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# PMO sets out tourist arrival wins, massive investments

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has recorded an increased number of tourists as 1.4m foreign visitors came into the country in the past nine months, thanks to government measures to revive the sector which was hit hard by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, ratifying international protocols in controlling the disease and thus unlocking tourist arrivals.

Prof Godius Kahyarara, the permanent secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for Investment, said the numbers of tourists markedly increased starting March 2021, from 620,000 tourists who visited the country for the whole of 2020.

Government efforts to promote economic diplomacy helped to increase the flow of foreign investments, attaining 340 per cent compared to the previous year, he stated, highlighting data indicating that investment values reached \$4.144bn (9.6trn/-) from March to November, eclipsing the \$4.6bn value recorded from 2016 to 2020.

In the past nine months, projects registered at the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC)

reached \$3.55bn, while those mining sector flows were 506.8m dollars worth, he stated.

Projects registered through the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) resulted in investments of \$ 79.62m, he stated.

"Tanzania could this year set a record as the leading investment destination in Africa after Egypt was ranked the first last year, attracting investments worth \$5.9bn," he declared, elaborating that economic diplomacy, the president succeeded to attract Egyptian billionaire Ahmed Elsewedy who will invest at an industrial park in Kigamboni, on the outskirts of the city of Dar es Salaam.

Elsewedy has also encouraged other Egyptian billionaires to establish joint ventures with local partners in the wake of an investment forum held in Zanzibar this month. Projects in agriculture and fisheries on joint venture with Egypt's Daltex Corporation are expected, the firm being active in 53 countries.

India's largest textile company is expected to invest in organic cotton production, an event scheduled to be launched in three

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Members of the Roman Catholic Mtinko Parish in Singida region take COVID -19 vaccinations after morning service yesterday, following the ongoing sensitisation campaign. Photo: Correspondent Mary Godfrey

## Mahonda Sugar firm in morbid fiscal state

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FINANCES at the Zanzibar Mahonda Sugar factory are in a poor state from inadequate land for sugar cane cultivation, the management has declared.

Freak Mtui, the firm's project manager, said at a joint meeting involved some cabinet ministers and company officials, who conducted extensive discussions on the challenge, a meeting held at the factory premises

Sugar production there has been suspended as the sugar cane production is low due to inadequate land area available for its cultivation, the manager noted, elaborating that acreage has diminished since 2010 when the firm acquired the factory from the government.

The firm was supposed to base its activities on 6,644 acres, but the factory was gradually stripped off 2,700 acres of land, which the manager said was disrupting the

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# Four die, 30 admitted in poisonous turtle debacle

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

FOUR people have died and more than 30 others have fallen ill after eating a turtle believed to be poisonous at Mtemwe in North Unguja Region.

Following the incident, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi sent a condolence message to the families of the deceased, expressing grief on the sad events, urging the bereaved families to remain calm even as they grieve.

The Zanzibar government, via the ministry and hospital authorities, will make sure those receiving treatment are properly catered for to return to normal health, he stated, on yesterday's incident.

The survivors were admitted at Kivunge

“Cases have also been reported in Indonesia, Micronesia and India's Indian Ocean islands

Hospital in Unguja South region, where, visiting the patients, Unguja North A District Commissioner Sadifa Juma called on the people to stop eating turtles randomly.

On November 28 seven people, including a three-year-old, died on Pemba Island after eating poisonous turtle meat and three were still in hospital. The meat is a common delicacy among islanders and coastal residents, but local authorities were increasingly concerned on potential health dramas from this habit.

In rare cases turtle meat can be toxic because of a type of food poisoning known as chelonitoxism, which experts say is linked to poisonous algae which the turtles eat, on the basis of online material from the Turtle

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## Archbishop Tutu (90) passes on

CAPE TOWN

DESMOND Tutu, the cleric and social activist who became a giant of peaceful struggle against apartheid in South Africa and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984, has died aged 90.

Tutu (pictured), described by foreign observers and his countrymen as the moral conscience of his nation, died in Cape Town on Boxing Day.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said in his

obituary note that the passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is another chapter of bereavement in the country's farewell to "a generation of outstanding South Africans who have bequeathed us a liberated South Africa."

"From the pavements of resistance in South Africa to the pulpits of the world's great cathedrals and other places of worship, and the prestigious setting of the Nobel peace prize ceremony, the archbishop distinguished himself as a non-sectarian, inclusive champion of universal human rights," he declared.

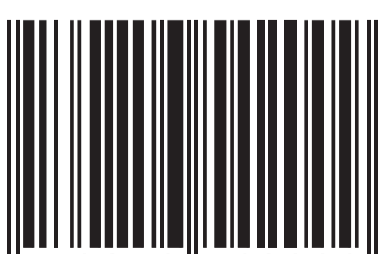
Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in the late 1990s and in recent years he was hospitalised on several occasions to treat infections associated with his treatment.

Dr Ramphela Mamphele, acting chairperson of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu IP Trust and coordinator of the Office of the Archbishop, said in a statement on behalf of the Tutu family that ultimately, at the age of 90, he died peacefully at the Oasis Frail Care Centre in

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NMB Bank Chief Finance Officer, Juma Kimori (C), senior manager for card business Manfrey Kayala and Helga Loth, the bank's analyst for card finance, holding fliers to symbolise the official launch of MastaBata promotion at the weekend with over 240m/- set out as prize money at the conclusion of the promotion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



# Vaccine Famine; its impact on African economies

By Ahunna Eziakonwa

WE are about to start a third year of living with COVID-19. The world's humanity and solidarity are now at a further test - and yet implications of the absence of solidarity keep us all in the boat of mutations, lockdowns, quarantines and delayed SDGs - denied prosperity for all. 2021 has unearthed a new expression of global inequity: "vaccine nationalism" - itself competing with high with socioeconomic downturns, jobless growth, the climate crisis, and rising poverty.

As the pandemic ravages on, with Omicron on the scene, the futility of hoarding takes centre stage as even the heavy supply of boosters in advanced economies has not shielded them from the vicious cycle of pandemic-living. While about 60 per cent of the population in the US and 76 per cent of that in Canada are fully vaccinated, in Africa - a continent home to 1.3 billion people - the number barely reaches 8 per cent. Many have argued that vaccines' short shelf life, hesitancy and logistic

The world's humanity and solidarity are now at its further test - and yet the implications of the absence of solidarity keep us all in the boat of mutations, lockdowns, quarantines and delayed SDGs - denied prosperity for all. 2021 has unearthed a new expression of global inequity: "vaccine nationalism" - which itself competes high with socioeconomic downturns, jobless growth, the climate crisis, and rising poverty.

Vaccine inequality is also manifesting in terms of affordability. For high income countries to vaccinate 70 per cent of their population, it will take raising their health care spending by 0.8 per cent. Lower income countries must increase health care spending by over 50 per cent, on average - to do the same.

Vaccines delayed is development denied. Estimates show that vaccine delays cost Africa up to \$14 billion in lost productivity each month - making recovery more challenging, and dragging out the first-in-a-generation recession the continent is facing.

African governments have responded quickly to contain the spread of the virus - but success is overshadowed by the pandemic's socioeconomic consequences. In 2019, Africa was witnessing record growth numbers in various sectors: like tourism; where the continent had the second-fastest growing tourism sector in the world, contributing 8.5 per cent of Africa's GDP.

However, with the pandemic, tourism has come to a standstill. Africa recorded a 2.1 per cent decline in economic growth in 2020, with other accompanying chal-



The Republic of Congo received just over 300,000 doses of the COVID vaccines through the COVAX Facility in August 2021. Credit: UNICEF/Aimable Twirinyima.

lenges including general exchange rates depreciations, food insecurity and increased job losses.

Vaccine delays will cost Sub-Saharan Africa 3 per cent of the region's forecast GDP in 2022-25. UNDP research reveals that recovery rates are strongly correlated to capacity to vaccinate - with a \$7.93 billion increase in global GDP for every million people vaccinated. Low-income countries that are severely impacted by the pandemic do not have the fiscal and financial leeway available to wealthy countries.

They risk enduring the pandemic longer if they do not gain early access to COVID-19 vaccines. This places an inordinate burden on national budgets at a time when the pandemic has decimated fiscal revenues and when higher spending is needed from governments to protect their people and cushion the socioeconomic shock caused by the pandemic.

There is a risk of seeing African countries' budget deficits widen and it is urgent for us to support countries in developing alternative financing sources. Vaccine famine is putting millions at risk of infection, constraining economic productivity and jeopardizing socioeconomic progress.

The key question today is: Can the world afford such blatant inequality in the face of a pandemic that is sparing no region?

The path to recovery will remain long and uncertain unless we take urgent measures to overhaul the current system of vaccine production, distribution, and financing. Below are some ideas on how to get there fast - building on a consensus that emerged from the recently

concluded African Economic Conference in Sal, Cabo Verde.

Development financing in Africa requires an out-of-the-box architecture. Africa will need an additional \$425 billion in external funding between now and 2025 to fully recover from the pandemic. It is daunting, but not impossible. It is equivalent to the amount African countries lose to illicit financial flows over a five-year period. Economic governance and creativity can also be applied, by, for instance, re-directing investments by pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and similar institutions.

Leveraging the continent's natural resources is urgent. Africa's financial presence in the international system does not reflect its real wealth. Better management and use of extractive industries is critical. Resources like energy, oil, natural gas, coal, and uranium are worth between \$13-14.5 trillion of potential wealth. Further resources can also be harnessed from production in six key sectors: agriculture, water, fisheries, forestry, tourism and human capital. Mobilization of these resources requires governments seriously addressing deficiencies in banking and governance systems to stem illicit financial flows out of Africa. Central banks have a key role to play in unlocking idle resources and channeling them into productive investments. Over \$1 trillion of excess reserves could be used to finance Africa's development.

International finance systems could be reviewed to become more equitable. Concessional financing should consider countries' multidimensional vulnerabilities beyond what is reflected in their income levels. The allocation of a record

amount of \$650 billion SDR issued by the IMF to its member countries in August 2021 is a step in the right direction. But more can be done to better support countries that need financing the most. Africa only received \$21 billion of SDRs from the total envelope. Such international mechanisms could be reviewed to redress current inequalities.

Reforming Africa's financial system. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role that financial systems have to play in supporting Africa's development. Improvements in the quality, quantity and efficiency of financial systems are crucial for Africa's sustainable development. More effective financial systems across the continent can promote resource mobilization and better allocation of savings to productive investments by shifting incentives for the banking system toward the core functions and advancing financial inclusion for individuals and microenterprises.

Digital innovations are a game changer for Africa's development financing. Financial systems that harness digital technologies and free and fair competition will be fundamental in revitalizing African economies. The pandemic has proven that digital technologies present enormous opportunities for Africa. They stimulate innovation, economic growth, and job creation in critical economic sectors by allowing better interconnection of African markets with the rest of the world. They can also increase market access and financing for the marginalized population usually excluded by the formal financial systems. However, digitization also has the potential to exacerbate inequalities and we must ensure that the means are sufficiently

inclusive for no one to be left behind.

Sustainable financing will be key. African financial institutions have a role to play in enabling Africa to transform its natural resources advantages, by leveraging blue-carbon markets, and green financing mechanisms. Climate risk-sensitive investment, de-risking, impact investment, environmentally sustainable projects, and sustainable energy investment are among the critical issues for sustainable financing development. Thus, the financial sector can contribute by re-orienting investments towards more sustainable technologies and businesses and fostering low-carbon, climate-resilient, and circular economies.

Boosting intra-African trade is a gateway to recovery. The transformative power of the AfCFTA must be brought to bear in servicing the needs of 1.3 billion people. If effectively implemented, the AfCFTA will accelerate the continent's path towards structural economic transformation through value-added industrialization of both goods and services. Investment in trade facilitation reforms and using Regulations as a Stimulus (RaaS) will bring even greater dividends, saving governments money in efficiencies while placing billions directly in the hands of intra-African women and youth-led exporting enterprises.

2022 must be a year where collective global action prioritizes vaccine equity and ensures a shot for all. Omicron has reminded us that there is just no other way to build forward better.

Ahunna Eziakonwa is UN Assistant-Secretary General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Bureau for Africa Director.

## 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 UMJUAYVO 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 MATUKIYA 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

# TAWIRI and Fund do human-elephants conflict mitigation training in Serengeti

By Guardian Correspondent, Serengeti

THE Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) in collaboration with Grumeti Fund has conducted training on human-wildlife conflict mitigation in an effort to relieve local communities whose crop farms are often destroyed by elephants in Bunda and Serengeti districts of Mara region.

The three day- training seeks to equip local communities living near the Serengeti ecosystem with friendly techniques to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.

The training kicked off last Wednesday at Hunyari, a rural village of Bunda district located near Ikorongo/Grumeti game reserves and the Serengeti National Park in Mara region.

Apart from members from the community groups, the training further involves participants from Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Ikona Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and game officers from Bunda and Serengeti dis-



A researcher from the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI), Mr Revocatus Mene presents a topic on the behaviours of elephants at the three-day human-wildlife conflict mitigation training that kicked off at a rural village in Western Serengeti last Wednesday. The training was conducted TAWIRI in collaboration with Grumeti Fund, a non-profit organization which supports conservation and community development activities in Western Serengeti. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

trict councils.

Presenting a topic at the training, Mr Revocatus Mene, a researcher from TAWIRI said Serengeti district is leading with high rate of human-wildlife conflicts cases followed by Bunda district in the list of 81 districts coun-

trywide.

Thus, Mr Mene said the training seeks to come up with training of trainers (TOT) who will disseminate the skills and friendly techniques to mitigate the effects of human-wild animals' conflict especially those related

with destruction of crop farms caused by elephants.

"Those getting the training are TOT (walimu wa wakufunzi) and they be provided with working tools", the TAWIRI researcher said, adding that the friendly techniques being recom-

mended to stop destruction caused by elephants on crop farms also offer economic opportunities to the local communities.

Bunda District Commissioner (DC), Mr Joshua Nassari officially opened the training describing it as a signifi-

cant step in preventing the increasing human/wildlife conflicts in the villages located near wildlife conservation areas in western Serengeti.

"Take this training to many people in many of our villages", Mr Nassari told the participants.

The District Commissioner also urged TAWIRI and Grumeti Fund to expand the human-wild animals conflict mitigation training initiative to cover large part of the villages that are prone to destructive wild animals especially elephants

Grumeti Fund is non-profit organization that supports conservation and community development activities in Western Serengeti.

"We have seen that there is a need to help farmers and conservationists, and hosting this training on human-wildlife conflict migration is part of contribution as a conservation stakeholder", Grumeti Fund Relationships Manager, Mr David Mwakipesile said on the sidelines of the training.

The local communities welcomed the training hoping that it will change things for the better.

"This training remains us not interfere with elephant routes and habitats with farming and livestock keeping activities or building residential hoses on wild animals' routes", said Christabel John, a woman who attended the training

On his side Deus Sumuni, a secretary of a community group that prevents destructive elephants in the area said: "The training is useful because we now know which crops are not liked by elephants".

# African schools and hospitals fighting water issues, Covid-19

By Guardian Reporter

SAFE water supply is vital to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic but access to this vital commodity remains elusive for millions of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa, reports say.

Water access gaps in sub-Saharan Africa remain, both at institutions such as healthcare facilities and schools, and at the household level, endangering millions lives by the lack of simple hygiene practices such as hand washing.

According to Water.org, a non-profit organisation that aims to increase access to water and sanitation globally, 41 per cent of Kenyans do not have basic sanitation solutions while 15 per cent use unimproved water sources including ponds, shallow wells and rivers.

Unprotected rain-fed ponds provide source of water for people and animals. Copyright: UNICEF Ethiopia/Getachew

"Now more than ever, access to safe water is critical to the health of families so they can prepare and protect themselves from COVID-19

pandemic and other diseases," says Patronilla Musonye, a project officer at the Kenya Water for Health Organisation (KWAHO), a non-profit organisation that promotes the right to access to safe water and health.

Healthcare facilities face water challenges

Less than half of all healthcare facilities in the Sub-Saharan Africa have basic water services, adds the 2020 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) progress report, published by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund through the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP).

"But the true extent of the problem remains hidden, due to persisting data gaps in many countries in the region," says the report, which was published to coincide with the International Universal Health Coverage Day last year.

Samuel Godfrey, an advisor on WASH at the UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa regional office, said that the pandemic, which forced poor populations into self-isolation, led to increased demand for urban

water and sanitation systems, thereby compounding the WASH situation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The latest report on WASH indicates how investing in WASH services in healthcare facilities is critical to recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Godfrey says, "We still do not know the full extent of the COVID-19 impact on WASH in the region because this is an evolving situation."

Only 46 per cent of healthcare facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa have basic water services, against the global average of 76 per cent, according to the report. For example, the coverage of basic water services in healthcare facilities varied widely between countries in the region in 2019, with some surprising inter-country data.

Zimbabwe and Somalia, which have lower Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fared better on basic water services coverage in healthcare facilities recording 81 and 76 per cent respectively, against bigger economies such as Ethiopia and Nigeria, whose proportion of health care facilities with basic water services were 30 and 46 per cent respectively.

Godfrey explains that the disparities are informed by tax regimes, investment priorities and tariffs, adding that conflicts and climate change impacts also contribute to the disparities experienced in the region. "Lowest coverage levels in the Horn of Africa and highest coverage in southern Africa were due to conflict and climate impact," Godfrey explains.

The 2020 global report on WASH in healthcare facilities follows earlier ones published on households in 2017, schools in 2018 and healthcare facilities in 2019, and an updated one on schools in 2020.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, there were disparities in WASH coverage in healthcare facilities between urban and rural areas, with urban coverage being nine percentage points higher for basic water, 19 points higher for basic sanitation and 38 points higher for hygiene compared with rural coverage.

Schools lack basic water services

The latest WASH report on schools, which compares data on 2015 and 2019, also describes the implications for ensuring the safety of students

and school staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, two-thirds of countries with less than 50 per cent coverage of drinking water in schools were in Sub-Saharan Africa, the report adds. For example, only 36 per cent of schools in Nigeria had basic water services, which is lower than the average for Sub-Saharan Africa: 44 per cent.

According to the report, at least 30 per cent of schools in Benin, Cameroon and Senegal had limited drinking water service. "Consequences for lack of basic water services go beyond just washing hands and quenching thirst," Musonye says.

Adolescent girls missing school due to their periods is a growing phenomenon in Sub-Saharan Africa. The report cites the results of a survey of girls aged 15-24 years in West Africa showing that one in four girls in Nigeria, one in five in Côte d'Ivoire and one in seven in Burkina Faso missed school due to menstruation in the last 12 months.

When in school, teachers and students may struggle to manage

menstruation if toilets lack water to enable them wash and change when needed. In Nigeria, for instance 41 per cent of urban schools and just 14 per cent of rural schools had water and soap available for girls' toilet compartment, the report notes.

Even fewer schools had covered bins in toilets and mechanisms for disposing of menstrual materials, but urban schools were twice more likely to have these facilities than rural schools.

According to the report, more than half of the 462 million children globally (244 million children) who lacked hygiene service at their schools in 2019 were in Sub-Saharan Africa, but inadequate data to estimate the exact number of affected schools is a concern in countries of this region.

The report adds that most schools in high income countries have piped water supplies but the situation is different for countries in Sub-Saharan Africa where most schools use other types of improved sources including boreholes, rainwater or protected wells and spring.

# GGML agrees to sponsor Geita Gold Football Club for 500m/-

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA Gold Mining Limited (GGML) and the Geita Gold Sport Club yesterday signed sponsorship agreement worth 500million/- for 2021/2022.

The agreement makes GGML the main sponsor of Geita Gold Football Club with a view of enabling the Club to effectively participate in the Tanzania Premier for the 2021-2022 Premier League Season and other Club activities.

According to that agreement, GGML desires to acquire the exclusive rights as the Club's Main Sponsor of all matches, games as well as any event relating to the TFF's 2021-2022 NBC Premier Leagues Season or any other season or activity in the future at an agreed fee and under specified terms and conditions stipulated in this Agreement and in accordance with the Sponsor's Corporate Social Responsibility Plan for 2021-2022.

Speaking during the official ceremony to sign that agreement at Geita Town Council head offices in Magogo Geita town, the GGML Acting Managing Director Wayne Louw said his company signed that agreement because it believes in the value of harmonious and mutually beneficial co-existence with the host community.



GGML Acting Managing Director Wayne Louw(right) shakes hand with Chairman of Geita Gold Football Club Leonard Bugomola(left) just after signing the sponsorship agreement worth 500 Million Tanzania Shillings between GGML and Geita Gold Football Club on 23rd December 2021 in Geita town council. Guardian Correspondent

"We have noticed that the people in Geita like football. Therefore, as a corporate citizen and member of the community GGML decided to take lead in supporting the team and we hope others will also join the efforts to ensure that the club has all the necessary requirements at disposal. Winning and getting the trophy is a result of combined efforts of players,

the management and all stakeholders," he said.

He added that the sponsorship package, which the Company will spend on supporting the Club, is part of the total budget of 9.2billion/-, which has been budgeted to implement the Corporate Social Responsibility Plan 2021.

