



### EDUCATION



JPM NAMES NEW UDOM CHANCELLOR PAGE 3

### ECONOMY



INTEGRATION VITAL TOOL FOR CREATION OF WEALTH IN AFRICA PAGE 4

### HEALTH



COVID-19 CAUSES DISRUPTIONS IN CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES PAGE 5

### CONFLICT



RC PLEDGES TO RESOLVE SAO HILL AND JKT-MAFINGA LAND DISPUTE PAGE 7



# CCM 'big name' losers pledge loyalty

## Kenyans in protest on looting of COVID-19 grant funds by bigwigs

NAIROBI

POLICE yesterday morning confronted protesters in Nairobi during a peaceful demonstration over the loss of Covid-19 funds.

The protest, dubbed #Arrest Covid-19 Thieves, was organised to demand accountability for the use of Covid-19 billions of shillings amid reports that funds allocated to deal with the pandemic may have been diverted to other uses not related to the disease, misapplied or misappropriated.

The police said it was against the Public Health Act to hold a gathering of more than 15 people.

The officers also inquired if they had notified the officer commanding station (OCS) Nairobi of their impending action.



Security around Freedom Corner was beefed up this morning. Several police officers in plain clothes could be spotted walking around as they kept an eye out for protesters

However, the activists said they had attempted to inform relevant authorities but none was willing to accept their letter of notice to stage the protest in the capital city.

They stood their ground at Freedom

TURN TO PAGE 2



National Examinations Council of Tanzania executive secretary Dr Charles Msonde briefs journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on the results of this year's National Form Six (Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education) examinations. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## Form VI results: Girls, govt schools come top

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

GIRLS have outperformed boys in this year's Form Six national examination results announced yesterday, with government schools beating private ones.

The outcome announced in Zanzibar by the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) shows that 98.24 per cent of the girls who sat for exams passed at divisions one to three while 97.74 per cent of boys fall within the bracket.

Announcing the results, NECTA



We are still working on the breakdown of the performance per subject. We will release booklets with the same as soon as we finish

Executive Secretary Dr Charles Msonde said out of the top 10 schools, eight are government-owned while only two private institutions made to the

coveted list.

He said a total of 84,212 candidates wrote exams that are officially known as Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) and out of whom 36,168 were girls and 49,331 boys.

Out of the total number, some 82,440 candidates passed the exams, namely 35,486 girls and 46,954 boys.

The results show that 72,230 candidates (97.74 per cent) scored between divisions one and three where 31,786 are girls (98.24 per cent) and

TURN TO PAGE 2

By Guardian Reporters

SOME of the ruling CCM's heavyweights who lost in their bids to get the party's nomination ahead of the October General Election have declared that they have accepted the outcome and pledged support to the approved candidates.

Speaking to this paper in an interview yesterday, some of the cadres who were left out on the list of candidates unveiled by the party on Thursday said they will remain loyal members of CCM.

Asked how he received the news, the outgoing Bariadi MP and veteran chairman of parliamentary business, Andrew Chenge said "I am very happy about it." The former Attorney General lost the ticket to little known Kundo Mathew.

Information, Arts and Sports Minister Dr Harrison Mwakembe whose Kyela ticket was handed to one Ally Jumbe said he fully accepted the outcome, noting that he is ready to work with the party to help nominated candidates secure victory.

"I respect the decision made by the party. My focus now is to help the party win in the forthcoming polls," he said.

Adadi Rajabu, who has lost the bid to seek reelection in his Muheza constituency, said he holds no grudges and will campaign for the party's approved candidate.

Rajabu, a former Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) and for several years chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on foreign affairs, defence and security, was dropped by the party which instead picked singer Hamisi Mwinjuma who goes by the stage name of Mwanafa.

Rajabu said he was eagerly waiting for campaigns to kick off on 26th to prove to his party and the public at large that he did not receive the news with a heavy heart.

"I have received the decision positively. It's the decision of the party and as a member, I'm obliged to accept it and campaign for the candidate," he said.

The cadre who easily won the seat in the 2015 elections after retiring from the civil service and had sought endorsement of the party for reelection led in the primaries last month and was trailed by the singer-turned politician.

Rajabu said despite the outcome, he will remain a loyal member of CCM and will campaign not only for

TURN TO PAGE 2



I have received the decision positively. It's the decision of the party and as a member, I'm obliged to accept it and campaign for the candidate

### SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT 1** Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

**FACT 2** For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

**FACT 3** Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people. For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



**FACT 4** There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

**FACT 5** You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
- Seek medical advice if you
- Develop symptoms
- AND
- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

## Serengeti poachers to spend 40 years in jail

By Guardian Correspondent,

Tarime

A COURT in Tarime District has sentenced two people to a combined 40 years in jail after finding them guilty of hunting within the Serengeti National Park.

Upon their release, the two will also have to part with



120,000/- each in fines for the offence of entering the park without permission and being in possession of weapons, or risk spending 18 months more behind bars.

Handing down the sentence here on Thursday, District Magistrate Charles Mnzava said that the prosecution had proved beyond reasonable doubts that the duo, Juma Nyanda (34)

and Nyamhanga Kibiriti (32) had committed the offence of entering the restricted area without permission, carrying weapons and killing animals.

The court ordered that each of the two spend 20 years behind bars to serve as a lesson to other residents of the district, Mara region and other regions

TURN TO PAGE 2



## F-Six Exam results: Girls, govt schools emerge tops

FROM PAGE 1

40,444 are boys (97.35 per cent).

With an overall pass rate of 98.35 per cent mark a slight improvement, by 0.03 per cent from where it stood last year, at 98.32 per cent. The number of candidates who scored divisions one to three went up by 1.13 per cent, from 96.61 per cent last year to 97.74 per cent this year.

"We are still working on the breakdown of the performance per subject. We will release booklets with the same as soon as we finish," the director affirmed.

The top 10 schools were listed as Kisimiri, Arusha -Government, Kembos, Mara-Private, Ahmes, Coast - Private, Mzumbe, Morogoro (Government), Tabora Girls, Tabora (Government), Tabora Boys, Tabora (Government), Ilboru, Arusha (Government), Kibaha -Coast (Government), Mwande Arusha (Government), and Dareda-Manyara (Government).

Top 10 girls are: Maria Gambaloya (Marian Girls), Marietha Mondea (St. Mary's Mazinde), Nisha Nkya (Feza Girls), Clara Malando (Tabora Girls), Elizabeth Mangu (Marian Girls), Rosemary Kilembe (Feza Girls), Anna Mlay (Panda Hill), Elizabeth Kway (St Francis), Elizabeth Ngwalu (St Mary's Mazinde) and Carolina Kabebeka (Nganza)

Top 10 boys are: Alex Mbogo (Kibaha), Longnus Mgaza (Ilboru), Claud Kitumbika (Tabora Boys), Mwesiga Rwegerera (Kismiri), Abuu Mtambo (Kismiri), Asterius Mayaya (Mzumbe), Edward Ndonyo (Ilboru), Ahazi Jaredi (Tabora Boys), Emerson Mahuwi and Samwel Malembo both from Mzumbe.

Top performers in science subjects are: Alex Mbogo (Kibaha), Longnus Mgaza (Ilboru), Claud Kitumbika (Tabora Boys), Mwesiga Rwegerera (Kismiri), Maria Gambaloya (Marian Girls), Marietha Mondea (St. Mary's Mazinde), Abuu Mtambo (Kismiri), Asterius Mayaya (Mzumbe), Edward Ndonyo (Ilboru), and Nisha Nkya (Feza Girls).



Ruangwa district executive director and election supervisor Frank Chonyawho (L) presents to Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday a form confirming the PM as the CCM candidate for the Ruangwa constituency parliamentary seat in the upcoming (late October) General Election. Photo: PMO.

## Serengeti poachers to spend 40 years in jail

FROM PAGE 1

bordering national parks and game reserves.

The magistrate warned that poaching is a crime falling under economic sabotage that cannot be tolerated, urging law abiding citizens to engage in lawful economic activities to avoid losing their freedom like the duo.

The two found themselves on the wrong side of the law after being caught inside the park with traditional weapons and fresh game meat in hand without authorization.

Earlier, a state attorney attached to the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) Bulemo Kasika told the court that on August 29, 2019, game wardens found Kibiriti within the Serengeti National Park while armed

with two spears and in possession of fresh hippopotamus meat, contrary to the law.

On the other hand, the lawyer told the court that on the same day wardens on patrol caught up with Nyanda within the park carrying animal trap and fresh wildebeest meat and arrested him after failing to explain how he got into the restricted area without permission

and how he got the game meat.

Although the two pleaded not guilty, the prosecution presented exhibits namely the pieces of meat they were caught with alongside the weapons and trap, as evidence which convinced the court to react a guilty verdict.

After they were found guilty, Kasika asked the court slap the two with severe sentence since

poaching affects the national economy as it depletes animals that bring substantial amount of money annually from tourism.

"The court agrees with the prosecution that the accused person committed the offence and hereby sentences them to 20 years in jail each to serve as a lesson others engaging in such offences," he magistrate intoned.



Chief Secretary John Kijazi (5th-R) leads ministerial permanent secretaries and their deputies at Chamwino in Dodoma Region yesterday in sprinkling soil on the foundation of a building undergoing construction at the Chamwino State House compound. They were on a routine tour. Photo: State House.

## NEMC directs metal producing industries to abide by 1997 environment policy

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE National Environment Council (NEMC) has directed metal producing industries in the country to abide by the environmental policy of 1997 which restrict the use of firewood insisting to take stern measures against violators.

The directive was issued by Acting NEMC manager for the central zone Novatus Mushi when speaking to The Guardian on the use of alternative energy to industries which manufacture metals as reports shows that most of them are still using firewood in heating

metals, which is a threat to the environment.

Mushi said NEMC has banned the use of firewood in heating metals which in most cases involved cutting down hundreds of trees.

"The directive is not new because the environment conservation policy is there since 1997, but there are some industries which are still using firewood," he said.

He elaborated that they will not hesitate to take legal actions against any industry which will go against the legal requirements.

He said production of metals

require high heat, manufactures have been cutting down trees on a higher rate especially on areas that are not reserved hence causing degradation.

He said the 1997 law stipulate clearly that it is illegal to use firewood in heating metals.

He said after the law came into effect, the government signed a memorandum of understanding with alternative energy producers for use in metal industries.

He added that the industries are supposed to use alternative energy such as gas which is friendly to the environment.

## CCM 'big name' losers pledge loyalty

FROM PAGE 1

MwanaFA but also for other candidates in Tanga Region and the party's presidential candidate, Dr John Magufuli.

The list unveiled by the party's secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Humphrey Polepole in Dodoma shows that former ministers, deputy ministers and seasoned MPs were elbowed out by political greenhorns who, if elected, will make it to the august House for the first time.

Other big name losers include former Home Affairs minister

Kangi Lugola who lost his Mwibara ticket that was handed to Charles Kajege, while Investment Minister Angela Kairuki will not go back to Parliament on the Same West ticket that remains in the hands of Dr David Matayo David.

Voters go to the polls on October 28 whereby ward councilors, members of Parliament and the Zanzibar House of Representatives, the Zanzibar president and Union president will be elected.

Campaigns are set to kick off on Wednesday next week until October 27, ahead of the voting the next day.

## Kenyans in protest on looting of COVID-19 grant funds by bigwigs

FROM PAGE 1

Corner despite being lobbed with teargas several times.

The police demanded that the protestors disperse from Freedom Corner.

The activists were about 15, as most were chased away before the numbers grew.

They later assembled at the Kencom bus stage, where the last stand-off took place.

Here, police arrested about five of them. The number later grew to about 11 who were placed under arrest.

They were seen being bundled into the back of a police vehicle.

Security around Freedom Corner was beefed up this morning. Several police officers in plain clothes could be spotted walking around as they kept an eye out for protestors.

Billions of shillings allocated for Covid-19 interventions are believed to have been pocketed by cartels made up of crooked government officials and their private sector acolytes.

At mid-week, the Commission on Administrative Justice (CAJ) and three former senators called on the relevant government institutions to make full disclosure on the kitty.

Former senators Johnson Muthama, Dr Boni Khalwale and Hassan Omar particularly called on development partners to freeze funding to the kitty until the government explains how it is spending the money.

The calls by CAJ and the former senators came as a parliamentary committee directed Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu to undertake a special audit into the expenditure of the billions of shillings allocated to the national and county governments for interventions on the pandemic.

CAJ, also known as the Office of the Ombudsman, said that it is wrong for responsible institutions to misuse funds aimed at dealing with the pandemic and then failing to provide information on the amounts of money received from government loans or grants and resultant expenditures.

# IGP reassures nation on peace during General Election in Oct

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

INSPECTOR General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro has said the force is determined to ensure peace and tranquility in the forthcoming October general election.

Addressing leaders of political parties at the police headquarters in Zanzibar yesterday, IGP Sirro insisted on political parties to adhere to the country election laws to avoid chaos during campaigns and after elections.

He said that no political party will win the elections by conducting dirty campaigns or instigating their members to make unlawful demonstrations. He said that to win the elections, political parties need to conduct clean campaigns and promote peace through the campaigns.

"The force is determined to control and take action against anyone instigating chaos during the election process," he noted.

He warned political parties from pushing police to use excessive force and hand grenade in controlling cha-

os during and after elections. He warned parties to avoid conducting unlawful demonstrations.

The IGP highlighted that Tanzania is among the few African countries that are known for conducting democratic peaceful elections. He said that such political stability has contributed into the country's economic development as investors.

The Inspector General cautioned Tanzanians from invading and torching political parties' offices, insisting such incidents may disrupt the country's prevailing peace.

The Commissioner of Police (CP) in Zanzibar, Mohamed Haji Hassan said the meeting was purposely organized by the police force to educate political parties' leaders on the importance of maintain peace during the October general election.

"It is the responsibility of every citizen to ensure peace during general election. Journalists should wisely use their pens to promote peace," said the Commissioner. Assistant Commissioner of Police,

Mussa Ali Mussa said that Zanzibar has been experiencing various challenges during elections, the situation which is contrary in Tanzania mainland. He said that leaders of political parties are responsible in ensuring peaceful elections by adhering to the country laws.

Meanwhile, political parties' leaders appealed to the police force to ensure a fair playing ground to all the contestants.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) announced October 28 as the date for the country's presidential election.

The electoral body said that election campaigns would run from August 26 to October 27.

During the elections, registered voters will also vote to elect members of parliament and local councilors.

According to the NEC, about 29 million Tanzanians have registered to vote in this year's election, compared to some 23 million voters registered in 2015.



Tanzania Editors Forum acting Chairman Deodatus Balile addresses the opening session of the editors retreat in Dodoma city yesterday. With him is the forum's secretary, Neville Meena. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## TEF appeals to journalists to remain objective when covering forthcoming General Election

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF) has appealed to journalists in the country to remain objective when covering the 2020 general election campaigns and elections, saying the aim is to help build the country.

Speaking during the TEF retreat and annual meeting held here yesterday, TEF Chairperson, Deodatus Balile urged fellow editors and journalists to practice objective coverage in the October polls, having the nation at heart.

"Let editors remain focused during the elections campaigns and voting and report objectively knowing that you are editors now, will remain editors even after the elections," he said adding that it is professionally wrong to be partisan in the election process.

Without mentioning names, he said there are some few editors whose utterances could be translated that they associate with certain groups of politicians and that they make statements that are

not friendly to others.

His statement came in just a moment after one of the panelists, advocate Jebra Kambole had warned the meeting that it is important for journalists to report the truth and not to be moved by politicians.

In his presentation titled, "Media Related Laws during General Elections", he said national laws exist even during the elections and anybody who deviates from the norms is likely to face full force of the law.

"While there is no specific mother law guiding journalist on elections criminal defamation and sedition still applies during the time," he noted.

Citing the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) publication, dubbed, "Watching the Watchdog", he said in the 2015 General Election media coverage on different political parties was not well balanced.

He said the ruling party; CCM got 64 percent of media coverage followed by CHADEMA (21), CUF (9) and ACT (6). He added, "It is interesting to see how your media houses will carry out reporting in the

coming elections".

He called on editors to accord all the aspirants equal opportunities when covering the coming elections. However, several attendants expressed the challenges they face while covering elections.

Joseph Mwendapole argued that in some cases politicians complain that they are not being given enough coverage yet journalists report the actual things on the ground.

"Sometimes you take pictures of a politician with just a handful of rally attendants, how can you change this and give him a mammoth attendance?" he paused, saying politicians should understand journalists.

A similar observation was made by Theofil Makunga, who said most journalists and editors have always done their level best in giving politicians equal opportunities but no condition is the same and different politicians attract different number of people.

**MARCAS**  
DEBT COLLECTORS AND AUCTIONEERS (T) LTD.

**MNADA WA HADHARA**

MARCAS DEBT COLLECTORS & AUCTIONEERS LTD, kwa idhini tuliyopewa na Hughes Agriculture (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 75344 Dar es Salaam tutauza matrekta (10) kwa njia ya mnada; mnada huo utafanyika katika ofisi za Hughes Agriculture, maeneo ya Tazara karibu na Daraja Mfugale, siku ya 5<sup>th</sup> Septemba, 2020.

Wanunuzi wote mnakaribishwa kukagua matrekta tarehe 4<sup>th</sup> Septemba, 2020 kuanzia saa 4:00 asubuhi hadi saa 9 alasiri.

**MASHARTI YA MNADA**

- Mshindi atalipa 25% papo hapo baada ya nyundo ya dalali kushuka na kiasi kinachobakia yaani asilimia 75% italipwa ndani ya siku (14) baada ya siku ya mnada, munuzi atakaeshindwa kulipa asilimia 75% zilizobakia atapoteza ushindi wake na hatarudishwa kiasi cha awali cha 25% na mali hii itanadishwa tena.
- Bidhaa zitauzwa kama zilivyo.
- Wanunuzi watatakiwa kufika na vitambulisho vyenye picha zao ambavyo vinatambuliwa na serikali.
- Munuzi atalipa gharama za kodi na uhamisho.
- Sio lazima munuzi mwenye bei ya juu kuwa mshindi, dalali ana haki ya kumchagua munuzi atakae kidhi vigezo

Kwa maelezo zaidi wasiliana kwa simu: 0713268383/075272222



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is in the process of revamping its operations and has introduced new equipment to its fleet as part of implementation of its five years Corporate Strategic Plan (2017 - 2021). In line with this expansion, the Company is also making some reforms in Motor Transport Management unit to accommodate the business needs. Therefore, applications are invited from qualified Tanzanians to fill the following positions: -

### 1. MOTOR TRANSPORT OFFICER (1 POST)

#### 1.1 Location - Dar es Salaam

#### 1.2 Entry Qualifications

The following are the qualifications for aspired candidates: -

- Must have Bachelor Degree/Advanced Diploma in Transport and Logistics Management or equivalent qualifications.
- Must have valid Driving Licence.
- Must have experience of at least three (3) years in the field.

#### 1.3 Duties and Responsibilities

##### 1.3.1 Transport Service

- To be responsible for planning and budgeting of motor vehicle fleet utilization and replacement.
- Preparation of flight crew transportation roster.
- Determine transport requirements from other Directorates or Units and schedule transport services to meet them.
- Monitor the fleet management system and recommend proper action.

##### 1.3.2 Compliance

- Ensure motor vehicle insurance covers are up to date.
- Ensure other motor vehicle statutory dues are paid on time to avoid legal repercussions.
- Ensure Vehicle Log Books are properly recorded by every Driver and reported issues are addressed on time.
- Keep Drivers Licenses records and ensuring that they are always valid.

##### 1.3.3 Vehicle Maintenance and Services

- Oversee regular inspection of motor vehicle and maintenance.
- Ensure motor vehicles' schedule of maintenance are properly complied.
- Ensure records of all transactions with regard to ATCL motor vehicle are submitted to the ATCL Registry for filing.
- Report to Supervisor all motor vehicle accidents whenever they occur and liaise with Traffic Officer and Insurance for compensation.
- Ensure cost efficient operation of the fleet.

##### 1.3.4 Supervising Drivers

- Ensure that Drivers conduct in a way as provided in the ATCL HR Policy and guidelines of the ATCL Fleet Management Policy.
- Review Fleet Management System reports to ascertain Drivers behaviour while at work and initiating action.
- Conducting regular Drivers' meetings and address issues to the Supervisor for further action.
- Follow up and provide guidance to the Drivers while at work.
- Ensure Drivers entitlements which are linked to the operations are prepared on time and submitted to the relevant authority for processing.

##### 1.3.5 Fuel Management

- Preparation of fuel consumption report and initiating payment to the fuel supplier.
- Review of fuel consumption reports and provide recommendations.
- Supervised drivers on better practices of minimizing fuel consumption.

### 2. DRIVER GRADE II (5 POSTS)

#### 2.1 Location - Dar es Salaam (1 Post), Arusha (1 Post), Mwanza (1 Post) & Zanzibar (2 Posts)

(Applicants should clearly indicate preferred location in their application letters)

#### 2.2 Entry Qualifications

The following are the qualifications for aspired candidates: -

- Must have Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) with Class E or C1 driving licence.
- Must have attended an Advanced Driving Certificate Grade Two or Certificate of Competency (PSC) or equivalent, from VETA/National Institute of Transport or any other recognized institution.
- Must have a working experience of at least two (2) years.
- Possession of Trade Test or a Basic Mechanics Certificate will be an added advantage.

#### 2.3 Duties and Responsibilities

- To drive staff to approved destinations in accordance with traffic regulations.
- To drive vehicles due for routine maintenance / repair to the appointed service agents.
- To undertake minor mechanical repairs.
- To maintain log books and records all movements as instructed.
- To make pre-inspection to the assigned vehicles prior travelling and report mechanical damages / defects.
- To verify safety and cleanliness of vehicles at all times.
- To verify that valid documents and permits are acquired prior commencement of any journey.
- Perform any other duty as may be assigned by the supervisor.

