



## BUSINESS



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**Local deejay showcasing Africa's heritage through his music and art**



CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli pictured yesterday consoling Hamisi Nyange Makame alias Professor Gogo, who is admitted to Zanzibar's Mnazi Mmoja Hospital with machete wounds he is reported to have sustained in a recent attack while praying at a Kangagani mosque in Wete on Pemba Island. Photo: State House

# Defiant Lissu to ignore NEC orders, police summons tip

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA presidential candidate Tundu Lissu yesterday termed as 'rough justice' the decision by the elections management body to stop him from campaigning for seven days. This came after the Ethics Committee of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) announced that it had found him guilty of violating regulations on ethical conduct during his campaign rallies and penalized him. "This orchestrated 'rough justice' is yet another proof of a discredited NEC and a compromised electoral system. NEC's decision is totally unacceptable. I'll not be intimidated or silenced.

The campaign will continue on Sunday as scheduled," he posted on twitter. A statement released yesterday by the elections management body said after deliberations, the committee found Lissu guilty of making false claims that CCM candidate President John Magufuli had met constituency returning officers from all over the country in a plot to rig this month's polls. The committee also found the candidate guilty of making inciteful statements at his campaign rallies. "Therefore, after thorough discussion and perusal of the election code of conduct which

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By Henry Mwangonde, Zanzibar

CCM expects to secure a landslide victory in Zanzibar in the upcoming general election, as the massive turnouts at the party's campaigns are clear evidence that it will continue leading the Isles via the revolutionary government for another five years.

CCM Publicity and Ideology Secretary Humphrey Polepole told journalists here yesterday that the party has conducted studies to assess the situation in the Isles, with results indicating that the party's votes in this year's general election will be overflowing.

The CCM departmental head arrived here yesterday accompanying the party's presidential candidate for the Union presidency, Dr John Magufuli. He said there were a number of reasons for CCM to secure a landslide victory in Zanzibar.

"The serving president, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, has done a great job in Zanzibar in the last ten years. This is capital of which our party relies on in asking for votes. We are confident that we will emerge winners," he said.

Dr Magufuli is today expected to hold a campaign rally at Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Zanzibar where he will ask voters to uplift Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi to be the next president in

# CCM has its sights on Z'bar 'landslide'

## JPM to address Mnazi Mmoja campaign rally in Zanzibar today

**The serving president, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein, has done a great job in Zanzibar in the last ten years**

the Isles. Another reason for the ruling party's likely victory was the profile of the candidate the party has nominated as its flag bearer in the Isles. Dr Mwinyi is marketable to voters due to his character and experience in the government, where he has held various positions in the Union and Isles governments, he stated. A fierce contest is expected in Zanzibar between the ACT- Wazalendo candidate Seif Sharrif Hamad and Dr Mwinyi. This is the fourth round of campaigns for Dr Magufuli in a six-round schedule set out by the party secretariat. The rounds have so far taken

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# Fertiliser usage up by 50pc after taxes nixed - regulator

By Guardian Reporter

FERTILISER usage in Tanzania has increased by 48.6 per cent in the past five years after the removal of taxes and introduction of the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) for fertilizer importation.

Dr Stephan Ngailo (pictured), executive director for the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) said in pre-commemoration remarks yesterday that in the 2015/2016 farming season fertiliser uptake stood at 296,036 tonnes and in 2019/2020 it reached 440,000 tonnes.

He was addressing a press conference ahead of Global Fertilizer Day, which at the national level will be marked at Dakawa village in Mvomero District of Morogoro Region, on October 13th. "To us, this is a big improvement attained



after the government's decision to scrap all nuisance taxes that were a thorn to the development of the sector, by raising the price of the farm inputs," he said.

The availability of fertilizer has also gone up from 330,676 tonnes in 2014/2015 to 582,357 tonnes in 2019/2020. Diammonium phosphate (DAP), Urea, NPK

(nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium), Calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN), and ammonium sulphate (SA) contributed 94percent of imported fertilizer in the 2015/2016 farming season.

"During this period, we've also witnessed an increasing number of new fertilizer factories in the country. Before 2016 there were only four, but now we have 11 and two factories manufacturing boosters," he said.

TFRA has reinforced fertilizer quality control systems to ensure that farmers get better products at affordable prices, he stated.

From 2016/2017 to 2019/2020, TFRA registered a total of 103 fertilizer types, increasing the amount of certified fertilizer meant for improving soil fertility and augment plant development, he elaborated.

The director cited bulk procurement as a success story, as it had reduced the price of the product as well as removing fake fertilizer from the market.

"The success we're experiencing today is a result of the government's efforts to transform the sector, which in turn improves farmers'

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# ICTR picks three judges for Kabuga late genocide trial

By Guardian Reporter

THREE judges for the Arusha-based International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) were yesterday appointed to conduct the trial of Rwandan genocide suspect Félicien Kabuga (pictured).

The court said in a statement that Scottish Judge Iain Bonomy will preside the chamber, assisted by Uruguayan Judge Graciela Susana Gatti Santana and Ugandan Judge Elizabeth Ibanda-Nahamya.

On Wednesday last week, a senior French judge ruled for Kabuga to be extradited to the UN court, but his lawyer raised objections that his client be tried in 'The Hague, the overall centre of the UN court system. The Netherlands government, citing fears related to the coronavirus pandemic and the defendant's health and age, declined to accord such facilities.

His lawyers had argued that he was too frail to be sent to face trial at the UN tribunal in Arusha, while France's extradition law states that Kabuga needs to be transferred to Arusha within a month.

Kabuga is alleged to have backed and armed ethnic Hutu militias who killed about 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus in the 1994 genocide. In May, upon his arrest, he described the accusations as "lies."

He is alleged to have funneled money to militia groups as chairman of the National Defence Fund during the Juvenal Habyarimana presidency, who was killed in a plane crash, signaling the start of the genocide.

He denies all the charges, now before him since he was arrested near Paris in May after evading capture for 26 years, with police in

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From-L, foreground: Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein, Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi and CCM's Zanzibar presidential candidate Dr Hussein Mwinyi unveil a plaque to inaugurate the Kombeni-Fuoni road in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Dr Mwinyi has all qualities of a good leader - Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has called upon Zanzibar residents to vote for CCM presidential candidate Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi "since he has a good leadership record".

Dr Shein made the statement on Thursday when addressing a campaign rally held at Jambhuri Makunduchi Stadium in South Unguja Region.

He explained that Dr Mwinyi had all the qualities of a good leader with abilities to bring about development in Zanzibar, maintain the Union as well as strengthening the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution. He pointed out that the candidate has held various positions in the government.

In another development, CCM presidential candidate, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said that his government will consider revising civil servants remunerations to boost their morale. He also promised to ensure time payments of salaries and other benefits.

He said CCM government will work to strengthen other economic and social sectors, calling upon civil servants to avoid engaging in corruption as stern measures will be taken against any public servants involved in corruption activities.

Dr Mwinyi said that the other priorities includes increasing the scope of revenue collections and jobs in the Isles, saying the move will stimulate economic growth through increasing the number of tourists from 500,000 to 850,000 annually.

The presidential candidate promised

to construct modern ports at Maruhubi, implement the construction of roads and airports as measures to stimulate economic growth as well as construction of factories in Unguja and Pemba that will use locally-sourced raw materials as well as provide many job openings for young people in the Isles.

The candidate promised to provide free education from primary to secondary levels and spearhead review of vocational education curricula that will also help increase productivity in the fishing industry.

He said that the tourism sector which is crucial for economic growth will be promoted accordingly to make sure residents benefit from the activities. He said improvement of the tourism sector will also provide jobs to young people.

"We will train youth on various life skills as well as equipping them with entrepreneurship knowledge to be able to employ themselves," he noted.

CCM Secretary General, Dr Bashiru Ali said that the South Unguja Region has maintained its records in voting for CCM candidates in each of the general elections.

He commended Dr Shein for initiating the issuance of monthly elder's pension, a move he said helps to improve the welfare of the senior citizens.

South Unguja Regional Commissioner, Ayoub Mohamed Mahamoud said the party has successful implemented the 2015-2020 election manifesto in the region. He noted that health services have been improved as well as upgrading of health centers.

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Chadema representatives took part in preparing, the committee decided to stop Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu from campaigning for seven days from 3 October 2020 to 9 October 2020," reads the statement.

NEC said the complaints against Lissu's conduct were submitted to the committee by two parties namely NRA and CCM.

"A letter requiring Lissu to respond to the complaints leveled against by the two parties was delivered to the Chadema secretary general as per requirement who responded that the candidate and the party are not the same," reads the statement.

But in his tweets yesterday, Lissu said "I never was summoned to the Ethics Committee to defend myself in person. Even the decision to suspend me has not been communicated to me as required by the Ethics Regulations."

NEC said the Chadema secretary general had advised in his letter

## Defiant Lissu to ignore NEC orders, police summons tip

that the body presents its letter to Lissu himself. But the body said that the norm is that such letters are communicated to secretaries general of political parties that have sponsored their candidates.

Meanwhile, police in Dar es Salaam Special Zone have retracted summons issued to Chadema presidential candidate Lissu to avoid interfering with his campaign schedule.

The written summons issued on Thursday by the zonal directorate of criminal investigations directed the politician to present himself to law enforcers for questioning over alleged inciteful utterances at his campaign rallies.

Dar es Salaam Zonal Commander Lazaro Mambosasa told reporters

that after consulting, it was decided that the call be retracted to allow the candidate continue with his campaigns unhindered.

"Another reason is that Lissu did not make those utterances in Dar es Salaam but in other regions," he said.

"We will call him to come and record a statement at the right time; it would be unwise to do it now as that will definitely interfere with his campaign schedule," he elaborated.

Before the summons letter was submitted to Chadema, Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro had last week directed that the candidate present himself to a police station while campaigning in Babati, Manyara Region and later Moshi, Kilimajaro Region but that did not happen.

Lissu said then that he would not heed a verbal or online summons but a written one.

"Information we have is that whenever officers tried to stop him, he did not cooperate and just proceeded with his schedule," Mambosasa said, noting further that it is police officers who offer protection to the candidate during his campaign rallies.

After receiving the written summons, he said he would not heed it all the same because the letter did not outline the offence he committed to warrant being summoned.

Lissu is a strong opposition candidate out of a crowded list of 14 who are challenging incumbent president John Magufuli in the 28th October general election.

## CCM has its sights on Z'bar 'landslide'

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him to 12 regions - Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Geita, Kagera, Kigoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe and Songwe.

The Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced September 11, the official day for commencing election campaigns, lasting for 46 days on October 26, ready for pre-poll voting the following day.

The commission has allocated October 28 through October 31 for vote counting and announcing results, in the sixth general elections since the reintroduction of multiparty politics in 1992.

There are 15 Zanzibar presidential aspirants who collected and returned forms from the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), namely Dr Hussein Mwinyi (CCM), Said Soud (AAPP), Juma Ali Khatib (ADA-TADEA), Hamad Rashid (ADC), Mfaume Khamis (NLD), Ali Juma (CHAUMMA), Issa Muhammed Zonga (SAU), Ameri Said Ameri (Demokrasia Makini) and Hamad Muhammed Ibrahim (UPDD).

Others are Hussein Juma Salim (TLP), Mohamed Omar Baharia (UMD), Shafiq Hassan Suleiman (DP), Khamis Faki Mgau (NRA), Seif Sharif Hamad (ACT Wazalendo) and Othman Rashid Khamis (CCK).

## ICTR picks three judges for Kabuga late genocide trial

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France saying he used 28 aliases to successfully evade justice for all those years.

While on the run, he reportedly stayed in various countries in East Africa, especially in Kenya where he is believed to have extensive business interests, but the French public prosecutor's office said he was living under a false identity with the complicity of his children.

He was finally detained in a dawn

raid on 16th May in the Paris suburb of Asnières-sur-Seine, and was rapidly read a preliminary list of accusations, including setting up the notorious Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM).

It was a Rwandan broadcasting channel (Radio Television of Thousand Hills) that actively encouraged people to search out and kill any ethnic Tutsi.

In 1997 he was indicted by the ICTR on seven counts, including genocide and crimes against humanity.

## Fertiliser usage up by 50pc after taxes nixed - regulator

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incomes, food security, increasing availability of industrial raw materials and boosting GDP growth through agricultural exports," he declared.

Commenting on the Global Fertilizer Day, Dr Ngailo said that the annual event is celebrated on October 13th and this year it is themed 'Empowering smallholder farmers to get better fertilizer, timely and at affordable prices.'

He said Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga is expected to be the chief guest at the national event, bringing on board 400 participants from research institutions, university agro-faculties, non-governmental organizations, traders and other stakeholders in the fertilizer value chain.

"This is an important day for players in the fertilizer value chain as it

provides room for us to reflect where we come from and where we're going in terms of the increasing availability of farm inputs," he said.

"This day provides a platform for farmers and traders to get a better understanding of fertilizer manufacturing, distribution and availability. They also get to know opportunities available and investment trends across the fertilizer value chain," he further noted.

On that day, farmers will air experiences in effective use of fertilizer and soil health for higher crop productivity, where about 15 companies which produce, import or distribute fertilizer are expected to showcase their products.

The Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) will also showcase different soil health and fertilizer use researches, he added.



Dr Aloyce Nzuki (R), Permanent Secretary in the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, holds talks on the country's tourism sector with a Tanzania Private Sector Foundation delegation in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has urged the East African Community (EAC) to fast track negotiations of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in line with private sector positions for businesses in the region to take advantage of the available 4trn/- worth consumer market.

The AfCFTA market is estimated to rise from US \$ 1.27 billion to US \$1.7 billion by 2030, out of which about US \$ 600 million will be in the middle class.

"EABC in partnership with the regional communities' business councils has been spearheading the formation of the African Business Council, to champion private sector views in the continental policy formulation processes," said Dr

## EABC calls on EAC to fast-track negotiations of the African Continental Free Trade Area

Peter Mathuki, EABC Chief Executive Officer.

In his welcoming remarks during the EABC-GIZ webinar on opportunities for the private sector in the AfCFTA held on Thursday, Dr Mathuki said the private sector is the real beneficiary of the AfCFTA and there is an urgent need to fast track the formation of a continental institution mandated to articulate the views of the private sector on the actualization of the continental agreement.

The AfCFTA will promote industrial development as companies will have economies of scale and access

to cheaper raw materials due to the reduction in tariffs, which will also lower the prices of imported goods for consumers.

He added: "Currently, intra-Africa trade is limited to 15 percent of Africa's total trade, indicating that the intra-regional value chain is very weak in contrast to Asia, where it stands at 80 percent. The trade volume in Africa is also constrained by the relatively slow economic growth in the continent, which averages at 4.6 percent since 2000 in contrast to Asia's 7.4 percent."

The AfCFTA's benefits could be considerable, but only if implementation

proceeds fully and evenly.

Challenges envisaged in the AfCFTA include as national interests, trade supply constraints such as infrastructure, unfair competition and disputes. There is a need for the government to ensure the private sector is at the center of its development.

In her presentation, Miriam Mondosha, EABC Manager for SMEs and Market Access said that AfCFTA prioritizes addressing challenges in trade policy, productive capacity, hard and soft infrastructure, trade finance, trade information, and factor market integration.





Energy ministry permanent secretary Zena Said (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after the signing of an MoU on the protection of underground infrastructure. Others are Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (Ewura) director general Godfrey Chibulunje (R) and acting director (Natural Gas) Thobias Rwelamila. Photo: John Badi

## EWURA, public and private entities agree on ways of protecting underground infrastructures

By Getrude Mbagi

Energy and Water Regulatory Authority (EWURA) yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various public and private entities aimed at fostering protection of underground infrastructures installed.

The institutions include Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco), Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL), the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA), Pan African Energy Tanzania (PAET), Gas Supply Company (GASCO), Songas Tanzania Limited, Maurel et prom Limited (M&P Ltd) and the National Oil Tanzania Ltd (NATOIL).

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy Zena Ahmed Said acknowledged that the growth of the natural gas sector and its supply in various urban areas has brought safety challenges especially in other underground and ground infrastructures which send services to people.

She said that in efforts aimed to guarantee people's safety, the government passed the Petroleum General Regulations, 2020 which gives authority for EWURA to ensure that there is safety and security of the natural gas infrastructures in the way leave projects.

"For many years, there has been a challenge in supervising the safety of natural gas and other projects which are implemented in road

reserves, there was no special coordination of the projects, a move which has been producing negative impacts to the government, institutions and the communities," she said.

The PS said that the agreement will enable gas, oil and water pipelines are installed well without affecting the implementation of other projects such as communication or roads.

"The MoU involves formation of new bylaws to guide these institutions implement their projects smoothly by attracting collaboration and engagement between one another. The projects will be marked with special signals to differentiate water and gas pipelines to avoid unnecessary negative impacts," she said.

She further said that following major investment and improvements done by the government, Tanzania has managed to increase processing of natural gas from 110 million cubic feet in 2014/15 to 460 million cubic feet in 2019/2020.

"Currently a total of 180 million cubic feet of natural gas is used to produce electricity for home and industrial uses in the Regions of Dar es Salaam and Mtwara. The gas is also used in over 300 motor vehicles (cars) in Dar es Salaam," the PS noted.

For his part, EWURA director general Eng Godfrey Chibulunje the agreement will also supervise and fight invasion of people in road reserves, a situation which has been affecting the projects.

"We have witnessed petty traders conducting businesses in the road reserves areas without considering negative impacts, some areas have gas

and electricity infrastructures which are dangerous to those who sit near them, so we are going to educate the traders and enable them to find safe places to conduct their activities," he said.

He said that the implementation of the MoU is also aimed to support government's initiatives aimed at transforming the economy into an industrial middle-income economy by addressing various impacts affecting development in the country.

Eng Valentine Njau, a representative from DAWASA said that the agreement has come at the right time as it is going to address various challenges facing projects in the shared way leaves.

"Lack of communication and engagement between institution and stakeholders in shared way leaves has been bringing several impacts in the country, water projects are among them, you can install water pipes but in few months, the projects can be affected by road construction projects, so with this MoU, we are going to address all these," he said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

## 'Prices of Tanzania's major cash crops down owing to COVID-19'

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the drop in prices of major cash crops in Tanzania including tobacco and cashew nuts was due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

According to him, most of the crop buyers are foreigners whose countries imposed a number of travel restrictions including suspension of air transport services, hence failure to access international markets.

Prices of some strategic crops such as cotton, cashew nuts and cocoa also recorded a drastic drop between February and March this year due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Premier made the remarks when speaking at a campaign rally on Thursday evening at Ushetu constituency in Shinyanga Region. He also used the meeting to ask the residents to vote for the CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli in the forthcoming general election scheduled for later this month.

He said the outbreak of Covid-19 also affected prices of several other strategic crops such as cotton, tobacco tea and coffee. He said the situation resulted in some local buyers purchasing the crops at cheapest prices.

Majaliwa said the price of cashew nuts dropped from 3,500/- per kilogram to 1,800/- per kg. He said that a kilogram of tea was sold at 250/- compared to 700/- in the previous year.

According to the PM, cotton was to be sold at 1,200/- per kilogram but due to the pandemic outbreak, a kilo of the crop was sold at 800/- only.

He urged the residents to ignore circulating information that it has refused to search markets for their crops, insisting that the government is determined to ensure coordinated markets for the strategic cash crops.

He said the government is working closely with banks and financial institutions in ensuring markets as well as timely payment of farmers.

PM Majaliwa called upon farmers to engage in large scale farming of the crops as prices will be stabilized in coming season as most of the countries have now resolved to open up their boundaries. He said the Covid-19 spread has also decreased in many countries.

Contestant of the Ushetu Parliamentary seat, Elias Kwandikwa promised to construct a tobacco processing factory to add value to the crop. He said that experts have completed feasibility study and are expected to start executing the project after elections.

Kwandikwa said that in 2015, some 153 villages lacked electricity services, but so far the government has connected the services to 58 villages. He said the remaining villages will be connected to electricity services in coming years.

To facilitate selling of various agricultural products outside the country, Tanzania has signed trade deals with a number of countries through various platforms such as African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), World Trade Organization (WTO), EAC's Common Market, European Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Asian countries through Quota Free Duty Free (QDFD) market access for low developing countries.

### DKT INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 TZS	2018 TZS
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	647,281,000	823,730,000
Intangible assets	2,187,000	3,002,000
Right of use of asset	55,264,000	-
	<u>704,732,000</u>	<u>826,732,000</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Trade and other receivables	425,944,000	760,360,000
Inventories	1,856,980,000	1,961,942,000
Deferred Tax	38,144,000	-
Cash and bank balances	2,434,240,000	2,739,200,000
	<u>4,755,308,000</u>	<u>5,461,502,000</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>5,460,040,000</u>	<u>6,288,234,000</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Fund Balance	(237,640,000)	-
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Capital grants	649,468,000	826,731,000
Deferred income grants	3,227,305,000	4,224,085,000
	<u>3,876,773,000</u>	<u>5,050,816,000</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	1,688,921,000	1,237,418,000
Lease Liability	73,799,000	-
Current Tax	58,187,000	-
	<u>1,820,907,000</u>	<u>1,237,418,000</u>
<b>Total Fund balance and Liabilities</b>	<u>5,460,040,000</u>	<u>6,288,234,000</u>

#### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 TZS	2018 TZS
<b>Income</b>		
Grant income	3,783,989,000	4,984,286,000
Capital grants	244,380,000	171,939,000
Sales	2,507,830,000	787,753,000
Cost of Sales	(2,657,034,000)	(1,078,525,000)
Gross profit	<u>3,879,165,000</u>	<u>4,865,453,000</u>
Marketing expenses	(456,787,000)	(914,654,000)
Administrative expenses	(3,658,922,000)	(3,968,495,000)
Other operating income/(expenses)	33,606,000	17,696,000
Deficit	<u>(202,938,000)</u>	-
Finance Cost	(14,659,000)	-
Deficit before Income tax	<u>(217,597,000)</u>	-
Income tax expense	(20,043,000)	-
Deficit / Loss	<u>(237,640,000)</u>	-

#### FUND ANALYSIS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

	30 September 2020 TZS
<b>INCOME</b>	
Grants received	
DKT International Inc. (DC)	5,806,968,142
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	28,036,133
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>5,835,004,275</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Operating expenses	1,317,891,245
Marketing expenses	355,689,862
Depreciation & Amortization expense	171,893,591
Depreciation - ROUA	122,335,593
Purchase of Capital Equipment	53,637,850
Commodity procurement	2,768,907,781
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>4,790,355,922</u>



### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Applications are invited** from experienced insurance professionals for following position on behalf of our client which is a strong professionally run General Insurance Company established in Tanzania providing all classes of short term insurance covers. The company is part of a leading regional group in East Africa in Finance Sector.

**Job Title :** Chief Executive Officer

**Job Summary:**

The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board of Directors of the Company and is responsible for overall leadership and management of the company to achieve the strategic and operations efficiency of the company. He is the Principal Officer and advises the Board on all operational matters.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Development of strategic business objectives and plans to enhance operational efficiency, growth and profitability.
- Providing support and advice on strategic directions to the Board and inspirational leadership to the staff.
- Cultivating sound relationships with the regulator, local and international business partners and stakeholders; Ensuring all statutory compliances.
- Efficiently managing all assets in order to enhance the shareholder's value;
- Presentation of operations and statutory reports to the Board;
- Manage organizational change to generate efficiencies through innovative capacity planning and utilization
- Reinsurance treaty negotiations
- Efficient organising abilities with an eye for detail and ability to handle multiple priorities with deadlines.

**Job Holder Specifications:**

**Education/Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree preferably in a business related field
- MBA- preferable.
- ACII,AIII, FCII, FIII or equivalent

**Work Experience :** Over 20 years' experience essential, of which 10 years should be at senior management level in the insurance industry

- Hands on experience in dealing in Reinsurance placement, treaty negotiations and all operations of an insurance company.
- Fully conversant and proficient in all classes of non life insurance business
- Good interpersonal skills with ability to manage relationship in cross cultural environment
- Training and development of staff

If you meet the above minimum requirements, send your c.v to [info@brightermonday.co.tz](mailto:info@brightermonday.co.tz)

indicate the position applied for on the email subject line so as to be received on or before **12<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**



**APPLICATION FOR TANZANIAN CITIZENSHIP**  
**SHAHLA SIBTAIN**  
 P.O. Box No. 70086, DAR ES SALAAM.  
 Whose Photograph is shown here is applying to the Ministry of Home Affairs for Tanzanian Citizenship. Nationality at present is PAKISTAN. Country of origin PAKISTAN. She has been in the Country since 2003. Any person who shows why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant should send a written and signed statement to the Principal Commissioner of Immigration Services, P.O. Box No. 512, Dar es salaam. Use reference DN: 370257.