In the past 3 years alone GGML has

spent over 30billion/-s in supporting the welfare of the host community in various areas of social and economic impact.

He said GGML has also sponsored the construction of Geita Stadium at the tune of 1.9billion/- and upon completion the stadium will be the largest and the most modern sporting facility Geita.

All these projects are undertaken because the Company considers it a moral obligation to ensure that the people that host our business are better off for us having been here," he said

Geita District Commissioner, Wilson Shimo who was the Guest of honour on that event commended GGML for its commitment to revolutionize football in Geita.

"GGML interest to sponsor our team demonstrates how it has been corporate citizens. I am also told here that GGML has supported Geita Gold Football Club 2 tons of rice and 100 litres of cooking oil as Christmas and end year packages. I am sure that will motivate them to win the important game today Tanzania Prisons.

Director of the Geita Town Council Madam Zahara Michuzi disclosed that despite the fact that the Geita town council and residents of Geita own Geita Gold Football club, GGML decided to sign agreement to offer that sponsorship package because it is also part of the Geita community.

Support because that Company is also owns the Geita Gold Sports Club, Zahara Michuzi revealed that Geita is talented with a number of good footballers the reasons why the Government was interested to unleash their potentials by encouraging more investors to invest in foot-

ball game.

"GGML is one of the good investor who has been dishing out a number of sustainable projects. GGML investment in Geita region has been amazing," she said.

Giving his comments about that milestone, Chairman of the Geita Gold Football Club Leonard Bugomola commended GGML for that sponsorship pledging big commitment and dedication from players with expectations to reach on top of the Premier league table.

"GGML has really encouraged us. We only have one thing ahead of us which is playing against great teams and bring the trophy in Geita region," he said.

Since its inception, GGML has been working closely with the local government authorities to support a number of community projects in the Geita region through Public-Private Partnerships as well as National programmes.

Consistent with its core value of providing the Geita community with sustainable socio-economic development that outlasts mining activity, GGML has carried out various projects in the local Geita community including water supply, education and economic development activities in the agriculture, construction and service sectors.





Containers at Durban port in South Africa.

## EXPLOITATION

## Trade misinvoicing costs South Africa R325bn a year

JOHANNESBURG

US think tank Global Financial Integrity (GFI) has published its 2021 report on Trade-Related Illicit Financial Flows in 134 Developing Countries, for the years 2009 to 2018.

Trade misinvoicing remains a major challenge for tax and customs authorities around the world, averaging a global loss of some \$1.4 trillion per annum. It is orchestrated when importers and exporters deliberately falsify the declared value of goods on the invoices submitted to the customs authorities.

The average value gap over 10 years is estimated to be \$20.435 billion. At the current exchange rate of R15.88 to the dollar, this amounts to R325 billion per annum. Falsifying invoices or misinvoicing evades tax and/or customs duties, enables the illicit transfer of money across national borders, and circumvents currency controls.

The profits from this illicit activity will be hidden in offshore bank accounts. Trade misinvoicing is one of the largest components of measurable illicit financial flows (IFFs). Other types include tax evasion (as where an expense is fabricated) and smuggling.

How 'misinvoicing' gets R300bn out of SA annually

GFI compiled and analysed 10 years of international trade data for 134 developing countries and 36 advanced economies from the global commercial trading system, which is reported by governments to the United Nations (UN). Developing countries that had not reported sufficient annual trade data to the UN were excluded from this report.

The objective of the report is to identify the mismatches, or value gaps, between what any two countries had reported regarding their trade with each other. GFI analysed their trade with a set of 36 advanced economies, as well as their trade with all of their global trading partners for each year over the 10-year period to identify the potential misinvoiced import/exports.

GFI encapsulated all of the identified value gaps for all traded products between countries each year, while applying a series of filters to ensure

unmatched trades are omitted. For example: If country A exported \$200 million gold to country B, but country B reported having imported only \$150 million gold from country A that year, this would reflect a mismatch, or value gap, of \$50 million in the reported trade of this product between the two trading partners for that year.

Sub-Saharan Africa  
Whereas the GFI report covers 36 advanced economies and 134 developing economies, this article only discusses the data of sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The average value gap identified in US dollars within bilateral trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the set of 36 advanced economies over the 10-year period is \$25.2 billion.

GFI cautions that the available data in the UN database "is not perfect and country figures are not exact", but that the value gap estimates provide "an approximation of the degrees of trade misinvoicing happening between any two countries." The analysis also does not indicate which side of the transaction the shipment was mispriced.

Trade misinvoicing during Covid-19  
The value gaps in international trade data illustrates the inability of governments to stop capital flight and illicit outflows through the international trading system. The value of total world merchandise exports decreased from \$19 trillion in 2019 to \$17.6 trillion in 2020 (per the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

"Many countries faced declining exports, a halt to tourism and a slowing of remittances from overseas workers and, in some cases, severe food crises." The Covid-19 pandemic increased opportunities for crime, smuggling and illicit financial flows, and created new incentives to illicitly move wealth out of developing countries.

Corrupt officials as well as counterfeiters and smugglers were afforded new opportunities to exploit inefficiencies in customs departments. For example, the sudden increase in health-related cargo made it difficult for customs officials to adequately scrutinise containers and the related customs documentation.

## AUTOMATION

## TASAC takes cargo clearance effective online to improve service delivery



A section of loading and off-loading container cranes which were received earlier this month by Tasac to facilitate operations at Dar es Salaam port. Photo courtesy of Tasac.

By Francis Kajubi

In a bid to improve efficiency in cargo clearance but also contribute towards climate change mitigation, Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) has gone digital in its operations.

In a statement on Friday to mark 60 years of independence, TASAC acting Marketing and Public Relations Manager, Josephine Bujiku said among key achievements by the corporation, is the move from manual to digital operations.

Bujiku said the corporation has completed the setting up of the state-of-the-art information communication technology systems that will also boost delivery of services. "As we are celebrat-

ing 60 years, TASAC has a lot to showcase as milestones since establishment such as the provision of shipping agency services through online platforms," she said.

The TASAC spokesperson said use of electronic platforms has also managed to invest in ICT system solutions known as Shipping Business Management System which consists of four modules: clearing and forwarding, document control, shipping agency and ship tallying.

"We have created a Maritime Safety and Security Management System (MSSMS), to strengthen and improve the manifest billing system, developed a data system known as the 'TASAC Statistical Management System (TSMMS),'

initiated a system to receive complaints from internal and external clients known as the helpdesk system," Bujiku stated.

She further noted that Tasac has started a process of purchasing internal audit and contract management systems in enhancing its e-office initiative to conclude the paperless operating system for the corporation.

However, in order to expand services across the country, she said, TASAC has opened offices in all districts linked to marine transport, and at all major airports and border stations to bring services closer to the public.

"So far our services are offered at nine regional offices in the mainland side of the country, two districts, and a few offices at the

borders and mining areas. The regions are Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Mtwara, Kigoma, Rukwa, Mwanza, Geita, Mara and Kagera," Bujiku noted.

She said, in addition, TASAC also has presence in Kyela, Ukerewe, Holili, Siriri, Tunduma, Arusha, Namanga, Kahama, Mutukula, Horohoro, Kasumulu, Kabwe and Mwanza International airport. During the period, the regulator of the maritime sub-sector has managed to review some tariffs and abolished those proved to be irrelevant including the container cleaning fee, container service charges, consolidation rebate charges, delivery order fees, administration fee and contingency fee.

## REJUVENATION

## Bank starts new 'MastaBata' campaign to encourage card use in transactions

By Guardian Reporter

In order to boost movement towards a cashless economy, NMB Bank Plc has started a third edition of its 'MastaBata' promotion campaign to encourage clients use their MasterCard ATM cards to make payments for goods and services.

The campaign which was first introduced in 2018, will see lucky winners get cash and material prizes worth over 240m/-. Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Friday during the launch, NMB's Chief Finance Officer, Juma Kimori said the new reward campaign dubbed 'MastaBata-Kiviyakovyako,' will also involve customers making payments using NMB MasterCard QR.

"More than three million NMB cardholders and customers stand a chance to win different cash prizes during the three months of the campaign," Kimori said adding that, "There will be weekly draws that will see 100 lucky winners every week walk away with 100,000/- each, 25 monthly winners who will be walking away with 1m/- and the grand finale which will witness 30 customers taking home 3m/- each," he explained.



An NMB MasterCard promotion poster.

The CFO said the prize money will be topped up into winners' accounts to encourage them to continue paying using their MasterCard and MasterCard QR. He explained that NMB is also using the campaign to reward loyal customers who have transformed with the bank in its digital migration journey.

Kimori said the 'MastaBata' investment has not only been a success in promoting digital payments but also for supporting e-commerce platforms. During the three years of the venture, he noted, card usage has increased tremendously and become popular amongst NMB customers.

As a result, the market's largest bank was awarded by Mastercard International last month for being the fastest bank in terms of adoption and use of cards by its clients with a year-on-year surge of 104 percent.

"We are now back with a bigger, better campaign to spur card usage in the country by rewarding our customers who are key partners in building a cashless society," the NMB CFO noted. The lender has been the first local bank to issue a secured EMV (Chip and Pin) MasterCard with contactless technology and pioneered its largest roll out in the country to date.

Contactless technology allows consumers to make fast, secure and more convenient payments, and is ideal for quick payment environments where speed and convenience matter most such as public transport, major retailers and fuel stations.

## PROTEST

## Banks report CBK to IMF over lending rates freeze

NAIROBI

Multiple bank executives have protested to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the Central Bank of Kenya's (CBK) reluctance to approve lenders' applications to raise the cost of loans following the scrapping of lending rate controls on November 7, 2019.

The IMF on Thursday revealed the lenders' protests amid the accusation of the banking regulator capping lending rates after blocking their bid to raise the cost of loans. The regulator had asked banks to submit new loan pricing formulas that would be the basis of setting interest rates on new credit in an environment where the government was not controlling loan costs.

Bank executives reckon that the CBK has gone silent on some of the applications and failed to approve their submissions, forcing them to continue operating as if they were still under lending rate controls to avoid falling in trouble with the regulator. "Banks consider that approvals could be expedited," said the IMF in reference to CBK's delay to approve the higher lending rates. "Banks' credit pricing models require approval by the CBK, and banks must justify charging higher rates to customers presenting higher credit risks," added the fund.

Banks say that the delayed shift to risk-based lending has forced many of them to deepen investment in government securities and restrict

lending to high-quality customers with a lower risk of default. This emerged at a time supply of loans to the private sector grew by 7.8 percent in the year to October, which is below the ideal rate of 12-15 percent needed to support economic growth.

"With an ample capital position and strong deposit growth, banks are positioned to extend credit to the economy to support the recovery, though they may face some headwinds," said the IMF. "Banks' holdings of government securities stand at a relatively high 31 percent of assets and are expected to rise further in the coming year."

The Fund says that Kenya's lending rates have remained little

changed when compared to the period the State-controlled bank loan costs. The lending rates averaged 12.38 percent in November 2019 when the rate cap was repealed with the Central Bank Rate (CBR) then at 8.5 percent. In October, lending rates averaged 12.12 percent.

To play it safe, banks have slightly cut the average lending rates in line with the reduction of the CBR, which has been lowered to seven percent, underlining the conundrum lenders find themselves in. Banks have been eager to price loans to different clients based on their risk profile but this flexibility remains a mirage after the CBK stepped in as the de facto controller of the cost of credit.

## CAUTION

# Beer brewer's director calls for responsible drinking during end of year festive season

By Guardian Reporter

THE general public has been urged to refrain from alcohol abuse during the end of year festive season to avoid accidents and legal problems.

In a message to Serengeti Breweries Limited customers and the general public to mark Christmas and New Year festivals, the brewer's Corporate Relations Director, John Wanyancha said last week that for several years, the company has been running a campaign to sensitise the public against alcohol abuse.

"It might seem odd, even ironical, for an alcohol producer to lobby for moderate drinking. On the contrary, SBL believes that alcohol consumption can be a part of a balanced lifestyle. The company urges people to drink better, not more, knowing very well that it is for the common good of the society that it should promote moderate drinking," Wanyancha said.

He pointed out that responsible drinking means more than just limiting oneself to a certain amount of alcohol because it also means not getting drunk and not letting alcohol control one's life or relationships.

SBL has for many years been collaborating with Traffic Police Force to run a 'Don't drink and drive' campaign involving more than ten regions of the country reaching thousands of people including motorcycle taxis known as 'Bodabodas.'

Ministry of Home Affairs through the police has acknowledged that SBL's campaign has assisted lower traffic fatalities by 26 percent between July 2019 and March 2020. The brewer also conducts an online campaign targeting thousands of tech savvy youth through its DRINKIQ e-learning tool.

The DRINKIQ is part of the 'Drink Positive' campaign, a global initiative and a brainchild of Diageo Plc, a global beverage conglomerate and parent company of SBL. "It aims at sensitizing people who choose to drink to make positive and responsible choices about alcohol. The new tool contains information which consumers need to make positive decisions about drinking responsibly and tackling myths about alcohol consumption," Wanyancha noted.



SBL has been working in close collaboration with Traffic Police Force in sensitising the public including 'Bodaboda' motorcycle taxi riders like these in Iringa Municipality earlier this year when reflectors were distributed freely.

The tool is mobile-friendly and the first of its kind within the alcohol industry in the country as it uses interactive learning and tests to give people information about content of their drinks. It also shows how alcohol is made and impacts their bodies.

"At this juncture, we at SBL are making everyone aware of the risks of driving while drinking, and now, the decision is solely left to each one of us to adhere to or face dire consequences," the SBL Director added.

SBL has become a reliable stakeholder to offer tips to motivate the public in ensuring that communities stay happy and

safe at all times. Therefore, drivers and commuters must take serious and proactive measures to drink responsibly and, if possible, to not drink at all to avoid fatalities.

"No matter the excitement or joy of the holiday season, road users must take extreme precautions against excessive drinking. No one would want to begin the New Year paralyzed or physically disabled in bed or wheelchair," he advised.

"In the quest to make the community safe during the end of the year holidays, Serengeti Breweries Limited stands tall in the crusade. For years, the brand has

drummed the significance of avoiding drinking while driving. SBL has committed to sensitising the community from the grass-root level by working with local governments, the police force and the public," Wanyancha stressed.

He concluded that SBL has made itself responsible to the community by investing in campaigns and distribution of kits such as reflectors to 'Bodaboda' riders to ensure that they are easily visible when dusk falls. "This rationale has made critical steps to extol the importance of drinking responsibly, especially during the holiday season such as this," he explained.

## MOBILIZATION

## Nigerian edtech startup Teesas raises \$1.6m pre-seed funding

LAGOS

Nigerian edtech startup, Teesas, has raised \$1.6 million in a pre-seed funding round led by Haresh Aswani, Tolaram Group's Africa managing director, with the participation of Olivegreen Advisory Partners, an Africa-focused venture studio, and other angel investors.

The company will deploy the fund to expand its operations into new markets and also launch a marketplace that will connect learners with tutors for private lessons. The start-up which was launched barely two months ago by Osayi Izedonmwen provides a platform where educators and learners engage seamlessly and efficiently, to facilitate a fun and effective learning experience via the deployment of technology and the adoption of local culture and dialects.

Izedonmwen while speaking with TechCrunch said, "We started beta testing around August this year, and fully launched the android version in November. Already Teesas has over 150,000 downloads at the Google Play store, where we are now growing by at least 20% every week."

Teesas has well-developed content in concordance with Nigeria's national curriculum and is delivered to learners in both live and recorded formats, through a subscription program that starts at \$6 a month. In addition to regular school work, the startup also offers local language classes.

The founder said, "Live classes deal with concepts where learners have challenges. The learners sit with teachers in small remote classes of 10 or 15 for a personalized engagement, and to get more rigour into the teaching process."

Teesas hopes to develop full-curriculum modules for learners aged up to 12 years. "We foresee a future where kids don't have to attend in-person classes because they can cover entire curriculums on an app, and be ready enough for their secondary school entrance exams," he said.

Teesas is also set to introduce life-skill classes in the first half of next year to prepare learners for self-discovery. This is in addition to anti-bullying lessons, inspired by the reports of an increasing spate of bullying in Nigeria, with some incidents leading to death.

Also, the startup plans to launch a tutor marketplace and enter new markets in Francophone, East, and Southern Africa. "Teesas is going to have the biggest impact on the future of education in Africa. And I really want to be certain that I'm putting my best effort in leading that transformation - that's why I'm focusing on it fully," he said.

Haresh Aswani while commenting said, "We believe in the mission Izedonmwen and the Teesas team has set forth on, and we are confident that they are best suited to crack the challenge of using technology to enhance access to quality education across Africa."

## REBUFF

# Rich countries reject Kenya's push for Sh32.8bn debt relief

NAIROBI

Rich countries, including China, rejected Kenya's bid to extend the Sh32.8 billion debt repayment holiday to December. The Treasury told the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that Kenya applied for suspending payment of Sh42.8 billion loans between July and December but only received relief of Sh10 billion.

The government had received debt relief of Sh45.5 billion between January-June when it made the request for the extension from the Paris Club - which includes Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Spain, the US and China. Some countries like China, which participated in the initial round, snubbed the second round of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative framework.



Kenya's Treasury Cabinet Secretary, Ukur Yatan.

The Treasury has not disclosed other countries that refused the extension. However, China, which was paid Sh29.86 billion in the quarter to September 2021 made up the biggest chunk of the declined relief.

"During the second phase (July-December 2021), the Government of Kenya made a request to all its bilateral creditors for debt service suspension estimated at Sh42.8 billion (\$379 million). However, this amount is now projected to be lower at around Sh10 billion (\$89 million) due to non-participation by some creditors," the Treasury said in the IMF Article IV disclosures. Kenya asked for an extension of the debt repayment moratorium from bilateral lenders, including China, by another six months to December 2021, saving it from committing billions to bilateral lenders. The Debt Service

Suspension Initiative terms rescheduled payments of principal and interest due between January-June to the next four years with a one-year grace period.

The Treasury report shows repayment to other major bilateral creditors has remained low, signalling a temporary freeze. For example, Kenya repaid France Sh6.61 million in the July-September period compared with Sh2.25 billion a year ago and Sh0.72 million to Japan against Sh454.16 million previously.

Kenya faced a deteriorating cash-flow situation, marked by falling revenues, worsening debt service obligations, and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. It spent Sh99.73 billion less than the cash it had budgeted for servicing external debt for the year ended June 2021, partly on the back of the six-month debt relief.

## INVESTMENT

# Google taps into Africa fund to back SafeBoda start-up

KAMPALA

Google has announced its investment in venture-backed SafeBoda, its first investment from the Africa Investment Fund which was launched by Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet, at Google for Africa in October.

According to Google, SafeBoda is backed by investors that include GoVentures (Gojek), Al-

lianz X, Unbound, Beenext and Justin Kan, and will help drive SafeBoda's growth in Uganda and Nigeria, scaling its transportation-led app to offer new payment and financial services solutions for its expanding set of customers: passengers, drivers and merchants.

Ricky Rapa Thomson, one of the co-founders, said: "SafeBoda welcomes Google to their

community and are excited to continue to drive innovation in informal transportation and payments in the boda boda (East Africa) or okada (West Africa) industry.

As a former boda driver in Kampala, I know that we are the lifeblood of Africa's cities and we power economic development. SafeBoda is thrilled that leading global companies such as Google see

the importance of backing start-ups working towards these goals."

SafeBoda app was launched in 2017 to connect passengers to their community of safer and trusted drivers and since then the company has grown to serve over a million customers, expanding its transportation-led super app offering rides, parcel delivery, food and shop, payments, savings

and other financial services.

Nitin Gajria, Managing Director for Google in Africa added: "I am thrilled about our first investment from the \$50M Africa Investment Fund that we announced two months ago. This is part of our ongoing commitment to tech start-ups in Africa. I am of the firm belief that no one is better placed to solve Africa's

biggest problems than Africa's young developers and entrepreneurs. We look forward to announcing subsequent investments in other start-ups." Google stated that the Africa Investment Fund is part of a broader plan to invest US\$1-billion over five years to support digital transformation in Africa.

"Through this fund, Google will invest US\$50-

million in start-ups and provide them with access to Google's employees, network, and technologies to help them build impactful products for their communities.

Currently, Africa is home to 700,000 developers and venture capital funding for startups has decreased in 2020 compared to 2019, with a record \$4 billion in equity funding raised in 2021,

according to Partech Ventures Africa," the company said.

Digital start-ups in Africa are driving innovation in fast-growing sectors, including Fintech, healthtech, media and entertainment, e-commerce, e-mobility, and e-logistics, contributing to Africa's growing Internet gross domestic product (IGDP) - defined as the Internet's contribution to the GDP.

STIMULUS

# China's central bank pledges further proactive backing for economy

BEIJING

China's central bank has pledged greater support for the real economy and said it will make monetary policy more forward-looking and targeted. There will be more "proactive" use of monetary policy tools, the People's Bank of China said in a statement. It added that there will be "good use" of the monetary policy tools' quantitative and structural functions, referring to the adjustment of liquidity in the market and policies targeted at certain groups.