### 3. REMUNERATION

Five (5) years contract and attractive remuneration and fringe benefits as per ATCL Scales and Incentive Scheme.

### 4. MODE OF APPLICATION

Interested applicants must submit a duly signed letter for consideration of the applications attached with the following:

- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- Certified copies of all certificates (including Secondary School), other relevant certificates and licenses. (Tanzanian applicants who have studied outside Tanzania should have their certificates approved by relevant authorities. i.e. Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) or National Examination Council (NECTA)
- Two recent passport size photographs,
- Names and addresses of at least two reachable referees,
- Applicant's reliable contact address, email address and telephone numbers.

**Note: - Misrepresentation of facts and qualifications during application shall warrant legal consequences. - Internship training and apprenticeship will not be considered as relevant working experience.**

**- For DRIVER GRADE II post, the applicants must indicate one preferred LOCATION, in the application letter.**

### 5. CLOSING DATES

Application letters should reach the undersigned within 7 working days from the first date of this announcement: -

**MANAGING DIRECTOR & CEO,  
AIR TANZANIA COMPANY LIMITED,  
P.O. BOX 543,  
DAR ES SALAAM  
21.08.2020**

## 'Many regions face housing challenge'

By Guardian Correspondent, Misungwi

PERMANENT Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr John Jingu yesterday launched a campaign to sensitize people to construct modern houses.

The campaign was launched in Koromije village in Misungwi District with villagers being asked to build houses for their shelter.

Speaking when launching the campaign, Dr Jingu said it was high time for the residents to change their mindsets and come up with better houses that will be suitable for their wellbeing.

He said the housing policy of 1996 together with the CCM election manifesto-2015-2020 advocates for better houses and asked the residents to use the resources available to put up the structures.

Assistant director in the Ministry of Health, Badru Abdunuru said the government recognizes that good shelter was a necessity to every individual saying to reach the target; the campaign has been launched to improve their housing styles using simple technology.

He said poor housing was a challenge to many regions in the country

saying the campaign is aimed at facilitating the reduction of households with villages' with 50-percent poor housing from 15.9percent to 8-percent by 2022.

"The government's expectation through this campaign was to see Tanzanians residing in modern and affordable houses for them to enjoy with their families," he said.

The Director for Kivulini a Non-Governmental Organization that works for better households, Yassin Ally said the programme is aimed making residents shift from one stage to another economically.

He said the programme to construct modern and affordable houses started in 2015 through the provision of education where they managed to bring in various interested groups.

The District Commissioner Juma Sweda said wananchi have been emphasized to bring about development through sensitizing men to support what women are doing.

Joyce Lupenda was among the beneficiaries from Kolomije said in the past they encountered a lot of challenges including contributing to some of the initiatives which was a challenge but now they have joined forces with groups.



Suzana Nyarubamba (R), Director of Primary Education in the Prime Minister's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), receives 15 desks and chairs worth over 1m/- which University of Dodoma's master's degree programme students Happy Anthony (L) and Elimiliki Azaliwa presented in Dodoma city yesterday on behalf of their colleagues. The items were meant as support to Dodoma's Sechelela Secondary School. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Regional integration vital tool for creation of wealth in Africa

By Khaled Sherif

THE Covid-19 pandemic and its health and economic impacts have forced a global rethink of the current multilateral framework and what it means for the future.

For Africa, the pandemic has served as a wake-up call in many ways. The mitigation measures that were put in place by most countries, globally, to contain the spread of the pandemic, and particularly border closures and lockdowns, resulted in reduced economic activity and supply chain disruptions across the whole world, Africa included.

Reduced economic activity has meant demand contraction in Africa's key markets, which were worse affected by the pandemic, thus depressing export revenues as commodity prices have continued to plummet.

Several African manufacturers have successfully reoriented operations to begin production of protective personal equipment (PPE) and ventilators to meet local demand.

However, for the most part, pandemic-related disruptions have exposed African economies' overdependence on high commodity prices and exports of raw materials to fund basic government services.

Together, disrupted international supply chains and domestic lockdowns created a perfect storm in which income, goods or services stopped circulating as economies came to a standstill. No money, no movement, and a realisation that most African countries lack economic diversity and resilience.

So, what is to be done? Simply put, there is a need to focus on fundamentals: producing more of what Africa consumes, and consuming more of what Africa produces.

This does not mean cutting Africa off from the outside world. However, it does mean focusing first and foremost on the African market - and other markets secondarily. It means the need to think about Africa more as a single common market to facilitate scaling up.

Producing and consuming locally will facilitate the development of supply chains that will offer small companies, and countries, opportunities to leverage their strengths and specialisations and feed into large value chain networks that create more value through production, processing and distribution.

And it means raising the standards within African supply chains to enable African firms to produce world class industrial



products.

To achieve this, there needs to be concerted efforts to shore up manufacturing in Africa. The demand for manufactured goods is already there, as evidenced by the figures on the import of manufactures.

Key to enhancing manufacturing in Africa is improving intra-African trade through the effective

operationalisation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which would spur industrialisation.

The Covid-19 crisis has shown that enhanced industrial production in Africa is entirely achievable, especially as countries have struggled to source inputs and products from overseas.

African industries do have the potential to respond to demand and, in fact, there is potential to leap into advanced manufacturing and create the required capacity to produce world-class goods.

By extension, the Covid-19 pandemic has also exposed the vital importance of economic capacity for socio-economic development and industrialisation and to enhance resilience against crises and exogenous shocks that often occur without warning.

Building on existing regional strategies for disaster risk reduction, there is also a need to factor in how pandemics present a multi-dimensional set of risks that call for integrated responses to mitigate systemic risks.

The capacity to locally manufacture the basics that are critical during emergencies - foodstuffs, clothing, shelter - and building the markets and supply chains needed to ensure a good supply of these, would contribute significantly to GDP, income and job creation.

The question becomes how to build the markets and supply chains needed to ensure that Africa can provide for itself, including during emergencies.

For example, the continent

has several agricultural commodities on which regional value chains can be constructed. These alone would contribute significantly to GDP, incomes and job creation while also paving a shift into the manufacture of light intermediate goods such as wood products, textiles and leather, which would add to the range of possibilities.

As Africa builds a wider mass of products, it would increasingly move investment into distribution, data transmission and services to ensure these goods make it to the market.

Financing and insurance are needed across the spectrum, as are all the skills of the youth and specialists who can help manage the IT and logistics that leverage digital capabilities.

This will create high-paying skilled jobs for Africa's youth. In other words, there is a need to take a horizontal view of value creation and maximise opportunities to generate these in Africa - for African economies, African businesses, African workers and African consumers.

So how can this be achieved? Fulfilling the African Development Bank's High 5s priorities: Light Up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialise Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of Life for the People

of Africa, would address these challenges on multiple fronts and instrumentalise a tightly interconnected African market.

The High 5s address the continent's demonstrated need for power generation to electrify households and industries; enhanced transport links to connect African countries by land, sea and air; and ICT for communication and digital management of logistics.

Also considered are financial markets to integrate for more and better financial flows for business enterprises to flourish and to meet household needs; and agribusinesses that rely on the latest seed and other technology to produce the crop yields needed to sustain Africa's fast-growing populations.

By producing what it consumes and consuming what it produces, as countries and businesses across the continent progress up the value chain, Africa can build wealth, opportunity and resilience and ensure the successful realisation of Agenda 2063.

**Khaled Sherif (pictured) is Vice President, Regional Development, Integration and Business Delivery, at the African Development Bank.**

## 'There is enough stock of vaccines'

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government yesterday assured the public that there is enough stock of vaccines to prevent children under five and adults from diseases emphasizing the services are available free of charge at all hospitals and health centres in the country.

The statement comes after reports that went viral on social media claiming that most of the hospitals and health centres in the country were running out of the essential vaccines for children.

Speaking soon after inspecting the vaccine stores at the Dodoma Referral hospital, the Director of Preventive Services-Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Leonard Subi acknowledged that there was shortage of two essential vaccines the government has already procured them.

"It's true that we had a shortage of two vaccines out of nine, but they have already arrived and the distribution process is still going on across the country," he said.

He said all the nine essential vaccines preventing people against 13 diseases are already available in the hospitals adding that there was no shortage of the vaccines.

Dr Subi clarified that the shortage of the vaccines happened after the producers closed production due to Covid-19 pandemic.

"The vaccine has already arrived after President John Magufuli opened the airspace. Up to date 10 out of 26 regions have received the vaccines while the distribution process is ongoing in the remaining 13 regions," he said.

The director further said "all regional and district medical doctors should ensure that the jabs reach the health facilities and should inform the public that services are avail-



This is the wreckage of an oil tanker involved in road crash at Ibadakuli in Shinyanga Region yesterday, leaving driver Yusto Mmari and turn-boy Elinaja Mmari injured. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

able for free," he added.

He however waved out rumours that Tanzania had shortage of Rotavirus vaccine which is used to prevent rotavirus infections, which are the leading cause of severe diarrhea among young children.

According to him, there was only a shortage of measles and rubella in the past one month due to Covid-19 noting that the government used to procure vaccines from Europe and Asia.

He described that the government has

up to date spent 18bn/- to procure vaccines making Tanzania to be among the countries with immune coverage of 98 percent for six year consecutively.

He however noted that Tanzania had never recorded a case of polio since 1996 contributed by available vaccines all the time adding that it received a recognised certificate from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2015.

In April this year, the government expressed its commitment towards giving

priority to the improvement of immunisation services, including health education and sensitisation, nutrition, prevention from communicable diseases, HIV as well as maternal and child healthcare.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, made the commitment in Dar es Salaam when launching guidelines of the community health services plan and use of dashboard indicators of public health education which was spearheaded by the

USAID Tulonge Afya ("Let's Talk about Health") project.

"The launching of this initiative will supplement efforts to reduce the burden of high medical costs to the people, something which deteriorates to the increasing curable diseases," she said.

The minister said the importance of immunisation services was underlined in the National Health Policy 2007 and the Health Sector Strategic Plan of 2015-2020, that will also be included in the preparations of the

# JPM names new Udom chancellor

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed Chief Secretary John Kijazi University of Dodoma (UDOM) Chancellor effective yesterday.

According to a statement from the Directorate of Presidential Communications in Chamwino, Dodoma, Ambassador Kijazi (pictured) replaces the late President Benjamin Mkapa.

Mkapa died at a hospital in Dar es Sa-

laam late last month. He was 81. He was buried in his native village of Lupaso in Masasi district in Mtwara Region.

He was the president of Tanzania from November 1995 to December 2005 and was the first leader elected after introduction of the multiparty system in 1992. Prior to the appointment as Chief Secretary, Kijazi was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works before he was posted to India as high commissioner.



Zanzibar Communications and Transport deputy minister Mohammed Ahmada (C) stands witness as Zantel Zanzibar head Mohammed Mussa (R) exchanges documents with Zanzibar ICT Infrastructure Agency executive director Shukuru Suleiman shortly after the signing of a contract on a project meant to improve communications Pemba and Tanga - and therefore between Pemba Island and mainland Tanzania. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Covid-19 causes disruptions in child protection services in more than 100 countries - survey

By Guardian Reporter

VIOLENCE prevention and response services have been severely disrupted during the Covid-19 pandemic, leaving children at increased risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, according to a global survey by UNICEF.

"We are just beginning to fully understand the damage done to children because of their increased exposure to violence during pandemic lockdowns. On-

going school closures and movement restrictions have left some children stuck at home with increasingly stressed abusers. The subsequent impact on protection services and social workers means children have nowhere to turn for help," said UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore.

Fore added that child protection systems were already struggling to prevent and respond to violence against children, and now a global pandemic has both

made the problem worse and tied the hands of those meant to protect those at risk.

He said: "Too many children rely on child protection systems to keep them safe. In times of crisis, governments must have immediate and long-term measures that protect children from violence, including designating and investing in social service workers as essential, strengthening child helplines and making positive parenting resources available."

Of 136 countries that responded to UNICEF's Socio-economic Impact Survey of COVID-19 Response, 104 countries reported a disruption in services related to violence against children.

Around two thirds of countries reported that at least one service had been severely affected, including South Africa, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan. South Asia, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have the highest proportion of countries reporting disruption

in the availability of services. As countries adopted prevention and control measures to contain COVID-19, many vital violence prevention and response services were suspended or interrupted as a result.

More than half of the countries reported disruptions in case management, referral services and home visits by child welfare and social workers to children and women at risk of abuse. Violence prevention programmes,

children's access to child welfare authorities, and national helpline services have also been affected in many countries, according to the responses.

Even before the pandemic, children's exposure to violence was widespread, with about half of the world's children experiencing corporal punishment at home; roughly 3 in 4 children aged 2 to 4 years regularly subjected to forms of violent discipline; and 1 in 3 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19

having been victimised by their intimate partner at some point in their lives.

Studies of past epidemics and crises show devastating impacts on the reporting of violence against children and delivery of related services. During the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, for example, child welfare structures and community mechanisms were weakened, and child protection responses were delayed or otherwise affected.

## Lack of capital makes govt fail to ensure all plots are surveyed

By Correspondent James Kandoya

POOR financial ability facing some of the private licensed surveying companies in the country has been cited as one of the major challenges hindering the government's zeal to ensure that every plot is surveyed.

This was said by the land surveying team leader from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements David Malisa during the joint meeting to discuss challenges facing the sector.

The meeting involved representatives of the Ministry from Dar es Salaam, Coast Region and its respective councils, Surveying Companies and land tenure committee leaders. He said the task forces meeting followed complaints from the people to evaluate the work done by the surveying companies so far and come up with a proper solution to the problem.

Malisa said due to the challenge, most of the land surveying companies fail to accomplish the task on time.

"We are here as per ministry's directives to ensure that we get sustainable solutions to end the emerging problem in different places of the country," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the private firms Joel Mataro, he said despite the fact that people have positive response about surveying they do not cooperate when it comes to payment of 150,000/-

He said that the government had set 150,000/- as a surveying cost payable to private licensed land surveying companies across the country in particular for Eastern Zone. "Our people are still hesitant to pay 150,000/- the amount set by the government and therefore cause some unnecessary delay. I call on people to pay on time after their land is surveyed," he said.

However, the joint meeting recommended need for the private firms to ensure that the exercise continues to those who have already paid instead of waiting for every one to pay which would waste time.

Furthermore, the task force has urged the land surveying companies to work without depending on funds from the residents as working capital and should be completed on time as per agreement noting that approval of the drawings at council level was also a big challenge hence causing delay.

"In order to end the cumbersome process, we have agreed that the commissioner for lands should submit a letter to the district executives director (DED) to give more priorities to the drawings from private firms," he added. Security land tenure is directly linked to poverty reduction, economic growth, improved resilience, environmental sustainability, and social stability.

In Tanzania, less than 20 percent of land is surveyed, with about 1 million parcels registered with corresponding certificates of rights of occupancy (CROs) and certificates of customary rights of occupancy (CCROs) issued according to the Tanzania Five Year Development Plan 2016/2017-2020/2021.



Mbarouk Nassor Mbarouk (L), a director in the Vice President's Office (Union), in talks with Higher Education Students' Loans Board executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru at the board's offices in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Courtesy of HESLB

## Employers to appear in court for failing to abide by Workers Compensation Act

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) is planning to drag to court some 3,858 employers in country for failure to abide by the Workers Compensation Act, 2008 aimed to provide compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the course of employment.

Under the Act, all employers are now obliged to make contributions to the WCF. All private sector employers must now contribute one percent and public sector employers must contribute 0.5 percent of their annual tax bill for one year.

Speaking here yesterday during a presentation in a meeting organized by the Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), WCF Principal Compliance Officer, Paskali Richard said those they contemplate dragging to court are the employers who have not registered with WCF and pay their contributions as

per the law.

He noted that a total of 22,515 employers have registered their employees and are making a contribution to the fund as per the law. "We have constantly reminded these employers through mobile phone calls, messaging, even emails and physical letter" he said, adding that the only option is to take legal action.

According to the officer, the organization has currently dragged 20 employers for failing to abide by the state laws. Mr Richard noted that due to geographical reasons and advancement in technologies, WCF has adopted an online portal to help speed-up the process.

He detailed that the online portal launched early month helps employers to update all necessary information of its employees, edit, add or reduce members as well as making the needed payments.

"The fund is adopting an online portal to

allow employers to register, make contribution and report accidents." He said, adding that the benefit of the system allows WCF customers to long-in, manage pay-rolls, add or reduce the number of employees as well as remotely access the company's information statements.

This, he said means that anyone from anywhere around the world can easily access the system and make the necessary registrations.

Official records indicate that the fund received 777 compensation claims in 2016/17 financial year. In 2017/18 and 2018/19 the fund received 1,643 and 2,101 claims involving occupational injuries, diseases and deaths.

The fund has thus released over 19.07bn/- in compensation to employees. However, it noted that some employees had been involved in frauds activities-hoping to benefit from the fewer contributors.

Speaking at the same meeting some of the editors expressed concern at how the fund attends to complaints from those seeking compensation. Uhuru Media Group editors, Kiondo Mshana, argued that WCF should consider those who got injured but sought compensation after the mandatory twelve months, saying "How can you help a person who went into a coma and came back to normal life after 12 months?" he asked.

Bith Allan Lawa and Peter Nyanje expressed concern on how the fund can help resolve matters in which a reporter or editor is involved in an accident at midnight, far much after the normal working hours.

In response, the officer said the law is clear that only an incident reported within 12 months is entitled to compensation and an employer is subject to provide justification that confirms the employee left the office at late hours for the compensation process to begin.

# Students in Nigeria call for resumption of school activities

ABUJA

STUDENTS in Nigeria on Wednesday took to the streets of Abuja, the capital to demand the reopening of their schools, since closed as part of efforts to contain the further spread of coronavirus.

"We demand the reopening of our schools, because the schools educational sector is the number one sector of any progressive nation, one of the protesters said.

"We are told that there is a pandemic and they are not making any move because you are, you should know that the only way you can find a cure is through research, and researches are in institutions," the aggrieved student stressed.

Nigeria in March closed schools and other places of large gatherings when it enforced lockdowns of major cities so as to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. This week the government announced it would reopen borders for international flights on August 29.

"International flights will be open next week, so why can't you just open school? You cannot school but you can open international market, you cannot open school but you open religious places of worship, you cannot open school but you open market places for people to buy things, a protestor said.

Are they checking people that are entering the market places? Are they going with their face masks? Students can take care of themselves in school, she lamented.

Nigeria as of August 20 has over 50,000 Covid-19 cases and 895 deaths.



**International flights will be open next week, so why can't you just open school? You cannot open international market, you cannot open school but you open religious places of worship, you cannot open school but you open market places for people to buy things, a protestor said**



Weights and Measures Agency acting measures section manager Almachus Pastory (L) and ICT officer Rehema Michael (2nd-L) show small business operators the proper way to weigh and measure products. It was at a capacity building seminar organised by the agency in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# Public sensitisation campaigns see fall in incidence of forest fires in Mbarali

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbarali

MBARALI District in Mbeya Region has linked the reduction of forest fire incidents with the continued public education on the negative impacts caused by the acts.

Mbarali District Acting Execu-

utive Director, Raphael Shitindi said this yesterday when addressing delegates at a function to celebrate the first anniversary of a non-governmental organisation-Saliota which works to protect the environment.

Shitindi said the education given to the residents have changed their mindsets towards tree cutting and charcoal burn-

ing. He said the residents have now turned into ambassadors by educating other people from neighbouring districts on the importance of conserving the environment.

The number of forest fire incidents has decreased from six to four this year. This is due to the ongoing environmental education conducted by our officers in

almost all the villages across the district," he said noting that the government will continue collaborating with the organisation in implementing other projects in the health, tourism and environment sectors.

He said that Mbarali District was among the leading districts in environmental destruction especially tree cutting and bushfires.

He said the residents were at times setting fire in conservation and protected areas, the thing that contributed into decreased number of living organisms. Saliota Organisation executive director, Elisha Mwanikawaga said that the organisation has been providing environmental conservation education to the public through workshops and

festivals. He acknowledged the support from the office of the District Commissioner (environment department).

"We have also been encouraging them to plant trees at their residential and farm areas, this has also helped to increase the forest cover," he said.

Forest resources cover about 48.1 million hectares equivalent

to 55 percent of the country's mainland's total area of 88.3 million hectares.

The village Land Act (1999), The Local Government Act (1982), The Forest Act (2002) and the forest Regulations (2004) provide the legal basis for villages to own and manage forest resources on village land in ways that are both sustainable and profitable

# Deal with regional instability, SASPN calls on SADC leaders

By Veneranda Langa

SOUTHERN African Development Community (SADC) leaders have been called upon to deal with the insurgencies that threaten Mozambique and instability in Zimbabwe in order to end tensions and the deepening crisis of poverty in the region.

The call was made yesterday by the Southern Africa Peoples' Solidarity Network (SASPN) during its SADC people's summit 2020 virtual conference.

SASPN secretary-general Janet Zhou encouraged citizens in the region to remain vigilant and safeguard their socio-economic and political rights, while holding leaders to account over human rights abuses.

Zhou said SADC leaders needed to come up with policies to safeguard citizens against being exploited in mining, solve climate change issues, eradicate poverty and provide safety nets for people with disabilities, women, children and the youth who have lost their livelihoods during the Covid-19 crisis.

"SADC citizens need to reclaim the space and find their voice in policy making in the continent so that we can meet and talk about our struggles in the region for solidarity, and try to create alternatives to the current development discourse by building citizens resistance to the challenges in the region that are actually internally authored in different SADC countries," Zhou said.

"We (SASPN) continue to stand with the people of Mozambique that are facing the threat of insurgencies and the instability in Zimbabwe and other problems in the region and demand that our leaders should solve these problems," she said.

SASPN called for increased investment in the public health sector and an end to gender and sexual exploitation of women and girls, and for SADC leaders to come up with policies that address climate change and natural disasters so that the region does not continue to depend on food handouts.

