-1, a locally developed 3D-printed functional prosthetic hand, has for quite some time given Tanzanian amputees an affordable solution for improved mobility and independence.

Charged by a simple mobile phone battery, the hand was developed by Tanzanian medical doctor Atish Shah and his RoverLabs co-founders to empower people with upper limb amputations.

The innovator, now, also a biomedical engineering master's candidate, put Tanzania on the map in the world of engineering in the Africa Prize Engineering for Innovation (APEI) organised by the UK Royal Academy of Engineering.

He is the fifth Tanzanian alumnus of the Africa Prize since 2015. That year, Tanzanian chemical engineer Doctor Askwar Hilonga won the Prize for his Nanofilter innovation, a low-cost sustainable water filtration system, to provide clean and safe drinking water.

In Tanzania, prosthetics are unaffordable for those in middle

and low-income communities, and no other battery-powered prosthetics are being developed in the region.

Across Africa, as little as 17 per cent of people with amputations can afford prosthetics or rehabilitative devices.

Mkono-1 is the first locally designed and manufactured myoelectric hand in Tanzania. The technology amplifies the electrical impulses of the amputated limb's muscle tissue, and these signals are processed to allow the user to move the hand.

Shah and his team at the Dar es Salaam-based RoverLabs are passionate about helping amputees regain access to economic opportunities as well as the confidence and independence that come with improved mobility.

Mkono-1 is manufactured using high-performance servomotors to mimic the movement of each finger, and multifilament braided high-tension strings to function as tendons. The microcontroller is the heart of the circuit.



It is battery-powered and can be recharged with a mobile phone charger. It requires minimal maintenance, and spare parts are readily available.

The RoverLabs team has tested three prototypes and continue to improve their design. Current development includes incorporating artificial

intelligence and machine learning algorithms, which will improve response time, giving users quicker reflexes.

The team is also looking to expand its market across East Africa and move into Central Africa, where up to 96 of every 1,000 people has an amputated

limb. Dr Shah and his colleagues said in a recent statement: "We found that the communities most likely to suffer major injuries like amputations are often those who can least afford prosthetics. Mkono-1 is our first step in providing more affordable options to people with mobility challenges, and we hope it will significantly change our customers' lives."

## YouTube' Shorts to rival TikTok in Kenyan market

NAIROBI

YOUTUBE has announced the arrival of the beta version of YouTube Shorts in Kenya, meant to rival TikTok.

Shorts offers new short-form video experience for users, as it creates short, catchy videos using mobile phones. Shorts, which was first announced in September 2020 in 26 countries, will now be available across more than 100 countries around the world where YouTube is available.

While short-form videos were already viewable on the platform, users in Kenya and around the world will for the first time access Shorts' creation tools. This will include a multi-segment camera that enables them to string multiple video clips together, the ability to record with music, control speed settings, and more.

"We want to make it easy and fun to create Shorts," said Todd Sherman, Global Product Manager for YouTube Shorts. "As we continue to build Shorts alongside our creators and artists, we will be adding more features for users to try", he added.

Timed with the product's international expansion, YouTube Shorts comes with a new set of features where users can add text to specific points in the video, automatically add captions to the Short, record up to 60 seconds with the Shorts camera, add clips from the phone's gallery to add to the recordings made with the Shorts camera and add basic filters to colour correct the Shorts, with more effects to come in the future.



Asked about why social media companies are copying each other, Mr Sherman responded that YouTube's design of short video experience began as an independent project and is by no means an attempt to copy what TikTok is doing.

Though the company believes Shorts will differentiate itself from TikTok by way of its connection to the larger YouTube platform, other social media players with huge following such as Instagram and Snapchat have done the same with Reels and

Spotlight, respectively.

The new features also include the ability to sample audio not only from other Shorts but also from videos all across YouTube. This includes billions of videos worldwide, and unlocking a new playground of creativity.

This means that users can give their creative spin on the content they love to watch on YouTube and help find a new audience - whether it is reacting to their favorite jokes, trying their hand at a creator's latest recipe, or re-enacting comedic

skits. Creators will be in control and will be able to opt out if they do not want their long-form video remixed.

When it comes to music, artists and creators will have a large library of songs to use in their Shorts from over 250 labels and publishers, including Universal Music Group's labels and publishing companies, Sony Music Entertainment and Sony Music Publishing, Warner Music Group and Warner Chappell Music, Believe, Merlin, Because Music, Beggars and Kobalt.

Helping people find Shorts to enjoy and creators get discovered is also a key component of the product experience. Ahead of the Shorts launch, YouTube introduced a row on its homepage especially for Shorts, launched a new watch experience that lets you easily swipe vertically from one video to the next, and will soon add a Shorts tab on mobile that makes it easier for users to watch Shorts with a single tap.

## Regulator restores subsidy to keep petrol prices unchanged

NAIROBI

THE energy regulator Wednesday opted to cut suppliers' sales margin by up to Sh7.31 a litre to keep petrol and diesel prices unchanged and defuse public outrage over a monthly review that would have pushed fuel costs to a historic high.

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) said petrol, diesel and kerosene prices would remain unchanged over the next month despite a rise in crude oil and cost of importing refined products.

A decision was made to keep the prices unchanged and cut the oil marketers' margin, which has been regulated by the State since 2010, in a move that will see the State compensate the dealers an estimated Sh2.8 billion at taxpayers' expense.

The marketers' margin for super petrol has been reduced for the second time in four months from Sh12.39 a litre to Sh8.82 over the month to August 14, representing a cut of Sh3.57.

This kept the cost of a litre of petrol at Sh127.14 in Nairobi and would have increased to Sh130.71 without the subsidy - a high in Kenya's history. Suppliers' margin on diesel was cut by Sh7.31 to Sh5.05 a litre, keeping the commodity at Sh107.66 instead of Sh114.97 in the absence of the price relief.

Recent price increases sparked anger among Kenyans, with the costly fuel unleashing pricing pressure across the economy and having ramifications on the cost of living measure.

The subsidy has been supported by billions of shillings that has been raised from fuel consumers through the Petroleum Development Levy, which was increased to Sh5.40 a litre in July last year from Sh0.40, representing a 1,250 percent rise.



# URBAN AGRICULTURE INCREASING INCOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR ZAMBIA'S POPULATION

LUSAKA

**M**AUREEN Mubanga a resident of Zambia's capital, has made it a point to grow vegetables in her backyard for domestic consumption.

Growing a variety of vegetables also gives 45-year-old Mubanga, an elementary teacher, some extra income which she uses to supplement her monthly earnings. "Vegetable cultivation is something I have been doing for the past three years. I get almost all vegetables straight from my garden, which gives me more than enough for domestic consumption, and sell excess produce to my workmates," she explained.

For most urban populations in Zambia, urban agriculture is not a new development. City dwellers and persons from peri-urban have long been using unoccupied areas for agriculture production. What is probably new is the commercialization of the practice.

It has become increasingly common for individuals and communities in Zambia to be engaged in some form of agriculture activities to ensure household food security as well as enhance nutritional needs.

This is case for 60-year-old Patrick Daka a resident of Mpandika area in Chibombo district, central Zambia. Daka who has for over five years been involved in vegetable cultivation to supplement his family's income explains that the exercise has enabled him to pay for his children's school fees and to meet other domestic budgetary needs.

"I earn an average of 2,000 Zambian Kwacha (approximately 88 U.S. dol-



Ruth Phiri, a trader specialized in reselling poultry, works in Lusaka, Zambia, on July 5, 2021. Xinhua

lars) every month from the sale of vegetables. Vegetable cultivation has greatly helped my family to stay afloat financially," he said. Daka also mentioned that aside from growing a variety of vegetables, he also uses his gardening

space to cultivate sugarcane and maize, for consumption as well as for sale.

"As a family, we no longer buy maize meal because we cultivate the maize. We just take the maize to a mill plant to

have it processed into maize meal," Daka explained.

Aside from vegetable production, an increasing number of urban dwellers are also turning to livestock production for sustenance and as an income-generating venture. Piggery, fish farming and poultry production are some of the ventures that populations in the aforementioned areas are involved in.

"I have been involved in production for the past two years and it has proved to be a worthwhile undertaking. I started with only 200 small birds and now I have over 2,500 birds that are at different stages of growth," revealed Agnes Simukanga, a poultry farmer from Shifwankula area, central Zambia.

An elated Simukanga further asserted that farming only provides households with food but also helps individuals to stay active. "It is practically impossible to lead a sedentary life when you are involved in agriculture because it requires one to be up and about," she pointed out.

The 61-year-old Simukanga further noted that agriculture is not only a fulfilling venture but also one that offers urban dwellers opportunities to earn a living from, more so now with the increase in populations. And in terms of opportunities, urban agriculture is providing small-scale resellers with produce that is readily available, thereby cutting down costs.

"I order my chicken from poultry farmers within my community. There are currently a number of people engaged in poultry production within Mandevu compound from whom I get chickens from," said Ruth Phiri, a trader specialized in reselling poultry. Phiri revealed that she earns a minimum of 1500 Zambian Kwacha from reselling chickens, a business she has been involved in for over two years. She observed that the growth and development of urban farming is helping low-income communities to engage in income an array of agric-businesses to better themselves.

Experts note that urban agriculture expands the economic base of the city through production, processing, packaging, and marketing of consumable products.

This in turn increases business and entrepreneurial activities and the creation of jobs. In urban areas where people need to spend a lot on financial resources to survive, agriculture helps to increase savings in household expenditure on consumables, which increases the amount of financial resources allocated to other needs.

## Architect constructs community library with 45,000 recycled plastic bottles

ACCRA

**SITTING** at a campus in Kokrobite, a fishing community on the outskirts of Ghanaian capital, a newly-constructed building distinctly stands out from many humble structures around as it was built with 45,000 recycled plastic bottles.

Yet to be fully-decorated, the unique house has the mostly frequently visited place by locals, who have already been told that the building would be a free multi-media library for their children once completed.

Martial Zohoungbogbo, who holds a dual citizenship of Ghana and Benin, built the "bottle house" with the money raised by himself and under the help of many locals. Standing in the middle of the house, he couldn't help envisaging the library's future.

"The kids will have access to the Internet, they will read books and have classes together, and they will finally have a place to entertain themselves," he told Xinhua.

Kokrobite is one of the most less-developed communities in the region, where most of the families rely on traditional fishing and can't afford better education for children.

Martial, who came to this community 30 years ago, picked up the technique of building architectures with plastic bottles from a German architect. After learning the fact that local children had long been struggling with inadequate spaces for learning.

Martial made up his mind to use his architecture technique to make a change. The building mainly consists of two sizes of plastic bottles, according to Martial, the larger bottles filled with soil and tightly bound by ropes were used as "bricks" for walls, while the smaller ones were laid firmly layer by layer to be pillars. Before getting started to build the library.

Martial has already had a project completed with the technique -- a public school classroom. He spent almost four months on building the architecture, and it was applauded by many locals.

For Martial and his partners, besides money, the shortage of recycled bottles and labor was the largest obstacle when they started building the library. Fortunately, his idea was soon echoed by many, including a recycling company that agreed to sell bot-



Zhoungbogbo shows recycled plastic bottles filled with soil, which are used as bricks for building a community library, in Accra, Ghana, on June 24, 2021. File photo

les to them, and school kids from the community who volunteered to fill the bottles. "We got the bottles refilled with different types of soil, even the soil from the gutter.

Then press it and make it more compact, then the refilled bottle will be a solid brick you need for the construction. Then we use clay, cement and other materials to move on," he said.

Martial said the "bottle house" was not only environmental-friendly, but also strong and safe, and most importantly, easy to repair and affordable for ordinary citizens.

He said that some poverty-stricken parts in the West African country can't provide enough classrooms for kids so that some teachers still have to gather students to sit under trees for teaching and learning.

"We are worried about them, and it is time to use what we have to solve this problem," said Martial, adding he is confident that their teaching conditions will be improved on condition that such "bottle house" technique can be introduced there.

Martial told Xinhua that he has an even bigger plan for this library once it is completed, including putting on

an exhibition themed on biology for children and organizing seminars for parents in the community to help increase their awareness towards the importance of education.

Asafoatse Nii Ayi Otumfuo, a citizen in the community, told Xinhua that Martial's "bottle house" will change a lot of things in the community and his dedication to children with humble backgrounds is also exerting positive influence on the society.

"I will always support him, because he is giving our children education, which I believe, is much bet-

ter than money," said Otumfuo, urging that the youth in the country should take advantage these opportunities to develop themselves.

Martial said the "bottle house" is now catching wider attention as more people from Europe and Asia have contacted him and showed their willingness to learn.

He then appealed to the government to offer more support to the project and adopt more variable solutions to housing problems facing the country. "When it comes to the 'bottle house', I have taken it as my career," he added.



## TECHNOLOGY

# ASIA'S AIR TRAVEL MAY TAKE THREE YEARS TO RECOVER FROM PANDEMIC



This photo taken on June 29, 2021 shows a Thai Lion Air hostess among passengers on a domestic flight from Bangkok to Phuket, before take-off at Don Muang Airport in Bangkok, days before the "Phuket Sandbox" tourism scheme that allows visits by people vaccinated against the COVID-19 coronavirus is set to launch. AFP

By Bloomberg

ASIAN air travel may take another three years to recover fully from the devastation wrought by the pandemic, lagging behind rebounds in other regions and offering a stern headwind for refiners making jet fuel.

It'll take until 2024 for international air travel across the region to reach pre-virus levels, a year after global traffic hits that milestone, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Similarly, consultancy Energy Aspects says jet fuel consumption will reach pre-pandemic volumes only in 2023-2024.

The drawn-out timelines highlight the difficulties facing Asia and the likely consequences for jet fuel, a traditionally prized part of the oil-products market. Low rates of vaccination in many countries, the challenge posed by the fast-spreading delta variant, and persistent lockdowns have all set back the recovery even as the US and Europe press on. All that means Asia's aviation industry is unlikely to offer significant support to the region's hard-pressed refineries,

which process crude from the Middle East and elsewhere into fuels.

Both North America and Europe have seen strong demand during the holidays, with the European Union relaxing quarantine and lockdown requirements, according to Mayur Patel, regional sales director for Japan and Asia Pacific at OAG, an aviation analytics firm. "Sadly, the same cannot be said for Asia, where the low level of vaccination rates, sudden and sharp lockdowns, and inconsistent regulations frustrate any real attempt at a recovery," he said.

Just this week, Indonesia - the largest economy in Southeast Asia - surpassed India's tally of daily cases, marking a new center for the highly-contagious delta variant.

Elsewhere, Malaysia has been struggling to contain a recent outbreak, Seoul in South Korea has imposed its toughest restrictions yet, and Japan is preparing to host the Olympic Games without spectators.

#### Bubble trouble

While there have been signs some countries including Singapore are

rethinking their COVID-19-zero stance to open up, it's likely international travel will still take longer than the rest of the world to restart.

Australia's plan to launch a quarantine-free travel bubble with the city-state is now more likely to occur only by the end of the year, according to an Australian diplomat. "We expect passenger traffic for international Asia-Pacific to restart in early 2022 at the earliest," an IATA spokesperson said in an email interview. "We don't think that the variant situation will improve, so governments are unlikely to start lifting controls before vaccination becomes sufficiently widespread to limit community contagion."

That means a longer struggle for Asian refiners. Given the differentiated recovery, some processors have been looking to Europe and the US as outlets for jet fuel, shipping more to both regions.

With lackluster demand, the margin for making jet fuel in Asia was US\$5.75 a barrel at 2:23 pm in Singapore, compared with US\$15.54 in December 2019, Bloomberg Fair Value data show.

Asia's jet fuel usage accounted for a third of global consumption in 2019,

according to Energy Aspects. Right now, the region's overall flight numbers - domestic and international - are 70 percent of pre-virus levels, according to George Dix, an analyst.

"We currently expect Asian jet demand will not reach pre-pandemic levels until 2023-2024, although domestic travel will have largely recovered by the end of 2022." Given the challenges, regional refiners will continue to redirect kerosene, which includes jet fuel, into the gasoil pool this quarter, aiming to tap into winter fuel heating demand the following quarter, according to Sri Paravaikkarasu at energy consultancy FGE. "The full recovery of international air travel has a long way to go," she said.

## Huawei fat paychecks premiumise tech talent

BAHRAIN

HUAWEI Technologies Co has parted with what industry insiders dubbed astronomical sums to hire two graduates from the Huazhong University of Science and Technology, or HUST.

The two successful scholars from the Wuhan, Hubei province-based university were picked as part of Huawei's "genius youngsters" hiring program, whose goal is to grow the company's global competitiveness in frontier technologies.

Changjiang Daily reported that Liao Minghui from the HUST's School of Electronic Information and Communications is said to receive an annual salary of 1.82 million yuan (US\$281,000) to 2.01 million yuan.

Liao's premium salary tag can be traced to his expertise in scene text detection and recognition, a subject in which he has over 10 scholarly articles to his credit as first or co-first author. They were all published by top conferences and academic journals.

The "genius youngsters" program was initiated by Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei in 2019. Its aim is to attract global talent to the company.

Huawei said at the time it would hire 20 to 30 top young college graduates from all over the world initially, and scale it up tenfold gradually.

Those hired under the program receive annual salaries in three bands: 896,000 yuan to 1.01 million yuan; 1.41 million yuan to 1.57 million yuan; and 1.82 million yuan to 2.01 million yuan.

Last year, Zhang Ji, a PhD student at the HUST's Wuhan National Laboratory for Optoelectronics, was reported to have received 2.01 million yuan in annual compensation, the highest figure so far.

But it is in line with the management philosophy of Ren, who said in a speech: "The strength of the United States as a nation is not land, it's the talent. What can we learn from the US? Attract talent. These genius teenagers are like loaches, invigorating and activating our team."

In recent years, Chinese tech companies, including Alibaba Group and Baidu Inc, have been accelerating their drive to commercialize cutting-edge technologies. Part of their plan is to hire top talent for the purpose.

Industry experts said premiumization of tech talent in China reflects companies' determination to stay ahead of frontier technologies' evolutionary curve, so as to be able to offset adverse impacts of any possible global political and economic uncertainties.

According to information provider Tianyancha, Huawei recently set up a super fusion technology firm with registered assets of 727 million yuan, spanning artificial intelligence technology platforms, big data services, software development and integrated circuit design.

"For China, to make technological breakthroughs, talent is a must," said Wang Zhihua, a professor at the Institute of Microelectronics of Tsinghua University. "In the integrated circuit or IC industry, for instance, the country's talent is quite insufficient."

A white paper on the country's IC talent said that there will likely be a shortage of talent to the extent of 250,000 professionals by 2022.

"The chip industry is a technology-intensive industry. China must consider not only 0 to 1 innovation, but also how to become globally competitive. High-level talent training is the key to such innovation," Wang said.



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# When Erdogan's Turkish economic miracle began failing

ISTANBUL

FIVE years after President Tayyip Erdogan saw off a coup, his chances of extending his rule into a third decade may depend on whether he can reverse an economic decline that has seen Turks' prosperity, equality and employment fall since 2013.

Erdogan faces elections in 2023 - the Turkish Republic's centenary. Polls suggest his support has slipped following a currency crisis, a sharp recession and the coronavirus pandemic in the last three years.

Some show the ruling coalition trailing an informal opposition alliance, even as Erdogan's AK Party (AKP) remains popular, with a strong base among rural and working class conservatives.

This year, economic growth has shot back up after Turkey was one of only a few countries to avoid a contraction in 2020. But the damage of recent years has included a return to inflation of 20% or more on food and other basic goods.

"If you look at President Erdogan's polling ratings together with a difficult economic backdrop, it's quite hard to really imagine the conditions over the next 12 months for them to think an election looks favourable," said Douglas Winslow, Fitch Ratings' director of European sovereigns.

The World Bank estimates more than 1.5 million Turks fell below the poverty line last year.

And a Gini index of income and wealth distribution shows inequality has risen since 2011 and accelerated since 2013, wiping out big gains made in 2006-2010,

during Erdogan's first decade in charge.

Modern Turkey's longest-serving leader, Erdogan's infant AKP won power in 2002 following the worst slump since the 1970s on a promise to break with the mismanagement and recessions that had long frustrated Turks anxious for a better life.

Then-prime minister Erdogan leveraged the economic rebound and a diplomatic pivot to the West to bring about a decade of prosperity.

Poverty and unemployment plunged. Inflation that was in triple digits a decade earlier touched 5%, boosting the Turkish lira's appeal for locals and foreigners.

Erdogan seemed untouchable. Things started changing in 2013, when unprecedented anti-government protests swept Turkey and emerging markets globally saw a painful financial exodus as larger economies gained steam.

A Reuters analysis shows that year marked a turning point for per capita GDP, unemployment and other measures of economic well-being.

The year 2013 was also the high water mark for foreign investment <https://tmsnr.rs/3dYGN8i>, according to official bond holdings statistics and Turkey Data Monitor. The value of the lira <https://tmsnr.rs/36ehjWv> has since plunged, sapping Turks' global purchasing power.

#### CRACKDOWN AND ISOLATION

Erdogan shocked many when his government quashed the 2013 protests that began in Istanbul's



President Tayyip Erdogan

Gezi Park. The crackdown "crystallized the AKP as the new establishment and showed the popular tide was turning against them," said Ates Altinordu, assistant professor of sociology at Sabanci University.

The attempted coup of July 15, 2016 then prompted a harsh state of emergency that analysts say drove Turks' economic well-being further south.

"Since 2013, the AKP and Erdogan have moved to further increase authoritarianism, which probably hurt the economy in various ways," Altinordu said.

"They entered a more isolated and centralized decision-making mode, with less media freedom. So you probably end up making more policy mistakes, you lose your responsiveness, and there is much more room for corruption."

#### VOTER BASE

Other key measures such as healthcare remain robust after

improving dramatically since Erdogan took office in 2003.

As austerity imposed under a 2001-2 International Monetary Fund programme eased, Erdogan embraced free-market policies required to join the European Union - then a central AKP goal.

The 2008-9 global financial crisis hit Turkey but also brought a rush of investors seeking returns in emerging markets.

Cheap foreign credit helped drive a construction-fueled economic boom that has helped the AKP win eight consecutive national elections.

Erdogan has a "base of adoring and loyal supporters (because) citizens enjoyed significantly better living standards than under Kemalists for most of the 20th century," wrote Soner Cagaptay in a report for The Washington Institute.

He noted that before Erdogan came to power Turkey's infant

mortality rate was comparable to pre-war Syria's, and is now similar to Spain's.

#### ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRAINS

But other gauges of well-being began to creak in 2013 when the U.S. Federal Reserve's hint that it might start removing stimulus sucked funds out of emerging markets.

Political strains intensified thereafter as Erdogan turned to nationalist allies, and later won a referendum on adopting a presidential system that concentrated power at his palace.

Some key economic officials left the AKP in opposition to the power grab. Analysts say cracks then started emerging in its policies, including pressure on the central bank to lower interest rates even as the lira tipped into crisis in 2018. The currency has shed 75% of its value against the dollar since 2013, more than half in the last three years. Many Turks now choose to store their wealth in foreign currencies.

"On the political side, since 2013, there is a sense that Turkey and the West have been drifting apart," said Roger Kelly, lead regional economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

"Yes, we have seen a deterioration since 2013, but we have to see it in the context of the positive steps that happened before that."

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## WORLD

## South Africa looting dies down in places as more troops expected

DURBAN

A week of violence, arson and looting that has engulfed South Africa slowly began to ebb yesterday as several districts rocked by the mayhem were quiet ahead of an expected surge in soldiers on the streets.

A Reuters reporter saw crowds in Durban's Moberi neighbourhood rolling away trolleys loaded with maize meal and other looted staples. Some loaded pick-up trucks - one such truck had to be abandoned as it had run out of fuel. Petrol stations have shut across the city because of the unrest.

Taxi drivers blockaded some roads to try to prevent further pillaging.

The riots initially started with the jailing

of ex-president Jacob Zuma last week after he failed to appear at a corruption inquiry. But they swiftly degenerated into looting and destruction, driven by widespread anger over the hardship and inequality that nearly three decades of democracy since the end of apartheid have failed to address.

South Africa's defence minister said on Wednesday he planned to deploy up to 25,000 soldiers in the two provinces where security forces are struggling to quell days of looting, arson and violence.

The soldiers were expected in the hot spots of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng provinces, where the police and army have been battling the disorder for days. Authorities say 5,000 troops are already on the streets since



Wednesday, double the number originally planned. It was unclear when the rest would arrive.

More than 70 people have been killed in the unrest, the worst in South Africa for years, and hundreds of businesses wrecked. Security forces have arrested at least 1,350 people.

Shopping malls and warehouses have been ransacked or set ablaze in several cities, mostly in Zuma's home in the KwaZulu-Natal province, especially Durban,

and the financial and economic centre Johannesburg and surrounding Gauteng province.

In South Africa's largest township Soweto, outside Johannesburg, streets were quiet on Thursday and shopkeepers were going through the wreckage left of their stores, a Reuters reporter said.

In Johannesburg's central business district, and the township of Alexandra, both also hit hard by violence, the streets were calm.

## US to evacuate Afghans who supported its military in late July

WASHINGTON

THE United States will launch "Operation Allies Refuge" in late July to evacuate Afghans who helped the US military during the two-decade war, the White House said on Wednesday.

"Flights out of Afghanistan for SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) applicants who are already in the pipeline will begin in the last week of July and will continue," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters in a daily briefing.

"Our objective is to get individuals who are eligible relocated out of the country in advance of the withdrawal of troops at the end of August." She did not provide a specific number of qualified applicants, citing operational and security reasons.

"We are working closely with Congress to change the authorization legislation so that we can streamline the process of approving these visas," she said.

According to media reports, an estimated 18,000 applicants are already awaiting visas, with an estimated 53,000 family members seeking to accompany them, and the application process can take as long as 800 days.

The Biden administration has been facing pressure from lawmakers to work out a plan to evacuate Afghans who helped the US military and are vulnerable to Taliban reprisals amid the withdrawal of US troops.

President Joe Biden announced last week that US military mission in Afghanistan will conclude on Aug 31, days ahead of his original Sept 11 deadline. US Central Command said Tuesday that the US military had completed over 95 percent of the withdrawal.

The security situation in the war-torn country has deteriorated as Taliban militants continue heavy fighting against government forces and gain ground since the drawdown of US troops on May 1.

## China warns US after military plane 'lands in Taiwan'

CHINA'S Ministry of National Defense urged the United States "not to play with fire" and stop risky provocations in response to reports of the US landing a military transport plane in Taiwan on Thursday.

Senior Colonel Wu Qian, a ministry spokesman, said in a statement on Thursday that the island is a sacred and inseparable part of Chinese territory, and the Chinese military was closely monitoring the situation.

Any foreign military plane landing on Chinese territory must receive approval from the government of the People's Republic of China, Wu said.

"Any violation of our air

space by foreign ships and planes will lead to serious consequences," he said. "We urge the US side not to play with fire, immediately stop these risky provocations, stop sending the wrong signals to Taiwan separatist forces and avoid escalating tension in the Taiwan Straits."

Wu (pictured) warned the island's ruling Democratic Progressive Party not to misjudge the situation and invite trouble by taking risks and colluding with foreign forces for its secessionist agenda.

"This will only push Taiwan into a perilous situation," he said. "China must and will inevitably be united."

"Nobody should underes-



time the Chinese people's adamant determination, unshakable will and formidable capability in safeguarding national

sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said. "The People's Liberation Army will remain on high alert and take

whatever actions necessary to crush any Taiwan secession agenda."

Separately, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council expressed strong opposition against military contacts of any form between Taiwan and the US.

"We urge the United States to abide by the provisions of the three China-US joint communiques when handling issues related to Taiwan and stop provocation," spokesperson Zhu Fenglian said.

The DPP authority will bring disaster to the people of Taiwan if it continues working with foreign forces to seek "Taiwan independence" and resist reunification, Zhu said.

## Putin to speak at online APEC leaders' summit on overcoming pandemic-linked global issues

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin will discuss overcoming global problems related to the coronavirus pandemic with the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) in a videoconference today, the Kremlin press service reported yesterday.

"The issues on overcoming global problems in the spheres of healthcare and the economy caused by the coronavirus infection faced by the countries of the Asian-Pacific region will be discussed," the statement said.

It is not specified when Putin is scheduled to talk. Earlier yesterday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov reported that the Russian leader's address would be broadcast live. According to the Kremlin press secretary, only a short technical delay is possible.

The online meeting will be chaired by New Zealand. According to this country's premier, Jacinda Ardern, for the first time in the history of APEC, the members of the union decided to hold an additional meeting among its leaders.

On Wednesday, the White House press service reported that US President Joe Biden will also participate in the APEC online summit.



## Mauritius reopens to vaccinated tourists after 16 months

JOHANNESBURG

MAURITIUS, a tourism-dependent economy, will reopen its borders yesterday to vaccinated tourists after being closed for 16 months.

The reopening is part of a two-phase strategy to attract tourists to the Indian Ocean island economy whose recovery hinges on a revival in the industry. A move familiar to other travel-reliant countries facing the unenviable task of rescuing crucial tourism industries decimated by the pandemic while guarding against the risk that an influx of international travelers could inflame the spread of the virus.

In the first phase inoculated visitors that have a negative PCR test result on arrival will remain in their resort for 14 days. Thereafter, following another test, they will be able to move around the country. From Oct 1, once the country has achieved herd immunity, no movement restrictions will be imposed on vaccinated visitors.

As of Monday, 31.3 percent of the population of about 1.3 million people were fully inoculated and the country is set to reach 60 percent before September, according to Health Minister Kailesh Jagutpal.

After a 99 percent slump in visitor numbers for the six months through June, the country expects to attract 325,000 tourists in the second half of this year, according to Statistics Mauritius.

Before the pandemic struck, as many as 1.4 million tourists per year descended on the country's pristine beaches, accounting for 10 percent of gross domestic product.

The industry is set to rebound by 4 percent in 2021, compared with a year earlier. And the economy is forecast to grow by 5.4 percent after a 14.9 percent contraction in 2020, its worst performance in four decades.

Africa

Africa recorded a 43 percent rise in COVID-19 deaths week



This file photo shows an empty Sugar Beach in Flic En Flac, Mauritius, on Tuesday. BLOOMBERG

on-week, as cases rise, hospital admissions increase rapidly and countries face shortages of oxygen and intensive care beds, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday.

The continent's case fatality rate - the proportion of deaths among confirmed cases - stands at 2.6 percent against the global average of 2.2 percent, WHO Africa said in its weekly briefing.

"Africa's third wave continues its destructive pathway, pushing past yet another grim milestone as the continent's case count

tops six million," Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said at the briefing.

The surge in infections, which is partly driven by the presence of the highly transmissible Delta variant of the coronavirus in 21 African countries, is leaving a "brutal cost in lives lost" in its trail, she said.

Deaths have climbed steeply for the past five weeks to 6,273 last week, just a percentage point shy of its weekly peak recorded in January. Namibia, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda

and Zambia accounted for the bulk of the fatalities, WHO said.

Public fatigue with restrictions to daily life aimed at curbing the spread of the virus was also to blame for the surge, WHO Africa said, which has seen the continent record an increase of 1 million cases in the shortest time so far in the pandemic.

It took just a month for infections to increase by the latest 1 million, compared with the three months it took to rise to 5 million from 4 million, Moeti said.

Standard Chartered Bank said on Thursday it was providing US\$200 million in not-for-profit funding to the African Export-Import Bank's (Afreximbank) COVID-19 vaccine procurement framework for Africa.

The facility is part of Afreximbank's Advance Procurement Commitment framework, under which it has provided a US\$2 billion guarantee to manufacturers to secure access to vaccine doses for African nations, Standard Chartered said in statement.

## Kenyan leader backs 2 envoys to steer anti-malaria efforts in Africa

NAIROBI

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta who is also the chairman of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA) on Wednesday endorsed the appointment of two special envoys to help hasten the fight against malaria on the continent.

The two nominees of ALMA, Anthony Okara (Kenya) and Sheila Tlou (Botswana) were endorsed and commissioned by Kenyatta in Nairobi during a virtual meeting convened to receive ALMA's 2021 first and second quarter performance report.

"I congratulate the ALMA secretariat for keeping the fire burning in the fight against malaria despite the challenges brought about by COVID-19 pandemic," Kenyatta said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

The Alliance is a coalition of African Heads of State and Government advancing advocacy efforts, resource mobilization and accountability in the fight against malaria across Africa. As part of their broad mandate, the envoys have been tasked to work with the continent's regional economic communities to prioritize the fight against malaria in their programming.

Kenyatta applauded ALMA for the progress made towards the establishment of a digital malaria repository for the continent saying the database will assist African nations to share best practices.

Xinhua

## China's intellectual property protection embraces high-quality development

AFTER years of development, China has accumulated rich resources of intelligent property (IP), becoming a genuine patent power, and its IP work is going through a transition from the pursuit for quantity toward high-quality development.

The country has ranked the first in the world for consecutive years in terms of total IP volume, such as patents and trademarks, and acquired large batches of core patents in high-speed rail, nuclear power and 5G.

As of the end of October

2020, China had nearly 2.97 million valid invention patents, or 15.2 per 10,000 population.

In recent years, China has made a series of decisions and deployment on intelligent property rights (IPR) protection, such as enhancing top-level design, improving relevant laws and regulations, reforming institutions and mechanisms and reinforcing judicial and administrative protection.

The country released an action plan to implement national IP strategy spanning from 2014 to 2020, estab-

lished the State Administration for Market Regulation, and reorganized China National Intellectual Property Administration. Besides, it set up IP courts in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, and the Supreme People's Court also established an IPR court to hear relevant appeals.

According to the 2020 edition of the Global Innovation Index issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China ranks 14th among the 131 economies involved.

In 2020, China concluded

466,000 IPR cases of first instance, up 11.7 percent year on year, and the compensation for IPR-related offenses also surged 79.3 percent from a year ago, said a work report of the Supreme People's Court.

It's noteworthy that to improve IPR mechanism has been listed as an independent chapter in China's 14th Five-Year Plan, which demonstrates the country's resolution to intensify IPR efforts.

Apart from institutional guarantee, China is also enhancing the application of

AI, big data and other information technologies in IP reviewing and protection by reinforcing informationized and smart infrastructure, so as to push for integrated online-offline development of IPR.

Antchain, a global leader in blockchain under China's Alibaba Group, has made some IPR attempts based on the blockchain technology of the Alibaba DAMO Academy.

On Oct. 22, 2020, the company launched a one-stop digital platform of IP services. Relying on the tamper

proof character of the blockchain and private protection technology, the platform offers instant IP verification for original content providers, which largely lowers the difficulty of ownership certification, effectively prevents the incidence of infringement disputes, and makes it easier to handle such disputes.

Bayuegua is a Beijing-based company in the IPR sector. It has established a platform called Innovative Brain based on AI and big data technology.

The platform offers a se-

ries of IP identification and protection services such as information analysis before, during and after R&D, IPR application and IP trade, technology translation and transfer, sci-tech consultation, technological due diligence, and technological finance.

So far, the Innovative Brain has collected nearly 140 million pieces of patent data from 110 countries, organizations and regions, and is offering technological and marketing information for enterprises with over 200 search fields. **People's Daily**



# Africa's COVID-19 cases rise sharply to 6m amid vaccine shortage

## ACCRA

AS Africa is grappling with a third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, its total caseload surpassed 6 million on Wednesday, following an increase of 1 million cases within only about one month since June 12.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 6,027,574 as of Wednesday afternoon, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa Matshidiso Moeti said that the past week has seen a 43-percent jump in mortalities, with 5,197 new deaths recorded, pushing the death toll from the pandemic to 153,549 across the continent.

The upsurge of cases and mortalities has prompted many African countries to further tighten their preventive measures and accelerate the pace of vaccination, but challenges remain.

## VARIANTS-DRIVEN INFECTIONS

Some African countries have reported that the upsurge in cases was largely driven by variants, including the highly transmissible Delta variant.

WHO Regional Office for Africa tweeted on Monday that at least 16 African countries have reported the appearance of the Delta variant, and the variant has been found to be 30 to 60 percent more transmissible than the other variants.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a televised address on Sunday that the highly

infectious Delta variant was pushing the third wave of the pandemic, and the infections "remain extremely high," so the public system was under pressure with increasing cases and hospital admissions.

South Africa, so far the only African country with more than 2 million cases, has seen 4,200 deaths within the past two weeks.

South Africa, Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Egypt are the countries with the most cases in Africa, according to the Africa CDC.

## TIGHTENED PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Battling a more severe wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, many African countries have once again tightened their preventive measures and accelerated their vaccination campaigns.

Sierra Leone reintroduced a one-month curfew nationwide and limited the number of people for social events from early July, while Botswana announced on Tuesday a decision to close schools from Friday till Aug. 16.

According to the latest figure from the Africa CDC, by July 8, some 52 African countries have acquired about 70.4 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines, 53.3 million of which have been administered.

Moeti said last Thursday that the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines to Africa through the COVAX facility, donations, and direct purchases from manufacturers have been accelerated, injecting vitality into the continent's fight against the pandemic.

"With much larger COVID-19 vaccine deliveries expected to arrive in July and August, African coun-



A woman receives a dose of COVID-19 vaccine at Parirenyatwa Hospital in Harare on Tuesday. Xinhua

tries must use this time to prepare to rapidly expand the roll-out," Moeti said in a statement.

The WHO regional director for Africa urged governments and partners to expand vaccination sites, improve cold chain capabilities and embark on community-based awareness campaigns to boost COVID-19 jabs.

## CHALLENGES REMAIN

Despite the progress, many African countries are still struggling with an inadequate supply of vaccines and relatively low inoculation rates.

Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi said on Tuesday that the country found itself in a dire situation of rapidly rising cases and inadequate vaccines for the vulnerable population.

"Like many African countries, Botswana is facing a challenge of

vaccine availability," which makes it difficult for the country's vaccine rollout plan to go smoothly, said the president.

Namibian Health Minister Kalumbi Shangula said in a statement Monday that the COVID-19 death toll was "quite concerning," urging the public to report to the nearest health facilities for medical help when feeling unwell.

Namibia, with a population of around 2.5 million, has accumulated more than 100,000 confirmed cases and has seen over 2,000 related deaths.

Rwanda, a country recognized by the WHO for its fruitful results in dealing with the virus early last year, now records hundreds of new cases daily. Rwandan Minister of Health Daniel Ngamije was quoted as saying that the number of COVID-19 cases is "skyrocketing."

## CHINESE VACCINES BRING HOPE

China is a major COVID-19 vaccine provider that boosts the African continent's immunization drive and China's successful vaccination campaign also serves as an inspiration for African countries, said Cavince Adhere, a Nairobi-based international relations scholar.

"The vaccination breakthrough in China mirrors the sterling performance of public health measures it imposed at the onset of the pandemic to halt the virus spread," he said, adding that China's impressive performance in vaccination will have a positive impact across the globe amid the resurgence of the pandemic caused by COVID-19 variants.

On July 3, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority approved the use of China's Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine. The country's government, political parties, labor and civil society organizations have given a thumbs-up to the Chinese vaccine, which they said would bolster the country's fight against the pandemic.

Acting Health Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane welcomed the vaccine as a turning point and much-needed relief for the country's vaccination rollout program.

Zimbabwe received a batch of Sinovac vaccine doses purchased from China last Thursday, its largest single COVID-19 vaccine order so far. Zimbabwe's Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care John Mangwiro said the delivery will accelerate the country's inoculation programme. Xinhua

Namibia and South Africa transport corridors to continue operating despite unrest, says official

## WINDHOEK

NAMIBIA has been assured by South Africa that transport corridors would continue operating uninterrupted to deliver goods and services amid the unrest which is currently plaguing some provinces in South Africa, an official said yesterday.

Namibia had expressed concern at the incidences of looting and criminality currently prevailing in South Africa.

South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Naledi Pandor, said this during the diplomatic and political consultations held in Windhoek from July 14 to 15, where she was hosted by Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

The consultations meanwhile, allowed the ministers to consult each other and exchange views on a wide range of issues pertaining to the strengthening and consolidation of bilateral relations and cooperation between Namibia and South Africa.

The ministers agreed that Namibia would host the 3rd session of the Namibia and South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC), on dates to be mutually agreed.

During her visit, Pandor also paid a courtesy call on Namibia's President Hage Geingob.

Xinhua

# China committed to human rights development path with Chinese characteristics

THE efforts of the Chinese government to safeguard people's economic, social and cultural rights won praise from participants in the 47th regular session of the United Nations Human Rights Council held in Geneva, Switzerland, from June 21 to July 13. Over 90 countries voiced support for China's stance on human rights issues during the meeting.

More and more countries believe that the Communist Party of China (CPC), which celebrates its centenary this year, has embarked on a path for human rights development with Chinese characteristics through combining the universality of human rights with China's specific conditions, and added diversity to the concept of human rights with its own practices. History has witnessed the development and progress of China's human rights cause. After the First Opium War broke out in 1840, China was gradually reduced to a semi-colonial, semi-feudal society and suffered greater ravages than ever before.

It is estimated that 80 percent of China's population was constantly haunted by dire hunger or inadequate food supply, and that tens or even hundreds of thousands of people starved to death every year.

At such a crucial juncture, the CPC came into being and resolutely took on the noble mission of salvaging the country and saving the Chinese people. Since then, the CPC has pursued a road of human rights protection



Senior residents exercise at an elderly care center of a community in Yuquan district, Hohhot city, north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region, March 27, 2021. File photo

that belongs to the people, and fundamentally changed the destiny of the Chinese people.

Seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation is the original aspiration and mission of Chinese Communists as well as the root of the CPC's stance on human rights. Over the past century, the CPC has unwaveringly fulfilled its original aspiration and mission and created a great miracle in respecting and protecting human rights.

In 2019, the average life expectancy of Chinese residents rose to 77.3 years, compared with 35 years in 1949. Last year, the per capita disposable income and per capita consumption expenditure of Chinese people were 328 times and 241 times that of 1956, respectively.

China has built the world's largest social security system, and continuously expanded its social security coverage and improved relevant services.

The country has seen re-

markable achievements in poverty alleviation, not only rewriting its history of human rights development, but creating a new miracle in the protection of human rights in the world.

China's national rejuvenation represents a process of promoting social fairness and justice, and advancing human rights, according to Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

The Chinese people have gained a stronger sense of gain, happiness, and security, which serves as an important criterion to gauge the progress of China's human rights cause.

The Chinese people's overall satisfaction toward the Chinese government led by the CPC exceeds 93 percent, according to a report by the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

In addition, the Law and Order Index released by Gallup, an American analytics and advisory company, sug-

gests that China is one of the safest countries in the world.

The CPC's practice of respecting and guaranteeing human rights in the past century has fully proven that there are no ready models to copy in respecting, protecting and developing human rights for China and that the country must proceed from its prevailing realities and go its own way.

The CPC has traveled a path of human rights protection that features upholding CPC leadership and the socialist system in promoting human rights, promoting human rights through development, taking a people-centered approach to human rights protection, aiming for people's well-rounded development, and building a community with a shared future for mankind.

China's ideas about human rights, including "putting people first" and "the rights to subsistence and development are the primary rights", have been widely echoed around the world. As British scholar Martin Jacques pointed out, the most basic human right is sound economic conditions.

There is no end to human rights development and human rights protection is an ongoing cause. China will firmly stick to its human rights development path with Chinese characteristics and continuously contribute to the development and progress of human rights cause in China and around the world.

People's Daily

# Top Russian, Chinese diplomats discuss information security, situation in Asia, Iran



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

## MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi have discussed information security, the situation in Central Asia and the Iran nuclear deal at a meeting on the sidelines of the high-level international conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Connectivity. Challenges and Opportunities" in Tashkent.

"A thorough exchange of views on topical global and regional problems, including international information security, the situation in Central Asia and the Asia-Pacific region and Iran's nuclear program, took place," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"Particular attention was paid to the current situation in Afghanistan. They reaffirmed their commitment to facilitating the Afghan settlement process through the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group, taking into account the results of its meeting held within the framework of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers session."

According to the Foreign Ministry, the two top diplomats reiterated their mutual commitment to stronger coordination within the UN, the G20, BRICS and other international organizations. "The foreign ministers spoke highly of the outcome of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries held in Dushanbe

on July 13-14 in the context of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the SCO marked this year.

They highlighted the organization's pivotal role in strengthening security and ensuring economic development in Eurasia, noted its growing influence on the global stage and indicated their desire to facilitate its further development," the ministry stressed.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the meeting took place in a confidential and constructive atmosphere typical of Russian-Chinese relations.

"The two ministers noted that the existing bilateral ties surpassed such a form of interstate cooperation as military-political alliances of the Cold War era," the report said. Agencies

# Kenya's COVID-19 response initiative transforms livelihoods of pastoralists

## NAIROBI

KENYA'S COVID-19 response initiative that was launched in 2020 is already changing the lives of pastoralists and agro-pastoralist communities.

The initiative that is funded by the Kenyan government, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) is enabling herders to produce high-value crops and clean fodder for their livestock.

Hadija Jillo, a farmer from the coastal county of Tana River County

is one of the beneficiaries who received clean cereal, fodder and vegetable seeds that have contributed to her new source of income besides improving food security in her homestead.

Jillo who is a member of a pastoral community and has been keeping goats for her livelihood has been forced to walk long distances in search of water for her livestock. But with the support from the government's COVID-19 response initiative,

she has ended up adopting agriculture alongside keeping livestock besides benefiting from fodder seeds that have reduced her time for searching for the products in the wild. "I am nowadays growing vegetables full-time for my domestic use and also as an income-generating activity," Jillo said during an interview in Nairobi yesterday.

Jillo who is amongst the targeted pastoralists and agro-pastoralists beneficiaries noted that her farm is

helping her in addressing food and nutrition security within her household and occasionally among neighbors.

Peter Munya, cabinet secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives said the COVID-19 response initiative called Small-Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Programme (SIVAP) has helped set up demonstration plots for crops, livestock fodder production and kitchen gar-

dens. Munya said the project provides small-scale farmers with clean seeds for high-value pulses, cereals, fruits trees and clean fodder seeds production.

He said the project that costs 763 billion shillings (70.7 million U.S. dollars) is aimed at addressing the need for food and nutrition security as well as income generation for the beneficiary pastoralists and agri pastoralists.

Kennedy Makundui, national project coordinator revealed that 106,900 households have already benefited from the project. Seeds and seedlings worth 72,000 dollars have been distributed to SIVAP beneficiaries. And the construction of 12 irrigation schemes, 38 water pans, 17 boreholes, eight shallow wells and sand dams is currently ongoing.

Other projects that are also ongoing Makundui added include livestock sale yards,

access to markets and strengthening value chains and rehabilitation of 65 kilometers of rural roads which are at various stages of completion.

Makundui said the government has set aside 4.6 million dollars to support the one million kitchen garden initiative through the provision of kitchen garden kits such as solar dryers, shade nets and assorted vegetable seeds for 213,090 households in the country.

SIVAP is being implemented in 11 counties in pastoral and agri pastoralist regions in eastern, central and southwestern Kenya.



# SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Magnet Youth Sports Organization (MYSO) players in a group picture with some of the institution's coaches and the youngsters' guardians when the center held an event recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MYSO

## Dar soccer center seals partnership with Spain's academy

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM'S soccer center, Magnet Youth Sports Organization (MYSO), said it is in the final stages to sign a partnership contract with Celta de Vigo academy of Spain aimed at exchanging football expertise.

The MYSO's Chairman, Tuntufye Mwambusi, revealed the plan in an interview with reporters recently, maintaining the deal will be signed soon.

Mwambusi noted: "At the moment, we have three coaches from Celta de Vigo academy who have come here to see what we are doing on the ground before we finalize the exercise."

The official disclosed: "They have been very cooperative and they are taking their time to train our young players on important football skills the youngsters need to know depending on their respective ages."

"What attracted us to seek working partnership with them was the football philosophy they use, bearing in mind that their academy produces quality players who are roped in by many Spanish clubs," Mwambusi said.

He added that even Celta de Vigo

academy's training sessions are conducted with minimal and normal equipment, in comparison with rich football academies like those of Real Madrid and other clubs, a situation he said will help MYSO prosper.

"Frankly, they are satisfied with what they have seen from our kids and we are going to use well instructions they have given us in order to improve youth football in the country," he said.

Furthermore, the MYSO boss narrated that the trio are not only mentoring the upcoming stars but also domestic coaches, who work at the organization, with the latter set to be schooled on how to amicably develop young players.

"We also have plans to send some of our coaches to Spain (Celta de Vigo academy) where they will directly experience what happens on the field and thereafter, it will be a chance for our players to make the trip" he revealed.

Mwambusi expressed regards to the youngsters' parents and guardians for the immeasurable support they provide to MYSO, saying without the latter, the MYSO could not have reached such a milestone.

The MYSO is among the famous and best performing domestic youth academies, which contribute a lot to the blossoming of football standard in the country, as it invests much in grassroots projects.

## Azam FC rubbishes rumours linking defender with joining Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE management of Azam FC has continued refuting rumours that their Ghanaian defender, Yakubu Mohamed, is linked with a move to Yanga.

Azam FC Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Amin, alias 'Popat', disclosed the information about the defender is not true and they wonder why such information enjoys space on media.

Amin disclosed: "First of all we don't follow much of news that link our players with joining other sides, and Yanga have not yet made any offers to us."

"Yakubu (pictured) is still our player and he has a contract, although not for a very long time, but we invite those who need him to do business," Abdulkarim added.

The leader disputed the notion that Azam FC often rejects Yanga's request to sign the former's players, noting that they had already done business with Yanga for fullback, Gadiel Michael, and attacker, Ditram Nchimbi.

Amin said: "This idea is not entirely correct, if business is to be done we will do it, we have done the same for Gadiel Michael and Ditram Nchimbi who came to us and joined Yanga."

Azam FC, which has a guarantee of a three place finish in the 2020/21 Premier League, will see its contract with Yakubu come to conclusion in November 2021, so Yanga may use the opportunity to sign him.

The defender joined Azam FC in 2016 from Ghana's Aduana Stars and has since been an integral and important member of the team.

The former Ghana U-20 national side's defender received his first senior national team call-up in 2020 for a match against Mali on October 9.

The center back's first three years of the contract with the Dar es Salaam-based side



was due to end in 2019 before penning down more two years which are due to end at the end of this season.

The registration rules allow any club in the world to negotiate with a player who has been offered or has six months left in his contract.

Reports have it that the player is about to join Yanga that are planning to sign him on a two-year contract.

The central defender has been very versatile this season, he has not only excelled as a central Defender but also after played well in an advanced midfield position and defensive midfield role during the course of the mid-season after Zambian coach, George Lwandamina, came in as a new coach.

## SPORTS

## Ismail hits ton as Pak Stars wallop Aces Cricket Club

By Guardian Reporter

PAK Stars cricketers showcased dominant all-round showing and cruised to a seven-wicket win over Aces Cricket Club in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs tie last Sunday.

Pak Stars' youthful all-rounder, Ivan Ismail, had an impressive batting showing, helping his side mount successful chase, given he recorded a ton.

After winning the toss, Pak Stars elected to field, limiting Aces Cricket Club to 233 runs all out in 46.1 overs of the duel, which took place at University of Dar es Salaam ground.

Looking at the pitch and the windy open ground that hosted the clash it was a good toss to win and putting Aces to bat to face rather unfriendly condition.

Aces Cricket Club's opener, Ankit Baghel, had a huge appeal turned down on the very first ball of the game that was bowled by Pak Stars' Abdulrahman Akida.

That though was not the case, with Akida leaking 11 runs in the very first over, followed by 14 runs he conceded in his second over.

In the fourth over of the game, Mohammed Ali, the newly promoted Aces opener, was clean bowled by Pak Stars' Muhammad Mudasser behind the legs.

Jumanne Mohamed, slotted in at number three, did not survive much and was bowled plumb by Akida in the following over.

The cricketer's dismissal brought in senior player, Azim Thakur, who held the innings well along with Baghel.

The duo took the game forward and put in a stand of 46 runs in about 11 overs.

Baghel was plumb out by Basit Raza, then youthful cricketer, Jaffary Kanyita, stepped at the crease, combining well with Thakur.

They took singles and converted to doubles every second ball, which improved the strike rate of Thakur, who was playing very slow initially.

The cricketer's approach was what his side needed, the senior player was sent back to the pavilion in the 22nd over with the squad's score reading 122 runs. He missed out on a half century, which was on the cards, posting 37 runs and blasting three fours.

However, with Ejaz Aziz, Kibwana Salum and Ali Mpeka yet to bat, a score



Pak Stars' Ivan Ismail poses with best player of the match prize he lifted when his squad faced Aces Cricket Club in 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs' game held in the city last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

in excess of 250 runs to 300 runs was on the cards.

That led to a middle order collapse, given Aziz and Salum Jembe got out quite cheaply.

Experienced player, Salum, took the crease, he along with youthful player Acree Paschal scored 62-run partnership which took the score to a respectable 233 runs.

The team's score was still below par, with University of Dar es Salaam's pitch expected to get flatter as the days go on.

Aces Cricket Club came in with a lot of confidence, when Pak Stars started the chase, seeking to build inroads into the latter's batting unit.

Pak Stars' opener, Akida, was sent back to the pavilion in the second over, he was cleaned up by medium pacer, Jembe, the only Aces Cricket Club's bowler that was in good form.

Aces Cricket Club's other bowlers, Mpeka, Mohammed Ali, Baghel and Salum, were taken to cleaners by Ismail and Mohamed Omary.

The two batsmen put in a partnership of 196 runs, with Ismail nailing 105 runs which was laced with nine fours and three sixes.

Aces Cricket Club's Ali, who always gets better of Ismail, was duly punished, as the former was smacked for a six which brought the batsman's score to half century. Ismail was out to prove he was not ready to let Ali keep on tormenting him.

Ali, though, came close to dismissing Ismail, given the very next ball, a very low snick, was missed by Aces Cricket Club's wicket keeper but the team could not count it as a chance.

Ismail later on batted well and scored a beautiful century. He was not only hitting either fours or sixes, he was also playing deft touches, flicks and cuts all over the pitch.

The youthful cricketer was moreover running hard and smart with Omary, who was also luckily missed out by Aces Cricket Club's wicket keeper, who could have dismissed the formr via an easy stumping.

Both Omary and Ismail got out but those looked like consolation wickets given to Aces, Omary was also looking for his century, the cricketer was dismissed on 88 runs.

With 18 more runs needed by Pak Stars to win, notching 12 runs was always on the cards.

Finally, Pak Stars chased Aces Cricket Club's score in the 40th over.

Ismail, a very promising player brought back into Dar es Salaam cricket a few years ago by Caravans Cricket Club from Morogoro, is now highly expected to land a place in the senior national team.

The Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) and clubs have obviously done a great job to let such talents be in the scope of things.

It is expected all the up-and-coming cricketers to put tremendous showing for the national team in the upcoming ICC regional qualifiers, which will take place in Rwanda.

The DC, along with TCA, one of the former's officials stated, feels proud to conduct such events.

The official added DC appreciates Unimoni Bureau de Change, sponsors of the showpiece's man of the match prize, with the company handing over cash prize to the players along with medals and T-shirts.

## Miss Tanzania stripped off participation in 2021 Miss World pageant

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MISS Tanzania organizing committee has stripped off the contest's 2020/21 winner, Rose Manfere, participation in 2021 Miss World because of misconduct.

The 2021 Miss Tanzania runner-up, Juliana Rugumisa, has instead been presented with the chance to represent Tanzania in the world beauty pageant.

Miss Tanzania committee has moreover terminated its contract with Rose after she had violated some of the terms of the contract.

Rose will in this case not be able to compete in the world beauty pageant, scheduled for December 2021 in Puerto Rico.

The development was confirmed by a representative of the Miss Tanzania organizing committee, Azama Mashango, mid this week, noting Rose had made mistakes that led to the termination of her contract.

"She is still Miss Tanzania, she has not been dethroned, there are mistakes she has made that have broken the contract but the committee has concluded she should not be dethroned, she should merely be Tanzania's representative at Miss World this year," Mashango disclosed.

Juliana will serve as Tanzania representative in the world beauty pageant, as, according to Miss Tanzania organizing committee, if the first winner fails to implement her responsibilities as per the contract stipulates, the second-placed will be Tanzania's representative, but Rose is still Miss Tanzania," he said.

Roughly 120 contestants are expected to participate in 2021 Miss World in Puerto Rico from November 19 to December 17, 2021.

It is the first time that the international Miss World pageant will be held in a Spanish-speaking country and Puerto Rico was awarded the honour.



Rose Manfere

For the finals of Miss World 2021, of which Telemundo Puerto Rico is the official channel, all previous queens are expected to be invited.

There will be six mini-competitions-talent, sports, top model, multimedia, beauty with purpose, and a face-to-face debate, which will give the winner of these events the opportunity to enter directly into the group of semi-finalists.

Miss World is the oldest international

beauty pageant, established in 1951.

The current Miss World is Toni-Ann Singh from Jamaica. Ann-Singh has been the queen since 2019 because the contest was postponed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pageant has produced two winners from Puerto Rico, namely Wilnelia Merced Forsyth, Miss World 1975, and Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016.



## Another England: Football's reckoning on racial politics

LONDON

BRITAIN'S right-wing government has carved out an electoral advantage in ridiculing "woke" politics and campaigners for racial justice, but is now on the defensive against a unified and popular group.

Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "culture wars" and ballot-box inroads have made life difficult for the Labour opposition party.

One group, however, knows where it stands: England's multi-racial, youthful and idealistic football team.

"They have made an appeal to the best aspects of Englishness and done so against the direction of play, during an era in which politicians mobilise our worst instincts and darkest fears," historian David Olusoga wrote in *The Guardian* newspaper.

"Twenty-six young men and their remarkable manager have again reminded us that there is another path, another form of English patriotism, another way of being together and -- if enough of us want it -- another England."

Johnson and Home Secretary Priti Patel donned England shirts late on in the European Championship to trumpet their support for the team, after previously mocking its anti-racism stand.

Taking the knee before their games, an anti-racism gesture, was empty "gesture politics", according to Patel, who like Johnson initially refused to condemn England fans for jeering the players at the start of the tournament.

Now, in the face of toxic racial abuse levelled at three black players after England's agonising loss in the Euro2020 final against Italy on Sunday, the politicians profess disgust.

"Dog whistles" - But current and former players have accused them of hypocrisy and of fomenting the post-final hatred, prompting a rattled Johnson on Wednesday to promise tougher action against online abusers and social media platforms.

Conservative lawmaker Sayeeda Warsi urged the prime minister to go further and "stop the culture wars", adding: "Dog whistles win votes but destroy nations."

Hardline Brexiteer MP Steve Baker said Patel was wrong in her dismissal of taking the knee, following scornful criticism of the minister by current player Tyrone Mings.

Conservative lord Daniel Finkelstein warned the government was falling on the wrong side of history, in an opinion piece for *The Times*

headlined: "In Priti Patel v Tyrone Mings there's only one winner."

England manager Gareth Southgate, in a pre-tournament letter to the nation, dwelt on patriotism and pride as he underlined the meaning that representing their nation held for all his players.

"This is a special group. Humble, proud and liberated in being their true selves," he said.

"It's their duty to continue to interact with the public on matters such as equality, inclusivity and racial injustice, while using the power of their voices to help put debates on the table, raise awareness and educate."

After years of financial austerity followed by Brexit and the coronavirus pandemic, the footballers have given English people reason to smile, even if they ultimately came up just short of winning their first international tournament in 55 years.

Win or lose, there had been talk of Johnson honouring the squad with a Downing Street reception. That talk has receded, with Number 10 anxious to avoid any public showdown with players who have united the country in sympathy and admiration -- excepting the racist trolls online.

It has been another reminder of the political power of football in Britain.

One of the black players targeted, Marcus Rashford, last year forced Johnson to climb down over his refusal to offer free school meals to poorer children during pandemic lockdowns.

- 'Double-edged sword' -

Critics on the left wish the opposition Labour party would show more resolve in taking on Johnson's verbal and legislative offensive on "woke" issues, including a new bill that would dramatically increase punishments for vandalism during Black Lives Matter and other protests.

But with the Conservatives making historic inroads into Labour strongholds in northern England, the party has fought shy of doing battle on the cultural front.

That needs to change, the left-wing Fabian Society said, echoing Olusoga's point that a different and more unifying form of English patriotism is possible.

"When culture is being weaponised against us, we need to bin the scripts and awkward soundbites and find stories and images that come from the heart and speak to everyone's sense of pride and belonging," it said.

## Messi, Barcelona agree new deal - sources

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi and Barcelona have reached an agreement for the forward to sign a new five-year deal with the Catalan club, sources have confirmed to ESPN. Sources added that Messi has accepted a significant wage reduction to prolong his stay.

Messi was a free agent after his contract at Barca expired, and he had courted interest from Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City since first revealing a desire to end his 20-year relationship with Barca last summer. The 34-year-old's previous contract, which was worth over €500 million (\$594m) over four years, expired at the stroke of midnight on June 30.

However, with the return of Joan Laporta as president in March, Messi grew more open to staying at Camp Nou. An official announcement is expected in the coming days.

Laporta had hoped to finalise an agreement before Messi's previous terms expired. Barca's financial problems made that impossible, though, with their gross debt over €1 billion. Cutbacks have been essential, in terms of transferring players out, reducing the wage bill and getting Messi to accept a lower salary.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has warned Barca they will not be allowed to register Messi's new deal if they are unable to reduce spending to comply with the league's Financial Fair Play rules. Barca's spending limit has been reduced from over €600m to €347m since the coronavirus pandemic, with further reductions expected to be imposed for the upcoming season.

Therefore, to register Messi's new deal, in addition to new signings Sergio Agüero, Memphis Depay, Eric Garcia and Emerson Royal, Barca need to continue reducing the wage bill and moving players on. With that in mind, sources at the club refuse to rule out the departure of Antoine Griezmann, a €120m signing in 2019.

Messi is on holiday with his family after his Copa America glory with Argentina last weekend, which was his first senior trophy with his national team.

He will link up with Ronald Koeman's squad later in the summer, with Barca's league campaign kicking off on Aug. 15 against Real Sociedad at Camp Nou. Messi had first expressed a desire to leave Barca last August after the 8-2 defeat to Bayern Munich in the Champions League. His relationship with then-president Josep Maria Bartomeu had reached a breaking point. In a September 2020 interview with *Goal*, after Barca had blocked his departure, Messi called Bartomeu a "liar" and said the board had been "making things up as they go along" and "plugging holes" for years.

Bartomeu, facing a vote of no confidence, resigned last October and was eventually replaced by Laporta in March. Laporta has a good relationship with Messi and his family. He was Barca's president when Messi made his first-team debut and when he signed his first professional contract with the club.

Sources told ESPN in April that Laporta was working on a contract renewal for Messi that included the option of playing in Major League Soccer before returning to Barcelona.

## Nine-time champions Ahly dare not underestimate outsiders Chiefs

CAIRO

A CAF Champions League season stacked with shocks will produce another tomorrow if first-time finalists Kaizer Chiefs Beat nine-time winners Al Ahly in Moroccan economic capital Casablanca.

Many among the millions who support Egyptian and African giants Ahly believe the outcome is not in doubt at Stade Mohammed V, their only questions is the victory margin for the Mohamed el Shenawy-captained Cairo Red Devils.

Yet Chiefs were rank outsiders when the competition kicked off last November and the South African club have already defied massive odds to reach the final.

Although they are two of the biggest names in African football, the teams have met just once, with Ahly winning 4-1 in the one-off 2002 CAF Super Cup match in Cairo.

Ahly reached the 2021 final by winning eight matches, drawing three and losing just one, away to shock Group A winners Simba in Tanzania at the mini-league stage.

Winners of a record 21 CAF titles in four competitions, the Cairo club have scored 23 goals, including five from leading scorer Mohamed Sherif, and conceded just six en route to Casablanca.

They are guided by South African Pitso Mosimane, a childhood Chiefs' fan who will tie five-time Tunisian Faouzi Benzarti as the most successful African coaches in CAF club competitions if Ahly triumph.

He chooses his team from a mix of Egyptian, Tunisian, Malian and Nigerian stars and, since replacing Swiss Rene Weiler last September, has won 36 of 50 matches in all competitions, drawn 10 and lost four.

His stars include El Shenawy, widely regarded as the best goalkeeper in Africa, full-back Ali Maaloul, midfielders Aliou Dieng and Mohamed 'Afsha' Magdy and forward Sherif.

Although Mosimane has ample TV footage of Chiefs, he still labels the



Pitso Mosimane

Soweto side "mysterious" and "difficult to analyse".

Also, perhaps playing mind games, he says the South Africans have "scored a lot and conceded a lot" in the Champions League this season.

In fact, the Amakhosi (Chiefs) have averaged less than a goal a game in Africa, notching 12 in 14 qualifying, group, quarter-final and semi-final matches.

- 11 clean sheets -

They conceded four to Wydad Casablanca, three to Simba and two to Horoya in Guinea, but also boast 11 clean sheets.

"I have a little bit of a conflict facing Chiefs," admits Mosimane. "I am a South African plotting the downfall of my countrymen."

"However, it is about me, my family and my team. They come first. Either I want to give my winners medal to Chiefs or keep it for myself and I think you (media) know the answer to that one."

"Ahly are not a welfare or charitable organisation handing out stars (Champions League winners medals). We want to win what they call 'El Ashra' (10th title) in Egypt."

Chiefs coach Arthur Zwane was part of the team hampered by Ahly in the Super Cup 19 years ago when one of the Egyptian goals was scored by goalkeeper Essam el Ha-

dary from a clearing kick.

He says the desire to please club chairman and former star Kaizer Motaung is a huge factor driving the underdogs, whose lone CAF success came in the 2001 edition of the now defunct African Cup Winners Cup.

"Kaizer formed the club 51 years ago and turned it into the most successful in South Africa, but we have not won anything since 2015 and now is the time to alter that unacceptable statistic."

Chiefs will rely on a tight defence marshalled by giant centre-back Eric Mathoho, and they can choose from a trio of excellent goalkeepers in Nigerian Daniel Akpeyi, Itumeleng Khune and Bruce Bvuma.

Veteran Zimbabwean Willard Katsande is combative and Nkosinophile Ngcobo creative in midfield while Serbian forward Samir Nurkovic is a clinical finisher, both on the ground and in the air.

Burundian Pacifique Ndebahawenimana will referee the fourth Champions League final between Egyptian and South African clubs with the north Africans holding a 2-1 lead.

AFP

## Gianluca Vialli's role in Italy's Euro 2020 triumph is inspiring and incredible

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

GIANLUCA Vialli made me choke up. And to think, this wasn't my first rodeo.

Between World Cup finals, Champions League finals and Europa League finals, playoff finals, domestic cup finals, European Championship and Copa America finals ... I'm well north of 60 in a professional capacity.

When you have the privilege of doing what I do for a living, you try to stay professional as best you can, leaving emotion to one side. It's not always easy, not when you love this game and the people around it, not when you bear witness to the emotional transport of hundreds of millions of people around the world, not when you understand that it is one of the common threads of humanity.

So, yeah, there have been times when I've become emotional postgame. But never before the event. Until Sunday night at Wembley, that is.

It's customary, usually an hour-and-a-half before kickoff, for players and coaches to walk around the pitch, get a sense of their surroundings, take in the moment. Most of the Italian team and coaches did just that prior to the Euro 2020 final against England.

One man stayed out there on his own, standing upright in the middle of the pitch, letting his eyes wander over what he saw. It was someone who lives minutes away from me in London and a guy I've known for 25 years. It was Luca. I took a photo and tweeted it out. Vialli looking at once tiny and immense on the green Wembley lawn.

I haven't asked him what went through his head in those minutes that felt like hours, possibly because I was transfixed and willing up from the Wembley press box. I won't ask him either. Let it be a private moment, though plenty have speculated.

Maybe it was the fact that Italy and England, the two countries he has called home for almost an even split of his life were facing off in a European final.

Maybe it was the fact that Roberto Mancini, his closest friend in football and his "goal twin" from Sampdoria days going back 37 years, had asked him

was accompanied by what he calls "an unwelcome travel companion": cancer.

Yeah, that's what he calls it. A "travel companion" stalking him on his journey through life.

"I don't see this as a battle," he writes in his book, "Goals: Inspirational stories to help tackle life's challenges," which I helped curate and translate. "I am not a warrior. I am not fighting cancer: it's too strong an enemy and I would not stand a chance. I am a man who is on a journey... my goal is to keep walking, keep moving until he's had enough and leaves me alone."

That journey has seen Vialli take on bouts of chemotherapy that ravaged his body, turning his chiseled athlete's frame into skin and bones (and heart: that never went away). It saw him confront death, the end of existence (or, at least, this existence) and the effect it would have on his family and loved ones.

But it also taught him the power of positivity, of routine and of switching off, letting the adrenaline of a hyper-achiever give way to the peace of someone willing to stop and take pleasure in what he calls "the little details of everyday life."

It is also why he accepted the call from Mancini and the Italian FA: "If I'm thinking about work, it's easier to block the irrational thoughts out of my mind," he wrote. I might add, the terrifying ones -- the end of one's existence

– too.

Vialli was careful to respect his role in the Italian delegation. He was not an assistant coach, he was not about to let his profile overshadow or interfere with anybody else. He was there for Mancini and the players when needed.

Some reported that he was the only one Mancini would take to on the matchday mornings, part of an old superstitious routine. Others said that Vialli was an essential part of another superstition that Mancini and the team insisted on maintaining throughout the tournament: being left behind when the team bus set off as if "forgotten" and only welcomed aboard a few feet later.

Thing is, it's hard to keep a low profile when you're Gianluca Vialli and you've touched so many lives.

"He will hate me for saying this, but I don't care," Alessandro Florenzi said after the final. "Everybody needs to know this. We have among us an example that teaches us how to live, in any moment, in any situation. And I'm talking about Gianluca Vialli. For us, he's special. Without him, and without Mancini and the other coaches, this victory would mean nothing. He is a living example. I know he'll get angry, but I just had to say it."

Me, I know exactly how Florenzi feels. Vialli might get annoyed with me too when he reads this. But it had to be said. It takes a lot to choke up someone who has watched as much football as I have before a ball is even kicked.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Nine-time champions Ahly dare not underestimate outsiders Chiefs**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) president, Nizar Jivani (L), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for this year's National Rally Championship, which will take place next week. Looking on is Oryx Energies Company's Managing Director, Kalpesh Mehta. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## National Rally Championship set for next week

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's National Rally Championship is set to take place in Dar es Salaam and Ubena Area in Coast Region next week, AAT disclosed yesterday.

Nizar Jivani, Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) president, said the two-day event will take place at Ubena Area, Highland Estate, in Coast Region, covering 220km, attracting 34 drivers from both in and outside the country.

He said the number of drivers this year is extremely big compared to other years.

The AAT official thanked all sponsors of the rally, including main sponsor Oryx Energies Company, which has been bankrolling the rally for the past six years, Asas, Azam Media, Advert Construction and others.

The AAT president said rally is growing into a major spectator sporting event in the country.

He added drivers on the Africa Rally Championship (ARC) circuit have inspired many young and new talents to take up rally in the country.

He said AAT mission is to cultivate the spirit of rallying in the hearts and minds of young enthusiasts by hosting rally in the country.

"This year the Oryx Energies Rally will take place next week from July 23-25, number of drivers is very big, for the first time we have 34 drivers, others are coming from outside the country... we have drivers from Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and South Africa, on the first day it will cover 88 kilometers while the last day it will be a 130-kilometer showdown, it promises to be more spectacular, competitive and entertaining," he explained.

He explained that the opening of the rally will be held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday next week.

Scrutinizing of cars will be held on Thursday at the Wheel in Mikocheni, the following day will be pre-rally media briefing and ceremonial start while on Saturday it will be qualifying stage.

The day will moreover witness the start of the rally and on Sunday morning the rally will start and podium activities will be held later on the day.

Jivani challenged local drivers to perform well in the event.

"Facing top drivers from Kenya, Burundi, Uganda and the sole driver from South Africa will not be an easy assignment but AAT has trust in you, we know you will perform well at the event," he said.

Oryx Energies' Managing Director, Kalpesh Mehta, also said his company is very delighted with the number of drivers this year.

He noted the rally promises to be more competitive and challenging.

He promises his company's continued support to the event.

Satinder Birdi, the event's director, said all preparations for the event are going on very well.

Birdi assured all people that they will follow all Coronavirus preventive measures during the rally.

"All preparations for the National Rally Championship are going on very well, we are happy that we are working closely with the sponsors, National Sports Council (NSC), the Police and all stakeholders," he said.

Zonal Traffic Officer for Dar es Salaam, ACP Abdi Issango, assured the drivers that police will work closely with them during the event.

He, however, called upon all drivers who will compete to follow traffic rules and he moreover asked the organizers to inform the spectators on the rules to be followed.

## TAMISEMI Queens in pursuit of success in Netball League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A NETBALL squad financed by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (TAMISEMI) has planned to do well in the First Division League slated to take place in Arusha from July 18-29 2021.

The PMO-RALG Sports Club's Chairman, Philbert Rwakilomba, said his team, known as TAMISEMI Queens, is well prepared for the tournament, especially after last year's failure to participate in the showdown due to the COVID-19 tragedy.

He said due to good backing the team has enjoyed from senior ministry officials, especially Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Umy Mwalimu, and the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Riziki Shemdoe.

According to Rwakilomba, the team has received adequate preparation to enable it to successfully participate in the league and eventually win the trophy.

Rwakilomba said in one of the preparations for the league, the team took part in a netball league held in Dodoma recently and lifted the tournament's trophy.

The TAMISEMI Queens finished fourth when the tournament was held in Dodoma in 2019.

Domestic netball powerhouse, JKT Mbweni, lifted the competition's title, whereas Jeshi Stars and Arusha City team ended second and third respectively.

During the 2019 netball league, TAMISEMI Queens beat Coca-Cola, Dodoma City squad, Tanga City, SMART, Eagle, and JKT Makutupora.

The TAMISEMI Queens conceded three defeats in fixtures against JKT Mbweni, Jeshi Stars and Arusha City.

The PMO-RALG Sports Club secretary, Alex Ntenga, has promised that his team will beat all sides the former will meet in the competition, including JKT Mbweni and Arusha City.

The TAMISEMI Queens will rely on its talented players including Lilian Jovin, Flora Odilo, Rose Makange and team captain, Dafrosa Luhwago, that are coached by Maimuna Kitete, in the tournament.

Arusha City Sports Officer Benson Maneno said the Arusha City team, popularly known as 'Arusha City Queens', has also planned to do well in the tournament.

Maneno disclosed that Arusha City Queens are currently out of the country in preparation for the competition.

## TFF intensifies preparations for 2021 ASFC final



Yanga's forward, Yacouba Songne (2nd R), dribbles past Biashara United's center back, Lenny Kissu (2nd L), and midfielder, Ramadhan Chombo (L), in this season's Federation Cup's last four stage's match at Ali Hassan Mwinyi Stadium in Tabora last month. Yanga won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) says it has stepped up preparations for this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final bringing together historical rivals, Simba SC and Yanga, at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma next week.

The age-old rivals will meet in the final of the ASFC on July 25 and TFF through the federation's Director of Competitions, Salum Madadi, said all preparations are going on very well.

"We are going on very well with our preparations, I can say we have done almost all vital preparations. What remains are minor works which I am sure will be finished next week before the final," he said.

Madadi's assurance comes after some people had questioned the readiness of Lake Tanganyika Stadium to host a final between the two local football power houses.

An encounter involving the two sides normally attracts a lot of emotions to both people watching either at the stadium or on TV.

Kigoma Regional Football Association (KRFA) official Omari Gindi was also quoted in the local press to have said they have intensified preparations for the final.

He said KRFA is ready to host the match and they are confident that they will successfully host it.

The final between the two sides is attracting a lot of interest from both within and outside the country.

The last time the two sides met in a top flight clash, held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on July 3, Yanga beat Simba 1-0.

The two outfits have intensified preparations both on and off the field with reports saying they have increased their training schedule.

Yanga information officer Hassan Bumbuli said the preparations were going on smoothly.

"We are preparing just like what we do for any other game. There are no special preparations, but we are determined to beat them in the ASFC final, that

will be the best award to our never-say-die supporters," he said.

Simba SC information officer Haji Manara is reported to have stated his outfit is also determined to win the cup in Kigoma as pride is at stake for the Premier League champions.

"We are confident that we will win the cup this year, they beat us at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, but this time around we will not allow them repeat the feat," Manara said.

Yanga progressed to the final after cruising to 1-0 victory over Biashara United in the semi-final, which took place in Ruvuma.

Simba SC cruised to the show-down's final in similar fashion, edging Azam FC 1-0 in the semi-final, which took place in Ruvuma.

Simba SC is looking to retain the ASFC top honour and boast of having domestic double this season.

The outfit lifted the last year's tournament's title after beating Namungo FC 2-1 at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa.

## EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

Friday Night Live

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA!  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

Friday Night Live The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**eastafrika**  
RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM**  
DAR ES SALAAM



# Viable, diverse, stable and safe – is this really too much for media to ask?

By Andrew Heslop

**V**IABILITY, diversity, stability and safety are essential ingredients of any healthy information eco-system. How many media worldwide can say yes to all four? How far are individual professionals, news organisations, and the industry as a whole from achieving these? And at this time of global anxiety, economic turmoil, and future uncertainty, is it crazy to be aiming for them in the first place?

As we marked this year's World Press Freedom Day (May 3), the media across the globe were fighting threats both existential and immediate.

The Covid-19 health pandemic had exacerbated, and in many instances accelerated, challenges familiar to media owners, editors and journalists everywhere.

The dilemma for an industry shrinking by the day and fast running out of money is that the biggest, most unavoidable cost is the journalism that, by its very essence, defines it.

Above all, Covid-19 has forced questions around the economic model and how media are financed front and centre for everyone with even just a passing interest in how news is produced.

The insecurities that have been corroding the industry for over two decades are now circulating wildly and devastating newsrooms and boardrooms worldwide.

Many of the difficult questions facing the news industry are underpinned by an inability to predict a general economic model that will guarantee a future for quality, professional journalism.

Digital advertisement revenue failed a long time ago to make up anywhere near the shortfall from traditional advertising sources. The irony during this global pandemic is that the media have generally seen online traffic soar, yet revenues continue to plummet.

Experiments with paywalls, subscription models and shifts away from traditional news products have produced notable localised successes but are no one-size-fits-all panacea.

In developing markets, across countries where press freedom is threatened or where huge disadvantages in skills and resources were already acute, the Covid-19-catalysed survival fight comes at a moment in which many media organisations are already on their knees.

Added to this, of course, are the new digital frontiers in which the media continue to struggle to assert

themselves. The ever-growing cacophony of social media channels – each account a direct competitor to the media in terms of audience, advertising share and influence – has led to the media jostling for a position in the digital society that they previously dominated in the physical world.

Contributing significantly to this decline in prestige is a pervasive, algorithmically confirmed bias that favours social discord, feeds off polarisation and services corporate profit.

The phenomenon slowly revealed itself during the latter half of the previous decade and showed the media that the deck is very much stacked against them, regardless of the quality, accuracy or trustworthiness of their content.

The harsh reality: public interest reporting simply does not convert to advertising dollars – or at least not nearly enough of them to bet the house on.

But the potential for misuse, manipulation, or even the 'weaponisation' of the algorithms has nowhere been more starkly illustrated than in the election domain – a pre-pandemic period of turmoil that shook democratic societies to their core.

Just ask Maria Angelita Ressa (her company itself a product of social media), how speaking truth to power in the digital age has cost her.

This Filipino-American journalist and author previously spent nearly two decades working as a lead investigative reporter in Southeast Asia for CNN.

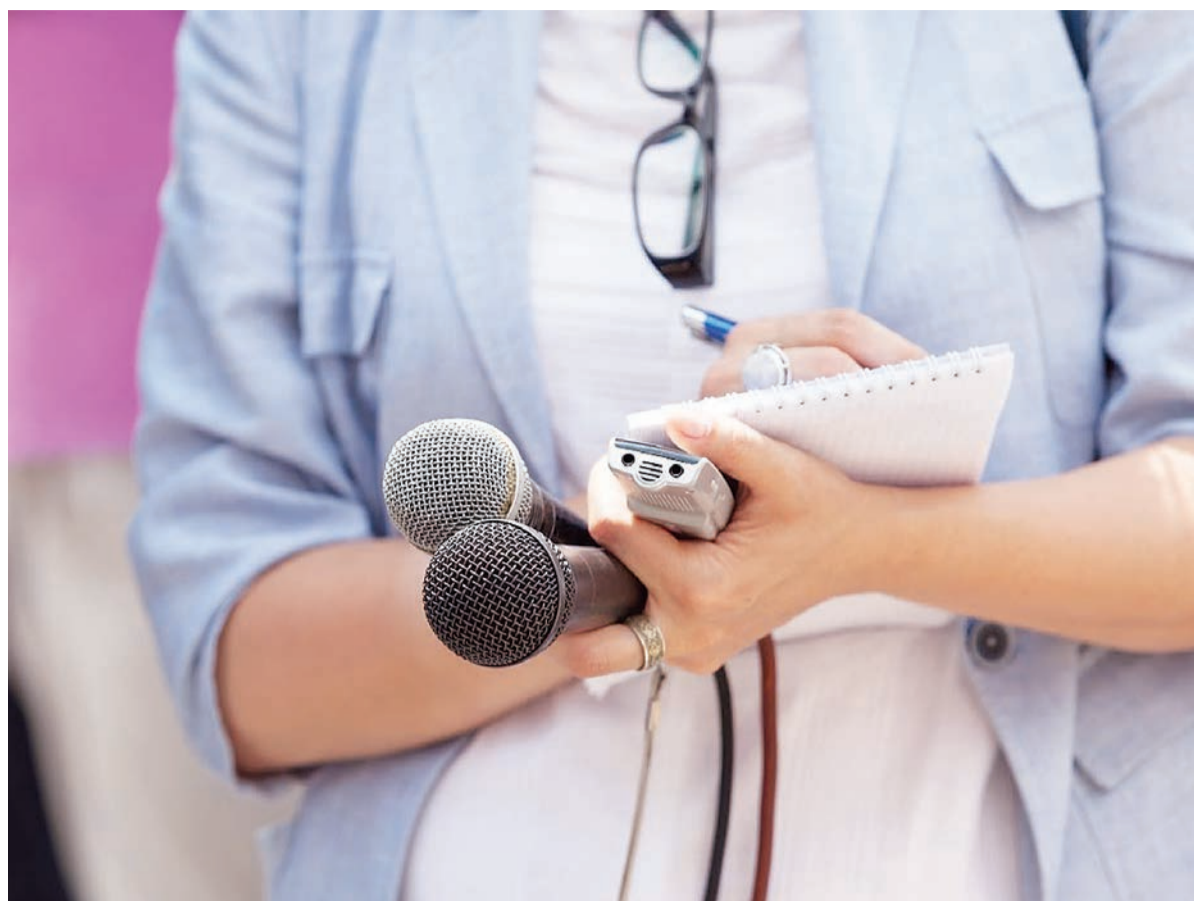
The idea that the dominant technological companies are both part of the problem and an essential ingredient to finding a solution is unavoidable.

As the gatekeepers of Eldorado, they remain in an immense position of relatively unchecked authority to determine the success – or failure – of the news industry at the local, national and international levels.

The money involved is astronomical, but money alone doesn't tell the whole story of the media's dilemma almost a year and a half into the pandemic.

Journalists continue to be physically attacked, threatened – online and off – and killed in rising numbers. The pandemic has provided no respite, with over 600 Covid-19-related attacks documented to date.

The drastic social measures taken by governments around the world have been exploited, somewhat predictably, by those already averse to a free media as an opportunity to stifle freedom of expres-



sion, restrict access to information, and undermine critical reporting on their efforts.

And, as a recent study by DW Akademie sets out, adding to the economic strife, social and political attacks have media in every market fearing for the future of public interest journalism.

Get this from DW Akademie, Germany's leading provider of international media training: "Reliable information is especially essential in crisis situations – as Covid-19 has shown – and media outlets carry the heavy responsibility of providing balanced news, exposing abuse of power and corruption, and countering disinformation.

"Paradoxically, crises make it especially difficult for the media to provide their audiences with relevant and balanced information whilst keeping their employees safe and maintaining their financial stability. Media professionals are targeted, media freedom is restricted, (self-) censorship increases and income sources break away."

Along with the perennial goal of achieving business sustainability, there is growing recognition of the nuances that drive success or failure in this regard; the contributing layers of complexity that go beyond the bottom-line economics of news production to help determine the overall viability of a news operation.

It is essential to understand the extent to which the media are able to produce independent, high-quality content considering not just the economics, but also socio-political and technological factors that reflect the health of the overall media landscape and its place in the information eco-system.

These factors significantly impact a media company's ability to thrive and effectively serve the public interest. Examination of the detail allows for a better understanding of the different issues at play, a more effective analysis of how they interact and interconnect to help or hinder the media in reaching their objectives.

Ultimately, a more accurate diagnosis of internal, structural and environmental concerns can lead to more effective, targeted remedies to arrest decline

across the financial, professional and rights-based foundations upon which the media rely.

While this thinking pre-dates the Covid-19 crisis, the pandemic has introduced an urgency to the need for holistic solutions to these issues that, for too long, have chipped away at the media's role in our societies and now leave many staring into an abyss of the unknown.

There are efforts – serious efforts – to find an appropriately scaled response in these critical moments, one that better interprets the factors which impact viability so that mistakes are not repeated.

On the global level, WAN-IFRA's work with UNESCO and partners seeks to produce accurate research into the extent of the crisis, share knowledge and best practice of the varying responses to-date, and formulate policy recommendations aimed at governments, investors and the media industry itself on action to take to support viability.

WAN-IFRA's engagement with the Independent News Emergency Relief Coordination (INERC) group looks to track investment into the news industry as a result of the Covid-19 crisis, with an eye to the longer-term structural challenges that have brought the old business model to its current state.

WAN-IFRA's World Press Trends report as well as research among members to document relief efforts, government subsidies, private capital investments and policy changes also give an indication of the scale of the damage and the areas to prioritise as the industry rebuilds. And responding to the need for a holistic approach, WAN-IFRA's media freedom work seeks to tackle the challenges related to viability, diversity, stability and safety.

For over 70 years, WAN-IFRA has put into practice the belief that business strength and the freedom to publish are symbiotic to a healthy, democratic society. Today, through an average annual investment of Euros 3 million of public funding from Denmark, Norway and Sweden, the association's work with members and non-members alike in over 120 countries extends beyond support in achieving business best-practice and edito-

rial professionalism to prioritising gender equality.

This is implemented through WAN-IFRA's Women in News programme and addressing safety, digital security, mental health and well-being concerns – all equally paramount to levelling the playing field and providing the best conditions for long-term success.

Underlining all of this, and while recognising the difficulties of capturing the many indicators needed to assess media viability, WAN-IFRA's work promoting basic stability helps guide our partners at every stage as they navigate the often difficult, increasingly urgent transition to digital. All this is rooted in the association's seven decades of experience and rich history of supporting the economic independence of media. Likewise, WAN-IFRA's network of Media Freedom Committees in 19 countries allows the association to support local research and policy initiatives into pandemic responses across Africa and Asia.

This is alongside organising newsroom training and improving business efficiencies in local media operations – all while advocating for greater press freedom.

And over the past 12 months the association has provided upwards of Euros 300,000 in direct grants to media struggling to finance public interest reporting during the Covid-19 pandemic through its combined donor programme funding.

It's a contribution, not an insignificant one, but unfortunately the scale of the global crisis now demands far, far more.

Bold choices therefore lie before the association; big decisions that will define and shape the next generation of the news media.

But there will be no solutions to any of this without a systemic reset or conceptually radical break from the 'old ways' of thinking and doing – otherwise a viable media industry confirming its place within a healthy information eco-system remains a fantasy.

Likewise, fixing the economic model without also correcting disparities related to diversity and equality can by no means be described as an advancement.

The solution has to be inclusive. It has to raise everyone, otherwise the 'universal' descriptor of the human right to freedom of expression remains exclusive, caveated and ultimately meaningless – just when we need it the most.

**Piece published courtesy of the author and the World Association of News Publishers – WAN-IFRA.**

## Beijing goes all out to improve education in Xinjiang

By He Yong

**O**VER the past five years, Beijing has actively supported northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region with the construction of kindergartens and primary and middle schools, in a bid to lay the foundations of and bolster areas of weakness in Xinjiang's education.

From 2016 to 2020, Beijing allocated a fund of nearly 2.1 billion (\$320 million) yuan to aid Xinjiang in improving schools. The city established, renovated, and expanded a total of 193 kindergartens and primary and middle schools, which cover an area of over 2.6 million square meters, and built a batch of demonstration schools including the Moyu Beijing Senior High School and Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary School in Xinjiang.

Beijing has significantly scaled up the various education infrastructure in Xinjiang and helped the autonomous region resolve the shortage of education facilities overall at this stage.

Meanwhile, Beijing has helped create over 150,000 places in the schools of Xinjiang, effectively guaranteeing the access to education for children who have reached school age.

Raziya Abdirehim, a six-grade student at the Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary School, enjoys rope skipping with friends at the tartan tracks of the schoolyard. "I really like the big playground as we can play games and do activities there," said the student.

Before it bid farewell to poverty last year, Hotan prefecture in Xinjiang, where the Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary School is located, was one of the severely impoverished areas in China and was faced with a prominent lack of education resources.

For a while, the schools in villages and towns of the prefecture were equipped with rough wooden tables and chairs, whose colors didn't even match; a teacher needed to take care of an entire class of 50 to 60 children in the kindergartens, which was pretty hard work; and in some schools, the walls fell into decay, and the ceilings of offices had cracks and started to



Students take a course at the Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary School, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, March 30, 2019. On that day, the school celebrated the first School Open Day and invited parents to take part in the classroom activities. (File photo)

peel.

As a key project of Beijing's assistance with the education of Xinjiang, the Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary School took shape on an open space within merely over one year and officially started to enroll students in the autumn of 2018.

With novel designs and complete facilities, the mod-

ern school accommodating over 2,100 students now has become a star school in the area, and serves as an epitome of the fruits Beijing has achieved in assisting Xinjiang in the field of education.

When it started to enroll students, the Hetian Beijing Haidian

Primary School was troubled by the lack of experience and professional skills among some local teachers though equipped with first-class hardware facilities.

Liu Quanhua, a teacher from Haidian district of Beijing in the Hetian Beijing Haidian Primary

School, has encouraged fellows assigned by Beijing to instruct local teachers, which pushes the rapid improvement in their quality.

It is crucial to train a team of high-quality teachers for the area, and stimulate the vitality of local teachers so that they can independently animate the class and benefit the students, according to Liu, also the first principal of the school.

Liu has devoted himself to the development of the school and couldn't help but shed tears when he attended the flag-raising ceremony at the school for one last time before leaving the school and returning to Beijing last year.

Since 2016, Beijing has assigned 647 excellent teachers in four batches to help teach students in Xinjiang.

The teachers from Beijing have formed over 800 pairs in a master-apprentice relationship with local teachers in Xinjiang to improve their competences, staged demonstration courses for more than 1,500 times, and trained over 10,000 fresh hands in schools.

Beijing has also creatively launched a program to encourage college students across China to teach in the schools of Xinjiang. Since 2018, Beijing has invested over 200 million yuan, and recruited over 20,000 college students to teach in Xinjiang, effectively dealing with the insufficiency of teachers in the autonomous region.

**People's Daily**