The monetary policy committee held a meeting on Friday that was chaired by Governor Yi Gang. The central bank also reiterated its aim to promote the property sector's "healthy" growth and protect home buyers' rights, as well as work to better meet housing demand.

It has so far taken a restrained approach to monetary stimulus but expectations are growing that it will do more

in the New Year, especially if property market problems and slowing private consumption continue.

With many global central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, looking to tighten policy or already raising rates, further monetary easing from the PBOC would widen that divergence and could start to put pressure on the currency.

Policymakers reiterated they will keep liquidity reasonably ample and make credit growth more stable. The PBOC will also keep the macro leverage ratio, or the debt-to-gross domestic product ratio, basically steady to stabilise the economy.

The PBOC allowed banks to lower the benchmark lending rate by five basis points earlier this month, after unleashing 1.2 trillion yuan (\$188 billion) of money by cutting the amount of funds banks are required to keep in reserve. It also reduced the interest rate for the re-lending programme for small businesses, with credit growth picking up in November after



People's Bank of China Governor, Yi Gang.

slowing for almost a year. The central bank on Saturday said it will implement re-lending programmes that support small businesses and companies in reducing emissions. It will also guide banks to offer greater support to high-tech firms, small companies and private enterprises as well as green projects. The PBOC said it will also encourage lenders to increase loans to the manufacturing sector.

Analysts expect more easing to come next year, including further cuts to the reserve requirement ratio and potentially a reduction in policy interest rates, as the continuing property slowdown likely continues to drag on growth next year. Authorities also signalled more fiscal support in early 2022 to drive investment and infrastructure building.

DECELERATION

## Iron ore's heady days are fading as China's growth engine cools

SINGAPORE

Iron ore, a barometer for the Chinese economy and driver of the Australian dollar, is probably having its wildest year ever. Prices jumped to a record above \$230 a ton in May, crashed to about \$85 in November on a government pledge to reduce steel output, and have now rallied 50% in just six weeks.

spike in the first half of next year because current steel production levels in China look "unsustainably low." Output in November slumped to the smallest for the month since 2017.

"Dangerous variable" Still, there are a "lot of uncertainties," said Tomas Gutierrez, an analyst at Kallanish Commodities Ltd., who expects prices to trend below \$100 next year. The global growth outlook is mixed, while there could be inflationary pressures from energy prices and supply disruptions. The omicron variant of the coronavirus, now detected in the country, is also a "dangerous variable considering China's zero-tolerance approach to Covid," he said from Shanghai.

The volatility is set to persist into 2022 as a rebound in steel production this month falters early next year, with the usual seasonal output constraints tightening in the run-up to the Winter Olympics in February. Beyond that, strong headwinds are building: China is pushing ahead with cutting carbon emissions, steel output is expected to shrink for a second year, while a debt-laden property sector is weighing on steel consumption and broader growth.

For the major mining companies, lower prices mean "reduced -but still fairly large - margins," said Gutierrez. Smaller miners may need to consolidate, and projects that have resumed at high iron ore prices will probably have to close, adding to a number of shuttered projects this year. Mining costs can be as low as \$15 for a ton of iron ore, compared with prices now of well over \$100.

"Iron ore demand will broadly, gradually decline," said CITIC Futures Co. analyst Zeng Ning. "The property industry is rather weak, steel consumption is likely to contract and more mills will use scrap to reduce emissions." The brokerage expects China's steel output to fall by 50 million tons in 2022. The country buys about 70% of the world's seaborne iron ore and is set to produce 1.03 billion tons of steel this year, more than half of global supply.

Still, shares of some major mining companies have lost their shine this year. Rio Tinto Group and Fortescue Metals Group Ltd. are heading for annual losses of more than 10% in Sydney trading, representing in Rio's case the first decline since 2015. BHP Group is also currently in negative territory for the year.

In terms of what this all means for prices, UBS Group AG expects iron ore to average \$85 a ton in 2022, while Citigroup Inc. sees \$96. Capital Economics Ltd. predicts \$70 by the end of next year. Futures in Singapore have averaged \$157 so far in 2021, and traded around \$128 on Wednesday, up for a fifth day.

Australian miners could face higher costs and lower product prices next year, UBS analysts including Lachlan Shaw said in a note. The bank has a sell rating on Rio and Fortescue Metals, and a neutral rating on BHP. Global iron ore shipments in 2022 will more or less hold steady from this year, according to dry bulk tracker DBX Commodities. There is not much spare capacity in Australia, while Brazil might see a rise in volumes as Vale SA attempts to ramp up operations, and India will see a drop in exports.



Iron ore.



ITV	WEDNESDAY 22 Dec	FRIDAY 24 Dec	SATURDAY 25 Dec
<b>SATURDAY 18 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong 13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 Igizo: Rebeca 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Rebeca 21:30 Art and lifestyle 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 01:15 DWTW	11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:10 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Albu yako rpt 18:15 DWTW: Kesho leo 18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Bundesliga na DW 22:15 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	<b>FRIDAY 24 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 10:25 Usafiri wako rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru rpt 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Soap: Rebeca rpt 18:45 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo 19:00 Ijue Sheria 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Albu Yako 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:35 Ripoti Maalum 22:10 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 23:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW
<b>SUNDAY 19 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:20 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	<b>TUESDAY 21 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:25 Jagina rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt 18:30 Uchumi na biashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Maisha ni Nyumba 21:45 Chetu ni chetu 22:20 Soap: Love to Death 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTW	<b>THURSDAY 23 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:25 Shamba lulu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Shamsam za pwani 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Soap: Love to Death 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Kipindi Maalum: Nyumba ni Choo rpt 18:30 Jagina	<b>SATURDAY 25 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:10 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo 12:50 Korean: Jumong 13:30 Soap: Love to Death rpt 15:45 Igizo: Mizengwe 16:15 Igizo: Rebeca 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Huru Talk Show 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari
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<b>SUNDAY 26 Dec</b> 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:20 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Rebeca 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: 00:00 Soap: Love to Death rpt 02:05 Al Jazeera	<b>CAPITAL</b> <b>Sat 18 Dec</b> 08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 Rev rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Our Earth rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor Of The Sea 14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: The Sound of Murder (tape no:5865) 23:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 01:00 Al Jazeera	<b>SUN 19 Dec</b> 08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter 12:00 Jagina rpt	

## WORLD

# S. Africa anti-apartheid activist Archbishop Tutu dies at 90

JOHANNESBURG

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against white minority rule, died yesterday at the age of 90, the presidency said.

In 1984 Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent opposition to apartheid. A decade later, he witnessed the ends of that regime and he chaired a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up to unearth atrocities committed during those dark days.

The outspoken Tutu was considered the nation's conscience by both Black and white, an enduring testament to his faith and spirit of reconciliation in a divided nation.

Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in the late 1990s and in recent years he was hospitalized on several occasions to treat infections associated with his cancer treatment.

"The passing of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is another chapter of bereavement in our nation's farewell to a generation of outstanding South Afri-

cans who have bequeathed us a liberated South Africa," President Cyril Ramaphosa said.

"Desmond Tutu was a patriot without equal."

The presidency gave no details on the cause of death.

Tutu preached against the tyranny of white minority and even after its end, he never wavered in his fight for a fairer South Africa, calling the Black political elite to account with as much feistiness as he had the white

Afrikaners.

In his final years, he regretted that his dream of a "Rainbow Nation" had yet to come true.

"Ultimately, at the age of 90, he died peacefully at the Oasis Frail Care Centre in Cape Town this morning," Dr Ramphela Mamphele, acting chairperson of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu IP Trust and Co-ordinator of the Office of the Archbishop, said in a statement on behalf of the Tutu family.



Then US president Barack Obama presents a 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom to Desmond Tutu, widely regarded as "South Africa's moral conscience," who was a leading anti-apartheid activist in South Africa, Aug 12, 2009, in the East Room of the White House in Washington. AP

## As protesters near presidential palace, Sudan forces fire tear gas

KHARTOUM

PROTESTERS opposed to military rule reached near the presidential palace in the Sudanese capital on Saturday for the second time in a week, television images showed, despite heavy tear gas.

A Reuters witness said security forces fired tear gas to disperse the crowds on the tenth day of major demonstrations since an Oct 25 coup.

Protests against the coup have continued even after Abdallah Hamdok was reinstated as prime minister last month. The demonstrators have demanded that the military play no role in government during a transition to free elections.

A week ago, demonstrators began a sit-in at the gates of the palace before being dispersed. But on Saturday they were met with by security forces and turned back.

"Departing from peacefulness, approaching and infringing on sovereign and strategic sites in central Khartoum is a violation of the laws," SUNA state news agency reported, citing a provincial security coordination committee.

"Chaos and abuses will be dealt with," it added.

Protesters in Khartoum chanted: "Close the street! Close the bridge! Burhan we will come straight to you," referring to military leader and sovereign council head Abdel Fattah al-Burhan.

Last Sunday, hundreds of thousands of people marched to the presidential palace and security forces fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse protesters.

## Kenyans' festive mood dampened amid rapid spread of Omicron

NAIROBI

To many Kenyans, it nearly seemed that the pandemic had run its course.

The positivity rate remained desirably low, in-person gathering blossomed, and containment measures were down to individual actions like hand hygiene, mask-wearing, and social distancing in public spaces.

Normalcy appeared to be within reach. Until mid-December when the disease wrapped itself around the country yet again triggering distress and huffiness. This thing (COVID-19) is like a wound that has refused treatment.

The timing could not be worse. We could be looking at the cancellation of bookings and reduced footfalls," said Michael Edmond, the manager at Sparks Hotel in Nairobi, the Kenyan capital.

he surge in the number of COVID-19 cases could not have come at a more untimely time.

This fun-packed festive month is usually characterized by excessive indulgence in social gatherings, outside dining, shopping, as well as other celebratory extravagances much to the delight of businesses.

That might not be so now due to the Omicron variant of concern which is pushing the positivity rate to new highs.

In the last three days, the positivity rate has oscillated between 27 percent and 32 percent, a stark difference from November when the rate remained below 5 percent for the entirety of the month. The last time the country was in the grip of an uptick of confirmed COVID-19 cases was in August.

The Ministry of Health attributed the rise to community spread of the Delta variant and indifference toward public health preventive protocols and the lifting of some restrictive measures.

The situation many Kenyans are now wrestling with is how to make the best of Christmas and New Year festivities while staying safe.

Business establishments, especially those in the service industry hope against all odds that the government will refrain from rolling out tough restrictions that may reverse recovery progress.

"We hope that the government will not introduce wide-ranging restrictions again, we also hope that the larger population remains healthy because, at the end of the day, they are our client," said Edmond. "Our bed bookings are looking promising, we are 80 percent booked but then that can also change in the coming days with what is happening in the country."

"To safeguard the wellness of employees and clients, staff at the facility are required to be vaccinated fully." We are not very keen to turn away clients who do not have evidence of vaccination. However, what we are emphasizing is the proper wearing of face masks and hand washing. I think that should suffice for now," said Edmond.

In addition to COVID-19, the circulation of influenza (flu) is causing jitters as the respiratory disease presents symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. Josephine Wanjala, a minibus driver plying the rift valley route, hopes for the best during this festive season even as the company she works for races to take advantage of the high volume of passengers exiting the city for celebrations.

Xinhua

## Commerce chamber urges US to revoke Xinjiang textile ban

BEIJING

THE China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles on Saturday urged the United States to revoke all its sanctions and suppressions on Xinjiang-made textiles.

The US side has recently signed the so-called "Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act" into law, which bans imports of textile-related products from China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

The move completely violated market principles and the rules of the World Trade Organization, disrupted international trade order, and severely damaged the interests of textile and apparel manufacturers and consumers in China and the United States, the chamber said in a statement.

The US accusation of so-called "forced labor" issue is purely fabricated out of thin air and has no factual basis, the statement reads. It stressed that China's textile and apparel industry has been committed to safeguarding workers' rights and interests, and has provided stable and efficient supply chain services for the global market.

For the common interests of both sides, the chamber is willing to strengthen communication with related organizations and

sectors from the United States, and strive to maintain the stability of bilateral economic and trade relations in the textile and apparel industry, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, the chamber said it hoped that global textile and apparel firms and consumers, including those in the United States, can see through the US long-lasting attempts at smearing China's image and curbing China's development in the name of "human rights," and make their own judgement based on facts and truth.

The China National Textile and Apparel Council expressed a similar sentiment in a statement on Saturday.

China's textile industry fully agrees with the relevant positions of the Chinese government. In March this year and in 2020, the council released statements condemning the relevant movement of the US and the actions of some international brands of excluding the use of cotton produced in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The latest signing of the act tries to impose the label of "forced labor" on all commodities produced in Xinjiang in the way of "presumption of guilt." It sets a



A harvesting machine picks cotton in a field in Shaya county, Aksu, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. (XINHUA)

bad and dangerous precedent in international economic and trade rules, the council said.

The US' measures of banning imports from Xinjiang and issuing malicious threats against multinational companies' independent procurement of Xinjiang products violates fair and reasonable market economy and free trade rules. In essence, it is a bullying behavior that seriously violates the basic human rights of people in Xinjiang, and interferes and destroys international supply chains, the statement reads.

The cotton produced in Xin-

ang is recognized as a high-quality natural fiber raw material, and it meets the rigid consumption demand for cotton textiles and clothing globally, the statement reads.

In the past few years, the cotton planting and production in Xinjiang has remained stable, and the local textile and garment industry has developed rapidly, which has played an important role in promoting regional economic development. This year, the total cotton output in Xinjiang reached 5.13 million metric tons, accounting for about 20 percent of the

total cotton output globally, the council said.

As the representative of the collective interests of China's textile and garment industry, the council and 12 industry associations in the textile industry chain promise that they will continue to firmly support the planting and production of cotton in Xinjiang. They will also support the trade and consumption of Xinjiang cotton at home and abroad and fully support the prosperity and development of Xinjiang's textile and garment industry.

Xinhua

## India to begin virus vaccination for youths aged 15 to 18

NEW DELHI

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that a new COVID-19 vaccination drive for youths aged between 15 and 18 years will be launched in the country from Jan 3, 2022.

In addition, booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines will be given to health workers and frontline workers from Jan 10. Those above 60 years with comorbidities would be offered booster shots after recommendations from doctors, Modi added.

Addressing the nation on TV, Modi asked the Indian people

not to panic and avoid rumors about COVID-19 or the Omicron variant.

He said that Indian scientists are keeping a close watch on the varied experiences from different countries regarding the Omicron variant.

Over the past 11 months, 61 percent of the adults in India have been fully vaccinated while 90 percent of the adults have received the first dose, he added.

India has reported a swift rise in Omicron cases, with the number reaching 415 overall across 17 Indian states.

Modi's government has been

accelerating its vaccination campaign, administering at least one dose to 88 percent of the eligible 944 million population, while 61 percent have taken both doses.

As millions still await second shots, the authorities will now start offering booster shots to healthcare and frontline workers, who suffered from an overwhelming second-wave of the virus in the summer that killed tens of thousands.

Medical experts have said India needs to double down on its vaccination campaign and expand coverage to avert an-

other possible surge in new infections particularly in the vast hinterlands where healthcare facilities are sparse.

Modi urged citizens to continue to wear facemasks and follow other COVID-19 protocols.

ISRAEL

Israel has ordered 100,000 units of Pfizer Inc's anti-viral COVID 19 pill Paxlovid for people aged 12 and older at risk of severe illness, an Israeli official said on Saturday, confirming a television report.

Channel 12 TV said Israeli

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett agreed the deal in a phone conversation with Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla. There was no immediate confirmation from the company.

The first oral and at home treatment for COVID-19, Paxlovid was nearly 90 percent effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths in patients at high risk of severe illness, according to data from Pfizer's clinical trial. Recent lab data suggests the drug retains effectiveness against the Omicron variant, it said.

Agencies

## China's Long March carrier rocket family completes 400 missions

THE China-developed Long March carrier rocket series completed its 400th launch as a Long March-4B rocket successfully sent a new group of satellites into space on the morning of Dec. 10. It marked another milestone in the history of China's aerospace development.

The Long March series boasts world-class launch success rate and orbital insertion. According to Long Lehao, academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and senior advisor for the development of the Long March carrier rocket series from China Academy of Launch Vehicle

Technology, the Long March carrier rocket series carried out 92.1 percent of China's space launch missions between 1970 and 2021, sending more than 700 spacecraft into space, with a launch success rate of 96.25 percent.

In the 400 launch missions by Long March rockets, the first three 100 launches were completed in 37 years, 7 and a half years, and around 4 years, respectively. The last 100 launches took only 33 months. It not only proves that the frequent launches have become regular for the Long March carrier rocket series,

but also mirrors the rapid development of China's aerospace, as well as the country's progress in science and technology and comprehensive national strength.

China's first space station Tian-gong's core module, Chang'e-5 lunar probe, Tianwen-1 Mars probe, Shenzhou manned spacecraft, Tianzhou cargo craft, Bei-Dou-3 navigation satellites, and multiple others, were all sent into space by the Long March rockets amid the latest 100 launch missions. They have been playing a big part in scientific exploration and people's livelihood.

After China started construct-

ing its space station, the Long March rockets have sent the Tianhe core module, two batches of taikonauts, and two cargo spaceships into space.

Wang Xiaojun, head of China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, introduced that the new-generation manned carrier rockets and heavy-lift carrier rockets are under development as planned, which will vigorously promote China's key space projects, including the fourth phase of the lunar exploration project, the exploration of asteroids and Jupiter, manned lunar exploration, and the first Mars sampling

mission, among others.

The significantly improved frequency of launches highlights China's enhanced space launch capacity and the self-reliant spirit of the country's aerospace workers, said Wu Yansheng, board chairman of the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation, adding that the core technologies of the Long March carrier rocket series have always been securely kept in the hands of the Chinese.

With the progress of the new generation of carrier rockets, China will gain larger capabilities in entering, utilizing and ex-

ploring the space. The country's aerospace technology will make life better and provide strong guarantee for building China's space industry.

People's Daily



**In the 400 launch missions by Long March rockets, the first three 100 launches were completed in 37 years, 7 and a half years,**



## Putin speaks on security guarantees, Russia's relations with West

MOSCOW

IT is Western countries that must give Russia security guarantees immediately and not the other way round, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during his annual press conference on Thursday, explaining the substance of Moscow's proposals to NATO.

NATO must halt its further expansion to the East, primarily into Ukraine. The West is putting Ukraine into the center of global security with its efforts, the Russian leader said.

TASS looks at Putin's key statements on Moscow's relations with the West and its interaction with Ukraine.

"NATO outrageously cheated Moscow"

The West's behavior is dishonest and it has gone back on its promises, the Russian leader pointed out.

"They told us in the 1990s: not an inch to the East. What is the result? They cheated us. They simply impudently cheated us with NATO's five waves of expansion. Now the corresponding systems are appearing already in Romania and Poland," Putin said.

"Have we approached the borders of the United States or Britain? They have approached ours. And now they say 'Ukraine will also be a NATO member.' Consequently, their [weapon] systems will emerge there," the Russian leader said.

"You promised us not to do this. And we are told: 'And where is it written on paper? Nowhere? That's it then, go to hell. We don't care about your concerns.' And this [has been going on] for years. Every time we snapped, tried to prevent something, expressed concerns. No, [we were told] 'Go away with your concerns. We will do what we deem necessary,'" he added.

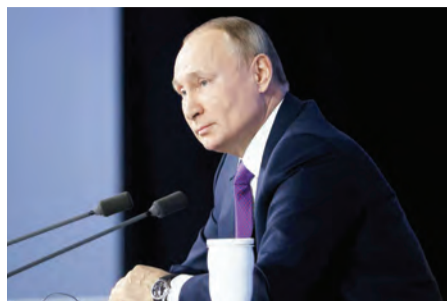
It is not Russia that must give peace guarantees, Putin said. "But it is you that must provide guarantees. You must do that at once, now, and not keep talking about this for decades."

When the USSR disintegrated, the country split into separate parts, Putin pointed out. "Yet there is an impression that this is not enough for our partners. In their opinion, Russia is too big today... Yet even after the fall of the USSR where we have only 146 million left it is still too much."

"Representatives of corresponding American services were sitting at our military-cycle facilities, were working there," Putin continued. "Numerous advisors worked at the Russian government, including CIA staff members. What else did you need? Why was there a need to support terrorists in the North Caucasus and use manifestly terrorist organizations for attempts to disintegrate the Russian Federation?"

**The ball is in the West's court**

"We must understand how our secu-



urity will be ensured. That's why, all tricks aside, we made the straightforward case that there shouldn't be any further NATO expansion eastward," Putin said. "The ball is in their court and they should say something in response."

"We are generally seeing a positive reaction so far. Our American partners are telling us they are ready to start discussions <...> Both sides have appointed their representatives," he went on to say. "I hope the situation will develop along these lines."

"I hope that this first positive reaction and the potential beginning of the dialogue on Russia's proposals, announced for early January, will make it possible for the sides to move forward," the Russian leader stressed.

**Ukraine wants no interaction**

Moscow did not resist Ukraine's independence, although "[Soviet state founder Vladimir] Lenin and his team forcefully pushed a historical territory therein without asking its people where and how they wanted to live," Putin said.