Zhou said there was need for transparency in mining contracts and other contracts with multi-national companies for extraction of natural resources in SADC, where people are often left disadvantaged and environments depleted.

"We call upon SADC to form a stand-alone protocol and strategy to breakdown political polarisation and exclusion of young people and pressurise SADC to ensure young people participate. Our health and education, and water and sanitation systems are threatened by the increase in privatisation. There are limited social safeguards when public services are shifted into private hands," she said.

Candida Luis Quintano, the Mozambique SASPN organising committee representative said the security threat in Mozambique was affecting mostly rural communities, reducing the economic status of women and children as well as extraction of natural resources and fishing communities.

"SADC should find alternative ways of dealing with the insurgency which is gaining form in Mozambique. We want a new opportunity to rebuild and relaunch our economies at political and social levels. We also challenge neo-liberalism and capitalism which has been gaining space in our governments," Luis Quintano said.



The driver of a commuter bus (L) and that of a salon car negotiate an amicable end to a standoff after their vehicles were involved in a minor crash at Buguruni Chama in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

# Task force: Low public awareness hinders land formalisation implementation

By Guardian Correspondent

LACK of public awareness has been mentioned among the reasons hindering implementation of the land formalisation exercises across the country.

This was said by Praygod Shao, a leader of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements taskforce currently working to find out the challenges facing the land formalisation exercise in the country.

The official said a demonstration exercise to formalise Olasiti Street located at Olasiti Ward in Arusha has shown that many Tanza-

nians do not know the real meaning of land formalisation and its benefits.

He said Olasiti is one of the streets in Arusha where there are no formalised residences compared to other parts of the country. He said once Tanzanians are educated on the importance of land formalisation, Tanzania will have the best settlements in the African region.

"The aim of formalising land is to ensure ownership and to make the owners benefit from the land. Tanzanians living in formalised land plots are assured of social services," he said.

Some of the residents in Olasiti ward said they feared to participate in the ongoing land formalisation process because they were not aware of its benefits.

The residents claimed not to understand what was exactly being formalized since they have been living at the area for decades.

One of the residents, Emma Lodigadi said she had participated in the first exercise to recognize all dwellers but she later gave up after being asked to pay for the exercise.

Lodigadi said: "I have now realised the importance of the exercise; I will provide full support to the officers as well as paying for

the process so that my land is formalised."

Title deeds do not only provide security for bank loans, but also a proof of existence of wealth which, along with a formal address, serves to strengthen business trust and social capital more generally.

The government through the lands ministry has been carrying out the exercise with an aim of ensuring that land ownership in the country is formalised.

In ensuring the exercise is successful, the land ministry formed a special taskforce to address challenges that were encountered during the first days.



Alhaj Musa Mbaruku, who is aspiring for the opposition Civic United Front's Tanga parliamentary candidature in the upcoming (late October) General Election, shows his nomination form shortly after it was presented to him earlier this week at the electoral office in the constituency. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

## AU launches continental campaign to mitigate Covid-19 impact in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) Commission on Thursday launched a flagship campaign to intensify the continental fight against the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic toward protecting African economies and livelihoods amid the easing of lockdowns.

The newly launched continental initiative, dubbed "Africa Against Covid-19: Saving Lives, Economies, and Livelihoods Campaign," mainly envisaged protecting borders and travelers, economies and livelihoods, as countries ease lockdown and resume economic activities, the AU announced on Thursday.

The initiative was launched jointly by the AU Social Affairs Commission, Infrastructure and Energy Commission as well as the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) during weekly virtual news briefing on the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa.

John Nkengasong, Director of Africa CDC, said during the virtual briefing that as AU member states begin to ease lockdowns and reopen, "it is critical to prepare Africa for the next phase of the Covid-19 pandemic."

As of Thursday, the number of confirmed Covid-19 cases across the African continent reached 1,147,369 as the death toll from the pandemic climbed to 26,618, while some 870,568 patients who tested positive for Covid-19 had recovered across the continent, according to the Africa CDC.

Noting "sign of hope" in terms of decrease in the number of new Covid-19 cases in Africa during the past week, Nkengasong, however, emphasized the need to avoid "prevention fatigue," and further intensify precautionary measures, such as the use of masks, social distancing as well as increase Covid-19 testing.

Recalling the continental Partnership to Accelerate Covid-19 Testing in Africa initiative that was launched on June 4 that envisaged testing 10 million Covid-19 targets across the continent, the Africa CDC Director stressed that more than 10.2 million tests have been conducted so far across the continent, exceeding the initial target.

According to figures from the Africa CDC, South Africa, Morocco and Ethiopia are among the African countries that have conducted the highest number of Covid-19 tests.

Amani Abou-Zeid, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, also said during the virtual briefing the need to expedite investments in the energy infrastructure sector, as she emphasized that challenges associated to the energy sector is greatly hampering the public health sector.

Noting that only 28 percent of health facilities in Africa have reliable sources of energy source, the AU Infrastructure and Energy Commissioner stressed that the need "to speak in one voice and turn around this crisis in Africa to do things better for the wellbeing of our people."

## Hapi pledges to resolve land dispute between Sao Hill and JKT-Mafinga

By Correspondent Friday

Simbaya, Mufindi

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Ally Hapi has pledged to find solution to the long lasting land dispute between the Sao Hill Forest Plantations and Tanzania National Service (JKT-Mafinga).

The conflict which is dated back to 1984 includes a disputed area covering

1,705 hectares, of which 654.35 hectares have already been planted with pine trees by Sao Hill Forest Plantations.

JKT-Mafinga claims that Sao Hill has encroached on its land at the Mount Idetero (Makalala) area.

Hapi said that his office will consult officials from the Tanzania National Service headquarters, Mufindi District Commissioner and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism on

how to end the conflict which has been a barrier to implementation of some development activities.

The RC made the remarks recently during his visit at Sao Hill as part of his working tour to inspect various development projects in the District.

He however commended the Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri William for addressing the problem.

"We will find solution to the problem, the biggest challenge here is how to demarcate the disputed area. We are going to sit together to see how we can resolve the matter since both institutions are state owned," said Hapi.

Sao Hill Forest Plantations Chief Conservator, Juma Mwita explained that Sao Hill under Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) has had various land disputes with the Tanzania National Service in Mafinga.

He said the management of Sao

Hill had once met officials from JKT Mafinga where they discussed the matter and resolved it. He said the issue was again raised in 2010 when army officers stopped Sao Hill from planting trees at the disputed area.

He informed that TFS has made various efforts to obtain necessary documents showing that the land belongs to the Sao Hill Plantation. He said the agency continues with its efforts where it has been meeting military officials and the District Commissioner.

The Sao Hill Forest Plantations is one of 23 state plantations that are managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism through the Tanzania Forest Service (TFS).

According to Mwita, Sao Hill is also supporting various community development projects whereas it is now constructing three dormitories at Ihanu secondary school in Mufindi District, Luganga and Changarawe secondary schools in Mafinga town.

He said that Sao Hill through is

implementing the projects under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

All the dormitories will cost 350m/-. and each of the dormitories will have the capacity to accommodate 240 students at a time, he said.

The Sao Hill Forest plantation covers a total area of 135,903 ha, out of which 54,070 ha are planted with Pines and 3,500 ha with Cypress and Eucalyptus. This makes the Sao Hill Forest Plantation to be the largest plantation in Tanzania.

## Authorities in Mbozi emphasise need for school meals provision for performance improvement

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbozi

AUTHORITIES in Mbozi District, Mbeya Region have called upon parents to continue contributing for primary school pupil's meal as part of efforts to improve their academic performance.

Acting District Education Officer, Jason Mwafu made the remarks on Thursday when speaking at the launch of the Twaweza report which was conducted in collaboration with Mbeya based Elimisha organisation.

The report which was conducted in 2017 in Mbozi District was meant to assess the basic literacy and numeracy skills of children aged between 7 and 16 years.

Mwafu noted that to improve academic performance, students should continue contributing for meals. He was concerned that some of the pupils came from poor families, hence the need for meals to encourage them to attend classes every day.

"Most of the children do not get breakfast at home, giving them meals would help them concentrate more on studies," he said.

Presenting findings of the report, Debora Mwanjane from Uwezo—a citizen-led assessment of learning outcomes in Tanzania said that poor performance of students in national examinations is contributed with lack of school meal programmes and long walking distances to and from school, among others.

"There are still many schools countrywide that are not providing meals to pupils, only 23 percent of the schools provide food to students," she said.

She said that only 39 percent of families across the country provide breakfast to children before they go to school. He said the organisation assessed pupil's ability to read and write in 56 districts whereas Mbozi was ranked 24.

She however revealed that most of the parents do not follow up on their children development at schools, the thing that reduces pupil's morale to learn.

According to her, only 28.8 percent of parents make follow up on their children school performance as well as helping them do homeworks. She said 47.7 percent of parents visit schools to speak to teachers on academic development of their children.

The government issued circular 5 in 2015 which implements the Education and Training Policy 2014 and directs public bodies to ensure that secondary education is free for all children.

This includes the removal of all forms of fees and contributions. Tanzania is among the countries that have signed and agreed to implement the Millennium Development Goals (SDGs) and among them is the number four goal regarding the provision of quality education.

The free education policy according to the ministry of education has resulted into a number of successes which includes increased enrollment and attendance at both primary and secondary schools.

The number of primary school enrollment in 2018 increased to 1,810,814 pupils from 1,464,376 enrolled in 2014



Work on Standard Gauge Railway infrastructure in progress under Yapi Markezi company contractors and technicians near Dar es Salaam's Karum Stadium yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Collins Mwai

## Kagame calls for African readiness to acquire Covid-19 vaccine

PRESIDENT Paul Kagame has requested the African Union Chairperson to consider appointing an African Head of State to commence engagements to ensure that Africa has access to Covid-19 vaccine once it's available.

President Kagame was speaking at a virtual meeting of the African Union Bureau and Chairs of Regional Economic Communities chaired

by AU chairperson, President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa.

Speaking at the meeting, Kagame requested the AU leadership to appoint an official specifically to engage global stakeholders to ensure that the African continent will be able to obtain the vaccine when it's available.

This will ensure that Africa does

not miss out on the vaccine or get insufficient quantities.

"I would like to request the Chairperson to consider appointing one of the Heads of State to work closely with Strive (Masiyiwa) who is already on the task to focus on ensuring that Africa obtains the vaccine once it is available," the President said. Masiyiwa, the Zimbabwean

Business Mogul is working closely with the AU to acquire medical supplies and preventive gear for the continent.

At the onset of the pandemic, it emerged that countries making individual orders of medical supplies were having a hard time accessing the supplies due to the magnitude of orders globally as well as some

restrictions by some economic regions globally.

In response to the challenge, the African Union teamed up and appointed Masiyiwa to lead in the coordination of procurement efforts.

If the same model of consolidating resources and orders is implemented in vaccine procurement, experts believe that it could

improve chances of vaccine access across the continent. Several vaccines have entered the trial stage with numerous others under development. To speed up the process globally, unprecedented international alliances have been formed and billions of dollars have been allocated.

Kagame also noted the need to

advance the domestic health financing agenda that was propelled by the AU.

"This is the moment to look closely at our health budgets and see where we can improve both the quantity and quality of spending," he said. He commended efforts of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform which he said has already started to show benefits as more countries access can now access medical supplies.

# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Is Africa sleepwalking into a potential catastrophe?

**R**IGHT now, the effects of climate change are already being felt by people across Africa. Evidence shows that the change in temperature has affected the health, livelihoods, food productivity, water availability, and overall security of the African people. Africa is more vulnerable than any other region to the world's changing weather patterns. Our African continent will be hardest hit by climate change. There are four key reasons for this:

First, African society is very closely coupled with the climate system; hundreds of millions of people depend on rainfall to grow their food. Second, the African climate system is controlled by an extremely complex mix of large-scale weather systems, many from distant parts of the planet and, in comparison with almost all other inhabited regions, is vastly understudied. It is therefore capable of all sorts of surprises.

Third, the degree of expected climate change is large and finally, the capacity for adaptation to climate change is low; poverty equates to reduced choice at the individual level while governance generally fails to prioritise and act on climate change.

According to the Climate Change Vulnerability Index for 2015, seven of the ten countries most at risk from climate change are in Africa.

Africa has seen a decrease in rainfall over large parts of the Sahel and Southern Africa. Over the past 25 years, the number of weather-related disasters, such as floods and droughts, has doubled, resulting in Africa having a higher mortality rate from droughts than any other region.

Between July 2011 and mid-2012, a severe drought affected the entire East Africa region and was said to be the worst drought in 60 years.

Observable effects of climate change on water resources in Africa include:

flooding, drought, change in distribution of rainfall, drying-up of rivers, melting of glaciers and the receding of bodies of water.

The gradual yet dramatic disappearance of the glaciers on Mount Kilimanjaro is a result of climate change. It is estimated that 82 per cent of the ice that capped the mountain, when it was first recorded in 1912, is now gone.

In Africa and Tanzania is no exception smallholder farmers are the backbone of the global rural economy, but they are bearing the brunt of climate change.

Worldwide, there are 500 million smallholder farms supporting two billion people, according to the International Fund for Agricultural Development, a UN agency based in Rome. Climate change multiplies the threats facing smallholders, endangering the natural assets they depend on and accelerating environmental degradation. In East Africa, drought can no longer be considered an unusual calamity. As a low rainfall area, the region must adapt to climate change.

While smallholder farmers are vulnerable due to the unreliable supply of water and the hotter conditions now facing their communities, in both agriculture and fishing, we should motivate groups to adaptable methods to overcome these challenges.

Innovations such as conservation agriculture, fish farming in elevated ponds, goat rearing, water harvesting, tree planting, irrigation projects and the successful piping of water from dams should help smallholder farming communities to alleviate the effects of climate change.

We need to initiate projects to reduce rural poverty by increasing sustainable food production and the sustainable management of natural resources. This is possible in Tanzania and elsewhere in the East African region.

## Slavery and the slave trade must be prohibited in all their forms

**S**LAVERY is either the state of being a slave, a state also called enslavement, or it is the system by which it happens. In such a system, principles of property law are applied to people, allowing individuals to own, buy and sell other individuals, as a de jure form of property. An enslaved person (i.e. a slave) is unable to withdraw unilaterally from such an arrangement and works without remuneration. Many scholars now use the term chattel slavery to refer to this specific sense of legalised, de jure slavery.

In a broader sense, however, the word "slavery" may also refer to any situation in which an individual is de facto forced to work against his/her own will. To describe such circumstances, scholars may use such alternate terms as unfree labour or forced labour.

Slavery has existed in many cultures, dating back to early human civilisations. It was legal in most societies at some time in the past but is now outlawed in all recognised countries. Nevertheless, as of 2019 there were an estimated 40 million people worldwide subject to some form of slavery.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, August 23 of each year, the day designated by UNESCO to memorialise the transatlantic slave trade.

The date is significant because, during the night of August 22 to August 23, 1791, on the island of Saint Domingue now known as Haiti, an uprising began which set forth events which were a major factor in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

UNESCO member states organise events every year on that date, inviting participation from young people, educators, artists and intellectuals. As part of the goals of the intercultural UNESCO project, 'The Slave Route', it is an opportunity for collective recognition and focus on the 'historic causes, the methods and the consequences'

of slavery. Additionally, it sets the stage for analysis and dialogue of the interactions which gave rise to the transatlantic trade in human beings between Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean.

'The Slave Route Project' is a highly ambitious initiative with its sights set resolutely on the future, to the extent that it contributes in the long term to enhancing mutual understanding and intercultural dialogue. The challenge of 'living together' in our multicultural societies implies recognition of each person's history and memory, and at the same time the sharing of a common heritage, in order to transcend past tragedies.

The concept of a route seeks to reflect the dynamics of the movement of peoples, civilisations and cultures. The concept of slave focuses on the universal phenomenon of slavery, and in particular, the transatlantic, Indian Ocean and Trans Saharan slave trades.

The Slave Route Project has three main objectives: To assist in providing a better understanding of the causes, forms of operation, issues and consequences of slavery in the world (specifically Africa, Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the Middle East and Asia); To present some of the global transformations and cultural interactions that have resulted from this history and to contribute to a culture of peace by promoting reflection on cultural pluralism, intercultural dialogue and the construction of new identities and citizenships.

The transatlantic slave trade and its Middle Passage are unique within the universal history of slavery for three main reasons. Firstly, it endured for approximately four centuries. Secondly, the victims of this trade were exclusively black African men, women and children. Finally, its intellectual legitimisation - the development of an anti-black ideology and its legal organisation through the notorious Code Noir.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

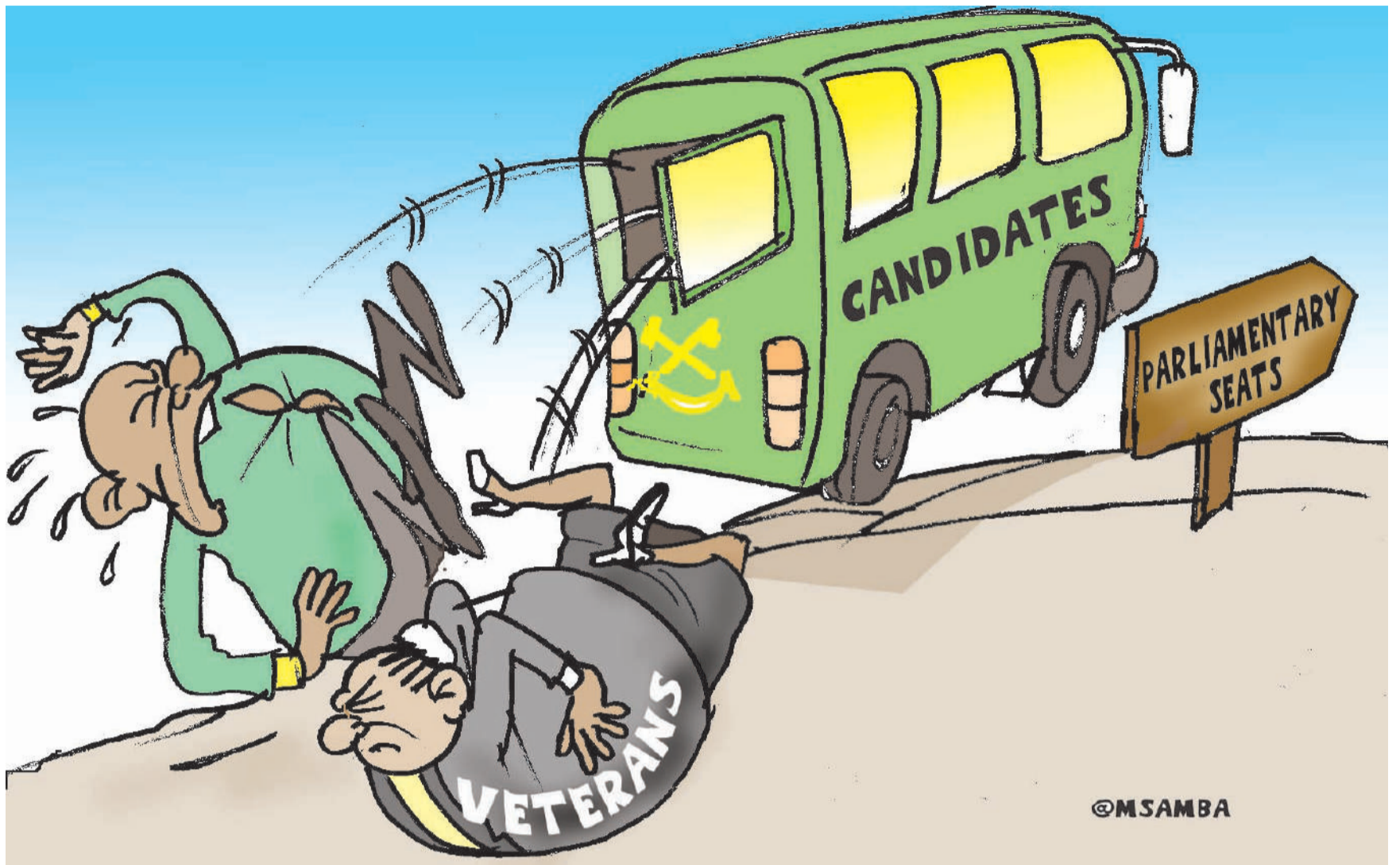
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO  
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757 154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



## The battle over barriers for people with disabilities

By Shubha Nagesh

ACCORDING to the World Health Organisation (WHO) at least 15 per cent of the population globally has some form or other of a disability- considered the world's largest minority population and one that any of us can join at any point in our lives. It therefore makes so much sense for each one of us to invest towards inclusion, so everyone has the right to live their life to their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society. This article seeks to highlight the updates from the disability world in the past four months, particularly the last month, both globally and in India.

As we continue to learn to cope with a global emergency of unprecedented scale, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebrated its 30th anniversary, since it was signed into law on July 26 1990. Considered to be the most important civil rights act since 1960, the ADA is essentially the law that prohibits discrimination against disabled people. The act hoped to give people with disabilities equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic sufficiency.

The ADA generation comprises of young people who 'came of age' under the ADA- young people who are willing to relate with, acknowledge and not just accept the disability, but in fact take pride in it.

Their spark to make their own lives better is warming others to do the same, thereby creating a whole generation of people who now approach life with a rights-based perspective- a much needed magnification of the spectrum of disability justice.

Somehow this flicker has to warm up beyond America, particularly in middle and low income countries, which in fact is home to the majority of people with disabilities.

The right attitude also allows for the health care provider to view the person first and the disability later, enabling the person's right to assessment, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, or inclusion.

The inequities faced by them has been made more than evident in the face of the pandemic, as they seem to



be dying more than ever, are denied treatment rightfully theirs, and continue to be discriminated against by not just health systems, but others too, all of which influence their chances at life and death.

In India, two events took place in recent times that impacted people with disabilities- in July, the government of India proposed amendments to the Rights of Persons with Disability Act (RPDA) 2016, to decriminalise minor offences, in as many as 19 legislations.

