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TANZANIA

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How a woman changed her mind after Covid-19 almost 'knocked me out'

These grocery staples remain prohibitively priced despite VAT exemption - a puzzle

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# Treasury battles for cash transfer levies

By Henry Mwangonde

ONE month since the government indicated it would review rates of levy charged on mobile money transactions, a decision is yet to be made, with revenues generated looking too tempting to forgo.

Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba was yesterday at pains to explain why the government has not fulfilled the promise of reducing the rates that stakeholders said would derail financial inclusivity.

While saying that discussions were still going on, the minister was quick to say that in the last four weeks it has been in force, the government collected a whopping 48.4bn/- that has already been disbursed to local government authorities for construction of health centres.

"Tanzanians should keep waiting until all the government works on all the pending issues that are of concern to Tanzanians, but we should keep in mind that this is an issue of national interest," he said.

The government will anytime from now come up with a framework to address the matter which among other things will take into consideration the public outcry, he stated, noting that the levies were meant to implement various development projects.

It would be embarrassing to see strategic projects failing due to lack of funding, he remarked, insisting that already the funds have been channelled to development projects including construction of classrooms and health centres.

The minister similarly affirmed that the government has collected 26bn/- since the introduction of fuel lev-

**Tanzanians should keep waiting until all the government works on all the pending issues that are of concern to Tanzanians, but we should keep in mind that this is an issue of national interest**

ies, and it was working on seeking out other means of expanding the tax base.

At the news conference, the minister was flanked by his Communication and Information Technology counterpart Dr Faustine Ndugulile and the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) Ummu Mwalimu. They elaborated

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Commodore Azana Msingiri, head of Zanzibar's Special Anti-Smuggling Squad (KMKM), shows journalists at Mtoni yesterday some of the fish he said the force caught in collaboration with their partner, Wisam Company, as part of a deep-sea fishing operation meant to support the implementation of the Isles' blue economy policy. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

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## DISEASE PREVENTION Page 7



# Blue Economy: Zanzibar launches deep-sea fishing

By Guardian Reporter

THE government of Zanzibar has conducted its first deep sea fishing in the newly launched blue economy drive as it awaits new vessels for effective but sustainable harvesting of marine resources.

The ship operated by anti-smuggling squad (KMKM) successfully conducted the trial activity and returned to the islands yesterday with more than five tonnes of fish

to a rapturous welcome.

Speaking at the receiving ceremony here, head of KMKM Commodore Azana Msingiri said the success of the first deep sea fishing signifies better future in the blue economy initiative.

"The size, type and quality of the catch qualify for sale in the international market and we will do just that," he said.

He said that companies, intermediaries or individuals interested in purchasing the fish for resale in international market may visit KMKM offices for price negotiation

and sale.

Head of patrol at KMKM, Hussein Ali Mwinyi said the success of the operation is good news considering the fact that weather in the sea was rough when it was being undertaken.

"Weather was bad in the ocean yet we managed to catch enough fish; this is really good news," he enthused.

This success was registered at a time

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# 'Use sunflower out growers to curb edible oil shortage'

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

AGRICULTURE minister Prof Adolf Mkenda yesterday directed the Cereals and Other Produce Board (CPB) to enter into contracts with big and small sunflower farmers to end the perennial shortage of edible oil in the country.

The minister (pictured) said the contracts need to compel smallholder farmers to become members of active cooperative societies, launching two factories for maize milling and sunflower processing, supervised by the board.

In the contracts, the board in col-



laboration with the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), would be responsible for producing appropriate and well researched seedlings that would

bring more yields, he stated.

Tanzania's annual demand for cooking oil stands at 570,000 metric tonnes while local production capacity stands at 205,000 metric tonnes, in which case traders must hugely import to cover the deficit.

The ministry will be providing extension officers as part of the contract, who will help in ensuring that the end products are up to standard, he affirmed, elaborating that the move is aimed at eliminating the need for edible oil imports.

Ministerial statistics indicate that Tanzania spends a lot of money for such imports from Malaysia in particular, praising

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# 'Impact of COVID-19 hardest on informal sector women, girls'

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

WOMEN and girls working in the informal sector are the hardest hit by economic disruptions occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic, a new survey shows.

A dissemination workshop on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and girls here yesterday was told that 60.66 per cent of respondents now need financial support to enable their petty commerce to survive after the drain on incomes.

The findings unveiled here show that the sectors most affected are tourism (36.89 per cent), food

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## 'Use sunflower out growers to curb edible oil shortage'

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the board for controls exercised in managing the production and marketing of cereals.

Tanzanian products were free from aflatoxins, he declared, inviting foreign businessmen to procure the country's products.

CPB Director General, Dr Anselm Moshi earlier said that CPB was operating a sunflower processing plant producing 40 tons per day.

"In order to have enough raw materials, CPB signed up to contract farming with farmers in Morogoro, Singida, Dodoma and Simiyu regions, with the board enabling farmers to get the best seedlings, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs," he specified.

## Shortage of essential drugs threatens war on COVID-19

NAIROBI

Kenya's fight against Covid-19 faces a major hurdle after it emerged that key antiviral drugs Remdesivir and Actemra are virtually out of stock.

The acute shortage of the drugs, which are crucial in the treatment of patients with severe cases of the viral disease, comes at a time the country is recording a surge in infections, with more than 1,000 patients in the intensive care unit and the positivity rate at a high of 15 per cent.

According to data from the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), there are only 2,000 vials of Remdesivir in the country, spread among a handful of importers.

The latest wave of infections, driven by the highly transmittable delta variant, which was first reported in India, has increased demand for the drugs and strained services at major referral hospitals.

With the drugs out of stock at the stores of major suppliers, all indications are that all is not well even as the Health ministry races to expand vaccine protection.

"We issued a few more permits last week for the importation of the drugs and already we have 1,300 vials of Actemra 80mg and 400mg for Roche Pharmaceuticals at the airport awaiting clearance," Dr Fred Siyoi, the PPB Chief Executive Officer said.

Remdesivir has been found to speed up recovery of severely ill Covid-19 patients, though the World Health Organization has questioned its effectiveness.

The drug also reduces the duration and severity of illness.

The PPB approved the drug for emergency use on Covid-19 patients and permitted five Kenyan companies to import and supply it to hospitals.

In most private hospitals across the country, Remdesivir goes for Sh7,000 per vial while Actemra, which is considered the most expensive drug in the treatment of severely ill patients, retails at Sh180,000 per vial.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa inspects laboratory equipment when he visited Lucas Malia Girls Secondary School in Ruangwa District yesterday..  
PICHA: PMO

## 'COVID-19 impact hardest on informal sector women'

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vending (19.67 per cent), kiosks (12.29 per cent), agriculture (12.29 per cent), used clothes vending (9.84 per cent) soap making (3.29 per cent) and others 5.74 per cent).

The study was conducted by the not-for profit organization Tusonge Community Development Organisation (CDO) amongst women and girls working in the informal sector in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region, from June 2020 to March 2021.

Lawi Msemwa, the project coordinator, said the study shows that something needs to be done urgently to rescue women and girls working in the informal sector because most of them are now living in abject poverty owing to the pandemic.

"The aim of the workshop was to create awareness of the reality and get recommendations on the way forward," he said.

The study was conducted as part of efforts to help the government understand the

magnitude of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in Kili-manjaro Region, understood to be the most affected due to reliance on tourism—the hardest hit sector globally, he asserted.

The survey was conducted with feminist approach as incomes are not guaranteed in the informal sector and women are more vulnerable in economic disruptions owing to their more acute welfare responsibilities.

Omega Mchaki, the monitoring and evaluation officer at Tu-

songe CDO said urgent action needs to be taken. The role of women and adolescent girls in taking care of the family is vital, he emphasised.

Tourism is one of the sectors most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, impacting economies, livelihoods, public services and opportunities on all continents. All parts of its vast value-chain have been affected. The World Trade Organization projected a fall of export revenues from tourism by \$910 billion to \$1.2 trillion in 2020 alone.



Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba updates journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the government's review of rates of levy charged on mobile money transactions. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma.

## Treasury battles for cash transfer levies

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on how the money will be spent.

Dr Ndugulile said the rate of transactions has not been reduced by introducing the levies, with transactions projected to remain between 9m and 11m per month.

In the government budget, the legislature amended the Electronic and Postal Communication Act (CAP 306), imposing a levy on all mobile money transactions depending on the amount sent or withdrawn, in an effort to raise revenue collections by 1.254trn/- to partly finance the 36.68trn/- budget for the 2021/22 financial year.

Upon introduction, the levies sparked a public outcry as the public said they were too high to carry, whereupon President Samia Suluhu Hassan promised that the government will come up with a friendly modality on how to execute the levy for it to be user-friendly.

The president acknowledged concerns from the public and promised a fair solution but it has been hard to bring about that outcome, but of late National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai hinted that the legislature would make changes to the Finance Act, 2021, specifically on the mobile money levy rates.

## Blue Economy: Zanzibar launches deep-sea fishing

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when the Union government is processing the procurement of eight state-of-the-art vessels for deep sea fishing, four of which will be stationed in Zanzibar.

Dr Rashid Tamatamah, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in charge of the fisheries sector, said back in March that the ship purchasing also focuses on creating employment opportunities from marine products.

Developing the blue economy is set out in the Zanzibar Vision 2020-2050, designed to tap into the use of sea resources for economic growth, by sustainable methods.

Upon taking office late last year, President Dr Hussein Mwinyi pledged to turn around Zanzibar by heavily investing in the blue economy, thus in pursuing this objective, he created the Blue Economy and Fisheries portfolio.

Blue or sea economy entails the fishing sector, fish farming, establishing fish processing factories, seaweed farming, oil and gas drilling and the utilisation of various marine resources as well as seashore tourism.

## Dar court gives ex-ATCL boss 4-year jail sentence

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday sentenced former Air Tanzania Limited Director General David Mataka to four years imprisonment or pay 8m/- fine for abuse of office and occasioning loss of about 100bn/- to the government.

Principal Resident Magistrate Janeth Mtega, also sentenced two other people, Ramadhani Mlinga and Bertha Soka, who were charged with forgery alongside Mataka to either pay 2m/- each or go to jail for one year.

The magistrate imposed such sentences after the court was satisfied by evidence produced by 18 prosecution

witnesses.

According to the magistrate, the former ATCL boss abused his office in October 2007 at ATCL offices in Ilala District in Dar-es-Salaam City by signing aircraft lease agreements and certificates of acceptance in disregard of technical and legal advice.

He also willfully disregarded the legal

advice given by the Attorney General, thus causing loss of USD 43, 231,718.2 to ATCL.

On part of Milinga and Soka, the magistrate ruled that there was ample evidence to prove that they forged minutes for retrospective approval of the lease of the aircraft in question.

## PWDs from poor households expected to start benefiting from TASAF programme

By Getrude Mbago

PERSONS with Disabilities (PWDs) from various poor households in the country are soon set to start benefiting from grants provided by the Tanzania Social Action Funds (TASAF) programme.

This follows the formation of a new guideline created by the government so as to facilitate the process.

Speaking during the capacity building session for the officers, who are going to carry out the identification of the group, held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, State House Permanent Secretary Dr Moses Kusiluka said thousands of PWDs will be reached with the special allowance to support their daily needs.

"The government implements various strategies and international treaties that aim to promote equity in the society. So with this additional grant to support PWDs will enable poor households to meet their daily needs and thus support poverty reduction efforts," he said.

He wanted officials who are going to supervise the identification exercise to be fair and ensure that only the eligible people are registered.

"The government will not tolerate any official who will go against set conditions during registration of the PWDs because the project now focuses on two groups of persons with disabilities; those with profound and severe disability," he said.

He said that there are four types of disabilities which include profound, severe

, moderate and mild disability but only two groups will be considered in the programme. Godwin Mkisi, TASAF acting director general said the project is approximately expected to reach 190,000 poor households which have PWDs in their homes.

"Our aim is to ensure that PWDs in the poor households are well taken care of by having access to basic needs every day," he said. Mkisi said the identification exercise is expected to be completed by end of September thus commencing the grant issuance process PWDs in October.

He said that officials who are going to supervise the initiative will be heavily capacitated to enable them to fulfill their duties efficiently.

Ernest Kimaya, chairman of Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIVYAWATA) commended the government for recognizing the importance of supporting the group as the move is going to provide huge relief to the group whom most of them are unable to engage in economic activities due to their disability.

"The government's decision to incorporate PWDs to the TASAF programme is a great step which should be commended by all. We really appreciate this," he said.

Ussi Khamis, secretary of the Zanzibar Federation of Disabled People's Organizations (SHIJUWAZA) also hailed the implementation of the project calling on the government to ensure that it reached all PWDs in the coming years.



Edward Mbanga (R), acting Permanent Secretary in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on the four-day commemoration of African Traditional Medicine Day to be held in the national capital from next Saturday. He is with the ministry's Director of Medical Services, Dr Caroline Mayengo. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Minister warns TANESCO on unnecessary power cuts

By Guardian Reporter

Energy minister Dr Meardard Kalemami has warned the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) on regular power cuts without issuing strong reasons.

According to the minister some officials at the state owned power utility have developed an outrageous behaviour of cutting power whenever

er they wish in the pretext that the grid has leaked.

He made the statement yesterday during his tour to inspect Zuzu Zuzu substation in Dodoma.

"Some days ago, there was power cut here in Dodoma and when asked the officials responded that he grid has been leaked, why this regular challenge, so I instruct that this behaviour should come to

an end, work hard to ensure that people have power all the time," he said.

Kalemami said Dodoma Region currently has enough electricity due to the presence of the Zuzu power station which when completed will be able to generate more than 600 megawatts of electricity.

He said the electricity demand for Dodoma is currently 48 megawatts, and the de-

mand has been rising daily so the station will be a savior by having reliable electricity.

"The centre produces and cools electricity to be distributed in others regions including Singida. But later, the Zuzu substation will be the core of the Iringa-Shinyanga backbone transmission line as expected to improve and stabilize access to electricity in the country while also

transmitting in the neighboring Zambia and Kenya," said Dr Kalemami.

Commenting on the regular incidents of power stations burning in the country, the Minister said there is a need to put in place systems to identify problems early so that action can be taken before it happens.

"On the recent fire incident at Msamvu power receiving

and transmission station, I have formed a special commission so as to investigate the source," he said.

He also wanted TANESCO to hire patriotic and professional staff so as to address regular fire incidents in power stations.

"Let us put patriotic, professional and non-drunk staff and if I find an alcoholic person in these stations, he or

she and the employer will all leave," he insisted.

Project manager at Zuzu Power Station, Newton Mwakifwamba, said the project is expected to be completed on September 27, this year.

"The project is now 98 percent complete, and we expect it by September 27, this year to be completed. It is implemented at a cost of USD53 million," said Mwakifwamba.



Former Temeke municipal director Lusubilo Mwakabibi under police escort shortly after appearing in the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday charged with abuse of office. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Stakeholders underscore need to strengthen adult education

By Guardian Reporter

EDUCATION stakeholders have underscored the need to strengthen adult education and build an approach which will facilitate its smooth implementation.

Official statistics from the Institute of Adulthood Education indicates that the number of illiterate youth and adults aged 15 years and above is estimated to be between 5.4 and 8 million.

They were speaking in Dar es Salaam at the just ended four-day workshop on adult learning and education system building consensus building and road mapping workshop.

The stakeholders were from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association - DVV International Tanzania Tanzania Education Network and several other institutions.

Frauke Heinze, Regional Director East/Horn of Africa DVV International said the Adult Learning and Education System Building Approach (ALESBA) is implemented in five phases, hence the reason for them to conduct a mapping exercise for adult education.

She added that DVV international is a result of the Institute of International Cooperation of German Adult Education Association since 1969 and that it works on the areas of adult education in a number of African countries including Tunisia, Morocco, Mali, Togo, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Africa.

Heinze said the program for adult learning education in Tanzania has been implemented in collaboration with the ministry of education from 2020 to 2022 at a cost of Euros 1 million.

Plucid Balige from Institute of Adulthood Education shared some strategies for improvement of adult learning education and the need to build up a proper system. He commended DVV International for their desire to invest in adult education in Tanzania.

The four-day workshop aimed at enabling participants to strengthen implementation and coordination of adult learning education services by bringing together key stakeholders, system strengthening and building consensus and road mapping for provision of adult education in the country.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop on Tuesday this week, Adamson Simbatano, a specialist in adulthood education from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Dodoma said the government is preparing guidelines that will include youth and adult learners on things to be taught, a process which will include all the stakeholders in adulthood education.

"Our future plan for adulthood education as a nation is to involve all the stakeholders to go through the current documents that are used to offer this kind of education in particular areas. This will help us to come up with the best guidelines for adult education in Tanzania," said Simbatano.

**Our future plan for adulthood education as a nation is to involve all the stakeholders to go through the current documents that are used to offer this kind of education in particular areas**

## Farmers in Shinyanga uprooting chickpea plants before harvesting time following gold discoveries on their farms

By Guardian Correspondent,

Shinyanga

FARMERS in Mwenje ward, Shinyanga Region are uprooting chickpea plants before harvesting time following gold discoveries on their farms.

The farmers told journalists that they will no longer continue with farming of the cereal crop because gold was more profitable than the crop.

One of the farm owners Khamis Lukubanija said it was better to destroy the crops and mining gold which was more

profitable.

"As you can see there is no way I should continue farming when there is gold which will make me say bye-bye to poverty in a short period," he said.

Another resident from the village who preferred anonymity said sometimes they lack

labours to harvest Chickpeas because most of the youths have ventured into gold mining which they said is paying them faster.

He said the labourers are paid between 4,000/- to harvest the crops but established mining pits they earn 10,000/-.

"Gold has come to end chickpeas farming in our area because in the short period of time of its discovery, most of the people have turned into it," he said. The chairman for gold mining group in the area, Joshua Sayi said when responding to questions from journalists

that they have been waiting for directives from the ministry of health on how to protect themselves from covid-19m while at the mining area which is now populated.

"My mining site has 7000 people but the ministry of health has never come here.

That is the reason you see not washing water at the entrance," he said. The secretary for the mining site, Peter Jonathan said they had a procedure to let people wash their hands before entering the mining sites but it was opposed and life returned to business as usual.

## US government hands over new health facilities in Mbeya and Songwe regions

By Guardian Reporter

AS part of its strong commitment to supporting Tanzania's health sector, the United States (US) government has renovated three health care facilities of Matema Care and Treatment Centre, Ipinda Reproductive and Child Health Clinic as well as Mwambani Care and Treatment Centre in Mbeya Region.

The construction of the facilities was funded by the US government through the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, part of the US department of Defense.

A ceremony to officially handover the newly renovated facilities took place yesterday at the Care and Treatment Center at Matema Lutheran Hospital, Kyela District.

Speaking during the event, US Ambassador to Tanzania Dr. Donald Wright lauded the new facilities as a strong symbol of the US commitment to improving the health of all Tanzanians through partnership with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.

"Let there be no doubt that the United States is a friend to Tanzania. We stand together with the Tanzanian government, with the Ministry of Health and all its health care workers, and with the people of Tanzania to achieve better health outcomes for all Tanzanians," he said.

Mark Breda, Country Director Walter Reed said the renovated facilities will offer patients more space, privacy, and improved services, thus leading to better health outcomes.

Walter Reed Army Institute of Research is a US government agency working within the Department of Defense. Walter Reed operates around the world, conducting research, fighting disease, and building partnerships with local governments, militaries, and civilian populations. Walter Reed has been operating in Tanzania since 1999, working to end HIV through research and the implementation of PEPFAR prevention, care, and treatment programs. Walter Reed works with Tanzanian government agencies, the Tanzanian military, NGOs, and civilians.

Walter Reed focuses its work in five regions in the Southern Highlands: Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi, Songwe, and Ruvuma. In these areas Walter Reed, through its implementing partner the Henry Jackson Foundation Medical Research International (HJFMR), provides comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment services with the goal of reducing HIV/AIDS prevalence. With funding from the United States, HJFMR provides anti-retroviral drugs to nearly 200,000 clients and has delivered HIV counseling and testing services to over one-million Tanzanians.



Karatu district commissioner Abbas Kayanda (in mask) inspects a water point at Mahhaha village in Arusha Region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

## Education ministry offers opportunity for girls, women to resume studies through FDCs

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is providing opportunity for young girls and women who dropped out of school due various reasons resume studies through various Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) across the country.

The opportunity is provided through the 'Elimu Haina Mwisho - Skills Development Initiative,' which targets adolescent girls and young women who have dropped out of pri-

mary or secondary school due to various reasons or school dropouts who were unable to subsequently continue education.

Mussa Mturuki, Principal at Katumba Folk Development College told journalists who are visiting various education development projects in Mbeya.

He said that the government has promised to continue working closely with stakeholders and partners to supervise and ensure that young girls who dropped out

of school resume their studies and thus become self-reliant economically.

He said that the improvements made by the government led to the introduction of the Elimu Haina Mwisho courses so as to enable students to fulfill their dreams that were previously deprived due to reasons of pregnancy, truancy and life hardship.