However, now Ukraine "has declared Russians living on this territory, on their own territory, a non-indigenous people - just like the Poles, the Hungarians and the Romanians" and "they are simply squeezing Russians and the Russian-speaking population from their historical territories," he added.

The crisis emerged after a "deadly military coup" in 2014, despite the readiness of Ukraine's then-President Viktor Yanukovich to avoid it, the Russian leader said.

"How could we turn away Sevastopol and Crimea, the people who live there, and refuse to take them under our wing and provide protection to them? That's impossible. We were put in a situation where we could not act otherwise. Similarly, could we have shown a lack of will amid the developments in the southeast, in Donbass," Putin said.

The Russian leader said that he "personally tried to discourage [former Ukrainian President Pyotr] Poroshenko from launching a military operation in Donbass."

This resulted in "the encirclement, losses and the Minsk Agreements" that are now the "only possible" way towards settlement but Kiev does not want to honor them and adopts laws that run counter to these accords and wants jointly with the West to portray Russia as a party to the conflict, Putin pointed out.

Agencies

## Queen Elizabeth speaks of missing 'familiar laugh' at Christmas

LONDON

Britain's Queen Elizabeth spoke of the loss of her husband Prince Philip on Saturday, remembering the "mischievous twinkle" in his eyes in an unusually personal Christmas message to the nation.

The 95-year-old monarch said that while Christmas was a time of happiness for many, it could be hard for those who had lost loved ones, and this year especially she understood why, having lost Philip, 99, in April after 73 years of marriage.

"His sense of service, intellectual curiosity and capacity to squeeze fun out of any situation were all irrepressible," she said in her traditional pre-recorded festive broadcast, paying tribute to "my beloved Philip".

"That mischievous enquiring twinkle was as bright at the end as when I first set eyes on him," she said.

The queen said she knew Philip would want his family to enjoy Christmas, and there would be joy for them despite the absence of his "familiar laugh".

She delivered her address seated at a desk on which stood a photograph of herself and Philip, standing arm-in-arm and smiling at each other. The photo was taken in 2007, when the couple were marking their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

For her broadcast, the queen wore a sapphire brooch that she wore on her honeymoon in 1947 and for the Diamond Wedding portrait. Photos of her and Philip at various stages of their lives appeared



In this undated photo issued on Dec 23, 2021, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II records her annual Christmas broadcast in Windsor Castle, Windsor, England. AP

on the screen while she spoke.

Elizabeth is spending Christmas at Windsor Castle, west of London, for the second year running, a break from royal tradition caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. A palace source said this reflected a precautionary approach when the Omicron variant is spreading fast. read more

Close family members were due to visit her, including her eldest son Prince Charles and his wife Camilla. She was not expected to make a public appearance.

Usually, all the Windsors gather for Christmas at another one of her homes, the Sandringham estate in eastern England. Their walk to a nearby church for a Christmas service is a staple of the royal calendar.

With Britain's daily COVID infection numbers hitting records, the queen last week cancelled a pre-Christmas lunch with her family, also as a precaution. read more

In her message, she also spoke of her upcoming Platinum Jubilee year, which starts in February and will mark

her 70 years on the throne. She is the longest-reigning monarch in British history, having in 2015 overtaken her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria.

She said she hoped the jubilee would be a chance for people "to give thanks for the enormous changes of the last 70 years, social, scientific and cultural, and also to look ahead with confidence".

## Bethlehem welcomes Christmas without foreign tourists, pilgrims

BETHLEHEM

PALESTINIAN tourists and pilgrims on Friday gathered at the square near the Church of Nativity in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, marking the start of Christmas celebrations in an atmosphere of joy and bliss.

Hundreds of local merry-makers, including tourists and pilgrims, flocked to the famous Manger Square, where a giant Christmas tree was put up, taking selfie photos next to it.

Some of the women wore traditional Palestinian garments, while the children wore new dresses. The red color, which is the color of the Santa Claus' suit, dominated the scene at the square.

But the joy of Christmas was incomplete due to the absence of foreign tourists and pilgrims who couldn't visit the city because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to official figures, more than three million and a half foreign tourists visited the Palestinian territories in 2019 and most of



Pierbattista Pizzaballa (centre), the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, arrives at the Church of Nativity to lead a mass during Christmas celebrations in Bethlehem, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Friday. AFP

them visited Bethlehem, a city that holds great significance in Christian history. However, since March 2020, the influx of foreign tourists has dwindled to almost zero.

During religious activities around the Church of Nativity, Ibrahim Falta, a Christian priest, told Xinhua that this year's Christmas is difficult for all the Palestinians as the tourist industry has taken a heavy blow,

forcing more people out of jobs.

"But we must arm ourselves with hope despite all the difficulties, and we pray that this cloud will be removed from the entire world and the coming year will be better, in which peace and freedom prevail," he said. Palestinian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Rula Maayah told Xinhua that this year's Christmas in Bethlehem had many

festive activities and events, unlike last year, which witnessed a complete closure.

"This year's celebrations are without foreign tourism in light of the spread of the new variant of the coronavirus Omicron," she said, adding that domestic tourism is active, as good numbers flocked to Bethlehem.

"Christmas brings with it the joy and hopes that the Palestinian people believe in," said the Palestinian official.

Julia, a Palestinian girl wearing a red Santa Claus hat heading to the Manger Square, told Xinhua that she was happy to celebrate Christmas.

"I hope that a bigger celebration will come next year when peace prevails in the Palestinian territories," the little girl said.

Um Yousef, a Muslim Palestinian woman, who brought her children to celebrate the festival on the street, said: "we Muslims and Christians in Bethlehem live in brotherhood and celebrate this holiday together without regard to religion."

Xinhua

BEIJING

## Belt and Road rail services, construction booming despite COVID-19

THOUGH the world remains haunted by the still ravaging COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2021, the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has seen a boom in promoting world connectivity.

Under the BRI framework, railway construction is expanding across the global landscape.

The iconic China-Europe Railway Express, the China-Laos railway and the railway line in Tanzania have all recorded milestone achievements over the past year.

These important railway projects provide important pillars for the BRI, and also contribute their due share to improving the global supply chain and the COVID-19 fight.

During days just before Christmas, when people in Western countries are worrying that they may not be able to receive their Christmas gifts on time due to clogged shipping lanes, China-Europe trains from different regions were sending products to Europe without delay.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the launch of China-Europe freight trains. By the end of October, the China-Europe freight trains plying along 73 routes have reached 175 cities in 23 European countries with more than 50,000 kinds of goods.

Amid the pandemic, the number of China-Europe express trains as well as the volume of freight have continued



Aerial photo taken on Nov. 21, 2021 shows a section of the China-Laos Railway on the outskirts of Vientiane, Laos. Xinhua

to break new records.

Data from China's National Development and Reform Commission shows that during the January-November period, the railway service linking the two sides operated 13,817 trains, carrying 1.332 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), an increase of 23 percent and 30 percent respectively compared with the year 2020.

At the end of November, the cumulative number of anti-pandemic equipment transported by the China-Europe freight trains reached 13.43

million pieces and 103,000 tons.

"China is very important for the global supply chain. And in most cases it's faster (than the ocean shipping).

Therefore, it's a useful alternative to use the train, and it's reliable," said Axel Mattern, joint chief executive officer of Port of Hamburg Marketing. According to global logistics company MEDILINK, the initial freight rate of the China-Europe rail network is often two-thirds higher than that of sea freight, but the current price is very competitive.

The current freight rates of the China-Europe freight trains are basically the same as those of sea freight, but it only takes nearly half the time, said Logistics industry insiders.

On Dec. 3, the China-Laos Railway officially started operation. It marks a crucial step for the trans-Asian railway network, which has been brewing for more than half a century.

Since then, the journey from Vientiane to the border with China has been reduced from 2 days to 3 hours, and

the journey to Kunming, capital of China's Yunnan Province, can be made in a day.

"The China-Laos railway is conducive to promoting the development of areas that are located along the line.

Countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion, including Thailand, Laos and China, will benefit from trade, agricultural products, consumer products, investment and tourism," said Pichet Kunadhamraks, deputy director-general of the Department of Rail Transport under the Thai Ministry of Transport, in an

interview with Xinhua.

The railway is expected to reduce transport costs between Vientiane and Kunming by 40 to 50 percent, said a World Bank report, noting transport costs from Thailand's Laem Chabang port to Kunming are expected to fall by at least 32 percent.

It is estimated that by 2030, the annual volume of commercial goods in transit through the Laos section of the China-Laos Railway will reach 3.9 million tons, it added.

This year coincides with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relations, and the two sides are advancing the BRI and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025. On Jan. 1, 2022, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will officially enter into force.

Experts believe that the BRI will lead to the construction of the trans-Asian rail network and promote regional connectivity.

In mid-June this year, a ceremony was held to launch the Ithaca-Mwanza section of the Standard Gauge Railway of Tanzania's Central Line, the joint efforts of China and Africa have created jobs, trade opportunities and a better investment environment, thereby contributing to local prosperity as well as to the improvement of the living conditions of the local residents.

Burundi and other countries, providing a pathway to the Indian Ocean.

It is of great importance for promoting the economic development of the countries in the region and improving the living conditions of the people.

From the Tanzania-Zambia railway built in the 1970s, to the Djibouti-Ethiopia and Mombasa-Nairobi railways, and the Standard Gauge Railway of Tanzania's Central Line, the joint efforts of China and Africa have created jobs, trade opportunities and a better investment environment, thereby contributing to local prosperity as well as to the improvement of the living conditions of the local residents.

As of Dec. 16, China has signed more than 200 cooperation documents for the joint construction of the Belt and Road with 145 countries and 32 international organizations, and financial institutions such as China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Silk Road Fund have expanded financing channels for infrastructure construction.

According to Bambang Suryono, chairman of Indonesian think tank Asia Innovation Study Center, for many countries, a major obstacle to escape poverty is the weakness of transport infrastructure, and in this regard, China's success can set an example.

Xinhua

## SPORT



Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots as Dallas Mavericks guard Frank Ntilikina (21) looks on in the second half during an NBA basketball game in Salt Lake City on Saturday. AP

## Mitchell, Jazz rally past short-handed Mavs 120-116

SALT LAKE CITY

DONOVAN Mitchell dribbled out the clock in the backcourt, dodging Dallas' last-ditch efforts to foul before letting out a triumphant yell and throwing the ball high in the air.

Mitchell celebrated Christmas Day with 33 points and the Utah Jazz beat the COVID-19-depleted Mavericks 120-116 on Saturday night.

"I grew up watching these games and wanting to be in this position. To play on Christmas is special ... it's an honor and a blessing," said Mitchell, who overcame a back strain sustained in the first quarter.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 25 points and Mike Conley had 22 to lift the Jazz (23-9) to their 13th win in their last 15 games.

It wasn't the Christmas night matchup the NBA hoped for with Luka Dončić among the Mavs stuck in the league's health and safety protocols.

Still, it was competitive to the end despite several new signees getting significant minutes for Dallas.

"Even with guys out, it's what you ask for. It's extra emotion, extra drive, just one step below the playoffs. Everybody's excited and locked in," Mitchell said.

Tim Hardaway Jr., Maxi Kleber, Reggie Bullock, Trey Burke, JaQuori McLaughlin and Josh Green were also sidelined in the health and safety protocols for the Mavericks.

In addition, Willie Cauley-Stein was out for personal reasons and Dorian Finney-Smith missed the game with a non-COVID illness.

The Jazz still have not lost a player to the coronavirus, and the depth and experience showed as Utah took over in the fourth quarter.

"We didn't play our best and got behind by 16 points, but this time we didn't let it slip away. We're getting better and maybe learning some lessons," said Rudy Gobert, who had eight of his 10 points in the final period.

Jalen Brunson scored 27 points and Porzingis returned after two games out with a sore toe to tally 27 points for Dallas.

Frank Ntilikina had a season-best 17 points,

marking the first time he's scored in double figures in back-to-back games this season.

"No matter who's on our side or who's on that side ... you got to be aggressive. You got to be locked in. You got to have that mindset of playing, whatever the defense," Brunson said.

Guarded by Royce O'Neale - who is nine inches shorter - Porzingis scored six straight points to give Dallas an 84-75 lead with 4:45 left in the third quarter.

Dallas led 94-92 in the fourth quarter before the Jazz went on a 10-0 run punctuated by Jordan Clarkson's one-handed alley-oop to Gobert that made it 102-94 for Utah. The Jazz never trailed the rest of the way.

Mavericks (15-17) have lost four of five but started strong. Porzingis powered Dallas to a 26-11 lead with a jumper, a dunk and five throws while the Jazz went 5 for 17 and had five turnovers.

"The frantic part of it was us fouling. That really hurt us, particularly in the first quarter, because it slows the game down and allows them to change their defense," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

The Mavericks' zone defense flustered the Jazz early, but the Jazz started hitting perimeter shots and getting to the basket.

Mitchell scored 16 points in the second quarter to spur the Jazz to a 65-63 lead at the half.

The Mavericks' aggressiveness kept the team neck-and-neck with Utah, and Dallas was 30 of 35 at the foul line, their highest number of free throws made and attempted this season. The teams combined to shoot 72 free throws.

"That was one of the best teams in the league - not just the Western Conference," Dallas coach Jason Kidd said.

"I thought those guys in our locker room fought all the way to the end. The ball just didn't bounce our way tonight in that fourth quarter. We had some good looks."

Bogdanovic made a 3-pointer with 2:01 remaining to lift the Jazz to an eight-point lead, a cushion Utah needed as the Mavericks made a final charge at the end of the game.

It is a familiar occurrence as the Jazz have hit their stride the last few weeks.

## Premier League clubs ought to embrace GSM Group sponsorship

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

THERE are two issues a person must look for when analyzing African football, facts, and reality.

The GSM Group recently entered into a contract with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) worth 2.1-billion to financially back the NBC Premier League.

The company has for that matter turned into the top-flight's new co-sponsor. The National Bank of Commerce (NBC) is the top-flight main sponsor.

Two incidents happened. The league leader, Yanga, had initially refused to have its jerseys bearing the league's main sponsor's logo, which has red colour.

Yanga later agreed with the league's main sponsor and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), which allowed the outfit to use alternative colour for the logo.

Then the top-flight's defending champion, Simba SC, opted out of having its jerseys bearing the GSM Group's logo, contravening the terms of the contract between TFF and GSM Group.

I do not want to dwell on an argument about who is right and who is wrong. I just want to remind soccer fanatics how much domestic football outfits are in dire straights.

Yanga's insistence on opting out of having its jerseys bearing the red NBC logo stems from the fact that it is financially stable.

Simba SC's insistence on refusing to have its jerseys bearing the GSM Group logo has many reasons behind it.

One of the reasons was Simba SC was allegedly not involved in the deal.

The side says so but the TPLB officials were recently heard saying Simba SC was involved in the deal.

I do not want to know too much about the fact that Simba SC's refusal to have its jerseys bearing GSM Group's logo is because the company as well sponsors the former's age-old rival, re the sponsors of the League, Yanga.

However, experts and analysts claim that there will be no fair competition because GSM Group sponsors Yanga and several other top-flight teams.

They may be more elaborate but I think a lack of fair competition exists between clubs that are financially stable and outfits that are struggling financially.

This is a more fundamental problem than GSM Group sponsoring Yanga and other Premier League clubs.

Do football analysts and journalists know how much domestic



Mtibwa Sugar forward, Kelvin Sabato (R), races past Prisons' midfielder, Dotto Shaban, as the squads faced off in a recent 2021/22 NBC Premier League tie that was held in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MTIBWA SUGAR

clubs suffer and consequently fail to live up to Premier League status?

Before looking at the facts that analysts and writers are trying to present, I think soccer fanatics should look at the difficulties domestic clubs face.

Except for Azam FC, which is owned by a wealthy family, several other top-flight sides are in dire straights.

Azam Media has a contract with Yanga through Azam TV. Some top-flight outfits badly need the cash from the GSM Group's sponsorship with TFF.

Soccer fanatics are commenting on Simba SC's row with TFF, have they ever watched the lives of other clubs' players?

In European football, it is easy for clubs to follow rules and regulations. Each club will board flights for long and short trips, each club has a state-of-the-art stadium, each club pays players' dues on scheduled dates.

Each club has a state-of-the-art training ground for senior teams, youth and women teams.

Each club has a gym, sauna, swimming pools, and other facilities.

At that point, an individual will try to look at facts rather than reality.

For the rest of Tanzania's soccer clubs, the first thing a soccer fanatic should look for is realism.

Is every Premier League outfit financially stable to the extent that it cannot accept the GSM Group's sponsorship with TFF?

So far 13 Premier League clubs

will be ready to embrace any sponsorship for the top flight, regardless of who brings it.

I have not seen another team reject the GSM Group's sponsorship with TFF.

These clubs face lots of challenges when it comes to paying players' salaries, transporting teams, paying hotel bills.

In the previous season's top flight, one outfit came to Dar es Salaam to play Yanga whilst facing financial difficulties.

The side's players were forced to lay on mattresses that were spread on the floor a day before the match.

Two seasons ago, Coastal Union arrived in Dar es Salaam at 2:00 pm on the day of a top-flight match against Simba SC that camped at a luxurious hotel.

There is no way Simba SC can get allies in the outfit's row with TFF. Many top-flight sides are in dire straights.

If Businessman, Mohamed Dewji, a Simba SC investor, opts to reach an agreement with TFF to sponsor the top flight, I think Yanga can oppose the move but the side will not get allies on the matter.

Domestic football sides need money from Azam TV, NBC, and GSM Group.

At least Tanzania stands to have a Premier League with a slightly different status than the current top-flight that has very few outfits that are self-sufficient.

Other domestic top-flight outfits are not financially stable. Some clubs fail to afford the ba-

sics. A club that fails to ensure its players eat three meals a day is failing to afford the basic need and it is consequently withdrawn from the competition.

If every top-flight club manages to at least raise 60m/- a month from various deals TFF has entered with companies, then at least the clubs will live up to the Premier League status.

A few top-flight sides might be financially stable but the country has many clubs that need to first sort out the basics.

A footballer playing for either Coastal Union or Biashara United may not own a luxurious car like the one that Yanga midfielder, Khalid Aucho, has but the former has to afford basic needs to be a competitive football player.

Domestic Premier League clubs need to have a status that clubs featuring in the league ought to have.

Currently, players from some of the Premier League clubs can only have access to guest houses in the alleys.

Fair competition has to focus on fighting to reduce the huge gap that exists between the poor clubs and the ones that have lucrative sponsorship.

Clubs with lucrative sponsorship should not encourage poor clubs to reject money from the sponsorship.

I do not believe that 13 clubs can let Yanga easily clinch the top flight's title, simply because the outfit is sponsored by GSM Group.



Junior soccer coach, Maalim Saleh, issues instructions to the youngsters that are participating in a program organized by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Simbu, Failuna Abdi flop in 2021 Karatu Festival races

BY CORRESPONDENT RENATHA MSUNGU

TANZANIA'S athletes, Failuna Abdi and Alphonse Simbu have failed to make their presence felt in 5km and 10km races of this year's Karatu Festival which took place at Mazingira Bora ground in Arusha over the weekend.

Olympic Solidarity (OS) sponsored the festival via the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

Simbu finished sixth men's 10km race, clocking 32:56:32 minutes, the race was won by Faraja Lazaro who ran for 32:00:42 minutes.

Failuna finished the seventh in this year's 5km race, which brings together female athletes, after clocking 20:30:03 minutes. The runner was last year's race winner.

She trailed this year's race's winner, Natalia Elisante, by 1:30 minutes as the latter clocked 18:34:20 to emerge victorious.

In the first round, Failuna and Natalia were in the leading batch before the latter began running faster than the former that ultimately finished seventh.

Other stars, who competed in

the race, were Mayselina Mbua, who finished second after posting 18:51:28, Anastasia Dolomongo who came third with 19:30:83 minutes.

The women race's other competitors, Asha Salum, Aisha Lubuma, and Sarah Ramadhan finished fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Simbu admitted to being overwhelmed in the final round by the other stars led by Lazaro, Gabriel Geay, and Fabian Sulle who finished second and third respectively.

"I am more experienced in the marathon, the are runners that excel in this 10km, that's why young runners performed well in it," said Simbu.

Geay, who holds the national marathon record of 2:04, clocked 32:11:70 minutes in the Karatu Festival race, Sulle clocked 32:18:35.

In cycling, Masunga Duba of Simiyu finished first in the men's race with 1:46:59 to complete the 60km race which was graced by Karatu District Commissioner, Dadi Kolimba, accompanied by

other leaders including TOC president, Gulam Rashid, Athletics Tanzania (AT) president, Silas Isangi, and other sports officials.

Arusha's Kelvina Ligasi finished second in the men's cycling race with 1:51:40, Diamond Julius, also from Arusha, finished third with 1:53:43.

In the women's cycling race, which covered 30 kilometers, Shinyanga's Regina Makiriri was the champion with 1:11:26, Makirikiri Joseph, also from Shinyanga, finished second with 1:11:51.