This proposal to negate and water down the Act was met with huge resistance from disability advocates and activists across the country, who insisted that doing the same would adversely affect people with disabilities in India. The solidarity and the strength with which the community came together to resist these lame changes in the name of "easing business" by the Government, succeeded in cancellation of the amendments.

Also in July, the Supreme Court delivered a significant decision that people with disabilities are socially backward and therefore qualify for the same benefits and relaxations as candidates from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, both in education and employment.

The Delhi High Court has reiterated that as per Census 2011, illiteracy rate among people with disabilities was almost 51% in India and despite the quota for disabled rising from

3-5%, employment rates and retention rates continue to be abysmally low. Hopefully with this new decision when put to full effect could elevate people with disabilities, particularly their education and employment potential.

As someone who has worked with children with developmental disabilities for almost ten years now, based on what we have seen and what we hear from parents, families and the older children, while there are an array of barriers that prevent inclusion into society, perhaps the most difficult one to overcome is the attitudinal barrier or the mindset of the larger society that chooses discrimination over diversity and its acceptance.

This challenge is large, escalates other barriers, has multiple origins like hate, ignorance, fear, lack of understanding etc, needs to be addressed from multiple levels and dimensions, and will take years to come through.

As a medical doctor, the one aspect I would like to focus on is training for medical professionals on disability; for all cadres of health workers and early on in the curriculum, for its impact on the individual, their family and society at large is significant.

This education, if provided the right way, could be life changing in understanding disability and impairment, provide equitable and timely intervention and address people with disabilities with dig-

nity and respect.

If young doctors, particularly those in rural and peri-urban contexts understood disability and referred children for early intervention as soon as they picked up red flags in development, it could improve quality of life for children significantly and save the families and the health systems considerable investments in rehabilitation.

It could support families to access healthcare more often and thereby have positive health outcomes, leading to overall improvement in the health of the population.

Further, the right attitudes could also facilitate reduction of other barriers, including physical barriers like infrastructure, health communication could become more accessible and inter sectoral coordination between different departments could facilitate more one stop solutions for people with disabilities.

The right attitude also allows for the health care provider to view the person first and the disability later, enabling the person's right to assessment, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, or inclusion. But above all this, people with disabilities could be treated with equal opportunities for access, treatment, medical benefits and therefore improve opportunities for education and/or employment, all of which would eventually contribute to the progress of society.

If this isn't worth fighting for, what is?

It's time to rethink disability, embrace it and handle it with love.

Love recognises no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope- Maya Angelou



# Sepon Ltd marks seven years of transforming clients' lives with solar power

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

**T**ODAY, August 22 Sepon Limited marks the 7th anniversary of its inception on October 22nd 2013. Sepon Ltd managing director, Bernard Okech speaks on solar energy sector in Tanzania and how Tanzanians perceive the role of solar energy in their lives.

**As you mark your 7th anniversary what has been the major achievements and milestones for Sepon Limited during the last five years?**

Sepon Limited has developed the Solar Mtaji Program that powers small businesses and enables them to have reliable power while creating jobs for young people and women in Tanzania. This business model has enabled us to serve 380 customers since they see Sepon Limited as caring for their well-being.

We have therefore powered solar sewing machines (for tailoring services), barber shops (for male hair cut), video halls for showing football matches and charging mobile phones for a fee. There are also Rural ICT Centers for photocopy, printing, scanning, emailing and other digital services for a fee in rural areas close to Dar es Salaam as well as in Kagera, Coast Region and other areas.

**Can you give readers a brief history of Sepon Limited?**

Sepon Ltd started on 22nd August 2013 in a small office of about 12m square in Sinza Mori suburb of Dar es Salaam with the founding managing director and one office administrator as the only full time staff.

The company was founded to offer reliable renewable energy products and services to both rural and urban populations. Sepon Ltd started with small solar lights and has since grown to a company which offers big solar systems for businesses and various institutions.

The company was started by Bernard

Okech and his wife Esther Sommy as well as his then University of Dar es Salaam MBA classmate Chesco Mwepelewa. The gaps which Brenard saw in the solar industry during his prior six years employment in the solar energy subsector is what led him to think of starting Sepon Ltd.

For example, he realized that most companies did not offer good after-sale services and decided that Sepon Limited would bridge that gap by ensuring every client is fully satisfied by company service during installation and post installation.

This strategy enabled the company to get many customers since clients became the main sales force for the company by referring other clients, enabling the company to reach all over the country. Secondly, using solar for productive use was not emphasized by many companies, hence the birth of the Solar Mtaji Program at Sepon Ltd.

**How would you describe Tanzanian solar energy sector current situation?**

The cost of solar modules has consistently been going down over the last seven years and is currently close to half the price it was in 2013. However, due to the rising cost of lead metal in the international market, the cost of solar batteries has been rising over the years. Sepon Ltd has therefore adjusted solar system prices to reflect the changes in the international market and make them more affordable to our clients.

**What significant changes have you noticed in the solar sector over the seven years and where do you see the sector heading?**

Due to the various innovations that have taken place in the last seven years, solar technology for industrialization is the main focus for the future. Solar energy that helps to facilitate industrial development and productive uses in various businesses is the future for solar energy and not just for domestic use. The

productive use of solar energy will create new jobs for youth and women and will also enable various enterprises to grow their businesses. This is why Sepon Ltd is rolling out the Solar Mtaji program in various regions.

**How do Tanzanians perceive the role of solar energy in their lives and how does Sepon Limited deal with these perceptions?**

Initially solar energy was perceived by many Tanzanians as energy for domestic applications and for small appliances. Due to that limitation, Sepon Ltd has done a lot of work in showcasing to the market that solar energy is capable of productive uses.

Our clients using solar for running their business in various parts of Tanzania have proved that solar energy is reliable and sustainable, saving costs of operations. For instance, the women group in Magomeni, Dar es Salaam that use our solar system for powering two sewing (tailoring) machines are able to make 20 extra clothes per day as a result of the solar energy which gives them an extra Tshs.0.2m per day compared with what they earned prior to the solar installation.

This means that the women group of seven tailors earns an extra Tshs 5m per month due to the solar system compared to Tshs 3m that would be invested in the solar system.

**What is your vision of Sepon Limited and where do you expect it to be in the next 10 years?**

Given the great impact of productive uses of solar energy through our flagship Solar Mtaji Program, our objective is to power 10,000 businesses with reliable quality solar energy thereby creating at least 20,000 green jobs in the next 10 years which will offer sustainable income to at least 100,000 individuals.

Since satisfied customers like referring their neighbors and friends, we expect that the satisfied clients will bring about



Women using solar energy for tailoring activities at Magomeni Women Group Solar Tailoring Center

a multiplier effect in the process, thereby making Sepon Ltd a transformational company in the next 10 years even in the whole of East Africa.

It's our desire that those aspiring to manage their costs of doing business in rural and semi-urban areas to contact Sepon Ltd for these affordable solar packages so as to experience the transformation they are looking for.

**What should Tanzanians expect from your company this year?**

In 2020, Sepon Ltd is expecting to serve at least 100 small businesses by offering them solar energy for their tailoring centers for about 3m/- per centre, barber shops for 2.7m/- per centre, video halls for football matches and charging phones for 2m/- per centre. There are also solar ICT centers with full

business package including a commercial photocopy machine, printer, scanner, two laptops, projector for computer training and 12 hours full solar charged power supply for 15m/- . The company offers offering all forms of digital services in the rural and semi-urban areas.

**What led you to a career in solar energy sector?**

During my studies for a Bachelor of Science degree of Kenyatta University, I worked on solar radiation as part of my environmental physics course. After graduating in 2007, I started working in solar energy and enjoyed the transformation that solar energy brought to the lives of users. Since that time, I have always loved the solar technology and always seek for opportunities of making the technology work for clients to improve their daily lives as well as in business operations.

# Dispelling myths about herd immunity and ending Covid-19 with no vaccine

By Gideon M-K; Health Nerd

THIS (2020) has been a truly strange year. Of all the articles that I never expected to write, one of the weirdest ones has to be a myth-busting piece about how herd immunity probably isn't going to save us.

I'm famously a fan of herd immunity - my first 'viral' article was about how herd immunity is pretty great - and when it comes to vaccines, I'm all for the idea.

Unfortunately, when it comes to Covid-19, herd immunity has never been the solution some people make it out to be.

The basic idea of herd immunity is simple - if enough people are immune to a disease, then even if a person comes into the community carrying the illness, they won't spread it. The few people who aren't immune are protected, because most of the people they interact with are immune and so they can't get the disease.

This works really well if you have a vaccination for infections. Measles, for exam-

ple, used to cause massive outbreaks and kill hundreds of thousands of people a year, but in most countries it cannot spread further than a few children these days. That's herd immunity at work, and it's a wonderful thing to see.

The problem with Covid-19 is that we don't have a vaccine. To be immune to the disease, you have to get it and then recover, and we know that coronavirus kills a pretty scary proportion of people who get it.

We've known this for months. So why are people suddenly saying that herd immunity is just around the corner?

**Speculative science**

There are actually two arguments that have been going around implying that herd immunity is almost here. The first is pretty simple, and very obviously wrong: that 50 per cent of people are already immune to Covid-19 owing to pre-existing t-cell reactions that were probably caused by other coronaviruses - the ones that cause the

common cold.

This, the idea goes, means that only a lowly percentage need to catch the disease to reach the herd immunity threshold, and so we're probably already there and there's nothing more to worry about.

While it's a popular line, it makes very little sense for a number of reasons. If nothing else, we already know - from superspreading events - that most people can catch Covid-19 if they are exposed and that pre-existing t-cells might make the pandemic less deadly but it certainly doesn't make anyone immune.

So t-cells, despite being very cool, aren't our ticket out. But there's another idea about herd immunity that is very popular, which is to do with population heterogeneity. While it sounds complicated, heterogeneity basically just means "differences", so population heterogeneity means "differences within the population".

See, traditionally the herd immunity threshold - the proportion of people who

have to be immune to a disease for it to stop spreading - is thought of as a relatively fixed number.

It varies, but it's mostly decided by how infectious a disease is - more infectious diseases like measles require nearly everyone to be immune, while less infectious ones such as rubella infect fewer people.

But the problem with this idea is that it assumes that every person has the same chance of passing on the disease as every other person. So a recluse living in the wilderness is just as likely to spread disease as a server at a restaurant, which obviously isn't true.

This is the population heterogeneity that people are talking about - differences in how different people behave that may impact the herd immunity threshold and mean that fewer people need to get Covid-19 to stop the disease from spreading.

So, the theory goes: what if we took this heterogeneity into account? Well, some people have done that using mathematical models, and it turns out that they seem to show a lower number of people needing to get infected before the disease peters out.

The problem is that these models are, like all models, very susceptible to assumptions. One key assumption is that, while this heterogeneity exists, it is pretty fixed - that is, that some people are more prone to spreading coronavirus, and that this is fixed through time.

So, for example, people working at a meat-packing plant might be more at risk of spreading Covid-19, but once all meat-packing workers are infected the disease will slow down considerably.

Unfortunately, this assumption may not be true at all. As have been argued, if people move around inside society a lot - if they change jobs, join choirs, get over their personal space issues and start hugging more - suddenly the herd immunity threshold jumps right back up.

Given that many of the places where Covid-19 spreads best are typically hotbeds of casual work, with people moving in and out all the time, it's not unreasonable to say that heterogeneity might not impact the spread of coronavirus all that much.

The answer to this seems to be that some places are already experiencing a form of herd immunity. Sweden, for example, has been painted as a notoriously lax country where coronavirus was allowed to run free, and they are seeing relatively few new cases of Covid-19 now.

This is evidence, the line goes, for herd immunity even at low levels of infection -

Sweden has an estimated less than 15 per cent of the population with antibodies to the coronavirus.

Only that this explanation doesn't actually make much sense. Firstly, as laid out in the original Swedish plan, they still have a number of Covid-19 restrictions, making the country actually more restricted right now than many other places in the world. For example, it is illegal to have more than 50 people at a public gathering, and Sweden has strict rules that all restaurants must follow.

And despite this now relatively high level of coronavirus restrictions - more intense than in many states in the US - Sweden is still experiencing hundreds of new cases of Covid-19 a day.

Yes, the rate has subsided a bit, but the outbreak is still ongoing. If herd immunity had kicked in, as so many people have argued, the rate of infections would mostly die down - instead, it's still increasing, albeit a bit more slowly.

This actually gets to the heart of the issue with herd immunity for Covid-19. It doesn't really make sense to call a situation where a disease might slow down its spread somewhat 'herd immunity' in the first place.

The whole idea of herd immunity is that it is a long-lasting phenomenon where the disease won't spring up again - hence the word 'immunity'. That's why we vaccinate: because we want the disease to die down or potentially die out entirely.

The situations that most people are describing as herd immunity are actually more like endemicity, where a disease stays prevalent in a population, and sometimes dies down, but never completely goes away.

Even in places where 20 to 30 per cent of people have been infected and 10,000s have died - like New York City - we would expect there to be some transmission of Covid-19 and regular outbreaks if all restrictions are relaxed.

So no, we haven't reached herd immunity yet. It is, in fact, quite unlikely that we will somehow see the end of this disease with only a small proportion of people infected - until we have a vaccine. It's possible, based on some mathematical models, but it's definitely not certain and I would say not even that likely.

The reality is that herd immunity remains a dangerous path to tread without a vaccine. We know that a large proportion of people who catch Covid-19 die, and that the disease is deadly even for people in their 40s and 50s.

The fact is that having large numbers of infections inevitably means having large numbers of deaths, and even death is just one outcome for coronavirus. We still don't know exactly what long-term impacts the disease will have for people who catch it and recover, but we know that there probably will be some.

Shockingly, a strategy that requires most people to get infected with a dangerous disease might not be the best idea. Go figure.

Ultimately, the best solution is probably to keep at it despite our exhaustion - keep social distancing, wear a mask, and try to stay away from house parties.

Herd immunity may sound like a silver bullet to our current plight but, as I have previously written, it requires that we sacrifice the vulnerable on the altar of the economy. That hasn't changed, and probably never will.

• Medium



# Inclusive national dialogue is a priority for Ethiopia

BY INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES

**T**HE 29 June murder of popular Ethiopian singer Hachalu Hundessa from the Oromo ethnic group has reignited ethnic violence in the country. Over 200 people have died and businesses and personal property have been destroyed mainly due to mob attacks with largely ethnic overtones. The government has arrested several opposition leaders, accusing them of fuelling unrest. Political divisions have also escalated.

These political and security developments following Hundessa's murder have amplified existing fundamental problems facing Ethiopia's democratic transition. In a presentation in March, Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Senior Researcher Semir Yusuf highlighted three major challenges: the contradictory nature of the Ethiopian state; the fragility of opposition parties and civil society organisations; and increased competition between nationalist groupings.

First is the contradictory nature of the Ethiopian state. Historically governance structures have been both unusually strong, while also having weaknesses. On the one hand, successive regimes have built a robust state machinery that could repress and control citizens. Coercive local government apparatuses have also been used to mobilise people into wars of unprecedented levels.

On the other hand, the state has also experienced a legitimacy crisis, where its very existence has been questioned, especially by some ethno-nationalist detractors. More recently, the state, once known for its internal coherence and autonomy, lost some of both.

State fragility continues to hamper attempts to achieve political stability and effective rule of law

Among other things, informal groups in certain regions infiltrated administrative and security structures, leading in the latter to a broken or loose chain of command and control. According to informants, the divided loyalties of officials threatened the legitimacy and stability



ity of the political system, leading to the complicity of state personnel in creating conflict. Internal disputes among government and party officials have contributed to incoherent state and party structures. The ruling party has been reconstituted as the new Prosperity Party, but a fully coherent and stable party structure is yet to be achieved.

Both international human rights groups and many in the opposition have accused state agents of frequently violating citizens' human rights, making a smooth transition difficult. Such concerns have increased over the past two years. Since the arrest of major opposition activists and politicians, and in the unrest following Hundessa's death, the number of allegations has spiked.

At the same time, state fragility continues to hamper attempts to achieve political stability and effective rule of law. Diverse reports document the lack of police action in the face of impending ethnic violence after Hundessa's murder, as has been the case in several conflict situations before. Even the government has acknowledged the inaction or complicity of its officials and security personnel.

Both excessive and insufficient police

**The aftershocks of Hachalu Hundessa's murder underline the challenges facing Ethiopia's transition to democracy. File photo**

and military action coexist in Ethiopia

Informants say that when people asked the police to stop the violence, some officers claimed they weren't given orders to do so. This suggests the lack of a centralised and effective national security system. So both excessive and insufficient police and military action coexist in Ethiopia.

Restraints facing the state are also evident in the challenge the Tigray Region poses to the power of the federal government. After political disputes between the two, their relationship has deteriorated to a new low with the Tigray Regional Council's (TRC) declaration to hold regional elections before its five-year term ends.

The declaration negates the House of Federation's (HoF) ruling in June to extend the terms of the federal and regional governments, postponing all preparations for national and regional elections until COVID-19 is deemed under control. The TRC's decision has infuriated the ruling party.

The extension of the ruling party's term has also sparked opposition countrywide, mostly in Tigray, whose ruling elites and some opposition parties consider it against the spirit and letter of the constitution. Tigray's sense of autonomy is fast advancing, constituting a clear affront to the juridical and political order the federal government wants to impose nationally.

The fragility or recklessness of opposition parties is also a major challenge to Ethiopia's smooth transition

The fragility or recklessness of opposition parties typifies a second major challenge to a smooth transition. Responding to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's call for national forgiveness, political reform and opening of the civic space, opposition parties re-entered the political scene in 2018. Several had clear deficiencies, partly of their own making, and partly a legacy of past government repres-

sion. Most were organisationally weak, with vague positions on various issues.

COVID-19 and the state of emergency put in place to contain it have further diminished their power. The weak parties have mustered the capacity to incite popular agitations, most recently based on disagreement about the HoF's decision regarding governing Ethiopia after September. But they haven't developed the capacity to communicate clear political goals or coordinate opposition movements. And so activists and opportunistic elites are organising protests that lead to more disorderly and chaotic protests.

The third major challenge is the increased polarisation of nationalist politics in the country since 2018. Contending nationalisms have been a hallmark of Ethiopian politics for five decades, but the degree of competition has peaked in recent years.

Rivalry between nationalist groups over control of land, self-administration, security concerns and other issues have led to violence. The latest surge in ethnic clashes in Oromia is partly a continuation of this trend, intensified by Hundessa's death. It is also a trigger for further divisions along ethno-nationalist lines.

Bringing the troubled transition back on track requires government efforts to enforce the rule of law while professionalising and depoliticising the justice system and security apparatus. To ensure effective law enforcement, the ruling party needs to establish a negotiated vision and plan. Strong command and control within the security sector also needs to be restored.

An all-inclusive genuine national dialogue should start urgently. This could help bring consensus on some critical and controversial political issues. These include: governing a post-September Ethiopia; ensuring free, fair and peaceful elections and fixing their timing; cultivating trust in public institutions; incorporating the visions of all stakeholders into a new constitution; and shaping an accommodative political destiny for Ethiopia.

The national dialogue process would also symbolise inclusivity in the transition process. This could help generate trust in the approach to democratisation and help give it the wide political legitimacy it needs.

Agencies

## Asking the right questions about Force Intervention Brigade

BY PETER FABRICIUS

**T**HE Force Intervention Brigade (FIB) should not be tampered with, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) insisted at its annual summit on Monday this week. It said this was the message it sent to United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres in response to UN Security Council proposals that the force be reconfigured.

The FIB is a special component of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) - the UN's peacekeeping mission there. It has a more robust mandate than the rest of MONUSCO, to enable it to mount offensive operations against the myriad rebel groups that make the lives of those living in the eastern DRC miserable.

The FIB was set up in 2013, consisting of battalions from three SADC member states - Tanzania, South Africa and Malawi. Initially it focused on eliminating the threat posed by the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels in eastern DRC. M23 had got as far as capturing Goma, the North Kivu province capital, the year before.

The FIB defeated M23 but since then its mission and operations have drifted. It never seemed to really engage with the next rebel group on its to-do list, the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). And then, after several skirmishes with lesser rebel groups, from 2017, the FIB came up against the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). This rebel outfit was originally from Uganda and is supposedly now affiliated to Islamic State.

The FIB's more robust mandate than the rest of MONUSCO enables it to respond to rebel groups in DRC

It is against the ADF that the FIB has had its bloodiest battles. On 7 December 2017, 14 Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed and over 50 injured in a large ADF attack on a MONUSCO base in Beni territory, North Kivu.

On 3 September 2018 in another ADF attack in Beni, two South African troops were wounded. And then on 14 November 2018 a combined offensive by the FIB and the DRC army went badly wrong and six Malawian soldiers and one Tanzanian were killed. A further eight Malawian troops were reported wounded and several missing.

This last, costly battle seems to have changed the FIB mandate, de facto though not de jure. The FIB has since played a different role, more in support of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) than in active combat. It has been conducting joint planning, strategising and patrols and sharing intelligence with FARDC, but has left the fighting to the Congolese.

At the UN Security Council the United States (US) seems to be leading the charge to reconfigure the FIB, as part of its mission to cut peacekeeping costs. The US takes the view that after the peaceful - though few would say democratic - 2018 elections, MONUSCO should start winding down its operations.

Since defeating the Rwanda-backed M23 rebels, the FIB's mission and operations have drifted

When the UN downsized MONUSCO to 16 215 troops in 2017, however, SADC objected that the 'FIB is not to be tampered with in the force reduction.' The core FIB remained largely intact though it lost some backup strength, including the effective close air support from South Africa's Rooivalk attack helicopters which were instrumental in defeating the M23.

But now, SADC officials told ISS Today this week, the UN Security Council wants to reconfigure the force by replacing one of its three



The problem isn't the FIB's composition but that it no longer aggressively pursues rebel groups in eastern DRC. File photo

SADC battalions with one comprising non-SADC troops. SADC objects, partly because it says it wasn't consulted.