## AfDB wins global award for Fight Covid-19 Social Bond

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has been awarded the best issuer in 2020 COVID-19 bond for its \$ 3 billion dollar-denominated 'Fight Covid-19 Social Bond' issued on March 27th, 2020.

The bank was selected in a poll of bond market players and announced winner of the GobaCapital Bond Awards 2020. The ceremony was held virtually on September 30th for the first time in 12 years.

GlobalCapital is a leading source of information on global capital markets with coverage of all market segments.

Bajabulle Swazi Tshabalala, the Bank's Senior Vice President and Chief Finance Officer said: "We are grateful for the market's recognition of the Bank's effort in responding quickly to the needs of the continent with its 'Fight Covid-19 Social Bond' which is an important instrument in alleviating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on African economies and lives.

Tshabalala said the bank has been able to provide an efficient response at a challenging time while also catering to the needs of socially responsible investors looking for impactful investments.

"The primary debt capital markets' response to the coronavirus crisis has been resilient and robust. Institutions all over the world from governments and multilateral development banks, to domestic lenders, to companies have raised vital financing to see them through this extraordinary period," GlobalCapital noted in its winners' announcement release.

Hassatou N'Sele, Treasurer of the Bank said: "The African Development Bank is proud of the success of its landmark 'Fight Covid-19 Social Bond' launched to help alleviate the impact of the pandemic on people's lives and livelihood."

He said the transaction, the largest social bond at the time of issuance, reflects investors' confidence in the Bank's Social Bond framework, and its capacity to deliver.

"We were among the pioneers in the Social Bond market, and would like to thank all our partners, including the arrangers and investors, for their

continued trust and support and share this award and success with them," said N'Sele.

The 'Fight Covid-19 bond' floated on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and significantly oversubscribed, was the world's largest social bond at time of issuance.

The Bank has since listed the bond on both the London Stock Exchange and Nasdaq. Bond proceeds, with a three-year maturity, will go to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods and Africa's economies.

The bond issue is part of a suite of interventions the Bank has rolled out to strengthen African countries' responses to the health and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This includes a Covid-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion to provide flexible and emergency assistance to the Bank's members to shore up their national budget, economies and livelihoods of their citizens.

The Bank is a recognized pioneer in the social bond sphere. In March 2020, it received the Environmental Finance's 2020 bond of the year award—SSA category—for a successful one billion Norwegian krone (NOK) social bond issued in 2019.

It was the first social bond ever launched in the Norwegian market, and the Bank's first transaction in Norwegian Krone.

In 2018, the Bank was recognized as "Second most impressive social or sustainability bond issuer" at the Global Capital Socially Responsible Investments Awards.

Since 2017, the Bank has launched nearly \$5 billion worth of such instruments denominated in US dollars, euros and Norwegian krone.

*"The primary debt capital markets' response to the coronavirus crisis has been resilient and robust. Institutions all over the world from governments and multilateral development banks, to domestic lenders, to companies have raised vital financing to see them through this extraordinary period"*



Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa) executive director Rose Reuben (C) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when launching a project on sexual corruption among women journalists in media houses financed by Women Fund Tanzania. She is with Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan) information and research officer Neema Kasabuliro (R) and WFT senior programme officer Brian Mshana. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter, Kondoa

THE permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu, has said the government will continue protecting elders as well as ending the violent acts against them.

He said the government is working to improve the livelihood of senior citizens as well as improving their shelters which are under government supervision.

Dr Jingu made the statements in Kondoa District, Dodoma Region on Thursday when speaking at an event to mark the International Day of the Elderly marked on October 1 each year. He said it was the responsibility of every Tanzanian to protect the elders.

"It is our responsibility to take care of the elders because they also took care of us when we were young," said the PS.

Social Welfare Commissioner from the Ministry, Dr Naftali Ng'ondi said the government has continued taking care of the elders at its 13 established shelters countrywide. He said the

## Govt: Elders' protection against violence assured

shelters accommodate 281 elders in total who are also provided with other important services including medical treatment.

Dodoma Administrative Secretary, Maduka Kessy said they have been taking care of all the elders whereas most of them are provided with free medical treatment. He said that 25 percent of elders in the Region are enrolled with health insurance.

While in Songwe Region on Thursday, CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli has promised to eliminate obstacles affecting the provision of free healthcare to the elderly in his next term of office.

Dr Magufuli pledged his intention to improve the lives of senior citizens through creating a better system for accessing healthcare.

He issued the pledge as part of his

message on the International Day of the Elderly marked on October 1 each year.

"Our elders have done a great job to this country. They deserve better; the government will ensure these people are well taken care of," he said, noting that the government shall work on widening the use of identity cards facilitating their treatment whenever they visit health centres.

For the last five years the government distributed over one million identity cards to elders, up from 213,000 already in use back in 2015, he said.

Elderly people in Tanzania account for 5.6 per cent of the entire population according to the 2012 national census.

They face various challenges including harmful beliefs and traditions that lead to the persecution, including killings on allegations of witchcraft.

"I want to ensure you that our government will make sure that senior citizens receive good care to make them enjoy life after serving this country with dedication," he said.

The UNFPA estimates that one in every six people will be aged over 65 by 2050, also affirming that there are 66.5m people aged 60 and above in Africa, predicted to reach 105m by 2030.

Tanzania has yet to pass binding legislation for every citizen in the country to have mandatory health insurance cover, although the idea has been mooted for years.

Dr Magufuli, who is seeking re-election, said he will work on addressing the challenges facing senior citizens, which include increasing care centres for those who do not have people to care for them.



Dr Wilson Nene (R), cashewnut disease and pest researcher with the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute at Naliendele in Mtwara Region, explains to Chamwino District farmers yesterday on how to identify and control diseases that affect their crops. Photo: Correspondent Ashton Balaigwa

## TARI launches 54 varieties of cashewnut seeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) through its Naliendele centre in Mtwara Region has launched 54 new varieties of cashew seeds that are disease and drought resistant and able to produce more yields.

According to Dr Geradina Mzena, national coordinator of cashew nut crop at TARI-Naliendele, the new improved seed varieties have already been supplied to some areas and will be supplied to farmers in 17 regions cultivating cashew nuts in the country.

She made the remarks here during the training session provided to new

cashew nut growers and extension officers in Chemba and Chamwino Districts.

She said that for the past few years, Tanzania's performance in the cultivation of cashew has experienced a lackluster movement, and that's why the government has found it prudent to initiate to invest in the area.

She said that the 54 varieties of quality seeds have already started to do well for farmers in the southern regions and that the current plan is to distribute them to farmers in new regions that have begun cultivating the crop.

She said that the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI aims to

increase the production of cashew nuts in the country from the current 315,000 tons to one million tons by 2023.

"To achieve the goal, TARI will increase supply of quality cashew seeds to farmers, imparting farmers with needed agronomic practices in order to facilitate them to start growing quality cashews, we will also strengthen training to extension officers over how to mitigate common diseases that often affect the crop," she said.

TARI-Naliendele researcher of cashew nuts diseases and pests, Dr Wilson Nene, said that they have decided to train farmers to use the best 54 modern varieties which are capable

of producing 20 kg of cashews per tree contrary to the traditional seeds that produce 11 kg.

"TARI also educates the new farmers on how to control cashew diseases and pests by using various methods including traditional methods and cleaning the fields, planting by considering space as well and cutting down unsuitable branches to help create a friendly path of harmful parasites," he said.

Chemba District Commissioner, Saimon Chacha, said that his district has developed a strategy to fight drought by embarking on cultivation of other commercial crops such as cashew cotton and tea.

## Education NGO calls for amending of Penal Code

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

THE Children Education Society (CHESO) has called upon the government to amend Section 26 of the Tanzanian Penal Code (Cap 16, RE 2002) to exclude breastfeeding mothers from being sentenced to death.

The call came in line with the World Day Against the Death Penalty which is celebrated globally on October 10th. The day is meant to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences.

It was firstly organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003.

CHESO executive director, Richard Shilamba told The Guardian yesterday that maintenance of death penalty in Tanzania may cause breastfeeding mothers to be sentenced to death and executed, leaving their infants extremely suffering to most likely death.

Shilamba said that according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Health Ministry, infants and younger children needs to be breastfed to survive. He said that mother's milk is medically mandatory hence children should be breastfed from birth up to six months exclusively and continue breastfeed alongside with complementary foods for two years and beyond.

Shilamba, expresses his deepest concerns that the Tanzania Penal Code (Cap 16, RE 2002) do not exempt breastfeeding mothers from being sentenced to death.

"Breastfeeding mothers and young children in Tanzania are at risk of being sentenced to death and executed at any time. Imposing death sentence and executing a mother who is breastfeeding is tantamount to passing a death sentence and execution of

a concerned infant or child", said Shilamba.

He said that the position gets support from the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of 1990 ratified by the government under which, its article 30(e) prohibits the passing of a death sentence on 'mothers of infants and young children.

He explained further that article 4(2) (j) of the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa forbids the execution nursing women.

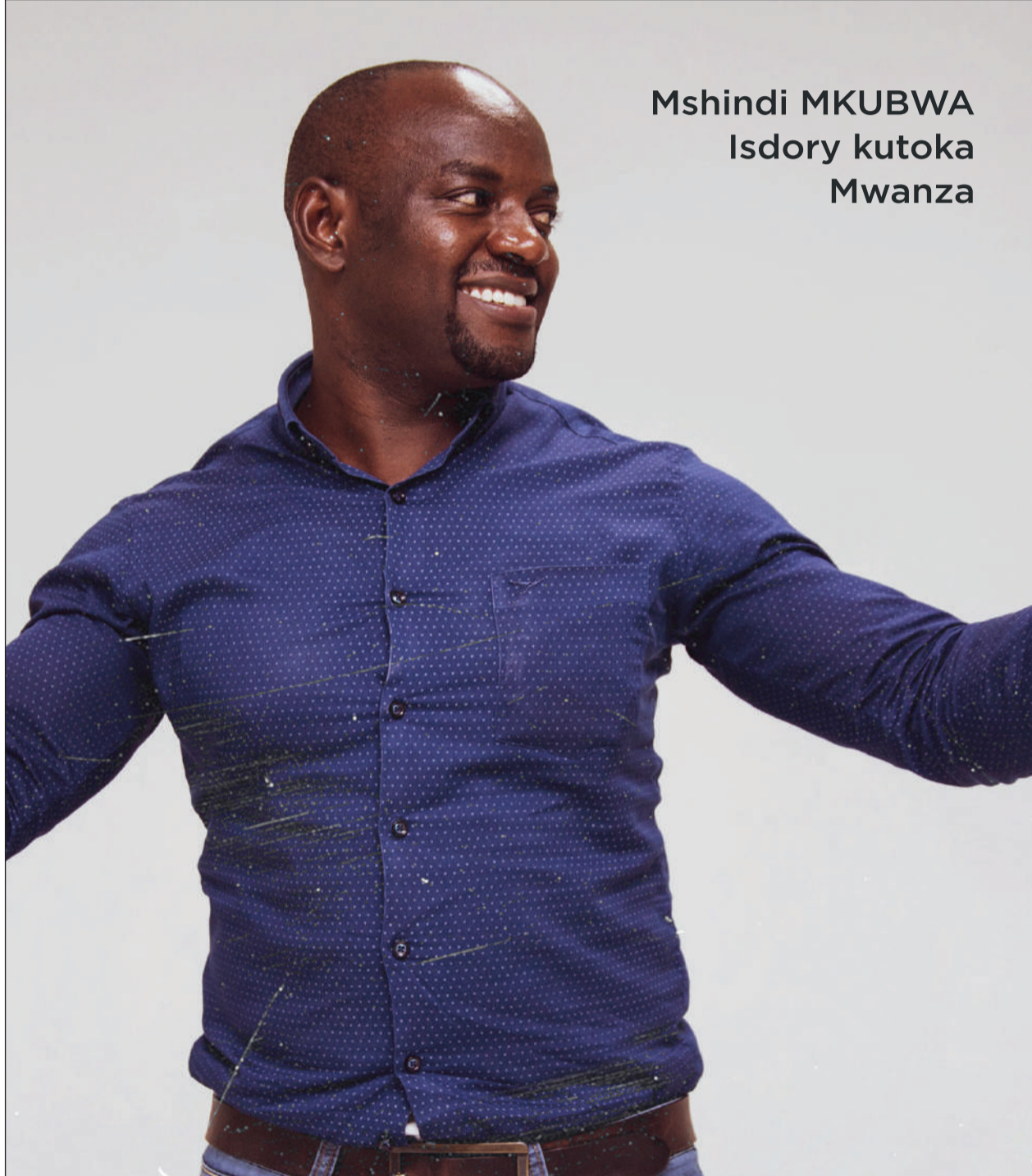
"Even outside Africa, Article 7(2) of the 2004 Arab Charter on Human Rights prohibits execution a nursing mother within two years from the date of her delivery' as well as The European Union Guidelines on the Death Penalty state that 'Capital punishment may not be imposed on new (breastfeeding) mothers' added Shilamba.

He said that during the commemoration days, on each day, CHESO will take actions and play a leading role of mobilizing governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to commemorate this important world day for child survival.

Meanwhile, CHESO applauded the government for prohibiting sentencing to death for pregnant woman found guilty of an offence punishable by death sentence under section 26 of the of the Tanzania Penal Code (Cap 16, RE 2002) which says "...If a woman convicted of an offense punishable with death is alleged to be pregnant, ...the sentence to be passed on her shall be a sentence of imprisonment for life instead of a sentence of death."

CHESO's activities to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty are supported by World Coalition Against Death Penalty under a joint project with International Federation of ACAT, French Development Agency (AFD), Belgium and the European Union (EU).





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# Project improving the lives of women, children in Lake Victoria and western zones

By Felister Peter

WOMEN and children in Lake Victoria Zone and western regions have reasons to smile, thanks to the More and Better Midwives (MBM) project which has seen expectant mothers in rural areas attended by skilled health practitioners.

Implementation of the five years project (April 16 - March 2021) has seen competent midwives deployed in the hard-to-reach facilities located in the 8 regions of lake and western zones.

The project execution included working closely with local government authorities, zonal health resource center, health training institutions, offering of in-service training, provision of clinical practice sites, health facilities and local communities.

Speaking ahead of the end of project event scheduled for next week, Dr Julius Masanika, MBM Project Director said the main objective of the project was to reduce child and maternal mortality rates in specific regions.

Dr Masanika acknowledged that the project has been successful with increased number of women having access to quality maternal services provided by skilled personnel.

"We have been able to increase the number of skilled nurses and midwives in peripheral areas as well as assisting and building the capacity of district authorities to recruit and retain nurse-midwives. In five years, we produced 2,037 graduates who are oriented on deployment process," he noted.

The MBM project was implemented by Jhpiego in partnership with Amref health Africa, Canadian Association of Midwives (CAM) and Tanzania Midwives Association (TAMA) with funding from the Canadian government.

It was implemented within 20 health training institutions and 19 in-service training clinical practice sites in 19 districts in Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Tabora, and Geita regions.

He stated that under the project students from poor families who are interested in nursing and midwifery studies were sponsored to undertake their courses, whereas a total of 112 students benefited. He said a total of 1,713 nurse-midwives and preceptors were trained on clinical mentorship and supervision skills.

On maternal and child mortality, Dr Masanika said there are progresses made whereas when the MBM project was initiated, the national rate was 556 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, but the number has now decreased to 527 deaths in every 100,000 live births.

On children, he said the number of deaths have gone down to 12 out of 100,000 children compared to the previous period when 25 newborns out of 100,000 were dying.

He added: "We have successfully reduced the skilled personnel gap from 54 percent to 41 percent in the specific districts within the lake and western zones."

According to him, a total of 16 health training institutions and 95 percent of in-service training facilities were able to meet national and global quality standards, including gender equality measures.

The Project ensured gender related value clarification is included in trainings for tutors and preceptors to facilitate gender transformation that lead to treatment of midwifery students with equity, he asserted.

There were also programmes to encourage secondary schools to consider midwifery as respectable profession as well as conducting nursing-midwifery career advancement orientation for male and female nursing-midwifery students in health training institutions.

"We also provided training to two science teachers in each of the schools and facilitated establishment of science clubs which mostly involved female students," he added.

Dr Masanika however talked on some challenges during the project implementation saying that issuance of certificates to graduates was taking too long, hence delayed employment. He said the matter is now worked on by the Health Ministry and the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE).

He said the regulatory body—Tanzania Nursing and Midwifery Council (TNMC) have been delaying to provide the graduates with nursing license. "There are still problems with government employment whereas in most cases they are delayed. Sometimes, the number of nurse-midwives employed in public health facilities is too small, thus affected the project's objective" he said adding the government did not employ any personnel in the profession in between 2016 and 2018.

Tanzania has less than 45 percent of the required overall health workforce. There is a severe shortage of nurse-midwives.

One third of the country (8 out of 25 regions) is operating with less than four nurse-midwives per 10,000 populations, and three regions have less than 2.5 nurse-midwives.

The vacancy rate of nurse-midwives in hospitals and health centers in these underserved regions reaches over 30 percent due to the hardship conditions and lack of appropriate incentives to attract and retain trained nurse-midwives.

The project in partnership with the Ministry of Health and local government authorities worked to strengthen nursing-midwifery education curriculum to enable the student acquire the nursing and midwifery knowledge, skills, attitudes and competencies necessary for the level.



These are among the students from areas hard to reach who were sponsored by MBM project to undertake certificate and diploma courses in nursing and midwifery. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government has outlined plans to start implementing a strategic and inclusive nutrition programme to fight malnutrition and stunting in all regions with good food production records but with high prevalence.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Omary Mgumba said the targeted regions are Njombe, Iringa, Kigoma, Ruvuma, Rukwa and Songwe.

Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation.

Children are defined as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standard median.

He said it was disconcerting to learn that despite being rich in production and availability of various food varieties, the mentioned regions are prone to stunting.

The minister detailed that the envisaged programme, to be implemented jointly with the ministry of health will major in provision of helpful knowledge to the public over

## Govt outlines plans to fight malnutrition and stunting among children nationwide

consumption of nutritious foods.

Mgumba noted that the useful programme will be officially launched during observation of the forthcoming World Food Week and will see experienced agro-health experts educating the communities in the regions in question over how best to feed their families with recommended nutritious foods.

He said the government through the parent ministry was working round the clock to battle against stunting from across the country.

Mgumba added: "That's why even guidelines for the implementation of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASPD II) depict the role of the government and other stakeholders in the fight against stunting."

He said the parent ministry was tasked to ensure for abundant production of nutritious foods, especially vegetables, fruits, beans, maize and potatoes in order to spearhead the

war against stunting from across the country.

The ministry will continue to develop friendly guidelines to help increase and disseminate helpful awareness over production, storage as well as consumption of legume food crops.

Detailing over preparations over observations of this year's World Food Week, on October 10, he said this year's event will primarily focus to capacitate farmers and pastoralists to learn and adopt modern technology to help increase their production and productivity.

"Application of modern technology among farmers is meaningful to enable the two economic sectors, agriculture and livestock keeping, to advance to impressive heights and thus, apart from improving economy, will also play major role in slashing stunting to possible low rates in the country," he insisted.



Mwanza regional commissioner John Mongella (C) cuts a ribbon yesterday to launch an NCBA Bank Tanzania Ltd branch in Mwanza city. Looking on are the bank's chief executive director, Margaret Karume (L), Mwanza regional administrative secretary Emmanuel Tutuba (R) and Mwanza city director Kiomoni Kibamba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Two men drown attempting to cross flooded Kogetende River

By Guardian Correspondent, Mara

TWO residents of Kyoruba village in Pemba ward, Tarime District in Mara Region have drowned when trying to cross the flooding Kogetende River.

They are, Ng'wena Daniel (24) and Mhingira Ryoba.

Kyoruba village chairman, Reuben

Makuri confirmed the incidents saying that Daniel drowned when attempting to cross the river driving a motorcycle while Nyamgiri was found dead along the river bank.

Makuri said the incidents occurred early this week and that they have reported them to relevant authorities. He said that Nyamgiri's body was found

by the villagers who wanted to cross the river from Pemba to Gwena ward.

"The villagers attempted to rescue Daniel but they failed due to lack of equipment, his body was found on the following day at Nyasaricho village, some 8 kilometers from Kogetende bridge," said the village chairman appealing to the residents to avoid

crossing the river when it is flooding.

CCM candidate for the councillorship seat in Pemba ward, Seronga Wangwe called upon the villagers to make sure they only cross the river when water levels are normal. He warned that it was dangerous for them to cross the river during flooding as they are likely to be drowned.

## Most Tanzanians lack civic education - NEC

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

THE majority of Tanzanians still lack education on the importance of voting as a result contributing to low electoral turnout, according to a senior official from the National Electoral Commission (NEC).

"Lack of civic education has led to many people not showing up on election day; there are many people who did not vote in the 2015 general elections despite the commission's effort to provide voter education throughout the country," said Givenness Aswile, NEC Director (Information and Voter Education) Department.

Givenness who represented the Director of Elections, made the remarks yesterday during a meeting with election stakeholders in Iringa Region which included religious leaders, representatives of people with disabilities, youth, women and civil societies.

According to her, there is a strong link between civic education and voter education, calling for stakeholders to engage in provision of civic education to educate the public on their rights and responsibilities.

She said the aim of the meeting was to provide information on the electoral process and discuss how best to conduct this year's general elections.

Earlier, Vice Chairman of the National Electoral Commission Retired Judge Mbarouk Mbarouk thanked the stakeholders for their co-operation with the commission especially during the exercise to update the permanent voter's register. He said the exercise was successfully whereas the commission exceeded the registration target.

He said the success of the exercise

was largely due to stakeholder's involvement in encouraging people to show up in large numbers to register or improve their information in the register.

"The commission believes that the success of the 2020 general elections depends on your participation since you represent a large group in the community. We all know that the community you represent includes major election stakeholders including candidates and voters," said Judge Mbarouk.

Judge Mbarouk added that with the improvement of the permanent voter register, the commission has managed to register 29,188,347 voters.

The Commission has also made other important preparations such as the amendments to the 2020 presidential and parliamentary election rules and the 2020 councillors' election regulations.

The commission in collaboration with the government and political parties drafted a code of conduct for the 2020 elections.

"NEC emphasizes on the importance of political parties and candidates to adhere to electoral values in their campaigns, avoid issuing provocative statements which are likely to threaten the security and peace of the country," said Judge Mbarouk.

The commission has also, in collaboration with stakeholders, issued permits to provide voter education to 245 civil society organisations in mainland Tanzania and seven in Zanzibar.

However, it has allowed local and foreign observers in this year's general election where it has issued permits to 97 civil society organisations like local institutions and permits for 16 groups of foreign observers.



# Commission: Reports about 'banning' of international election observers baseless

By Correspondent George Sembony, Tanga

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has dismissed reports that it has barred international observers from covering the General Election slated for later this month.

Speaking during an election stakeholder's conference in Tanga Region, NEC Chairman Judge Semistocles Kaijage said the commission has so far issued permits to 16 international observer groups to oversee the country general election.

In his speech which was read by NEC Assistant Chief Accountant, Daudi Mziray, The chairman urged Tanzanians to ignore such circulating

information, insisting the commission is still working on applications sent by observers from within and outside the country.

He said that allowing observers in the election process is one of the best ways to ensure free and fair elections. He said that with observers the elections will be transparent.

The chairman added that the commission works to ensure a democratic electoral process. He said that NEC has so far granted permits to 97 local election observer groups.

On voters' education, Judge Kaijage said that 245 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been granted permits to conduct voter's education in the Tanzania mainland and seven in

Zanzibar.

Meanwhile, religious leaders emphasized the need for provision of voters' education especially to the youth. They were concerned that youth should be educated on the importance of voting so that they came out in big numbers on the election day.

NEC had announced August 16, 2020 for the political parties to start campaigning for presidential, parliamentary and councillorship seats. The campaigns will end on October 27, 2020.

About 29 million Tanzanians have registered to vote in this year's election, compared to 23 million voters registered in 2015, according to NEC.



Chem Chem Association director Nicolas Negri (L) presents to Babati district commissioner Lazaro Twange a bus for use by the district's Ngaiti Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Babati

## Chem Chem Association donates another bus to Ngaiti Sec School

THE Chem Chem conservation and tourism entity, operating within the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, has donated a new bus to aid students' transportation in Babati District, Manyara Region.

The bus, which was received by the District Commissioner, Lazaro Jacob Twange, will serve more than 120 students of Ngaiti Secondary School of Mdori, in Babati District, Manyara Region.

It was explained during the vehicle hand-over ceremony held at Vilima Vitatu village; that local students are usually forced to traverse through long and wide expanse of sun-scorched, wilderness, filled with wild animals on their daily treks to and from school.

"This is another indication that the Chem Chem Association continues to work closely with local communities here so that benefits arising from proper conservation of wildlife and natural resources are properly realized and shared equally," said the director

of Chem Chem Lodge, Nicolas Negri.

On her part, the Babati District Education Officer in Charge of Secondary Education, Paulina Mpare, said the bus was an important tool in ensuring quality education among students, teachers and parents.

"It easy for female students to fall into traps if they are forced to trek long distances to school and in the past we had cases of girls becoming pregnant due to their dependency on motorcycle riders for transport," she said.

According to the Education Officer, the bus will also reduce cases of students being late to class but she pointed out that the ultimate permanent solution is for the benefactors to start working with parents to establish hostels and other boarding facilities for children that attend school.

Imported straight from Japan, the Toyota Coaster vehicle, valued at over 170 million/- is the second such bus to

be bought by the philanthropic arm of Chem Chem, to help local students with movements to and from school.

The new equipment, an automatic transmited mini-bus is now set to replace the former School Bus, a now retired Nissan Civilian vehicle, which was commissioned in 2000 but after serving the route for 20 consecutive years, it had started to fail.

The Chem Chem Association has also been assisting the local communities in repairing classrooms, construction of teaching staff housing as well as donating more than 100 desks.

"We share this passion for responsible tourism with our guests, donors, local communities, especially through the Burunge Wildlife Management Area, family and friends so that in the future, to build an ever-stronger connection to the land and continue the meaningful work of protecting the environment and wildlife heritage," said the director.

By Special Correspondent

## 'Problems with education, gender bias, capital pulling women down'

A 'Women in Energy' webinar hosted by Africa Oil and Power (AOP) and the African Energy Chamber has identified education, gender bias and access to capital as key inhibitors to proportionate female representation within the oil and gas industry.

Held on Thursday, the conference served as part of the 'Women in Energy' series which centers on driving female participation in the global transition to clean energy future.

According to a recent study conducted by McKinsey, women make up just 15 percent of the world's oil and gas workforce; 17 percent of the power and utilities sector and 32 percent of the renewable energy workforce.

Participants discussed how women can help bridge the talent gap, break the glass ceiling and overcome obstacles to equal participation in oil and gas.

The panel comprised Selma Usiku, Head Exploration at Azinam; Khadijah A Ba, Executive Chairman, Der Mond Oil & Gas; Oluseun Solanke, Principal Reservoir Engineer, Oando Energy Resources and Mirelle Toulekima, Managing Director, MT Energy Resources.

In Africa and the Middle East, women make up just 9 percent of senior management positions in the energy sector, with gender diversity decreasing with seniority.

Women make up less than 8 percent of technical jobs in the oil and gas sector, and just 9 percent of management positions in the utility sector.

One of the primary inhibitors to active female participation within the industry was identified as access to education, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

In some cases, limited and unequal access to education has come as a relic of former government regimes that denied indigenous populations the opportunity to take ownership over natural resources and related employment.

Selma Usiku, Head Exploration at Azinam said: "In Namibia for instance, political history pre-independence was extremely difficult - the existing regime not only focused on racial segregation, but also the types of employment that were available to Namibians who were black."

Usiku added: "The apartheid government saw the education system as a major vehicle for the propagation of its beliefs, which created the first barrier for Namibians to participate in the economy's priority sectors. The legacy of apartheid persisted for a very long time. Going forward, it starts with

our people taking ownership of their natural resources."

Another solution to the discrepancy in education comes in the form of female and minority representation, coupled with active mentorship, for youth and students.

"Similar to issues with race, when people see people who are like them doing things, it can change their sense of their own capabilities. One of Oando's initiatives is to open mentorship programmes to schools, where we talk to young girls and offer one-on-one mentorship. We have to let them know that STEM is open to them," added Oluseun Solanke, Principal Reservoir Engineer, Oando Energy Resources.

Khadijah A Ba, Executive Chairman, Der Mond Oil & Gas said: "I had the opportunity to have strong mentors in each company that I went to. If you have the education, you need to practice it. If you have just the education, you won't be able to see what's on the ground because theory and practice are different."

Mentorship, on-the-ground job training and early career exposure were all identified as key success factors to women harnessing employment opportunities within the industry.



# REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - RFP

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP LOCAL AREA PRAWNS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES WITHIN RUFUJI DELTA, TANZANIA

#### 1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), is an International Non-Governmental Organization that deals with conservation of nature through a number of environmental management programmes. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the Planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF - Tanzania Country Office (TCO) is seeking a Tanzanian competent and qualified "Individual Consultant (s)" for undertaking the above assignment.

The WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) through Marine Programme is currently implementing a 5-year project titled "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa District in Tanzania" with funding from the Blue Action Fund (BAF). A competent and qualified Consultant is required for carrying out consultancy work to develop local area prawn fishery Management Strategy for prawn fishing communities within the Rufiji delta.

#### 2.0 Project Description

The project aims to improve management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park (MIMP) and associated buffer zones within the "Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Seascape", and has four work packages (WPs): The Mafia Island Marine Park (WP 1), Rufiji-Mafia-Kilwa Man & Biosphere Reserve (WP 2), Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs - WP 3), and Rufiji Delta Mangrove Forest Reserve (WP 4). This consultancy assignment is part of Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMA) work package. Small-scale fisheries in the project area are co-managed by communities through their local management bodies, commonly known as Beach Management Units (BMUs). In adjacent villages, BMUs are coordinated through CFMAs in their common fishing ground. The common priority fisheries in those areas are Prawn, Octopus and small pelagic. Community-led management systems in those areas include temporary closure of octopus reefs and licensing of migrant fishers in specific fishing villages for a specific period.

In this project, 8 CFMAs have been prioritized to review their general fisheries resource management plans developed from 2008-2011. In this phase, the project intends to develop a specific fishery management plan for each priority fishery in efforts to reverse stock decline and other management challenges.

#### 3.0 OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONSULTANCY:

To develop a local area Prawn Fishery Management Strategy in Rufiji Delta fishing communities through the framework of Collaborative Fisheries Management Areas (CFMAs)

#### 3.1. Specific objectives

- (i) Review and propose management plans and identify management measures to be incorporated in prawn fishery management strategy in the context of CFMAs;
- (ii) Determine the proper access control to the resource through minimum conditions of access and formalization of fishers and boat owners or any proposed approach by community for prawn fishery;
- (iii) Examine the feasibility of introducing community fishing rights through community-led management systems with minimal conflicts;
- (iv) Examine how restriction of fishing capacity to sustainable level can be undertaken in the framework of CFMA;
- (v) Propose the enforcement mechanisms through effective Community-led Monitoring Control and Surveillances (patrols) with priority given to those designed to prevent the most destructive fishing gear for prawn fishery;
- (vi) Propose the best approach to develop public-private-partnership for BMUs and CFMA coordination committee members to strengthen collaborative arrangements to adequately address regulation of prawn fishing activities and fish trade;
- (vii) Examine how to regulate post-harvest activities (as part of management intervention) with focus on local, domestic and export trade of prawn fishery and
- (viii) Propose how to improve research, legal and institutional framework from the CFMA framework to national levels

#### 4.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultancy will cover two districts namely Kibiti and Kilwa in 7 villages and 8 CFMAs. Majority of the work will be performed in Delta areas (Kibiti District).

#### 5.0 KEY DELIVERABLES

- (i) Inception report, including methodological approach, data collection procedures/tools and analysis.
- (ii) A draft local area prawn management strategy with CFMA framework
- (iii) Final Local area prawn management strategy with CFMA Framework with management and policy recommendations
- (iv) Simplified extract of the strategy in swahili version (max 15-20 pages) for local community
- (v) At least 20 high quality photo and 10 video clips taken during the field work.

#### 6.0 TIMELINE OF THE CONSULTANCY

The duration of this assignment is 75 days (2.5 months) inclusive of date of contract signing. The expected starting date/month is November 2020. The Consultant(s) will be responsible for overall management and production of the final report.

#### 7.0 PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT & RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- (i) PhD or MSC in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance, sciences, or any other related discipline.
- (ii) Experience in prawn fishery research, analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and production of high quality, analytical reports.
- (iii) Knowledgeable and aware of cultural sensitivities of coastal communities in the delta area;
- (iv) Evidence of similar assignment previously conducted by the Consultant.

#### 8.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Application from interested consultant(s) should include:

- (i) Letter of expression of interest (compulsory);
- (ii) Technical proposal including the survey design and methodology, data collection and analysis, activities and timeline (compulsory);
- (iii) Financial proposal for the Assignment (compulsory); and
- (iv) Detailed Curriculum Vitae describing the consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting prawn fishery research studies in previous assignment (compulsory).

#### 9.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants are required to submit their electronic copies to procurement department through the email address provided below The sealed hard copy application documents (technical proposal and financial proposal with title of the assignment) should be submitted at the WWF Tanzania Office, located Kiko Street, Mikocheni, Dar es Salaam through the following addresses:

9.1. Deadline for submission is 11am Friday, 16th October, 2020. Please, send only the electronic copies to the email address provided below;

Secretary: Procurement Committee  
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office  
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni  
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam, Tanzania  
Email: [tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org](mailto:tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org)  
•More information can be found in the following website links: [https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_offices/tanzania/](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/) ; [https://wwf.panda.org/jobs\\_wwf/](https://wwf.panda.org/jobs_wwf/)

9.2. Evaluation will be done according to WWF Procurement Guidelines and only successful applicant will be contacted.



## African cities ought to cut climate emissions to zero

**I**N 2018 eight cities from Accra to Dar es Salaam pledged to deliver their share of emissions cuts needed to meet global targets to limit climate change. Africa is sometimes better known for its vulnerability to climate change than its action on the problem - but a set of African cities intend to change that.

The United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (or UN-REDD Programme) is a collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), created in 2008.

The overall development goal of the programme is to reduce forest emissions and enhance carbon stocks in forests while contributing to national sustainable development. The UN-REDD programme supports nationally led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ implementation.

The Programme has expanded steadily since its establishment and now has over 60 official partner countries spanning Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America-Caribbean. In addition to the UN-REDD Programme, other initiatives assisting countries that are engaged in REDD+ include the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative, the Global Environment Facility, Australia's International Forest Carbon Initiative, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and the Green Climate Fund.

Uganda has become the first African country to submit results for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC).

REDD+ is a mechanism developed by the parties to the UNFCCC to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The results submission to the UNFCCC has paved the way for potential results-based payments to the country, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Results-based payments comprise the final REDD+ phase. It provides financial incentives to developing countries that prove they stopped deforestation during a certain period of time. This is done through rigorous UN-backed technical evaluations. Uganda claimed it reduced emissions by 8,070,694 tonnes of carbon dioxide for 2015-2017 in a document prepared by its Ministry of Water and Environment, the REDD+ Secretariat and National Forestry Authority.

One concern was that Uganda's forested area could have disappeared within the coming century, if deforestation was not reigned in. The country's forest cover had depleted to 8 per cent from 24 per cent in the 1990s, largely attributed to human encroachment, including for charcoal, timber and agriculture. The document submitted by the government will help Uganda receive funds through the Green Climate Fund's forest conservation scheme.

In 2017, Uganda presented its first forest reference emission level of historical average emissions from deforestation between 2000 and 2015 as required under measurement, reporting and verification for REDD+ activities.

The REDD+ strategy, launched in 2017, included developing plans and options for forest management to reduce carbon emissions and maintain valuable ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water supply, soil protection and wealth creation for sustainable livelihoods.

Uganda then decided to assess the country's performance in reducing emissions for 2015-17 and to further improve estimates of forest change and associated emission factors.

## We ought to launch call for action on waste in cities on World Habitat Day

**W**ORLD Habitat Day is marked on the first Monday of October each year, and is recognised by the United Nations to reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The day is also intended to remind the world that everyone has the power and the responsibility to shape the future of towns and cities. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the theme chosen for that year was "Shelter is My Right".

The United Nations General Assembly decided that this should be an annual event and the first Monday of October was chosen. The day is celebrated in many countries around the world and various activities are organised to examine the problems of rapid urbanisation and its impact on the environment and human poverty.

Annual themes for World Habitat Day have been diverse and have included "Shelter for the Homeless", "Our Neighbourhood", "Safer Cities", "Women in Urban Government", "Cities without Slums" and "Water and Sanitation for Cities".

UN Habitat makes plain the need to plan cities in order to avoid the chaotic development of urban sprawls and all the associated problems that are created as a result.

Cities after all are engines of growth. Many people from rural areas in the world long to move to cities in order to realise their dreams for a better life. Often this dream is not realised, but people continue to flock to cities for no other reason than a vague promise of a better future and prosperity.

successful succeed in getting jobs or starting their own businesses, which in turn creates more employment opportunities.

On the other hand, cities can also become a setting in which marginalisation, inequality and social exclusion can abound. Access to adequate housing is a prime factor in ensuring that this is avoided.

Another important factor is that as the world's climate continues to change, there is an ever-increasing risk of natural disasters. This risk is particularly significant in the Caribbean Region and Central America, where countries such as Haiti, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Bolivia have higher levels of poverty and where their cities are exceptionally vulnerable due to their population density and diversity.

High levels of population density, coupled with poor building techniques have given rise to shanty towns that have no proper infrastructure, no community organisation and no security of tenure. In the event of a disaster of any kind, a complete breakdown can result in a chaotic situation and enormous loss of life.

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award was launched by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in 1989. It is currently the most prestigious human settlements award in the world. Its aim is to acknowledge initiatives which have made outstanding contributions in various fields such as shelter provision, highlighting the plight of the homeless, leadership in post conflict reconstruction and developing and improving human settlements and the quality of urban life.

The award, a plaque engraved with the name of the winner and their achievement, is presented to the winners during the Global Observance of the World Habitat Day.

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By Megan Rowling

**C**OUNTRIES, cities and businesses are aiming for 'net zero' emissions - but what does that mean and why does it matter?

A U.N.-backed global campaign to slash climate-changing emissions has added new high-profile members to its ranks, including social media giant Facebook and Ford, the first U.S. car company to join.

The "Race to Zero", launched in June, brings together businesses, cities and other organisations that aim by around mid-century to cut their planet-heating emissions to net zero - meaning they produce no more emissions than they can offset through measures such as planting trees.

As New York's annual Climate Week started on Monday, the British government - host of the next U.N. climate summit - said 22 regions, 452 cities, 1,128 businesses, 549 universities and 45 major investors had now signed up for the "Race to Zero".

It may be the latest buzzword in the world of climate action but it's key to keeping us safe from harm, scientists say.

The U.N. climate science panel has said that man-made carbon dioxide emissions need to fall by about 45% by 2030, from 2010 levels, and reach "net zero" by mid-century to give the world a good chance of limiting warming to 1.5C and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change.

Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, nearly 200 countries said they would act to limit the rise in global average temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times and strive to keep it to a ceiling of 1.5C.

But the world has already heated up by about 1.1C and is currently on track for warming of at least 3C this century as emissions continue to rise.

Scientists say that would bring ever-worsening extreme weather and potentially catastrophic sea level rise, making some parts of the planet uninhabitable and fuelling hunger and migration.

That - and mounting public pressure - is why a growing number of countries, companies and others are promising to cut their planet-warming emissions to net zero by 2050 or before.

Achieving net zero emissions isn't the same as eliminating all emissions. It means ensuring any human-produced carbon dioxide or other climate-changing emissions that can't be done away with are removed from the atmosphere some other way.

This can be done naturally, such as by restoring forests that suck CO2 out of the air. Or it can be done using technology that can capture and store emissions from power plants and factories or directly pull CO2 from the atmosphere.

## Climate primer: Why is practically everyone talking about 'net zero'?



Planting more trees worldwide is a popular way to absorb and store more carbon, but technologies that do the same job are still expensive and have yet to be deployed on a large-scale.

Scientists say carbon "removals", in any form, cannot substitute for cutting planet-heating emissions as fast as possible.

According to the World Resources Institute (WRI), a Washington-based think-tank, 19 countries and the European Union have adopted a net zero target, with deadlines ranging from 2030 to 2050.

The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan has already achieved its 2030 goal, though measures such as adopting renewable energy, promoting electric cars and restoring or planting forests.

Some countries, including Denmark, France, New Zealand and Britain, have enshrined their targets in law. Others are less binding.

More than 100 additional nations are considering putting in place net-zero targets, WRI says - but the fraction of global emissions covered by some form of nationally adopted net-zero targets still hovers around 10%.

Several hundred cities and more than 1,000 companies also have committed

to cut their emissions to net zero in the coming decades.

WRI and the 2050 Pathways Platform - which work with governments and others on their climate commitments - say cutting emissions within national boundaries should be the first priority, with efforts to offset what remains only considered after that.

Right now, countries vary in whether their net zero targets can include offsetting emissions internationally, such as by paying to protect forests in the Amazon.

To be credible, net-zero targets should cover all greenhouse gases, including methane, and all economic sectors, as well as international aviation and shipping, WRI says.

Those trying to achieve net zero emissions should do so by 2050 or earlier, with the highest-emitting countries doing the most, fastest.

Plans also need to be reached in consultation with those they will affect and clearly communicated, WRI said. When it comes to companies, net zero targets vary widely in terms of which parts of supply chains - and sources of emissions - they cover, and are difficult to compare, says the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), which has released guidelines to help

remedy that.

U.N. climate chief Patricia Espinosa says companies, cities and others that join the "Race to Zero" campaign will be held to their promises, although it is unclear how that will be done.

She and other officials have called for governments to stick to an international deadline for submitting stronger climate action plans by the end of 2020.

But she has also admitted that less than half are likely to do so, as the coronavirus pandemic distracts politicians and delays U.N. climate talks.

Getting net zero targets into national plans for this decade and into day-to-day decision making is crucial, according to WRI researcher Kelly Levin, to avoid investments going into high-carbon technologies or infrastructure.

How can net-zero targets be translate into short-term practical tools? One way is by using carbon budgets, as in Britain, which place a cap on the total amount of greenhouse gases the country can emit over a five-year period, Levin said.

Britain, however, has yet to set updated carbon budgets - which began in 2008 - since adopting its net zero goal last year.



# Sisal production revamping creates employment opportunities for locals

BY GERALD KITABU

**T**ARI's centre of excellence for research, production and dissemination of improved Sisal seedlings in Tanga (TARI-Mlingano centre) has created more than 160 manual labour employment opportunities on daily basis following the new launched project of revamping the crop.

The centre has engaged the locals as labour force from different districts and around the centre around Tanga region to collect, categorize and plant the new I1648 sisal improved seedlings in the new sisal farms which are being extended at the centre.

TARI-Mlingano centre Director Dr Catherine Senkoro said the centre is now paying the work force, mostly women and the youth more than 1.2m/- on daily basis. As the extension work of sisal farms continues, we expect to employ more women and youth to fast track this work, said Dr Senkoro in an interview with The Guardian.

"We will continue employing some more people around this areas because we want to achieve our goal by reaching 120,000 tonnes of sisal by 2025, she added.

So far, the centre has already planted more than 2.4 million improved seedlings on the area covering more than 30 hectares of land. "These new employment opportunities are a result of the bold decision of our President John Pombe Magufuli who decided to throw his weight on the crop. Through him, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed TARI-Mlingano centre start revamping the crop so that the improved seedlings could be made available to Tanzanians smallholder farmers who wish to move from subsistence to commercial farming," she said.

We are expecting to absorb more labor force from other regions as well



Director General for the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo and TARI-Mlingano centre Director Dr Catherine Senkoro speak to the locals coming from different areas in Tanga currently working in the new revamped sisal farm. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

into the sisal farms because this process of production of the sisal seedlings and dissemination to the small holder farmers across the country is continuous, she added.

She said currently there is greater awareness among smallholder farmers and other stakeholders as some of them have started reviving their abandoned farms after realizing that the sisal crop has many advantages and do not need much work like other crops.

MwajumaJuma Nyangasa, one of women who have secured employment in the farms praised the govern-

ment for creating employment opportunities for the women and the youth saying many have been able to diversify their economy. "Before this project it was hard to secure employment but now we are able to earn income and we can afford to take our children to school.

Mary Samweli Msanga, also a worker in the sisal farms thanked the government for revamping the crop saying the government should now encourage and revive more processing industries so that many people in the region can secure employment in other areas

like in the value chain.

"We have gained enough experience, knowledge and skills. We are earning income and some have even ventured into other petty trade. We expect more income as we have heard that the sisal farms are being extended to 70,000 hectares," she said.

In Tanzania sisal is one of the oldest commercial cash crops still in survival. Production began in the late 19th century by the colonialists particularly the German East Africa Company.

The crop was continually produced during the German administration and

the British administration and was the colony's largest export highly prized for use in cordage and carpets worldwide. At the time of independence in 1961, Tanzania was the largest exporter of Sisal in the world and the industry employed over one million farmers and factory workers.

Sisal production in the country peaked in 1964 with around 250,000 tonnes in production from regions from all over the country such as Tanga, Morogoro, Arusha Mwanza and Shinyanga

However, later on, the crop's production began to decline due to the drop in world prices as synthetic nylon substitutes became more popular.

Government efforts to revamp the crop

On 1st of June 2020, the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa visited TARI-Mlingano in Tanga and directed the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI to revamp the crop.

Director General for the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo explained that the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said that TARI should work with other partners and stakeholders specifically Tanga region, district councils to produce more seedlings and disseminate them to the farmers.

"In recent years, production of sisal crop has dropped to around 36,000 agave and fiber tonnes only per year. This production is lower compared to the past. We must work hard to hike production and tap large market requirement of 500 000 agave and fiber tonnes," he said.

According to the Prime Minister Majaliwa, the government is in the process of revoking title deeds of all abandoned plantations and farms that belong to the ghost investors. There are some people who own huge chunks of land but have never developed that land. This land will be analyzed and distributed to smallholder farmers who have interest in growing the crop.

"The government plan has attract-

ed many farmers to engage in the sisal farming. We must increase production so that many farmers can generate income and recapture the world market, he said

Therefore, TARI's Sisal production road map aimed at producing five millions of hybrid I1648 (improved varieties) for small holder farmers not only in Tanga region but also to be disseminated across the country.

Currently TARI-Mlingano which is the centre of excellence for Sisal research and production has already cultivated and planted more than 30,000 hectares of sisal seeds," he said.

I have directed that the work of sisal farms extension and planting the improved sisal seeds should continue because our target is to extend the farms from the current 30.2 hectares to 70,000 hectors. This means that we expect to reach five millions seedlings by June 2021,

I have witnessed myself how these women and youth employees are working hard. I actually commend the centre' director Dr Catherine Senkoro and her team. So far, I have visited and inspected all the farms, it is a good work. The government will continue to supporting the centre in terms of facilities and other agricultural infrastructures such as tractors.

To ensure effective and efficient production of these improved seedlings, TARI has put in place plan to provide training all small holder farmers and other stakeholders in the value chain on good agricultural practices.

This work of revamping the sisal crop will collaboratively be conducted by TARI, Tanzania Sisal Board and the private sector each playing its role. We are inviting the private sector to open up processing industries. The government would like to see more involvement of the private sector in order to realise President John Pombe Magufuli's vision of industrial economy.

YOLA, NIGERIA

# The key to peace in Lake Chad just water, not military action

**L**ake Chad is an extremely shallow water body in the Sahel. It was once the world's sixth largest inland water body with an open water area of 25,000 km2 in the 1960s, it shrunk dramatically at the beginning of the 1970s and reduced to less than 2,000 km2 during the 1980s, decreasing by more than 90% its area. It is one of the largest lakes in Africa. It is an endorheic lake - meaning that it doesn't drain towards the ocean.

Its origin is unknown but it is believed to be a remnant of a former inland sea. It doesn't drain into the ocean but it has shrunk by over 90% since the 1960s due to climate change, an increase in the population and unplanned irrigation. Given the rate at which the lake is disappearing, in less than a decade it may cease to be.

The lake is central to regional stability. To achieve peace, countries should focus on reviving the water body rather than on military activities

Four countries share borders within the water body - Nigeria, Chad, Niger and Cameroon - and have formed a political union, the Lake Chad Basin Countries. Other countries indirectly connected to the lake are Algeria, Libya, Central African Republic and Sudan. Over 30 million people live around the lake.

For them, it's a source of freshwater for drinking, sanitation and irrigation. It supports the livelihoods of farmers, pastoralists, hunters and fishermen.

The Lake Chad region, however, is one of the most unstable in the world. According to the 2020 Global Terrorism Index report, countries of the region are among the 10 least peaceful countries in Africa.

Our research focused on how the drying of this important water body contributes to the instability in the region.

We collected data from interviews with respondents from Lac Region



Fishing boats, Lake Chad. File photo

in Chad, Far North Region in Cameroon, Diffa Region in Niger Republic and the North East geopolitical zone in Nigeria. These regions of the Lake Chad Basin Commission countries compose the Chad Basin Region. We also collected data from news reports.

The study found that loss of livelihoods has promoted criminality, easy recruitment by terrorist groups, and migration to urban centres. This has also led to violence and crime in cities and towns. Management of the shrinking lake has caused conflicts among the states that depend on it and this has made it more difficult for them to collectively fight insecurity in the

region. The lake is central to regional stability. To achieve peace, countries should focus on reviving the water body rather than on military activities.

### Impact on livelihoods

The immediate impact of the drying of Lake Chad is loss of livelihoods.

One of the respondents said in an interview that:

Many years back, this water used to be what we depend on for farming, fishing and herding. Since the water has dried up, sustaining our livelihoods has become so hard. We can hardly farm now and we record regular death of our livestock because of

lack of fodder and water to fatten them. Because of this, most people have abandoned farming, fishing and livestock rearing because they are no longer sustainable in this area.

Loss of the traditional means of livelihood leads to widespread poverty and food insecurity. A 2017 report estimated there were about 10.7 million inhabitants of Lake Chad Region in need of humanitarian services.

### Impact on regional stability

The shrinking of the lake contributes to regional instability in four ways. First, some of the region's people have taken to criminal activities for survival. One of the major criminal activi-

ties in the area is cattle rustling.

Reports have pointed to rising incidence of cattle rustling in the region. It's easy to move cattle over the country borders in the area to evade arrest. Contemporary rustling has been associated with Boko Haram who resort to cattle rustling as additional means of raising fund in support of their operations. Boko Haram has become a serious security problem in the Lake Chad region.

Most of the response to the threat of the group has been military. For example, from 2009 to 2018, Nigeria's defence budget totalled nearly \$21 billion with a substantial part going towards the fight against Boko Haram.

Further, Boko Haram has capitalised on the loss of livelihoods and economic woes to recruit people into its ranks. It either appeals to the poor ideologically or directly uses economic incentives.

Interviews with respondents also revealed that the drying out of the lake has intensified long-distance migration of people and livestock to cities and towns of the basin's countries.

The result has been competition for resources, especially farmer-pastoralist conflict. Between 2016 and 2019, almost 4,000 people died in Nigeria as a result of farmer-pastoralist conflicts.

As the lake has shrunk, the water has shifted towards Chad and Cameroon while the Nigerian and Nigerian sides have dried up. This forces people to cross national borders to reach the shoreline. Respect for boundaries disappears.

A complex web of social, economic, environmental, and political issues spills into interstate conflicts. This conflict relationship caused by access to and management of the lake has seriously affected the collective effort of the region's states to fight Boko Haram.

### Way ahead

The Lake Chad Basin Commission has identified the need to replenish the water body. There was a plan to build a dam and canals to pump water from the Congo River to the Chari River, Central African Republic and then on to Lake Chad.

It was first mooted in 1982 by the Italian engineering company Bonifica Spa, and discussed at the International Conference on Lake Chad in Abuja in 2018. Major challenges to this plan include funding, resistance from environmental campaigners and peaceful conditions in which to carry it out.

Unfortunately, this scheme is yet to see the light of the day. The commission's member states lack the commitment required to take action, probably due to the conflict relationship between the other Lake Chad countries and Nigeria.

Yet if they want stability in the region, the key is to replenish the lake.

Agencies



# Why babies are especially resilient against Covid-19

By Mariana Lenharo

Babies make up a tiny percentage of all diagnosed cases of Covid-19. In the United States, where 1.2 per cent of the population are children under one year of age, they account for only 0.27 per cent of the positive tests, according to a US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report.

It's not clear if babies are getting infected at a lower rate compared with other age groups or if they are just not being tested as much. But what is evident is that the ones diagnosed have, in general, significantly milder illness compared with adults.

Scientists are intensely investigating the reason behind babies' apparent resilience to the pandemic. Getting to the bottom of that mystery could inspire the development of new treatments, potentially benefiting people of all ages.

What's known so far about the outcomes of babies infected with SARS-CoV-2 comes from reports such as the one published in last month's edition of *The Journal of Pediatrics* by physicians at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The study, which included 18 previously healthy children under 90 days old who tested positive for Covid-19, showed that none had severe symptoms. Nasal congestion was seen in 28 per cent, cough in 44 per cent, and vomiting or diarrhoea in 22 per cent.

The study sample is very small (again, the number of infants who test positive is a low figure overall), but the researchers say that the early findings provide some potentially important insights.

"It's notable that a large percentage of them (infants) had fever as maybe even the only symptom," says lead author Leena B. Mithal, MD, a paediatric infectious diseases expert from Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and assistant professor at Chicago's Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

"None of the babies required any oxygen or any respiratory support at all," she notes, adding: "This is a small series, but what we saw during that period has remained true moving forward in the cases of previously healthy infants."

Scientists have a few theories that



could help explain why the novel coronavirus is mostly harmless to healthy babies. One of them has to do with the receptor that SARS-CoV-2 uses to enter human cells.

The expression of this receptor, called ACE2, varies with age and is less present in babies and children compared with adults. The hypothesis is that, in the youngest people, the virus finds fewer keyholes that it can unlock to get inside the cells and replicate.

"An additional hypothesis proposed for the mild infection in young children is their strong ability to mount primary immune responses mediated by T-cells," says paediatrician Petter Brodin, MD, PhD, a researcher at the department of women's and children's health at Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

T-cells, along with antibodies, are part of our adaptive immune system, whose function is to target pathogens (disease-causing organisms) like SARS-CoV-2. The fact that babies have a large collection or range of naive T-cells, which are able to

recognise new invaders and develop into mature killer cells, is probably important to explain their effective response to the virus, Brodin says.

The researcher also notes that, at least until puberty, children's immune systems are calibrated differently from those of adults - and this could protect them from the sequence of events that usually leads to severe disease.

These include a poor initial response by interferons (proteins that act as "first responders" against viruses), a poor response of the adaptive immune system with T-cell exhaustion, and hyperinflammation driven by massive tissue damage.

Another theory is that young children, including infants, might have more recent exposure to common cold coronaviruses, which could potentially adapt or adjust their immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection.

"Although adults have likely been exposed to those coronaviruses as well, it's common to get many colds in the first decade of life and there

may be some cross-protection," says Mithal.

It's not clear, though, if babies are currently as exposed to these other coronaviruses as they normally would be, given the social isolation measures in place.

Although these theories are yet to be proven, at this stage of the pandemic there are enough epidemiological data to confidently state that infants are in general protected from severe illness.

It is so much so that the American Academy of Pediatrics has updated its recommendations regarding newborns and mothers with symptomatic Covid-19 at the time of delivery.

AAP is yet to recommend universally separating babies from Covid-19-positive mothers, as long as the mothers are well enough to take care of the babies and take the necessary precautions to ease transmission.

"Over time, it seems that babies who went home with mothers infected with SARS-CoV-2 at the time

of delivery did not do significantly differently or have worse outcomes than babies who were separated from their mothers in the initial postpartum period," says Mithal.

"This speaks to the fact that, of these babies at risk of exposure and infection in the household, only a small subset may have symptomatic infection and further problems," adds the Lurie Children's expert.

This doesn't mean that babies cannot get severe symptoms. Alvaro Coronado Munoz, MD, a doctor specialised in paediatric critical care and an assistant professor at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth in Houston, Texas, learned that lesson when he and his colleagues treated a three-week-old boy.

The boy was admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit with low blood pressure, tachycardia (a common, treatable condition that causes rapid heartbeat), rapid breathing and hypothermia (a dangerous drop in body temperature below 35C; normal body temperature is around 37C. It's a medical emergency). He had presented nasal congestion for two days and had an X-ray consistent with Covid-19 infection. A nasal swab confirmed the diagnosis.

"It was one of the first cases reported in the US of critical care admission of a paediatric patient with Covid-19. It was very early in the pandemic and there was all this information regarding the fact that paediatric patients were less affected, so it was a little bit of a surprise," says Munoz.

The boy had to receive mechanical ventilation for five days, and survived after intensive care. "This case was very important to recognise that an infant can become as sick as adult patients. So, don't just assume that it's something else," warns Munoz.

Observing how children and infants respond to the coronavirus may lead to new therapies for Covid-19. One of the treatment strategies being explored is how to combat a harmful type of inflammation sometimes seen in the acute phase of the infection.

"We hope to learn from ongoing

studies that certain inflammatory pathways are differently activated in children with mild infection compared to adults with severe disease. Maybe only then can we develop more targeted immunomodulating therapy that we can apply to those with more severe illness, including adults," says Mithal.

Another avenue of research is looking at the strong initial interferon response, which is probably critical for early antiviral defence and is a system that the SARS-CoV-2 directly interferes with, according to Brodin.

"This is most likely a mechanism that protects babies and children and it is possible that triggering the same response in adults could help protect them as well.

Although children in general are at a lower risk of Covid-19 complications, one issue that has been setting babies apart from older children is the incidence of the multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), a recently identified condition associated with the novel coronavirus.

Although rare, this is a serious and potentially fatal condition that appears after the Covid-19 infection in which different parts of the body become inflamed. So far, it has been identified mainly in older children, with a large percentage of cases concentrated in five-to-nine-year-olds, according to CDC data.

"There is probably something about the infants' immune system that may not predispose them to post-infectious inflammatory conditions like these," says Mithal.

Experts are still trying to figure out why some children are affected and not others, and there are reports of babies with the syndrome. But, once again, it seems that infants' immune systems are especially equipped to dodge the novel coronavirus' threats.

• **A piece originally published in *Elemental*, a Medium publication about health and wellness. Mariana Lenharo is a science and health journalist with a special interest in evidence-based medicine and epidemics.**

By David Liira

"The elastic band of sleep deprivation can stretch only so far before it snaps" - so warns Matthew Walker, PhD.

Early morning routines have taken the modern-day world by storm. Whether it's James Corden joining Mark Wahlberg's '4:00 am workout club', or Forbes documenting another CEO powerhouse's 5:00 am routine, the internet is telling us to wake up earlier.

It has gone so far - that an early rise is synonymous with success, and sleeping in means that you are a lazy and unmotivated member of society.

In reality, what's far more important than an early wakeup is sleep quality and quantity. If you're a morning person that can fall asleep by 10:00 pm, then an 8-hour sleep is within your wheelhouse.

According to Matthew Walker, sleep expert and author of *Why We Sleep*, over 30 per cent of the world's population cannot achieve this feat. That's 2.3 billion people who shouldn't be waking up with the birds.

Before getting into the science of the 'Night Owl', here are some alarming facts about sleep deprivation - proving that a full night of sleep is much more productive than an early rise.

One: Routinely sleeping less than six or seven hours a night demolishes your immune system, more than doubling your risk of cancer.

Two: Moderate sleep loss for a week disrupts blood sugars levels so profoundly that one would be classified as pre-diabetic.

Three: Vehicular accidents by drowsy driving exceed those caused by alcohol and drugs combined.

All this information has been cited in *Why We Sleep*, backed by rigorous, peer-reviewed research.

You may have heard of 'circadian rhythm'. It's your biological wake and sleep clock that governs everything

## We must stop the cultural glorification of sleep deprivation



from eating and drinking cues, core body temperature, metabolic rate, and the release of various hormones.

While it's a fact that everyone has a slightly different cycle, no one individual can influence this internal timer - well, unless you do some travelling. Whether you listen to the cues or not, your rhythm will continue to cycle without fail, like a preprogrammed metronome.

We are all at mercy to our biological clocks. There are two distinct groups within the circadian world: the morning lark (preferring to sleep early and wake up early) and the evening owl (naturally inclined to do the exact opposite).

Here is Matthew Walker: "An

adult's 'larkness' or 'owlness', also known as their chronotype, is strongly determined by genetics. The unfortunate truth about owls is that they are bound by a delayed sleep schedule through unavoidable DNA hard wiring." It is not their fault, but rather their genetic fate.

**Surely you can just 'grind it out', right?**

Owing to the complexity of circadian rhythm, a night owl will find great difficulty in going 'online' in the early morning as the brain remains in a sleep state.

The prefrontal cortex, responsible for executive functioning, will stay offline in the early hours when insufficient sleep has occurred. If a night

owl chooses to push through, he or she will be grasping for productivity when the internal machinery is operating well below capacity.

If you fall asleep at midnight and get up at 5:00 am for work, you'd be lopping off at least two hours of precious sleep. In fact, you will lose between 60 per cent and 90 per cent of all your REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, even though you are only losing about one-quarter of your total sleep time.

REM is the fifth and final stage of sleep. It's when memory integration, innovative insights and problem-solving are made possible. Additionally, it's critical for consolidating facts from the day prior, leaving room for a new

wave of information. It secures the mind map of the day, so to speak.

REM sleep is one of the reasons humans are far more advanced than animals. It is described as a 'super emotional brain gift', leading to cognitive creativity, emotional intelligence and, thus, social complexity.

Let this be heard loud and clear: waking up early is counterproductive for night owls. Not only are you physically fatigued owing to sleep deprivation but also you'll be missing out on the creativity and innovation that is necessary to trigger success.

From a clinical standpoint, the TimeSignature test is a reliable approach for predicting one's physiological clock. It involves two blood tests, suitably but flexibly spaced in time, that accurately determine where one's circadian rhythm sits.

It may be even simpler than that, however. Take a moment and reflect on the list (of eight statements) below, carefully curated by sleep, etc.

You'll happily start watching a film after 9 pm; you do your best work at night; you're happy to have your dinner after 8 pm; you had much rather have a night in the pub than a morning yoga class; you often snooze your alarm; you drink coffee at any time; you must set multiple alarms; it annoys you when shops close - even if it's at 10 pm.

If these statements ring a bell, it may be all the evidence you need to join the night owl club.

**Stop glorifying the early**

**morning rise**

It's time to end the association of sleeping in with laziness. Over 30 per cent of people are desperately in need of more shut-eye, but the constraints of work culture starve them of this necessity.

The reality is that we're all on a journey to increased productivity, fulfilment and, ultimately, happiness. Everyone's path looks different, but that does not mean that an eight-hour sleep should be a luxury reserved for the genetically fortunate.

For all of you evening people out there, sleep in for goodness sake. It's not only essential for your present-day productivity but it may also be a deciding factor in your future health.

For the rest of us, it's time to make room for the night owls of the world. Creating flexible work schedules is key for adapting to all chronotypes, and not just one in its extreme.

If the early morning chore is your cup of tea, then keep at it! Just know that there's a community out there that was never built to see the sunrise - and that's all right.

• **A Medium publication analysis. David Liira is a kinesiologist who writes on health and the human condition. A kinesiologist, also known as an exercise physiologist and performing similar duties to a physical therapist, studies the mechanics and anatomy of the human body and uses scientific approaches to rehabilitate, prevent and manage disorders that impede bodily movement.**



## EA court rejects case filed against Uganda Attorney General linked to amending of Act

By Guardian Reporter

THE First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice has dismissed a case filed by Male Mabirizi against the Attorney General of Uganda challenging the government over the decision of the Supreme Court of Uganda that upheld the enactment of Constitutional (Amendment) Act No. 2 of 2018.

He contested the legality of a host of actions, directives and decisions of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of the government of Uganda for their role in the conceptualization, processing and validation of Uganda's Constitutional (Amendment) Act of 2018.

Both parties were present in Court to receive the judgement that is The Respondent the Uganda Attorney General, William Byaruhanga accompanied by Francis Atoke, Solicitor General and other Counsels, as well as the Applicant Male Mabirizi appearing in person.

The EACJ found no Treaty violation by the Supreme Court on account of judicial ethics or in terms of its judicial process and result, finally, the Reference was dismissed with costs to the Respondent.

The East African Court of Justice held that the process leading up to the enactment of the Constitutional Amendment was time barred having fallen prey to the two-month time limit prescribed in Article 30(2) of the Treaty.

Article 30(2) of the Treaty provides that: The proceedings provided for in this Article shall be instituted within two months of the enactment, publication, directive, decision or action complained of, or in the absence thereof, of the day in which it came to the knowledge of the complainant, as the case may be.

The Court further found that the impugned decision was not res judicata and that it had jurisdiction to interrogate the matter.

In addition, that it is clothed with exclusive jurisdiction over the interpretation of the Treaty, the notion that the Applicant could have (but did not) raise the matters in contention in the Reference before the domestic courts in Uganda is untenable.

On December 20th 2017, the Uganda Constitutional (Amendment) Bill No. 2 of 2017 was passed by the Parliament of Uganda and was assented to by the Ugandan President December 27th 2017.

The Applicant (Mabirizi) thereupon filed Constitutional Petition No. 49 of 2017 in the Constitutional Court of Uganda challenging the enactment of the resultant law, the Constitutional (Amendment) Act of 2018.

Dissatisfied with the judgment of the Constitutional Court in that petition, he lodged Constitutional Appeal No. 2 of 2018 in the Supreme Court of Uganda.

On April 18th 2019, the Supreme Court rendered its judgment in the said constitutional appeal, whereupon the Applicant lodged the present Reference in this Court.

Judgment was delivered via Video Conference by Justices of the First Instance Division, Justice Monica Mugenyi (Principal Judge), Dr Charles Nyawello and Charles Nyachae.

EACJ is one of the organs of the East African Community established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

Established in November 2001, the Court's major responsibility is to ensure the adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance with the EAC Treaty.

Arusha is the temporary seat of the Court until the Summit determines its permanent seat. The Court's sub-registries are located in the respective National Courts in the Partner States.

## SADC inaugurates 2021 media awards competition

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER



THE Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) has announced the launch of the 2021 SADC Media Awards competition.

The completion will be in four categories namely, photo, print, television and radio journalism. The awards are open to journalists from the SADC member states.

The first prize winners will receive their prizes and certificates on the margins of the 41st SADC summit of heads of state and government.

The SADC Media Awards were established in 1996 to recognise best media work in disseminating information on SADC to support the process of regional co-operation and integration in the region.

The first prize winner in each category receives US \$ 2,500 and the runner-up receives US \$ 1000.

Prize winners of the 2020 SADC Media Awards are Prosper Ndllovu from the Republic of Zimbabwe - Print Journalism category, Godfrey Mpushe from the Republic of Botswana - Photo Journalism category, Aristides Afonso Kito Jorge from the Republic of Angola - Radio Journalism category and Alick Ponje from the Republic of Malawi - Television Journalism category.

The runners-up of the 2020 Media Awards were, Print - Bento Venancio Cuna from the Republic of Mozambique, Radio - Mosotho Stone from the Republic of South Africa, Television - Pennipher Vida Sikainda-Nyirenda from Zambia and Photo - Santos Makuntima Pedro from the Republic of Angola.

The Secretariat advises interested journalists to obtain more information and entry forms from the SADC National Media Coordinators (SNMCs) in their Member States or SADC Website on this link ([www.sadc.int](http://www.sadc.int)).

SADC is a Regional Economic Community comprising 16 member states including Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Established in 1992, SADC is committed to Regional Integration and poverty eradication within Southern Africa through economic development and ensuring peace and security.

## Zimbabwe parks authorities blame bacterial disease for elephant deaths



HARARE

ZIMBABWE parks authority officials say they suspect a bacterial disease called hemorrhagic septicemia is behind the recent deaths of at least 34 elephants in the northwestern part of the country.

The elephant deaths, which began in late August, come soon after hundreds of elephants died in neighbouring Botswana in mysterious circumstances. Authorities subsequently blamed the deaths on toxins produced by another type of bacterium.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Director-General Fulton Mangwanya said Tuesday they have discovered 34 dead elephants, but suspect more may be found. The elephants were found lying on their stomachs,

suggesting a sudden death.

Mangwanya said the dead elephants were discovered in an area between the Hwange National Park and Victoria Falls in west-central Zimbabwe, suggesting to him the outbreak has been isolated.

Mangwanya said postmortems on some of the elephants showed inflamed livers and other organs. Samples have been sent to the UK and South Africa to confirm the type of disease.

Experts say that Zimbabwe's current elephant population could be close to 90,000. Elephants in Botswana and parts of Zimbabwe are at historically high levels – roughly half of the continent's 400,000 elephants, according to estimates – but elsewhere on the continent, especially in forested areas, many populations are severely depleted, researchers say.

## Global tobacco industry sales still dominated by cigarette products

LILONGWE

WITH 85 percent of the investment in tobacco companies coming from large institutional investors such as banks and pension funds, accelerated transformation will likely come from greater financial market pressure on company management.

This has been revealed by Derek Yach, President of the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World during a virtual press conference to announce the publication of the first-of-its-kind Tobacco Transformation Index.

The Tobacco Transformation Index will be providing comprehensive metrics and insights into how the world's 15 largest tobacco companies are deploying (or not deploying) their capital and other resources in pursuit of such ESG goals as reducing tobacco

harm, lowering health risks and mitigating the world's smoking burden.

Made possible with funding from the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World, the Tobacco Transformation Index finds that most of the 15 largest tobacco companies are not making substantive progress in phasing out cigarettes and other high-risk tobacco products and transitioning smokers to reduced-risk alternatives.

A small group of companies have made public commitments to harm reduction and backed them with significant investments.

A majority of companies have made no such commitment to tobacco harm reduction. With 1.3 billion tobacco users in the world, of which 8 million die annually from tobacco-related diseases, the stakes for global health are high.

Adult cessation and tobacco harm reduction could reduce deaths within the next two decades.

The Tobacco Transformation Index is the first index to rank the world's largest 15 tobacco companies (accounting for nearly 90 percent of global cigarette volume) on their relative performance, commitment, and transparency to deliver material progress in supporting tobacco harm reduction.

The 2020 Index assesses tobacco companies' activities from 2017-2019 related to: strategy and management, product sales, capital allocation, product offer, marketing, and lobbying and advocacy.

The 2020 Tobacco Transformation Index ranks Swedish Match, which divested its cigarette business in 1999, in first position; Phillip Morris International second and British American

Tobacco third.

Others in order of their ranks are Altria; Imperial Brands; Japan Tobacco; KT&G; ITC Ltd; Swisher International; Tobacco Authority of Thailand; Vietnam National Tobacco; Gudang Garam; Djarum; Eastern Co. and China National Tobacco Corp.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World President, Dr. Derek Yach said: "Inspired by the success that indexes focusing on other sectors have demonstrated, the goal of the Tobacco Transformation Index is to stimulate external pressure and the industry competition needed to take combustion out of the cigarette market, accelerate change, and lower the unnecessary disease, death, and misery it causes so many people.

"Society and large institutional investors such as banks and pension

funds, which represent 85 percent of investment in publicly traded tobacco companies, have the leverage to push tobacco company management to drive measures that greatly improve health."

In 2019, 13 of the 15 tobacco companies in the Index generated at least 95% of net sales value through high-risk tobacco products including cigarettes.

In 2019, Swedish Match's sales of reduced-risk products accounted for 44 percent of its net sales, followed by Phillip Morris International at 19 percent, and British American Tobacco and KT&G at 5 percent each.

Over the period of 2017-2019, eight of the 15 companies allocated 10% or less of research & development and capital investment expenditures to reduced-risk versus high-risk products.

During the Index's review period of

2017-2019, several companies, including British American Tobacco, Japan Tobacco, Phillip Morris International, and KT&G Corp, made acquisitions of primarily cigarette businesses.

These acquisitions were frequently focused on low-medium income countries (LMICs), where smoking rates are highest.

Among the six companies who made public commitments to harm reduction, between 30 percent and 55 percent of their marketing budgets were still devoted to high-risk products including cigarettes.

"The tobacco companies are still spending a significant amount of their marketing budgets on high-risk products and, while a handful have increased their focus on youth access prevention, the impact of these policies is still unclear," said Yach.



# 'Disease tolerance' could open door to revolutionary Covid-19 treatment

By Markham Heid

One of the tragic ironies of disease-causing infections is that, in many cases, it's not the offending virus or bacterium that kills. At least not directly. Rather, it is the immune system's response to a pathogen - or, more accurately, its over-response - that ultimately causes internal destruction and death.

The novel coronavirus seems to play by these rules. One of the defining features of life-threatening and life-ending Covid-19 disease is the now-infamous "cytokine storm".

Simply put, this is a surge of inflammation-summoning molecules that, in an attempt to eradicate the infection, ends up mutilating the tissues of the lungs, heart, kidneys or other organs. Like burning down a house to rid it of rats, the immune system's remedy can be worse than the threat.

So far, SARS-CoV-2 has sickened more than 30 million people worldwide. Its death toll has exceeded 1 million. But a large percentage of those infected - by most estimates, somewhere around 40 per cent to 45 per cent of carriers - seem to endure the virus without symptoms or lingering effects.

It's often assumed that these people possess immune systems that are more adept at killing or clearing the germ. But that doesn't seem to be the whole story.

Studies on people with Covid-19 have found that viral load, or the amount of virus detectable in the body, usually peaks during the first week of symptoms and steadily declines thereafter, regardless of whether a person quickly recovers or grows critically ill.

There also doesn't seem to be a correlation between maximum viral load and disease severity; asymptomatic carriers appear to be walking around with just as much of the virus in their body as sick carriers.

These sorts of findings have prompted some researchers to ask whether attempts to help the immune system attack and drive out the novel coronavirus are always the best approach to managing the disease.

"People normally try to explain asymptomatic carriers as their immune systems must be better at destroying



the virus or preventing it from getting down into the lungs," says Janelle Ayres, PhD, a professor and principal investigator at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California.

"But an alternative or complementary way to think about them is that maybe they're better at tolerating the disease," she adds.

Ayres is a pioneering researcher in an emerging field known as "disease tolerance", which refers to all of the body's methods of killing and expunging a threat, disease tolerance describes a host's ability to put up with - or even accommodate - an intruder.

"While killing a pathogen is important, clearly there are examples where these mechanisms can't fully explain variations in disease severity," Ayres says.

She notes that any time there are huge disparities in patient outcomes despite comparable infection exposures, which seems to be the case for SARS-CoV-2, disease tolerance mechanisms are likely at play.

Ayres and others in her field believe that a deeper

understanding of these mechanisms could open up new avenues of treatment - and not just for Covid-19.

"Our traditional approach to infectious diseases reflects a general mentality that humankind has whenever there's a problem, which is that we have to annihilate it," she says, adding: "But there are other ways to deal with a pathogen, and that includes cooperating with it."

## A life-saving compromise

Tuberculosis is an ancient killer. Genetic studies have found that *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb), the bacteria that causes tuberculosis, has been with us for at least 35,000 years and that it descends from a species that is up to 3 million years old.

"We've found its footprint in mummies, so it's a very old disease," says Maziar Divangahi, PhD, a tuberculosis expert and the Strauss chair in respiratory diseases at McGill University in Canada.

Despite medical science's concerted efforts to eradicate it, tuberculosis remains one of the deadliest infectious diseases on planet Earth. In 2018 alone, it

killed 1.5 million people and was among the top-ten leading causes of death worldwide.

Unlike milder respiratory infections, which the body's defences often neutralise while they are still in the upper respiratory tract, Mtb has "an incredible ability to reach down into the lower airways of the lungs", Divangahi says.

Once there, the infection can trigger a pronounced immune response that can cause damaging inflammation, dysfunction and death. Other severe respiratory infections, including SARS-CoV-2, are also associated with this kind of lower-airway incursion and perilous immune-system response.

But while an Mtb infection can be deadly, the World Health Organisation estimates that, globally, 1.7 billion people - or more than one in five individuals - are currently infected with the bacteria. While some of those people eventually become ill, roughly 90 per cent to 95 per cent of them never develop any symptoms.

What stops Mtb from sickening and killing more of its hosts? Divangahi says that, once the

pathogen spreads to the lower airways, one of two scenarios plays out: "Either the bacteria will be eliminated during the early phase of the infection, or the host will wall off Mtb by forming granulomas."

Granulomas are little pods of immune cells that encapsulate the pathogen and sequester it in the exterior tissues of the lung - almost like moving boxes being tucked away in a storage unit. Mtb can survive inside these granulomas, but its host is henceforth asymptomatic and noninfectious. It's as if, after an initial dustup, the person and the pathogen agree to a truce.

"We've developed very successful mechanisms that allow us to live with Mtb. Rather than trying to eliminate the bug, we basically keep it in check," Divangahi says, referring to the body's ability to safely manage the infection.

The human body's accommodation of Mtb is an example of innate disease tolerance. Researchers have identified other examples, including blood-based factors that undercut malaria, and reactions in the lining of the gut that protect some people from cholera.

Along with these natural forms of disease tolerance, the concept also encompasses drugs or treatments that help the body withstand a pathogen in ways that don't involve killing it.

"Tolerance is not about targeting the virus; it's about targeting the overall health of the individual," says Andrew Olive, PhD, an assistant professor and disease tolerance researcher in the department of microbiology and molecular genetics at Michigan State University.

Olive points out that dexamethasone - one of the very few drugs that help people survive severe Covid-19 disease - is an anti-inflammatory steroid that turns down the immune system's assault, rather than turning it up.

"The fact that you can target inflammation, not the virus, and better the outcome of the disease tells me that it's more these

inflammation pathways that are really driving severe Covid-19," he says.

Despite this finding, most infectious-disease treatment research today - both for Covid-19 and for many other infectious diseases - is aimed at helping the immune system kill the offending pathogen.

But Olive says that this approach is often too myopic - too obsessively fixated on extermination rather than harm mitigation. "We have to become more creative in thinking about how we treat disease," he says, adding: "We need to think about the whole immune system and all the tissues that are impacted."

Apart from informing more effective treatments, a greater emphasis on tolerance mechanisms might also help prevent the unintended and sometimes catastrophic consequences of too-aggressive attempts to kill a pathogen.

Perhaps the best example of this is the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria - those pathogens that, in response to our often-overzealous attempts to kill them, have evolved in ways that render our drugs useless.

"This is one example of how killing a virus or bacteria may not always be such an effective approach," Olive says.

## Disease tolerance and Covid-19 care

For reasons that medical scientists don't yet understand, some healthy people develop life-threatening reactions to SARS-CoV-2. But these cases seem to be the exceptions, not the rule. The majority of severe Covid-19 cases have occurred in people who are in some way compromised, owing to either old age or an existing medical condition.

This suggests that a healthy body already possesses built-in qualities that help it handle the novel coronavirus. It also suggests that healthy behaviours - eating right, exercising, getting enough sleep - may provide a measure of protection from a severe infection.

By identifying how healthy bodies manage to tolerate the virus, researchers may be able to develop focused Covid-19 treatments that limit the disease's damage.

• **A piece originally published in Elemental. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.**

By Markham Heid and Agencies

Americans are notoriously unhealthy eaters. The so-called Western diet - one that adores meat, abhors fat, and can't get enough of processed food - has dominated menus and mealtimes for nearly half a century and has become synonymous with obesity and metabolic dysfunction.

Short of swallowing actual poison, it's hard to imagine a more ruinous approach to eating than the one practised by many US adults.

If this story has a silver lining, it's that the dreadful state of the average American's diet has helped clarify the central role of nutrition in human health.

A poor diet like the one popular in the West is strongly associated with an elevated risk for conditions of the gut, organs, joints, brain and mind - everything from Type 2 diabetes and cancer to rheumatoid arthritis and depression.

"We've realised that diet is arguably the most important predictor of long-term health and well-being," says James O'Keefe, MD, a cardiologist and medical director of the Duboc Cardio Health and Wellness Centre at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute in Kansas City, Missouri.

He adds: "Most of the major health problems we deal with in America are connected to the ways we eat."

If eating the wrong way can contribute to such a diverse range of illnesses, it stands to reason that eating the right way could offer people a measure of protection from most ailments.

But what's the right way? That question lies at the heart of countless studies stretching back several decades. By panning the newest and best of those studies for gold, some experts say we may be closing in on the optimal approach to eating.

An 'ideal' diet?

## Science might have identified the optimal human diet



O'Keefe and colleagues has published a paper in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* seeking to identify the "ideal" diet for human cardiovascular health.

Based on the most comprehensive research to date, his paper makes the case that a pesco-Mediterranean approach paired with elements of intermittent fasting is a strong contender for the healthiest diet science has yet identified.

The diet is essentially a modified Mediterranean plan, which makes sense; O'Keefe and his co-authors highlight research that has found consistent associations between a Mediterranean diet and lower risk for death, coronary heart disease, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, cognitive decline, depression and cancer as well as neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease.

Plant-based foods - vegetables, fruit, legumes, nuts, seeds and whole grains - form the foundation of the diet. Fatty

fish and other types of seafood, along with "unrestricted" helpings of extra-virgin olive oil, round out the plan's major components.

Modest helpings of dairy products, poultry and eggs are allowed, while red meat should be eaten sparingly or avoided. Low or moderate amounts of alcohol - preferably red wine - are acceptable, but water, coffee and tea are preferred.

The diet isn't overly prescriptive when it comes to portion sizes or calorie counts. But it does advocate a form of intermittent fasting known as time-restricted eating, which calls for all the day's calories to be consumed within an eight-to-12-hour window.

This is a practice that multiple studies have linked to lower food intakes and beneficial metabolic adaptations. "Time-restricted eating is a great way to reduce total calories and also get inflammation and hormones back into healthy ranges," O'Keefe says.

"Virtually everybody's health and well-being will improve if they follow a

good diet. This diet seems to have the most cumulative scientific evidence supporting it," he adds.

## The pitfalls of restrictive diets

For those who follow a low-fat diet, a ketogenic diet, or any other diet that rigidly defines what a person can or can't eat, the approaches highlighted in O'Keefe's paper may seem unhelpfully general or far too agnostic toward macronutrients. But he and other nutrition researchers say that fewer restrictions are a feature, not a bug, of most healthy diets.

A keto or ketogenic diet is a low-carbohydrate, moderate protein, higher-fat diet that can help you burn fat more effectively. It has many benefits for weight loss, health and performance - and recommended by many doctors.

"Highly restrictive diets are usually not advised unless there is an underlying medical condition that warrants it," says Josiemer Mattei, PhD, MPH, an associate professor of nutrition at the Harvard T.H. Chan

School of Public Health.

For example, someone who has a metabolic or gut disorder may need to avoid certain foods. But for most people, diets that eliminate whole macronutrient categories or food groups present more risk than reward.

Mattei says that restrictive diets also tend to be unsustainable in the long run and in some cases can lead to disordered eating.

Another problem with highly exclusionary diets: What works well for one person may not work for another. "There are many individual factors that could cause differential responses to the same diet," says Regan Bailey, PhD, MPH, a professor in the Department of Nutrition Science at Purdue University.

These include person-to-person genetic variation, age, baseline nutritional status, inflammation levels and microbiome makeup - to name just a few.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, experts say that restrictive diets - even ones that provide short-term benefits - may lead to trouble down the road.

For example, a certain approach to eating may induce weight loss in the near term, but it could also contribute to the development of a disease or disorder 20 or 30 years later.

It's these sorts of unanticipated or unforeseeable consequences that lead most nutrition experts today to recommend looser, more inclusive approaches to eating.

"This is what I tell my friends and relatives," Mattei says, elaborating: "Choose natural foods, mostly plant-based and fish. Choose whole grains rather than refined, and avoid processed foods, especially salty snacks, processed meats, and sugary beverages."



## BUSINESS

HISTORIC

## Landmark inheritance ruling for opposite sex life partnerships in SA

CAPE TOWN

In a landmark ruling on the inheritance rights of surviving spouses in opposite sex relationships, the High Court accepted that they indeed were a couple, with friends talking of their affection for each other.

He even kept a diary, jotting down notes about his plan to buy her a personalised number plate for the cleaning business they were going to run together. In one diary entry, he wrote they were hoping to have a baby together.

She kept her accommodation at her employer, where she was a domestic worker, so that she could stay over to help after Shabbat, or babysit the children if necessary, but they clearly lived together as a couple. He called her his "princess" and even put together a welcome basket with a note addressed to his "brother-in-law" when he came to South Africa from Zimbabwe to visit.

Died suddenly  
She described their relationship as "traditional," where he took care of the money side of running their home, and she took care of the cleaning and cooking for them. They were in the process of planning a trip to Zimbabwe to pay lobola for their marriage when he died suddenly at the age of 57, without a will.

In all the permutations in the Intestate Succession Act on who could inherit if there was no will, her claim was rejected, even though they lived together as a couple. Intestate means dying without a will. An application to court was launched in which the Master of the High Court, as executor of his estate, was the first respondent. At the eleventh hour, many of the other parties involved in the matter reached a settlement with her, but the case went ahead anyway, given the ramifications of the outcome.

The judgment noted that South

Africa's laws had evolved significantly to prevent discrimination against same-sex couples, to the extent of allowing a surviving same-sex spouse to inherit if there was no will. However, it had not kept up with opposite sex long-term relationships and partners in these relationships did not have the same protection. The court was asked to declare Section 11 of the Intestate Succession Act (ISA) invalid and unconstitutional as it stands because it discriminates against opposite sex life partners.

Acting Judge Penelope Magona agreed in a lengthy judgment that traversed South Africa's progress regarding same-sex relationships, compared with the anomaly in intestate law regarding opposite sex relationships. She said the case was important because so many couples live together without marrying and if a spouse dies, it is invariably the woman who is stripped of everything if there is no will.

Discriminatory and unconstitutional  
She said this was particularly important in long-term relationships where a man was happy with the status quo and not interested in marriage. She ruled that the failure to include the spouses of opposite sex couples for consideration in inheritance where there was no will, was discriminatory and unconstitutional.

She found it unfair and an infringement of the right to dignity and equality of the surviving opposite sex spouse that they could not inherit. The Women's Legal Resource Centre (WLRC), which had been a party to the matter, welcomed the judgment.

In a statement, the WLRC explained the court held that where the ISA refers to a spouse, these words must be added: "or a partner in a permanent opposite life partnership in which the partners had undertaken reciprocal duties of support."



South African acting Judge Penelope Magona.

CELEBRITY

## Tanzanian author Abdulrazak Gurnah's 'Afterlives' delves into the traumatic events of First World War

LONDON

When Abdulrazak Gurnah was growing up in 1950s Zanzibar, he was told stories of the First World War and how his mother's uncle was conscripted by the colonial forces in the then German East Africa to be a "carrier" - an unpaid porter who would drag heavy equipment around.

He would travel on the roof of train carriages because there was no room inside. "He was quite a canny, resourceful man like that," says Gurnah, who now lives in Canterbury in the UK. "So I expect he deserted at the earliest possible opportunity."

At least he survived - Gurnah says the carriers were among the greatest Tanzanian casualties of the First World War because they were coerced and conscripted - slaves, effectively. And stories such as these, of colonialism's effect on what is now Tanzania, have always percolated in Gurnah's mind. In 1994, *Paradise*, his tale of a young Muslim boy who goes on a trading mission into the country's interior just as the German army begins to sweep into his land, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

While it's too simplistic to call his new novel, *Afterlives*, a follow-up, it certainly picks up where his most successful novel finished. It tells the story of Hamza, who is sold into the Schutztruppe askari (the German colonial troops) and returns to the town of his childhood utterly traumatised. There, he meets Afiya, a young girl battling societal expectations, and slowly finds purpose, friendship and love.

Meanwhile, Afiya's brother, Ilyas, is another askari recruit who goes missing during the war, but turns up in postscript, decades later. The glue binding these disparate lives together is the cynical, but ultimately



Abdulrazak Gurnah.

kindly, Khalifa, a Muslim man from a poor Gujarati family who guides them towards some kind of reconciliation with their pasts, "a sentimental bearer of crimes."

"I've been thinking and reflecting on the various dimensions of colonialism throughout my adult life, both as a writer and an academic," says Gurnah, 72. He recently retired as emeritus professor of English and postcolonial literature at the University of Kent.

"In *Paradise*, I was posing the question of how societies and cultures collapsed with relative ease against the colonial infringement. What was it that made it possible for colonial powers to walk in with their maps already drawn and say, 'this belongs to us now?'"

"That question is still present in *Afterlives* but it's also concerned with how people coped with it. *Afterlives* is literally a look at life after the traumatic events of the war and the experience of colonialism."

This forgotten piece of African history and its paradoxes - one of the German

officers bemoans lying and killing for an empire under the guise of being a civilising force - is the mechanism by which Gurnah elegantly draws compelling characters who have to deal with the consequences. The German officer who takes Hamza under his wing in the first half of the book both dominates and protects him. "There is a sense that Hamza learns valuable skills and becomes stronger, but he is also terrified," Gurnah says.

"Colonialism obviously transformed everything, and in that process you can find good aspects," he adds. "There was a moral argument about improvement of people, but the primary reason these colonial powers built railways and hospitals was to make the population more efficient in what they wanted them to do - to increase profit and gain."

And yet, despite the horrors of war that dominate the opening phases of the book, *Afterlives* is largely hopeful. The characters survive, as Gurnah puts it, through small kindnesses to each other. Hamza's humanity reflects back

on those who he encounters.

"Gentleness and kindness does resonate with people," agrees Gurnah. "It's how we save each other from utter despair and self-destruction. This is what it means to be in a community; people always talk about the spirit of the war in England and I think you could say the same of where I'm writing about here. People are not always cruel to each other in these circumstances."

This sense of a community in *Afterlives* is such a refreshing antidote to the usual ghettoisation of peoples, races and cultures. It's less a utopian ideal, more how Gurnah has always felt about the coast of East Africa, growing up as he did in a mixed community where people "did not worry so much about distinctions".

"There is something humane and civilised about small societies - in this case made up of those who have travelled all over the Indian Ocean," he says. "There may be complicated issues of difference and some are protective about policing that difference, but really it's the way maps have been drawn by nation states that has changed the way people communicate."

In the end, though, Gurnah is keen that people enjoy *Afterlives* and it's the moving connection between Afiya and Hamza which ultimately becomes its centrepiece, the story of Ilyas being an intriguing real-life coda that could have been a novel in itself. "The idea of a traumatised young man arriving in town, meeting a young woman also wounded by gender oppression ... stories like that just come out of the blue," Gurnah says.

"And when they do, it feels like a piece of luck; you find something worth following up ... and away you go." With that, we have gone full circle, back to the pure joy of storytelling that a young Gurnah revelled in. *Afterlives* reveals, 10 novels and nearly 35 years in, he has not lost that magic.



Kevin Rugamba, a.k.a K'Ru.

ACTIVISM

## Local deejay showcasing Africa's heritage through his music and art

KIGALI

In 2018, Kevin Rugamba, a.k.a K'Ru, founded Pineapple Undertones - an edutainment platform that seeks to uncover, explore and promote African musical traditions by preserving its past and documenting its present.

His idea was inspired by a fascination for African music and culture, however he was also pushed by a need for Africa to take greater ownership of its future. For K'Ru, although this platform was founded two years ago, the inspiration was a long journey that stemmed from a passion for music, an interest in African culture and pan Africanism.

"It started out of my passion for deejaying and it's been mainly about a curated set of mixes and live DJ sets, exploring a wide range of African musical genres but also exploring how Africa

exists in the diaspora," Rugamba says.

The platform has since grown to encompass workshops that have been designed and delivered at universities, as well as conversations that emerged during lockdown when he leveraged Instagram live sessions and invited various guests that are of African origin to discuss the songs that make them proud to be African. He explains the idea behind the name of his platform noting that his choice of a pineapple fruit connotes a deeper meaning.

"The pineapple as a fruit represents warmth and hospitality and is also considered a regal fruit. So, I chose this fruit to symbolise our African music and culture. And the 'undertones' imply the traits and identity in our music, which I hope can enable us to have a more conscious appreciation for the wealth and the potential of our music. This will play

a big role in growing our economies and making us wealthier societies," he adds.

He appreciates how society has welcomed his initiative. "It's nice to see that there are many people that are taking to it by appreciating the music and conversations. I wanted to foster a community, but it has exceeded my expectations and people are appreciating the content," he says.

Exploring more with visual art  
Art, for K'Ru, means different forms of expression in one. This is why he wants to be as versatile as possible in the different ways to express his beliefs, his feelings and the different ideas to communicate and inspire others beyond just using words.

As such, he has also explored art through graphic design, a skill he has been deliberate about developing in the past couple of years. "I hope that there

are more opportunities in the future because I believe in being versatile and being curious about learning new skills," he says.

As the Community and Culture Lead at the African Leadership University, he had the opportunity to co-curate the murals at the university's new campus that depict various forms of African heritage and culture. "That was very exciting because it was a new area I was exploring, and learning to express the richness of our culture and heritage visually as opposed to curating a playlist."

"Though music has been the core form of art that I have explored so far, I have always been curious about other disciplines, whether its visual arts, graphic design, paintings or fashion. I have had the opportunity to explore these other art forms."



## OUTSTANDING

# Inside a booming antiques business

NAIROBI

At Niche Décor, an antique shop near Kabarnet Gardens in Nairobi, Rose Karimi saunters into the showroom, answering queries from curious clients.

From the jammed parking lot, it is clear that it is a time of abundance for the city antique collector. "I've barely had a break today," Rose says as she ushers us into the newly stocked shop. "I thought I'd break for tea but that hasn't been possible." This is how Rose spends her day these days: attending to tens of clients who stream into her shop for more than eight hours every day.

The Covid-19 season has witnessed a spike in furniture sales, as most Kenyans sought to spruce up their spaces. It has not been any different for lovers of vintage items. The footfall at her shop increased by 50 percent during the lockdown, she says. From Chippendale sofas to chests and medieval-style dinner sets from Eastern Europe and the Far East, the demand for classic home-wares has risen sharply in the last seven months.

But what specific items have antique enthusiasts been buying during this time?

"The demand for classic furniture has been higher during this time than before," Rose explains. "People have been buying sofas and chests because they had more time to look around and to shop for items that could enhance their



Rose Karimi, founder of Niche Vintage Furniture.

homes." Even she could not resist the urge to redecorate her home. Rather than go for specific items, she made an overhaul.

"My bed, which I'd used for many years, was the first thing to go. I got a new one. I also changed my furniture in the dining room by going for cozier and more chic pieces," she says, adding that whenever she finds extremely rare pieces, she reserves them for her own home.

Somehow, Kenyans' preferences changed too. "Most people coming are now asking for different pieces

than what they've bought before," she notes. With Covid-19 rules now relaxed and Kenyans back to their workplaces, Rose observes that demand has now shifted to décor.

"Paintings, vases, and other decorative items are moving faster." Unlike most goods, the business model for antiques is predominantly referral-based. Although it constitutes a small segment of the market, Rose admits that dealership in classics is a lucrative venture.

"Classic items of décor are not for

the general market. They're for people who love unique and elegant things, and can afford them," Rose says. Most sofa sets at Niche Décor are priced between Sh250,000 and Sh300,000. A dining set goes for Sh150,000.

There are many dealers of classic items in the country. As such, this market is not controlled entirely by demand and supply factors. "Pricing depends on the cost of every individual consignment." Between April and May, Rose had to shut down after her stock was

depleted, as shipping was disrupted by Covid-19.

"I couldn't bring any consignment into the country for six months, to the disappointment of my clients. I spent this time in Germany collecting different pieces and preparing them for shipment," she says.

With airlines now back in operations, Rose says import business is back on course. "Already, I have a team on the ground collecting others." The biggest challenge in this business is the paperwork. "It takes roughly three months to import the items. Valuation is difficult because these are old items."

Collector pieces As an affinity for antiques grows, Rose says Kenyans must stop purchasing cliché items. "You're likely to find the same type of sofa in most Kenyan households. When you buy a classic sofa, you're sure no one else in the country has a similar one." Buyers of vintage furniture are driven by more than the need for exclusivity, Rose clarifies.

"This type of furniture is durable and outlasts modern designs. It could be passed down generations." The design for most antique furniture types has long phased out. "The market of collector pieces is hard to predict. I can't tell you what I'll find during an outing. It depends on what the collectors I buy from have found," she says.

## PARTNERSHIP

## US celeb makeup artist Sir John on his latest collaboration featuring WBeauty

JOHANNESBURG

His first celebrity client was Naomi Campbell - a deep dive for someone who was just dipping their toe in to test the waters - and the heavy-weight celebrity makeup artist's fate has been sealed since.

Speaking to me in 2017 when he first caught the curiosity and affection of South African women, Sir John told me he met Naomi during his first Paris Fashion Week, and "next thing I knew I was getting called to go do her makeup at her hotel!"

"I remember all of it being so new to me. I was like, 'Okay, there's no train back. This is business,'" he marvelled. Several runways and red carpets later, and Sir John is one of the most highly acclaimed personas in his field.

How privileged we are then, to not only have had first-hand experience, in-person encounters, and not one but three limited edition makeup ranges (exclusive to SA) from the global artist that has the likes of Beyoncé, Gabrielle Union, and Naomi Campbell as his regular canvases, while he adds our very own talents to his list of muses too.

With every annual encounter with Sir John, beauty lessons are amassed. So before we get to 2020's lessons (and boy, has this year been one of many-a-lesson), let's take a quick retrospective look at the Sir John beauty playbook because well, you know... lessons before practicals.

In 2017, there was no product offering from Sir John just yet, but what we did not get in swatches we certainly gained in the wisdom of vanity. These were the most memorable bites of beauty advice from his buffet of skills and knowledge:

## Red lipstick lessons

Whenever you want your skin to pop, you should always want to choose an orange-based red. Think '50s red or tomato red. Those will always make your skin look healthier. On the contrary, if you want your teeth to look really white, and your smile to illuminate, go for a blue-based red. Anything from raspberry to dark Merlot lips. A blue-based red lipstick makes your teeth look really brilliant, while an orange-based red makes your skin look healthy.

## Mascara tips

Use waterproof mascara as seldom as possible - it dries out your lashes, so stop using it if you still want to have lashes in your 50s. Brands usually have both a waterproof option and a normal mascara, find the [latter].

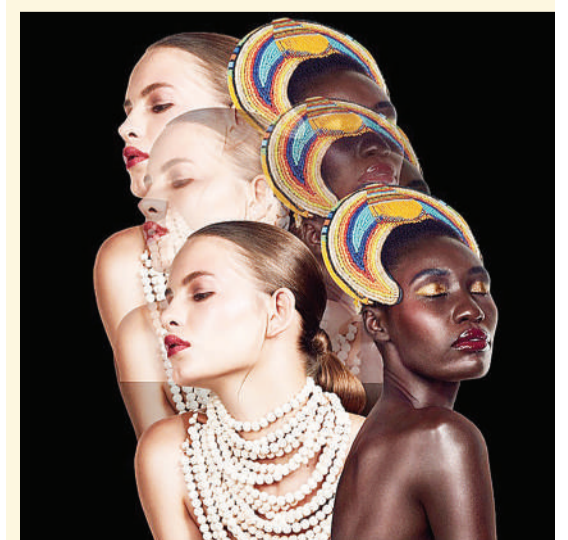
## All about beauty with a conscience:

Firstly, switching up your product placement is one way to be more economical about your makeup. What is meant by switching up product placement is simply that you can use one product for more than one purpose or not necessarily using it for its intended purpose - wearing lipstick as eye-shadow or as blush, for example.

Secondly, support brands that ethically produce their products. The packaging should tell you. "Cruelty-free", "vegan", "eco-friendly" are just some of the tags you should be looking for. If it ain't ethical, then maybe you should chuck it out... in a recycling bin, though.

Thirdly, understanding that "less is more" is more than just a phrase can really change the way you consume beauty, starting from treating foundation as an occasional option rather than a necessity. Sir John even notes that "full makeup is no longer modern", so doing less means buying less, which in turn decreases our harmful impact on the environment, and so the turtles get to live longer.

Featured in this edition's visually striking campaign are Idols SA judge Unathi, and top SA models Anyon Asola and Ansolet Rossouw (amongst others) who've walked for international fashion week shows including Philipp Plein, Chanel, D&G, and Vivetta.



Ansolet (left) and Anyon (right).

## MIGRATION

## About 4,000 of SA's super-rich left over the past ten years, new report indicates

JOHANNESBURG

About 4,000 of South Africa's high net worth individuals likely left over the past decade, according to Andrew Amoils, a wealth analyst at New World Wealth.

This includes about 500 who left SA in 2019. The latest estimates were done for the AfrAsia Bank and New World Wealth 2020 Global Wealth Migration Review. Published annually since 2018, the report examines recent worldwide wealth migration trends and analyses the potential impact of the Covid-19 outbreak on wealth migration going forward.

The report defines a high net worth individual as someone with wealth of \$1 million (about R17 million) or more. "Wealth" refers to the net assets of a person and includes all their assets (property, cash, equities, business interests) less any liabilities. According to the report, it considers wealth to be a far better measure of the financial health of an economy than Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Most of the super-rich who left SA went to the UK, Australia and the US. Switzerland and Portugal are also popular destinations for them. However, due to the coronavirus travel restrictions, not many have moved from SA so far

this year.

"It should be noted that SA is by no means alone in losing high net worth individuals. All of the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and SA) have lost large numbers of them to migration over the past 10 to 20 years. This is a trend that is gaining momentum and is a concern to most emerging markets," says Amoils.

The super-rich tend to move for safety reasons (especially the safety of women and children); lifestyle (climate, pollution, space, nature); financial concerns; schooling and education opportunities for their children; work and business opportunities; taxes; the healthcare system; standard of living; and if there is an oppressive government. The list of countries which high net worth individuals are leaving is topped by China, followed by India, Russia, Hong Kong, Turkey, UK, France, Brazil.

The most popular countries for migrating high net worth individuals over the past year included Australia, US, Switzerland, Canada, Singapore, Israel, New Zealand, UAE, Portugal and Greece. Other popular destinations for them included Monaco, Mauritius, Malta, Bermuda and the Caribbean Islands.

According to the report, Australia, the US and Switzerland are expected to remain the preferred destinations for the



A copy of AfrAsia Bank and New World Wealth 2020 Global Wealth Migration Review.

super-rich globally over the next decade, while New Zealand might emerge as a major destination for them in the future.

The most popular cities for millionaires to migrate to include the likes of Sydney, Geneva, Melbourne, Singapore and Dubai. Tel Aviv and Lisbon are also popular destinations for them, along with several cities in US, according to Amoils.

Australia tops the list possibly due to its points-based immigration system which favours wealthy people, business owners and people with professional qualifications - especially lawyers, accountants, doctors and engineers, according to the report. It also has

a low crime rate, nature and scenery.

Switzerland attracted a large number of high net-worth individuals in 2019 perhaps due to its safe haven status within Europe and high standard of living. Switzerland is also the second largest wealth management hub in the world after US, Portugal, Greece and Malta continue to attract a steady number of high net worth individuals due to their popular investor visa programme.

Amoils explains that wealth migration data is a very important gauge of the health of an economy. For instance, if a country is losing a large number of high net worth individuals to migration, it is prob-

ably due to serious problems in that country, for example crime or a lack of business opportunities. Conversely, countries that attract the super-rich tend to be very "healthy" economically and normally have low crime rates, good schools and good business opportunities.

Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Amoils expects that it might become more difficult to get the super-rich to buy into these so-called "golden" visa programmes. As a result, he expects that many of these investor visa programmes might reduce their entry requirements in the 2020/21 financial year to make it more

## RESTRICTIONS

## Zimbabwe seeks to slow exodus of doctors as economy collapses

HARARE

Zimbabwe is seeking to tighten the rules on how a certificate which its doctors need in order to get work abroad is issued as medical professionals flee the country's collapsing economy.

The so-called "Certificate of Good Standing" issued by the Medical and Dental Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe may now need prior approval by the state, the Zimbabwe Senior Hospital Doctors Association said.

Professional bodies rely on the document as proof of clearance that doctors seeking work and study placement in a foreign country, among other things, have no outstanding disciplinary issues regarding patient care. "The CGS is never issued by a government anywhere in the world," the doctors association said in a Twitter posting.

Zimbabwe's two-decade economic collapse is touching new lows with inflation at more than 750% and the country's currency collapsing. Shortages of food and fuel are common

and a quarter of the population, including many of the country's doctors and teachers, have left to seek work in South Africa, the UK and other countries.

"This has a bearing, as the government determines who goes out of the country," Aaron Musara, the secretary-general of the doctors association, said in an interview on Monday. "The government is trying to retain staff at a time when they are failing to keep them" happy in their work, he said. Jasper Chimedza, Zimbabwe's permanent secretary for health,

didn't respond to calls seeking comment.

The southern African nation's health sector has not been spared from the wider economic meltdown. It's frequently been hard-hit by strikes lasting several months over low wages and shortages at public hospitals of everything from medicines to personal protective equipment needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic. Doctors earn salaries starting at Z\$9,000 (\$110) per month. The council, which has 3 371 registered doctors in the country, didn't immediately respond to emailed queries.



BOOK REPORT

# Ayad Akhtar blends fact and fiction in novel about a divided America

NEW YORK

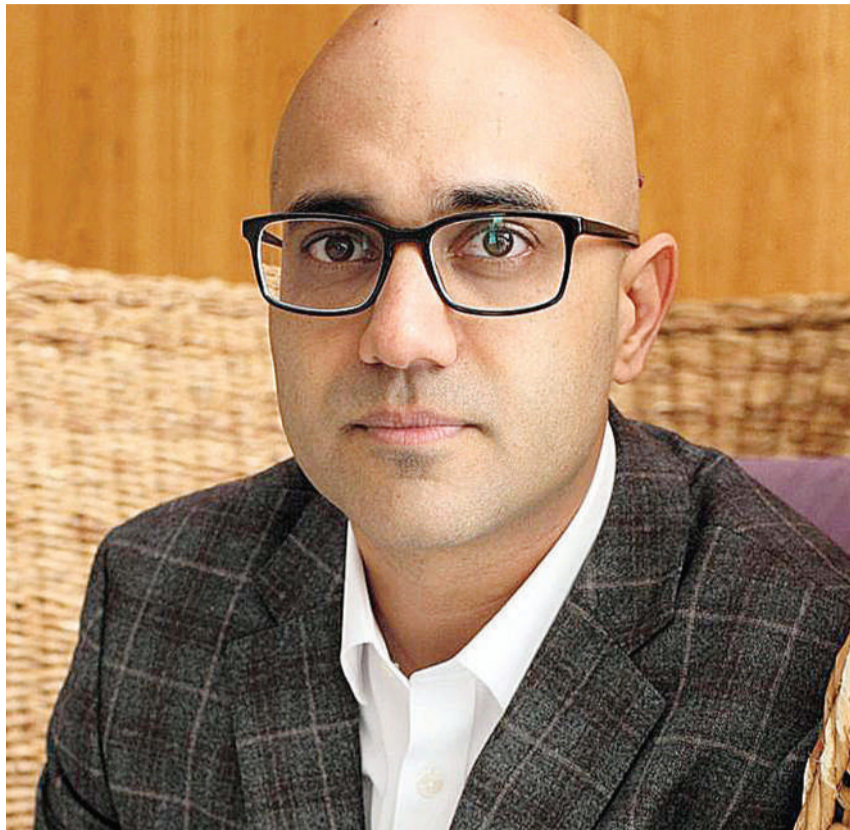
In 2012, Ayad Akhtar published his first novel, *American Drivish*, a tender but also incisive coming-of-age tale about a Pakistani-American youth growing up in 1980s Milwaukee, examining who he is and what he believes in. Akhtar, 49, who was born in New York City to Pakistani parents, continued to explore the Muslim experience in America through a string of critically acclaimed plays. Asked once what part of his work is him sorting out who he is, he answered, emphatically: "All of it."

Akhtar's new book - his second novel - is something of a departure. Sorting out his sense of identity was no longer the issue. "Here," he said, "it was a matter of sorting out my sense of our country."

If Akhtar's debut dealt

with a boy coming to terms with Islam then *Homeland Elegies* is about a man coming to terms with America. That man - the book's narrator - is a fictional version of Akhtar. He shares the same name as his creator and much of his life story: his parents are both doctors who emigrated from Pakistan to the US in the 1960s; he grew up in Milwaukee; he studied at Brown University; he won a Pulitzer Prize for his 2013 play *Disgraced* - a provocative drama in which an American-born Muslim character admits to feeling an unbidden "blush" of pride for 9/11.

The narrator also shares and voices Akhtar's fears and frustrations concerning his homeland. In the novel's introduction or "overture" entitled "To America", he laments the state of the nation - its moral collapse, economic hardships and soci-



Author Ayad Akhtar won a Pulitzer Prize in 2013.

etal injustices. Artfully blending fact and fiction, the book goes on to examine the relationship between an American son and his immigrant father, and how change in their country transforms their views and affects their lives.

"I wanted to respond to my country, to what has happened to our country," Akhtar says. "I wanted to articulate the state we've found ourselves in, and I wanted to speak - directly speak, if possible - to the national conscience, if you will." Akhtar says he wrote the book "in something of a fever dream" after a succession of pivotal events. "My mother's passing, my father's decline, Donald Trump's election and the widespread despair I had been seeing for years - all of this pushed this book out of me, a sustained emotional cry that lasted 11 months. It was a creative experience like nothing I've ever experienced before."

The narrator reveals how his father was enamoured by Amer-

ica while his mother was more critical and hankered after the life she left behind in Pakistan. We learn how his father became Trump's cardiologist in the early 1990s and bonded with him while treating him for heart palpitations. He remained mesmerised by Trump until his election, in awe of his wealth and lifestyle and in defence of his views and ideas, such as his proposal for a Muslim database. "I was his doctor," he tells Akhtar, "so we don't have anything to worry about."

In other sections the spotlight is on Akhtar. Over the years he travels with his family to Abbotabad, makes his name as a playwright, falls in love and gets rich quick by investing in a clever scheme devised by a Pakistani-American hedge-fund manager. He also introduces us to a woman called Mary Moroni who gave him encouragement and direction in his formative years. This person was no fictional invention. "She was a high-school teacher who changed my life,"

Akhtar says. "I fell in love with literature in her class, and knew from the time I was 15 that I wanted to give my life to stories. That is a love and a sense of purpose that has never left me."

At the end of the book, the narrator comes full circle by returning to his father in his past years as he wrestles with his demons, fights to uphold his professional reputation and changes his mind about his former patient and the now-president of the US. "Trump," he tells his son, "was a big mistake."

It is hard to know how much of what Akhtar writes is autobiographical. Put another way, it is easy to see his book as a memoir rather than a novel. And yet he insists it is the latter and describes himself as "the sort of writer who has always felt the need to deform actual events enough to be able to see them more clearly." For him, fusing fact and fiction was a necessary approach.

EQUALITY

# Black Italian designers at Milan Fashion Week to 'destroy the prejudice'

MILAN

For the first time at Milan fashion week, a show dedicated to Black Italian designers was part of the official calendar in what organizers hope highlights the lack of diversity in the industry.

"It is very important for us to show the world that 'Made in Italy' does not correspond to a particular colour. We want to destroy the prejudice that being Italian means being white. Made in Italy has been represented around the world as being a white concept, now it is no longer like this. The new Italy is not this and does not want to be this," says Italian-Haitian designer Stella Jean.

Stella is the Italian Fashion Council's only Black member and a fierce campaigner against racism in fashion. She organised the event alongside the Black Lives Matter in Italian Fashion Collective. The 'We are made in Italy' digital show was filmed in Milan's grand Palazzo Clerici and broadcast online. Showcasing the Spring/Summer 2021 collections of five selected designers of colour who previously struggled to get a foot in the door.

"It is really sad that all these Italian brands that enjoy worldwide attention and have

a direct or indirect influence on billions of people around the world have not realised that in Italy an entire generation is asking for a voice and space, filling Italian squares from north to south Black Lives Matter demonstration," says Stella. She is demanding the sector's governing body support Black designers and has called on Italian fashion houses to do more to confront racism.

Some have said that predominantly White Italy has shown a national blindness to insidious racism lurking under its skin. "It's totally unfair that these people continue to remain invisible, the Italian brands pretend not to see them and give all their attention in a blatant way to the Black Lives Matter only outside of Italy, supporting the United States and all other countries but totally ignoring Italy. In Italy, we have a racial problem and if we don't start opening the wound in order to heal it, the wound will never heal," she adds.

Stella mentored the five designers featured in the show; Fabiola Manirakiza, originally from Burundi, Senegalese designer Mokodu Fall, Claudia Gisele Ntsama who grew up in a family of tailors in Cameroon, Karim Daoudi who was born in Morocco and Joy Meribe who grew up in Nigeria.



Italian-Haitian designer, Stella Jean.



**ISIDINGO** MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY 28 Sept	WEDNESDAY 30 Sept	FRIDAY 02 Oct	SATURDAY 03 Oct	SUNDAY 04 Oct
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00	HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI	6:00 HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha	6:40 Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI	7:30 HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:00 Shika Bamba 5	8:00 Shika Bamba 5
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa	8:55 Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00 Shika Bamba 5	9:00 Shika Bamba 5
9:30	Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Isidingo	9:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	9:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
09:55	Habari za saa	09:55 Habari za saa	09:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt	10:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 The Great Queen Seonduk	10:00 The Great Queen Seonduk
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	10:30 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	10:30 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
11:00	Habari za saa	11:00 Uchumi na biashara	11:00 The Base rpt	10:30 The Base	10:30 The Base
11:55	Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	10:30 Habari	10:30 Habari
12:00	Al Jazeera News	11:55 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	10:30 Kipima Joto	10:30 Kipima Joto
12:30	Mtego rpt	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:00 Al Jazeera	10:30 The Base	10:30 The Base
12:55	Habari za saa	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Twende pamoja	12:00 Al Jazeera	10:30 DWTV	10:30 DWTV
13:00	Mjue Zaidi	12:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Kipindi maalum rpt: Twende pamoja	11:00 Habari	11:00 Habari
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:00 Dakika 45	13:00 Dakika 45	11:00 Mizungwe rpt	11:00 Mizungwe rpt
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	11:30 Kipindi Maalum: Utalii	11:30 Kipindi Maalum: Utalii
14:10	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	14:00 Kipindi maalum rpt: Twende pamoja	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	11:30 Igizo maalum rpt: Twende pamoja	11:30 Igizo maalum rpt: Twende pamoja
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15:00	Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	15:00 Meza huru	12:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	12:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
16:30	Watoto Wetu	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk	12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
17:00	The Base	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
18:00	Jiji Letu	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
18:10	Albu yako rpt	17:00 The Base	17:00 The Base	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
18:15	Mapishi	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
18:45	Kesho leo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:00 Jiji Letu	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
19:00	Afyu ya Jamii	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
19:30	Isidingo	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
20:00	Habari	19:00 Ijue Sheria	19:00 Ijue Sheria	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
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22:15	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	19:30 Isidingo	19:30 Isidingo	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
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02:00	DWTV	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	23:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
6:00	HABARI	23:30 The Base	23:30 The Base	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
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19:00	Kipindi Maalum: Twende pamoja			12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
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14:00	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin			12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe	12:15 Igizo rpt: Mizungwe
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## WORLD

# Trump, wife test positive for COVID-19

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said early yesterday morning that he and his wife, Melania, have tested positive for COVID-19, after a close aide had contracted the virus.

"We will begin our quarantine and recovery process immediately," he tweeted. "We will get through this TOGETHER!"

The announcement came hours after the president confirmed that White House counselor Hope Hicks had contracted the virus.

Melania tweeted she and her husband are quarantining at home "as too many Americans have done this year." "We are feeling good & I have post-

poned all upcoming engagements," she said. "Please be sure you are staying safe & we will all get through this together."

In a memo, White House physician Sean Conley said he received confirmation on Thursday evening that the couple have tested positive for the virus.

"The President and First Lady are both well at this time, and they plan to remain at home within the White House during their convalescence," Conley said.

"Rest assured I expect the President to continue carrying out his duties without disruption while recovering, and I will keep you updated on any future developments," the physician



In this file photo, President Donald Trump, with first lady Melania Trump, walks towards the media before speaking in Morristown. (File photo)

said.

In an earlier Tweet, Trump had confirmed that Hicks had tested positive for COVID-19.

Hicks, the closest aide to Trump to have tested positive for the virus, traveled with Trump multiple times this week, including aboard Marine One, the presidential helicopter, for a rally in Minnesota on Wednesday, and aboard Air Force One to Tuesday night's first 2020 presidential debate in Cleveland, Ohio.

"Hope Hicks, who has been working so hard without even taking a small break, has just tested positive for COVID-19," the president wrote Thursday night.

In a recent interview with Fox News, Trump said he and the first lady had spent "a lot of time" with Hicks, while acknowledging that it was difficult for him and those close to him to avoid the virus since many people, including members of the military, interact with them on a regular basis.

"It's very hard when you're with soldiers, when you are with airmen, when you're with the Marines, and the police officers, I'm with them so much. And when they come over to you, it's hard to say, 'stay back, stay back.' You know, it's a tough kind of a situation, it's a terrible thing," he said.

The White House regularly tests Trump and Vice President Mike Pence for COVID-19 and administers tests to those who come in close contact with them, including members of the press and other White House guests.

In addition to Hicks, multiple White House officials, including Trump's national security advisor Robert O'Brien and other staffers have previously tested positive for COVID-19.

Pence tweeted early yesterday morning that he and his wife send their love and prayers to Trump and Melania. "We join millions across America praying for their full and swift recovery," the vice president added.

There have been more than 7.2 million COVID-19 infections in the United States as of early Friday, with 207,808 deaths. **Xinhua**

## German re-unification 30 years on: Lavrov says Berlin embarks on course to hinder Russia

MOSCOW

GERMANY has embarked on the path of stonewalling Moscow, but chances still remain to overcome these tensions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his address to a forum marking the 30th anniversary of the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany.



Lavrov reiterated the treaty's substantial role in ending the Cold War, noting that adding it to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register was a natural and appropriate move.

"Thirty years later, it is worth noting that it was our country that played a key, crucial role for the early reunification of Germany, which, by the way, was opposed by a number of allies of the [then] Federal Republic of Germany," the top Russian diplomat pointed out.

The signing of such fundamental agreements between the then USSR and Germany, like the Agreement on Good Neighborliness, Partnership and Cooperation, was a logical result of the treaty.

All this time, Russia has been devoting its utmost efforts towards having a zone of peace, equal and indivisible security, and far-reaching economic and humanitarian cooperation from the Atlantic to the Pacific. "Numerous Russian initiatives were intended for this objective, including the 2008 proposal to sign a treaty on European security," the diplomat pointed out.

However, as a result of a short-sighted NATO-leaning policy and geopolitical games, Europe is going through a major crisis of trust, while the enormous potential of Russian-German cooperation remains untapped.

"Moreover, Berlin is now set on deterring Russia. We can hear unfounded accusations, ultimatums and threats hurled at us," Lavrov added. "There are gaping holes in the memory of some German politicians about the historical destiny of our countries in European and world affairs," he went on to say.

However, this phase of tensions can be surmounted for the sake of the fundamental interests of Russia and Germany. "Chances for this remain," he emphasized. "Much will depend on maturity of the members of civil society, their ability to carefully and honestly defend the truth, passing their knowledge and experience on to the younger generations," Lavrov stressed.

The Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany laid the foundation for reunification of Germany.

Agencies

## Xi highlights women's contribution, development at UN meeting

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping on Thursday highlighted the extraordinary achievements women have made in the society and the challenges they face globally, calling for joint efforts to promote gender equality and women's development around the world.

Xi made the call in Beijing via video when addressing a high-level meeting held by the United Nations (UN) to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

Women are creators of human civilization and drivers of social progress, and they have made extraordinary achievements across all fields of endeavor, Xi noted.

In the ongoing fight against COVID-19, female medical and epidemic control workers, researchers, community workers and volunteers over the world, braving danger and working around the clock, have fought at the front line of the battle, Xi said.

"With their dedication and ingenuity, they have written heroic epics of saving people and protecting lives," Xi said. "They truly deserve our admiration."

In China, at the height of the battle against COVID-19, many women medical workers, in their tens of thousands, have taken on the virus bravely by putting themselves in harm's way, Xi noted.

More than 40,000 health workers from across the country rushed to Hubei Province, which was the hardest hit by the virus in China, and two-thirds of them were women.

"Their courage and hard work

have shown the very best of the medical profession," Xi stressed. "Their devotion and sacrifice have kept the nation intact through difficult times."

Over the past 25 years, the powerful message of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing has unleashed many positive changes, Xi said.

The social status of women is significantly higher, and increasingly, women are playing an important role of "supporting half of the sky," Xi said, adding that gender equality and women's empowerment are now important goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

He stressed that the spread of COVID-19 worldwide has brought greater challenges to women.

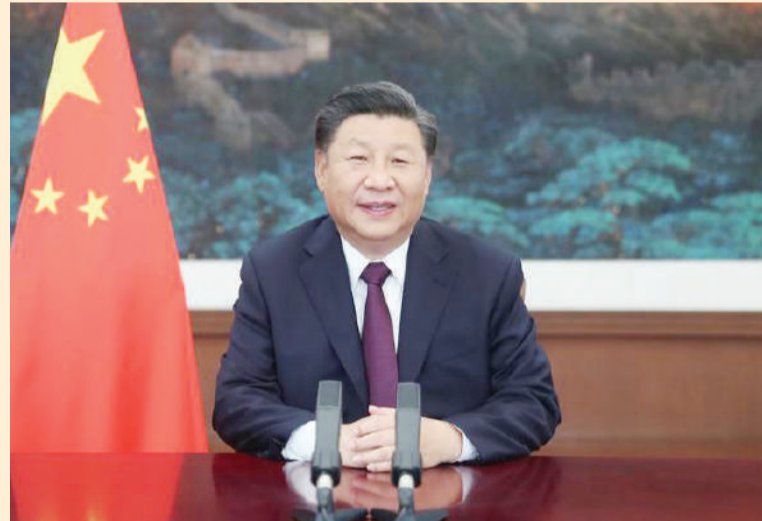
"In both containing COVID-19 and promoting post-COVID economic and social recovery, it is particularly important that we address the special needs of women," Xi said, urging efforts to deliver on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

To this end, Xi put forward four major steps for the world to take.

"First, we need to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on women," Xi said, calling for special attention to the health, social and psychological needs and working environment of frontline women medical workers.

"We need to place the protection of women's and girls' rights and interests high on the agenda of both public health and economic reopening," he said, urging the need to crack down on violations of women's rights and interests.

"We need to improve social services, with priority given to special



Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers an important statement at a high-level meeting held by the United Nations (UN) to mark the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women via video on Thursday. (Xinhua)

groups such as pregnant and post-natal women, and children," he noted.

Xi said special care may be given to women in difficulty such as those in poverty, old age or with disabilities, and efforts must be made to enhance benefits for women, address their concerns, and deliver results for their well-being.

"Second, we need to strive for genuine gender equality," Xi said. "Protection of women's rights and interests must become the commitment at the national level."

As the world pursues post-COVID recovery, new opportunities may be created for women to participate in decision-making and be more involved in national, economic, cultural and social governance, he said.

He stressed the need to eliminate prejudice, discrimination and violence against women and make

gender equality a social norm and moral imperative observed by all.

"Third, we need to ensure that women advance at the forefront of our times," Xi said, urging efforts to protect women's rights and interests and improve their lives, and ensure that women's development goes hand in hand with economic and social development.

An enabling environment must be created, in which women are motivated, their creativity is unleashed to the full, and they truly feel satisfied, happy and secure, Xi said, underscoring the role of the government to be fully leveraged to mobilize all stakeholders to support women and help them live their lives to the full.

"Fourth, we need to enhance global cooperation in advancing women's development," Xi said, pledging that China supports the UN in making women's develop-

ment a priority.

He said more should be done to eliminate violence, discrimination, poverty and other old problems and to address new challenges such as bridging the gender digital divide, so as to make women-related targets early harvest results of the UN's 2030 Agenda.

Xi stressed that equality between men and women is a basic state policy in China, noting the country has put in place a legal system comprising over 100 laws and regulations for fully protecting women's rights and interests.

In China, the gender gap in compulsory education has been largely closed, with women accounting for over 40 percent of the country's workforce.

Five years ago, Xi proposed a global leaders' meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment. Now the host of proposals he put forward at the meeting for advancing global cooperation in the endeavor have all been implemented.

Pledging China is prepared to do even more to support the global cause of women's development, he proposed the convening in 2025 of another global leaders' meeting on gender equality and women's empowerment.

"We still have a long way to go and need to work real hard to build a world in which women are free from discrimination as well as a society of inclusive development," Xi said.

"Let us work together and redouble efforts to promote gender equality and advance the global cause of women's development," he said. **Xinhua**

## Village in SW China develops featured tourism, embraces prosperous development

GUANGMING, a village located over 2,000 meters above the sea level in Yangbi Yi Autonomous County, Southwest China's Yunnan Province, is known for its walnut production. It is home to 6,000 walnut trees with a history of over 100 years.

Eighty-three percent of the county's land is covered by forests, and walnut has always been a pillar industry of it.

In recent years, the price of walnut dropped from 30 yuan (\$4.4) per kilogram to around 10 yuan. Therefore, Guangming village shifted its development strategy, diverting its focus from walnut planting to eco-tourism.

Li Bin, a villager from Guangming who used to sell walnuts

online, now runs an agritainment facility in the village. The experience of the man in his thirties is a witness to the development of Guangming village.

Poor transportation of the village was once a big problem for villagers. Fortunately, their livelihood was greatly improved after the village constructed hardened roads and held a walnut festival in 2008, which gave a great rise in the price of walnuts.

Li returned to Guangming village in 2014, selling walnut seedlings and other agricultural products online. However, the price of walnuts started to go down from then. In addition, walnut trees are tall, so villagers had to hire professional workers to pick the

fruits, which led to higher costs.

A year later, Guangming village introduced tourism enterprises to develop rural eco-tourism. Last year, the village saw tourism revenue of nearly 2 million yuan, and Li also joined the business, starting his own agritainment facility.

The development of Guangming village couldn't have been achieved without the assistance from the local government. Since 2008, many projects were launched for the village, helping it establish its own transport network, parking lots and tourism restrooms. "Only by improving infrastructure can we show our beautiful environment to the outside world," said Yang Xin, a publicity official of the county who

works in Guangming village.

Due to the lack of planning and professional operation, the eco-tourism business was not running very well at the beginning. Thanks to the professional companies introduced by the village, modernized scenic areas were built, attracting more and more tourists.

Jiciping group of the village now has 75 people from 73 households working near home, whose income increased over 1.8 million yuan. Besides, 42 households earned more than 4 million yuan by renting or transferring a total of 10 hectares of land to tourism companies.

Besides, Yangbi's government has organized a various of train-

ing sessions for residents, helping them improve their service quality. Yang Xueming, Party head of Guangming village, told the People's Daily that the villagers have taken on a brand new look. They used to escape from communicating with visitors, but now they are enthusiastic about talking with out-of-towners, he added.

"Many of the villagers would skip villagers' meetings before, but now they all want to join in case they miss any important information," said Wei Dingkui, director of the village committee.

According to Yang Jian, deputy head of Guangming village's eco-management committee, poaching and illegal logging vanished in the village. "Thanks to the af-

orestation efforts, we can always see wild animals. Besides, we also established two check points to prevent people from excavating the mountains," he said.

So far, 8 committees have been established in Guangming village to manage rivers, roads, folk-customs, environment, ecology, planning, mediation and safety affairs. Members of these committees are all villagers.

Standard management of the village helps improve its image, said Ji Xiaodong, head of a company developing tourism in Guangming village, adding that ecological environment is as important as air.

People's Daily



**The development of Guangming village couldn't have been achieved without the assistance from the local government. Since 2008, many projects were launched for the village, helping it establish its own transport network, parking lots and tourism restrooms**





Students from a primary school in Hai'an, east China's Jiangsu province play with robot dogs, Aug. 10. Photo by Zhai Huiyong, People's Daily Online

## Third Digital China Summit to be held in Fuzhou

THE 3rd Digital China Summit will be held from Oct. 12 to 14 in Fuzhou, south-east China's Fujian province, said Yang Xiaowei, vice minister of the Cyberspace Administration of China during a recent press conference.

The theme of the summit is "digital transformation driven by innovation; high-quality development led via intelligence." The summit, to be held both online and offline, will consist of seven sessions: opening ceremony, main forum, sub-forums, exhibition, innovation contest, launch event for application scenarios, and closing ceremony.

In the meantime, a series of events commemorating 20 years of digital development in Fujian will also be held to review the digital progress in the province and look ahead to the country's digital agenda.

Zhao Long, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, and vice governor of Fujian province introduced at the press conference that the summit will set up a "cloud summit" platform to broadcast the grand scenes of the summit simultaneously online and offline.

Besides, the summit will also simultaneously launch a "cloud exhibition" to fully demonstrate the latest achievements in the construction of digital China through cloud computing, virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI), and other methods.

Meanwhile, a special exhibition on the "Application of Digital Technologies for Epidemic Prevention and Control" will be staged to display the achievements of how digital technologies can be applied to coordinate the advancement of epidemic prevention and control as well as economic and social development.

Leading enterprises in the industry are expected to hold special ecological exhibitions to showcase their latest scientific and technological achievements, and 50% of their new products at the summit will be unveiled for the first time.

China's IT development has entered a new phase of rapid development, and the industry is trending from larger quantity to higher quality.

## Greece, Turkey set up hotline to avoid clashes, NATO says

BRUSSELS

GREECE and Turkey have set up a mechanism to avoid accidental clashes in the Eastern Mediterranean, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday, part of efforts to defuse a dispute over energy resources in the region.

Germany is leading a diplomatic push for broader dialogue and EU leaders are meeting in Brussels to discuss how to avoid any escalation over the search for hydrocarbons.

Stoltenberg said the agreement between Turkey and Greece, both members of NATO, included a hotline to avoid accidents in the sea and air.

"I welcome the establishment of a military de-confliction mechanism, achieved through the constructive engagement of

Greece and Turkey," he said in a statement.

"This safety mechanism can help to create the space for diplomatic efforts to address the underlying dispute and we stand ready to develop it further."

De-confliction, in military parlance, can mean setting up communications links between rival militaries in the same theatre, as the United States has done with Russia in Syria.

The talks at NATO headquarters were in part prompted by a light collision between Turkish and Greek frigates and increased water games by their navies in the Mediterranean.

The Turkish Defence Ministry said Turkey and Greece reached a mutual understanding on "general principles" as a result of the talks.

## Putin, Modi agree to meet in India when COVID-19 situation improves

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have agreed to meet in India for a summit when the epidemic situation permits, Indian Ambassador to Russia Bala Venkatesh Varma told journalists yesterday.

"Our leaders have spoken on the telephone, including President Putin

had spoken to Prime Minister Modi on his birthday (September 17 - TASS)," the diplomat said. "And both leaders agreed that they will have the bilateral summit in India as soon as the sanitary situation permits. There is no confirmed date as yet," he added.

In July, Prime Minister Modi said in a phone call with President Putin that he was ready to meet with him at an India-Russia summit scheduled to take place in

India this year.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. According to the latest statistics, over 34,508,000 people have been infected worldwide and more than 1,028,000 deaths have been reported. In addition, so far, over 25,684,670 individuals have recovered from the illness across the globe.

Agencies

## WHO urges protection of elderly persons in Africa amid COVID-19 outbreak

LAGOS

AFRICAN countries should prioritize safety for the elderly population, whose vulnerability to the COVID-19 pandemic is higher compared to other population groups, an official from the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa, said older people are at higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19, noting that interventions aimed at containing the virulent disease should pay special attention to senior citizens.

"Our elders provide us with love and care, and are a source of wisdom and talent, influencing who we are and who we aspire to be.

Together we have a duty to support older people in realizing their human rights and living with dignity," Moeti said in a statement reaching Xinhua on Thursday.

In the continent, the WHO official said, more than 17,000 people aged over 55 years have lost their lives to COVID-19, accounting for over 50 percent of the COVID-19 deaths in the region.

To address the disproportionate burden of COVID-19 on older people, Moeti said the region must play a role in shielding the elders, including practicing the preventive measures of wearing masks, keeping a physical distance, and frequent washing of hands.

She added that there are around 54 million people aged over 60 years in sub-Saharan Africa, representing five percent of older adults worldwide, noting that the population of older people in sub-Saharan Africa is projected to



A member of TSU Protection Services assists an elderly lady pensioner as her hands are washed before entering a shopping centre on Day Four of National Lockdown on March 30, 2020 in Cape Town, South Africa. (File photo)

reach 67 million by 2025 and 163 million by 2050.

According to her, the year 2020 has been designated as the start of the decade of healthy aging in recognition of the profound social and economic impacts of population aging globally.

"This is an opportunity to invest more in living long and healthy lives, to combat ageism and enhance the autonomy of older persons, including by building resilient health and social systems that incorporate the needs of older people," said Moeti.

The global health agency said it was working with 40 African countries to build capacity for the integrated care of older people, an approach that centers on community-based care, early detection and management of declines in

physical and mental capacities, and supporting household caregivers.

In line with the global strategy and action plan on aging and health 2016-2020, 23 African countries have multisectoral healthy aging policies and strategic plans. "Going forward, we are increasing the focus on integrated, people-centered care in the African Region, to address the needs of different population subgroups, including older adults," she added.

The United Nations designated Oct. 1 the International Day of Older Persons. The theme of this year is "Pandemics: do they change how we address age and aging", and aims to support older people in realizing their human rights and living with dignity.

Xinhua

## China committed to sound, stable growth of Sino-US ties

WASHINGTON

CHINA is committed to the sound and stable growth of China-US ties, though the bilateral relationship is experiencing severe difficulties, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai said on Thursday.

"We have been firmly opposed, all along, to a new 'Cold War' or decoupling, and we are committed to the sound and stable growth of China-US relations," said Cui (pictured) in his remarks at the virtual reception and concert celebrating the Chinese National Day and Mid-Autumn Festival, both of which fell on Thursday.

"Indeed, the China-US relationship is experiencing severe difficulties rarely seen in the past 41 years of diplomatic ties. Some people attempt to write off the hard-won achievements in China-US relations, stoke up decoupling and incite ideological confrontation and a new 'Cold War,'" he said. "This has seriously undermined the fundamental interests of the Chinese and American people."

"We believe that a sound and stable China-US relationship is in the interests of both countries, and it is needed for



achieving the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation and building a community with a shared future for mankind," said Cui.

"China's policy towards the United States is highly stable and consistent. We are willing to develop our relations with the US with goodwill and sincerity, and the two countries should lose no time in taking bilateral relations onto the right track of no conflict, no confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation," he said.

As Chinese President Xi Jinping has pointed out, China "is committed to peaceful, open, cooperative and common development. We will never seek hegemony, expansion, or sphere of influence. We have no intention to fight either a Cold War or a hot war with any country. We will continue to narrow differences and resolve disputes with others through dialogue and negotiation," he said.

Xinhua

## Johnson to intervene in Brexit talks in bid to break impasse

BY BLOOMBERG

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson will intervene in the Brexit negotiations for the first time since June when he holds talks today with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in an attempt to unlock a deal.

With the final round of scheduled talks between the UK and European Union over their future trade and security relationship set to end on Friday after making only limited progress, the prime minister and the EU chief will discuss how the two sides can get to an agreement.

"The PM will be speaking to President von der Leyen tomorrow afternoon to take stock of negotiations and discuss next steps," a spokesperson for Johnson said.

While officials said there hasn't been a definitive breakthrough in negotiations this week, the move is seen in Brussels as a positive step forward. The EU wants to hear from Johnson that he is prepared to take the final leap to get a deal, enabling talks to continue in coming days.

The pound erased losses to rise as much as 0.3 percent to \$1.2933 as of 8:30 am in London on hopes that the talks may spur a breakthrough.

"The EU is willing to close a deal," Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte told reporters in Brussels on Thursday. "It helps if it is done before the end of the year, but I'm not going to commit myself to a date -- the sooner the better," he said. "We all agree that somewhere in October it would be nice to have at least the general outline and the details of a deal ready."

If the two sides fail to reach a trade agreement by year-end, when Britain leaves the EU's single market and customs union, millions of consumers and business will suffer the cost and disruption of tariffs and quotas and relations between the two sides could be poisoned for a generation.

The UK and EU are still stuck on the same issues that have plagued the negotiations since they began seven months ago. The EU wants guarantees on a level playing field for businesses, including on how the British government will allocate state aid, and they are at odds over how to calculate fishing quotas for European boats in British waters.

The EU's rejection of the compromises offered at the start of the week hasn't stopped British officials from expressing more optimism in recent days.

"We certainly are committed to continuing to work constructively to seek to reach an agreement with the EU," Johnson's spokesman, James Slack, told reporters on Thursday.

While EU negotiators don't completely share that optimism, they have been heartened by the UK's apparent new willingness to bring potential concessions to the table and seek a deal.

Still, complicating the discussions is Johnson's threat to break international law by unilaterally rewriting parts of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement.

On Thursday, the EU began the first stage of legal proceedings against the UK, accusing the country of a breach of good faith.

While officials are trying to keep that issue separate from Frost and Barnier's discussions, the EU is pressing the UK to commit to a clear, legally binding mechanism for resolving any disputes between the two sides, particularly on the issue of state aid, officials said last week.

Agencies

# Water conservation steadily advances in China's Yellow River

THE Yellow River accounts for only 2 percent of China's water resource, but it is a source of water for 12 percent of the country's population, 15 percent of its arable land, and over 50 medium- and large-sized cities.

It's been more than a year since the country convened a symposium on the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River on Sept. 18, 2019. Over the past year, local governments and departments concerned have largely promoted the economical and intensive use of water resources, so as to advance water conservation in agricultural, industrial

and domestic uses. As a result, the Yellow River basin witnessed continuous improvement in water conservation.

China's Ministry of Water Resources has vigorously promoted water conservation for higher efficiency in the agricultural sector, accelerated the modernization of medium and large irrigation areas, popularized water-saving technologies and optimized crop structure and areas. In 2019, the Yellow River basin's coefficient of effective use of water in farmland irrigation reached 0.562, and the actual use of irrigation water per mu (667 square meters) stood at 319 cubic meters. Such perfor-

mance was better than the national average.

In Huaxian county, central China's Henan province, local agricultural authority has leveled arable land, connected canals and ditches, and implemented the expansion of Yellow River irrigation areas. So far, the county has established high-standard farmland of nearly 1.35 million mu, and another 6 mu will be constructed this year.

According to Bai Xuejie, a major grain grower in Caihu village, Huaxian county, he used to irrigate his land with a diesel engine, but now electrified wells are drilled in the fields, which

saves both money and water. In addition, he has learned how to use irrigation sprinklers, which can water 400 mu of land in 3 days and save half of the water volume. Bai told People's Daily that Huaxian county introduced over 140 million cubic meters of water from the Yellow River last year, and now the county is able to produce 394,400 kilograms more of grains each year while reducing 472,000 cubic meters of irrigation water consumption.

To lower water consumption, strict quotas have been implemented for enterprises, institutions and farmlands, which forced water consumers to deter-

mine their demand according to how much quota they get.

Huafang Co. Ltd. is a textile enterprise in Binzhou, east China's Shandong province, and its water consumption quota is 3.7 million cubic meters. "It's not only a red line, but a life line, as half of our production would be halted once the water supply is cut off," said Yu Tao, deputy chief engineer of the enterprise's energy system. Every workshop of the company has its respective quota for water consumption, and the actual use of water is recorded in a management platform. "The quota stimulated our enthusiasm to save water, and

we have rolled out a series of new techniques and equipment because of it," Yu said, adding that now waste water of the company is recollected according to their kinds. Last year, the company consumed 0.83 ton of water for every hundred meters of dyed products, which was only half of the amount set in industrial standard, Yu told People's Daily.

"Over the past year, we have strictly monitored the total water usage and intensity in the Yellow River basin, and implemented rigid water resources argumentation and water abstraction licensing, to ensure that

every drop of water was fully exploited," said Cheng Yanhong, an official with the Ministry of Water Resources.

From July 2019 to June 2020, a total of over 24.29 billion cubic meters of water was abstracted from Yellow River trunk streams in Qinghai, Gansu, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Shaanxi, Henan, Shandong and Hebei, 521 million cubic meters less than the annual quota. It is introduced that the water consumption per 10,000 yuan of GDP in the Yellow River basin has been continuously dropping. The figure stood at 55.4 cubic meters last year. **People's Daily**





Yanga Princesses Club's players greet their squad's fans prior to kick off of a Mainland Women Premier League's game against Simba Queens, which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently.

## TFF to put emphasis on women soccer promotion

NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has revealed that it has set up a strategy for creating opportunities for women to achieve success in football domestically.

Wilfred Kidao, TFF General Secretary, disclosed in Arusha yesterday women's soccer still faces many challenges at the domestic level, thus, the body has decided to put in place a strategic plan for solving the challenges.

The shortfalls, the TFF official noted, are, among others, shortage of female players, coaches and referees, as well as female leaders from the club level to the national level.

He was one of instructors at a Women's Administration and Leadership training seminar, organized by TFF in the city this week.

"This training is a continuation of TFF's strategic plan introduced by the federation's president Wallace Karia for promoting women's football and creating many

opportunities for them, as it is the case for their counterparts in Kenya and Uganda," he disclosed.

He said the Administration and Leadership training seminar is conducted in the country to not only show women the opportunities available in football but also motivate them to exploit the opportunities.

Zakayo Mjema, who had represented Arusha Regional Football Association (ARFA) Chairman in the seminar, said a total of 30 teachers in the region have benefitted from the one-week seminar.

The seminar involved male and female teachers from all districts in the region.

The national football governing body is lately hosting two women tournaments at the national level.

The events are Mainland Women Premier League and Mainland Women First Division League.

Several regions across the country are also hosting regional women soccer competitions which produce participants for the national tournaments.

## Investing in stadiums a must for Dar soccer

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

THE fourth round of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League (VPL) has ended with nine games having taken place in various stadiums in Tanzania.

A section of the sides have been keeping on notching victories, whilst some are have settled for draw and others have lost their duels.

This season, since the opening round, looks to be tough on the basis of quality the participating outfits have shown in matches.

Looking at the games' results and the league table one can certainly come to conclusion this season's domestic top flight is indeed tough.

The level of competition in the top flight augurs well for the future of the sport in the country, as the event bolsters players' performance.

The players will prove to be quite useful to the national team, helping the squad hold its own against prominent teams in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The VPL players need to be disciplined both in and outside the field, the aspect will make the top flight games entertaining.

In a bid to maintain peace in the stadiums, fans who access the venues to watch the clashes and even those watching the games on television, should realize that they are an important part of the implementation of the plan.

Recently there have been reports of several incidents of violence in the stadiums, with fans being the main perpetrators of the incidents.

In one of the incidents, a section of fans confronted an assistant referee in a VPL duel between Azam FC and Mbeya City FC, which took place in Mbeya.

The assistant referee, as per the fans' perception, had waved a penalty that Mbeya City FC was to be awarded when the outfit's forward was fouled by Azam FC defender in the latter's area.

Security officials, who were assigned to see to it the match takes



Kilimanjaro's Ushirika Stadium as pictured in Moshi recently.

place peacefully, quickly moved in to keep the rowdy fans in check.

The match officials then had to be taken out of the stadium by the police after the clash to quell an attempt by fans to attack the officials.

Football is undoubtedly an emotional game and everyone has an outfit he or she loves and aspires to see the outfit achieve success, especially due to huge investment that has been made on a section of the clubs.

A tendency by fans to entertain unnecessary emotional outbursts is not good for the sport domestically. The sport should instead unite the fans.

With the VPL having turned out to be an extremely competitive competition, the participating squads should prepare well for each game.

Better preparations put outfits in an advantageous position, as far as posting victory in games is concerned.

The clubs, in the process, eliminate baseless complaints against referees and avoid entertaining unprofessional behaviours that are actually embarrassing.

A tendency by some of the sides to opt out of using the official entrance points at stadiums for what is seen as an attempt by the sides to embrace superstitious beliefs should, for in-

stance, be put to an end.

Apart from the embarrassment that outfits endure because of entertaining such incidents, the tendency reflects lack of confidence in terms of preparations, leading to such unfounded fears.

It is therefore important for the squads' leaders and technical benches to prepare their teams adequately.

The ability by some of domestic players that had enjoyed impressive spell in the last year's VPL to continue performing well in the early stage of this season is, moreover, a joy to watch.

The players that include KMC FC striker, Reliants Lusajo, Kagera Sugar striker, Yusuph Mhili, and Mtibwa Sugar goal getter, Jaffary Kibaya, all look good but there are also newly recruited performers who have started doing well.

Players are responsible for seeing to it they play their hearts out from the early stage of the VPL to avoid putting their clubs in difficult position during the closing stages.

Each of the players should set his goals and seek to achieve them.

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) leadership deserves praise for efforts it has been putting in promoting soccer, including seeing to it that stadi-

ums, which host domestic competitions' games, are in good condition.

The federation has gone as far as preventing clubs from using venues that have been found to have various shortcomings.

For Tanzania to scale great heights in football, efforts should be done to improve the stadiums and oversee proper maintenance of the facilities.

Structures including playing fields, changing rooms, stands and wash rooms should always be in good condition before the start of every season.

The move will help stadiums' owners avoid inconveniences, apart from seeing to it that clubs are not forced to relocate to regions with better venues for failure by some of the venues' owners to put the facilities in good condition.

It is quite surprising that some of the venues are not in use, such as TFF and Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) officials had visited all venues to inspect the facilities prior to the VPL kick off.

Venues that are currently not in use for failure by the owners to put them in good condition are Kilimanjaro's Ushirika Stadium, Morogoro's Jamhuri Stadium, Mwanza's Gwambina Stadium, Coast Region's Mabatini venue, and Musoma's Karume Stadium.

## Rihanna on new album: 'I just want to have fun with music'

NEW YORK

IT'S BEEN four years since Rihanna released an album but the singer is working hard on recording new music.

The pop star, 32, told The Associated Press for her new album she's already held "tons of writing camps" - where songwriters are put into groups to create original tracks for artists.

Now, she said she's asked herself the questions: "What do I feel personally? What do I want to put out, and as an artist, how do I want to play it with my art? How do I want to interpret that?"

"How do I want to reimagine it because it's been so structured before," Rihanna continued in a recent interview.

The multi-genre artist who has won Grammys in the R&B, dance and rap categories added: "You do pop, you did this genre, you do that, you do radio, but now it's just like, what makes me happy? I just want to have fun with music. Everything is so heavy. The world that we live in is a lot. It's overwhelming every single day. And with the music, I'm using that as my outlet."

Rihanna's "ANTI," the singer's eighth album released in 2016, was a critically acclaimed effort, launching multiple hits such as "Work," "Love on the Brain," "Needed Me" and more. Overall, Rihanna's achieved 14 No. 1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 chart since making her debut in 2005. She's accumulated 31 Top 10 hits on the chart.

Since the release of "ANTI," she's guest appeared on songs like DJ Khaled's "Wild Thoughts," Kendrick Lamar's "Loyalty," N.E.R.D.'s "Lemon" and Future's "Selfish." Her only 2020 release has been "Believe It" with PartyNextDoor.

Rihanna, who has been uber-busy with her successful makeup and fashion lines, says the pandemic has challenged things musically speaking, but she plans to press on.

"I want to go on tour but I can't, so I'm stuck with music that I love, and now I'm trying to figure out how I can even create visuals to that," she said. "That's a challenge as well. But I love challenges so, you know, I'm gonna get it done."

AP

## After ruling K-pop, BLACKPINK aim to takeover pop world too

NEW YORK

FOUR years after they debuted as the next buzzed-about girl group on the K-pop music scene, BLACKPINK's lofty dreams in music have come into fruition.

Perform at Coachella. Check. Record a song with Lady Gaga. Check. Collaborate with Selena Gomez. Check.

Get a verse from Cardi B. Check. Another major objective: Record their first full-length album after being known for dropping hit single after single to showcase a deeper, more personal side of the group.

Boldly titled "The Album," the eight-song project being released Friday highlights all the things BLACKPINK have become known for: fun, big, explosive songs that mesh sounds like pop, electronica, hip-hop, dance and trap.

"We had so many things to take a look into. When it comes to one song, the video, the choreography, the fashion, the visual, everything is just put into one - let's just times that by how many. We were kind of freaking out at first, but then we have been working for it for a long time," Jennie, 24, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It gave us enough time to perfect everything and make it into our own."

BLACKPINK - which also includes Rosé, Jisoo and Lisa - debuted with the singles "Boombayah" and "Whistle," which quickly topped the South Korean music charts. They've had success with other hits and marked their debut on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2018 with the gold-selling "Ddu-Du Ddu-Du," which has more than 1 billion views on YouTube, and "Kiss and Make Up," a collaboration with English hitmaker Dua Lipa. A year later, they nearly cracked the Top 40 with "Kill This Love," while a pair of their EPs reached the Top 40 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

They performed on a worldwide tour last year, taking on U.S. arenas like The



This image released by Netflix shows, from left, Jisoo, seated from left, Rosé, Jennie and Lisa of the K-Pop band Blackpink. The band releases "The Album" on Friday. (Netflix via AP)

Forum in Inglewood, California, and Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey. They became the first K-pop girl group to perform at Coachella when they hit the stage there last year.

Those moments have prepared them for "The Album," partially recorded during the pandemic. Outside of the big beats and slick choreography, the members wanted to get deep on the songs.

"We feel like we tried to put as many personalities of us as we could in the album. We have some very personal songs; songs that are a little more close to our hearts, that speak our story a little more," Rosé, 23, said. "Personal songs take a little more to record, definitely. We had to bring our souls into the recording studio. It was us being very vulnerable. We heard that our fans can kind of feel that."

The in-your-face first single, "How You Like That," set a re-

cord on YouTube for most views within 24 hours for a music video (BTS later broke it); the track won song of summer at the 2020 MTV Video Music Awards; and it became their first Top 40 hit in the U.S., peaking at No. 33. Two months later, second single "Ice Cream," co-starring Gomez and co-written by Ariana Grande, debuted at No. 13 on the Hot 100.

"She's like the sweetest girl," Jennie said of Gomez. "As soon as we were talking about collaborating with someone for 'Ice Cream,' we all thought of Selena maybe and then it actually came true and we made it happen."

Cardi B is featured on "Bet You Wanna," and the girls couldn't control themselves when they first heard the Grammy-winning rapper's verse: "We were screaming. We were literally screaming," Rosé exclaimed.

"It was our first time having a rapper feature for our song," Jen-

nie said. "As soon as we heard the verse we were like, 'Ah! Cardi B!!'" The collaborations with Cardi and Gomez come months after BLACKPINK recorded "Sour Candy" for Gaga's "Chromatica" album, released in May.

"It's crazy because I grew up listening to her songs on the radio. She was always on the radio. I remember when we were talking to her, she just was so sweet and so down to earth and so down to work with us. She was very genuine about it," Rosé said.

"She was asking us about our opinions and speaking about the message that she wants to put out in the song," Jennie chimed in. "We were like, 'Yes, yes. We're all there.'"

BLACKPINK say they're excited to see female artists open their doors to the group finding its way in the international music industry. "We feel very supported," Rosé said.

"The fact that they're reaching out to us. The fact that they're featuring us. That move itself kind of speaks to that there are no boundaries and they are willing to create something fun, which we love to do," Jennie said. "It's a great feeling and we're so lucky to be able to make things happen."

Though BLACKPINK's rise to fame might have come out of nowhere to some audiences, the performers have trained for years to get to this point. Through South Korean entertainment company YG Entertainment - which launched the 2012 viral and colorful "Gangnam Style" song and video from Korean rapper PSY - each singer auditioned individually as teenagers, spending years in vocal, dance and language training. It's documented in Netflix's "BLACKPINK: Light Up the Sky," the streaming platform's first K-pop documentary. It will be available Oct. 14.

"We're very nervous that they get to see those sides of us. It's very new for us to have cameras in the in-progress stages. We're always very used to showing our fans the final stages - what we've already considered 10 times before releasing anything. Just to have an extra eye in there, more like thousands of new eyes now in the progress, we feel very vulnerable, but excited to share," Rosé said.

"It's like the unfiltered version of us," Jennie added. "It's the best way we could have shown this to our fans."

Those die-hard fans - called the BLINKS - have followed the foursome for four years, helping the girls build a strong social media presence around the world.

AP



## Lionel Messi playing out of his skin for Barcelona after ending departure saga

VIGO, SPAIN

BARCELONA defender Sergi Roberto praised his captain Lionel Messi for a sensational display in his side's 3-0 win away to Celta Vigo in La Liga on Thursday, as the Argentinean further demonstrated he has put his troubles with the club behind him.

After Ansu Fati had opened the scoring, Messi helped double Barca's advantage early in the second half with an unstoppable run down the right hand side of the area and a shot that bounced off Celta's Lucas Olaza and into the net for an own goal.

Messi later had a strike ruled out narrowly for offside and then created Barca's third goal in added time, dancing through Celta's defence and firing a shot at goal which keeper Ivan Villar parried, leaving Sergi Roberto to score on the rebound.

"Leo is so fired up right now," Sergi Roberto said.

"He ran so much today and played out of his skin for the team."

Messi has sought to draw a line under his efforts to leave the club over the summer as well as his vociferous criticism of president Josep Maria Bartomeu, saying in a recent interview that the time had come for everyone at the club to pull together.

He backed up his words with a tireless display against Celta, leading the team's attacks as well as running himself into the ground to help them cope with having Clement Lenglet sent off in the first half.

"We're so happy that Leo is still with us and the fact he is so motivated is a huge boost for us," added Sergi Roberto.

Coach Ronald Koeman also pointed to Messi's willingness to sacrifice himself, adding: "Messi worked very hard off the ball tonight which was very important for us tonight."

REUTERS

## PSG coach Tuchel anxious for signings before transfer window closes

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel claims his side cannot be expected to go on another run to the Champions League final unless new signings are made before Monday's transfer deadline.

"We will do everything we possibly can and we will never accept excuses but we have to face up to the reality and that is that we have lost players," Tuchel told reporters ahead of PSG's Ligue 1 meeting with Angers on Friday.

PSG won every domestic trophy available in France last season before going on to reach the Champions League final for the first time, losing narrowly to Bayern Munich in Lisbon in August.

However, since the end of last season they have seen captain Thiago Silva, Edinson Cavani, right-back Thomas Meunier, striker Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and defensive starlet Tanguy Kouassi depart, amongst others.

Apart from making Mauro Icardi's loan move from Inter Milan into a permanent transfer, the only new arrival is right-back Alessandro Florenzi, recruited on loan from Roma.

Tuchel said: "If we stay like this we can't speak about having the same objectives. Perhaps we can do it but we can't ask for the same things from such a reduced squad when we will have to fight with teams like Manchester City, Liverpool and Atletico Madrid, who have all been very strong in the transfer market."

"In a season like this, with players who will be playing a lot for their national teams, with the coronavirus, without a pre-season, with a schedule like we have, I am worried that we will pay the price in October, November, December and January," added the German.

PSG lost their first two games of the new Ligue 1 campaign. However they have since won three in a row and will be fancied to extend that run at home to Angers, even if Angel Di Maria begins a four-match ban and left-back Juan Bernat is a long-term absentee with a knee injury.

Neymar is available after escaping punishment following allega-

tions of racist and homophobic abuse in an ill-tempered defeat by Marseille last month.

The French league's disciplinary committee ruled on Wednesday that it did not have sufficient proof to take action against the Brazilian or Marseille defender Alvaro Gonzalez, who Neymar had accused of calling him a "monkey".

Friday's game, which will be played before a maximum of 1,000 spectators due to tightened coronavirus restrictions in Paris, is PSG's last before the international break.

However, their schedule is set to get very busy from the middle of this month, with the Champions League group stage starting on October 20.

Player to watch: Lucas Paqueta  
Brazil midfielder Paqueta, 23, this week joined Lyon from AC Milan on a five-year deal for a fee of 20 million euros (\$23.4m).

Paqueta, capped 11 times by Brazil, joined Milan from Flamengo in January last year but failed to properly settle at San Siro.

Amid ongoing speculation that Houssem Aouar and Memphis Depay will leave Lyon before Monday's transfer deadline, Paqueta could make his Ligue 1 debut when his new team host bitter rivals Marseille on Sunday.

### Key stats

3 - PSG have lost just three times at home in 73 Ligue 1 games over the last five seasons.

13 - Rennes top the table with 13 points ahead of the weekend. It is their best ever start to a top-flight season.

100 - Lyon and Marseille meet for the 100th time in France's top flight. The game has become one of the great rivalries in Ligue 1 in recent years.

### Fixtures (kick-offs GMT)

**Today**  
Lens v Saint-Etienne (1500), Nice v Nantes (1900)

**Tomorrow**  
Montpellier v Nimes (1100), Bordeaux v Dijon, Brest v Monaco, Metz v Lorient, Strasbourg v Lille (all 1300), Rennes v Reims (1500), Lyon v Marseille (1900)

AFP

## Southgate lays down the law to England stars

LONDON

GARETH Southgate has warned his England stars to appreciate what it means to represent their country after he dropped Mason Greenwood and Phil Foden to send a "message" following their behaviour last month.

Manchester United forward Greenwood and Manchester City midfielder Foden were sent home after breaching coronavirus regulations in September.

The pair invited local women to the England team hotel just hours after both had made their senior debuts in a 1-0 Nations League win

over Iceland.

Southgate left the youngsters out of his squad for the forthcoming friendly against Wales and Nations League matches with Belgium and Denmark.

Southgate revealed he had already told both players they would not be included this time around before they left Iceland last month.

The England boss also said he will talk to his 30-strong squad ahead of the upcoming game about the importance of representing the country when called on to do so.

AFP

## Liverpool exit, Arsenal progression the result both teams needed

LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

EVENTUALLY, both teams probably got the result their seasons needed.

It took 90 goalless minutes and a penalty shootout but Arsenal booked their place in the quarterfinals of the Carabao Cup at Liverpool's expense. Joe Willock's spot kick -- the Gunners' sixth -- only just squirmed over the line underneath Adrian to give Mikel Arteta's side another victory over the champions courtesy of penalties after the Community Shield went the same way in August.

The way Arsenal's players celebrated -- running to the corner and jumping all over Willock -- was evidence enough that they are very much interested in winning this competition for the first time since 1993. It was not that Liverpool don't, just that they have bigger fish to fry.

Winners in 2012 and runners-up as recently as 2016, there was a time when the League Cup in its many different guises was a focal point of their campaign, but not now. Not after winning the Champions League and the Premier League in back-to-back years.

Arsenal under Arteta are at a different stage of their development, and lifting this trophy at Wembley in March will represent a significant accomplishment after winning the FA Cup in August. Title contenders often learn how to win in the cups and Arsenal have been formidable in such competitions under Arteta.

For Liverpool, however, taking home only the League Cup this season would be considered a disappointment when set against what has gone before.

"This game tonight matters like you wouldn't believe," read the banner



Arsenal's Bernd Leno makes a save during their League Cup tie against Liverpool. (REUTERS)

above Klopp's programme notes. "We want to win it with all we have."

Lower down, though, came the caveat.

"It is not a case of treating certain competitions as priorities over others. It's about managing the situation, the circumstances and the squad. The situation and circumstances cannot be ignored."

Liverpool's situation is that they face a trip to inform Aston Villa in three days' time as they try to maintain their perfect start in the Premier League, and even though Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah were handed starts, both were substituted after an hour.

Van Dijk began to walk off before the board had even gone up suggesting his withdrawal had been

prearranged.

Arsenal have a game on Sunday, too, against Sheffield United at the Emirates. But Arteta -- who also made changes following the 3-1 defeat to Liverpool in the league on Monday -- is trying to guide his team back into the top four and bring back Champions League football.

Liverpool, meanwhile, have only got eyes for the Premier League trophy and Klopp will know that, if the last three seasons are anything to go by, he will need close to 100 points. There is no margin for error, even just a couple of weeks into the season.

It would have been different had Arsenal goalkeeper Bernd Leno not been in such fine form at Anfield. Beaten three

times on the same ground on Monday, he looked determined to make sure the same thing did not happen again.

He made fine save from Marko Grujic twice, Diogo Jota and Van Dijk in normal time before making two saves in the shoo-out from Divock Origi and Harry Wilson. The save to deny Wilson, making his first Liverpool start since January 2017, was particularly impressive and it was understandable that he walked off the field wearing a huge grin.

The first half was about as exciting as the atmosphere inside an empty Anfield. That was until Neco Williams -- abused by some Liverpool fans online for his performance in the last round against Lincoln -- swung in a delicious ball

towards the back post. It was the one bit of real quality during 45 minutes of shadow boxing and gave Jota the chance to head at goal. It was saved by a diving Leno and just as everyone inside the stadium expected Takumi Minamoto to finish a simple chance from the rebound, his volley crashed off the underside of the crossbar.

Then came Leno's masterclass to keep Arsenal in the game. Arteta has inherited a goalkeeper who can not only aid the Spaniard's blueprint of passing out from the back, he's also pretty useful with his hands, too.

It was perhaps destiny that a fixture that ended 5-5 last season would be goalless this time around, although Klopp admitted afterwards his team should have been "a bit more clinical."

He will not be too disappointed when the Carabao Cup quarterfinals and semifinals are both crammed into the hectic Christmas schedule. His players will have their feet up when Arsenal are taking on Manchester City in the last eight in late December. Klopp is not the type to admit to being happy after a defeat and even though it was not the result Liverpool wanted, he will look back in May and accept it was what they needed.

ESPN

## Relentless Liverpool raise bar for title rivals

LONDON

LIVERPOOL are only three games into their Premier League title defence but their stuttering rivals must get their acts together if they are going to prevent an Anfield procession.

Jürgen Klopp's side have answered any questions about their appetite for more success after winning the club's first English title for 30 years.

Following their chaotic opening win against Leeds, Liverpool have reeled off a pair of impressive victories against Chelsea and Arsenal to extend their perfect start to the season.

A slightly below-par defensive effort against Leeds seems to have sharpened Liverpool's focus.

They were back to their ruthless best as they dispatched big-spending Chelsea at Stamford Bridge before brushing aside Arsenal after the Gunners had the temerity to take the lead at Anfield.

The additions of Thiago Alcantara and Diogo Jota have given Liverpool even more thrust and poise in midfield and attack -- an ominous thought given the Reds scored 85 goals in 38 league games last season.

Ahead of their trip to Aston Villa on Sunday, Klopp insisted he expects Liverpool to be pushed all the way to the finish line.

"It's an open race, Chelsea will be there, United will be there, Arsenal, Tottenham, these teams will always be there," said Klopp.

"There are tough moments for us and other teams and it's about how you react and are you doing it in the right way?"

"It's a marathon, not a sprint, and you have to go through a lot of moments. I have no idea who will win but I know a lot of teams will try."

But, in private, Klopp must be well aware that Liverpool's bid to successfully defend the title for the first time since 1984 will be greatly enhanced if their challengers cannot address their own shortcomings.

### - Fatal flaws -

Manchester City finished 18 points behind Liverpool in second place last term and the early signs suggest they have not done enough to close the gap.

While it was only one match, last Sunday's embarrassing 5-2 home defeat against Leicester exposed several of the problems that contributed



Liverpool's strong start is ominous for their title rivals. (Agencies)

to the end of City's two-year reign as champions.

Pep Guardiola's swoop for Benfica centre-back Ruben Dias this week was a damning admission that the close-season signing of Bournemouth defender Nathan Ake alone was not enough to plug the holes in his leaky defence.

A lack of cutting edge proved fatal in City's shock Champions League quarter-final loss to Lyon last season. With Sergio Aguero still recovering from knee surgery, City again failed to turn territorial dominance into a knockout blow

against Leicester.

If City, who face an intriguing clash at Leeds on Saturday, look compromised, the same can be said for Manchester United after their erratic start.

Beaten 3-1 by Crystal Palace at Old Trafford in a woeful opening game, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side needed a 100th-minute penalty to escape Brighton with a 3-2 victory.

Solskjaer relied on the influence of Bruno Fernandes to revive United after the Portugal playmaker's arrival from Sporting Lisbon in January, but

it is the defence that looks most vulnerable at present.

Chelsea's spending spree of around £220 million (\$283 million) was supposed to help Frank Lampard's men close the gap to Liverpool after they finished 33 points adrift last season.

In the early stages of integrating Timo Werner, Kai Havertz, Thiago Silva, Ben Chilwell and Edouard Mendy, Lampard's Chelsea laboured to victory at Brighton before being outclassed by Liverpool.

Fighting back from three goals down to draw at West

Bromwich Albion was encouraging for their team spirit but a worrying sign of their defensive weakness.

Arsenal are clearly improved, but it is too early for Mikel Arteta's FA Cup winners to overhaul Liverpool, while Tottenham's squad look short of quality and depth.

That leaves Leicester, the early table-toppers after three successive wins, and Everton, who also have a 100 percent record.

Yet even the most optimistic fans at the King Power Stadium and Goodison Park would surely struggle to see their teams finishing above the Liverpool machine.

### Fixtures (1400 GMT unless stated)

**Today**  
Chelsea v Crystal Palace (1130), Everton v Brighton (1400), Leeds v Manchester City (1630), Newcastle v Burnley (1900)

**Tomorrow**  
Leicester v West Ham (1100), Southampton v West Brom (1100), Arsenal v Sheffield United (1300), Wolves v Fulham (1300), Manchester United v Tottenham (1530), Aston Villa v Liverpool (1815)

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Liverpool exit, Arsenal progression the result both teams needed

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aces Cricket Club

## Aces cricketers eye SKLPSC scalp in 2020 Caravans T20 tournament opener

By Guardian Reporter

ACES Club's cricketers will be seeking to get their campaign in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament off to a good start, as they confront Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC) in a Group A clash in the city today.

Caravans Club has hosted the competition under the auspices of the regional cricket governing body, DC, in a bid to effectively promote the game at the domestic level.

Exciting showing is expected to be in view in the tournament's only clash today, to be played at Leaders Club venue.

Aces Club's players will in particular be keen on coming out victorious so they can maintain their good spell in club competition at the regional level this season.

Aces A team, consisting of the outfit's first choice players, have booked a place in the last four stage of the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, scheduled for October 14-18.

They are, today, expected to line up their key players that include skipper, Bhavesh Govind, Ally Mpeka, Ankit Baghel, Azim Thakur, Imran Khan, Jumanne Mohamed and Ejaz Aziz, seeking to breeze past SKLPSC.

Victory over SKLPSC will present Aces with tremendous boost, as far as their quest to turn into dominant force in the group is concerned.

Union Sports, GP Pak Stars and Aga Khan Sports Club complete the Group A.

The SKLPSC nevertheless should not be underestimated, what with their ability to command stunning wins in the shorter format of the game.

Led by skipper Naran Vekariya, the SKLPSC will be looking to make full use of the outfit's key players' prowess in an effort to get the better of Aces Club.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Group B is made up of Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Gymkhana Club, Strikers and hosts, Caravans Club.

Three games will be played on Sunday, as per the competition's fixture released by the organizers.

In the first of the Sunday games Aga Khan SC will lock horns with GP Pak Stars, the DCC will shortly thereafter confront Gymkhana Club in a Group B duel.

The day's last clash will pit Annadil Burhani against Strikers.

Strikers will be seeking to post victory over their opponents and put behind the former's disappointment in the KNML Division A, which saw the team fail to progress to the last four.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament, which has participating outfits locking horns in 20-over formatted duels, brings together the country's best cricket teams.

It is the only cricket competition organized by a private entity under the affiliation of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) and the DC.

The showdown is regarded as the country's biggest T20 tournament and it is usually held during the last quarter of the year.

## Over 500 runners register for 2020 Mount Meru Half Marathon



Athletes take part in a past Ngorongoro Half Marathon, which took place in Karatu, Arusha.

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

OVER 500 athletes that will take part in the forthcoming Mount Meru Half Marathon have now been fully registered, among them Kenyans and Ugandans, with the race set to run a week from now.

Out of the confirmed athletes, there are five runners from Kenya, while 15 Ugandans are also waiting in the wings to enroll, once permitted to travel.

The registration

exercise, organizers stated, continues at various venues, including Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium where the race will start on October 11.

Prizes for the winners include cash prize totalling 500,000/- for the top runners in the 21km main race.

The second-placed athletes in both men and women categories will be awarded 400,000/- apiece.

According to the Mount Meru Half Marathon Director, Mercy Michael Ntabago, the third-placed athletes are to get 300,000/- apiece, while the fourth and fifth athletes will receive 200,000/- and 100,000/- respectively.

According to Mercy, the newly revived, oldest race in the Northern Zone is sticking to the half marathon distance of 21 kilometers of the main event.

The race will be flagged off at Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in the City. There will also be a 6km fun race category.

Mercy stated here that this year race's routes will also be the same as last year's and with four weeks to go more runners and other participating countries will be announced because enrolment exercise is in progress.

Other top finishers will be

awarded medals. Previously the race was set to take place on September 27 this year but the showdown had to be pushed back to allow more participants register for it.

The race's postponement had, especially, targeted to give athletes from other countries chance to get out of their respective countries's Covid-19 lockdown and take part in it.

"Part of the prizes include a package to tour the legendary crater in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area," Mercy said.

The older version of the Mount Meru Marathon, which was always billed to be the most popular sporting event in Tanzania during the 1980s all the way to the 1990s, used to cover the full 42 kilometers.

It is still yet to be known whether last year's winners will return again to fight for and defend their respective crowns in this month's half marathon.

Kenyan Robert Ndiwa was last year's race's men's category winner, clocking one hour, six minutes and 26 seconds.

Tanzanian Joshua Sule from Arusha finished second after posting one hour, seven minutes and four seconds.

Sule's compatriot, Elisha Wema, came third with one hour, eight minutes and one second.

Tanzanian Asha Salum beat the rest of the competitors to the top honour in the women category.

## JKT Basketball Club pips Oilers Club in 2020 RBA tourney semi-finals

By Nassir Nchimbi, TUDARCO

NATIONAL service (JKT) Basketball Club lived up to its supporters' expectations as the squad defeated Oilers Basketball Club 59-46 in a Dar es Salaam Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League's last four match, which took place at the Bandari court in the city on Thursday.

It was the first of a three-game series' last four, which will see a squad that wins two games make it to the final.

The JKT Club's playmaker Baraka Sadick steered his team to the win, slotting in 27 points and recording eight rebounds and five assists.

Both teams had started the clash slowly, with the two teams' players missing free throws and alley-oops in the first quarter.

It took the teams nine minutes to have the first basket of the match, slotted in by JKT Club that later stepped up its game and scored with ease.

Oilers Club's players struggled as they were sloppy both offensively and defensively.

They conceded a lot of turnovers that allowed JKT Club have a lot of steals during the match.

The second half had the JKT scoring a couple of three pointers and several free throws, while Oilers



Dar es Salaam basketball players in action during a past Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League's clash.

kept on struggling to forge good coordination.

Oilers went as far as missing shots from the perimeter line.

Sadick put scintillating performance to see to it JKT Club comes out victorious, putting his squad in pole position heading to the sec-

ond match of the series.

The army outfit needs victory in the next clash to book a place in the final.

The competition's women's semi-final clash, involving JKT Stars and Vijana Queens, which took place at the court, had the

army squad notching comprehensive 80-39 victory over the opponents.

Jessica Julius, JKT Stars' dependable performer, was one of the players who helped the outfit grab the convincing victory.

Jessica slotted in 32 points, post-

ed eight rebounds and two assists in a fine showing that has kept JKT Stars ahead in a three-games series semi-final.

The army squad remains a dominant force in the women's event, thanks to the success.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