Maria Samwel of Arusha finished third in the race with 1:19:08.

Suleiman Jabir, TOC Assistant Secretary, said the committee had asked Olympic Solidarity to sponsor the Karatu Festival due to the district's achievement in athletics.

Karatu has produced Tanzania's athletics legend, Filbert Bayi, the world record holder in the 1,500m race.

"All participants' food and accommodation costs were paid for by the TOC, we also presented the equipment to some of the players and prizes for the winners," Jabir noted.

## Bucks rally late in Antetokounmpo's return for 117-113 win

MILWAUKEE

Giannis Antetokounmpo said he tried to set low expectations for himself when he returned to action Saturday for the first time since entering the NBA's health and safety protocols on Dec. 12. So much for that.

In front of a national television audience on Christmas, Antetokounmpo put up exactly the kind of numbers one would expect from him — 36 points, 12 rebounds and five assists — and the Milwaukee Bucks rallied in the closing minutes for a 117-113 victory over the Boston Celtics.

"It feels good," Antetokounmpo said. "I was excited to be back, excited to be around my teammates and the fans again and excited to play the game."

Antetokounmpo got off to a slow start and scored seven points before halftime, Milwaukee trailed a COVID-depleted Celtics team 35-22.

He shook off any remaining rust with 17 points in the third then added 12 more after Boston took a 13-point lead with five minutes to play.

"He's a guy who likes his reps, the touches and feels he gets," Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

"It took a half for him to kind of knock the cobwebs off but he had a great second half and I'm really impressed by him."

Boston had just eight players available after putting Dennis Schroder in the protocols earlier Saturday, but took control for most of the game behind Jaylen Brown, who scored 14 of his 25 points in the opening quarter. Jayson Tatum also scored 25 for Boston, which led by as many as 19.

Milwaukee trimmed the deficit to one when Middleton knocked down a 3 with 3:39 left in the third.

But the Celtics answered with five straight and opened the fourth with an 8-0 run, including six from Parker, who converted a three-point play to make it 102-90 with 10:15 to play.

Portis' put-back with 8 minutes left was the start of the Bucks' charge. They tied the game at 111 when Ante-

tokounmpo scored and drew a foul with 1:26 left.

He missed the free throw and Brown made a pair on the other end to put Boston back in front.

But Wes Matthews buried a 3 for a 114-113 lead with 30.3 seconds left, and the Bucks held on.

"I think we can only go up from here," Celtics guard Payton Richard said. "We're learning how we're gonna finish games. So for us, we've got to take it as a good thing."

"We're growing, so eventually, we'll get good at that area and we'll then be able to take care of it."

Saturday was the first time in Matthews' career that he played a home game on Christmas.

It was even more special because it came in his home state and just days after his grandmother died. She was supposed to have been at the game, which would have been her first since the pandemic began.

"She sure showed up, though, didn't she," said Matthews, who with his nine points Saturday now has 31 in three games since returning from COVID-19 protocols.

"He's been so good for us since he's been back," Budenholzer said. "He's having a huge impact on us winning."

Along with Antetokounmpo, the Bucks also welcomed back center Bobby Portis and guard Donte DiVincenzo

Portis was placed in the protocols on Dec. 19, four days after DiVincenzo, who hadn't played since suffering a left foot injury during the playoffs last season.

One player was still on the injury report before the game: center Brook Lopez, who is recovering from back surgery.

"It was weird," Bucks guard Jrue Holiday said. "It was hard to do layup lines because we didn't have enough people, and now it was crowded."

Antetokounmpo played 30 minutes Saturday, while Portis scored 16 points in 22 minutes and DiVincenzo added three in 15 minutes.

AP

## Walker's triple-double leads Knicks over Hawks, 101-87

NEW YORK

KEMBA Walker could not have envisioned this Christmas. Less than two weeks ago, his coach would not even call his name. On Saturday, his hometown fans were chanting it.

Walker became the seventh NBA player with a triple-double on Christmas, and the New York Knicks beat the depleted Atlanta Hawks 101-87 for their first win on the holiday in a decade.

"It was amazing," Walker said. "Those are moments that you dream about. It's kind of hard to put it into words, to be honest."

Julius Randle had 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Knicks in a matchup of teams that met in the first round of last season's playoffs.

But the Hawks were missing Trae Young among nine players in the NBA's health and safety protocols, so it wasn't much of a rematch of Atlanta's five-game victory.

Walker finished with 10 points, 12 assists, and 10 rebounds. The 6-foot guard raced around the floor trying desperately for his 10th rebound for much of the second half, finally getting it in the fourth quarter when Mitchell Robinson's block came to him.

It was the first triple-double on Christmas since Golden State's Draymond Green in 2017, continuing Walker's strong stretch since going from a nine-game stint out of the rotation to back in the starting lineup when the Knicks were short-handed.

He said he couldn't have foreseen things turning so quickly.

"This is not how we pictured it," he said. "I ain't complaining, either."

Fans in the sold-out crowd chanted "Kemba Walker! Kemba Walker!" for the New York native, who scored 44 points in a loss to Washington on Thursday.

"As a teammate, as a brother, I'm happy for him that he's able to come

out and be who he is," Randle said.

"I'm sure when he signed to come here this is kind of what he envisioned, playing the type of basketball that he's playing right now."

Evan Fournier and Quentin Grimes each scored 15 points for the Knicks, who snapped a six-game Christmas skid. They are 23-31 in their league-high 54 appearances, but hadn't won one since 2011.

John Collins and Delon Wright each scored 20 points for the Hawks, who were playing on Christmas for the first time since 1989. They had their six-game road winning streak snapped.

Young starred in his first playoff series last spring against New York, ignoring profane taunts by Knicks fans and getting the last word when he bowed to them near the close of Atlanta's clinching Game 5 victory.

But he couldn't clear protocols in time for a coveted spot on the calendar, and playing short-handed caught up with the Hawks.

Coach Nate McMillan said some players even asked to be subbed out of the game, which he said never happens.

"It wasn't a lack of energy," McMillan said. "I think our guys are tired. They've been logging a lot of minutes."

The Knicks made their first seven shots and raced to a 19-3 lead on Randle's 3-pointer with 7:48 left in the first quarter.

They blew it open in the third quarter, and consecutive 3-pointers by Grimes and Taj Gibson to open the fourth gave New York its biggest lead at 87-66.

From there the only drama was whether Walker would get one more rebound.

The Hawks' injury report took three tweets from the team's official account to list, and besides Young featured key players such as Kevin Huerter, Lou Williams and Danilo Gallinari. AP

# Claxton oops over James late, Nets hold off Lakers 122-115

LOS ANGELES

SHORT-HANDED and on the verge of a crushing fourth-quarter collapse, the Brooklyn Nets went right at Lakers star LeBron James.

"Until this is over, until we can get our full roster, I think the motto is, 'find ways to win,' and we've been doing that," Nets guard James Harden said. This time, that meant right over James' head.

Nic Claxton threw down a tiebreaking alley-oop over James with 40.7 seconds left, and Harden and the Nets returned from a week-long COVID-19 hiatus to beat Los Angeles 122-115 Saturday night.

Harden had 36 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. The last helper was a lob that Claxton caught with two hands while soaring over James, who had just helped Los Angeles erase a 20-point deficit.

Claxton posterized the 17-time All-Star, then made a free throw for a three-point play and a 118-115 lead.

It had been more than two weeks since Harden last played, missing time because of a stint in the NBA's health and safety protocols before the Nets had their past three games postponed because they didn't have enough players.

After "doing a lot of nothing," as Harden described it. "A lot of video games and binge-watching." This one was worth seeing.

Patty Mills added 34 points for the Nets, who were still without Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, among others. Bruce Brown had 16 points and DeAndre Bembry had 15.

"Obviously missing a lot of our guys, some guys had to step up and they did that tonight," Harden said.

James matched a season high with 39 points to pass Kobe Bryant for most



Brooklyn Nets forward Nic Claxton (33) dunks over Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (6) during the second half of an NBA League game in Los Angeles on Saturday. AP

career points on Christmas Day, but it was not enough to stop the Lakers' losing streak from reaching five.

Russell Westbrook had 13 points, 11 assists and 12 rebounds for his second career holiday triple-double, and Malik Monk chipped in 20 points.

James passed Bryant with the first of two free throws with 3:52 left in the first half of his 16th game on Christmas, tying Bryant's record for most appearances.

James has 422 points on the holiday to Bryant's 395.

"I don't really care about the way I play if it comes in a loss," James said.

Harden figured he would be able to get some rest when the Nets took a 102-82 lead into the fourth quarter, only for the Lakers to come roaring back and tie it on Monk's layup off a pass by James with 45 seconds remaining.

Then Harden went back to Claxton on the alley-oop. Westbrook missed a dunk at the other end, and Harden knocked down four free throws to see out the win.

"It wasn't supposed to go like that, you know?" Harden said. "It's supposed to be not a 39-minute game (for me), but at the end of the day, you know, I just wanted to win and that's all that matters."

The Lakers are limping toward the New Year with a 16-18 record.

"We just as mad as everybody else, man, probably even more because, as I said before, we all know what we got to do," Monk said.

"And sometimes we do, and sometimes we don't, and we're not going to win like that and everybody knows it."

Harden is the eighth player to record a triple-double on Christmas, joining

the exclusive company after Kemba Walker of the Knicks did it earlier in the day.

James, Westbrook, Draymond Green, Billy Cunningham, John Havlicek, and Oscar Robertson round out the club.

"Sometimes I think he should be more aggressive, but he always makes the right play," Brown said of Harden's fifth triple-double this season.

The triple-doubles from Harden and Westbrook marked the first time opposing players did it in the same Christmas game.

Westbrook joined Robertson as just the second player with multiple triple-doubles on Christmas, something Robertson did four times.

However, Westbrook made just 4 of 20 shots and the Lakers were outscored by 23 points with him on the court. AP

## Curry, Warriors beat Suns 116-107 to regain top spot in NBA League

PHOENIX

THE Golden State Warriors kept it close despite being short-handed, setting the stage for a player to take over down the stretch.

One did — and it wasn't Stephen Curry. Otto Porter Jr. took late-game honors.

Curry had 33 points, Porter scored seven of his 19 during a key late stretch and the Warriors regained to top spot in the NBA from Phoenix, beating the Suns 116-107 on Saturday.

"I drew up every play, I completely organized every aspect of it," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said sarcastically.

"Otto was great. He's just added so much to our team with his shooting from that position and his rebounding and defense."

Golden State arrived in the desert short-handed, missing three of its top four scorers to health and safety protocols, Andrew Wiggins, Damion Lee, and Jordan Poole.

Curry carried most of the load, overcoming a mediocre shooting night to crack 20 points for the first time in nine Christmas games.

He finished 10 for 27, including 5 for 16 from 3 to help the Warriors end Phoenix's 15-game home winning streak.

Porter hit a step-back 3 and a pair of jumpers in a span of 1:02.

"Coach drew up a couple of plays that freed me open," Porter said. "Did a good job of finding me, was able to find a rhythm."

The Suns had their chances, keeping it close until the closing minutes in a raucous home atmosphere.

They could not close it out, failing to score over the final 3:01 to lose for the third time in 28 games.

Chris Paul had 21 points and eight assists to take up some of the slack from leading scorer Devin Booker, who was held to 13 points on a 5-of-19 shooting. Deandre Ayton added 18 points and Mikal Bridges 17.

"They created those breaks. They played harder than us," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "It's rare when I



Golden State Warriors guard Chris Chiozza drives against Phoenix Suns guard Cameron Payne (15) during the first half of an NBA League game in Phoenix on Saturday. AP

say that about our team.

They outworked us more consistently for 50-50 balls, timely offensive rebounds, diving out of bounds to save balls."

The two teams with the NBA's best records played in just the third Christmas game in which both teams had a win-

ning percentage of at least .800.

Playing on Christmas is nothing new to the Warriors. This was their ninth straight Christmas Day game and 11th in 12 seasons.

The Suns, once regulars on the Christmas schedule, were in their first since 2009.

Both teams put on an after-the-pressents offensive show at Footprint Center, sending oohs and aahs across the Footprint Center with each dunk and 3-pointer.

Curry had 11 points in the first quarter and Payton a massive rebound slam as the Warriors built an early 10-point lead.

The Suns revved it up in the second quarter, going on a 15-3 run and taking a 62-58 halftime lead on Paul's last-second 3-pointer.

The teams continued to trade 3s and baskets in transition, neither able to gain any separation until Golden State went on a short run to go up 107-99.

The Suns pulled within two, but Porter hit consecutive jumpers and a long 3 to stretch Golden State's lead to nine. "They wanted it more and they played like it," Booker said. "We just have to take this loss and move on to our next game."

The four players weren't the only ones Golden State had in health and safety protocols. The Warriors also had four coaches out, forcing Kerr and his staff to shuffle responsibilities.

"Missing all those guys was really bizarre," Kerr said. "The group did a really good job. These are strange times for a lot of reasons, but I've never seen four coaches out at the same time."

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





CCBRT's Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi (on the R of the wheelchair user) in a group photo with some of her team officials after handing out end of the year prizes to CCBRT staff in appreciation for the job well done in 2021. CCBRT has over 400 staff members in Dar es Salaam and Moshi ranging from surgeons, nurses, occupational and physiotherapists, administrative staff, carpenters as well as housekeepers who collaboratively work together to ensure Tanzanians receive quality services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## PMO sets out tourist arrival wins, massive investments

FROM PAGE 1

weeks' time, he stated, noting further that there are investors who have shown interest to in irrigation schemes at Kidunda. Efforts continue to link the investors with the Ministry of Water and the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA), he said.

On employment, the top civil servant said that President Samia has in nine months overseen the creation of 46,140 new jobs, compared to 13,946 jobs over the same period last

year, as an improving climate of investment climate enhanced the willingness of investors and the business community to pay taxes voluntarily.

Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) collections have been increasing each month as from March to November, the authority collected 14.6trn/-, about 13 per cent more from 12.8trn/- collected during the same period last year.

The Prime Minister's Office is closely monitoring the conduct of employees in agencies serving investors, as the government was

keen about eliminating bureaucracy and corrupt practices, he emphasised.

The first urgent step is to ensure that Tanzanians benefit from investments, thus investors are encouraged to take up the length of the product value chain as this way many local producers will be connected, he asserted, also touching on efficient use of land.

The majority of Tanzanians need to benefit from land and therefore land occupancy across large tracts of land for little plausible needs

is being carefully examined, he stated, lauding efforts by the Lands ministry for tracking down investors monopolising large tracts of land with little input into it.

Projects set for completion in the course of this year are being followed up with vigour to meet the target, he said. Achieving set investment goals and meeting aspirations set out by President Samia, and with the speed at which this is being pursued, beings Tanzania to the brink of setting a new economic record in Africa in the provision of services to investors, he added.

## Archbishop Tutu (90) passes on

FROM PAGE 1

Cape Town yesterday morning, not providing details on the state of disease at the moment of death.

Tutu was born in Klerksdorp, a farming town 100 miles (160km) south-west of Johannesburg. The sickly son of a head teacher and a domestic servant, he trained first as a teacher before becoming an Anglican priest.

As a cleric, he travelled widely, gaining an MA in theology from London University and emerged as a key figure in the emancipation struggle in the mid-1970s. He was to have a huge impact, becoming a household name among peaceful activists around the world.

Excitable, emotional, charismatic and highly articulate, Tutu won the Nobel peace prize in 1984. A vocal supporter of sanctions against South Africa, he was detested by supporters of the apartheid regime, who saw him as an agitator. Tutu was however protected not just by his wit and combative spirit but by his immense popularity and respect. In 1986 he was appointed Archbishop of Cape Town, effectively the head of the Anglican Church in his homeland.

Tutu always kept his distance from the African National Congress (ANC), the party which spearheaded the liberation movement and has ruled the country since 1994. He refused to back the armed struggle and unconditional support to leaders such as Nelson Mandela.

However Tutu shared Mandela's vision of a multiracial society in which all communities live together without rancour or discrimination, and is credited with coining the phrase "rainbow nation," to underline this objective.

After the nation's first free election in 1994, Mandela, who had become the president of a free South Africa, asked Tutu to chair the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), the controversial and emotional hearings into apartheid-era human rights abuses.

The TRC was described as the "climax of Tutu's career" and lauded across the world as a pioneering effort to heal deep historic wounds.

However Tutu found the experience deeply traumatic. He was saddened and perplexed by ferocious criticism from the white rightwing, some mainstream liberals and the ANC. The terrible testimony that he listened to day after day brought deep emotional stress too, with TV viewers watching as the tough, witty cleric put his head in his hands and wept.

In the late 1990s, Tutu, suffering prostate cancer, began to spend more time with his wife of 60 years, four children, and numerous grandchildren. He continued to criticise the ANC and was initially excluded from the state funeral of Nelson Mandela in 2013. His absence provoked a public outcry. Tutu later said he had been "very hurt."

Despite his illness, Tutu remained interested in world affairs and determined to use his enormous moral prestige to make a difference. In 2015, he launched a petition launch urging global leaders to create a world run on renewable energies within 35 years, backed by more than 300,000 people globally. It described climate change as "one of the greatest moral challenges of our time."

He also spoke out against homophobic legislation in Uganda and argued in favour of assisted dying for Mandela, who lived near Tutu's home in Soweto and also won the Nobel Prize, describing his close friendship as "sometimes strident, often tender, never afraid, seldom without humour."

"Desmond Tutu's voice will always be the voice of the voiceless," Mandela had declared.

In 2009 Barack Obama described Tutu as "a crusader for freedom, a spiritual leader ... and a respected statesman [who] has become a symbol of kindness and hope far beyond the borders of his native land."

Friends remember Tutu as a man of deep faith whose charm, warmth and intelligence few could resist, and who was happiest when active for the sake of others.

"I love to be loved," he told the BBC's Sue Lawley when appearing on Desert Island Discs in 1994.

## Four die, 30 admitted in poisonous turtle debacle

FROM PAGE 1

Foundation, an activist group.

The poisoning can have greater impact on children and older people, though healthy adults can also succumb, while the French news agency AFP highlighted that

back in March in Madagascar, 19 people of whom nine were children, died after eating turtle meat.

Cases have also been reported in Indonesia, Micronesia and India's Indian Ocean islands, the agency added.

## In Africa, rescuing languages that Western tech ignores

By Special Correspondent

COMPUTERS have become amazingly precise at translating spoken words to text messages and scouring huge troves of information for answers to complex questions. At least, that is, so long as you speak English or another of the world's dominant languages.

But try talking to your phone in Yoruba, Igbo or any number of widely spoken African languages and you'll find glitches that can hinder access to information, trade, personal communications, customer service and other benefits of the global tech economy.

"We are getting to the point where if a machine doesn't understand your language it will be like it never existed," said Vukosi Marivate, chief of data science at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, in a call to action before a December virtual gathering of the world's artificial intelligence researchers.

American tech giants don't have a great track record of making their language technology work well outside the wealthiest markets, a problem that's also made it harder for them to detect dangerous misinformation on their platforms.

Marivate is part of a coalition of African researchers who have been trying to change that. Among their projects is one that found machine translation tools failed to properly translate online COVID-19 surveys

from English into several African languages.

"Most people want to be able to interact with the rest of the information highway in their local language," Marivate said in an interview. He's a founding member of Masakhane, a pan-African research project to improve how dozens of languages are represented in the branch of AI known as natural language processing. It's the biggest of a number of grassroots language technology projects that have popped up from the Andes to Sri Lanka.

Tech giants offer their products in numerous languages, but they don't always pay attention to the nuances necessary for those apps work in the real world. Part of the problem is that there's just not enough online data in those languages – including scientific and medical terms – for the AI systems to effectively learn how to get better at understanding them.

Google, for instance, offended members of the Yoruba community several years ago when its language app mistranslated Esu, a benevolent trickster god, as the devil. Facebook's language misunderstandings have been tied to political strife around the world and its inability to tamp down harmful misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines. More mundane translation glitches have been turned into joking online memes.



Civic United Front national chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba gestures speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam urging the government to amend the constitution at a press conference held yesterday. Right is party's foreign affairs deputy director Jafari Mneke. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Mahonda Sugar firm in morbid fiscal state

FROM PAGE 1

the government will look into the company's prospects. The factory's planting target is based on the original 6,644 acres of sugar cane, before seeking out small scale sugar farmers to augment the acreage to 10,000 acres under cultivation.

So far 313 small farmers and government service units working with the factory farm about 900 acres, he stated, noting that the factory was operating at 30 per cent capacity and in the current season about 7,000 tonnes of sugar was produced, far below its installed capacity of 22,000 tonnes of sugar.

He expressed expectations that

strengthen the factory's production capacity.

Jamal Kassim Ali, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Finance and Planning) said the meeting discussed challenges facing Mahonda Sugar factory, how to enable it operate profitably. To attain that goal, the factory must get the raw materials, sugar cane which also assures employment for the people.

Mudrik Ramadhani Soraga, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Labour, Economy and Investment), said as the ministry's responsibility is to enhance

investment, it will take the sugar issue as a weighty matter, as the factory's achievements can attract other investments.