An official recalled that the FIB had originally gone into the eastern DRC 'to rescue a situation which MONUSCO was unable or unwilling to address.' This was clearly a reference to the embarrassing fiasco when MONUSCO troops stood by helplessly as M23 took Goma.

Now, this official seemed to be suggesting, the UN was effectively planning to transform the FIB into just another unit of the not very effective MONUSCO. Already in 2017, a SADC assessment mission sent to the DRC complained that MONUSCO was allowing the FIB 'to be bogged down by undertaking traditional peacekeeping roles.' And that was in a MONUSCO where the non-FIB components 'are not engaging even in defensive

operations,' SADC said.

The US seems to be leading the charge to reconfigure the FIB in order to cut peacekeeping costs

In 2013 the FIB injected dynamic new purpose into MONUSCO and raised hopes that it could help the DRC's military restore peace to the chronically violent and unstable east. But now much of that hope has faded. The labels, affiliations and perhaps objectives of the rebel groups have changed over the years but the brutal persecution of the local people seems to have worsened.

'Between January and June 2020, fighters of armed groups were responsible for the summary executions or arbitrary killings of at least 1 315 people, three times more than in the same period in 2019,' the UN Joint Human Rights Office said about eastern DRC.

The Congo Research Group has plotted a steadily rising civilian death toll exacted by the ADF since June 2017, spiking in November 2019 when it

killed about 120 people. The 2019 attack was apparently in retaliation against a big FARDC operation conducted against its bases - without FIB support.

These massacres have provoked vehement civilian protests in eastern DRC, with much of the anger directed at MONUSCO for failing to curb the killings. And M23 seems to be making a comeback.

If the FIB has, de facto if not de jure, lost its original mandate to aggressively go after rebel groups, why is SADC so insistent on maintaining its special SADC character? For, in effect, it seems that the FIB has become what SADC insisted it shouldn't - just another element of MONUSCO. UN sources suggest that some SADC countries in the FIB are really more worried about losing the money the UN pays them for contributing troops.

What seems to be needed here is not so much an insistence on the FIB remaining an all-SADC operation, but that it fully regains its original mission and purpose.

Which was, according to UN Security Council Resolution 2098 that established the FIB, to 'carry out targeted offensive operations ... either unilaterally or jointly with the FARDC, in a robust, highly mobile and versatile manner ... [to] prevent the expansion of all armed groups, neutralize these groups, and disarm them in order to contribute to the objective of reducing the threat posed by armed groups on state authority and civilian security in eastern DRC and to make space for stabilization activities.'

Agencies

## Record-high Lake Victoria floods show water cooperation necessary

NAIROBI

ABOUT 400 families from Budalangi, in Busia County, have been living at the school since April, when the Nzoia River that flows from Kenya's western highlands into Lake Victoria burst its banks in the worst flooding the area has seen in decades.

After more than a year of unusually heavy rainfall, over 800,000 Kenyans have been displaced by flooding, according to the government.

The situation has been made worse by flooded rivers channeling huge volumes of water into Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, causing it to spill over onto its shores - a phenomenon called "backflow".

"We lost everything when our homes got inundated with water. Houses have been destroyed, livestock and crops swept away," said Hesborne Opondo, 45, who lost his shop to the rising lake.

His wife now sells flatbread to others living at Bubango school to support their six children, he added.

Scientists warn that other massive flood events may be ahead as climate change strengthens, and some have urged the three countries that share the lake - Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania - to work together to put systems in place to lessen flood damage.

"There should be a joint effort in dealing with disaster management and preparedness in the lake region," said Alfred Owuor Opere, a climate and water expert at the University of Nairobi.

Management of the dams that regulate the flow of water into Lake Victoria should especially be a regional concern, as the area is expected to receive enhanced rainfall in future, he added.

While Budalangi is no stranger to flooding, in recent years the damage has been limited by two dykes the government built 20 years ago along the Nzoia River and on the southern shore of Lake Victoria, according to local elders.

But this year, the dykes could not contain the flooding - the most severe the area has seen since the 1960s, say experts, who attribute it to a combination of climate change and

the erosion of shores by urbanisation and farming.

A year of extraordinarily heavy rains, which started in April 2019 following a drought, pushed the lake's water level up to 13.4 metres (44 feet) in May, breaking the previous 1964 record, according to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission.

In normal years, the lake has an average level of 12 metres.

While the waters that burst from the Nzoia have started to recede, the backflow from the lake is still flooding surrounding areas, residents said.

With climate change likely a major contributor to the recent flooding, the nations around Lake Victoria must work together to tackle the problem, said Joseph Awange, a professor of earth sciences at Curtin University in the Australian city of Perth.

"Engineering measures such as damming and planting trees to regulate the use of water could be considered," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an email interview.

Uganda, where Lake Victoria feeds into the Nile River, is seen as a key player in preventing flooding in the region, he noted.

Since its construction in 1954, Uganda's Nalubaale dam has controlled the flow of water out of Lake Victoria into the Nile, in line with a treaty between Uganda and Egypt, he explained.

If the water in the dam rises above a certain level, Uganda must release some to maintain the natural flow of the Nile.

Leaders in western Kenya have accused Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni of not doing enough to control backflow.

In June, Raphael Wanjala, a member of parliament for Budalangi, called on the East African Legislative Assembly to intervene and urged Museveni to complete the ongoing construction of another dam along the Nile.

But Sam Cheptoris, Uganda's environment minister, told media in May that the rapid rise of Lake Victoria was due to a mix of environmental degradation, poor land use practices and urbanisation that has stopped the ground absorbing rainfall.



These factors resulted in the "speedy movement of water into the lakes and rivers" feeding into Lake Victoria, he said.

George William Omony, a senior meteorologist at the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, said that above-average rainfall plays a major role in causing backflow but the phenomenon has been amplified by human activities.

He pointed to the growing number of villages and farms on Lake Victoria's shores, which are protected areas where human settlement and farming is prohib-

ited. When forests along the rivers that feed into the lake are cleared for farming, they lose trees whose roots hold onto soil and minimise the amount of mud and silt that end up in rivers.

When rivers become silted, they can hold less water before overflowing or pushing it back into the lake, he explained.

He and other climate experts said the recent extreme flooding is linked to a cyclical process of drought and heavy rainfall that happens in the Lake Victoria area every 50 years or so.

"While it is difficult to tell when the cycle will repeat, the chances of it happening again are high," Omony added.

Opere, at the University of Nairobi, said Lake Victoria communities and the government could also work together to reduce the risk of backflow and flooding.

He suggested planting trees along rivers and building channels to carry floodwater away from the lake and into water pans and reservoirs to use for livestock and irrigation.

He also stressed the importance of dams in regulating the

amount of water flowing into Lake Victoria.

Plans by Kenya's government to build major dams to curb flooding along the Nyando, Nzoia and Yala rivers - the first of which is due to start construction on the Nyando in September - will help protect and support local communities, he added.

Government officials have said residents will be allowed to fish in the water behind the dams and use it for domestic and agricultural purposes.

"The dams will have a huge impact in reducing this flooding menace around the lake while providing economic opportunities for people living in these areas," Opere said.

## Africa's e-health startups have raised over \$90m this year

By Special Correspondent

THE number of African e-health startups operating across the continent has hit an all-time high at 180 active companies, while investment into the space continues to snowball, reaching record levels in the first half of 2020 despite the Covid-19 pan-

demic.

According to the High Tech Health: Exploring the African E-health Startup Ecosystem Report 2020, released by Disrupt Africa, the number of startups active in the health-tech space on the continent has grown by 56.5 per cent over the last three years, with 180 ventures cur-

rently in operation.

This enthusiasm for e-health is echoed by investors. More than half of all funding to have gone into the space in the past five years was transacted in the first half of 2020. So far this year, e-health startups have raised over US \$90 million.

"Interest in the e-health space

in Africa has accelerated in the last 18 months, and with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a sudden spotlight on e-health startups. In many ways now is a great time for the continent's health-tech sector - there's huge opportunities to prove concepts, gain traction, and achieve lasting change in

healthcare. We're excited to present this timely research, highlighting the strengths of Africa's e-health ecosystem," said Gabriella Mulligan, co-founder of Disrupt Africa.

"Africa's health-tech sector is suddenly emerging as one of real value from an economic perspective, while the potential

impact on ventures in this space is undeniable. With startups across the continent innovating in various areas to solve very real challenges associated with the delivery of healthcare, this report shines a light on some of those most exciting innovations," said Tom Jackson, co-founder of Disrupt Africa.

The report shines a light on regional e-health markets, and analyses eight sub-sectors of the health-tech ecosystem. The impact of Covid-19 is looked at, as well as a separate section on funding of the space over the last five years. The full list of 180 African e-health startups is also being made available.

## Those with 'silent malaria infection' at risk of cancer

NAIROBI

A STUDY has found strong similarities between children with endemic Burkitt lymphoma - an aggressive cancer that attacks the body's defense system and children with silent malaria infection.

Endemic Burkitt lymphoma cases occur in areas with frequent malaria transmissions.

Researchers hypothesised that the disease may occur in children with heavy exposure to malaria, says Sam Mbulaiteye, a co-author of the study and a senior investigator at the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the US-based National Cancer Institute.

The research suggests that the malaria parasites stimulate the immune systems in young children, which creates an ideal environment for Epstein-Barr virus infection and can lead to the development of endemic Burkitt lymphoma, Mbulaiteye said.

"This strong correlation suggests that while children with silent malaria infection are normally considered not to be at risk of death from malaria-related complications, this study suggests that they remain vulnerable to developing endemic Burkitt lymphoma, which is suspected to be causally linked to malaria," Mbulaiteye adds.

"The underlying health complication in children with the condition, however, is that it can get fatal when not treated earlier," Mbulaiteye explains. "If policymakers at national and funding agencies levels appreciate the link between malaria infection and endemic Burkitt lymphoma, then the study could be

children with silent malaria infection stimulate the white blood cells from which the cancer originates, with the simulation causing some of the white blood cells to develop genetic abnormalities which become cancers.

Endemic Burkitt lymphoma is common in malaria endemic countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, making up 50 to 75 per cent of all childhood cancers, the study adds. Although the disease can occur at any age, most cases occur in children under 15.

"Because silent malaria affects children without coming to clinical attention, the link between endemic Burkitt lymphoma and malaria may be obscured because endemic Burkitt lymphoma may appear to develop out of the blue in children who were previously healthy."

However, based on this study, Mbulaiteye says: "The children who develop endemic Burkitt lymphoma are likely to have been afflicted with silent malaria for many years before endemic Burkitt lymphoma, and suggest that efforts to suppress the burden of silent malaria in populations could reduce the frequency of endemic Burkitt lymphoma in those populations."

"Endemic Burkitt lymphoma is curable if discovered early. The underlying health complication in children with the condition, however, is that it can get fatal when not treated earlier," Mbulaiteye explains. "If policymakers at national and funding agencies levels appreciate the link between malaria infection and endemic Burkitt lymphoma, then the study could be

a game changer for endemic Burkitt lymphoma research."

According to the study published in the Malaria Journal last month (28 July), researchers analysed data on 850 children with endemic Burkitt lymphoma and 2,878 children without the disease in trials conducted in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda between 2010 and 2016. They found that both groups tended to be older than five years, had normal or almost normal values for haemoglobin, platelet counts and white cell counts.

Researchers also analysed 21 journal articles that studied children up to 15 years old who had malaria with or without symptoms to identify risk factors of endemic Burkitt lymphoma. The researchers identified some risk factors, including living in a malaria endemic area, malaria transmission for seven months of the year, male sex, rural residence and exposure to mosquitoes and animals.

"Endemic Burkitt lymphoma health education could be integrated into malaria health education since the disease is highly treatable but most cases are presently diagnosed late," Mbulaiteye adds.

Simon Kariuki, chief research officer at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, who was not involved in the study, says that the study provides new insight, but more research needs to be done to ensure it is adopted by malaria control programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kariuki says that with the scale-up of malaria control efforts in Sub-Saharan Africa, it would be expected that cases



of endemic Burkitt lymphoma will reduce because fewer numbers of children will be infected with malaria.

Kariuki says that if confirmed in additional studies that asymptomatic children are at high risk of endemic Burkitt lymphoma, malaria control

programmes must target children without symptoms of malaria, particularly those in schools.

However, Kariuki says more robust studies are needed to provide strong evidence linking malaria to endemic Burkitt lymphoma.

"A better way of studying the relationship could have been a longitudinal study whereby you enrol young children in malaria endemic areas and then follow them to see who develops endemic Burkitt lymphoma and at what parasite densities," he says.

# Drug combinations may be our best hope for treating Covid-19

By Jesse Smith

**V**ACCINE development is slow. With questions surrounding the durability of immunity and availability of the vaccine, doctors on the front lines of healthcare are relying on available drug therapies to treat Covid-19.

Most Covid-19 patients are often given a cocktail of available therapies, given that no single drug has been shown to be broadly effective against the virus.

Several trials are ongoing looking at the effectiveness of drug combinations in the treatment of the pandemic. This may signal that drug combinations may be what will carry us through the gap between now and an effective vaccine.

Viruses are difficult to treat. If you compare them to bacteria, most antibiotics function by blocking some biologic or metabolic process - whether it is DNA replication, protein synthesis or cell wall development.

Those drugs effectively halt the growth and replication of the bacteria, two characteristics of living organisms. Viruses, on the other hand, do not have any of these mechanisms because viruses are not technically alive.

This means that viruses have fewer potential drug targets. Still, there are dozens of antiviral medications on the market that work to inhibit these pathogens (disease-causing organisms), many of which are used in combination with each other.

It is not uncommon seeing viruses, particularly those for which there is no effective vaccine, being treated with more than one drug. HIV is one example where patients are often on a cocktail of drugs, each targeted at one of the ways the virus attacks the body.

Again, this shows that there is neither a single effective drug therapy for HIV nor an effective vaccine against the virus. It also highlights the complexity of HIV. The many steps involved in an HIV infection offer many targets for drug therapies.

Covid-19, though not quite as complex as a virus like HIV, does have several demonstrated potential drug targets in its life cycle. This opens up

the possibility that drug combinations may be a good option for treatment.

The life cycle of SARS-CoV-2, the causative virus in Covid-19, can be broken down into a few phases. The first phase is binding and entry into the cell.

This mechanism is well understood, involving the binding of the viral spike protein to the human ACE2 receptor, with the help of the human protease TMPRSS2. This particular mechanism allows the viral body to fuse with the human cell membrane and ultimately enter the cell.

There are a number of ways to block viral entry. Some researchers hope that antibodies against the SARS-CoV-2 spike antigen will be effective at blocking this initial binding event.

Antibodies could be potentially derived from convalescent plasma or administered directly into the respiratory system. A lab at UCSF (University of California, San Francisco) has developed nanobodies - a similar, but much smaller cousin to the antibody - that can be nebulised into the lungs that appear to offer protection against Covid-19 infection in the lungs.

Another compound being investigated in hope of blocking the entry phase of the virus is camostat mesylate, an inhibitor of the protease TMPRSS2 that is required for SARS-CoV-2 entry into the cell. TMPRSS2 cleaves the viral spike protein, readying it for binding to ACE2 and facilitating entry into the host system.

The second phase of infection involves the processing of viral RNA once inside the cytoplasm of the host cell. At this point, the SARS-CoV-2 viral body opens and releases viral RNA. At this point, the viral RNA molecules are translated - meaning that RNA is turned into a protein - and the resulting products, called ppla and pp1b, facilitate the mass replication of the viral genome.

A number of drugs exist that target these proteins directly. Lopinavir and ritonavir are both antiviral medications already on the market that are used in the treatment of HIV. The combination of the two drugs was investigated in Covid-19, but they were ultimately dropped because they showed



Drug combinations may be what helps us bridge the gap to an effective vaccine

little effect against the virus.

Remdesivir is another drug of interest in Covid-19. This antiviral is one of the few that have proceeded in clinical trials, and it appears to be effective to some degree against the virus. Many people currently hospitalised with Covid-19 are put on remdesivir.

Remdesivir targets the replication of ppla and pp1b, effectively halting the replication of the viral genome. Blocking this phase stops the viral life cycle in its tracks. The final stage of the SARS-CoV-2 life cycle is assembly and release from the cell. At this point, the virus gathers its genome and forms within a new envelope with envelope proteins already studded in it. These new bodies - called virions - are released out of the host cell and go on to infect other cells in the body.

This stage can potentially be blocked by drugs that inhibit the formation of the outer viral envelope. One compound under investigation for this function is an antiviral known as LJ001.

This compound introduces oxygen

into the newly formed envelope. This damage affects the functionality of the outer viral envelope.

We have seen a number of drug combinations come and go over the past many months. Perhaps the most memorable was the combination of the antimalarial hydroxychloroquine with the antibiotic azithromycin.

This combination gained immediate attention as one of the first potential therapies early this year, but ultimately it failed to produce any measurable effect against SARS-CoV-2.

Researchers have also developed drug combinations that not only target the viral life cycle but also address the damaging symptoms that result from SARS-CoV-2 infection.

One combination involves remdesivir and the widely available anti-inflammatory dexamethasone. Dexamethasone is a widely used steroid in a number of inflammatory conditions, but it is capable of calming the vigorous immune reaction that occurs in Covid-19 - known as a cytokine storm. Remdesivir/Dexamethasone is current-

ly one of the few approved treatments for Covid-19. A new combination therapy is under investigation that couples remdesivir with the immune molecule beta-interferon (IFN-β). Interferons are cytokines released by immune cells in response to infection.

Certain interferons - so named for their ability to interfere with viral replication - not only show antiviral capacity but are also capable of taming the immune response.

Remdesivir/IFN-β - now known as ACCT - is currently entering Phase 3 trials this month (August 2020). Remdesivir has shown some efficacy against Covid-19 and is being used under emergency authorisation.

IFN-β is another approved compound with use in several diseases, but it has not yet been tested against Covid-19. Should these results show promise, this drug combination could quickly go into use.

Drug combinations have a long history in the treatment of infectious diseases, including viral infections. Targeting more than one mechanism can

create a potentially synergistic effect and in some cases can dramatically slow the disease.

Hospitals and critical care units are hopeful that these combinations will show effectiveness against Covid-19 because they offer quick and relatively low-cost treatment options to slow the pandemic, and lessen the chance of mortality. Owing to the challenges involved in vaccine development, many lingering questions cast doubt on whether a vaccine will be effective and will be produced in a timely manner.

Effective drug combinations continue to be what allow hospitals to treat serious cases of Covid-19. Outside of social distancing, mask wearing and other public health measures, effective drug combinations may be the only weapon we have in the fight against this virus.

**A Medium dispatch. Jesse Smith is a medical student, molecular biologist and educator who writes about science and medicine.**

# China-Europe freight services contribute to intermodal transport

By Lu Ya'nan

**G**IVEN the rising uncertainty in foreign trade, as well as the surging instability of global industrial and supply chains, China-Europe freight services have become a major logistics channel that en-

sures the trade between the two places. It maintains unimpeded international cooperation on COVID-19 response, and the flow of living and production materials.

In the first seven months of this year, the freight service has made 6,354 trips, transporting 574,000 TEUs

(twenty-foot equivalent units), up 41 percent and 46 percent, respectively. The record of monthly trips have been renewed for consecutive five months. A total of 1,232 trains were put into operation in July, the highest monthly figure ever.

The China-Europe freight trains have



China-Europe freight train No. 75061 departs from Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi province for Milan, Italy, carrying 368,300 pieces of masks and 949,000 tonnes of melt-blown fabrics, Aug. 12. (File photo)

opened a "green life channel" on the Eurasian continent, realizing growth of both trips made and cargo volume against headwinds.

On July 31, the China-Europe freight train X8020 carrying 100 TEUs departed from Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province for Madrid, Spain.

It was the 400th China-Europe freight train departing from Yiwu this year. The train's total cargo volume expanded by 211.1 percent year-on-year in the first seven months of this year.

Six days earlier, Jinhua, another city in Zhejiang province, sent its 100th China-Europe freight train of this year that carried 100 TEUs of cargos to Minsk, Belarus. It sent 128.66 percent more of cargos from a year ago.

Thanks to a new international land-sea trade corridor, the China-Europe freight service is now seamlessly connected with the international rail-oean intermodal trains.

They make the largest export chan-

nel for China's eastern provinces, autonomous regions and municipality.

In the January-July period, a total of 2,109 rail-ocean intermodal trains have been running on the new international land-sea trade corridor, up 79.9 percent from a year ago.

The scope of cargos also expanded from porcelains and panels to over 300 kinds, including auto parts, computer parts and parallel-import cars. The freight service now covers all major ports in Southeast Asia and Northeast Asia, and connects 203 ports in 83 countries and regions around the world.

To promote high-quality development of the China-Europe freight services, build an effective collecting and distributing system, and accelerate the transition of the trains from a "point-to-point" mode to a "hub-to-hub" mode, China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) recently allocated 200 million yuan from the

central budget to support the construction of transportation hubs in five cities to improve China-Europe rail freight services including Zhengzhou, Chongqing, Chengdu, Xi'an and Urumqi. The top Chinese economic planner also aims to build a modern logistics hub with strong international influence, promote the efficiency and quality of the China-Europe rail freight services, and offer solid support for the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

"The NDRC will enhance coordination, and, based on the market demand and the development direction of international railway intermodal transport, innovate logistics businesses, and dock with international logistics and supply chain systems, so as to build a lasting and vigorous competitive operation and service system for the China-Europe rail freight services," said Yan Pengcheng, director of the Department of National Economy, NDRC.

People's Daily

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 127 00--

**WORD-FIT**

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

**SOLUTIONS**

3 Letters: OWL, HAY, TAN, ARK,  
 4 Letters: REST, SAME, RAKE, AYAH, IRAQ, EAST, Q-TIP, SAGA, TIME, AFRO,  
 5 Letters: READY, SCOPE, SNAKE, FROST,  
 6 Letters: ATHENS, LAYER, PAMPAS, SAHARA, RAKISH, ATTACH, TANAPA, MASHER, MASTER  
 7 Letters: CASHIER,

**CROSSWORD**

**CLUES:** Across  
 1. a person who cultivates a land  
 5. hire a land  
 6. a piece of land surrounded by water  
 9. an oil tanker  
 10. any person  
 13. interfere  
 15. a group with a strong common interest  
 17. Estates on which crops are grown  
 19. literary form of over  
 20. fall behind  
 21. indicates that a voice is silent  
 22. single  
 23. institute a legal proceedings for redress

**Down:**  
 1. the sixth day of the week  
 2. a mass meeting  
 3. reveal something  
 4. to inquire  
 7. an unimportant person  
 8. passed away  
 11. Muscat is the Capital city  
 12. the rubbing and kneading of muscles and joints  
 14. identify the existence of  
 15. free from dirt  
 16. great size  
 17. a game of Eastern origin  
 18. cereal plants

## BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING

## SA's Tongaat Hulett celebrates women in sugarcane production

EXODUS

## Africa's rich rush for foreign citizenships

NAIROBI

More super-wealthy Africans are buying foreign residency and citizenship rights, a global advisory firm has said.

Before coronavirus pandemic hit, the billionaires bought additional passports, acquiring permanent residency and citizenship for ease of business travel, to get access to elite education for their children, or to have a second home for leisure.

However, Covid-19 has led to a different need for passports: to access high-quality healthcare, live in countries with better pandemic responses, and potential safe havens to ensure they have a backup plan for the future.

Marios Rafail, the Head of Geneva office for Henley & Partners, a firm that works with countries and individuals on citizenship-by-investment programme says interest is growing from Kenyans, Nigerians, South Africans and Ghanaians.

Over the years, investment migration, which is based on wealth, has become a multibillion-dollar industry. Investment migration programmes offer residence or citizenship in exchange for substantial investment in a country's economy, in the form of real estate and infrastructure development,

job creation, or government bonds.

The cost ranges from Sh10 million (\$100,000) for Antigua, Sh45.2 million (350,000 euros) for Montenegro, Sh142 million (1.1 million euros) for Malta, and Sh388 million (3 million euros) for Cyprus citizenships. Henley & Partners, which helps wealthy individuals acquire second passports has now opened offices in Lagos, Nigeria, in addition to the two in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa.

The two countries provided about 85 percent of the more than 100 Africans who purchased Henley's services in 2019, the firm said. South Africa has the highest number of ultra-rich persons in Africa, at 1,033, followed by Egypt (764) and Nigeria (724), according to this year's Knight Frank's Wealth Report.

Kenya has the sixth-highest concentration of super-rich persons. There are 42 Kenyans with wealth over Sh3 billion, while those whose net worth is more than Sh100 million are 2,900. Most Kenyans and Nigerians who seek the firm's services earn their income in their home country and have no plans to relocate. These individuals purchase foreign passports to ensure that they have greater options for last-minute medical or business travel or to provide education for their children as Marios tells BDLife.

DURBAN

**R**anging from owner and farmer manager to junior farm assistant, Tongaat Hulett is celebrating three inspiring KwaZulu-Natal women in agriculture this Women's Month who are involved in sugar cane farming.

Nonhlanhla Gumede-Shabalala is the owner of Uthandimvelo farm in KwaZulu-Natal and has been working in the agricultural sector for about nine years. "My father has been farming for over 40 years. He bought his 90.3-hectare farm when I was in matric. My passion for agriculture was ignited in earnest through working and assisting my father with his operation," said Gumede-Shabalala. She started her career in the banking sector and left around 2010 to work with her father.

In 2017, Gumede-Shabalala bought Uthandimvelo Farm using bank finance. It's a 170-hectare farm with approximately 112-hectares under sugarcane, with the remaining section the farm surrounded by a large forest. Gumede-Shabalala has several other business lines other than sugarcane farming, including growing vegetables and supplying local supermarkets and schools with fresh produce and sheep breeding.

## Provincial school feeding scheme

In terms of schools, she is a preferred service provider for the KZN Department of Education under the provincial school feeding scheme and supplies specific schools with fresh vegetables during the schooling season. The KZN Education Department feeds approxi-



Nonhlanhla Gumede-Shabalala, owner of Uthandimvelo Farm.

mately 2.4 million children through the school feeding scheme. At least 1.3 million of these children are vulnerable. The service provided by Gumede-Shabalala ensures that these learners get a nutritious meal while they are in school.

The sugar industry has a nine-months season which means that the vegetable production and sheep breeding businesses keep her busy throughout the 12 months and she is able to generate further income for the business.

Uthandimvelo consists of 10 permanent staff members and 14 seasonal workers. During the 2019/20 season, the farm delivered some 3,000 tonnes of sugarcane. Gumede-Shabalala had to learn the agricultural business very quickly. "Having purchased the farm through a financial institution, I had to make sure that I pay the bond and hire contractors to assist with the harvesting of cane. It was even difficult to purchase fertiliser or pay workers," she says.

She persevered until things started turning around. "I have been able to secure grant funding which allowed me to buy much-needed equipment. The farm is almost fully operational. The farm now employs more seasonal workers to assist with the various activities within the farm."

## Creation of Uzinzo Sugar Farming

In 2019/20, Tongaat Hulett made a strategic decision to exit its direct sugarcane farming activities in South Africa. The company facilitated the creation of Uzinzo Sugar Farming, which means stability in isiZulu, with three previously disadvantaged individuals selected to be at the helm of the organisation, one of whom was Gumede-Shabalala.

Uzinzo has enabled its shareholders to lease three prime agricultural estates at rentals below market-related rates. The leased area is approximately 3,900 hectares with an estimated annual production of some 160,000 tonnes of sugarcane at the scale which makes Uzinzo Sugar Farming one of Tongaat Hulett's top five largest supplying growers.

Uzinzo Sugar Farming was officially launched in October 2019 and Gumede-Shabalala and the other directors of the company had to hit the ground running to ensure that operationally, the company delivered the forecasted tonnages and ensure

the smooth running of the various operations.

"Uzinzo has allowed me to grow and learn from my colleagues who have considerable experience in farming. As an Uzinzo board member and trustee in the Uzinzo Permanent Employee Share Trust, I had to familiarise myself quite quickly with all the legislative requirements and governance issues pertaining to Uzinzo and trusts. I had to learn to have my say during meetings."

She says Uzinzo has also allowed her to improve her leadership skills. "I am constantly expected to provide strategic guidance on issues; delegate tasks; motivate people and solve administrative issues. There are huge opportunities in farming, especially for women. We can get grant funding. We can supply our produce to the various markets. It's a win-win for all of us."

## Zibo Makhaye, farm manager, Uzinzo Sugar Farming

Zibo Makhaye knew from an early age that she would pursue a career in agriculture. Makhaye was born in Mtubatuba (Northern KwaZulu-Natal) where agriculture is a way of life. Her father, a teacher by profession, owned a 10-hectare sugarcane farm. "We used to wake up early in the morning to weed and spray chemicals. My father used to tell me that money was in the soil and not in some fancy office. I decided at that young age that I would pursue a career in farming."

Makhaye attended Bongubuhle Primary School and then went to Madwaleni High School in Mtubatuba. Soon after finishing her Grade 12, she was accepted at the CEDARA College of Agriculture in Pietermaritzburg to pursue her studies in Plant Production. On completion of her national diploma, she applied and was accepted to attend the senior certificate course in sugarcane agriculture which is facilitated through the South African Sugar Research Institute (SASRI).

From 2006 to mid-2007, this 34-year-old worked for the KZN Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on an outreach programme for small-scale farmers, and then she joined Tongaat Hulett. She started out as a trainee at Tongaat and was later appointed as an assistant farm manager. In October 2019, she was employed by Uzinzo Sugar Farming as a farm manager.

## Responsibilities at Uzinzo Sugar Farming

In her new role, Makhaye is responsible for the daily planning, organising, supervising and administration activities on the farm. "My typical responsibilities include forward planning, making sure that work progresses optimally, keeping an eye on expenditure on the farm; ensuring compliance with government regulations, health and safety standards. I am also responsible for ensuring that the farm is profitable and meets the projected financial targets," says Makhaye.

She is responsible for some 273 seasonal workers and five permanent employees. "The main challenge that I faced in my career has been working in an environment that is typically known as a men-only environment. I had to deal with people not trusting my leadership due to my age and gender, more especially older men. I had to double my efforts and prove myself."

"The immediate thing that I have achieved in my current role as a farm manager is that it has brought my confidence back. My leadership skills have been put on display. The ability to solve issues with employees always brings pleasure. To manage such a huge farm, 2,600 hectares of the 3,900 hectares, is an achievement on its own. To see Uzinzo making profit is the cherry on the top," says Makhaye.

Makhaye strongly believes there is space for women in agriculture. "To the young girls, I would like to say that they should not be scared to get their hand dirty. Believe in themselves. The secret is not to rush for success. They should be willing to wait for the results. Shortcuts are not an option in agriculture. I would also like to encourage other young women in the agricultural sector not to give up easily - it will not always be smooth, there will be challenges. However, love what you are doing, have passion. If need be, be prepared to work extra hours and go an extra mile without expecting to be compensated."

## Nosisa Dube, junior farm assistant, Simamisa

Nosisa Dube regarded sugarcane agriculture as one of the key activities within her community. After all, her grandfather was a small-scale grower delivering sugarcane to Tongaat Hulett. Dube never imagined that one day she would be working within the agricultural sector. Dube

is 30 years old and has four other siblings. She attended Wangu Primary School under the Mandeni Municipality and then moved to Stanger High School to complete her Grade 12.

Soon after completing her final year, she registered for a Diploma in Agriculture Management with the University of South Africa (Unisa). Dube was attracted by the broadness of the agricultural industry. She had great interest in exploring the different components of the sector and is fascinated by how a seed grows.

Her registration with Unisa coincided with Tongaat Hulett entering in 2011/12 into a working arrangement with the Ntwashini Community Trust to accelerate the sugarcane development initiative. The Ntwashini claimant community had successfully claimed for the restoration of land rights in terms of the Restitution Land Rights Act of 1994. A total of 1 200-hectares was restored to the community and approximately 400-hectares was dedicated to sugarcane development. Tongaat Hulett continues to have a working relationship with the trust. In 2019/20, the trust delivered 30,119 tonnes, created 125 jobs and paid R5.2m in wages.

## Education, training, capacity building programme

One of the key pillars of the working agreement between Tongaat Hulett and the Ntwashini Community Trust was the education and training and capacity building programme. The trustees wanted to ensure that while Tongaat Hulett was assisting with the implementation of the sugarcane development programme, there was also a transfer of skills to youth in the community. Dube was identified as a recipient of the education and training and capacity building programme.

In 2013, Dube was sponsored by Tongaat Hulett to attend the junior certificate course in sugarcane agriculture. She was also sponsored in 2015 to attend the senior certificate course in agriculture. The junior certificate course is a three-week course which seeks to introduce students to sugarcane agriculture while the senior course is a five-week intense programme seeking to produce specialists in sugarcane agriculture. Both courses were provided by the South African Sugar Research Institute.

WARNING

## How child abuse increases heart disease risk



Child abuse may lead to heart problems.

LONDON

Children should enjoy optimal physical, emotional and psychological development. Apart from having a happy childhood, these goals also play a key role in disease prevention.

A new study published in the Heart Journal indicates that the emotional well-being of children influences their risk of suffering from cardiovascular disease (CVD) in future.

Cardiovascular disease describes a range of ailments that affect the heart and blood vessels. They include heart failure, abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia), heart valve problems, heart infections and narrowing of blood vessels. These conditions can lead to effects like heart attacks and strokes. Based on the study, adults who were mistreated in childhood appear to have a higher risk of CVD.

Women especially, the research says, were more likely to have heart disease following a childhood that involved physical and sexual abuse or neglect. During the study, scientists from the University of Bristol's Medical School assessed and compared associations between childhood maltreatment and cardiovascular disease in men and women in the UK.

157,000 participants

They accomplished the task by analysing responses to an online mental health questionnaire completed by 157,311 participants from the UK Biobank, a database designed to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. The people selected had information on physical, sexual or emotional abuse, as well as emotional or physical neglect.

They suffered from high blood pressure, heart problems caused by narrowed heart arteries, cerebrovascular disease (disorders that affect blood supply to the brain) and other forms of cardiovascular disease. Emotional neglect was the most common type of childhood maltreatment (22 percent), followed by physical abuse in men (21pc) and emotional abuse in women (18pc).

An in-depth analysis of these findings revealed that all types of maltreatment were associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease in both sexes. However, all forms of maltreatment were more common in women except for physical abuse, which was more prevalent in men.

The results further showed that the prevalence of childhood maltreatment decreased with increasing age, except for sexual abuse in men that did not vary, and physical neglect, which in-

creased across age categories. Younger participants also reported a higher number of maltreatment types, especially women. The occurrence of CVD was 54.3 percent in men and 40.3 percent in women.

"All types of maltreatment were associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease in both men and women, with stronger associations in the latter and in younger participants," noted the researchers, led by Dr Ana Gonçalves Soares from the University of Bristol's Medical School.

"Interventions that ameliorate the negative effects of childhood maltreatment are needed, as well as more understanding of the pathways that link childhood maltreatment to cardiovascular disease and whether they differ by sex, types of maltreatment and type of cardiovascular disease." While physical scars might heal with time, the emotional types often cause long-lasting impacts that hurt sense of self, future relationships and ability to function at home, work and school.

Some of these effects include lack of trust and relationship difficulties, as well as core feelings of being worthless. Hypertension, a major contributor to the CVD burden has been rising in Kenya over the past 20 years.

## INTERVIEW

# StanChart enhances platform to support government payments



Part 2 of an interview with Christopher Vuhahula (pictured), Chief Operating Officer of Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania:

**As technology advances so do the cyber criminals who come up with new ways of carrying out their cybercrime activities online - How is your Bank ensuring security for your clients?**

The more we move our everyday activities online, the more exposed we are to a new array of threats, and the more sophisticated these threats are becoming. This is true for online banking, as well as any other online activity. Having said this, online security measures have come a long way in the last few years and digital banks now offer the same level of protection as their traditional brick-and-mortar counterparts.

Criminal use of cyber tools and channels is on the increase. Phishing, which is the act of sending fake e-mails from reputable companies in an attempt to get user information, is one of the most common threats. This is closely followed by Vishing, Trojan Horses, Mule Operations, and many other threats which we must take into consideration when operating online.

At Standard Chartered, as we continue to develop and evolve our digital offering, cybersecurity continues to be a top priority. Our banking systems are managed by skilled experts and protected by multiple security lines of defense, including firewalls and encryption. We also constantly monitor threats and online activities round the clock to detect any fraud and take preventive measures to ensure accounts are kept safe.

**Getting back onto the GePG platform, are there any challenges that are being faced either by your Bank or your clients and how are you tackling them?**

As noted earlier, there has been wide training by both the Bank and Authorities such as the Tanzania Revenue Authority. From the Bank's perspective the upgrade of Straight2Bank to Straight2Bank NextGen has not impacted our clients' operations.

There continues to be a smooth transition as our clients move to the new platform. On the other hand, there are Government entities that are multi-banked.

Standard Chartered Bank has pioneered a solution within our Straight2Bank NextGen Solution such that in a situation where a government institution does not have an account with our Bank, the Straight2Bank NextGen system will provide our clients with the options to be able to direct the payments to the respective Bank at which the Agency holds an account or accounts. This capability further supports the Government initiative to collect revenue as well as offers convenience to our clients.

**What is your advice to individuals who are still skeptical about using digital platforms for banking?**

We have seen the banking landscape evolve due to more and more users adopting online and mobile banking into their daily financial activities. In fact, according to a report by fintech analysts, Jupiter Research, last year digital banking users worldwide were expected to hit the 2 billion mark, with no signs of slowing down. The trend is set to continue with this growth at an estimated rate of ten percent per year.

Locally in Tanzania, I have touched on the digital uptake in line with the young population. At our Bank we continue to see most banking transactions being done via our online and mobile platforms. I have also touched on the exponential uptake of our Full Digital Bank on Mobile through which we have more than quadrupled our Clients and Accounts since we launched it in February last year.

This is indicative of how digital is becoming the new norm: the way we transact with each other and with brands is becoming more digital. I would, therefore, urge Tanzanians to leverage on Digital Banking. At Standard Chartered we will continue to invest in seamless online and mobile platforms, and we aim to provide as much freedom and accessibility to our services, and above all, we want to ensure our customers' banking journey is a memorable one.

## EXTRAORDINARY

## Female motorbike rider on 'gear shifting' stereotypes

KIGALI

Marie Louise Karegeya is not your ordinary girl. As a female motorcyclist, she is flaring up courage and a spirit of adventure among fellow women.

Karegeya goes on with her daily routine as swiftly as you would any other job -pursuing and transporting passengers. Her main areas of work are around Kabuga, Nyabugogo, Kimironko, Remera, and Nyanza-Kicukiro. She joined this occupation three years ago after dropping out of high school due to financial constraints.

However, instead of sitting at home, she thought it wise to find employment and support her parents financially. As the second born of five children, Karegeya was only 18 years old when she became a motorist. Her tender age and gender became a challenge as was she scorned by passengers and fellow motorists as well.

Marie Louise Karegeya was only eighteen years old when she became a motorist. She recalls the intimidation starting off right on her first day, and that this made it so hard for her to meet people and interact with them.

"Even standing among other motorcyclists was really hard, everything was so different. Nothing was easy but I wasn't scared because there was a lady I knew who was a motorcyclist. She gave me all the support and guidance I needed. She showed me that all was possible, I had someone I could look up to and this gave me strength," she says.



Marie Louise Karegeya was only eighteen years old when she became a motorist.

### Beating stereotypes

Karegeya recalls a time when her mother had given birth to a baby. Because the baby was a girl, some family friends consoled instead of congratulating her mother, saying that one who gives birth to a girl is met with misfortune. "That thing bothered me a lot and I kept on asking myself why girls and women were always associated with problems," she says.

From then on, she vowed to be different

and decided to work hard and become all she could regardless of her gender. This is the very reason that pushed her to find a job out of her comfort zone, to show that indeed women can be who they want to be without limitations.

On the road Karegeya says she is lucky to not have had any serious accident in the three years she has worked as a motorist. And though she regards herself as a cautious rider, she attributes her safety to the grace of God.

"I try to be careful too, I don't trust those I meet on the road. I do my best to be as cautious as possible for the sake of my life and that of my passenger. I know that when I am on the road, it's only God because there was a time I almost had an accident. It would have claimed my life and that of the passenger but for some reason the car that was going to knock us stopped only inches away from the bike," she narrates.

### Challenges on the job

The 21-year-old says starting was really hard and among the issues that bothered her, was knowing the different directions and places, because at times she would lose direction and the customer would complain, or she would charge less money because she didn't know the distance. When she first started out, some passengers would learn that she was a woman and they would get scared. This, she says, affected her confidence.

Others would hear her voice and wondered why a man had a female voice. "They would never comprehend the fact that it was a woman riding them because physically it was hard for them to see me since we are usually dressed in big coats and pants plus the helmet." Karegeya also criticises fellow motorcyclists who tormented her with offensive words and language.

"Some were even abusive, cursing me that I would never be fit to be a mother or someone's wife. These words used to hurt me and at times I chose to distance myself as a way of escaping them. But this never discouraged me, I continued to struggle till today," she says. Her persistence is now paying off as she can now pay school fees for her siblings, invested in farming and is also on her way to own her first motor bike.

"My job has been a blessing to me and my family. Right now the motor bike I ride is on credit, I am paying it in instalments but after I finish payments, it's going to be mine. I believe that after I am done paying the loan, I will manage to do even a lot more," she adds.

She sees herself taking up a vocational course to brush up on her skills in other fields, but being a loyal motorist, she also hopes to become a driver in the near future. Her journey into male dominated fields has taught her that anything is possible as long as one commits to making it work. "I have learnt to trust and believe in myself and never lose hope."

## FRUSTRATION

## Parents threaten to sue State if schools are not open Sept

NAIROBI

Parents of school going children have threatened to sue the State if it fails to order reopening of schools by September. In a letter written to Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha, the parents say there is no legal or scientific justification for extended closure of schools.

They argue countries like Sweden, UK, Japan, Germany, Italy, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, DRC and most States in the USA have reopened their learning institutions for in-person schooling, despite the covid-19 pandemic.

"Our instructions are to demand from you...that you forthwith declare -and not later than August 18 2020- the immediate resumption of open schools and learning institutions in Kenya, which in any event should be open not later than September 1, 2020," read the written by lawyer Harrison Kinyanjui on behalf of the parents.

In July, Prof Magoha announced all basic learning institutions will re-open in January next year, as that is when the virus curve is expected to have flattened. The Ministry shelved plans for phased reopening of schools that was scheduled to start in September following a rising covid-19 infection curve towards the set date.

# Zambia's vice president tests positive for Covid-19

LUSAKA

Zambia's Vice President Inonge Mutukwa, on Wednesday tested positive for the coronavirus, the presidency said in a statement, which

also said her condition was stable and she was in self-isolation at home. "The vice president has some mild symptoms that are being managed appropriately ... She is in high spirits and working virtually ..." the statement

said. This comes at a time when Zambia's confirmed Covid-19 cases on Wednesday surpassed the 10,000-mark, signifying the continued surge in cases. Zambian President Edgar Lungu

said his vice could have contracted the virus from her daughter who had earlier been positively diagnosed. "I have wished Her Honour the Republican Vice President Mrs Inonge Mutukwa Wina a quick recovery after she tested

positive for #Covid\_19 following a positive result of her daughter with whom she stays with," Lungu said in a tweet. According to figures released by the health ministry, the country recorded 237 new cases in the last 24

hours, bringing the cumulative cases to 10,218. In May, Zambia announced that the health minister Chitalu Chilufya had tested positive for the virus, but he has since recovered. Two months later, 15 Zambian lawmakers tested positive



## WORLD

## Obama assails his successor as 'deeply unfit'

FORMER US president Barack Obama has blamed his successor Donald Trump for the deaths of 170,000 people from the coronavirus pandemic in the United States and the millions of jobs lost in the ensuing recession.

Obama, 59, himself a barrier breaker as the nation's first black president, warned that the country could falter if Trump is reelected, a stunning rebuke of the White House incumbent that was echoed by Kamala Harris at the Democratic National Convention on Wednesday night as she embraced her historic role as the first black woman on a national political ticket.

His assertion that Trump, a Republican, is incapable of meeting the demands of the presidency echoed the remarks from his wife, Michelle Obama, on Monday, that Trump "simply cannot be who we need him to be".

On Twitter, Trump responded to Obama's appearance in all capital let-

ters, suggesting Obama's decision to endorse Biden only after his Democratic rivals dropped out indicated doubts about Biden's candidacy.

Throughout their convention, the Democrats have summoned a collective urgency about the dangers of Trump as president. In 2016, they dismissed and sometimes trivialized him. Now they are casting him as an existential threat to the United States.

Yet on the third night of the four-day convention, Democratic leaders also sought to put forward a cohesive vision of their values and policy priorities, highlighting efforts to combat climate change and tighten gun laws. They drew a sharp contrast with Trump, portraying him as cruel in his treatment of immigrants, disinterested in the nation's climate crisis and over his head on virtually all of the nation's most pressing challenges.

Democrats demonstrated a hope that



Former US president Barack Obama

Biden, a 77-year-old white man, can revive the coalition that helped put Obama into office, with minorities, younger voters and college-educated women blunting Trump's lock on many white and rural voters.

The evening marked a celebration of the party's leading women, including remarks from Hillary Clinton, the first woman to become a major ticket presidential nominee; House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren.

Harris, a 55-year-old California senator and the daughter of Jamaican and Indian immigrants, addressed race and equality in a personal way that Biden cannot when he would formally accept his party's presidential nomination on Thursday night.

"There is no vaccine for racism. We have got to do the work," said Harris, her words emphatic though she was speaking in a largely empty arena near Biden's Delaware home.

"We've got to do the work to fulfill the promise of equal justice under law," the Democratic nominee for vice-president said. "None of us are free until all of us are free."

Just 76 days before the election, Biden must energize the

disparate factions that make up the modern Democratic Party a coalition that spans generation, race and ideology. And this fall voters must deal with concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic that has created health risks for those who want to vote in person and postal slowdowns for mail-in ballots, which Democrats blame on Trump. Democrats hope that Harris and Obama, in particular, can help bridge the divide between those reassured by Biden's establishment credentials and those craving bolder change.

READ MORE: Biden to start considering running mates, consulted Obama

The pandemic forced Biden's team to abandon the traditional convention format in favor of an all-virtual affair that has eliminated much of the pomp and circumstance that typically defines political conventions.

Agencies

## African leaders demand swift release of detained Mali president

NAIROBI

AFRICAN leaders strongly condemned the military coup on Tuesday in Mali during which President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita was seized by mutinying soldiers.

The leaders who included Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and his counterparts from South Africa, DR Congo, Rwanda and Mozambique among others also demanded the immediate release of Keita.

In a statement issued in Nairobi on Friday after a virtual meeting on Thursday evening, the leaders also called for the immediate release of senior members of his administration, among them the country's Prime Minister Boubou Cisse.

Kenyatta urged for a "speedy, peaceful and democratic" resolution of the crisis while South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called for dialogue to restore peace and stability in the West African country.

President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) rallied African countries to take a firm position on the matter saying the coup was "dangerous for democracy in Africa".

Keita (pictured) resigned on Wednesday after being detained in a coup launched by mutinous troops.

Meanwhile, the leaders who spoke during the virtual meeting of the African Union Bureau also discussed the continental response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Regional Economic Communities (RECs), African special envoys on COVID-19 and the Director of Africa CDC John Nkengasong.

During the meeting, President Kenyatta said Africa needs to elevate its global partnerships in the search for a COVID-19 vaccine so as to "ensure that African countries are not further marginalized but are positioned to be among the first line of beneficiaries, once a breakthrough is made."

He commended the special envoys for their efforts in helping the continent deal with the health and socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

"The economic challenges we face require concerted multilateral effort, such as prioritizing debt cancellation and Bretton Woods led relief package that do not exacerbate emerging local challenges," he said.

In his report, Nkengasong informed the leaders that despite crossing the one million mark of COVID-19 infections, Africa had in the last two weeks witnessed a 37 percent reduction in reported daily infections.

Nkengasong said seven COVID-19 vaccine trials were nearing World Health Organization (WHO) approval. Four African countries among them Kenya are participating in the clinical trials for these vaccines.

He said Africa targets to vaccinate 60 percent of her population at an estimated cost of 10 to 15 billion US dollars once the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available.

Xinhua

## Hamas ready to participate in inter-Palestinian meeting in Moscow, says Lavrov

MOSCOW

THE Hamas leadership informed Russia that it would be ready to participate in a meeting of the main Palestinian parties and movements when it is organized in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Trud newspaper.

The foreign minister noted that the most important prerequisite for resuming direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations is restoring Palestinian unity on the political platform of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"In this regard, we welcomed the timely steps of Fatah and Hamas on the road to overcoming the long-term split, which were announced on July 2 during a joint press conference of authorized representatives of Fatah and Hamas in a video format," Lavrov recalled.

"For our part, we will continue to work with the Palestinians in order to consolidate and develop the emerging hopeful tendency. We are planning to hold a regular meeting of representatives of the main Palestinian parties and movements in Moscow as soon as the sanitary and epidemiological situation allows.

In early July this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who positively reacted to this proposal of ours," Lavrov said. "The leadership of Hamas also informed us of its readiness to take part in such an event," the minister added.

Agencies

## Beijing says residents can go mask-free as COVID cases drop

BEIJING

HEALTH authorities in China's capital Beijing have removed a requirement for people to wear masks outdoors, further relaxing rules aimed at preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus after the city reported 13 consecutive days without new cases.

Despite the relaxed guidelines, a large proportion of people continued to wear masks in Beijing yesterday.

Some said the mask made them feel safe, while others said social pressures to wear the masks were also a factor.

"I think I can take off my mask anytime, but I'll need to see if oth-

ers accept it. Because I'm afraid that people would be scared if they see me not wearing mask," one 24-year old Beijing woman surnamed Cao told Reuters.

It's the second time Beijing's health authorities have relaxed guidelines on mask wearing in the capital, which has largely returned to normal after two rounds of lockdowns brought it to a standstill.

Beijing's municipal Centers for Disease Control first said residents could go without masks in outdoor areas in late April, though the rules were swiftly reversed in June after a new outbreak in a large wholesale market in the city's south.



A boy sits on a bike's basket as his mother rides along a street in Beijing on Thursday. (AFP)

China has reported no new locally transmitted cases on the mainland for five days after successfully controlling flare ups in the capital, Xinjiang and elsewhere.

Experts say the key to the country's success in controlling the disease has been the strict enforcement of local rules, including wearing masks, mandatory home quarantine and participating in mass testing.

Authorities reported 22 imported cases in the mainland on for Aug. 20, and has closed its borders to most non-Chinese citizens. The country has reported a total of 84,917 cases since the outbreak began.

Agencies

## Beyond Harris cheer, there's more to do

New York

THE head of an organization that has monitored women in US politics for more than 20 years has hailed the "history-making" selection of Senator Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's Democratic running mate in the 2020 presidential election, but said more needs to be done to ensure gender equality in high office.

"There is still an entrenched stereotype of what a successful vice-president candidate looks like in this country, because for hundreds of years it has been a straight white man," said Amanda Hunter, the director of research and communications at the Barbara Lee Family Foundation, a nonpartisan organization aimed at advancing women's representation in politics.

Harris, who is also California's former attorney-general, would be the first female vice-president if Biden defeats United States President Donald Trump in No-

vember.

Hunter said that there is an "imagination barrier" when it comes to having a woman vice-president, "not to mention a woman president ... Senator Kamala Harris has the opportunity to throw out the rule book and chart her own course."

Harris' nomination is only the third time in US history that a woman has been nominated as a presidential running mate.

And she breaks even more ground because she is the first black and Asian-American woman to get the role.

Kathleen Dolan, chair of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's political science department, said: "The situation of women in American politics has changed significantly since 1984 when Ferraro was the first woman nominated for vice-president. In 1984, there were 24 women in Congress. Today there are 127." Geraldine Ferraro, a mother of three-faced an onslaught of sexism and was



shamed for being a working mother.

## Sexist and racist attacks

Harris was able to use her role as a stepmother of two children to her advantage, painting herself in a softer light by mentioning her stepchildren's nickname for her,

"Mamala".

However, she has not escaped sexist and racist attacks.

Trump said she was "disrespectful" and "horrible" to Biden and "extraordinarily nasty" for the way she questioned Brett Kavanaugh during his confirmation hearing for the Supreme Court in

2018.

She also has faced baseless allegations by conservative law professor John Eastman who wrote in Newsweek that she could be ineligible to serve as vice-president because neither of her immigrant parents her father was born in Jamaica and her mother in India were US citizens before her birth.

That has been debunked, as Harris was born in Oakland, California, in 1964, and is considered a natural-born US citizen under the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

## Newsweek issued an apology.

Dolan believes that despite such challenges, women continue to make strides in politics.

Now 101 women serve in the House of Representatives.

"We have had an increasing number of women run for office at all levels since then, and have had the first woman candidate for president as well," she said, referring to Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee in 2016. Agencies

## Tianjin attracts high-level talents with high-quality development

CHINA'S Tianjin municipality recently unveiled its half-year economic performance, which revealed generally improving quality and optimized structure of its economy.

Coordinating epidemic prevention and control with economic and social development, Tianjin has secured a sound performance with constantly optimized industrial structure and robust momentum of new growth drivers, which vitalized the confidence for realiz-

ing high-quality development.

In the recent years, while steadfastly restructuring and upgrading industries, Tianjin has placed its focus on both development quality and benefit. It has promoted high-quality development and worked earnestly on intelligentization, big data and cloud computing to empower traditional industries with new technology.

With complete manufacturing categories, the municipality has witnessed

emerging smart manufacturing. An ecological chain of innovative development is gradually taking shape and improving.

Tianjin has placed high importance on attracting investors in "smart industries," renewing policies, offering capitals and improving environment to intensify sci-tech input, foster innovative entities, introduce high-level talents and establish high-level innovation platforms. Apart from introducing enterprises from outside, it also focused on providing market

space and application scenarios for enterprises.

It accelerated the synergetic work resumption of industrial and supply chains, and helped connect upper- and lower-stream enterprises. A batch of high-tech smart industrial clusters in internet security, biological medicine and power battery have been established, offering a strong power for industrial restructuring and upgrading.

In the past, employees followed in-

industries, but today, it is the other way around - industries follow high-level talents. To be specific, talents, technology, capital and projects gather in places with great business environment and sound ecology. Now, Tianjin is more and more recognized in its efforts to improve its environment and favored by more and more job-seekers.

A policy system that is highly feasible and targeted has been built in Tianjin in the recent years for innovative develop-

ment and attracting sci-tech investment.

In the next five years, the government of the municipality will introduce and nurture at least 100 high-tech startups, and invest in them to reduce their risks.

The government will withdraw its capital after these entities secure stable development. This mode will help establish a virtuous circle of investment and facilitate the growth of quality enterprises.

People's Daily





## Tokyo Games postponement presents quandary for ticket buyers



In this Jan. 15, 2020, file photo, tickets for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics are on display, in Tokyo. The unprecedented postponement of the Tokyo Olympics until next year due to the coronavirus pandemic, has left buyers of millions of tickets in a quandary. Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee say the Games will take place, but they have offered few details about how. (AP Photo)

TOKYO

WHEN it comes to Olympic tickets, the Latin expression "caveat emptor" often applies: "Let the buyer beware."

The unprecedented postponement of the Tokyo Olympics has left buyers of millions of tickets in a quandary. Will the games happen next year? Will non-Japanese fans be allowed? Will there be any fans? How will health and travel restrictions be applied? Will there be a vaccine and quarantines?

Tokyo organizers and the International Olympic Committee say the games will open on July 23, 2021, and the competition schedule remains virtually unchanged. But they've offered few details, and specifics aren't expected until the fall and into next year as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

"We have some people saying there is no way Tokyo 2020 is happening, and other people are saying it's absolutely going to happen and I'm going to be there for every moment of it," said Ken Hanscom, the chief operating officer of the Los Angeles-based firm TicketManager.

Hanscom isn't connected with Olympic ticketing, but his company manages big-event tickets for corporate clients. He's also organized a popular Facebook page that's a go-to for Tokyo ticket information.

Olympic ticketing is always confusing, a maze of interests including official ticket resellers, national Olympic committees and sports federations, sponsors and advertisers, and local organizers and the IOC.

Invariably at every Olympics, an event is listed as "sold out" although the venue is half-filled because some VIPs or hospitality guests haven't shown up.

Four years ago in Rio de Janeiro, IOC member Patrick Hickey of Ireland was arrested for scalping tickets. He has maintained his innocence. Japan has passed an anti-scalping law specifically because of the games, though it has several loopholes.

The Chinese e-commerce, data and technology company Alibaba is taking over ticketing for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, and likely beyond. Alibaba owns

Damai, one of China's largest ticketing platforms, and is also an IOC sponsor.

Olympic tickets for residents of Japan were sold through the local organizing committee. It says refunds for the postponement "will be carried out" no earlier than this fall. This seems straightforward.

It's more complicated for non-Japan residents.

Those outside Japan purchase through so-called Authorized Ticket Resellers appointed by national Olympic committees. They can charge a 20% handling fee on tickets, and are allowed to package desirable tickets with premium hotel packages. They also set the foreign currency exchange rates.

In Brazil four years ago, CoSport, the ATR for the United States, used a currency exchange rate that drove up ticket prices.

There are dozens of ATRs, and they've applied varied terms, conditions and deadlines for seeking refunds. The largest ATRs are: CoSport/Jet Set Sports, the only ATR for the United States; Cartan, which covers much of Latin America; MATCH Hospitality for Brazil and Russia; Kingdom Sports for much of Asia and Africa; Fanatic Sports for India.

Christopher Chase, an attorney based in New York who specializes in sports, intellectual property and media, looked at the "Terms and Conditions" set out by Tokyo organizers regarding ticket use. He said the "force majeure" clause was defined broadly enough to cover the pandemic and health crisis.

"Force majeure" spells out unforeseeable circumstances that prevents a contract from being fulfilled.

But he noted that local organizers had already committed to paying refunds for the postponement, as have many ATRs.

"It's all a bit confusing as each set of terms seem to direct to the other party's (terms)," wrote Chase, a partner in the law firm Frankfurt Kurnit. "But it does appear that tickets refunds are possible, regardless of whether a force majeure event occurs."

AP

## Bank now sponsors 2020 Ndondo Cup competition

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

A POPULAR street football tournament, known as 'Ndondo Cup', which has kicked off this month, has gained a boost as the KCB Tanzania has confirmed to offer financial backing for the event.

Cosmas Kimario, the KCB Tanzania's Managing Director, speaking during the announcement of the bank's sponsorship, disclosed the institution has dished out 50m/- for the competition.

The showpiece has offered platform for identification and promotion of talented young soccer players in Tanzania.

Kimario stated the Ndondo Cup's success has prompted his bank to opt to support the event in an effort to improve the competition's standard and ultimately produce better performers.

"We have seen how the competition has, apart from offering entertainment to Dar es Salaam soccer followers, become a platform for identification of talented players," he said.

"We have therefore felt we, in cooperation with the competition organizers, can make it a much better event and more beneficial to the country's soccer," he disclosed.

The KCB Bank boss stated his bank has turned into an important stakeholder in the game at the domestic level and they expect to invest in the sport and contribute to development.

"Apart from our primary business, namely offering the best banking service to Tanzanians, we have invested in various



The KCB Tanzania's Managing Director, Cosmas Kimario (C), speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the bank's sponsorship for the Ndondo Cup 2020 competition. Looking on are (R) MultiChoice Tanzania Managing Director, Jacqueline Woiso, and PlusTV Channel's Director, Ramadhani Bukini. The PlusTV Channel will telecast the competition via DSTV. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT.

community projects that include sports promotion," he said.

The Ndondo Cup, organized by Clouds Media Group, is held for the seventh year in a row and the competition has earned much popularity, given it has produced over 100 players who have sealed contracts with several clubs, which participate in the domestic top flight, and the ones that are outside Tanzania.

The competition's coordinator, Shaffi Dauda, pointed out that the showpiece will now be telecast live via the PlusTV channel in the DSTV, thanks to KCB Bank sponsorship.

He disclosed the competition's popularity will obviously soar as a result of the deal.

"Honestly, following the bank's sponsorship and the live broadcast of the competition will make the showpiece more popular and boost chances for our players to land opportunity to showcase their skills both in and outside

the country," he stated.

"This a truly important achievement, particularly in the sport's progress in the country."

PlusTV Channel's Director, Ramadhani Bukini, said they have prepared well for the assignment, insisting they have set out to make Tanzanians and other soccer followers in the rest of the world enjoy Ndondo Cup.

"We feel proud to be one of the partners for this tournament, as you know, the Plus TV Channel is watched by many countries in Africa via DSTV therefore we give soccer lovers chance yto watch this tournament live," he stated.

MultiChoice Tanzania Managing Director, Jacqueline Woiso, pointed out domestic soccer competitions have for many years not been watched by other countries, a situation which has frustrated the development of sports domestically.

"We definitely know soccer players are putting their skills

to show whenever they feature in matches. If the competitions are not watched by other countries how can people know our players' efficiency," she queried.

Jacqueline noted the live telecast of the Ndondo Cup via PlusTV Channel in the DSTV is something Tanzanians should feel proud of, given the showpiece's broadcast will not only put domestic soccer to show but also make the country known internationally.

"Telecasting Tanzania's soccer to other countries via our channel is something worth feeling proud of. Obviously, the showpiece's standard will improve tremendously," she disclosed.

"With KCB Bank sponsorship, the competition will be more popular and attract more fans from across Africa."

The Ndondo Cup 2020 showpiece will be played for two months, involving 34 outfits in the preliminary stage.

Sixteen sides will then progress to round of 16, seeking qualification for the last eight stage.

Four outfit will thereafter sail through to the semi-finals to lock horns for a place in the final, which will bring together the best sides in the Ndondo Cup 2020.

The showpiece has brought about much enthusiasm, given plenty of soccer followers from all parts of Dar es Salaam are thronging the venues to watch the competition's games, which are taking place at Mwalimu Nyerere Primary School, Urafiki na Bandari venues.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) controls the ball against Portland Trail Blazers guard Anfernee Simons (1) during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

## Anthony Davis helps Lakers rout Trail Blazers to tie series

LAKE BUENA VISTA, FLA.

THE Los Angeles Lakers learned their lesson.

Anthony Davis had 31 points and 11 rebounds and the top-seeded Lakers bounced back from an opening loss to rout the Portland Trail Blazers 111-88 on Thursday night in Game 2 of the first-round Western Conference playoff series.

"Obviously, this is an important game for us," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We have tremendous respect for them. We're going to have to battle the way we did tonight in every game this series."

Davis scored 28 points in Game 1, but made just 8 of 24 shots. In Game 2, he made 13 of 21.

"I just wanted to come out tonight with the mindset tonight to be aggressive and to help my team on both ends of the floor and do whatever I had to do to help the team win," he said.

LeBron James had 10 points, six

rebounds, seven assists and six turnovers for the Lakers. He had 23 points, 17 rebounds and a playoff career-high 16 assists in Game 1.

The Trail Blazers stunned the Lakers 100-93 in Game 1, but things went horribly wrong in Game 2. A poor performance got worse when All-Star guard Damian Lillard dislocated the index finger on his left hand in the third quarter. The team said X-rays were negative.

"It's just sore," Lillard said. "A little bit tender to the touch. Dislocated it. A little bit sore, a little bit swollen. Uncomfortable."

Portland coach Terry Stotts said it's too early to determine Lillard's status for Game 3.

Lillard was held to 18 points Thursday after ripping the Lakers for 34 in Game 1.

Davis scored 21 points in the first half to help the Lakers take a 56-39 lead. The Trail Blazers' high-powered offense shot 35% in the half.

Early in the third quarter, Davis aggressively grabbed a defensive rebound, then fired a long pass to Kentavious Caldwell-Pope for a breakaway jam that gave the Lakers a 63-41 lead.

The Lakers continued to pour it on and led 88-58 after three quarters. Los Angeles led by 32 points in the period.

It was quite a drop-off for The Trail Blazers, who had been one of the best teams in the bubble.

"We didn't relax, they just went after it harder than we did," Lillard said. "It was their night. It didn't help that we didn't play well on the offensive end."

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Bucks still haven't figured out how to slow down Nikola Vucevic. They did shut down his Orlando Magic teammates well enough to tie the Eastern Conference first-round series.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 20 rebounds and Milwau-

kee rode a fast start to beat the Magic 111-96 on Thursday night in Game 2. The victory came two days after the team that boasted the NBA's best regular-season record opened the playoffs by losing 122-110 to Orlando.

"There's an urgency," Antetokounmpo said. "I'm not going to say there's a fear factor - being down - but you know you have to be urgent."

Milwaukee bounced back Thursday, building a 23-point lead in the first half, though Orlando got the margin down to nine in the fourth quarter. Orlando had no points in the paint for the entire first quarter and went nearly eight minutes without a basket during a first-half stretch.

Antetokounmpo said Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer set the tone for Thursday's game with the message he delivered during a film session.

"He told us if we want to win and if we want to go far and if we want to be us, we've got to play defense, and we didn't do that in the first game," Ante-

tokounmpo said. "I think everybody took that personally. Nobody liked that. Nobody wants to hear that he's not playing hard enough, so I think whole team came out playing hard. Everybody was playing hard."

Brook Lopez scored 20 points and Pat Connaughton had 15 on 5-of-8 3-point shooting for Milwaukee. Eric Bledsoe had 13 points and Donte DiVincenzo added 11.

The Bucks withstood another huge effort from Vucevic, who followed up his 35-point effort in the opener by scoring 32 points. Nobody else on the Magic scored over 12 points.

"He's a very, very good player," Budenholzer said. "We have a ton of respect for him, but I think overall our defense was in a good place."

That was particularly true in the first half.

After Vucevic made a jump shot to cut Milwaukee's lead to four with 5:34 left in the first quarter, the Magic missed their next 13 field-goal at-

tempts. Orlando wouldn't make another basket and fell behind by 16 before Terrence Ross hit a jumper with 9:48 remaining until halftime.

But the Magic then missed their next six shots as the Bucks stretched their lead to 23.

"We've got to get the ball moving," Magic coach Steve Clifford said. "We didn't do that early. We did miss some shots. But definitely, their ball pressure -- they were into us more, and it definitely impacted the way we played offense."

Orlando made it somewhat interesting in the second half.

Vucevic scored 16 points in the third quarter alone to help the Magic cut the deficit to 12, though Milwaukee got the margin back up to 20 by the end of the period. Orlando continued to hang around and made it 101-92 on Markelle Fultz's jumper with 3:56 left, but the Magic couldn't get any closer.

AP

## Settled at last, Neymar ready to deliver for PSG on biggest stage

**LISBON**

PARIS Saint-Germain's fortunes in the Champions League in recent years have been inextricably linked to those of Neymar, even before they bought the Brazilian for a world record fee, and if he maintains his recent form in Sunday's final it may make the difference against formidable Bayern Munich.

At 28, Neymar is desperate to get his hands on another Champions League winner's medal, five years after he won the competition with Barcelona.

If he can play the starring role in a PSG victory -- while Cristiano Ronaldo's Juventus were absent altogether from the 'Final Eight' and Lionel Messi and Barcelona went home in disarray -- he will perhaps be accepted as the best player in the world, even with no Ballon d'Or in this pandemic year.

It would be good timing for Netflix too, with the streaming service currently working on a documentary series about his season in Paris according to reports in Brazil.

And for PSG and their Qatari owners, it would validate their decision to pay 222 million euros (\$264 million) to take him from Barcelona three years ago, after his first two seasons in the French capital were overshadowed by injury and constant reports that he was unsettled.

When Paris signed him in August 2017, they were still reeling in the wake of their spectacular Champions League exit against Barcelona a few months earlier.

After a stunning 4-0 win in the first leg of that last-16 tie, PSG collapsed in the return at the Camp Nou. Barcelona scored three times after the 88th minute, with Neymar hitting two of them, as Barcelona won 6-1. PSG went out, humiliated.

It was not the first time PSG had been stung by Neymar -- when the sides met in the quarter-finals in 2015, he scored the first goal as Barca won 3-1 in France and then scored both in a 2-0 second-leg win.

- **Melodrama** -

But Neymar's first two years at the Parc des Princes were one long melodrama.

A brilliant player who was happy at Barcelona but had been eager

## Flick's 10-month path from interim Bayern coach to Champions League final

**LISBON**

HANSI Flick can write himself into Bayern Munich folklore by lifting the Champions League trophy in Sunday's final to complete his 10-month odyssey from interim boss to treble-winning head coach in his first season.

Flick leads out Bayern against Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon having already secured the Bundesliga and German Cup.

Yet he was only initially appointed caretaker coach when Niko Kovac was sacked last November following a humbling 5-1 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt.

It was the 55-year-old Flick's first job as a Bundesliga head coach.

"We can all be happy that we chose Hansi Flick and put our trust in him," said Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

"He's returned that trust a hundredfold."

Bayern have won 32 of their 35 games under Flick, earning him a contract until June 2023, and arrive in Sunday's final on a 20-match winning streak.

- **Incredible** -

"His development has been incredible," ex-Germany defender Per Mertesacker, head of Arsenal's academy, told daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

During his 10 months in charge, Flick, 55, has put into practice what he learnt in eight years as assistant coach to Germany boss Joachim Loew until 2014.

"Hansi is growing into this 'Jogi' (Loew) role right now," added Mertesacker.

At Bayern, Flick has stepped out of Loew's shadow, stamping his mark with "more focus on training

to step out of Messi's shadow, he never appeared at ease in his new surroundings.

By the summer of 2019 it was no secret he wanted to leave. The move had been a mistake, but then it became clear the transfer back to Barcelona would not happen.

His first campaign in Paris was ruined by a fractured metatarsal which meant he could not help PSG try to overturn a 3-1 first-leg deficit in their Champions League last-16 tie against Real Madrid.

Fast forward to 2019 and a new foot injury forced him to miss both legs of the last-16 defeat by Manchester United.

PSG lost on away goals after conceding a late penalty at home in the second leg. Neymar, watching on, took to Instagram to insult the referee and received a three-match ban.

He did not appear again in a Champions League game for PSG until a 2-2 draw against Real last November. By which time he had accepted his situation and knuckled down.

Now he is central to everything PSG are doing. He is happy too, especially alongside Kylian Mbappe.

"We are more or less the same age and we have a laugh together off the pitch. We hit it off straight away," says Mbappe, who is 21.

"We respect each other, we have a lot of fun. We are also less focused on ourselves now and more worried about the other guys around us, because we understand that we need everyone else to be able to win. We can't do it with just the two of us."

Neymar scored in both legs against Borussia Dortmund in the last 16 and cried afterwards. He was excellent against Atalanta in the quarter-finals and magnificent against RB Leipzig in the semi-finals, even if he did not score in either game.

PSG will hope Neymar -- who has scored 70 times altogether in 84 matches for them -- has been saving his next goal for the final.

"I hope that the good lord will help him to score on Sunday and us to win," said his compatriot Thiago Silva.

**AFP**

and match preparation, making difficult decisions," Mertesacker added.

Thomas Muller, who has seen nine coaches in 12 years with Bayern, is equally impressed.

"Our game hasn't been so well organised since Pep Guardiola (coached Bayern from 2013-16)," said Mueller.

"Hansi Flick has always been a great guy, very clear in what he tells us.

"But I didn't expect him to have the complete package to become Bayern's coach."

Mueller, often benched under Kovac, rewarded Flick's faith with a record 21 assists in the 2019/20 Bundesliga after returning to the starting side.

Flick has managed the delicate feat of keeping Bayern's stars happy without relying on too much rotation.

"He was able to solve our problems as soon as he arrived," said midfielder Corentin Tolisso.

"He's a good coach who talks a lot with his players and gives them a lot of confidence."

German magazine Kicker hailed Flick's impact after winning his first four games as Bayern scored 16 goals without reply.

"In a short space of time, he has given Bayern back its identity," enthused Kicker.

"Bayern are once again dominating: the ball is flowing, they've regained control, the movements between the lines is right. The game is more structured."

Bayern have steamrolled opponents to reach Sunday's final by scoring 42 goals in 10 straight wins.

**AFP**

# PSG vs. Bayern is a UCL final study in contrasts

**BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC**

WHEN the Champions League returned post-lockdown, the one-legged format and general 2020 uncertainty suggested we were ripe for a string of upsets. And while some heavyweights -- Manchester City, Juventus, Atletico Madrid -- did fall to less illustrious opposition, we ended up with two super clubs in the final: Paris Saint-Germain and Bayern Munich.

It is nevertheless a study in contrasts. PSG are in their first final and see it as the next step in the evolution of a super club that, other than its hometown, had nothing super about it until a decade ago. Fueled by heavy Qatari investment but super-savvy in the marketing department, their rise as a brand has been supercharged.

If PSG are the hot tech stock, then Bayern, for whom this is final no. 11, are the reliable blue chip, long established but, equally, capable of innovating and boosting productivity to stay ahead of the curve. It is simplistic to whittle this down to cliches about German efficiency and intensity on the one side and Gallic flair and inventiveness on the other but, in terms of how the two clubs wish to be seen, it's probably not far off.

**The road to Lisbon**

After a rocky start to the domestic campaign that saw manager Niko Kovac replaced by assistant Hansi Flick, Bayern went from strength to strength. Not only did they win the Bundesliga and German Cup (just like last season), they have been on an absolute tear, winning their past 20 games in all competitions (and 28 of their past 29).

They have also won every game they have played in the Champions League -- including a dramatic 8-2 thumping of Lionel Messi's Barcelona at the quarterfinal stage -- and boast a goal difference of plus-34 over nine games, which is frankly absurd.

PSG have been equally dominant



**Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) controls the ball against Portland Trail Blazers guard Anfernee Simons (1) during the second half of Game 2 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)**

in France, winning Ligue 1 as well as both domestic cup competitions. Unlike Bayern, though, they got a legitimate scare in the quarterfinal when they came within seconds of being knocked out by Atalanta, only to be saved by two injury-time goals.

The French league's decision to stop all operations after lockdown means PSG had a four-and-a-half month layoff before returning to play in late July with the French cup finals and Champions League knockout phase.

They have shown no ill effects in terms of results and their most impressive display was in their last game, Tuesday's 3-0 semi-final win over RB Leipzig.

Decisions, decisions ...

Bayern's road-grading run in the Champions League has come off the back of employing a high press, aimed at disrupting the opposition's build-up play and winning possession in the opponents' half. The problem with this approach is that you have to play a "high line" -- with central defenders like Jerome Boateng and David Alaba way up the pitch -- and that makes you vulner-

able to counterattacks.

It happened in the semi-final against Lyon, who could have scored a couple of chances early, and is a greater risk against PSG's front men; Neymar and Kylian Mbappe are not just fast but extremely gifted. The alternative is sitting deeper defensively and being more patient in the build-up. Bayern can do this too, although they risk losing some attacking oomph.

Because every reaction has a counterreaction, PSG manager Thomas Tuchel will have choices to make in midfield to get the right mix of passers (Leandro Paredes, Marco Verratti) and disruptors (Ander Herrera, Idrissa Gueye). Do the French side take the game to Bayern or do they react? PSG are more comfortable doing the former, but might be better off doing the latter.

**Proving the doubters wrong**

Flick was hired on an interim basis and some felt this was going to be a transition year for Bayern, not least because they lost their two most expensive players (Corentin Tolisso and Lucas Hernandez) as

well as their starting center-back (Niklas Sule) to long-term injury.

Instead, they regrouped quickly and were dominant, keeping potential distractions like the contractual situation of key players Thiago Alcantara and Alphonso Davies out of their minds. (Incidentally, while Thiago's future remains undecided, he remains a starter; Davies, meanwhile, signed a new deal in April.)

Star-studded and free-spending, but lacking Bayern's historical gravitas, PSG were seen by some as nouveau riche arrivistes, a collection of egos and hype, assembled without rhyme or reason, who routinely disappointed in the Champions League knockout stage.

But in contrast to past collapses in second legs, not only have they made it to this season's final, but they did so showing resilience, teamwork and, yes, even humility in the face of adversity: qualities the critics didn't believe they had.

**Key men**

Thomas Muller is the Bayern motto -- "Mia San Mia" roughly translates as "we are who we are" -- made flesh. He can look clumsy or ungainly, but usually outworks and outsmarts everybody else on the pitch and generally does whatever it takes to help his team.

PSG broke the world record by some distance when they did a €222 million deal for Neymar in 2017, and while the Brazil-

## Why Arsenal are spending big on Aubameyang, Willian

**BY JAMES OLLEY, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC**

ANYONE questioning the wisdom of Arsenal effectively signing two players over the age of 30 is underestimating the urgency with which Mikel Arteta must return the club to the Champions League.

The Gunners are imminently expected to announce that Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, 31, has penned a new three-year contract to continue a talismanic role in head coach Mikel Arteta's rebuild, and in the same month that Willian, 32, joined on a free transfer from Chelsea.

Although Aubameyang enjoys hero status at Emirates Stadium these days, having scored a remarkable 70 goals in 109 games since arriving from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018, committing such significant wages on a player entering the autumn of his career has been viewed by some as a gamble.

Similarly, Willian has moved across the capital principally because Arsenal were prepared to offer him what Chelsea would not: a three-year deal taking him to the brink of his 35th birthday.

There may be next to no resale value in either transaction, but Arsenal simply cannot afford to think that far ahead. A difficult financial period was on the horizon even before the coronavirus reached England and robbed football clubs across the country of matchday revenue for months. It will be some time before stadiums are allowed to reach capacity again, while there are rumours of broadcasters seeking partial refunds for next season due to the diminished product they will air. Commercial partners are sure to have similar ideas.

And so, the Gunners need the revenues and prestige of Champions League football as soon as possible to avoid drifting further into the wilderness. Retaining and signing proven performers like Aubameyang and Willian is a vital step on this journey.

Former chief executive Ivan Gazidis once claimed that Arsenal budgeted to qualify for the Champions League in three of every four seasons. The club retained a healthy



**Aubameyang has proven his worth to Arsenal, even if he might be approaching the end of his productive years. Simply put, Arsenal need experience like his to get back to the Champions League. (Agencies)**

cash balance that included ring-fenced funds (approximately £30 million) as an insurance policy to maintain their competitiveness if they missed out, a fate Arsene Wenger managed to avoid until the final throes of his 22-year tenure.

Wenger kept the Gunners in the top four despite making £180m profit in player sales between 2009 and 2013, an essential revenue stream to help mitigate the debt created by moving to Emirates Stadium and commercial income that

did not grow at the same pace as their rivals. But Arsenal simply don't possess the same number of saleable assets in their first-team squad these days due to a combination of signings that have not worked out, a crop of youngsters with unproven potential and more than 10 players currently on contracts expiring by 2022.

Although technical director Edu is now aiming to shift as many of those unwanted players as possible, they cannot rely on

other areas of the team needing more urgent attention, specifically centre-back and central midfield.

There is also the message it sends out to the current squad and potential new signings. Aubameyang is a bonafide superstar, a well-liked member of the squad and a genuine draw for Arsenal's transfer targets. It is therefore a different set of circumstances than the contract conundrum Arsenal endured with Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez, two players who were always on the periphery of popularity.

It must be said, Aubameyang didn't have many options to leave given that Barcelona are under huge pressure to cut a bloated wage bill and already have an aging squad, while Chelsea weighed up a move but ultimately signed Timo Werner from Red Bull Leipzig. But keeping the Gabon international is an important statement that for all the cuts and all the financial pessimism around the club, they are serious about trying to return to the Champions League.

### Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

PSG vs. Bayern is a UCL final study in contrasts

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba SC head coach, Sven Ludwig Vandenbroeck, speaks to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an international friendly match between his outfit and Burundi's Vital'O FC, which will take place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## Simba SC hosts Vital'O FC in 'Simba Day'

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MAINLAND Premier League giants, Simba SC, takes on Vital'O of Burundi in an international friendly match at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

Simba SC Head of Information and Communication Department, Haji Manara, said all is set for the game which will be a climax of a week of charity activities held by the outfit, known as 'Simba Week'.

"All is set for the game against our friends from Burundi, Vital'O, it's a game we are looking forward to, I'm asking all football lovers in the country to come and cheer for our team," he said.

He said to make it affordable for everyone to cheer for the hosts, they will use the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and Uhuru Stadium, where people will watch the match on big screens.

"There are a number of activities which we have lined up for tomorrow, we will have music performances from African Stars Band 'Twanga Pepeta', Tunda Man, Major Kunta and Africa's top and popular artiste Nassib Abdul 'Diamond Platinumz'," he stated.

"The players and technical panel will first parade at the Uhuru Stadium to give a chance to supporters, who will watch the game on the big screens at the venue, to see them physically, the fans will then watch the game on the big screens," he said.

Today's game will also help Simba prepare for the Charity Shield game, a season curtain raiser, against Namungo FC which will be played in Arusha next weekend.

Simba SC will use today's event to introduce their newly signed players namely Charles Ilanfy, David Kameta, Joash Onyago, Ibrahim Ame, Larry Bwaya, Chris Magalu and Benard Morrison.

Manara asked all Simba supporters and football lovers in the country to flock the stadiums to have a glimpse of what they will see when the league kicks off early next month.

In the previous interview, he disclosed that Simba courted Vital'O after failing to get top football teams from Cameroon, Egypt, Zambia and other nations due to Coronavirus pandemic.

Many airlines have yet to open as a measure for controlling the spread of the pandemic.

However, he said Vital'O are equally a good side as they have assembled good players for the coming 2020/21 football league.

"The hunt for a team to play with us on our day ('Simba Day') took us to many places like Cameroon, Ghana, Egypt, Zambia and other places but we failed to find a team as many airlines in those countries have yet to resume operation due to Coronavirus pandemic," he disclosed.

"But at the same time, Vital'O are not a weak team, they are in the process of rebuilding their side ahead of the 2020/21 league and on top of that 'Simba Day' is the day for celebrating, not playing high profile friendly match," he maintained.

"Some people (from our rivals, Yanga) are underrating Burundi football, they forget that we have many Burundians coaching our Premier League teams," he said.

"They (Simba SC rivals) are as well linked to a Burundian to be their head coach, so, should we say there is no football in Burundi?" he queried.

## Yanga confirm two more foreign signings



Yanga players take part in training session in Dar es Salaam yesterday to shape up for the 2020/21 season. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IT has been a very busy transfer window at Yanga, and there are still deals being done by the all time record Tanzanian Premier League champions.

Yanga have signed nine players so far, with the latest arrivals Tuisila Kisinda and Mukoko Tonombe from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club joining Bakari Mwamnyeto from Coastal Union, Yassin Mustapha from Polisi Tanzania and Zawadi Mauya from Kagera Sugar.

Other new signings include Abdallah Shaibu from USA's LA Galaxy II, Waziri Junior from Mbao FC, Kibwana Shomari from

Mtibwa Sugar, Burkinabe Yacouba Sogne from Asante Kotoko of Ghana, and Farid Mussa from Spain's CD Tenerife, roped in ahead of the new season.

On Friday, the club's leaders confirmed they will wrap up their transfer business with two more foreign signings before the end of next week.

Yanga vice chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela, revealed that the two players, Michael Sarpong and Carlinhos, will join the team next week as they prepare for the weeklong festival, dubbed 'Wananchi Week', and the resumption of the Vodacom Premier League.

The week, which has seen the

outfit's members and supporters take part in charity activities, will be concluded on a day known as 'Mwananchi Day'.

Sarpong, a Ghanaian centre forward, joins as a free agent from Rwandan giants Rayon Sports where he spent two years while Carlinhos, an Angolan attacking midfielder with an eye for goal, joins from Angola's Interclube.

"Our club is forging ahead with good preparations to ensure that we not only do well on 'Mwananchi Day' but also in the Premier League. You have all seen our signings, this is historic," he disclosed.

"We can safely say that in the

last two or three years we have never made such a big splash in the transfer market as we are doing now."

"We thank everyone, our sponsors who in one way or another have continued to help us ensure we recruit well and have a squad to ensure Yanga perform well," he stated.

"We look forward to introducing our squad, some of the players have arrived, and we look forward to next week having (Michael) Sarpong as well as Carlinhos, this is more proof to the squad depth."

Mwakalebela also revealed the yet to be confirmed new head coach is expected to arrive in the

country by next week.

Yanga have reportedly settled on Burundian coach Cedric Kaze as Luc Eymael's successor.

"And also many would like to know when the new coach arrives, incidentally we expect he will also arrive next week," he disclosed.

Yanga, who finished runners-up last season, will open their 2020/21 campaign with a tricky tie against Salum Mayanga's Prisons at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on September 6.

Yanga's first league meeting with age old rivals Simba has been scheduled for October 18.

## Coast Region athletes enter camp for National Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIXTEEN athletes from Coast Region are set to enter camp at the end of this month to prepare for the coming National Championships slated for mid next month at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Robert Kalyaha, the Coast Region's Athletics Committee's Secretary General, said the athletes will be under coaches Ronald Davis and Dora Kanza.

The runners, he noted, will enter camp at Filbert Bayi Schools (FBS) in Kibaha on August 31 to prepare for the National Championships scheduled for September 12-13.

He said currently all 16 athletes are attending training at their respective clubs and he is optimistic that they will perform well at the championships which will be held for the first time since 2016.

Kalyaha mentioned the 16 athletes selected to represent the region in men's category as Benedictor Ndungoli and Matiko Nyamaranga, both from FBS, who will compete in 200m/400m relay, Amosi Matondo also from FBS and Simon Nungu from Mwinga Mwanga Center, who will compete in 800m/4x400m



Domestic athletes battle it out in the 400m race of a recent competition, organized by Athletics Tanzania (AT), at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

and 200m/4x400m respectively. Elias Tirani from Mwinga Mwanga Center will compete in 100/200/4x400m.

Kalyaha said another Mwinga Mwanga Center athlete Seleman Kibitile will compete in 400m/800m and 4x400m while unattached athletes Joseph Ayub and Paulo Sikukuu will compete in 100m/200m/4x100m and

800m/4x400m respectively.

The coach added Sabasi Mhere from Mzinga High School and unattached runner Yohana Paulo will participate in javelin, shotput and discus.

The ladies' category is dominated by FBS athletes as Regina Mpigachai is expected to compete in 800m/4x400m/1500m,

Gaudensia Paul will race in 400m/800m and 4x400m, Pili Nzoka and Shija Paul will compete in 100m/200m/4x400m respectively.

Siwema Matogoro and Neema Augustine will compete in 200m/4x400m and 1500m/5000m respectively.

"We have named 16 athletes to represent our region at the

coming National Championships, I'm sure they will perform well at the national event," he pointed out.

"I have said so considering the fact that the athletes have been performing well at the development athletics meet which our region has been organizing," he said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