The initiative intruded by the government working closely with Karibu Tanzania Organization (KTO) to take a holistic approach to the challenges fac-

ing this group of young women and single mothers and provide them with an integrated program including secondary education, vocational training, life skills and entrepreneurship, skills needed to create opportunities for further studies or to bridge them into employment and enable them to thrive in the labor market.

The program recruit young women to Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) allocated in different regions all over Tanzania. "The programme involve bringing together the

young women for a two-year secondary education course as well as of social rehabilitation, skills-building combining both theory and practice, and short-term internships. The program aims to empower women to become skilled enough to become self-employed, formally employed, or enable them to continue their education," he said.

"We are truly grateful to the government for making improvements to these colleges as they have helped these courses to start producing

positive results for these children, because despite having the opportunity to complete their secondary education they also have the opportunity to choose a course in one field including catering, construction, automotive electronics and carpentry," he said.

He said so far there are 30 young girls in the Elimu Haina Mwisho program where they also get opportunity for their children to also study and taken care in the government institutions that provide early development education.

Commenting on the renovations carried out at the college, Mturuki said his college received 606m/- for improvements and they used the funds to construct new buildings and renovate old ones.

Sada Amani, one of the beneficiary young girls thanked the government for reviving their dreams especially after staying home for a long time with nothing to do.

She promised to utilize well the opportunity by concentrating in studies and thus perform well in exams.

## Trade officers urged to collect views on facilitating amendment of Business Act

By Guardian Reporter

THE Ministry of Industries and Trade has urged business officers all over the country to collect views from various areas that will facilitate amendment of the Business Licensing Act to meet current needs.

Permanent secretary (PS) Doto James made the statement yesterday here when closing training for trade officers from the regions of Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro.

"It is very important and I advise you that if see this law is outdated, go and collect comments and views, analyze them and later submit to the government to see how to solve the challenge," he said.

He noted that the trade officers were complaining that the law is no longer supporting the current needs so it needed to be reviewed and amended.

The PS also promised that he will lodge complaints to the relevant authorities on the delay in issuing IDs of entrepreneurs.

"Things changes every day with the science and technology development bringing new needs, so if the Act is outdated, then come up with recommendations on which articles should be amended to make trade operations better," he said.

Alo Fred, acting secretary of the trade officers association assured the PS that they are going to work on all the directives and advices.

"We appreciate so much your presence in this meeting as you have taught us a lot of things, let me assure you that we are going to work on all what you have directed," he said.

The Business Licensing Act No. 25 of 1972 is the Main Act for Business Licensing Processes in Tanzania.

The Act requires that No Entity is required to operate a Business in Tanzania without being a Holder of a Valid Business License issued by the Respective Authority.

In Tanzania, Business Licenses are issued by two Authorities namely Business Registration and Licensing Agency for Class "A" Business Licenses and Local Government Authorities (LGAs) for Class B Licenses.



**It is very important and I advise you that if see this law is outdated, go and collect comments and views, analyze them and later submit to the government to see how to solve the challenge**



Painting of road signs well under way along a Mwenge section of Dar es Salaam's newly rehabilitated and expanded Bagamoyo Road, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Human rights lawyers drilled on importance of public interest litigation

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

HUMAN rights lawyers have been drilled on the importance of public interest litigation in relation to freedom of expression as an effective advocacy tool for legal reforms.

This was during a two-day capacity building workshop which drew curtains yesterday in Zanzibar.

The seminar spearheaded

by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) with the support from the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) vents due to observation made in the drastic decline in respect to the freedom of expression, association and assembly in the country since the 2015 presidential elections.

Chief Justice of Zanzibar Omar Othman Makungu in his

opening discourse advised the coalition to increase the number of novices in Zanzibar given the fact that the island has more than 600 lawyers while urging participants to pay keen attention to the training considering the importance of the topic.

Report shows that since 2015 and subsequently in 2020 human rights abuses including harassment and detainment of journalists, opposition mem-

bers and human rights activists as well as suspension of media outlets has become rampant.

In his remarks, the National Coordinator of THRDC Onesmo Olungurumwa stressed that the workshop is essentially intended to promote the role of Zanzibar advocates in ensuring access to justice through strategic litigation initiatives.

"These sessions facilitate building the capacity and skills

of lawyers for enhanced protection and enjoyment of freedoms through using the national court and structure a wider network of lawyers whose aim is to extend the civic space and protect through advocacy in courts of law and partnership with other CSO allies," he emphasized.

Program support manager of ABA ROLI East Africa Violah Ajok stated that her organiza-

tion is committed to supporting law societies, lawyers and jurists in African countries so that they can be equipped with the right tools and tactics on handling public interest litigation cases on freedom of expression.

Executive director of Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA) Jamila Juma hailed THRDC for such an initiative to empower human rights

lawyers and pointed out that the training is an evidence of how much the coalition values its members and other HRDs.

"As HRDs, lawyers have been working without a specific action plan and strategies on litigating human rights cases and most do not even engage in such cases" she intoned highlighting that hence they will start handling such cases thanks to the workshop



NGO registrar Vickiness Mayao (C) cuts ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch the Legal Services Facility's five-year strategic plan. Others are LSF chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala (L) and board chairperson Beng'i Issa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Uganda suspends at least 50 NGOs

Kampala

AUTHORITIES in Uganda have suspended the work of at least 50 local NGOs for various reasons including failure to register. Others have been suspended indefinitely for failing to submit audited books of accounts and annual returns to the National Bureau for NGOs.

The bureau, which is a department of the Internal Affairs Ministry oversees the registration and operations of NGOs nationally.

Several of the NGOs work on human rights and policy issues, while others are religious-founded, and women's rights organisations.

Those whose work has been suspended indefinitely include Chapter Four Uganda, founded and led by human rights lawyer Nicholas Opiyo.

Chapter Four has not submitted its books of accounts and re-

turns to the bureau since 2016, according to the bureau's statement.

But Opiyo rejected the allegations saying the organisation has always complied with the registration requirements.

"We've always acted above board," he tweeted.

Opiyo was arrested and charged with money laundering in December 2020. The authorities investigated the source of funds for his NGO. He was later granted bail but is still facing the charges.

The African Centre for Energy Governance also claims it has met all legal requirements and adds that it would explore legal options to "end the targeted delegitimisation, defamation, public shaming and other tactics aimed at stopping civil society organisations... from playing their role of holding government accountable."

By Guardian Reporter

## LSF launches its five-year strategic plan

THE Legal Services Facility (LSF) has unveiled its 5-year strategic plan. The plan which will run from 2022-2026 comes right after the culmination of the organisation's second phase of operations which covered the period 2016-2020.

The LSF's second phase however was extended for one more year and officially ends in December this year.

In her remarks at the launching ceremony in Dar es Salaam yesterday, LSF's chief executive officer Lulu Ng'wanakilala said: "We are delighted to launch our new strategic plan for the next

five years which is geared towards guiding our organisational mandate for the next phase as we seek to help even more ordinary Tanzanians access justice where they are.

She said the plan will contribute to the fulfillment of SDG 16 which aims at ensuring justice for all and SDG 5 which is intended to realize gender equality and improve the welfare of women and girls. Along with working to meet these global goals, the plan will also marry into our national 2020-2025 development agenda, good governance efforts and the Na-

tional Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC), while fixating on poverty eradication and galvanizing the nation towards middle income economy status.

Ng'wanakilala highlighted the four primary areas of priority in the plan; "The four vital areas that define our work within this strategic plan are clearly laid out and they are; to increase accessibility of quality legal aid services to the marginalized communities in particular women; promoting legally empowered communities, in

particular women; enhancing conducive environment for sustainable access to justice; and improving institutional development and sustainability of the LSF and the legal aid sector," she said.

Ng'wanakilala added: "We will continue to implement our Access to Justice Program across the mainland and Zanzibar while pushing ahead with our reach to sidelined groups everywhere helping them solve their access to justice challenges. These groups also include people living in urban areas where we will work harder to expand influ-

ence towards justice and ultimately facilitate the formulation of better policies and laws that will realize equality and inclusiveness without leaving anyone behind."

Registrar of non-governmental organisations Vickiness Mayao commended LSF on the new plan saying it provides solid evidence that the organisation's Access to Justice Programme will continue, and that the government through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children benefits wholesomely from its results.

"LSF is a major partner of the government and among NGOs that work very closely with communities in addressing everyday challenges especially those that deprive them of their rights, especially women, and in doing so LSF has been providing funds to other smaller organisations that we have registered and continue to oversee. I extend my warmest congratulations to LSF on this milestone trusting that this new strategic plan will expand opportunities for more Tanzanians to have better access to justice," she said.

Mayao added, "The Ministry

of Health implements several programmes including the National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (NPA-VAWC) to which LSF and paralegal organizations in all districts make significant contributions. LSF has also designed a monitoring and reporting tool for this plan, and we will, in addition to all that collaborate with them to work towards amendments to the Women and Gender Development Policy, 2000 which when complete will protect the rights and interests of women. We see vast opportunities for working in tandem to identify vital areas which under this strategic plan will yield profound outcomes".



Ally Hatibu (3rd-L), a representative of the Temeke district commissioner, displays items to be used in an environmental cleanliness campaign supported by German development agency GIZ under its DeveloPPP project. This was shortly after the initiative was launched in Dar es Salaam's Mbagala suburb on Thursday. Others (L-R): GIZ spokesperson Lesue Stephen, German ambassador's representative Johannes Sperrfechter and GIZ advisor Lydia Koch. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt applauds campaign aiming to protect local communities from infectious diseases

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has hailed a newly launched cleanliness and hygiene campaign that is aimed at protecting local communities from the health risks of infectious diseases.

Implemented by Gesellschaft International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) under its project named DeveloPPP which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development's (BMZ), the initiative intends to reach 25,000 street food vendors, mini-bus drivers (dala dala) and markets in the targeted areas of Dar es Salaam.

The applause was given yesterday by the head of cleanliness and environment in Temeke District, Ally Hatibu, who represented the District Commissioner during the launching of cleanliness campaign.

In Dar es Salaam, the project is implemented by Emmanuel Borothehood Foundation (EBF) in collaboration with BINGWA Laboratories.

Hatibu said the campaign which intention is to eradicate communicable and infectious diseases among 'baba and mama lishe', bus drivers and their conductors is of great importance and will save lives of people because most of them work in dirty environment.

He said Temeke District faces challenges of various infectious diseases that are caused by dirty environment so the campaign has come at the right time adding that despite the fact that the government has done a lot in health care facilities there is a lot to be done because it spend too much money to treat people from different infectious diseases.

He said he believe the campaign will provide solutions to challenges the district face because apart from education about the importance of cleanliness, the targeted group will be provided with facilities like sanitizers, soaps and others to facilitate them during the campaign.

"I congratulate you for this important project and I would like to assure you that our government value these activities and we will continue working together to enable our citizens' stay in clean environment and

keep them away from infectious diseases," he said.

GIZ spokesperson, Leslie Stephen said the organisation would like to join hands with government and other stakeholders to sensitive communities through cleanliness and hygiene campaign so that they can be able to clean their surrounding environment and be safe from communicable diseases.

"Today we are very happy to be with you here in Mbagala in the launching of this campaign but this campaign will continue in other district because the target is to reach 25,000 people who are in market and bus stations to provide hygiene education on how to avoid infectious diseases," he said.

He said all products used in the campaign have been manufactured by local companies - BINGWA Laboratories and AFRICRAFT and it benefits many small entrepreneurs most of them being women.

"GIZ insist that the education you get today in this campaign must be circulated in communities so that majority of Tanzanians can know the importance of hygiene and prevent themselves from infectious and communicable diseases," he said.

Johannes Sperrfechter who is the Head of Regional Cooperation and Health from the Germany Embassy in Tanzania said that the Germany government is actively supporting various health initiatives in Tanzania one of it being support to combat the Covid-19 pandemic in the country.



**I congratulate you for this important project and I would like to assure you that our government value these activities and we will continue working together to enable our citizens' stay in clean environment**

## TARI to promote cultivation, consumption of green gram

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) is implementing a special strategy to sensitise cultivation and uses of green gram crops within the country.

The timely campaign, among others, seeks to educate and empower pregnant women and mothers to make professional use of green gram in order to improve their prenatal and postnatal health status, as well as the health of the babies.

Moreover, the useful health initiative which has so far been conducted in all district hospitals in Dodoma and Singida regions also targets to reduce prevalence of spina

bifida and hydrocephalus diseases among the children within the country.

Many babies born with spina bifida get hydrocephalus (often called water on the brain) due to extra fluid in and around the brain. The extra fluid can cause the spaces in the brain, called ventricles, to become too large and the head can swell. The disease, among others, is caused by lack of folic acid among the newborns.

Moong/ Mung or green gram are small, round olive-green colored legumes with a sweet flavor. They are one of the healthiest sources of plant protein and are found in different forms like whole, split, de-husked (yellow) and ground.

They are rich in several vitamins, including folate, folic acid, zinc, vitamin B1, calories, fat, phosphorous, copper, potassium, manganese and iron, to mention but a few, which helps the body to produce and maintain new cells, especially red blood cells.

In an interview with The Guardian, Mary Mdachi, researcher from TARI-Selian center in Arusha, said that as part of the campaign, they are teaching the women how to produce green gram flour for making porridge for feeding their babies.

"As a pilot project, we have so far visited all district hospitals in Dodoma and Singida region and train expectant mothers on how to mix green gram and rice flour in order

to get highly nutritious flour for making porridge," she explained.

She observed, although the crop is currently used at low ebb, consumption of green gram was of high health benefits for mothers and the newborns, saying the plan was to extend the campaign to all regions within the country. National coordinator of grain legume research from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Dr Meshack Makege said the state-owned institute continued to conduct useful research, seeking to produce variety of improved seeds for green gram in order to allow the farmers to cultivate the vital socioeconomic crop in large scales.



A 'bajaj' lies on its back at Kitunda in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday after being involved in a crash with a car. Sources said one person who was on board the three-wheeler was injured. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Kenya drought: Half the country likely to experience food insecurity till December

By Agencies

Food insecurity in Kenya is likely to persist till the end of this year, putting 1.913.265 people in need of assistance, according to a report released on August 17, 2021.

The East African country has a total of 47 counties. Of them, 11 are in the 'normal' drought phase, while 12 are in the drought alert phase, according to the July bulletin of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA).

The report by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) outlined an emergency action plan to mitigate the situation.

Scanty rainfall during October-December 2020 and March-May 2021 led to prevailing drought conditions, said IFRC.

In June 2021, most arid and semi-arid land (ASAL) areas received less than 50 per cent of the average rainfall, causing a decline in the health of vegetation compared to the preceding month. Those in the northeastern region received less than 25 per cent of average precipitation that month.

The drought situation is expected to last till September in the ASAL counties, according to IFRC. A large share of the population in these areas are pastoralists and agro-pas-

toralists.

Deteriorating conditions of vegetation, increased distances to water sources, worsening livestock conditions, reduced milk production and increased number of children at risk of malnutrition were observed in an August 2 report by NDMA.

Household food access will remain constrained as staples will be dearer than average, IFRC projected. "As a result, critical nutrition outcomes will persist in children under five years of age."

Reduced daily meals, eating food low in nutrition and sale of more livestock than usual will become coping strategies for these families, according to the report.

Rainfall from October to December this year will determine whether the condition in the affected countries will improve, said IFRC. Early projections for the period indicate that the country is likely to experience La Nina conditions, which are associated with low precipitation in East Africa.

Kenya is prone to drought because only 20 per cent of the country receives adequate, regular rainfall.

The Kenyan drought management system uses five drought early warning phases categorised as normal, alert, alarm, emergency and recovery.

## EAC chief asks private sector to solve regional trade disputes

By Special Correspondent

East African Community (EAC) Secretary-General, Peter Mathuki has urged the private sector to take advantage of the ongoing bilateral engagements between partner states to resolve trade disputes.

Mathuki further asked traders to promptly harmonize their positions on trade agreements at the national level before engaging their counterparts in other partner states to fast-track trade de-

liberations. Speaking during a CEOs engagement roundtable with business leaders in Arusha, Mathuki asked the business community to push for Public-Private Partnerships. "Regular consultations and dialogues within the national private sector bodies are critical in building consensus within a partner state," Mathuki said.

He added that divergent positions within a country will only delay in concluding trade deliberations at the regional level, affecting the

implementation of regional trade policies.

He attributed the increased trade flows between Kenya and Tanzania to public and private bilateral dialogues in recent months.

According to data from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) published by the Central Bank of Kenya, Kenya's imports from Tanzania grew by 70 percent from January to June, compared to the same period last year.

The statistics indicate that the value of goods ordered by

Kenya from Tanzania stood at \$167.5 million in the stated period.

The same data shows that Kenya's export to Tanzania dipped by 21.39 per cent (\$158 million), resulting in a rare deficit of \$9.3 million.

Further, the Secretary-General noted the trade volumes at the Namanga border increased sixfold last month, compared to a similar period last year. Mathuki urged the private sector to drive the trade and investment agenda by establishing partnerships

with their governments to fast track infrastructure development.

"Private sector needs to move beyond advocacy and liaise with the government in providing solutions to some of the trade issues being faced across the EAC Partner States," he said.

The Secretary-General also highlighted the urgent need for the private sector to improve the competitiveness of their firms, by embracing ICT, promoting digital trade, to compete with other regions

that are fully automated.

To promote a favourable business environment, Mathuki also called upon the Tanzania private sector to take a lead role in engaging the government to roll out vaccination programmes in the country. "A region that is vaccinated will provide an attractive ground for tourism and also attract and retain investors. The Tanzanian private sector needs to also involve citizens to be open to vaccination, as a strategy for economic recovery," he said.

On improving cross-border trade, Mathuki said that the EAC Secretariat was working on deploying a 24-hour working system at the border, among all Partner States and fully integrating the One-Stop Border Post systems.

The Secretary-General reaffirmed his commitment to pushing for the finalization of the comprehensive review of EAC Common External Tariff, harmonization of domestic taxes in EAC and elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers in the region.



Simanjiro district commissioner Dr Suleiman Serera has a word with tanzanite dealers at Mirerani with respect to directives by the government on the need to insure whatever they buy. Left is Mirerani minerals officer Fabian Mshai. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## TASAF beneficiaries tasked to start entrepreneurial projects

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

BENEFICIARIES of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) have been asked to set up various entrepreneurial projects to help them earn a living instead of relying on the funds provided by the fund.

This was stated yesterday by the representative of TASAF executive director Victor Manyai when visiting some poor households supported by programme.

He said that the aim of the social protection cash transfer is to enable people to reduce poverty, adding that the money they receive from TASAF through the programme to help poor households must be used to start economic projects.

The Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN), initiated in 2012, is the flagship social protection programme of Tanzania and is implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

As part of the main programme component, TASAF provides regular cash payments to participating households on a bi-monthly basis (including an unconditional base transfer and additional amounts conditional on health check-ups and children's school attendance).

Additional components of the PSSN include livelihoods training and support and a Public Works Programme (PWP) to supplement household incomes during the lean season.

While in Iringa region, Manyai visited some of the poor households that benefited from the programme, and urged the councils, wards up to the community level to monitor productive activities including livestock and agriculture.

The Kilolo District executive director, Laina Kamendu called on the beneficiaries of government funds through TASAF to ensure that they use the funds wisely and avoid focusing on alcohol use.

He said through the seed money that the beneficiaries have been getting it is good to use it to set up livestock and basket weaving projects as part of boosting their daily income.

"I thank the government for coming up with this programme to help poor households where 70 villages in about 70 percent of households have been able to benefit from this programme to help poor households and some of them have started heading to become self-reliant," she said.

TASAF coordinator of Kilolo District, Venance Mwaikambo said the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)'s goal is to ensure that they reach 3,000 poor households, where they will be interviewed through their households and then assess whether they are eligible to join the programme.

Commenting on the poverty situation in Lulanzi village of Mtitu Ward, Mwaikambo said poverty continues to decline where he advised poor households to make good use of the money provided by the government. Talking about how TASAF has helped a resident of Lulanzi village in Mtitu ward, Margarita Kihonza, 67 years, thanked the government as she is currently raising 8 pigs and has successfully installed electricity in her house as well as tap water.

She pointed out that she is no longer getting up early in the morning to fetch water from the streams and shallow water wells as water is at the doorstep.

## Three Tanzanian students to compete in Africa Code Challenge this October

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THREE Tanzanian students have been selected to compete in the Africa Code Challenge (ACC) top twenty slated to be held in October this year.

Airtel Fursa lab project manager and a mentor in computer applications engineer Michael Thomas said that over the weekend that competition involved participants across

the country.

He said the project has enabled students to come up with their innovative solutions after class training to use computer programmes.

Thomas said the winners will be awarded certificates and internet bundles, desktop computer and two tablets adding that one student is from Mugabe secondary school and the two are from Loyola sec-

ondary school.

Thomas noted that Tanzania has successfully achieved to be among winners in the last in the ACC 2020.

"We are planning to open new computer labs in ten regions adding that everything is on the final stage," he said.