Omar Said Shaaban, the Minister for Trade and Industrial Development said the government decided to privatise the factory to make sure Zanzibar is self-sufficient in sugar and thus cut imports.

Dr Soud Nahodha Hassan, the Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock said the ministry wishes to see the factory operate at full capacity by acquiring areas of land for sugar cane cultivation.

# SPORT

Claxton oops over James late, Nets hold off Lakers 122-115

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## English batting woes return in Boxing Day slump

MELBOURNE, Australia

ENGLAND'S earnest dressing-room discussions about improving shot selection failed to bear fruit on Sunday as opening batsmen James and Stokes were dismissed early in the third Ashes cricket test, as shambolic batting delivered a Boxing Day feast of wickets for Australia at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

England faces more honest discussions after it was bowled out for 185 on Sunday. Australia reached 61-1 at stumps.

Admittedly England, humiliated in a 275-run defeat in Adelaide, faced a tough task to bounce back on Sunday.

Australia captain Pat Cummins won the toss and invited under-siege England to bat first on a green-tinged, seaming MCG pitch.

England was 61-3 at lunch. By tea, the tourists were 128-6, having lost the key wicket of skipper Joe Root for 50.

England's resistance with the bat lasted just 65.1 overs. World No.1-ranked bowler Cummins (3-36), spinner Nathan Lyon (3-36) and left-arm quick Mitchell Starc (2-54) combined to keep the pressure on England's batsmen.

A loose shot outside off stump by Root, a questionable cut by Ben Stokes, and a wild heave by Jos Buttler will attract heavy attention from England's press after another difficult day for the tourists, who trail two-nil in the five-match series.

Johnny Bairstow, who scored 35, said Australia was handed a huge advantage by winning the toss. But he conceded England's batsmen needed to lift.

Both teams were looking to bowl first. It was overcast with the weather conditions this morning and the pitch was green, Bairstow said.

England's batsmen got to get a bit stronger and tougher with our dismissals. We spoke about that. That's just being honest with ourselves.

Asked if he was disappointed with the shot selection of Buttler and Stokes, Bairstow said players were instructed to play their natural games.

Naturally the execution of those (shots) wasn't there today. They and we will look back on (those shots) and probably reassess next time, Bairstow said.

Rain delayed the start of play for 30 minutes before Cummins ripped through England's top order on his return to the team after being ruled out for the second test at Adelaide due to being a close contact of a positive COVID case.

The skipper first removed Haseeb Hameed without scoring and then had Zak Crawley caught at gully for 12.

David Malan added 48 for third wicket with Root, before Cummins was rewarded in the final over before lunch, as Malan was caught at first slip for 14.

Australia claimed another three wickets in the middle session, dismissing the dangerous duo of Root and Stokes (25).

The departure of Buttler for three, after aiming a wild slog to deep mid-wicket off the bowling of Lyon in the last over before tea, summed up England's struggles against Australia's disciplined bowling.

World No.2-ranked batsman Root added to his side's woes outside off stump by offering a catch to wicketkeeper Alex Carey off the bowling of Mitchell Starc at 82-4.

Stokes tried to lift England's scoring rate by launching into an aggressive cut shot off the bowling of Cameron Green, but the left-hander was caught at gully at 115-5.

Debutant Scott Boland, playing at his home-state ground, claimed his first test wicket by trapping Mark Wood leg before to the delight of the 57,100 fans at the MCG.

Bairstow fell over as he edged a bouncer from Starc to gully at 159-8. Lyon removed tailenders Jack Leach (13) and Ollie Robinson (22).

David Warner and Marcus Harris (20 not out) shared an opening stand of 57 for Australia. Warner was caught at gully off the bowling of Jimmy Anderson for 38.

Harris required medical attention during the following over after being struck on the hand by a bouncer from Stokes, but survived to the end of play with nightwatchman Nathan Lyon to leave the hosts in the ascendancy again this series.

Boland, who is only the second Indigenous player to represent Australia's men's test-cricket side, said Australia's bowlers worked hard to make England's batsmen play.

England tried to keep it really full in the first session, Boland said. Their batsmen were pretty conscious about trying to leave the ball so we tried to keep attacking them as much as we could and we were judging ourselves on how much we could make them play. AP

## Arusha Boys trounce Annadil Boys in TCA Bilateral Series



Dar es Salaam cricket players take part in a recent Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Development League encounter, which took place in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA'S U-17 Boys cricket side walloped Tanga's Annadil Boys by 23 runs in a Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Bilateral Series' tie that took place in Tanga recently.

The TCA has organized the series as part of the body's efforts to raise the standard of the sport in the country. Elimokozi Kephas had impressive innings once Arusha U-17 Boys' side went in to bat first and amass 151 runs dropping five wickets in 20 overs.

Kephas, deployed at number three, made his presence felt with a series of solid knocks, which had the youthful batsman end with 73 runs not out.

He was the batsman with the most runs during his team's turn with the

bat, notching eight boundaries and a six.

Kephas' batting showing had the squad successfully frustrate efforts by Annadil Boys' bowling unit to keep the former's batting unit in check.

Annadil Boys' bowling unit had earlier sought to weaken Arusha U-17 Boys' batting unit's resolve with a quick dismissal of Mbwana Shaban that had opened the innings with Raymond Charles.

Mbwana made his way back with six runs, his fellow opener, Charles, withstood the opponents' bowling attack for several more overs and notched 20 runs that included two boundaries.

Ally Hassan chipped in with 24 runs, consisting of two fours and a six, to improve the Arusha U-17 Boys'

total.

Taher Noman was Annadil Boys' cricketer with an impressive bowling figure, as the youngster recorded two wickets giving away 24 runs in four overs. Alaqmar Anjari and Moiz Enayat ended with one wicket apiece for the Tanga youngsters.

Anjari leaked 17 runs in his three overs, whereas Enayat gave away six runs in one over.

Annadil Boys found the going tough once they took the crease, given they notched 128 runs, dropping nine wickets in 20 overs.

Murtaza Mustafa had impressive innings, which had the youthful batsman nailing 63 runs that included four boundaries and two sixes.

His efforts however could not help his side get down to a successful

chase given fellow batsmen could not step up their performance.

The squad took off to a shaky start given opener, Enayat, made his way back early, notching seven runs.

The fellow opener, Abdeali Seifuddin, also did not last long at the crease, recording 11 runs.

Anjari and Taha Mustafa were the other batsmen with two-digit figures, posting 14 runs and 11 runs respectively.

Aaditya Kausar and Juma Safari orchestrated Arusha Boys' efforts to frustrate Annadil Boys' chase, putting scintillating bowling performance.

Kausar took three wickets in his three-over spell, leaking 14 runs, Safari notched two wickets in his four-over spell.

## Iringa soccer outfit in need of financial support

By Guardian Reporter

IRINGA'S Ilula Tigers Sports Club has called on sports stakeholders and well-wishers to financially back the outfit to help it perform well in the group stage of this season's Regional Third Division League that kicked off last weekend.

One of the club's officials, Ajolon Moshia, said currently the club does not have a long-term sponsorship that can efficiently facilitate its participation in the show-down.

Moshia disclosed the outfit has only been supported by individuals and volunteers from Luxembourg.

"We have also received a lot of sports gear from Luxembourg that came with additional suitcases on the volunteers' flights."

"We still need support to have better medical care, offer meals to players, get sports equipment, pay the allowance for the coach and afford transport whenever we take part in away matches."

The official disclosed people have been presenting foodstuff to the outfit, seeking to motivate it to post good results in the show-down.

Moshia pointed out: "We have been a great example in the Iringa region in terms of performance, equipment, and management."

Ilula Tigers Sports Club, according to Moshia, was formed by Ilula Orphan Program (IOP)'s founder, Berit Skaare.

The club, he stated, plunged to oblivion in 2014 due to a lack of financial support.

Moshia disclosed that in June 2021, two volunteers from Luxembourg, Jussi, and



Ilula Tigers Sports Club's players in a group photo shortly before taking part in one of this season's Regional Third Division League's matches in Iringa. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ILULA TIGERS SPORTS CLUB

Nadine, began fundraising in the hopes of reviving the club.

Before they arrived at IOP in August, the official noted, the volunteers organized several fundraising events in Luxembourg.

Upon their arrival, they created a video on the online platform, known as 'GoFundMe', for fundraising across the world. Through this, they have raised

an addition of 1,889 Euro."

Due to the success of the club, the local community has also shown its support.

Moshia noted Ilula Tigers Sports Club lately gets much coverage in broadcast media in Iringa because of the success the outfit has begun enjoying.

"This is a huge source of motivation for the club to continue performing at a high level."

The official added the Luxembourg volunteers were also invited to attend a radio interview and talk about the club.

Moshia disclosed Ilula Tigers Sports Club's plans are within the IOP strategic plan 2021-2024.

"The IOP looks forward to setting up a football academy that is connected to its schools, namely Lord Hill Secondary School, Sunflower Pre- & Prima-

ry School, Kids Corner and the Holland House of Books."

"This will give the students a chance to focus on their studies and at the same time practice football and develop their talents."

"The club can also bring income to IOP. This will be realized by fencing the sports ground."

"During various competitions, we shall encourage people to pay an entrance fee, which will be used by the club and IOP."

"We are planning on having a school of sports within the college of IPEC. A board member of the Tanzanian Football Federation recommended that referee and coaching courses are two programs that have huge potential."

"We plan to introduce these sports courses at IPEC. We have received around 20 requests from parents whose children are ready for football training, they will be recruited and pay school contributions as well as buy their kits."

"This will give income to the college and IOP, and in this way sustainability of the organization will be realized."

## Flexibles by David Chikoko





Joseph Rugaimukamu, corporate affairs head (L) and Etienne Rousseau, manufacturing head and acting managing director Kilombero Sugar Company presents a holiday gift to a child at Kitete Orphanage Centre. The event took place last Wednesday at Kitete village in Kilombero and included a handover of supplies and a new toilet facility built by KSCS worth 11 million/- . The event was attended by KSCS and Unitrans personnel who pioneered the project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

## TGA: Proper prayers for Christmas rain

CHRISTIANS in Mbeya region have used their Christmas festive season to pray for a rainy season to enable them continue with their various economic activities including farming, saying this year was a unique year for them.

Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) worshippers at Jerusalem temple at Sokomatola area in Mbeya City conducted special prayers on Saturday praying for rains claiming that their farming activities have stuck due to delay of the rains.

The Church's Priest, Dr Hudson Mwaijunga said as now there are great changes to the climate change that are hitting the country and that Christians are supposed to join hands to pray for the alleviation of the situation as soon as possible.

He said reports from the Tanzania

Meteorological authority (TMA) show the problem is not hitting Mbeya Region only, but the entire country and therefore there was the danger for farmers failing to cultivate crops.

He said in some areas people had already planted their farms with crops, and that these were in danger of drying up due to shortage of rains.

"We thank the government for allowing us to pray for rains as well as for the threat posed by Covid-19, so we should use the opportunity to pray to God for His blessings," said Dr Mwaijunga.

Some of TGA's adherents said

it was not normal to celebrate Christmas without raining saying in other years they were weeding their farms during such periods.

One of the adherents, Ibrahim Malogoi said despite the situation, they will make sure they continue praying to God and he believes He will bring rains.

For her part, Veronica Mchome, another TGA adherent said last year at this period crops were had already grown in farms in farms, but this year is different as it has been plagued with many things including the rising prices of farm inputs including fertilisers.

By Guardian Reporter

## Dr Mwinnyi vows to improve hospitals at Z'bar service units

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinnyi has indicated his government's intention to strengthen health services in the Isles including improving hospitals in Zanzibar's service units.

Dr Mwinnyi made the remarks on Friday at Zanzibar's anti-Smuggling Unit (KMKM) hospital at Kibweni here soon after inspecting the hospital's environment.

Dr Mwinnyi said the intention will not be in regard of government hospitals only, but those serving Isles Service units.

He explained that the KMKM hospital and similar others have been providing exemplary health service to the people hence the government has decided to strengthen it including solving various challenges it faces.

Dr Mwinnyi further said his government plans to institute major refurbishment of the Mnazi Mmoja referral Hospital including building of another hospital for Unguja Urban west Region at Lumumba area.

For his part, KMKM commander, commodore Azanna Hassan Msingiri said the hospital serves more than 300 patients each day due to its exemplary services in heart diseases, diabetes and others ailments.

He said so far the hospital is in district hospital level and has

planned to be elevated to the regional level.

At the hospital, President Mwinnyi also visited Omar Hassan Mzee, a patient admitted to the hospital.

Mzee is among the three people who carried soil from Zanzibar that was mixed to that of Tanganyika on April 26 1964.

Earlier, Dr Mwinnyi accompanied by other Muslims on Friday prayers at Masjid

Jamui Zinjibar at Mazizin in Unguja where worshippers also used the occasion to praise him for his efforts to have money swindled from some people by Masterlife Company returned to them.

In his sermon, the Mosque's Imam, Sheikh Rashid Salim Daudi stressed the issue of ethics in the society and called on Muslims to adhere to Islamic teaching by shunning all vices.




**United Republic of Tanzania  
Ministry of Water**

**Belgian Development Agency**

### CALL FOR BIDS

**Public Works Contract Enabel TAN1403211-10026**

The Government of Tanzania with funding from the Kingdom of Belgium is implementing a water and sanitation programme in Kigoma region. The program is being implemented through RUWASA and through public works contracts procured through Enabel, Belgian Development Agency. The program has three specific objectives namely: 1) enhancing sustainable water supply operations and maintenance, 2) construction and rehabilitation of water supply schemes and 3) promotion of safe hygiene practices in domestic water management. Under the second result area, the programme is now seeking to engage capable construction companies for works, Enabel TAN1403211-10026 which is in two lots as below.

**Lot 1: Construction of Kidyama Water Supply Scheme**  
This is a groundwater development project intending to serve communities in the peripheral of Kasulu Town and some parts of the urban areas. Under this contract the program seeks to construct a groundwater pumping station, riser main pipeline, a storage tank, and distribution network.

**Lot 2: Construction of Nyanganga Water Supply Scheme**  
This project seeks to pump water from Mkuti River in Uvinza District to serve a growing population of Nyanganga village. It therefore intends to construct an intake on the river, a riser main pipeline, storage tank and gravity-flow water supply network.

More information on this contract and these lots is found on Enabel website [www.enabel.be](http://www.enabel.be), in the Belgian Public Tender bulletin (BDA) and on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) websites, and also on <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>.

Execution of these two projects under this contract has a strictly limited timeframe and therefore prospective contractors must have demonstrable requisite technical and financial capacity to implement this contract without any extension or pre-financing. The same must have a track record of being able to implement similar works within a limited time.

Interested companies are encouraged to download the tender specifications on the websites provided above and duly submit their bid on or before **Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 16:00 pm East Africa Time**. All interested tenderers will be accorded a clarification meeting and a guided site tour at 9.00 am on January 13, 2022, in Kigoma.

Any queries must be directed via email to [antony.warrant@enabel.be](mailto:antony.warrant@enabel.be)

# Mbeya Police hold four for Housebreaking and stealing

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya region are holding three youth and an elderly man allegedly for house breaking and entering and stealing.

Speaking to reporters here yesterday, Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the suspects and others involved in various other crimes were nabbed following a special crackdown just before the Christmas holiday.

He named the youth arrested as William Sanga (25) a resident of Tukuyu in Rungwe District, Stamili Hemed (25) and Samson Kyando (27) both residents of Mikoroshinini in Rungwe District.

He named the old man as Freison Mbilinyi (52) a Milaya resident in Kyela District.

RPC Matei during search conducted in the residents of the suspects, various items were found including radios and TV sets that had reported been stolen.

"After interrogation, William Sanga confessed to have stolen the items in Rungwe District and sold them away in Kyela District in collaboration with other suspects, we are continuing with our investigations after which the suspects will appear in court," the RPC aid.

Meanwhile RPC Matei said the police were holding a man, an Ethiopian national for entering the country illegally.

RPC Matei named the suspect as Baraka Tadesa (19) and that he was arrested December 23 at Kayuki road barrier in Rungwe District while travelling to Malawi.

He said the suspect was travelling in a vehicle with Reg. T933 CJC Toyota Carina that was being driven by a person whose name could not be obtained as he abandoned the vehicle and fled.

RPC Matei said the police continue in their hunt of the driver and the illegal migrant will appear in court after investigations are completed.

*"After interrogation, William Sanga confessed to have stolen the items in Rungwe District and sold them away in Kyela District in collaboration with other suspects, we are continuing with our investigations after which the suspects will appear in court"*

## COMMUNITY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS CONSORTIUM



### RE-ADVERTISEMENT

### INVITATION FOR THE APPLICATIONS TO INVEST IN TOURIST HUNTING BLOCKS IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMAs) FOR THE HUNTING PERIOD COMMENCES JULY 2022

**[[Made under section 31 (7) of the Wildlife Conservation Act No. 5 of 2009 and Regulation 51(2) of WMA Regulations of 2018 and its amendments]]**

In order to ensure competition among bidders, the following Authorized Associations (AAs) extend deadline for submission of the applications to invest in their Tourist hunting blocks for the period commencing July 2022: - MBARANG'ANDU (Namtumbo District) MAGINGO (Liwale District), WAGA (Iringa, Mafinga and Mbarali Districts) CHINGOLI (Tunduru District), KISUNGULE (Namtumbo District) and KIMBANDA (Namtumbo District). The table below provides key information concerning the respective Hunting Blocks.

AA	DISTRICT	BLOCK	SIZE IN KM SQ	CATEGORY	APPLICATION FEE (USD)	ECOSYSTEM
MBARANG'ANDU	NAMTUMBO	Luhila	1150	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
WAGA	IRINGA, MBARALI, MUFINDI	Waga THZ	315.27	II	2000	Ruaha - Rungwa
MAGINGO	LIWALE	Naimba Plain	421.35	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
		Kiurumila	1004.76	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
CHINGOLI	TUNDURU	Chingoli THZ	532.63	II	2000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
KISUNGULE	NAMTUMBO	Kisungule	366.00	III	1000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
KIMBANDA	KIMBANDA	North-Western Block	477.00	III	1000	Nyerere - Selous - Mikumi
		Southern Block	448.00	III	1000	
		Northern Eastern Block	774.00	II	2000	

Both new hunting tourism companies and those which are already in the industry are invited. Criteria for evaluating hunting tourism companies are stipulated on the Section 9(2) of Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and its amendments.

Application forms are available at CWMAC office located at Mikoroshini Street, Msasani Area, Dar es Salaam and respective Authorized Association Offices. Applications (filled application forms, paid bank slip and all other supporting documents) should be sent to respective Authorized Association through postal address indicated in the table below or to CWMAC office in Dar Es Salaam by **25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**.

**NOTE: Companies that have already submitted their applications should not resubmit as they are already on record.**

AA MAILING BOX	AA BANK ACCOUNT
JUMUIYA YA MALIASILI MBARANG'ANDU, S.L.P 15, <b>NAMTUMBO-RUVUMA</b>	A/C NO. 0133606513500 <b>CRDB, NAMTUMBO BRANCH.</b>
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI WAGA, S.L.P. 223, <b>MAFINGA.</b>	A/C NO. 60210014878 <b>NMB MAFINGA BRANCH</b>
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI NA MATUMIZI ENDELEU LIWALE - MAGINGO, S.L.P 86, <b>LIWALE</b>	A/C NO. 7032300087 <b>NMB, LIWALE BRANCH</b>
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI CHINGOLI P.O. BOX 6, <b>TUNDURU - RUVUMA</b>	A/C NO. 7092300923 <b>NMB TUNDURU BRANCH</b>
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI KISUNGULE P.O. BOX 24, <b>NAMTUMBO - RUVUMA</b>	A/C NO: 01J2085706400 <b>CRDB SONGEA BRANCH</b>
JUMUIYA YA HIFADHI YA WANYAMAPORI KIMBANDA, S.L.P. 24, <b>NAMTUMBO-RUVUMA</b>	A/C NO. 01J2085707500 <b>CRDB, SONGEA BRANCH.</b>

Interested bidders are strongly advised to visit the respective Hunting blocks before submitting their applications

Terms and conditions articulated in the Wildlife Conservation Act No.5 of 2009, Tourist Hunting Regulations (2015) and WMA Regulations (2018) shall apply. For more information, **please call +255 759 676 340**

**Prepared By  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

# BOXING DAY EVENTS IN DAR ES SALAAM AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



Iringa Urban District Commissioner Mohamed Moyo inspects the construction of secondary school classrooms over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



The Guardian veteran columnist Cynthia Stacey (L) receives a gift from Acting Managing Editor Richard Mngazija on Boxing Day at the TGL newsroom within the Mikocheni Light Industrial Area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Others are Nipashe Managing Editor Beatrice Bandawe (2nd R) Photo: Selemani Mpochi



Tunu Pinda the wife of former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda (L) listens to a widow during the distribution of Christmas gifts at Upendo Revival Christian Centre of the Tanzania Assemblies of God (TAG) church at Area D in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



Loveness, a nurse of Kwekivu Ward health centre of Kilindi district in Tanga region sensitizing residents on COVID-19 vaccination at Kwekivu secondary school over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli



Children of Muheza district in Tanga region enjoy during a Boxing Day ceremony at a garden yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steve William



Tourists swim at Kwale beach, one of ten islands in Unguja that the government has hired to tourism investors, over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman



Dar es Salaam residents enjoy Boxing Day at Coco Beach Oysterbay yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



Dar es Salaam residents enjoy Boxing Day at Coco Beach Oysterbay yesterday. Photo: Jumanne Juma



**BARRICK**  
BULYANHULU

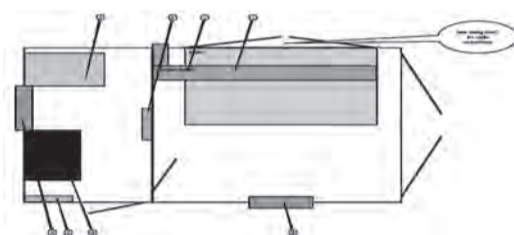
## Re-Advertisement

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION BUL-RFQ-21-11-07-EF –Complete Substation and MCC

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), 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 Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

#### Supply of Complete Substation and MCC - Upgrade of East Fan MCC –1 sets

- Brand: ABB
- 6m long x 3.5m wide x 3.1m high E-house - outside dimensions, with F type 120 fire rating, HVAC, Internal 380V distribution board (Electric Orange with Earth Leakage), Earth Bar 400mm long x 40mm thick with 6 x 10mm holes, Weatherproof outside bulkheads with daylight sensor and battery backup, 220 VAC / 16 Amp sockets, indoor type - white PVC, Fire extinguishers - CO2 4.5kg - Steel brackets, Wiring, terminations and earth wires, and COC certification.



Components  
1 MV Switchgear  
2 Optional Arc Vent  
3 LV Distribution Panel  
4 DBU  
5 HVAC  
6 Fire Control Panel  
7 Protection and Control  
8 Scada Panel  
9 Control Panel  
10 Metering Panel  
11 Optional Transformer / Safety Roof  
12 Transformer

- Fire Detection system with alarm, strobe light, sensors, signage and control panel
- Safari Roof, IBR – Galvanized single slope (removable for transportation)
- Access stairways, landings and hand railings to both single and double doors on either end of the E-house
- Support E-house base columns and bracing 1.5m (Site assembly)
- SCADA server panel with Zenon Energy Edition v8.20 1500 tags for 4 relays - incoming switchboard. Free standing 19 inch panel with 21.5 inch colour touch screen, keyboard and mouse tray, small Ethernet switch.
- Powercom 3000VA Line Interactive UPS With USB 1 15,115
- Battery Tripping Unit 110V 5A 30AH
- 6,6 kV; 630 A; 31,5 kA; 4 panels of UniGear Digital, UniGear ZS1, 1 x Incomer, 2 x Motor Starter & 1 x Feeder.
- Vacuum Circuit Breaker Type VD4/P p150 12kV 630A 31.5kA
- 1 x Protection relay REX640
  - o 1 x REX640\_ARC\_4sensor/loop
  - o 1 x REX640\_COM\_RJ45(LHMI)+3xRJ45+SFP100MLCrack
  - o 1 x REX640\_BIO\_14BI+8BO
  - o 1 x REX640\_SIM\_3combisensor+1CT(sensitive)+1VT
  - o 1 x REX640\_AIM\_4CT+1CT(sensitive)+5VT
  - o 1 x REX640\_PSM\_24-60VDC+3SO+2SSO+2PO+3POwithTCS
- **Switchboard accessories**
  - o 1 x Electronic phase comparator KUVAG
  - o 2 x UniGear Single End Cover
  - o 1 x Outlet with grid and flap
  - o 1 x Tool case VD4-10 incl. (2+2pcs Double bit key 3,2mm + 5,2mm, 2pcs Lever for ES, 2pcs Lever for LBS, 2pcs Lever for truck, 1pc Tool to adjust HV door blocking)
  - o 1 x Tin of 400g of grease
  - o 4 x Plates, labels, manual and pocket with documentation
  - o 1 x Correction pen for paint touch up
  - o 1 x Apparatus service trolley 17.5kV 650mm
- **Line earthing switch**
  - o Group of auxiliary contacts (5NO+5NC) for E/S
  - o Mechanical interlock between feeder compartment door and earthing switch position
  - o Padlock on insertion of the earthing switch operating lever
- 3 x Current Sensor KECA 80C104, Ip<=1250A, accuracy class 0.5/5P400
- 3 x Voltage Sensor KEVA 17.5B20, Up<=17.5kV, accuracy class 0.5/3P
- Project Management fee
- Engineering drawings
- Installation and testing of the equipment at ABB Longmeadow
- 2 Days Factory Acceptance Test at ABB Longmeadow

#### Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

#### Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com). The reference "Complete Substation and MCC - BUL-RFQ-21-11-07-EF" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

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

#### Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021**

**Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited**



## REQUESTING FOR BIDS

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### TECHNICAL REVIEW -AGRIBUSINESS INNOVATION CENTRE (AIC)

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

###### ABOUT PASS -TRUST

The Private Agricultural Sector Support Trust (PASS) is a facility established in the year 2000 in order to stimulate investment and growth in commercial agriculture and related sectors. It was registered in 2007 as non-profit making and non-governmental organization under the Trustees Incorporation Act, 2002 and is taxed as charitable organization.

###### About AIC

Agribusiness Innovation Centre (AIC) in Tanzania is a development project under PASS Trust mandated to incubate youth agribusinesses and provide business development services to agro-enterprises that are growth oriented. It specifically focuses on growing the value adding enterprises giving special attention to Youth entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

In its five-year strategy starting from 2018 to 2022, PASS Trust has clearly stipulated to give a special attention to youth, women and green growth in its mission. Accordingly, among the key objectives for this period include growth of credit guarantees to the targeted group (youth and women); expansion of the Agribusiness Innovation Centre (AIC) to establish agribusiness incubation centres; and increase of share of green investments in PASS's portfolio.

In early 2018, DANIDA conducted a mid-term review of its overall Country Programme in Tanzania. The review appreciated that there may be a need in Tanzania for AIC services. However, the findings indicated that the establishment of the AIC is a high-risk intervention in the sense that it may:

- Deviate resources from the core business of PASS, and
- Take many years before it will be commercially sustainable.
- The Review Team also assessed that establishment of an AIC managed (revolving) Seed Fund that is supposed to un-block and leverage other funding for AIC incubatees either through guarantees or co-funding mechanisms will add considerably to the risks.

##### 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE AIC TECHNICAL REVIEW

This technical review will cover progress made towards the intended outputs of the AIC, design (management structures) and delivery (operational elements). Key objectives include to;

- Assess and score progress from 2014 to September 2021 against the outcomes in the log frame, including a consideration of Assumptions and Risks, and determine whether and what changes are required;
- Assess the extent to which AIC has taken on board innovation principles in implementation of its projects and suggest ways to integrate more innovation into the programme;
- Assess the performance of processes such as governance, procurement, disbursements, payroll, finance and asset management and if they demonstrate value for money;
- Assess program management and the development of assumptions, risks and risk mitigation;
- Assess the extent to which youth acquired new skills, especially in innovative commercial agriculture production and processing in different value-chains.
  - To what extent were the skills relevant to the needs of the youths?
  - Have the youths used the acquired skills to obtain decent jobs (employment or self-employment)?
- Disbursements and expenditures, including the relationship between physical and financial progress and the quality of financial management, based on information provided by the Danish Embassy on disbursement and spending.
- Assess the relevance of AIC operationalization in PASS TRUST core support.
- Assess the efficiency of the general management's arrangements.
- Assess the efficiency of the monitoring system.
- Assess the continued viability of the long-term relationship with host institutions such as SUA and TALIRI; and how these could be improved in the existing and new Centers and recommend exit strategies for PASS?

##### 3. REVIEW CRITERIA AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

The Program review is envisaged to put main emphasis on the aspects of impact and sustainability, but the other criteria of relevance, efficiency and effectiveness will also be considered. The review will also address organisational and operational aspects of AIC, including the operational efficiency, the institutional viability and governance. Furthermore, the review will assess AIC integration into PASS TRUST strategy and its role in relation to other relevant programmes and institutions in Tanzania.

The review questions and the review matrix will be prepared in the inception phase of the review. The following review questions and issues are envisaged to be included:

- Is AIC achieving the intended impacts as per the original idea and results framework?
- What factors contributed to or detracted from the achievement of results?
- Are there unintended results, either positive or negative?
- What is the likelihood of continuation and sustainability of project outcomes and benefits after completion – including likelihood of collaboration with other like-minded partners?
- How could AIC be improved and enhanced, building on the lessons learnt during the review period?
- What is the potential for setting up and Agribusiness consulting wing and earn fees for further sustainability?

##### 4. OUTPUTS AND MILESTONES

The review will be undertaken from 17th January 2022 to 18th February 2022 and involve the outputs described below. All reporting must be in English.

- An inception report in draft by 24th January 2022 and final version by 28th January 2022 (max. 10 pages excluding annexes), including:
  - Description of AIC history and evolution taking into consideration its strategies
  - Description of the review methodology
  - Review matrix, including review questions, judgement criteria and data sources
  - Detailed work plan
  - Outline of the review report
- A review report in draft by 11th February 2022 and final by 18th February 2022 (max. 25 pages excluding annexes) that includes the fieldwork findings and analyses. The report must include an executive summary of maximum three pages.

All draft reports are submitted to the Managing Director of PASS TRUST for comments and will only be considered final when the Managing Director has approved them.

#### Request for Bids

To be considered, a copy of the Bid must be sent by email to [procurement@pass.or.tz](mailto:procurement@pass.or.tz) and [md@pass.or.tz](mailto:md@pass.or.tz) by **5 January 2022**



## KOICA and UNESCO facilitate construction of childcare centres

By Correspondent Prosper Kwigize, Kigoma

KOREA Development Agency (KOICA) in collaboration with UNESCO has facilitated the construction of childcare centres in Kigoma, Pemba, Mwanza, and Arusha regions with the aim of rescuing a large group of children experiencing care problems, especially violence, pregnancy, and employment young age.

The project is worth more than Tshs. 228 million has been implemented in the four districts of Kasulu, Sengerema, Mkoani-Pemba, and Ngorongoro where only one ward was selected due to community influence and will to implement the project which included a preschool class, cooking kitchen, sports equipment, water facilities and teaching tools.

More than 200 children between the ages of 2-4 will be provided with care at these centres as part of their early education and preparation.

In Kasulu district the project has been implemented in Titye Village in Kasulu rural district council at a cost of 57.4 million shillings and it is estimated that about 30 to 50 children will be enrolled in January 2022 to start receiving care services.

Giving details of the project before handing it over to the government leadership in the Kigoma region, the representative of the director of UNESCO in Tanzania Mr. Kelvin Robert from the science department noted that the establishment of child care and development centers, especially for vulnerable and marginalized children, is a solution for the development and education of children and their parents.

In his statement, Kelvin mentioned that UNESCO has found that studies show that about 46 percent of children need special care due to their families' lack of proper parenting care, especially in villages where parents are farmers who are forced to leave their homes for more than a week and move to rural areas and abandon young

children to the fellow children who are also forced to drop out of school to support themselves.

Receiving the project on behalf of the government, the acting director of Kasulu district council Emanuel Ladislaus thanked the People's Republic of Korea for funding the project through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and acknowledged that it would help bring about educational change for the Kasulu district community.

Ladislaus added that the lack of a child-care facility in rural areas is causing many children to fail to learn when they start pre-primary education which leads to teachers getting more work to start giving children social and domestic skills instead of teaching them to read and write.

For his part, madam Happy Mwakalinga a teacher of Nyankole Primary School in Titye Village, where the project was built, said that the challenge of rural life is costing young children, especially for lack of family, social and health care, a situation that leads to unsustainability even during class.

Madam Mwakalinga pointed out that, pre-schools receive young children without any knowledge of how to dress, play with their peers, eat with others as well as lack hygiene skills which lead to a lot of time for the teacher to do the work that she deserved to start from their parents and in specialized Child Care Centers popular known as kindergarten.

Titye ward officials led by the ward councilor Mr. Eliaza Mushi, thanked their area for being the first to build the center and called on the government to work with donors to fund more teaching and learning materials as well as to build security fences for the safety of children and the center's resources.

This is the first center built and owned by the government in the Kigoma region; some centers have been built by religious institutions as well as individuals who charge high fees for the upbringing of children.



Mbeya district medical officer Dr Yahya Msuya launches water infrastructure project constructed by a non-government organisation to access integrated hygiene, sanitation and water supply services for potable and improved livelihoods funded by UNICEF at Shisyete village recently. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

BABATI Water and Sanitation authority (BAWASA) says water provision service in Babati district has been improved to 99.2 per cent in the towns with a total population of 296,000 people it serves.

A statement issued to stakeholders by the BAWASA Acting director, Rashid Chalahani over the weekend had learnt.

He said in regard to Babati Town they provide water provision service to 91 per cent of households, Bashnet 45 per cent, Magugu 65 per cent, Dareda 21 per cent and Katesh 45 per cent.

Chalahani said in regard to water projects being implemented, the

## Babati district water service attains 99 pc

Darakuta/Magugu project will cost 3.9bn/- provided by the ministry of water and so far 3.5bn/- has been provided and the project was 91 per cent complete.

Another project under implementation is the Dareda-Singu Project costing 7.49bn/- while the Ministry has provided 900m/-.

He said the Babati town sanitation project that aims to improve worn out infrastructures has been

provided with 1bn/- to be used within six months to complete the work.

He said for its part, the Katesh, Gallapo and Bashnet projects that will cost 1.5bn/- are in the contract signing stage with the contractors.

He explained that the Katesh water Project of which was applied for and the government has only provided 150m/- so far.

Meanwhile, Chalahani said

water loss in Babati Town was at 28 per cent and appealed to consumers to manage the water resource as even a single drop of water was valued.

For his part, Hanang Member of Parliament Samuel Hayuma said after the dissolution of the Katesh Water authority and its functions handed BAWASA, water service provision to residents was going on quite well.



Surveying and mapping director in the Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development ministry Hamdouny Mansour (L) speaks to team Tanzania participating to improve Tanzania - Kenya boundary at Naan village in Ngorongoro, Arusha regional over the weekend. Photo: Munir Shermweta

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

## Mantra provides vehicle and deep well to Namtumbo district hospital

MANTRA Tanzania, uranium mining company has provided a vehicle valued at 50m/- and a water well valued at 29m/- to Namtumbo district hospital in Ruvuma region.

The assistance was handed over yesterday by Mantra Tanzania operations director, Frederick Kibodya at the hospital premises in the presence of Namtumbo district commissioner, Dr Julius Ningu and the CCM district political committee.

Kibodya said the aim of the assistance is to assist residents of Namtumbo district and other

nearby areas and that the vehicle will assist in distributing drugs and medical devices at health centres and dispensaries in the rural areas.

"We, at Mantra is part of the Namtumbo community hence as assistance to the hospital is for the benefit of all the people including the people of Mkuju where mining operations for uranium are to start soon," he said.

He said the well that can store over 10,000 litres of water will assist patients visiting the hospital for treatment including hospital staff.

For his part, DC Ningu lauded uranium mining company for its tireless assistance to various development projects in the district, and called for other companies to do the same.

He explained that the well and

the vehicle should be taken care of for sustainability for the benefit of the residents of the district and stern measures will be taken against anyone found to sabotage the projects.

For his part, Namtumbo Member of Parliament, Vita Kawawa praised the mining company for its readiness to assist Namtumbo residents in their various development activities.

## Jumaza lauds minister's remarks on naming three alcoholic firms

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Imams' Association (Jumaza) has commended the State Minister- President's Office (Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Department) Masoud Ali Mohamed for naming just three companies that will be licensed to import alcohol in the financial year 2021/2022.

Jumaza secretary, Sheikh Ali Abdalla Amour when he was speaking to journalists in Vuga area on the ministers' remarks to enforce the law to avoid conflicts arising in the Zanzibar alcohol trade.

"We sincerely commend the Minister for his commitment to uphold the law because there are unqualified companies that have been in the business of importing alcoholic beverages and companies whose job it is to manufacture stoves are doing business with alcohol," said Sheikh Amour.

He said section 33 (1) stipulated that an import permit would be issued to no more than three importers and that the criteria for the importer must be a Zanzibari, a taxpayer, a warehouse and a delivery truck.

He further added that section 28 (k) stipulates that prior to the issuance of a bar license must be a distance of 1000 meters from community service areas such as houses of worship, schools, hospitals and human settlements.

However, he said that in the 2020/2021 financial year, the licenses for bars and liquor licenses were issued in violation of the Zanzibar Liquor Control Board (ZLB) Act, a situation that led to outbreaks in the community and members of the House of Representatives.

Earlier, Minister Mohamed said the Liquor Board intends to conduct a thorough review before commencing the issuance of liquor import permits and bars licenses.

"The companies that will be licensed for the importation of liquor will be three and not the same as the

law says. That is why we have decided to review it with the intention of removing companies that are not qualified"

He also said that the review will also take place in tourist hotels that have been accused of smuggling alcohol and depriving the government of revenue. "Hotel owners are required to purchase liquor from companies that have been licensed by the Liquor Licensing Board. Hotels should not import alcohol as doing so would deprive the government of revenue," urged Minister Masoud. However, he said security agencies should enforce the Liquor Law, especially in the port and airport areas, in order to control the illicit liquor trade.

For his part, the Chairman of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Board, Khamis Haji said before opening a tender for import permits all companies that will appear must have to be inspected so that their owners can be seen as having Zanzibari credentials.

He also said the Board will not take legal action against any company that is found to be in the business of importing and distributing liquor in violation of Act No. 9 of 2020.

Senior official of the Investment Authority of Zanzibar Investment Authority (ZIPA) Shida Kombo said they have started investigating against foreign-owned companies but are engaged in the smuggling business when it is against the Zanzibar Alcohol Act.

"We will conduct a thorough and thorough investigation. All foreign-owned companies that have been accused of engaging in the liquor trade contrary to the registration of their companies if the law is found to have taken its toll," he said.

There has been controversy after some of the tourist hotel investors started smuggling liquor illegally as well as companies registered for other responsibilities such as the manufacture of stoves that have been trading liquor illegally in Law No. 9 of 2020.



Tanga regional police commander Sofia Jongo shows traditional guns seized following the operation conducted last week. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalia

## GIZ-funded project establishes 60 cassava commercial seed entrepreneurs to cushion the impact of COVID 19

By Special Correspondent

THE GIZ-funded Cassava & Maize Value Chain Project has established 60 cassava commercial seed entrepreneurs in Ogun and Oyo state as part of efforts to revamp the seeds system and create jobs in local communities.

The project, which is under the Green Innovation Centers of GIZ was created in response to the economic fragility due to COVID 19 pandemic which hurt the seeds system of several crops including cassava; and the livelihoods of millions of farmers especially women and youth that depend on the root crop.

Using the BASICS model, researchers screened and selected

the commercial seed entrepreneurs and linked them to IITA GoSeed—an early generation seed company at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)—for the procurement of healthy cassava seeds of improved varieties.

“We are glad that the project is establishing a sustainable seed system for cassava in these key states (Oyo and Ogun), serving as a model to other states,” Dr Godwin Atser, IITA Project Leader of the Cassava & Maize Value Chain Project said.

Last farming season, prices of cassava stems rallied to a record high of N1500 per bundle, up from N400. Prices were partly driven by increased demand for improved varieties from growers and

disruptions caused by COVID 19.

The Cassava & Maize Value Chain project working with resource-constrained farmers facilitated the planting of over 1.2 million of improved cassava cuttings on 60.95 hectares.

Dr Mercy Diebiru-Ojo, IITA Component Lead for Cassava Seed Systems said the intervention offered hope for increased income and food security in the cassava sector in Nigeria.

Patrick Akpu, the Project Support Officer, attested to the farmers’ joy when full packaged trainings were conducted. In his words, “the farmers applauded the project as one of the best things that has happened to them as it is very

practical and involving.”

In 2020, demand for improved disease-free cassava stems was between N6 billion to N10 billion after the Central Bank of Nigeria Okayed the use of improved stems.

Mrs Esther Solomon, one of the cassava seed entrepreneurs who is growing Foundation Seeds said investment in cassava seeds makes a good business decision for cassava farmers. “With the cassava seed farm, I have the option of expanding my hectare as well as selling stems to other farmers in alignment with National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) standards,” she said.

“Besides, I am so excited because my cassava fields are looking great,” she added.

## African farmers puzzled over EU’s pesticide residues stance

By Gerardo Fortuna

ALTHOUGH hailed by part of the European civil society, the EU’s tight line on import tolerances for pesticide substances can cause a lot of headaches for African food producers, who fear being excluded from the single market and left with no alternatives to protect their crops.

Under its flagship food policy, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the EU has committed to taking into account environmental aspects when assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances no longer approved in the bloc, while respecting WTO standards and obligations.

Therefore, the Commission’s priority will be given to environmental issues of global concern that go beyond national boundaries.

As explained by a Commission official, this means in practice that the same EU legislation setting maximum residue levels - including also import tolerances - applies to all food whether domestically produced or imported regardless of the country of origin of the food.