For his part, the Dar Teknoma Business Incubator (DTBi) Acting Executive director Dr Daniel Mgori said the in-

cubator in collaboration with Airtel conducted training to students aged 8-16 years how to use computers and create games.

He said the training is all about learning programmes aimed at awareness about environment, education and all related to that.

Elizabeth Joseph, a form six student from Mugabe secondary school encouraged other

students to participate in the coming Africa code week challenge.

In her innovation, Elizabeth designed cartoons encouraging Tanzania to go and take the vaccine.

"We need to accept the truth about the vaccine that it is safe and proved by the health regulatory authorities," she said.

The ACC 2021 is a pan-African coding competition or-

ganised for students aged 8-16 years.

Participants (individual or group of 5 maximum) are required to write a programme on Scratch and submit a 3-minute video on the development of their program where three best projects from each country in Africa will compete in the grand finale.

Supported by SAP of Ireland and Irish Aid, it works as a

catalyst that provides the great chance for pupils to change the world with their superpowers using coding skills.

It also allows pupils/students to start understanding computers at early stages and have a logical approach to learning and problem solving.

Girl students from your school are highly encouraged to participate in the African code challenge 2021.



Kongwa district commissioner Remedius Mwema addresses residents of Kibaigwa township on Thursday during routine inspection of development projects. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## UN launches climate change campaign amid growing water concerns in Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya

AS concerns about water availability in Libya grow due to climate change and conflict, the UN's humanitarian office (UNOCHA) today commemorates World Humanitarian Day and launched #TheHumanRace - a global challenge for climate action in solidarity with people in the world's most disaster-prone countries and those hardest hit by climate change.

Recent heatwaves across Libya, amidst acute power cuts and the rapid spread of COVID-19, as well as continuous damage to the water system and the drying of the Wadi Kaam Dam pose acute threats to people's lives while time is running out to act.

"We are extremely worried about extreme weather and climate change in Libya at a scale that people and the humanitarian and development communities cannot help manage," says Justin Brady, UNOCHA Head of Office for Libya.

Repeated attacks on the Man-Made River, which provides 60 per cent of all freshwater used in Libya, threatens the water security of the entire country.

Moreover, the Wadi Kaam Dam, once holding about 33 million cubic meters of water, has entirely dried up due to an

ever-warming climate, affecting farms and projects directly dependent on it for irrigation.

"Conflict and the current health situation have overshadowed the climate impacts to which Libya is very vulnerable.

Disrupted water supplies and drying reservoirs are just a few visible depictions of that. If we do not take action now, we are putting millions of lives at immediate risk of losing access to safe water.

This can have a catastrophic effect on people's health, livelihoods, agriculture, hygiene and the spread of communicable diseases," Brady says.

Hosted on the leading exercise app Strava, #TheHumanRace will challenge users around the world to run, ride, swim, walk or do any activity of their choice for a cumulative 100 minutes between 16 and 31 August in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable people.

Anyone unable to take part physically can also sign up to support our call to action via the campaign microsite.

The campaign calls on the public to remind developed countries at the UN climate summit (COP26) in November to fulfil their 12-year-old pledge to provide \$100 billion per year for developing countries to respond to climate change and support climate adaptation.

## FAO launches online course to empower poultry farmer field school facilitators, master trainers

By Special Correspondent

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) through its Virtual Learning Centre for Southern Africa (SFS-VLC) recently launched an online course to strengthen the capacity of farmer field school (FFS) facilitators and master trainers in Zambia and Zimbabwe to prepare and run quality poultry-focused FFS.

The course will broaden their knowledge and skills in FFS facilitation in poultry production and health and in approaches to promote prudent antimicrobial use and raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The course was developed by a multidisciplinary team from different FAO branches, including the Animal Production and Health Division, the Food Systems and Food Safety Division, the Global Farmer Field School Platform, and FAO country offices in Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The FAO Sub regional Office for Eastern Africa, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO Niger and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln also contributed with relevant technical content for the course.

A total of 47 participants (18 women and 29 men) drawn from trained FFS facilitators from Zambia and Zimbabwe, are enrolled in the course.

Participants are attending the course from either their smartphones or laptops, making the course accessible to personnel working in remote areas of the two countries. This course will be rolled out over six weeks.

In this course, participants have access to learn-

ing materials mainly in the form of videos and images on the course web page.

They will also interact with experts on poultry production, FFS, and AMR in an interactive discussion forum and live sessions, including live presentations and group discussions.

Areas covered in the training include principles and characteristics of family poultry production and poultry FFS; planning and designing FFS activities on poultry in collaboration with participating producers; key technical information on poultry production and health such as good practices in animal husbandry, biosecurity and those promoting food safety.

In addition, the course emphasizes the importance of AMR, its potential impacts on farm productivity and the welfare of people and their animals, as well as the underlying drivers of AMR, such as poor biosecurity and antimicrobial use.

"The capacity built through this training will contribute significantly to improving production and productivity of smallholder poultry, leading to better food security, nutrition, reduced threats to human health as well as reduced poverty. Informed citizenry and farmers are crucial to the realization of livestock and crop production that meets international trade standards in both quantity and quality," said Patrice Talla, FAO Sub-regional Coordinator for Southern Africa during the opening webinar for the launch of the course.

Through education and empowerment of family poultry producers, the FFS approach strengthens knowledge of holistic agroecosystem management,



Business in progress at Dar es Salaam's Vingunguti goat auction yesterday with the going price per goat ranging between 150,000/- and 200,000/-, largely depending on size. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

improves decision-making skills and facilitates collaboration and collective action.

The approach enables family poultry producers to develop more efficient and sustainable production systems, while improving their capacities to face challenges, including the rise of antimicrobial resistance.

"Poultry FFS master trainers and facilitators can enable sustainable changes in

practices and behaviours that lead to safer and higher-quality animal-source foods, higher profits, and ultimately limit the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance in family poultry systems," said Keith Sumption, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer and Leader of Animal Health Programme.

The world over, face-to-face trainings and meetings have become challenging due to the COVID-19 pan-

demic. The choice of a virtual platform, in particular the Virtual Learning Centre for Southern Africa, to host the delivery of this course has been instrumental in filling the training gap created by movement restrictions as part of preventing and controlling the pandemic.

Currently the course is covering Zambia and Zimbabwe as a starting point. Efforts will be made to es-

tablish collaborations for the roll out of the training in other countries in the region and beyond. Emphasis will be placed on the trained personnel to go out and make use of the skills gained to cascade knowledge and to facilitate FFS that will lead to more profitable and sustainable enterprises, healthier animals, and address the emergence and spread of AMR. The concept of FFS can be

applied to other animal species to address production and health issues.

Financial support for the training was provided from the Fleming Fund of the United Kingdom, the MARS Global Food Safety Center and from the sub-project "Delivering capacity building and country support in the context of COVID-19 crisis using regional Virtual Learning Centres", under the MDF project.

## 'GPS monitoring could help with disease intervention, prevention'

By Special Correspondent

A NEW study from Tanzania finds that using Global Positioning System (GPS) to monitor cattle herds can facilitate targeted interventions that could reduce the burden of livestock diseases.

Researchers at the University of Glasgow have tracked cattle using satellite GPS devices to gain a better insight into how livestock diseases spread in East Af-

rica.

Their findings, published in Scientific Reports, show that targeted interventions at specific times could reduce the burden of foot-and-mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants and anthrax, which continue to plague sub-Saharan Africa.

In the study, researchers teamed up with farmers in rural parts of Tanzania to monitor dozens of herds of cattle using GPS trackers.

The teams were surprised

to find that cattle moved long distances each day, to and from shared grazing lands, at an average of 7.5km, with occasional movements up to 12km.

The places where animals were most at risk were those where animals had to gather for extended periods - such as at water holes and cattle plunge dips - where livestock are regularly treated for parasites.

Scientists say their findings mark an important

step in understanding how to develop effective strategies for controlling a host of diseases in similar settings.

"We had no idea how far farmers moved their livestock each day, let alone where contacts between herds were most likely," commented Dr Divine Ekwe, a veterinary epidemiologist at the University of Glasgow.

Co-author Dr Tiziana Lembo, also from the University of Glasgow, added:

"The biology of the pathogen is particularly important when working out these risks. Some livestock pathogens require close physical contacts for transmission, while others can be carried in the air or water over long distances, or can remain infectious in the environment for extended periods of time."

The team found that these differences in transmission times and distances had large impacts on which ar-

eas were most risky, suggesting disease control requires pathogen-specific strategies.

Nearly 85 per cent of the world's extreme poor reside in sub-Saharan Africa, with livestock keeping being one of the primary forms of livelihood. In some low-income countries, the livestock sector alone contributes up to 80 per cent of the agricultural portion of the Gross Domestic Product.

Yet, diseases severely impact the health and produc-

tivity of livestock in many areas, magnifying the burden of poverty and threatening food security. Where livestock herds mix on open rangeland, such as in many traditionally managed systems, the burden of these diseases remains particularly acute.

Livestock health authorities are tasked with managing these disease events, but often have very little information about which areas pose the largest risks for disease transmission.

SATURDAY 21 AUGUST 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Hope city planners always remember that urban streets are public property!

THE first shots have been fired in the battle for our city streets and it was the little man, not the buses, who won.

You wouldn't have to be a genius to work out why most of the city's daladala drivers have a knowing smirk slapped right across their face.

And that they would, if they came face to face with the city bosses and the planners, tell them: "Well, didn't we tell you so!"

Yes, DART, the much vaunted, multi billion shilling transport system that was going to revolutionise our city and get us to the office on time and back again for our supper, is not exactly working as planned.

All those years of preparation have come unstuck quickly and in a spectacular way.

It appears that DART, a system that functions adequately in many other megacities of the world, did not take into account the peculiarities of the citizens of Dar es Salaam.

The bosses may say DART is only in its infancy, it is suffering from teething troubles and these will be fixed when everyone gets used to the new traffic regulations.

And, to tell you the truth, I am sure that they are right and in a year's time DART will be the envy of the continent and planners from across Africa will be coming to study it.

The DART vision is also outlined. This is no less than introducing to the city a modern public transport system at reasonable cost to users using high capacity buses that are environmentally friendly, operating on exclusive lanes and run on schedule.

So there we have, writ as in the Bible in clear prose, a pledge to provide the city with not only green

buses but ones that are also cheap and efficient. Admirable.

But the concept goes further. The planners also thought to include a further and surely over-ambitious set of claims.

Wow! No wonder the scheme was passed. We would not merely be getting a decent and efficient set of buses, we would also be buying into an economic miracle.

So there you have it. The fantasy as written in the prospectus of the planners and the reality as we see on the streets of the city today.

So what exactly sunk the planners' concept? What element did these people who had so rigorously researched the project and had looked out for every eventuality overlook? So what was it that confounded the planners?

It was, and here I have to smile, our dear old Swahili friends, wananchi, machinga, the man you see pushing a heavily laden barrow the length of Uhuru St.

These are the factors, the human factors, the planners and strategists overlooked to the extent that they have almost contrived to bring down the system.

They have done this by ignoring the new set of rules that were arbitrarily imposed on a city that has somehow coped, admittedly chaotically, with getting to work and working, for all of its life.

What the planners forgot was that business life is not just confined to high rise offices in the city centre. Business life spills out onto the roads and the pavements. Yes, the entirety of Dar is a gigantic, sprawling octopus which spreads its tentacles from the ocean to the outskirts. They forgot this, they forgot that not all of its inhabitants wear suits and ties.

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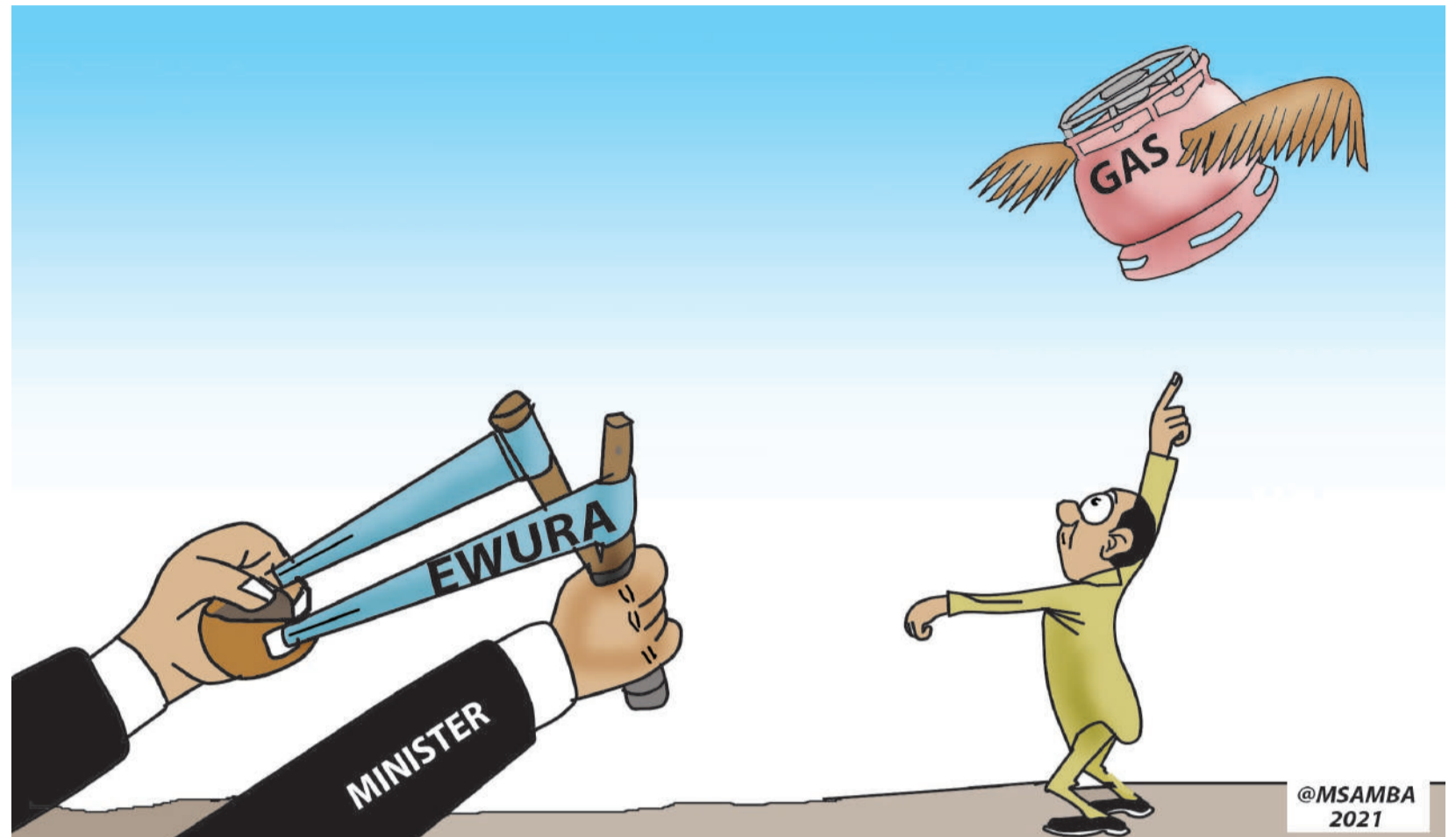
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2021

# Kidnapping for the ransom: Can Nigeria survive the 'third wave'?

By Jibrin Ibrahim

THE first wave of kidnapping for ransom in Nigeria was almost benign. A couple of Europeans or white South Africans would be kidnapped in the Niger Delta. They were for the most part technicians working for multinational oil companies.

The Kidnappers would demand \$10 million ransom for their release. Negotiations will take place between the oil company, the home countries of the victims and the kidnappers and a "reasonable" reduced sum will be paid and the hostages released.

The lesson learned was straight forward, if you really want to be rich, and you have no access to State funds, become a criminal, kidnap a white man and the outcome is that you will be a millionaire in dollars.

We the people of Nigeria looked on, almost seeing the issue as retribution for the crimes of imperialism.

The second wave was initiated through the agency of Boko Haram. It was much more far reaching than the first.

Maybe the turning point was 2013 and it was about a French family that lived in Yaoundé, where family head, Tanguy Moulin-Fournier worked for the French gas group Suez, had been returning from a holiday in the Waza National Park in northern Cameroon when they were kidnapped by gunmen on motorbikes on 19 February.

Mr. Moulin-Fournier, his wife Albane and four children, aged between five and 12, had been joined on their holiday by his brother Cyril were all taken. Boko Haram released a YouTube video telling the world they had the hostages, demanding for the release of their prisoners in Cameroon and Nigeria and criticizing the then French President Francois Hollande for sending troops to fight Islamist militants in northern Mali in January 2013.

Above all, they wanted money. France "never" pays hostage ransom but as it usually does, asked Cameroon to pay Boko Haram \$3 million dollars on its behalf, (to be settled later), and got the family released.

Thanks to the huge amount, Boko Haram bought a huge arsenal and launched its ambitious Caliphate expansion plan in 2013-2014.

The money enabled them to become a real force that could confront the armies of the four Lake Chad Basin countries.

Boko Haram hostage taking however went far beyond the occasional big money kidnapping. The ransom they started taking through kidnapping became the soul of the Nation.

During the night of 14th to 15th April 2014, 276 mostly Christian girls were abducted from their school in Chibok



President Muhammadu Buhari

by Boko Haram terrorists. It was a message to Nigerian that they were determined to destroy access to education in the country.

Many of the girls remain in captivity and over the period, they have been used as slaves, as pawns to extract money from government and as hostages used as human shields by the terrorists.

It is this depravity and human degradation of innocent persons by the terrorists that paved the way to the current insecurity destroying the country.

Boko Haram also took other kids, mostly Muslims, trained them as terrorists and used them to boost their army.

Boko Haram used this capacity to blackmail the Nigerian State to demand and receive three million Euros in 2017 in addition to the release of some of their commanders arrested by the Nigerian Government.

The deal was facilitated by the Swiss Government whose emissaries took a convoy of Land Cruisers down a dusty road near Nigeria's border with Cameroon and delivered the cash and prisoners in an internationally negotiated settlement.

The second wave was about the instrumental use of kidnapping to serve the interest of terrorism.

The third wave is about all of us. In about two thirds of Nigeria's land

will not be kidnapped on their farms.

These are poor people with very little and often the choice they make is deadly - go to the farm and be killed or abandon the farm, go the city and live in urban misery. Nigerian society is being dismantled and destroyed before our very eyes as the State has abdicated its responsibility to provide for our security and welfare.

The criminals, bandits and terrorists are responding to the impact of their nefarious activities by raising the stakes.

People are giving up on their kidnapped relations and they are being killed for non-payment. Increasingly, the bandits are losing their "reputation" payment is no longer a guarantee you will get your relation back alive.

To raise the scale of emotional blackmail, the criminals are now focused on kidnapping children and students, over 1,000 of whom are now in their hands. People who are giving up on their adults are ready to go the extra mile to raise money to pay for the release of their children.

We are now close to the red line where families who have been victims of kidnapping will now encourage their children to get their own guns and kidnap others. That will be the end of the Nigerian State.

This week, the Federal Government declared that it has stopped negotiating with kidnappers of students because the bandits had been using parts of the ransom to equip and re-arm themselves and by implication, fueling insecurity in the country.

The Minister of State for Education, Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, made this known while speaking with newsmen at the end of the weekly virtual Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting. He was responding to a recent viral video of some of the kidnapped students in Kaduna State, who were being tortured by kidnappers.

The fact of the matter is all of us will pay up to get our children released if they are kidnapped and we can raise the money, knowing fully well that we are fueling the process. It is the State that has a responsibility to stop the kidnapping so that we do not have to pay up.

I have not seen the State making kidnappers pay for their crimes so there is no surprise the crimes are increasing.

The reality we face today is that either the States wakes up to its responsibility or the disintegration of Nigeria as a political community will be the outcome.



# Infertility: Silent torture for women in Tanzania

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

**A**LTHOUGH being able to get pregnant is not biologically guaranteed to all women, having a child is expected from most, if not all married women amongst Tanzanian societies.

Therefore, women who are not blessed with children go through stigma, ostracism, neglect and hate that lead to those who cannot endure the sufferings walk out of their marital homes. The pain becomes unbearable when it is inflicted by close family members such as in-laws and even a spouse.

Because of the huge demand for infertility treatment in Tanzania, the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has introduced In vitro fertilization (IVF) section which is set to be operational in October this year.

Dr Nathaniel Mtinangi, a gynecologist at MNH said in an interview recently that influx of women seeking IVF services prompted Tanzania's main hospital to send staff for specialized training to help couples get children through the technology in the country.

IVF is one of the more widely known types of assisted reproductive technologies. It works by using a combination of medicines and surgical procedures to help sperm fertilize an egg, and help the fertilized egg implant in your uterus.

"We started with three experts who are currently undergoing in IVF abroad and we expect to start offering the service upon their return in October," Dr Mtinangi said.

"Use of IVF technology here at home will significantly cut the cost Tanzanians pay for the service abroad which between 15mn/- to 40mn/- depending on country," he said, adding that the same service at MNH will be far less.

Dr Living Colman, a gynecologist at MNH said infertility is a big challenge in Tanzania, noting that three



out of 10 women being examined at the hospital per day have infertility.

"The main cause of infertility is hormonal imbalance and this mostly has to do with genetics," he said.

"Another main cause is Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) which is an infection of the female reproductive organs."

He added that other common causes are blockage of fallopian tube, ovulation disorders which affect the release of eggs from the ovaries overweight as well as un-

derweight.

"The most affected women are those between the age 21 and 45," he said.

As for the myth that use of modern family planning methods is one of the causes of infertility, Dr Colman said that is far from the truth.

However, he said there is increasing abuse of emergency contraceptive pills popularly known as P-2, noting that this can be problematic.

The gynecologist said those trooping to the MNH to seek ferti-

lity service includes married as couples as well single women in fertility age who are worried of reaching menopause without a child.

But why are couples especially women get so worried when they don't have a child?

According to Dr Saldin Kimangale, a psychologist based in Dar es Salaam, a child—and more so children—are the security to a marriage or relationship.

"Most women who are married or in relationship but without chil-

dren who I met had depression or other psychological issues because of immense pressure from the society," he said.

"Very few who remain strong find solace in religion."

Dr Kimangale said more awareness on infertility is needed in Tanzanian societies so that they understand that it is a medical condition and not the fault of a woman.

If nothing is done to change the mindset, he warned that

childless women will continue being stigmatised, isolated, ostracized, disinherited and neglected by the entire family and even the local community.

A commission supported by The Lancet and the Guttmacher Institute estimates that between 49 million and 180 million couples worldwide are affected by infertility; the prevalence has not decreased in 20 years. It affects up to 15 per cent of reproductive-aged couples worldwide, according to a 2010 estimate by the World Health Organization.

The United State's National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) says although infertility is a universal problem, its highest prevalence is in low-resource countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where infection-related tubal damage is the commonest cause.

"It is estimated that more than 180 million couples in developing countries suffer from primary or secondary infertility. In most African countries, the social stigma of childlessness still leads to isolation and abandonment," says NCBI.

"Differences between the developed and developing world are emerging because of the different availability in infertility care and the different socio-cultural value surrounding procreation and childlessness."

African countries with the highest number of IVF centres are Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

According to Science Daily, 40 years after the birth of Louise Brown, the world's first 'test-tube baby,' an international committee monitoring progress in assisted reproduction reported that the global total of babies born as a result of IVF and other advanced fertility treatments is more than 8 million.

# How mobile money levies will affect revenues from local services

By Francis Kajubi

**R**EVENUES sourced from services receipts has gone down in the past two years consecutively due to Covid-19 eruption, but economists are of the view that the revenues will further decrease due to introduction of mobile money levies in the Finance Act 2021, that has discouraged consumers' appetite to either quitting or reducing usage.

Both National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Bank of Tanzania's (BoT) reports, show that services receipts from consumers have been affected by the pandemic outbreak leading to a decrease in revenues.

NBS for instance, in its National Economic Status report for June 2021, states that value for local services payments decreased by 30.5 percent to 2.320trn/- (US\$1,239.2 million) in 2020 from 2.321trn/- (US\$1,782.5 million) in 2019, a difference of US\$544million which is equivalent to 1.261trn/-.

"This was due to the decline in the value of payments from transportation services, tourism activities and other locally provided services such as hotel receipts," states NBS.

Generally, NBS states that annual services revenues from both local receipts and exports declined to 4.639trn/- (US\$2,183million) in June 2020 from 9.277trn/- (US\$4,281million) in June 2019 which is equivalent to a decrease of 49 percent. This was due to travel bans attributed to Covid-19 pandemic. This decrease has side effects on implementation of development projects.

In simple mathematics, the 1.261trn/- deficit in services revenues means that Tanzania lost 105.083billion/- in every month of the period under review. One kilometer of tarmac road under Tan-Roads is constructed at an expense of 1bn/-.

This means that for every 100bn/- deficit in services revenues denied construction of 100 kilom-

eters. The 1.261trn/- can finance construction of 1,200kilometers of tarmac road. This is equivalent to a tarmac road network from Dar es Salaam to Mwanza city which covers 1,128.4kilometers.

Economists say that the decrease in revenues means that consumers' purchasing power has declined therefore the mobile money levies will be an additional challenge to the Covid-19 impact in the long run.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has already concluded that ordinary Tanzanians have accepted the mobile money levies in her interview with the BBC News Swahili earlier this month. She said Tanzanians didn't oppose the levy but the amount charged on transactions and the government has already resolved the issue.

"For the case of levies, I would like to thank Tanzanians for accepting it. They have accepted it because they are very sure that the sourced money will be allocated to improving health services, water and education issues," said President Hassan in that interview.

Dr Abel Kinyondo, Senior Economics Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, said that services revenues will further go down as consumers' behavior changes as time passes by through adoption of other alternative transaction channels such as commercial banks and hard cash.

"It is obvious that over 60 percent of transactions are made through mobile phones destined to both urban and rural areas. The use of mobile money transactions will continue at least for sometimes but with low uptake compared to prior the levies were introduced;

This is because there are a few commercial bank services in rural areas and less than 20 percent of all Tanzanians hold bank accounts," said Dr Kinyondo.

According to FinScope Tanzania 2017 findings by the Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT), 63 percent of adult Tanzanians own a mobile phone while 16.7 percent



Finance and Planning minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

use or have bank accounts. Another 43 percent don't have or use bank services but use other formal services. However, formal financial inclusion has grown to 65 percent in 2017 from 58 percent in 2013.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's Quarterly Communications Statistics as of June 2021 shows that there are 33.283million mobile money accounts in the country.

BoT's Monthly Economic Review for July 2021, shows that services payments amounted to US\$1,282.7 million in the year ending June 2021, lower than US\$1,608.3 million recorded in the corresponding period in 2020, bolstered by lower travel payments, arising from containment measures by other countries in an attempt to contain the spread of Covid-19.

However, services payments declined to US\$2,032.4 million in the year ending June 2019 from US\$2,175.9 million in the year ending June 2018, owing to decrease in travel payment receipts. But, just four days after the Electronic and Postal Communication Act Cap 306 of the Finance Act 2021 came into effect on July 15, 2021, the Tanzania Mobile Network Operators Association (TAMNOA) said that business dropped drastically calling the government to revisit the levies that have posed double taxation to consumers.

TAMNOA Chairman Hisham Hendi who doubles as Vodacom Tanzania Plc CEO, said at least 40 percent of mobile money transactions from urban to rural destinations had stopped thus af-

fecting their business. "People in rural areas are the key victims of the new levies. We call upon the government to revisit them," appealed Hendi in a TAMNOA statement.

Professor Samuel Wangwe, an economist, said that uproar and resistance of the levies by some consumers' is a clear indication that services revenues will further decrease. He argued that the levies have been initiated without conducting a thorough research on its possible impact.

"Let's assume that half of the present mobile money consumers quit from using the service, there will be a decline in revenue collections because operators will earn less than what they used to. Not only revenues but mobile money agents will also lose jobs or earn less commissions than what they used to be paid because of declining numbers of consumers who use the service," said Prof Wangwe.

According to him, it is unfortunate that the world is transforming into a digital economy but at home things are going the opposite way.

The Guardian made a simple survey in Dar es Salaam from which 16 residents of the city shared mixed views on the levies.

Rashid Issa (32), a Dar es Salaam resident at Mwenge outskirts said that he is still using mobile money services in sending cash to his parents and family relatives who are in rural Urambo because there is no other option yet.

"I am using the mobile money services as usual though there is double taxation of which is levied

by the carrier and at the very same transaction levied by the government. I would be happy if the levies remained as they were;

I have just switched from my ordinary ways of sending money. For instance, I used to send 300,000/- in two instalments a month, but am now mobilizing the whole amount and sending it at once to avoid the burden of levies," said Issa.

Asnati Mshamu (25) Ubungu resident, said: "I have stopped using the mobile money services. It is better for me to receive cash on hand rather than to incur levies on mobile money transactions. As a matter of fact, I don't even own a bank account".

But Yohana Mashaka (37), a Goba resident in the city suburb said that he has no problem with the levies because the sourced money is going to finance development projects.

"They say that no pain no gain. We have to take the costs of our country's development on our shoulders. No one can do it for us. I am encouraging all Tanzanians to continue using mobile money services so that the government gets money for development plans," argued Mashaka.

In the Electronic and Postal Communication Act Cap 306 of the Finance Act 2021, the government imposed a levy of between 10/- and 10,000/- on each mobile money transaction of sending and withdrawing the same. The levy aims at enabling the government to collect 1.254trn/- in the current fiscal year.

Contacted for comment, Airtel Tanzania Spokesperson, Jackson Mbandu said "We have already issued a joint statement under TAMNOA on the impact of new levies to our operations. In that case, I cannot comment any further. If you need more details, wait for the September TCRA report and you will see the real impact".

Dr George Kahangwa from the school of education at the University of Dar es Salaam, argued that a section of mobile money consumers who are quitting the service due to the levies are of the view that revenues are mostly allocated to recurrent expenditures rather than financing development activities.

"Taxpayers have a notion of questioning where their money goes. You can see the budget allocates about 60 percent of the total budget to recurrent expenditures. This is one of the disappointments to low income taxpayers because they need to see the impact of their taxes," said Dr Kahangwa.

# Data journalism: Five ideas towards more effective industry-academic collaboration

By Damian Radcliffe

**D**ATA are shaping and informing acts of journalism across virtually all newsrooms and reporting beats. It can be a tool for telling specific stories - as exemplified among established players and newer entities - and also an important source for editorial and resource-driven decision making.

But beyond discrete stories and strategies, data signify a larger sea change in journalism. For better or worse, this may have major implications for what has been described as the Four Es of big data and journalism: epistemology (what journalism knows), expertise (how journalism expresses that knowledge), economics (journalism's market value) and ethics (journalism's social values).

The data-related implications are therefore far-reaching - for how we teach, practise and research journalism.

We believe that, too often, the worlds of academia and news industry fail to recognise the potential that could come through greater collaboration between them.

As both parties grapple with the possibilities afforded by datafication, we contend that closer relationships between journalists and academics could be mutually beneficial. Below we outline five starting points to explore, the first one relating to the importance of having more partnerships between classrooms and newsrooms.

The work undertaken by Paul Bradshaw offers a clear indication of how to do this. As part of an MA in data journalism at Birmingham City University in the UK, Paul and his students have partnered with a number of news organisations, such as The Daily Telegraph, BBC, ITN, the Manchester Evening News, The Guardian and the Centre for Investigative Journalism.

To extend this teaching-based partnership to improve research, these news organisations could open up their data journalism processes to participant observation by ethnographers.

This would be with the expectation that such scholarship would lead to peer-reviewed academic publications and to public-facing reports intended for industry - like the kind produced by the Tow Centre for Digital Journalism and the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

Two: Undertaking classroom projects with poten-



tial news value. Jan Goodey, course director for MA in magazine journalism at Kingston University in west London, has also demonstrated the ability to turn class projects into tangible reporting, having identified some potential conflicts of interest in UK local government.

Their research - which included submitting, tracking and analysing 99 separate FOI requests - revealed that these bodies were investing pension funds in fracking companies, while at the same time also acting as arbiters for planning proposals submitted by this nascent industry.

In some cases, students and their professors may have a longer time horizon to explore data projects, thus allowing them to do forms of data journalism that are elusive for journalists overwhelmed by ceaseless daily deadlines.

Three: Reverse-engineer these relationships. Given the resource challenges most newsrooms face, journalists could more frequently approach students and academics with stories that could benefit from their help.

Arizona State University's Steve Doig, who won a

1993 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service at The Miami Herald for a series which showed how weakened building codes and poor construction practices exacerbated damage caused by Hurricane Andrew a year before, actively consults on computer-assisted reporting problems.

Doig won the George Polk Award (2012) for Decoding Prime, an analysis of suspect hospital billing practices for the Centre for Investigative Reporting's California Watch. His is an advising and consultancy model - with faculty and potential student involvement - that others could emulate.

Four: Opening the door to researchers and independent critique. Journalists are known to rely on academics as frequent sources for news stories, but they are often less comfortable opening themselves up to academic scrutiny. Compounding this problem are increasingly strident organisational directives against taking surveys or speaking to researchers without permission from upper management.

But, just as journalists need good source material to do their work, having academics do good research about journalism requires their having better access

than they currently do. This is especially pertinent as researchers seek to understand what datafication means for journalism, for how journalists use metrics to tell stories in new ways - and so on.

A little less defensiveness on the part of news organisations could go a long way towards developing a mutually beneficial relationship: researchers get better access to understanding how data fit in journalism. In turn, news organisations can gain independent evaluations of their work and thus better appraise, from a critical distance, how they are doing.

Five: Ensuring that your research is accessible. On the flip side, academics could do much more to ensure the openness and accessibility of their work.

By now, dozens of academic studies have been produced regarding the "datafication of journalism", with a particular emphasis on the evolution of tools for data storytelling and its impact on journalistic ethics and approaches.

These studies could have tremendous relevance for news organisations. But too often they are locked behind academic journal paygates, obscured by the overuse of jargon and altogether situated in such a way that makes it hard for journalists to access, let alone understand, the transferable lessons in the respective research.

Incidentally, paygates are payment platforms known for driving efficiency in effecting payments by reducing time, cutting costs and eliminating risk.

Where possible, industry outreach and engagement could be an integral part of the publication process, so that the benefits of these insights resonate beyond the journals - such as through rewritten briefs or short explainers for trade-press venues.

Examples of this include Nieman Journalism Lab and websites such as The Conversation that are designed to disseminate academic work to lay audiences.

**This is an extract from "The Datafication of Journalism: Strategies for Data-Driven Storytelling and Industry-Academy Collaboration", a chapter in The Data Journalism Handbook 2 edited by Liliana Bounegru and Jonathan Gray and published by Amsterdam University Press. Damian Radcliffe is a Carolyn S. Chambers professor in journalism, a professor of practice, and an affiliate of the Department for Middle East and North Africa Studies at the University of Oregon in the**

## China's first self-developed heavy ion accelerator for cancer treatment in successful clinical use

By Liu Shiyao, Shen Shaotie,

**C**HINA'S first self-developed heavy ion accelerator facility for cancer treatment is used in radiotherapy for cancer patients in the heavy ion center of Wuwei Tumor Hospital in northwest China's Gansu province.

The facility, also known as heavy ion medical accelerator or carbon ion therapy system, is developed and maintained by the Institute of Modern Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and a subsidiary company of the institute. Wuwei Tumor Hospital is in charge of its clinical operation.

Mankind has been using radioactive elements and isotopes to kill cancer for many years. Relevant treatment methods include photon beam radiation therapy that uses gamma rays or x-rays, proton beam therapy that uses protons, and heavy ion radiotherapy that uses carbon ion beams to

treat cancer. Among them, heavy ion radiotherapy has clear advantages over other therapies.

China has accumulated technologies in heavy ion for more than 60 years, during which the country has established a good number of big science projects and devices.

Since 1993, Chinese researchers started to work on the employment of heavy ion in cancer treatment. However, the application of basic heavy ion research results in clinical use and the endeavor to turn scientific research devices into medical devices were not as easy as they sound.

In order to make possible heavy ion radiotherapy, researchers have overcome many challenges, including making the accelerator's perimeter shorter and its structure more compact through technological innovation and ensuring minimal errors in the stability of the heavy ion beams when they "hit" tumors, which required greater precision in



Photo shows a new heavy ion radiotherapy chamber of the heavy ion center of Wuwei Tumor Hospital in northwest China's Gansu province. File photo

technological process and stable and reliable performance of equipment.

After nearly 30 years of efforts, China put into clinical application its first self-developed heavy ion medical accelerator system in Wuwei, Gansu province, in March 2020, becoming the fourth country in the world that is capable of independently developing and put-

ting into clinical use heavy ion therapy system.

The domestically developed heavy ion medical accelerator is not inferior to imported ones in terms of both performance indexes and clinical feedback, according to Xiao Guoqing, head of the branch of the CAS in Lanzhou, capital of Gansu province, who noted that the homemade facil-

ity has an evident price advantage over imported ones as its cost is only one third or half of that of similar facilities made in developed countries.

In addition, the perimeter of the synchrotron of the medical facility is only 56.2 meters, the shortest among that of all heavy ion medical accelerators in the world, which means less cost to the hospital that employs the facility, said Xiao.

Thanks to the full-fledged processing and manufacturing systems at home, maintenance cost of the medical facility has been significantly reduced, and maintenance service can be received in a timely manner, Xiao added.

"The time and frequency of heavy ion therapy for patients vary according to their diseases. Follow-up visits to patients who have completed their treatment have shown that the therapy is effective and has helped control the condition of patients," said Ye Yancheng, president of Wuwei Tumor

Hospital.

The heavy ion center of Wuwei Tumor Hospital has so far treated 375 patients (including patients treated during the clinical trial stage of the medical facility), with the treatments covering such diseases as central nervous system tumors, head, neck and skull base tumors, thoracic and abdominal tumors, and pelvic tumors, according to Ye.

The heavy ion treatment system is expected to be promoted around the country by CAS Ion Medical Technology Co., Ltd. (CASHIM), a company focusing on the commercialization of heavy ion cancer therapy technology.

Besides the heavy ion center of Wuwei Tumor Hospital that have been put into operation and a heavy ion medical facility that is about to enter clinical trial in Lanzhou, four more such facilities are under construction in other cities of the country. In addition, many cities have signed co-operation agreements for

the deployment of the facility.

Population and geographic factors will be given full consideration in the construction and deployment of the medical facility, according to Ma Lizhen, board chairman of CASHIM, stressing that such medical facilities will be situated in regional medical centers of the country, so that the therapy can be accessible to more people.

China will continue to develop smaller versions of the medical facility, which will need less floor area and treatment cost, and leverage means like AI and 5G technologies to upgrade and transform relevant devices to make the facility smarter, Xiao said.

The country will also intensify efforts to foster talents for the heavy ion therapy system and cultivate more frontline radiologists and radiation physicists, in a bid to make heavy ion medical accelerator benefit more patients, Xiao added.

People's Daily

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**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



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# Developing nations push to define 'unacceptably vague' adaptation goal

By **Chloé Farand**

AS scientists warn of worsening climate impacts to come, there is renewed impetus to define what global ambition on adaptation should look like.

The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change underscored that weather extremes will intensify and sea levels rise this century in all emissions scenarios.

Yet six years after the Paris Agreement established a global goal to help people cope with these threats, what that means in practice remains "unacceptably vague", according to vulnerable countries. They want the next UN climate summit, Cop26, in November, to focus political attention on the issue.

South Africa is proposing a quantitative target: to increase the climate resilience of the global population 50% by 2030 and at least 90% by 2050.

"What we felt was that we needed to move beyond having technical discussions. The intention is to shift the discussion from process to a goal that we can debate," South Africa's environment minister Barbara Creecy told Climate Home News.

That is easier said than done. There is no universal metric to assess resilience to climate impacts, which vary widely from place to place.

For Timo Leiter, an expert on climate change adaptation who co-authors the UN Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap report, "it's almost impossible to come up with a simple quantitative way of measuring adaptation that would be meaningful and help guide countries".

"If it was possible it would have been done in 2015," he told Climate Home.

There are both technical and political challenges, Leiter explained.

Technically, to put a numerical value on the impact of an adaptation measure, you need a counterfactual scenario, which is difficult to judge. Specially bred seeds and irrigation systems might help farmers to cope with drought, but how do you know what their harvest would have been in the absence of those interventions?

Often, adaptation interventions are hard to distinguish from general development. For example, job creation and women's empowerment make communities more resilient to a whole range of challenges, including but not exclusive to climate change. Where to draw the line has been the subject of heated debate on the UN's Green Climate Fund board.

Politically, the choice of indicators can make a country look more or less vulnerable. That matters when they are competing for a limited pool of climate aid.



A man reinforces coastal protection in the Seychelles

In a 2009 article, Richard Klein, of the Stockholm Environment Institute, concluded that comparing climate impacts "requires a subjective judgement as to which outcomes are 'better' or 'worse'" and is therefore a political question. The issue has spurred competition between nations seeking to obtain "special circumstances" status within UN climate process.

In 2018, nations agreed that the submission of adaptation communications to the UN was "not a basis for comparisons between parties".

"To assume that everyone would be able to quantitatively measure adaptation is not helpful," Ephraim Mwepeya Shitima, a climate adaptation expert from Zambia, told Climate Home. But that doesn't mean that some quantitative elements can't be used when assessing progress, he said.

Where data and metrics are available, such as targets for the diversification of crops or the installation of early warning systems, quantitative indicators could be used alongside qualitative ones.

In its improved 2030 climate plan, Zambia identified four indicators that the country will use to track progress, with ratings from "low" to "high".

These are the level of resilience of ecosystems,

the adaptive capacity of human systems, the level of knowledge for adaptation planning and the level of resources to respond to climate impacts.

Behind each of them, Shitima said a lot of work had been done to translate what this might mean for different sectors, from agriculture to forestry.

More than defining a specific goal, "what is key is that countries are able to assess progress in increasing resilience," he said.

As negotiators are to discuss the issue in Glasgow, Shitima said countries need to adopt a flexible approach to measuring adaptation that includes a range of methodologies.

"It's dangerous in my view if the focus is on adopting a single approach... because that will be untenable."

While it might be "too ambitious" to expect a framework for measuring adaptation to be fully agreed at Cop26, moving the discussion from concepts to methodologies would be good, Shitima said.

South Africa is calling for a focus on health and well-being, food and water security, infrastructure and ecosystem services, particularly in Africa, small island states and least developed countries - which

speak to globally agreed 2030 sustainable development goals which countries are already working to implement.

"It's not like these goals are not already part of the multilateral system. Let's draw on what we already have," minister Creecy said.

The 2021 edition of the Adaptation Gap Report, due to be published during the first week of the summit, will help to advance the agenda. But Creecy is in no doubt hurdles remain.

"As South Africa, we don't feel that these are going to be easy issues to solve," she said. But Cop26 offers "a window of opportunity" to advance the discussion that should be seized.

"And where we can play a role that we have traditionally played in creating a bridge between developed and developing countries, we will play that role," she said.

# OPEC SG emphasises value of Africa's oil sector in historic state visit to Congo-Brazzaville

By **Special Correspondent**

CONGO-Brazzaville is on the precipice of an industry revolution with a reformed Hydrocarbons Code, a renewed set of national strategic objectives, and demonstrated political will driving multi-sector developments across the entire value chain. In a move to further emphasize the potential of the Congo's hydrocarbon sector and establish sustainable partnerships with key stakeholders, Mohammed Barkindo, Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will lead a delegation from OPEC to the Congo for a three-day work-

ing visit the 23-25th of August 2021.

The visit represents a historic moment in the Congo's oil and gas history as it will be the first time OPEC conducts a state visit to the country. In addition to highlighting the role that OPEC will play in the country, the visit aims to significantly enhance the Congo's petroleum sector, and further position the country as a global oil and gas exporter and competitor.

As the third-largest crude oil producer in sub-Saharan Africa - with proven reserves estimated at 2.9 billion barrels - the headquarters of the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), and one

of the latest members to join OPEC, Congo-Brazzaville is well-positioned to become a regional oil giant. The country has made moves to significantly expand exploration and production with accelerated efforts made by International Oil Companies such as Total, Chevron, Perenco, Eni, Qatar Petroleum and Lukoil.

With current production estimated at 336,000 barrels per day, and government targets to significantly increase this figure, the Congo is inviting increased local and international stakeholder participation in the country's upstream and midstream industries.

Support by an organization

such as OPEC will only serve to enhance industry activity, with partnerships and regional collaboration accelerating participation.

"The Government of Congo-Brazzaville highly values our relationship with both the OPEC, the Secretary General and each one of the organizations member states. We are committed to positioning the country as a regional petroleum hub and international industry competitor and support by an esteemed organization such as OPEC will help us realize this goal.

The Congo has significant potential, particularly regarding its oil sector, and through our collaboration with OPEC,

we remain committed to driving growth and development," stated H.E. Bruno Jean Richard Itoua.

Mohammed Barkindo's three-day working visit to the Congo involves a comprehensive program agenda with high-level meetings planned with the Head of State, President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, Prime Minister Anatole Collinet Makosso, and the Minister of Hydrocarbons, Bruno Jean-Richard Itoua.

With a focus on emphasizing the role that OPEC will play in Congo and the wider region, as well as promoting the immense potential that the country's oil and gas sector has in Africa's energy future, energy poverty,

climate change, Africa's energy agenda, the OPEC delegations visit will promote strong, long-term partnerships with government and industry leaders.

"With its significant resource base, unified stakeholder agenda, and progressive regulatory framework, the Congo is making significant progress in establishing a formidable hydrocarbon market. OPEC's visit to the Congo will emphasize partnerships and collaboration, as we work hand in hand to drive energy and economic growth in Africa.

The Congo has a critical role to play in the global energy industry and we are happy OPEC plans to emphasize and drive this.

This is a Big win for the people of Congo and its growing energy sector," stated NJ Ayuk, Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber

Mohammed Barkindo's visit will comprise site visits to the national oil company, La Société des Pétroles du Congo (SNPC); the headquarters of the APPO; a platform in Pointe-Noire; as well as meetings with oil companies present in the country.

With African member states playing a crucial role in OPEC, the organization is committed to accelerating progress in the Congo - its most recent member state - by promoting collaboration, cooperation, and sustainable partnerships.

# Cellphones help Tanzanian farmers sharpen their game

By **Agencies**

WHILE spreading fertiliser, Sebastian Bukeke, 47, a small-time farmer in the village of Kiroka in Tanzania's Morogoro region, is also using his cellphone to learn about the weather. He has been able to boost his maize farming skills by using timely advice from experts on his cellphone.

Although most of the farmers holding small lands in the East African country known for its vast wilderness areas are illiterate, their newfound love with cellphones to access the modern and timely farm knowledge has helped them to increase productivity and fetch good prices.

Like Bukeke, many farmers in the countryside are hooked on cellphones to seek information about crop yields, weather forecasts, and markets.

Maulid Ali, a farmer from the village of Kiromo in Morogoro, said he uses a smartphone app to measure and analyze soil data such as temperature, nutrients, and vegetative health to help him use the right fertilizer and water.

"It's easy to use, and luckily all the information is in Swahili," he said.

Researchers at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) are

constantly developing content relating to information on seeds, diseases, climate, and markets and instantly transmitting it to farmers on their hand-held gadgets.

"Lack of timely agricultural information is a big problem that many farmers face. We hope that this initiative will help to solve that problem," said Aswile Godwin, a researcher at the university.

He said the idea was to harness the power of digital technology to assist agricultural extension officers to disseminate information to farmers.

"With cellphones now in the hands of farmers, it has become easy to avoid the barriers and transportation," said Godwin.

Putting knowledge in people's hands

Farmers in Tanzania had been routinely burning their fields to kill weeds, slugs, and pests, which often polluted the air and removed essential nutrients from the soil.

Using the information provided by experts on his cellphone, Bukeke switched to dragging patches of soil from the razed stalks, mixing it with cow dung to create elevated beds for growing beans, tomatoes, potatoes, and vegetables.

"I get very useful information on



my phone which helps me to develop these skills," he said.

On a cloudy morning, John Kisesa, a farmer in Ilula, displayed a text message he got from SUA with farming tips and real-time weather

information. "When I get this information, I usually share it with my friends just to help them catch up," he said

Agriculture is the backbone of Tanzania's economy. The sector ac-

counts for more than one-quarter of gross domestic product (GDP), contributing 85 percent of exports, and employs about 80 percent of the workforce.

While agricultural experts are

still learning the impact of the digitized farming system for productivity and improved livelihoods, the trend is promising, as technology is attracting more people to work as farmers.



## BUSINESS



Lerato Moletsane in her jogging gear.

## U-TURN

## How a woman changed her mind after Covid-19 almost 'knocked me out'

## JOHANNESBURG

There are calls for a mass media campaign to encourage vaccination against COVID-19. This as vaccine hesitancy appears to be growing. The SOS Coalition says the campaign should be aired at prime times to reach the most people.

When the Covid-19 vaccination programme was announced in South Africa, Lerato Moletsane was adamant she would not get the jab. The 49-year-old banker from Dobsonville, Soweto, said she was easily swayed by the misinformation on Covid-19 vaccines on social media and opinions based on conspiracy theories.

"I've been getting conflicting information about the vaccine. I was like, arg, you know what, I don't think I'll go for it. And believe me, I believed very much in it. I never went for a second opinion," Moletsane told Health24. Lerato Moletsane went from being against vaccination to wanting to vaccinate. "People were saying this is a conspiracy, that Bill Gates wants to own Africa, so he's going to give us vaccines, and we are all going to die." And I thought that maybe there is some truth to it. So let me rather be without it," she added.

## Her turning point

On 17 June 2021, Moletsane's police officer husband tested positive for Covid-19. Soon after, she started having symptoms and tested positive too. This

was her eye-opener. "I was sick from the very day he told me that he tested positive. I got sicker than him, and he is not a person who exercises.

"I think I am fairly fit because I run a lot. It knocked me out. I went nine days with no food, just consuming liquids. I am a resilient person, but this thing made me cry," she said. "That's why now I think I need to go and get vaccinated."

## 'I love travelling'

Moletsane added her will to live had motivated her to get the jab later this month. "I look after my four-year-old nephew. He can't play with other kids outside. He has to watch TV to keep himself entertained. I want a normal childhood for him where he can play with other kids too."

Her love for adventure is a driving force for her to advocate for Covid-19 vaccines. "I love travelling, and if I don't vaccinate, then my chances of travelling again are very limited," she said. Due to her experience of contracting Covid-19, she now not only wants to protect herself but her family too. "I took my mother for her second shot today. I am very excited about that," she said.

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## US probing Moderna vaccine for higher heart inflammation risk - Washington Post report

## WASHINGTON

U.S. health officials are investigating reports that Moderna Inc's COVID-19 vaccine may be linked to a higher risk of a rare heart condition in younger adults than previously thought, the Washington Post reported late on Thursday, citing people familiar with the review. The report quoted a source saying it was too early for the regulators to reach a conclusion, and that additional work was needed before any recommendation was made.

Health regulators in June had added a warning to the literature that accompanies the mRNA vaccines

produced by Moderna and Pfizer to flag the rare risk of heart inflammation seen primarily in young males. However, they said the benefit of the shots in preventing COVID-19 continued to outweigh the risks. There might be a 2.5 times higher incidence of myocarditis in those who get the Moderna vaccine compared with Pfizer's vaccine, the Post quoted a source as saying. The investigation that is focused on Canadian data suggests that risks of myocarditis might especially be higher for males below the age of 30 or so, according to the report. Moderna and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

## EGGHEAD

# Africa's youngest neurosurgeon and her 'dreams' about the field

## CAPE TOWN

**D**r Ncumisa Jilata's journey from a childhood classroom in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape to becoming the youngest neurosurgeon in Africa may have begun with a glass of water.

That feeling of sipping a cold drink, holding the glass in your hand, and the rush of thirst-quenching pleasure, was a visual picture given by Jilata's Grade 11 biology teacher that began a life-long love of neurons.

"The way he introduced this concept of impulses taken to the brain and the circuitry of neurons, I thought there's nothing that could top this," she tells Spotlight. Fast forward through finishing matric, completing university, and graduating with a prestigious fellowship, by the age of 29, Jilata had become one of just five Black female neurosurgeons in South Africa.

That remarkable achievement, however, came with challenges. A young Black woman in a male-dominated field, she had to work doubly hard to be taken seriously in a career where there were few role models before her. Now, she is working to change that. By mentoring future generations of Black women neurosurgeons and bringing science to communities, she's hoping to shape a new future for the field.

Before her Grade 11 teacher and his glass of water, Jilata was on a completely different path. She had ambitions to become a chartered accountant. But having changed her mind, she was determined, even if that meant overcoming many obstacles. Jilata had to take extra subjects, increase her workload and sacrifice some of her friendships for her studies. "Having people around me who believed in my dreams was important," she says.



Africa's youngest neurosurgeon, Dr Ncumisa Jilata.

Among those people were Jilata's parents, who had, from a very early age, instilled in her the values of hard work and leadership. "My upbringing played a crucial role in my success because I looked up to my parents who are both hard workers," she says.

"They motivated me to study hard, as my degree would be the key to unlocking my future." And they were right. Jilata graduated with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees (MB-ChB) from Mthatha's Walter Sisulu University (WSU) in 2009. This was made possible with support from her father, who was also a lecturer at WSU and a bursary from the Eastern Cape government.

By 2017, she had completed her fellowship with the Council of Neurosurgeons of South Africa, which was self-funded, officially earning her title as one of five Black South African women in the field and the youngest neurosurgeon on the continent. Those achievements earned her headlines and even a special mention from then-Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa in his address at the Presidency Budget Vote in Parliament's National Assembly.

Naming her as one of SA's wom-

en breaking barriers, he thanked her "for inspiring us, motivating us and challenging us with your [life] and your determination... demonstrating what is possible with perseverance, courage, collaboration, and partnership."

From her rooms at Morningside Mediclinic, she treats everything from brain tumours to the effects of stroke. She also addresses issues related to the nervous system, including degenerative issues of the spine.

In some cases, she sees patients who've been bedridden and were able to walk again after surgery with her. "Seeing a patient wake up from the ICU and able to use all their body parts without any pain brings me great joy," she says.

But getting where she is today was not easy. Indeed, neurosurgery has historically been a male-dominated field, with gender disparities still persisting today. According to research published in the Journal of Neurosurgery, there are only 243 African women neurosurgeons on the continent. Representation of Black women role models is even more scarce.

That study found South Africa ranked third behind Algeria and Morocco with 18 registered female neurosurgeons. Only five of them,

however, identify as Black. According to Jilata, there were about 150 neurosurgeons working in South Africa in 2017.

"It wasn't easy at first, especially being a woman of colour," says Jilata. "I was second-guessed most times and I had to work extra hard to prove to everyone else that I had the capabilities to be this neurosurgeon that I wanted to be."

Mentoring the next generation Lifestyle, discrimination, unequal opportunities, and a lack of role models are among the most common reasons keeping women out of neurosurgery, according to another study from the Journal of Neurosurgery, which specifically mentioned Jilata's achievements.

"Role models are essential in mentoring the next generation of neurosurgeons and that's the only way we will have more diversity in the workforce," study author Professor Anil Nanda, of the Department of Neurosurgery at Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School in the US, tells Spotlight.

"Dr Jilata's story is inspirational but what is important is her acknowledgement of her mentor." Jilata has called Dr Coceka Mfundisi, the third Black woman to qualify as a neurosurgeon in SA, her mentor. And Jilata herself has taken up the torch for future females, working as a consultant with young doctors to support, train, and guide them along their neuro career paths. "As exciting as it is to be among the few female neurosurgeons, we need to bridge the gap in percentages of men versus women in the field," she says.

But that role doesn't stop with neurosurgery. Jilata says the representation of Black women is important for all areas of science. "We need to share all opportunities with young Black women on the importance of science and how valuable it is in the ever-changing world."

## CONCERN

## These grocery staples remain prohibitively priced despite VAT exemption - a puzzle

## MAPUTO

Despite the extension of the exemption from Value Added Tax (VAT), the prices of sugar, soap and cooking oil remain prohibitive for most Mozambicans.

'Carta' has been monitoring the prices of these products since the Assembly of the Republic approved the VAT exemption extension in November, 2020. What we have learned is that prices have continued to rise.

When the document was approved, cooking oil cost 115.00 meticaís a litre. It now costs around 200.00 meticaís, depending on the quality. For five litres of oil, consumers paid between 450.00 and 680.00 meticaís, but it currently costs between 580.00 and 720.00 meticaís for that amount.

Brown sugar, on the other hand, then cost 60.00 meticaís per kilogram, whereas today it costs between 75.00 and 80.00 meticaís. A 20 kg bag cost 1,200.00 meticaís; currently, it costs between 1,300.00 and 1,350.00 meticaís. Soap, which then cost 15.00 meticaís per bar, today costs between 20 to 25 meticaís.

Our report spoke with some consumers, who shared their dissatisfaction with the continuous rise in prices of these essential products. One such is Aly, a resident of the Infulene neighbourhood, in Matola municipi-



Economy and Finance minister Adriano Maleiane.

pality, Maputo province, who rues the fact that prices have increased despite the extension of the VAT exemption.

Josséfa Ussene, a resident of the Patrice Lumumba neighbourhood, also in Matola, does not believe in market prices and says that there is price speculation. She says the National Inspectorate of Economic Activities (INAE) must intensify its activities, in order to prevent everyone from marking their own prices.

Our reporter contacted the producers of sugar, soap and cooking oil in search of a reason for the continuous rise in prices. The General Manager of the Maeva Group, Avanih Koja, indicated exchange rate fluctuations, the availability of foreign exchange and the change in reference prices as the main reasons behind the rise in the prices of the cooking oil and the soap produced by his company.

"You have to look at international

prices, international currency, currency availability. The change in international prices implies either a fall or a rise in prices," he said. Cláudia Manjate, from OLAM Mozambique, one of the largest domestic processors of cooking oil, did not consent to answer our questions, claiming that it was the responsibility of the Association of Oil and Soap Producers, an organisation that 'Carta' found to be still in the embryonic phase of its creation.

A similar situation obtains in the sugar sector. 'Carta' contacted the president of the Mozambican Sugar Producers Association (APAMO), João Jeque, who referred us to the National Sugar Distributor (DNA), claiming that the entity was responsible for fixing the price of sugar. However, the DNA, when contacted, also said it did not have the competence to pronounce on the matter.

The VAT exemption on sugar, soap and cooking oil is valid until December, 2023, and aims to alleviate the social and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time, Minister of Economy and Finance Adriano Maleiane said that the exemption was still necessary to reduce the impact on consumer prices, strengthen national industry and adopt economic and social measures relevant to the current State of Calamity.

## COMPETITIVE

# Fitness trainers find new clients abroad

NAIROBI

When Evelyn Owala, the founder of Eveal Health and Fitness in Nairobi, started doing online classes, she never imagined they could open a world of opportunities for her and other gym instructors.

Since the pandemic made people cautious of exercising in crowded spaces, Kenyan gym instructors have found new clients abroad who are paying to exercise from the comfort of their homes using dumbbells, training bands, or just their bodyweight. "I hadn't done virtual fitness training before the pandemic. But when the gyms were closing, clients started asking me what I was going to do. I had to think fast," she says.

One Friday, she told her clients that they would be exercising online and by Monday, they were already adjusting their laptops and mobile phones so that the coach could clearly see them on camera. The number of clients seeking personal training online has grown with others joining in from abroad.

"Most of our clients were drawn to us through social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook as well as client referrals," says Ms Owala, an ex-banker. "Now that gyms have reopened, we do both physical and virtual trainings," she says.

Over time, she has managed to gain clients from Europe and the US with most of them being Kenyans tapping back home as it is expensive to hire personal trainers abroad. In the US, for instance, a client pays a personal trainer about \$22 (Sh2,400) an hour on average.

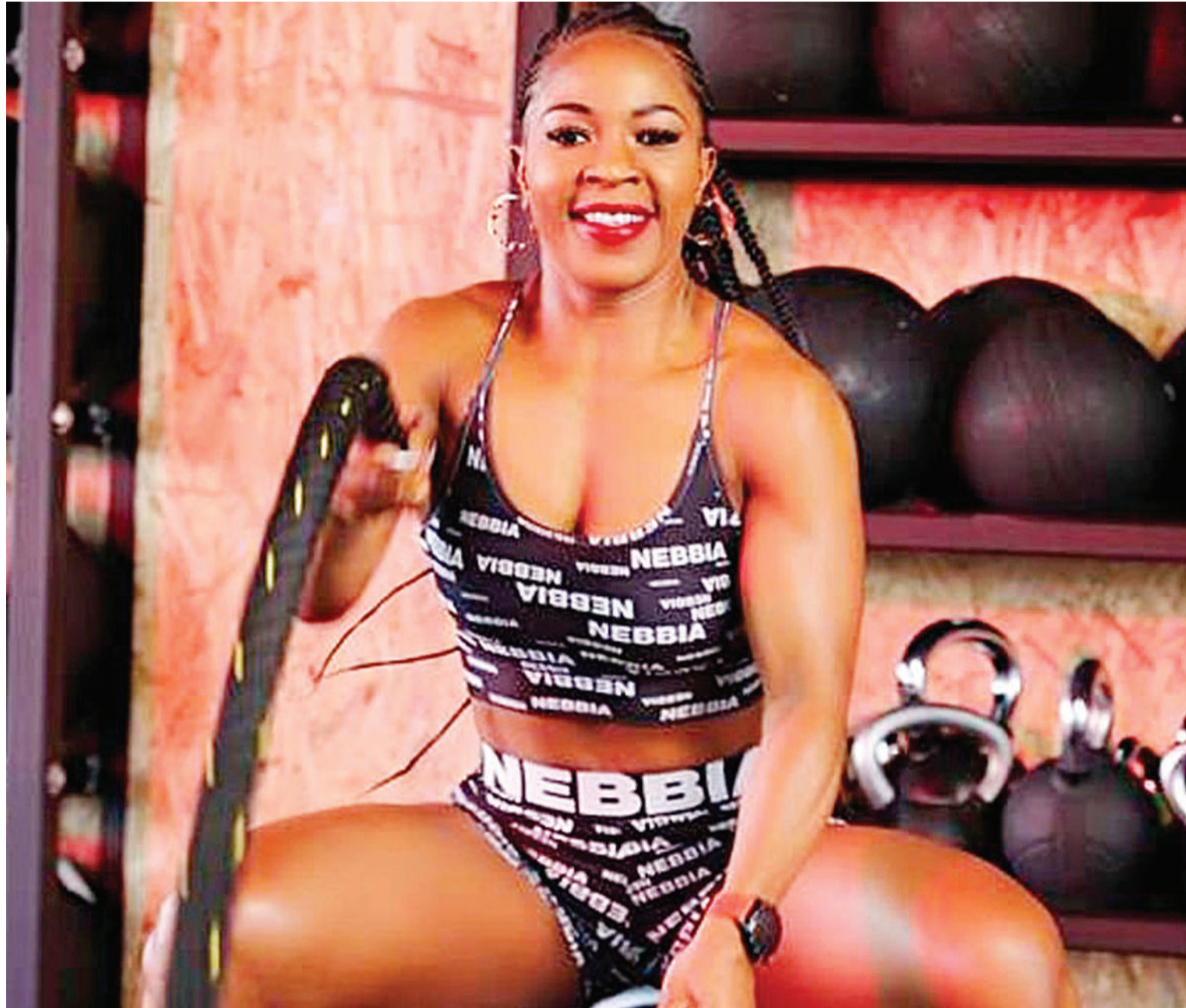
Justus Ngumi, a fitness trainer who used to work in a gym in Kilimani, Nairobi, is also on the same path as Ms Owala. However, for him, he has fully transitioned to online training and has clients from different parts of the globe. "I have three clients in the US, three in Europe and six in Africa from different locations like Nairobi and other cities," he says.

He also depends on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram as well as customer referrals to build his client portfolio. "I am doing purely virtual, in some cases, I only send the clients the fitness programmes and they exercise on their own," he says.

Thanks to digital platforms that allow video calls, the two trainers have been able to take personal training, which had been a preserve of the rich, to the comfort of many fitness enthusiasts' homes. He says the virtual sessions are the same as face-to-face only that there is no physical contact. "I use Zoom, WhatsApp or any social platform that allows one to call on video. Whatever is convenient for my client," says Ms Owala.

## How to start

Mr Ngumi explains that an individual only needs to have stable and reliable Internet then set up a phone or a computer for the virtual sessions. This then is followed by making sure the client creates space for the at-home workouts by dedicating a special spot for the sessions. The space should not be less than both arms'



Evelyn Owala, founder and trainer at Eveal Health and Fitness Centre in Nairobi.

length all around as well as big enough to allow one to lie flat on the back and move around freely, he recommends.

"You can work with many people at the same time but I like working with a person at a time. Having a group makes it hard to identify those making mistakes and when correcting one person, the others will be waiting," he says.

But in terms of equipment, such as dumbbells, weights or treadmill, he points out that in as much as they are necessary, an individual can still use their bodyweight. "Your body is equipment. There are so many exercises one can perform using the bodyweight as resistance," he explains.

"Our job is to work around what is available as one might want to be fit but they don't have money to purchase the needed equipment," adds Ms Owala. Mr Ngumi charges per session. However, he explains that most people like having a monthly budget so he multiplies the number of sessions in a month by the amount per session.

"I charge Sh800 per session if they are more, or Sh1,100 if they are few," he says. For Ms Owala, her packages vary depending on what the client wants. "There isn't much difference between the two (physical and virtual training)," says the 2016 Miss Kenya Figure title winner.

The benefits of going online so far? Mr Ngumi says that he saves money he would have used for transport. "The clients also save as they do not have to spend on gym membership fee, and transport," he says.

To keep the clients on their toes, they find ways to motivate them as well as strike a mutual agreement on the schedules. "They know they are with me at a specific time. I will text or call to remind them about our training," Mr Ngumi says.

## Track progress

To monitor progress, he requires that the client takes a picture and measurements of the body part they intend to work on. Then after a month, the same is revisited to see whether any progress has been made.

"Apart from weight, your clothes will tell a lot. Your clothes get loose as you lose fat as a kilo of fat occupies more space than the same amount of muscle," he points out. "I can see what you are doing and I will see your progress because it is training through video," adds Ms Owala.

Mr Ngumi cites an example of his client whom he started training virtually in March this year. She weighed 118 kilos and could not even do squats because of her weight. But in

three months, she had lost 13 kilos, dropping to 105kgs by early July.

"Her physique has changed, her clothes are becoming big, she is now doing proper squats, aches on her knees, arms, and back are no longer there. Her sleeping pattern and lifestyle have also improved," he says. He attributes the success to breaking down his client's goals and customising training plans. "I go by your goals, trying to fix your weaknesses turning them into your strength," he says.

## Female clients

Ms Owala, whose clients are mostly women, says that her success in shaping their bodies, especially trimming their abdominal areas to perfection, is because she infuses nutrition in the training programme. For sculpting and body toning, she focuses more on compound workouts such as dead-lifts, squats, and lunges.

"I treat the body as a complete system that needs a constant upgrade as there is a difference between getting someone to weight X and making them stay there for the longest time possible. So I help them get there and also live there the longest time they can," she says. But for one to hack virtual training sessions, fitness trainer William Neondo says that an individual has to first get a certified instructor with skill-set and experience.

## INTERVENTION

## Botswana's Covid-19 budget balloons as it battles to access vaccines

ABORONE

Botswana needs to budget an extra 1.13-billion pula (\$100m) to help secure Covid-19 vaccines and equipment as the southern African country battles a third wave of infections, finance minister, Peggy Serame, told parliament.

The extra money is almost triple the sum originally allocated in February to fight the coronavirus, but 70% of this money had already been depleted by July, Serame told lawmakers. "A sum of 1.13-billion pula is requested as additional funding under the ministry of health and wellness," Serame said ahead of a debate in parliament to be held over the next couple of days to approve or reject the additional funding.

"The amount is required for the procurement of medical supplies, mainly vaccines and associated medical items such as syringes, needles and surgical masks," she said during a presentation on the 2021/22 supplementary budget.

African countries have struggled to procure enough vaccines in a global scramble for doses that has seen poorer nations relegated to the back of a supply line amid mounting fatalities from a more infectious Delta variant.

Botswana's Covid-19 death toll passed the 2,000 mark on Monday, up from 630 deaths in early April. So far only 161,000 out of its 2.3-million population have been fully vaccinated, according to the latest health ministry data. Botswana's supplementary budget will be financed by drawing on special funds and reallocating some money from the development budget, Serame said.

However, prospects for a projected economic rebound of 8.8% this year have faded due to the heavy impact of Covid-19 and associated restrictions on movement in the diamond-rich country, Serame said, without giving an updated growth forecast. In June the World Bank approved a \$250m loan to support Botswana's economic recovery efforts.

# Cape Town customer leaves restaurant staff members a R20K tip

CAPE TOWN

Staff members at the popular Massimo's restaurant in Hout Bay had their 'jaws dropped to the floor' when a customer walked in paid for her good and left with a generous R20 000 tip for them to split.

The restaurant industry has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic due to trade restrictions. President Cyril Ramaphosa recently moved the country to an adjusted Level 3 lockdown, which meant restaurants could finally start trading again.

But, speaking to News24, general manager Chris Brown said the staff did not anticipate that they would be on the receiving end of such kindness from a patron. "It was a normal day at the restaurant when a regular customer called in to say she will be coming to collect some frozen items from the store. Before she hung up, she asked how many staff members the restaurant had, which I didn't think anything about at the time," he said.

When she arrived at the restaurant,



Patrons enjoying meals at Massimo's restaurant.

Brown rang up her purchase and gave her a total of R370, which she paid. She asked him again to tell her how many staff members there were because she was aware that they did not get any tips while the restaurant was closed.

"I advised her we are 20 staff in total. After she paid for her goodies, she pulled out another card and said since there are 20 staff members she'll leave a tip of R20 000," he said.

"I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I even asked the customer on more than one occasion if she was 100% sure she wants to leave a R20 000 tip, and she said yes every time I asked," he added. Brown said that once the payment cleared, the customer asked him not to make a "big fuss" about it and simply left the store.

The staff were elated and many were relieved. "Some needed the money more than others, and this money came at the right time," Brown said. He added that there were two members in managerial

positions who opted not to take the money and to give their share to the rest of the staff.

He said: "The fact that our restaurant is still standing, and we [are] still be able to make a monthly income is a blessing. And for that we are eternally grateful." The restaurant said 18 staff members received R1 111.11 each and were more than happy with the kind gesture.

Since the hardcore lockdown last year, Massimo's has been running a soup kitchen, handing out food to those in need in the Hout Bay area. The restaurant now has its own soup kitchen that operates on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, when they hand out soup, pasta, garlic bread and focaccia to those in need.

"The pandemic has hit many businesses in the worst way possible and to show our gratitude to the many customers that still support the restaurant, we've decided to continue to give back to the community in these times," Brown added.

ECO-FRIENDLY

# 'Trashionable' Indian weaver spins saris from bananas and pineapples

**NEW DELHI**

**W**ithin the confines of a tin-roofed workshop in Annapurthur, on the outskirts of Chennai in southern India, a frail-looking gentleman deftly scoops out strands of banana stem. C Sekar has consumption of a conscientious kind on his mind. "We weave fabric out of these banana strands," he said. Sekar, 58, is a third-generation weaver, and his team of about 100 women are part of a self-help group that works on looms in shifts.

Making trash fashionable

Every month, they produce up to 150 saris and 300 metres of fabric, out of 500 discarded banana stems, innumerable fruit peels and plenty of other agricultural waste.

"The quantity of food and agricultural waste nudged us to innovate and come up with alternative raw materials for producing yarn. I've been experimenting with various products for more than a

decade," he says. "For now, we've succeeded in producing a fabric with 60 per cent natural fibre, while cotton or silk make up the rest of it."

Sekar and his team manually scrape and extract natural fibre from agricultural products such as banana stems, pineapple, aloe vera and hemp. The fibre is washed in cold water with added salt, dried and then knotted to be wound on a spindle and made into yarn.

Subsequently, depending on the client's choice, the yarn is dyed using eco-friendly products such as coffee powder and turmeric, and mixed with cotton to weave elegant five or eight-metre saris, lungis (a type of sarong for men) and rolls of fabric. The team also treats the dyed fabric with herbs and cow dung to utilise their antibacterial properties.

This sustainable innovation is as much a combination of art and science, as it is of passion and fashion. It has become a source of livelihood - and substantial profit - for many in the small town in the



Sekar has a team of about 100 women, who earn their livelihood making natural yarns.

past decade. The community sells the natural fibre fabric and the saris they make from it to boutiques and high-end brands.

In the 1970s, Sekar saw his father, Chenchaiya, struggle to make a living in what was a once-thriving vocation when there was an overnight

ban on cloth imports to Nigeria, owing to a military coup there. This led to a decline in business over the decades, and Annapurthur, which was once a prosperous textile hub - known for its Madras check-design handkerchiefs and bleeding Madras fabric, and with more than 5,000

looms exporting handwoven clothing to Nigeria and other countries - dwindled into a lacklustre town of barely 100-odd looms.

'Ramayana' to the rescue

In the early 2000s, with an urge to continue the rich legacy of his ancestors and give the weaver community

of Annapurthur a much-needed fillip, Sekar decided to do something quirky but organic with the weaves.

"It all happened while I was flipping through the pages of a Tamil magazine, and read an episode from the Indian epic Ramayana, on Sita's abduction," he recalls. "During her time in Lanka, not wanting to ask for a change of clothes from her abductor Ravana, Sita requests [the monkey god] Hanuman to get her vaazhai naaru [banana fibre] and makes a sari out of it. This intrigued me as a weaver."

The tale left such an impact on Sekar that he was motivated to experiment with banana fibre, and slowly progressed to using other vegetables and fruits in combination with silk and cotton, an

art he has perfected over the years.

The impact of fashion on the environment

"Cotton production consumes a lot of water, which we are conscious about, living in a water-scarce region like Chennai. So the need to find alternatives was another driving force apart from utilising agricultural waste," Sekar says.

According to the UN Environment Programme, the fashion industry is responsible for 20 per cent of global wastewater, 10 per cent of carbon emissions and huge amounts of plastic waste. About 60 per cent of material made into clothing is plastic, which includes polyester, acrylic and nylon textiles that end up as microplastics in oceans, putting a massive strain on the environment.

OUTSTANDING

# Meghan Markle's gown by Givenchy ranked most popular wedding dress of current decade

LONDON

Meghan Markle's gown designed by Givenchy's Clare Waight Keller for the Duchess of Sussex's wedding to Prince Harry in 2018 has been ranked the most popular bridal outfit of the past decade, according to new research.

Present specialists Find Me A Gift studied the numbers of celebrity bridal gown searches in the UK, compiling a list of the five most popular dresses worn since 2010, as reported by Tatler. Markle's gown averaged 21,900 searches per month since she wed Harry, while Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge's dress, has had about 21,500 monthly searches since her nuptials to Prince William in 2011.

Elegant and Audrey Hepburnesque, Markle's dress caused quite a stir three years ago, with many speculating in the lead-up as to who might create it. The new royal chose Givenchy's first female artistic director, who wowed with the boat-neck dress with sculpted waist, which Waight Keller described as a "timeless piece" but that still conveyed modernity through its sleek cuts and lines.

It took a team of 50 people to create Kate Middleton's gown, which was designed by Sarah Burton of Alexander McQueen. Lace details were overlaid on a sweetheart bodice and full skirt,

with a train that trailed about three metres behind her.

The two royals were in a league of their own on the list, as coming in third was Hailey Bieber, who married pop star Justin Bieber in 2018 in a figure-hugging, off-the-shoulder, low-backed lace gown designed by Virgil Abloh for Off-White. In comparison to the duchesses, Bieber received about 5,800 monthly searches.

Fourth on the list was Ariana Grande, who wed property agent Dalton Gomez in an "intimate" ceremony this year. Her lily-white, silk charmeuse strapless Vera Wang Haute Couture gown, which featured an empire waist and sculpted neckline, has gotten about 2,400 searches per month since the May wedding. English singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding came in fifth, as her custom-made Chloe gown that she wore to marry art dealer Caspar Jopling in 2019 receives 1,600 searches per month.

The embroidered and handmade dress, which is said to have taken more than 640 hours to make, was created by designer Natacha Ramsay-Levi. The ruffled high-necked gown had glass bead detailing and modest long sleeves. She also chose a traditional two-tiered veil, which was embroidered with the bride and groom's initials.



Meghan Markle's dress is the most searched-for wedding gown of the past decade, according to research done on search data in the UK



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

**ITV**

SUNDAY 18 April			THURSDAY 22 April			SATURDAY 24 April			SUNDAY 25 April		
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI
6:00	Kumekucha	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	HABARI
6:40	Al Jazeera	HABARI	6:40	Al Jazeera	HABARI	6:40	Al Jazeera	HABARI	6:40	Al Jazeera	HABARI
7:00	Watoto Wetu	HABARI	7:00	Watoto Wetu	HABARI	7:00	Watoto Wetu	HABARI	7:00	Watoto Wetu	HABARI
8:00	Isidingo	HABARI	8:00	Isidingo	HABARI	8:00	Isidingo	HABARI	8:00	Isidingo	HABARI
11:40	Movie rpt: Nzowa	HABARI	11:40	Movie rpt: Nzowa	HABARI	11:40	Movie rpt: Nzowa	HABARI	11:40	Movie rpt: Nzowa	HABARI
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	HABARI	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	HABARI	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	HABARI	14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	HABARI
15:30	Mwanga	HABARI	15:30	Mwanga	HABARI	15:30	Mwanga	HABARI	15:30	Mwanga	HABARI
16:30	ITV Top 10	HABARI	16:30	ITV Top 10	HABARI	16:30	ITV Top 10	HABARI	16:30	ITV Top 10	HABARI
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	HABARI	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	HABARI	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	HABARI	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	HABARI
18:00	Jiji Letu	HABARI	18:00	Jiji Letu	HABARI	18:00	Jiji Letu	HABARI	18:00	Jiji Letu	HABARI
18:15	Mapishi	HABARI	18:15	Mapishi	HABARI	18:15	Mapishi	HABARI	18:15	Mapishi	HABARI
18:30	Matukio ya wiki	HABARI	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	HABARI	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	HABARI	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	HABARI
19:30	Igizo: Mtego	HABARI	19:30	Igizo: Mtego	HABARI	19:30	Igizo: Mtego	HABARI	19:30	Igizo: Mtego	HABARI
20:00	Habari	HABARI	20:00	Habari	HABARI	20:00	Habari	HABARI	20:00	Habari	HABARI
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	HABARI	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	HABARI	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	HABARI	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	HABARI
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	HABARI	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	HABARI	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	HABARI	21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	HABARI
21:15	Mizengwe	HABARI	21:15	Mizengwe	HABARI	21:15	Mizengwe	HABARI	21:15	Mizengwe	HABARI
21:35	Mjue Zaidi	HABARI	21:35	Mjue Zaidi	HABARI	21:35	Mjue Zaidi	HABARI	21:35	Mjue Zaidi	HABARI
22:15	Bongo Movie: Laana	HABARI	22:15	Bongo Movie: Laana	HABARI	22:15	Bongo Movie: Laana	HABARI	22:15	Bongo Movie: Laana	HABARI
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	HABARI	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	HABARI	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	HABARI	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	HABARI
00:05	Wild Skin	HABARI	00:05	Wild Skin	HABARI	00:05	Wild Skin	HABARI	00:05	Wild Skin	HABARI

WEDNESDAY 21 April

FRIDAY 23 April

Sat 17 April

Tues 20 April





## Taliban seeking to establish new govt

THE Taliban met on Wednesday with former Afghan president Hamid Karzai as the group seeks to form a new government in the war-torn country, with the international community calling for more talks and peace and stability in Afghanistan.

The meeting between the Taliban and the former Afghan leader came after Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani left the country following the Taliban's takeover of most parts of Afghanistan, including the capital city of Kabul, on Sunday.

Karzai, who was the nation's president from 2001 to 2014, has been leading efforts to ensure a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan, according to media reports.

On Thursday, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid posted on his Twitter account a picture of a flag and coat of arms, and announced the "declaration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan on the occasion of the 102nd anniversary of the country's independence from British rule".

China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday that China has been maintaining communication and contact with the Afghan Taliban on the basis of respecting the sovereignty of the country and the will of various factions.

"We encourage and hope the Afghan Taliban can follow through its positive statements, unite with all parties and ethnic groups in Afghanistan, establish a broadly based, inclusive political framework that fits the national conditions and win public support through dialogue and consultation as soon as possible," Hua said.

China also hopes the Afghan Taliban will implement moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, curb terrorism and criminal acts, and ensure a smooth transition so that people can be free from war and enjoy lasting peace, she said.

The spokeswoman called on the international community to jointly encourage and support all factions and ethnic groups in Afghanistan to engage in solidarity and cooperation in order to open a new chapter in the country's history.

Hua added that she "noticed that some people have had saying they don't trust the Afghan Taliban".

"I want to say that nothing stays unchanged. When understanding and handling problems, we should adopt a holistic, interconnected and developmental dialectical approach. We should look at both the past and the present. We need to not only listen to what they say, but also look at what they do. If we do not keep pace with the times, but stick to a fixed mindset and ignore the development of the situation, we will never reach a conclusion that is in line with reality," she said.

The spokeswoman said that the rapid evolution of the situation in Afghanistan also shows that there is a lack of objective judgment on the situation by the outside world as well as a failure to accurately understand the opinions of the Afghan people.

"Certain Western countries should particularly draw a lesson from this," Hua said.

On Wednesday, various countries called for restraint and peace in the war-torn country. **Agencies**

## West Africa COVID-19 deaths surge amid Ebola and other outbreaks

BRAZZAVILLE

WEST Africa has recorded its highest number of COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic, as several countries grapple with outbreaks of cholera, Ebola Virus Disease and Marburg Virus Disease that threaten to further strain emergency response capacity in the region, a World Health Organization (WHO) official said on Thursday.

"The outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fevers, Marburg and Ebola, at a time when COVID-19 cases are rising in a number of West African countries, highlights the multitude of challenges countries are facing in parallel to the pandemic," said Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

According to the WHO, COVID-19 fatalities in West Africa over the past four weeks increased by 193 percent from 348 in the previous four weeks to 1,018 in the week ending on 15 August, a sign that health systems are feeling the strain of a heavy caseload.

West Africa's health systems are even more fragile than those in other sub-regions. A WHO assessment of the functionality of health systems in West Africa found that they were 21 percent lower than in Southern Africa.

"We are particularly concerned about West Africa and we can expect the pressure of COVID-19 to hit health services harder and faster," said Moeti. "In addition to the strain of COVID-19, comes Ebola and other outbreaks. Fighting multiple outbreaks is a complex challenge."

Cote d'Ivoire declared an outbreak of Ebola on August 14, the country's first since 1994 in the commercial capital of Abidjan. As of Wednesday, there was one confirmed case and three suspected cases that later tested negative.

Six high-risk contacts have been quarantined and 131 contacts listed. No deaths have yet been reported, as investigations are ongoing into the source of the outbreak.

On August 9, Guinea detected a case of Marburg virus disease, which is in the same family as Ebola. No new cases have since been recorded. A total of 173 contacts have been identified.

The Marburg virus, the first such outbreak in West Africa, was detected in a locality in southern Guinea close to the border with Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is also the same region where cases of the 2021 Ebola outbreak in Guinea as well as the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak were initially confirmed. Guinea is collaborating with Cote d'Ivoire on the investigation into the outbreak.

As of Wednesday, 49 contacts have been listed in Guinea and health authorities are preparing to vaccinate high-risk contacts. **Xinhua**

## Tibet's progress a powerful message for Western naysayers

LHASA

THE Tibet Autonomous Region celebrates the 70th anniversary of its peaceful liberation this year, a triumphant moment for its socialist system and governance that delivers a powerful message to Western politicians who fail to acknowledge its enormous progress.

In 1951, the Agreement of the Central People's Government and the Local Government of Tibet on Measures for the Peaceful Liberation of Tibet, known as the 17-Article Agreement officially proclaimed the peaceful liberation of Tibet.

That liberation, together with the epochal democratic reform in 1959, has helped Tibet cast away its regressive, autocratic, and isolated past to embrace prosperity and an open future.

Nearly 3.65 million people live in the region, up 21.52 percent from 2010. Over 86 percent of the population is Tibetan. Tibet's average life expectancy increased from 35.5 years in 1951 to 71.1 years in 2019.

The region has more than 1,700 sites for Tibetan Buddhist activities with 46,000 monks and nuns. In an effort to preserve traditional Tibetan culture, the state and the region have invested over 5 billion yuan (770 million U.S. dollars) in the renovation of cultural relics.

Tibetan opera, Gesar, Lum medicinal bathing of Sowa Rigpa have been included in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

Having eradicated absolute poverty, Tibet is in an accelerated drive of economic development with modernized infrastructure.

Tibet's achievements should be sufficient to prompt certain individuals in the West to drop their fixation on the Shangri-La myth, which idealizes eternal theocratic rule and a spiritual world, and sees any modern development as worthy of condemnation.



Over the past 70 years, leaving the dark ages behind, Tibet has replaced the cruel, feudal serfdom system with a socialist system, exercised regional ethnic autonomy, and carried out reform and opening-up along with the rest of the nation.

As a region that occupies an important place in the nation's security paradigm, Tibet receives significant attention from the central authorities, and massive assistance from other provinces to boost its development. The central budget has funded key infrastructure projects in the region, including railways and airports.

In order to maintain lasting stability and sustain development, Tibet steadfastly opposes secessionist plotting. The 14th Dalai Lama and his followers, supported by Western anti-China forces, have over the years continued attempting to promote "Tibetan independence" by provoking incidents that jeopardize peace and stability in Tibet.

These political exiles, as well as certain Western politicians

and organizations, have launched a misinformation campaign targeting Tibet. They call liberation "repression" and demonize China's policy in the region. Their cries of "cultural destruction" and "genocide" do not carry a shred of truth.

Their frequent accusations regarding ethnic, religious, democratic and human rights issues are in fact driven by the idea of "Tibetan independence" to meddle in China's domestic affairs.

These narratives concerning Tibet reflect either sheer ignorance or hegemonic thinking tied to imperialist aggressions in the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Since the 1980s, Western forces have played an active role in the outbreaks of unrest that have taken place in Tibet.

China, with its ironclad resolve to safeguard national sovereignty and ethnic unity, will never allow the meddling hands attempting to play the "Tibet card" to turn the tables.

And any secessionist attempts, which go against history and the common will of various ethnic groups in the region and the whole country, are doomed to failure. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, people in Tibet now live moderately prosperous lives, which would have been unimaginable before the region's peaceful liberation.

They are sure to create an even brighter future through unity, modernization drive and continued support from the central authorities. **Xinhua**

## Sudan to expand cooperation with ICC on trial of Darfur war crime suspects

KHARTOUM

SUDAN'S Justice Minister Nasredeen Abdelbari said Sudan will expand cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to ensure trial of those accused of war crimes in the Darfur region, including former President Omar al-Bashir, official SUNA news agency reported on Thursday.

Sudan signed six months ago

a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the ICC regarding the trial of Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, but the cooperation will expand to include three persons currently wanted by the court, including al-Bashir, former Interior Minister Ahmed Mohamed Haroun and former Defense Minister Abdul-Rahim Mohamed Hussein, Abdelbari was quoted as saying. In the

past years, the ICC issued arrest warrants against the three for allegedly committing genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Darfur.

Abdelbari said that the ministry has assigned personnel for the arrangements related to the cooperation with the ICC, under the decision by the Sudanese Council of Ministers to hand over the three suspects to justice.

On Aug. 12, the Sudanese government and the ICC signed a MoU on the provision of information and realization of justice for the victims of the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region. The ICC demands Sudan hand over al-Bashir and two of his senior aides for trial, accusing them of allegedly committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. On Aug. 3, the Sudanese cabinet approved a draft law to

join the ICC Rome Statute, but this law will not be effective until approved by the interim parliament. Kushayb was a member of the government's popular defense forces and commander of the Janjaweed militia in Darfur from August 2003 to March 2004. He served as a liaison between the government and the Janjaweed and allegedly participated in attacks against targeted groups. **Xinhua**

## New kinetic energy of China's economic development gains momentum

THE new kinetic energy index of China's economic development in 2020 surged 35.3 percent to 440.3, said China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The new kinetic energy index, a statistical indicator system with new industries, new business formats and new business models as the main contents, is used to reflect the development trend and process of new economic momentum.

It is subdivided into network economy index, economic vitality index, innovation driven index, knowledge capability index, as well as transformation and upgrading index.

In 2020, the new kinetic energy index of China's economic development achieved rapid increase despite the shattering blow of the COVID-19 epidemic, which mirrored the strong resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy and greatly supported China's high-quality economic development, said Lyu Haiqi, head of the statistical research institute under the NBS.

Based on the new situation and characteristics of new industries, new business formats and new business models, the statistical index system of new kinetic energy was revised and improved this year. According to the revised index system, China's new kinetic energy indexes of economic development from 2015 to 2020 (taking that of 2014 as 100) were 119.6, 146.9, 191.2, 257.9, 325.5 and 440.3, respectively, increasing 19.6, 22.8, 30.2, 34.9, 26.2, and 35.3 percent year on year.

In 2020, all sub-indices of new kinetic energy increased compared with the previous year, among which the network economy index grew the fastest and contributed the most to the growth of the total index.

According to the NBS, the network economy index was 1,323.6, a year-on-year increase of 54.8 percent, contributing 81.7 percent to the overall index growth.

The number of Internet users continued to grow in China. As of the end of 2020, China had nearly 1.35 billion mobile Internet users, an increase of 2.3 percent from the previous year, and 480 million fixed broadband subscriptions, up 7.6 percent year on year.

Besides, China's mobile Internet traffic reached 165.6 billion gigabytes, 1.36 times and 80.3 times that in 2019



A high-speed maglev train with a designed top speed of 600 kilometers per hour rolls off the production line in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province, July 20, 2021. It is the world's first maglev transportation system that is able to run as fast as 600 kilometers per hour. File photo

and 2014, respectively.

As new business formats continuously emerged, telecommuting, telemedicine, contactless delivery, and other businesses are more widely seen across the country. In 2020, Chinese e-commerce platforms registered a turnover of 37.2 trillion yuan (\$5.74 trillion), an increase of 4.5 percent from the previous year.

New types of consumption saw fast growth in China last year. The country's online retail sales totaled 11.76 trillion yuan, up 10.9 percent year on year after deducting price factors. "New online retail formats have continuously taken shape and further expanded consumption scenarios as new consumption demands appeared amid epidemic prevention and control," Lyu pointed out.

Last year, China's R&D expenditure accounted for 2.4 percent of the country's GDP, up 0.16 percentage points from the previous year. The number of patents granted among every 10,000 R&D personnel reached 4,639, a significant increase of 34.6 percent compared with that in 2019 and 2.1 times that of 2014.

Besides, the amount of deals concluded in the technology market reached 2.82 trillion yuan, an increase of 26.1 percent over the previous year, signaling rapid growth of the technology market.

The value added of new industries, new business formats and new business models made up about 17.08 percent of China's

GDP last year, said Long Haibo, a researcher at the Development Research Center of the State Council, adding that new kinetic energy of China's economic development gained momentum.

Coordinating epidemic prevention and control and economic and social development, China was the first country in the world to have resumed work and production and achieved positive economic growth, which is inseparable from the country's implementation of its innovation-driven development strategy, Long said.

By promoting the resumption of work and production with digitization and intelligence, and making industries more digitalized and intelligent during the resumption of work and production, China is able to continuously optimize its economic structure, Long said.

Last year, China witnessed a rapid development of strategic emerging industries. The value added of the country's strategic emerging industries accounted for 11.7 percent of its GDP, 0.2 percentage points higher than the previous year and 4.1 percentage points higher than that in 2014.

China has actively responded to the challenge brought by the epidemic, strengthened overall work planning, and introduced a series of policies and measures to support emerging industries, Lyu noted.

People's Daily

## Police arrest man claiming to have bomb near US Capitol

WASHINGTON

A MAN who claimed to have a bomb in a pickup truck near the US Capitol surrendered to police on Thursday after a standoff that paralyzed a swath of Washington for more than five hours.

Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger told reporters that the man, identified as Floyd Ray Roseberry, parked his vehicle on a sidewalk outside the US Library of Congress at about 9:15 am EDT (1315 GMT) and told an officer who approached him that he had a bomb while holding what appeared to be a detonator.

Police shut down streets and evacuated nearby buildings as they negotiated with Roseberry, 49 (pictured).

"He gave up and did not resist and our folks were able to take him into custody without incident," Manger said.

Police said they found possible bomb-making materials, but no bomb, in the truck. Two law enforcement sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared Roseberry had acted alone.

A video livestreamed on Facebook showed Roseberry, a bald white man with a goatee, speaking inside a black truck parked on a sidewalk.

"The revolution's on, it's here," Roseberry said in the video, while appearing to hold a large metal canister on his lap. "I'm ready to die for the cause."

His ex-wife, Crystal Roseberry, told Reuters that he had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and had threatened her with firearms in the past. She said she divorced him about eight years ago.

"He's crazy. He pulled a gun on me and his sister, and shot at me numerous times," said the woman.

Facebook removed Roseberry's profile and deactivated the livestream after several hours.

Police said they did not know his motive. Federal agents raided his home in Grover, North Carolina, during the standoff in the US capital.

Neighbors described Roseberry as a Republican who was known to occasionally wear a red "MAGA" hat to show his support for former president Donald Trump. He also criticized Democrats on social media.

They said Roseberry would set off explosives in his yard and disrupt deer hunters by shooting his gun repeatedly.

Benjamin Christopher told Reuters the explosions upset him and his wife, who both served in Afghanistan.

"Me and my wife, we're both Afghanistan vets, and we have both been injured in Afghanistan via bombs, so it wasn't sitting too well with my wife," he said.

The drama in Washington unfolded in an area that had been surrounded by a high-security fence after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan 6. The fence was removed in mid-July. **Agencies**



A model showcases a creation by one of the East African fashion designers during a recent show which took place in Dar es Salaam. AGENCIES

## Suitable clothes for hot weather

By Pauline Julius, SJMC

SUMMER is the time of the year when there is hot weather and an ideal time that most people are on vacation and will always want to dress in a relaxing way.

The weather is also conducive to dress in a way that is comfortable and appealing.

Some of the wear includes fashionable sleeveless trendy wear for ladies during summer.

Although we wear what we want, we should also remember to be fancy and sexy and in a way that matches the weather so that we can look more trendy and attractive.

Fancy and sexy dressing style can keep you out of a lot of sweat and prevent unnecessary odour that can be produced by the body.

Not to forget that it can also give you the sense of trend, being the most updated 'fashionista'.

Therefore, the dressing is advised to be light. By light dressing, I mean dressing that will make you comfortable but much more ventilating.

This will keep you cheerful all day and comfortable with the hot weather's sunny days.

One can decide to wear a short and a fancy t-shirt and some sandals or rubbers.

Another trendy wear could be nice trousers or a cadet and a t-shirt.

Beach pants are also trendy and good-looking.

Flattering high-waisted bikinis are also taking over this summer.

According to the Pinterest blog, the fanciest clothes are those won to fit the

occasion.

The summer season wear, therefore, will be those that allow the exchange of air and good ventilation.

Most people especially of western origin love to wear biker shorts and lighter blouses or just bras that make them feel the air and good looking.

One should not forget to mash-up his or her dressing with some sunglasses and or a hat to keep you from the direct rays of the sun.

A fashionable trend of rattan bags, hats, and fancy sandals and outfits for summer.

Some tips can make sure you dress right for the summer season.

In an order of listing, they include avoid wearing tight clothing, wearing sleeveless or loose sleeved clothes especially blouses and shirts, wear light-coloured clothes especially those that do not absorb light, minimize accessories and choose breathable fabrics. This is for both men and women.

Some trendy men dressed in shorts and lighter clothes during summer.

This is the most conducive dress code combined with hats and sunglasses.

Unlike for African communities, decency is strongly abided by.

Therefore, most of them will dress in clothes or outfits that cover most parts or all parts of the bodies which is not a bad thing but sometimes it does not fit the summer occasion.

Before leaving the house we have to make sure that this summer season is more inspiring to you than ever and gives you the gut to wear anything as long as you are comfortable with it. One should not fear anyone.

## Tanzania's players ought to learn from Miquissinne, Chama and Kisinda's sales

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FOOTBALL analysts and fans in Tanzania have been discussing the sales of Simba SC midfielders, Clatous Chama, and Jose Luis Miquissinne, and Yanga's winger, Tuisila Kisinda.

Some went far by saying that these deals had a clause to reward Simba SC and Yanga with pre-season camps in Morocco.

The clubs are impressed with the profits they have pocketed. The players have also rejoiced.

I think Chama is the happiest. Last season he negotiated with Simba over his new contract and he was given a huge sum on signing on fee to sign a new contract.

Then he will now be offered another signing fee for signing for the Moroccan club, RS Berkane.

The North African football teams clubs usually offer a huge sum of signing fee to players.

After that the salaries are high. Chama, Kisinda, and Miquissinne each are expected to be paid more than 25m/- a month by their respective Clubs.

That is a lot of money but remember that this fortune will go to Kisinda's DR Congo, Miquissinne's Mozambique, and Chama's Zambia.

Chama has, for instance, already sent money back home he received from his contract extension with Simba.

Domestic footballers have surprisingly not shown any effort to improve their game and get an opportunity for a professional stint elsewhere, none of them has been wanted by the big clubs in Africa.

The players are the ones who suffer from their ongoing problems of misconduct now and then.

They are wasting their time in the country by staying here and taking low salaries from their respective outfits.

So far Simon Msuva is the only local footballer earning a good salary in Morocco.

Msuva, now turning out for Morocco's Wydad Athletic Club, deserves to be paid a lot of money for the type of club he currently plays for.

One cannot play Wydad AC and then less than 10m/- a month. He must be paid more than that.

Msuva went to Wydad as a star who excelled in Morocco Premier League with Difaa El Jadida.

It means his transfer has been expensive because of his efforts. I do not want to talk about the bonuses of winning the Moroccan championship



Former Yanga winger Tuisila Kisinda. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

last season. What else does he want?

I do not know what Tanzanian midfielder, Himid Mao, will be getting from Entag El-Harby in Egypt.

Mao, nevertheless, must be making more money than the amount he used to get at a time he turned out for Tanzania's Azam FC.

Fortunately for him, he is still fighting and displaying good football in Egypt.

What is going on for the remaining local footballers? I have already said here the difference between natives and foreign professionals is just dedication.

Excessive use of force, high stamina, and a few others are what distinguish a Tanzanian player from a foreign player.

Today we have many players from outside the country and now we are bringing quality players who are using our league as a platform for landing opportunities for professional stints elsewhere.

It is not bad for our clubs. They make money. The problem is that local footballers, hardly compete for these opportunities to play in big clubs outside the country. I do not know how they feel.

It all begins in the local footballers' teams. First of all, they do not get a chance to make it to the first choice sides but even those who do get a chance are playing in difficult positions.

For example, in North African teams, I do not see them buy many defenders.

This is the reason fullbacks Mohammed Hussein and Shomari Kapombe have continued to turn out for their side, Simba.

The North African teams love hard-working foreigners, such as central defenders, midfielders, and forwards or wingers like

Miquissinne and Kisinda.

It will take a long time for fullbacks to land opportunities for professional stints elsewhere and unfortunately for us that is the area local footballers dominate most at Simba.

The forward line turns out to be wildly exotic. Except for John Bocco, there is no local striker who is pushing himself to perform well.

And if Bocco hung up his boots, I do not know whether there is a local forward that can impress North African clubs.

Local strikers, Ditram Nchimbi, Charles Ilamfy, Waziri Junior, and others are helpless.

And even with the registration that has been done by Yanga and Simba, next window football followers will hear either Simba's Peter Banda or Yanga's Fiston Mayele has been signed by one of the prominent teams outside the country.

They are the ones who will get the chance to play most of the time in the Premier League.

The first thing needed is for locals to work hard and land a place in their respective outfits' first teams.

One cannot be seen when he is on the bench. Unfortunately, some local players are satisfied with sitting on the bench. They are not bothered by the situation.

We only see them show off on either Instagram or other social media while foreign professionals are proving their worth on the pitch.

What went wrong? I'm still baffled. What is it our players are facing? There are lots of reasons.

Local footballers do not work hard in practice. That they do not train individually once team training has ended.

Domestic football lovers should ask themselves what

were the former players doing exactly, what made them better?

Chris Mugalulu is lately displaying what former Simba attacker, Edward Chumila, had showcased in his heyday.

Either Fiston Mayele or Michael Sarpong is displaying what former Simba striker, Mohammed Hussein, was showcasing fluently.

The problem is that the former players were smart and disciplined, much so they could not land professional stints elsewhere.

Local soccer players in recent years have what it takes to play the sport outside the country but they are frustratingly ending up on their respective clubs' bench.

Hussein and his then teammate at Yanga, James Tungaraza alias 'Boli Zozo' were on the side's bench, giving room for DR Congo's Shabani Nonda. Nonda ultimately left and went to Europe.

Hussein and Tungaraza remained in our land. Today the story is different. Local footballers do not even get a chance to play.

Let young local soccer players wake up and fight. Life is not lame.

I hardly see Simba and Yanga stop looking for foreign players.

They have 12 spots for foreign players. The good thing for them is that they have the money to afford them.

One should review how keeper, Metacha Mnata, played on Yanga's goal. And then he was benched, and he was later released by the club.

The goalie is a player most local soccer lovers used to consider as the number one goalkeeper at Yanga but now things have changed, Yanga has fallen for Mali's number one goalkeeper, Djigui Diarra.

This is the way a local outfit showcases its flamboyance. We do not know what will be Mnata's next career move.

If the shot-stopper joins either Kinondoni Municipal Council FC or Polisi Tanzania, will local soccer fans expect the North African outfits to see him there?

This is our problem. Even when midfielder, Jonas Mkude, found himself in trouble at Simba and got suspended, then the North African sides could easily see Ugandan midfielder Tadeo Lwanga instead of Mkude who was at home.

## Simba SC now enjoys success in Tanzania

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FROM 2018 to date, Tanzania's football big guns, Simba SC, has gone through a period of grace due to the great success the club has achieved in continental and local competitions.

Simba SC has lifted four Mainland Premier League titles, two Azam Sports Federation Cup tournaments' top honours, and four Community Shields.

Internationally, the team managed to reach the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League twice and it was the 2018/2019 season when they were beaten by TP Mazembe 4-1 on aggregate.

Simba came back to that stage last season and was stuck in front of South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs, with the latter trouncing the former 4-3 on aggregate.

By reaching the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League twice, Simba has reaped a total of \$1,300,000 (3bn/-) as cash prize, thanks to their progression to the quarterfinal.

Simba has moreover earned \$560,000 (1.5 bn/-) also after selling two



Simba SC's players jubilate shortly after they had notched a goal against AI Merreikh of Sudan in the previous season's CAF Champions League's group stage tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam in March. Simba SC won 3-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS

of its key players, Luis Miquissinne, who sealed a move to Egypt's Al Ahly for \$1 million (2.3 bn/-) and Clatous Chama, sold to Morocco's RS Berkane for \$600,000 (1.4 bn/-).

If one sums up the amount of money Simba has harvested

over the past three years by reaching the quarterfinals twice and selling the Chama and Miquissinne, the team will have raised 6.7 bn/-.

With Simba raking in 6.7bn/-, the side can use the cash to finance its operation for just one

season due to the rising value of the team, also if it decides to use it for other uses, it can do a variety of development projects.

### Five stadiums

Gwambina Stadium in Misungwi District, Mwanza, has been built at a cost of about 900m/- with a natural grass playing area, stands that accommodate about 11,000 fans and a car parking area.

With the large sum of cash that Simba has accumulated within three years, they can build five stadiums with the same capacity and remain with discretionary income that they can carry out other activities.

### Hostel for players

Azam FC is the only local football outfit with the most modern hostels used by their senior and junior teams.

The outfit also has a state-of-the-art swimming pool and gym,

dining hall, and conference hall.

It is estimated that the construction of the hostels has cost Azam FC 2bn/-.

This means with 6.7bn/-, Simba could build hostels in three different prestigious venues similar to the existing Azam Complex.

It is estimated that one three-star hotel could cost 3bn/- as low cost.

Simba could decide to build two three-star hotels and turn them into a sustainable source of income for the club.

### Modern Academy

The Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) is building two major football centers, one in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam and another in Tanga, at a total cost of 9bn/-.

The facilities will have artificial and natural grass training grounds, hostels, swimming pools, dining halls, conference halls, and lounge areas.

With 6.7bn/- that Simba raked

in within three years, the club could build one big football center and make football investments for youngsters who could later be sold and help the club earn a huge amount of money.

Former Simba striker, Musa Hassan 'Mgosi', said: "Football is business which results in a lot of money."

Hassan added: "If you see such success then you should know the investment that Simba's Board of Directors Chairman, Mohammed Dewji, and the club have made is paying off, so, I believe in the next few years we will make even greater strides."

Various stakeholders have stressed that Simba's investment, as well as the side's ability to fulfil its goals, have brought the club to where it is.

### 60 Passengers' Buses

One modern bus with 40 seats costs about 104m/-, so Simba can buy a total of 62 buses and run a transport business that can earn the club a lot more money than it earned in three years.

## Barcelona continue post-Messi era after strong start

BARCELONA

BARCELONA face Athletic Bilbao on Saturday in their first away match since the departure of Lionel Messi, hoping to back up a promising La Liga opener last weekend, while Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid also look to notch second straight wins.

Ronald Koeman's Barca beat Real Sociedad 4-2 last weekend despite the shock of seeing Messi leave for Paris Saint-Germain.

The Catalan giants are also still without injured winger Ousmane Dembele and close-season arrival Sergio Aguero as they look to rebuild despite being saddled with debt and only finishing third last season.

Koeman did win his first major trophy as Barca boss last term, his side thrashing Athletic Bilbao 4-0 in a Copa del Rey final in which Messi scored twice.

Martin Braithwaite stepped into the six-time Balon d'Or winner's shoes last Sunday by grabbing a brace, while Memphis Depay impressed on his debut after joining from Lyon.

Koeman admitted after the win over Sociedad that other players in his team need to step up without Messi -- who scored 38 goals in his final Barca season.

"We no longer have a player who can decide the fate of matches on his own -- now it will be a collective effort," said the Dutchman.

Instability at the Camp Nou is also rampant off the pitch, with president Joan Laporta on Monday saying the club's financial problems are "worrying".

He revealed that Barcelona's debts stand at 1.35 billion euros (\$1.58 billion) and that their wage bill is at least 25 percent higher than their competitors at 617 million euros.

Philippe Coutinho, among those high earners, was not part of the matchday squad against Sociedad and has been linked with a return to the Premier League -- where he previously starred for Liverpool.

AFP

## Mourinho leads the Serie A manager merry-go-round

MILAN

JOSE Mourinho is the biggest name to arrive on a Serie A bench this summer but the once Special One's shock move to Roma is one of 12 managerial changes in Italy's top flight in a chaotic summer.

AFP Sport picks out the key new faces leading the country's top clubs.

### Jose Mourinho (Roma)

The two-time Champions League winner's arrival came like a bolt from the blue for Roma's trophy-starved supporters, who reacted to the shock appointment as though they had signed a superstar striker.

The Portuguese's stock might have fallen in England after underwhelming spells at Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur but memories of his historic treble at Inter Milan over a decade ago mean he is still widely respected in Italy.

He admits that Roma is a rebuilding project and will need all his managerial experience to get Roma back into the Champions League places in the face of stiff competition.

### Massimiliano Allegri (Juventus)

Allegri returns to the scene of his greatest triumphs after two years out of the game, and is one of three big coaching names to retake their place on the sidelines.

Juve only earned qualification for the Champions League on the final day of last season, an uninspiring campaign under former player Andrea Pirlo, and Allegri will be looking to continue his streak of league titles after guiding the Old Lady to four straight league and cup doubles between 2015 and 2019.

A pragmatic coach rather than an ideological one, he was also responsible for rebuilding Juve's reputation in Europe, adding to domestic dominance by taking them to two Champions League finals.

### Simone Inzaghi (Inter Milan)

The Lazio legend jumped into the huge hole left by Antonio Conte and has a job on his hands to defend Inter's Serie A title after the departures of Romelu Lukaku and Achraf Hakimi, as the champions try to cut costs and balance the books.

However five years keeping his former club competitive on a relatively low budget, winning an Italian Cup and taking them back into the Champions League for the first time in 13 years, will have been good preparation for a high-pressure role at a huge club that's had a difficult summer.

### Luciano Spalletti (Napoli)

Spalletti is one of most recognisable characters in Italian football, his outgoing personality and sometimes odd outbursts often overshadowing his capabilities as a coach.

He qualified Inter Milan for the Champions League in each of his two seasons there before being sacked in 2019, and is the only coach in the last 20 years to bring any silverware to Roma.

The 62-year-old inherits a talented squad which missed out on Europe's top competition by a single point and Napoli will again be a serious contender for the top four positions. AFP

# Is there a Premier League 'Big Six' anymore?

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

S LIPPED quietly into the arguments promoting the formation of April's doomed European Super League was a suggestion that the Premier League's "Big Six" were all on board.

Manchester City, Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur all signed up for the project that collapsed in a matter of days, as fans across Europe voiced their anger at the sheer arrogance of a plan to sacrifice genuine competition for unprecedented financial gain.

The idea that "founding member clubs" could never be relegated was partly predicated upon the presumption that an impregnable hierarchy already existed in each of the big European leagues.

Few could argue that Man City, Liverpool, Man United and Chelsea still stand at the vanguard of Premier League football, but the presence of Arsenal and Tottenham in the Super League's English sextet was palpably based more on pedigree (and let's be frank, revenue) than recent sporting performance.

There was a split among the Premier League clubs along a clear fault line: those whose power and influence were required to give the Super League credibility, and others who felt they couldn't afford to be left behind. The financial effects of COVID-19 are shifting the landscape further still, as certain clubs exploit the vulnerabilities of others to reinforce their position.

So, is it time to redefine or abandon the concept of a "Big Six" entirely?

It is a moniker that perhaps has its modern-day roots in the inception of the Premier League it-



Could there soon be a split among the Premier League's Big Six clubs? (Agencies)

self, when the country's leading clubs came together to form a breakaway league, frustrated by the lack of money in the game.

The "Big Five," as they were known in the late-1980s and early-1990s, were Arsenal, Tottenham, Manchester United, Liverpool and Everton. Representatives of this quintet met at a now-infamous secret dinner with then-television-executive Greg Dyke in October 1990, which led to the formation of the Premier League less than two years later.

As the Premier League became a global phenomenon in the years that followed, the Champions League expanded to the extent that by 1999, four teams from the top three leagues (according to UEFA's rankings) were allowed to compete. That didn't happen in England until the Premier League's coefficient was high enough in 2002, and given the revenues on offer from European competition, the top four had strong claims of being the "Big Four" each year.

Those top four spots have been shared by Chelsea, Man City, Liverpool, Man United, Spurs and Arsenal every year since, aside from Leicester City's stunning 2016 title success (an achievement that looks more remarkable with each passing season, it stands as the most

wondrous outlier), Everton's fourth-place finish in 2005 and Newcastle United's third in 2003.

Roman Abramovich's Chelsea and Sheikh Mansour's Man City gatecrashed that order through expensive takeovers in 2003 and 2008 respectively, essentially buying a seat at the top table with owners who are now well-placed to help offset the impacts on revenues of the coronavirus pandemic.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, UEFA have relaxed their Financial Fair Play rules by allowing the 2020 and 2021 financial years to be assessed as one period and taking an average of the combined debts over those two years.

The wiggle room created by these and other measures has enabled Man City to spend £100 million to sign Jack Grealish from Aston Villa while pursuing an even bigger deal for Tottenham captain Harry Kane.

Chelsea have smashed their transfer record to sign Romelu Lukaku from Internazionale for £97.5m, with the Serie A club forced to undergo a firesale resulting from a collapse in revenues over the past year despite winning the league for the first time in a decade.

Manchester United's status as one of the biggest revenue generators in world football

is in part founded on ferocious commercial capabilities that have survived relatively well during the pandemic, allowing them to spend £73m on Jadon Sancho and a further £34m on Raphael Varane.

Liverpool are yet to enter the market in a meaningful way beyond the £36m acquisition of Ibrahima Konate from RB Leipzig, but they've committed significant sums to wages with long-term contract renewals for Alisson, Fabinho, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Virgil van Dijk, with potentially the biggest extension yet -- Mohamed Salah -- still to come.

These four clubs consequently look best placed to challenge for the 2021-22 Premier League title while the other two members of the "Big Six" are looking to stave off decline.

Spurs continue to face a fight to keep Kane in north London, with head coach Nuno Espirito Santo aiming to halt a decline that began at the end of the Mauricio Pochettino era, and which Jose Mourinho was unable to prevent.

Tottenham were among the hardest hit by the pandemic in financial terms, becoming the first club to take advantage of a government scheme that gave them access to a £175m loan from the Bank of England.

They had also opened their £1 billion stadium, created to transform their revenues based on live events, less than a year before COVID-19 mass gatherings for most of 2020 and beyond.

Cynics pointed out that Spurs' inclusion in the Super League came despite them not winning a trophy of any description since 2008, but they sit ninth in financial experts Deloitte's Money League for revenue generated in the 2019-20 season. (For reference, 11 of the 12 "breakaway" teams were in the top 14 of this particular table, and it would have been a clean sweep had Bayern Munich in third, Paris Saint-Germain in seventh and Borussia Dortmund in 12th all not rejected an invitation to join.)

Significantly, despite the Premier League fulfilling all fixtures during the pandemic -- unlike France's Ligue 1 -- it was not immune to collective financial pain. Deloitte reported in July that the combined European football market contracted by 13% in 2019-20, with a first reduction in revenues since the global financial crash of 2008.

Premier League clubs' revenue also fell for the first time ever from a record of £5.2bn to £4.5bn. More than half of the 20 teams reported an operating loss, and aggregate operating profits declined from £782m to just £55m.

Combined pre-tax losses totalled £966m; challengers well below the "Big Six" may feel the top sides are about to disappear further onto the horizon.

Within that group, however, Chelsea and Man City are among the handful of clubs who have sensed an opportunity to strengthen their position by exploiting this slump through their own robust financial

reserves. But Spurs are among those trying to stay afloat, with north London rivals Arsenal in a similar boat.

The Gunners are facing a season without European football for the first time in 25 years. They have invested significant sums on upgrading their squad, including £50m on defender Ben White from Brighton & Hove Albion, but are facing a need to generate cash by transferring players out of the club as they enter the final fortnight of the window.

The sheer financial power of the Premier League has created envy among many leading clubs in other countries that, combined with a frustration at UEFA's unwillingness to reshape the Champions League to their greater benefit, led to the pursuit of a Super League in the first place.

Only the most naive observers would think that threat is over, even after April's collapsed attempt. But the split between the haves and the have-nots could yet run through England's "Big Six" if the right business decisions are not made in the coming weeks and months.

The Premier League's relatively even distribution of its television revenue continues to help empower others, including West Ham United and Leicester, to break the mould. Both will hope to improve on fifth- and sixth-place finishes, respectively, as for 2020-21 at least, they shook up the "Big Six." Everton also have renewed hope under Rafa Benitez.

Their challenge is to break the top four after a summer in which Man City, Chelsea, Man United and Liverpool have sought to tighten their grip. It is perhaps the enduring appeal of the Premier League that nothing feels certain.

## Chelsea to unleash Lukaku on underachieving Arsenal

LONDON

ARSENAL's miserable start to the Premier League season could get even worse as Chelsea unleash record signing Romelu Lukaku for his debut tomorrow, while Liverpool and Manchester United look to build on a promising start to their title challenge.

Lukaku has returned to Stamford Bridge, seven years after his first spell at Chelsea came to an end, for a £97 million fee (£133 million) after leading Inter Milan to the Serie A title last season.

The Blues believe the Belgian striker can be the final weapon needed to turn a squad that already won the Champions League last season into Premier League title contenders.

Lukaku is already in the top 20 all-time Premier League goalscorers with 113 to his name for West Brom, Everton and Manchester United.

But after an unhappy end to his time at United, the 28-year-old's game went to new levels in two seasons in Italy.

"I think I've learned much more about myself, setting higher standards for myself," said Lukaku on what has changed in his two years since leaving the Premier League.

"As a player I've become more complete because the game in Italy is tighter spaces, much more technical and tactical, which helped me a lot."

Arsenal could also have two new recruits registered in time for Sunday with goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale and midfielder Martin Odegaard set to join the Gunners.

Those two signings would take Arsenal's spending for the transfer window above Chelsea's after the arrivals of £50 million defender Ben White, Albert Sambi Lokonga and Nuno Tavares.

That level of investment has come as a surprise without the riches of Champions League football.

Manager Mikel Arteta is therefore under pressure to turn that backing into results after a 2-0 defeat to newly-promoted Brentford to open the new season.

After the visit of the European champions, Arse-

nal travel to Manchester City next weekend and face heading into the September international break without a single point from their opening three games unless they can spring a surprise.

City still waiting for Kane -

City's title defence got off to a faltering start with a 1-0 defeat to Tottenham last weekend with the future of Harry Kane still hanging over both clubs.

According to reports, Kane remains unhappy at Spurs chairman Daniel Levy's stubborn stance to not negotiate

with City despite the English champions' willingness to break the Premier League transfer record for the second time this month.

City's bid for the England captain could go as high as £150 million before the window closes, but Pep Guardiola will have to continue without the number nine he craves for Saturday's visit of Norwich.

Guardiola's men should be much stronger for an extra week's training with the likes of Kevin De Bruyne, John Stones, Kyle Walker,

Rodrigo, Oleksandr Zinchenko and Aymeric Laporte in contention after starting on the bench against Spurs due to their limited pre-season after reaching the latter stages of Euro 2020.

- Full house at Anfield - Liverpool saw off Norwich comfortably last weekend as Virgil Van Dijk make his return from a cruciate ligament injury that derailed the Reds last season.

The nadir of a difficult campaign for Jurgen Klopp's men was a run of six straight home league defeats that began with

defeat to Burnley in January.

Sean Dyche's men return to Anfield in very different circumstances this weekend in front of the first full house for a Premier League game since before Liverpool ended a 30-year wait to win the title in 2020.

In front of a home crowd, Klopp's side have not lost a league game since 2017.

United will also be confident of building on their opening 5-1 win over Leeds when the Red Devils travel to Southampton on Sunday.

AFP



# SPORT

Is there a Premier League 'Big Six' anymore?

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**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**UJENZI**

**MONDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)  
16:00 Akili & Me (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 UJENZI  
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE  
22:30 Bongo Hits

**Tonight on EATV**  
Find out how using glass blocks from Canghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor

And Tanfix Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

**It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM**

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Yanga to host 'Mwananchi Day' on August 29



Yanga's midfielder, Deus Kaseke (2nd R), and fullback, Paul Godfrey, take part in training with their teammates in Morocco on Tuesday to shape up for the next season's local and continental tournaments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**Y**ANGA management has announced that the 'Mwananchi Day', which concludes a week of social activities done by the club's leadership, members, and fans, is expected to be held at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on August 29.

The 'Mwananchi Day', according to the side's officials, is set to be launched in Zanzibar on Sunday.

Ahead of the week, known as 'Wananchi Week', there will be community rehabilitation activities involving Yanga's leadership, players, members, and followers.

They will take part in various events, including donating blood, cleaning, and providing assistance to the needy.

Zanzibar's Second Vice-President, Hemed Suleiman Abdulla, is set to serve as guest of honour at the launch of 'Mwananchi Week'.

Yanga's Chairman of the outfit's Motivation

Committee, Suma Mwaitenda, said 'Wananchi Week' signifies the conclusion of last season (2020/21) and the start of a new season (2021/22).

Mwaitenda revealed the 'Wananchi Week' further targets to introduce Yanga's players and technical bench to the club's followers towards the new season.

Yanga, moreover, aims at using the week to introduce the outfit's entire secretariat, youth teams' players, and the women's team, Yanga Princesses.

Yanga's leadership said

that the main reason for not planning to introduce the outfit's new season jerseys at the launch of 'Mwananchi Day' on August 22 is to avoid kits' duplication.

The club hopes to officially launch 'Mwananchi Day' in Zanzibar but will not unveil the club's jerseys until the event's conclusion in Dar es Salaam on August 29.

Yanga Acting Secretary-General, CPA Haji Mfikirwa, said the jerseys are ready but the outfit will officially introduce them at the end of the 'Mwananchi Day'.

Mfikirwa asked football

stakeholders, the police force, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), and the government to help the club deal with people and companies that make fake jerseys for the club.

The official stated Yanga usually delays launching the outfit's new jerseys to deal with people who sell fake jerseys.

"You know if we say let's make our jerseys known then automatically there are people who will sell fake jerseys," Mfikirwa disclosed.

Mfikirwa said the new season's jerseys will have

the same standards as last season and they will make sure every Yanga fan gets them.

"The new ones now used by players in preparation for the new season are there and we have kits for competitions that are different from those used in preparations," the official noted.

The official disclosed: "We are appealing to the security services to join us in ensuring that we end this criminal activity because those who sell and wear the fake jerseys are criminals."

## Zambia climbs FIFA Rankings ahead of 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship

LUSAKA

ZAMBIA has climbed a massive 10 places in the latest FIFA Women's World Rankings released on Friday, the biggest jump of any of the 168 countries on the list.

The team's ranking points have been boosted by their excellent showing at the Tokyo Olympics, where defeats against powerhouses, Netherlands, and Brazil, were coupled with a thrilling 4-4 draw against 17th-ranked China.

Zambia has shot up to number 94 in the world, which is just shy of their record high of 92 in 2009.

A good showing at the 2021 COSAFA Women's Championship in Nelson Mandela Bay next month could see them hit a new top mark.

They are also ranked at number 12 in Africa, and second in the COSAFA region behind South Africa.

Banyana Banyana has remained static at number 55 in the world and third on the continent behind Nigeria and Cameroon.

Among the other teams that will be at the COSAFA Women's Championship, Zimbabwe remains at 119 in the world (and 17 in Africa), with Angola at 127 (18) and East African guest nation Tanzania next at 142 (22).

Just behind them are Namibia at 146 (23) and Malawi at 149 (24), with Botswana next on 154 (26).

One place further back is another East African guest nation, Uganda, on 154th spot (27), followed by Eswatini on 157th spot (29).

The remaining side on the list that will be in Nelson Mandela Bay, is Mozambique, which is positioned at number 159 (30).

South Sudan, another of the guest nations to take part, has not played enough international matches yet to receive a ranking. They only debuted on the global stage in 2019.

There will be plenty of opportunities for teams to improve their rankings in the coming months.

Aside from the eagerly anticipated COSAFA Women's Championship, several teams will be involved in friendly games in the coming FIFA international windows, while there is also the scheduled start of the qualifiers for the 2022 Women's Africa Cup of Nations in October. AGENCIES

## Biashara United to host CAF Confederation Cup home matches at CCM Kirumba Stadium

By Correspondent Ismail

Tano

MARA's Biashara United has chosen to use the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza as the home ground for this season's CAF Confederation Cup's duels.

The team, which will be taking part in the tournament for the first time, is scheduled to start in the preliminary round.

Biashara United will lock horns with FC Dikhil of Djibouti in the preliminary stage.

The two sides' first match will be played between September 10-12, with a re-match has been slated for September 17-19 this year.

Biashara United's Chairman, Seleman Mataso, said that they have already submitted a letter to Tanzania Football Federation



Biashara United FC's footballers participate in training in Mara recently to shape up for the previous season's Mainland Premier League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BIASHARA UNITED

(TFF) informing the latter of the decision.

According to the official, they received all the blessings from the management of CCM Ki-

rumba Stadium.

Biashara United, popularly known as 'Border Guards', have recently started introducing their new players for the up-

coming 2021/22 season.

The team released its 17 footballers, who played for the club last season and wished them all the best for the new

season.

The club has roped in several players, including striker Kassim Mdoe from Tanzania Prisons, who has signed a two-year deal.

Other new signings include Aniceth Revocatus from Mwadui FC, Toyo Odongo Matthew from Zoo United of Kenya, and Atupele Green Jackson from Geita Gold FC.

Recently continental football governing body, CAF, released the 2021/22 inter-club season schedule including the information relating to the list of countries who will be allowed to enter two clubs in the 2021/22 season.

The 2021/22 season will kick off on September 10, 2021, with the first round of the preliminaries.

The group stages will start next year, February 2022.

The 12 highest ranked

national associations, according to the ranking of CAF, will be allowed to engage two clubs in the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League 2021/22 and the TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup 2021/22.

The countries are (according to their ranking) Algeria, Angola, RD Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia.

CAF has extended the five substitutions per rule for the 2021/22 inter-clubs season. Accordingly, each club will be allowed to register 40 players instead of the regulatory 30.

Nine substitutes will be allowed on the bench instead of the regular seven.

The registration of players on the CAF CMS has been extended to 15 August 2021.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