Apart from the environmental grounds, such a move is also intended to meet the request from European food producers, who have asked, in order to remain competitive, that imported products should meet the same environmental standards they have to comply with under the Green Deal.

The new stance on pesticide residues has implications on African farmers who believe the requirement to meet these targets if they want to sell their products to Europe could become a major hurdle to trade.

“The situation is very sensitive and we cannot run away from it,” the CEO of Kenya’s Fresh Produce Consortium, Okisegere Ojepat, said.

As the African continent is largely in the tropical zone, local farmers

are quite exposed to plant pests. East Africa last year experienced the worst locust plague in decades, with the Horn of Africa invaded by swarms of insects that destroyed entire crop harvests.

According to Ojepat, the EU is pushing Africa to implement their own specific targets without offering sufficient alternatives.

“The EU is saying ‘close that door’ without showing our people where the exit door is, while they should be able to offer solutions and alternatives that work equivalent,” he complained.

The Kenyan farming community is divided over efforts by lawmakers to bring their regulations on pesticides in line with the EU’s green deal. Industry groups warn that a ban could wipe out over €1 billion of production.

The Commission has started the procedure to reduce maximum residue levels (MRLs) for clothianidin and thiamethoxam to the limit of quantification, meaning to technical zero.

The draft proposal was supposed to be presented by the Commission before the end of the year but was ultimately pushed back to the first half of 2022.

Environmental organisations welcomed the Farm to Fork’s commitment of the Commission to delete import tolerances, starting with clothianidin and thiamethoxam.

“We now call on member states and the Commission to speed up and act more coherently. This means moving from a one-substance approach that would take decades to an overall zero-tolerance policy of import tolerances for EU banned pesticides,” a spokesperson from Pesticide Action Network Europe (PAN Europe) said.

According to a Commission source, two groups of substances, in particular, will be identified as global environmental concerns in assessing requests for import tolerances for pesticide substances.

## Africa: Severe water stress, absolute scarcity for two to 4 billion humans by year 2025

By Baher Kamal, Madrid

NOW it comes to the scary water crises, as it is estimated that, globally, over two billion people live in countries that experience high water stress.

On this, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also reports that “other estimates are even more pessimistic, with up to four billion people - over half the population of the planet - already facing severe water stress for at least one month of the year while half a billion suffer from permanent water stress.”

About 71% of the world’s irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to competition and conflicts among

water users

This means that about 71% of the world’s irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to competition and conflicts among water users, it adds.

“Climate change will increase the odds of worsening drought and water scarcity in many parts of the world. Drought ranks among the most damaging of all natural hazards. While droughts affect every climate zone, dry lands are particularly susceptible to drought and its impacts.”

Currently, most countries, regions and communities use reactive and crisis-driven approaches to manage drought risk. To address this issue, healthy land is a natural storage for fresh water. If it is degraded, it cannot

perform that function. Managing land better and massively scaling up land rehabilitation are essential for building drought resilience and water security, explains UNCCD.

“Land restoration is the cheapest and most effective solution to improved water storage, mitigating impacts of drought and addressing biodiversity loss.”

Meanwhile, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification explains that communities all over the world have suffered some of the most brutal effects of drought and flooding this year. “Flash floods in Western Europe, Eastern and Central Asia and Southern Africa. And catastrophic drought in Australia, southern Africa, southern Asia, much of Latin America, Western North America and Siberia are cases in point. The impacts extend well beyond the individual events.”



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF CONSTRUCTION FOR WATER SUPPLY SOURCING SERVICES FOR EACOP PROJECT REF. ECP-21-C-015

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable Valuation contractors that have demonstrable capability, proven experience, willingness and ability to express their interest in providing the following services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

Construction of groundwater/well based systems as follows:

1. Drilling of Pilot Boreholes prior to full development of the wells for production purposes
2. Drilling Activities
  - Drilling preferably using a rotary type Machine.
  - The rig and the drilling method adopted must be suitable for drilling through both unconsolidated material, and hard, compacted rock.
3. Well Construction includes but not limited to:
  - Procurement of the necessary equipment: Pumps, casings, piping, solar panels, water storage tank,...
  - Installation and joining of casings and screens
  - Installation of cement seal and Gravel pack
  - Disinfection and well cleaning
  - Above ground facilities (shelter, Fence etc.)
  - All the necessary tests: Pumping tests, water and soil samples tests, ...
  - All activities shall be in compliance with Tanzanian environmental regulations,
  - Activity, Completion Records and Reports

The work will be done in a range of locations across the country

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:

- Proof of registration with Brela ORS, CRB and ministry of water as a drilling company
- Application for registration with the EVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
- Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
- Description of past experience in providing water well development: Pilot holes, well drilling, well completion, above ground installation,...
- List of previous projects: description, client, location,...
- List of owned equipment and systems, qualified and experienced personnel
- Detailed description of the drilling Rigs: type, capacity, certificates, ...
- Description of H3SE system: HSE plan, HSE procedures, HSE records, example of risk assessment, ...
- Description of the quality system
- Proof of financial capability to undertake the proposed scope of services
- Copy of Anti-corruption and compliance policies

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com](mailto:adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00 hours** East African Time (EAT), on **24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Email Reference should be ECP-21-C-015/EOI

**Note:** The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English language.



Vodacom head of sales Dar es Salaam and Coast zone Brigita Shirima (L) presents award of smart TV to one of the winners of “Show Love, Tule Shangwe” promotion Geoffrey Nyakuka (R) of Tabata in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Six winners received Smart TV, six others got smartphone and 50 while others obtained cash prizes. Photo: Guardian correspondent

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## IGP did well to take up Samia's call but reforms could help out

INSPECTOR General Simon Sirro has of late taken up the call by President Samia Suluhu Hassan on the need for the police force to maintain visible standards of ethics in how they intermingle with the public, in conducting their duties. Admittedly such calls have been there since independence but the public measures their tone and intensity at each moment of public life, and thus know when to take such appeals seriously or when they are outright skeptical. It isn't the call as such which is judged but how it relates to government conduct generally, if it shows that the government intends to follow up on appeals for ethics.

Both the president and the IGP have a complicated task on their hands, as they are both veterans of the fifth phase government and they know its standards. What is apparent is that the government - in the call by President Samia especially - wants to maintain ethical standards at a genuinely appreciable level, where bribes and other forms of misconduct aren't routine. It is an open issue how far that wasn't the case during the fifth phase, but undeniably plenty of wrong practices in the government were checked, frozen.

The trouble is that this freezing of bad habits wasn't a change of heart but of the governance atmosphere, that it was visibly more exacting, less permissive, less tolerant of bureaucratic channels that are sympathetic to wrong doers, and more prone to taking corrective action on the spot. The sixth phase has elements of that orientation,

but on the whole it is cultivating an image of openness and observance of procedure, which means more of police internal administration rather than being supervised by state intelligence for instance, to list those who receive bribes. But can internal corrective systems really work?

The IGP's remarks when officiating at a passing out ceremony at the Police Training School hovered between internal controls and self-control, as nothing was actually said on police using internal systems to monitor bribes. Still police officers will be more careful and watching for signals from their immediate superiors, from officers commanding police stations to those in charge of districts and regions. They will not lose time to notice permissiveness, and once they do so, the wide effort slacks down, to the next call.

Chances that those above the corporals finishing their courses at PTS will be sufficiently diligent for the whole police force to follow ethical guidelines as a rule are limited, not to say scarce. For ethical guidelines to be the norm, a more equal living environment and competitive jobs and economic units are vital, enabling similar ethical rules to operate. In a country like Sweden a cabinet minister joys to ride to office on a bicycle from his city centre flat, but in our society where poverty and communal show off prevail, anyone without a car is irrelevant in an upper class social function; respect is attached with four wheel drives. That way, bribes will reign.

## PSSSF debt measure reaffirms faith in basics, public goodwill

THE government has moved to start liquidating its huge debt to the Public Sector Social Security Fund (PSSSF) with that amounts to a 500bn/- down payment for a 974bn/- verified or approved debt, and a wider investment package of 2.5trn/- stretched out from eight to 25 years. The latter component was a bit technical or complicated to the general reader, but the 500bn/- was straightforward, as it ensures that the fund will not be wanting in liquidity in the near future or the foreseeable near term. It is altogether a sort of new deal not just for that institutions but for the savers and beneficiaries it serves; it is what matters.

Treasury permanent secretary Emmanuel Tutuba noted in the signing ceremony that PSSSF hands out way over 60bn/- to beneficiaries each month, money that is vital for the country's economy, aside from rightful expectations of beneficiaries, that is. What the rolling 2.5trn/- bond suggests is that PSSSF isn't that much assured from creating investment funds from its own sources, which can be understood in the wake of the changes in the financial sector and commercial housing landscape for a number of years now. With changes in public expenditure that was heavily accented on recurrent bills, rental space demand fell.

With the economy rising in a relatively different model from what there was earlier, PSSSF assets will be in greater profitability in due course, and definitely it needs to pursue current projects apart from being able to meet its maturing

commitments to retirees. That is what the two components of its agreement with the Treasury seems to underline, but it wasn't the PSSSF deciding on the course to be followed but the government, and in that case President Samia Suluhu Hassan, as the signing parties duly pointed out. It reflects on enhanced government goodwill definitely, but also on higher productivity of economy, chiefly.

What is noticeable is that the government is no longer overly reliant on pension funds for its objectives, and instead it is turning into a net creditor rather than net debtor for the funds, which means they will be able to carry out their activities in good rapport with beneficiaries. As late as three or four years ago the big debate was whether one can withdraw funds on cessation of employment, or wait until the age of 60 whatever the circumstances, which many considered to be unfair. But its premise was low government willingness to repay the cash it owes, and excessive commitment of pensioners' funds in projects, etc.

Strictly speaking this turn of fortunes for pension funds is a result of fifth phase restructuring of appetites in the government, clamping down hard on indulgent budgeting where 74 per cent of total expenditure was meant for recurrent use, and only 26 per cent for development needs. Not only was this restructured to 61 per cent and 39 per cent use respectively but disciplined use was accentuated. With other factors contributing, like diminishing reliance on imported fuel, mining sector revenues, the shift was possible.



By Jibrin Ibrahim

IT has been a difficult two weeks for me as I travelled to Niger Republic for a conference on "Conversations on the Sahel" and on my return was diagnosed with Covid-19. It is difficult to know where and how the infection occurred. Everyone on the flights had their face masks on, except when refreshments were served and people remove them to eat and drink. Gone are the days when direct flights from Abuja to Niamey on Arik, existed. Now it's ASky with a difficult trajectory from Abuja-Lome-Ouagadougou-Niamey. During the conference itself, it is facemask always, except when making a speech. Lunch was served in the garden but people congregated to chat. At the hotel, we sat in the open by the pool but then we were talking and eating. The opportunities for this smart virus are endless and three people at the conference tested positive on their return. Should I have kept my earlier resolve of no travel until after Covid-19? But when will it end, if ever? Eventually, everyone's resolve collapses.

When the diagnosis came - POSITIVE, my first thought was I had written many obituaries for friends who had died of Covid-19 so now someone has to take the responsibility for mine. It was a silly thought. I have had my double vaccination so AstraZeneca would defeat the virus and that was what happened, or so I think. The NCDC doctors were very diligent and came to the house every other day for my case management and had all the necessary drugs in stock. Thank God I am now on the mend although the lethargy that follows the infection is overwhelming and writing this column has been a real challenge. The irritating cough also will not allow me rest in spite of punishing it with steam inhalation. On the whole, the fear of the disease is the nature of its attack - strangulating its victims through oxygen deprivation and the vaccine is a real protector in that regard.

It has above all been a difficult two weeks for Africans as moves by Covid-19 in the form of multiple mutations reveal a lot of the underbelly of how the West reacts when it gets the opportunity to blame Africa for the pandemic. The key finding is why should facts matter when there is an opportunity to castigate Africa and Africans. The Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) SARS-Cov-2 was discovered by diligent South African scientists and State authorities who informed the World Health Organisation and the

## Covid-19 moves and Omicron concerns



international community on 24th November that they had discovered a variant of concern with multiple mutations and a possibility of very fast transmission and the world should do the necessary. Instead of praising them for their expertise and diligence, the response of the West was immediate stigmatisation.

The United Kingdom led the way banning flights from most Southern African countries. This is a country that has been inept and a failure in rapid response to prevent the spread of Covid-19 to its people and became the most proportionally infected country in the world with a massive death burden. The only time it has acted fast was when the word African emerged in the conversation. The obvious response the civilized world reached was racism and a deep desire in the United Kingdom to impose apartheid on Africa in line with the growth of populist ideology and practice under Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Currently, the Omicron variant has spread to 57 countries around the world but the variant remains only on Africa. It is interesting that the Netherlands later discovered that they had the variant in a sample taken from 19th November, which makes it older than the South African one but no European country is targeted.

The new development is that the United Kingdom, Canada and now Saudi Arabia have added Nigeria to the travel ban list although the number circulating in their countries is higher than what obtains in Nigeria. It appears that their concern is the discovery of a number of Nigerians with documents asserting they had been vaccinated or tested for Covid-19 but when tested had no anti bodies suggesting part of their documentation is fake. Our Government must earn to identify and punish the few bad eggs that are giving us a bad name. The reality however is that they were already in the search for excuses to pick on us.

The big story on Covid-19 is that vaccination is a solution only if the entire world is vaccinated but countries with resources have monopolised the vaccines, over and above what they need for their populations. When South Africans and the World Health Organisation told the world, the Omicron could have developed in any country and picking on Africans was simply a racist move, they were ignored. Today, it is clear it is already spread all over and flight bans serve no purpose.

On Wednesday, the Nigerian government, through the health minister, Osagie Ehanire,

announced that gifts of vaccines from the West had expired and had been withdrawn and will be destroyed by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the country's agency in charge of drug and foods standards. According to Reuters, the expired doses were of AstraZeneca brand and delivered via COVAX, the dose-sharing facility led by the GAVI vaccine alliance and the WHO. About one million doses have gone to waste, mainly because they were delivered to the country not long before their expiry dates. Many African countries are left with the logistic challenge of using vaccines under time pressure due to this problem of late delivery from countries that kept them for long although they did not even need them as they had more than enough. As Nigeria's Health Minister said, the solution to the challenge of vaccine expiration is local manufacturing of vaccines. He added however that Nigeria has utilised most of the over 10 million short-shelf-life doses of COVID-19 vaccines so far supplied in good time.

Meanwhile, the indications are that this pandemic will remain with us for a long time. I conclude with the verse I contemplated at the beginning of the pandemic:

## Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey

# Honest but not competent? Worry not, the job is yours!

Greetings for the week of Christmas cheer, which is hopefully leading us into the next one of a happy and prosperous New Year...so Oh Yeah and Halleluja!

Well, in winding up the old year, as always, I've found some odd news in the press, with the heading "Honesty preferable over competence, new district executive directors told."

.....with the story being told that the "government is ready to employ less people who may be fully competent, but lacking trustworthiness, said George Simbachawene, then Minister of State in the Presidents Office (Rgional Administration and Local Government).

Next to this particular story, was a photograph of Simbachawene, looking friendly and honest, and obviously lacking any discreditable behavioural habits whatsoever, and to cap it all, well qualified and competent as well.

This was a couple of years ago, and the minister told those who didn't have the proper credentials that "what is important is that the president has invested his trust in you, even if you're not qualified for the job, but are still able to deliver".

But with so many variable levels of officialdom in this country, big shots, little shots, and many in betweeners, I'm wondering what this long standing category is all about, and how much does it cost the already bloated civil service wages bill?

Of the 13 newly-appointed DEDs, eleven would be working with the district councils, one with a municipal council and one with a town council. But what was their core function?

Well, the minister highlighted four major areas where they'd work to ensure that the government's development trickles down to the common people.

What I find confusing is that the DEDs had been told to work wisely with both districts and regional commissioners, and not try to work separately from these central government representatives, which could slow down development in their areas.

....but in that case, are they really necessary at all, with the upper rankers in control and doing the job?

I'm recalling over the years of meeting RCs, DCs etc.charming gentlemen most of them (no female ones in those days ) who I felt were just awaiting the glories of an ambassadorship whilst enjoying the kudos of their commissions, but I didn't understand the point of them, functionally at least, which seemed a throw back to colonial times.

Anyway, minister Simbachawene finally warned the DEDs against sidelining political leaders, especially those from the ruling CCM, whose manifes-



to is supposed to be implemented by the central government and local authorities as well....interesting, but I've no idea what it means!

Well, I lightheartedly embarked on this subject, thinking that "honesty wins over competence" might be an innovative and interesting new re-

cruiting policy, and not a one-off as regards DEDs. But now I am unsure of both the policy aspect, and the need for these 'executive directors' at all.

However, if this group does have a role to play, what part of it requires the word 'executive'? ... District Director should be enough, and sounds

sharp, incisive and businesslike, but perhaps I've now started 'waffling' so time to close, and join me for a pre-waffle blah blah next week...in the meantime, try to look honest if you can, it might land you an excellent executive job...even if you've just robbed your local bank!

# How can we end systemic racism in the US legal system?

By Ian McDougall

**S**YSTEMIC racism in the US has had devastating consequences for generations of individuals from diverse backgrounds. Our legal system, which is intended to be colour-blind, should be an essential tool in eliminating racism. But instead—despite legislative, educational and social efforts aiming to provide equal access to justice—the US ranks only 21st in the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2020.

Access to justice is tragically unequal depending on one's race. The list of injustices is long, and includes inequitable attorney and judicial behaviors, unfair bail practices, and legal outcomes decided by arbitrary factors like the defendant's income. Furthermore, specific failures within the legal system contribute to and reinforce widespread inequities across the entire criminal justice system, including policing, pretrial detention, sentencing, parole and the collateral consequences associated with a criminal record.

Top-down legislation

hasn't succeeded in fixing these problems. The legislative process is laborious and moves at a snail's pace; even the best intentions are inevitably diluted by partisanship and politics.

How can these problems be solved? In a word: innovate. Grassroots measures that attack and eliminate specific inequities at the ground level are needed. Those involved in these efforts to must be able to easily connect and collaborate to share expertise.

No single measure can turn the US legal profession into a body as diverse and inclusive as the population it serves. However, a new initiative by LexisNexis is aimed at developing and implementing a multitude of innovative solutions and inclusive practices that address specific racial inequities. Our hope is that this stepwise, collaborative approach will clear a path to eliminate systemic racism across the legal community.

Advancing the Rule of Law – with equal treatment being at the root – is the right thing to do from an ethical standpoint. At LexisNexis, we produced incontrovertible evidence of the connect-

tion between strong Rule of Law and socioeconomic measures. The Rule of Law is fundamental to realizing the dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In 2021, LexisNexis Legal & Professional and LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation (LN-ROLF) in partnership with the Historically Black Colleges, Universities Law School Consortium, and the African Ancestry Network created a new fellowship program that aims to jump start the process of change. The 12 inaugural fellowship recipients identified some of the most pervasive practices perpetuating systemic racism in the legal system.

Studies, surveys, and recommendations in the fellowship advocacy papers address new approaches to painful but fixable issues: inequities in bail reform, racially weighted bankruptcy advice from attorneys, law school admissions processes, employment and compensation practices, gender inequalities, and racial and economic stereotyping that undermines guidance for misdemeanor defendants who represent themselves.

### Easing access to law school

For example, the Blueprint Program developed by cohort member Paris Maulet aims to improve access for students from disenfranchised communities by prepping prospective law students. Maulet, whose own path was opened by a pre-law program said: "Access to a legal education and to the tools needed to become successful in the legal field are not the same for minorities as for their white counterparts. This access disparity is a disadvantage that drives down the pool of African Americans."

### Inequitable advice in consumer bankruptcy

Emony M. Robertson's project focuses on a different but equally vexing problem: reducing racial bias in consumer bankruptcy practices. He points out that consumer bankruptcy has a clear racial disparity. African Americans are disproportionately advised by their attorneys to file Chapter 13 versus Chapter 7 petitions. "Chapter 7 bankruptcy offers many advantages, including the possibility of debt being totally discharged.



Chapter 13 filings, by contrast, can result in the perpetuation of debt," he said. Robertson created a simple solution: bankruptcy filing checklists that attorneys can review before engaging with African American clients, and literature that explains the disparate outcomes.

### Failures in self-representation

When individuals charged with misdemeanors attempt to represent themselves, the attempt to save costs works against them. They are far more likely to plead guilty. The fallout can have a

lasting impact on the rest of their lives, including their ability to secure housing, employment, or federal funding for upper-level education. Oscar Draughn, a student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University College of Law developed a digital tool that teaches individuals charged with low-level misdemeanor offenses how to defend themselves when adequate counsel is not available. His app will include a knowledge database, tutorials, and interactive modules. This tool will reduce the probability of conviction for reasons un-

related to the facts of the case.

One goal, many pathways

There is no single road towards eliminating racism in the legal system. Approaching this problem from multiple angles will accelerate change. Targeted strategies, training, technology and collaboration can provide the collective power to break down the barriers of systemic racism in the legal system, once and for all.

**Ian McDougall is President of LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation**