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# Sugar millers set to lose import permits

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro



The United Arab Emirates' Ambassador to Tanzania, Abdul-Rahman Al Marzouqi (R), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday symbolically presenting a consignment of various commodities to Defence and National Service minister Elias Kwandikwa (2nd-R) to support women with the Peacekeeping Training Centre. He said the items are a UAE government donation. Looking on are Tanzania People's Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Yacoub Hassani (L), UN Women Country Representative Hodan Addou (2nd-L) and UN Resident Coordinator Zlatan Milisic. Photo courtesy of UN

THE government has said that from next year no permit will be issued for sugar processing factories to import the produce to address any shortage that will be experienced.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda made this affirmation here yesterday when speaking to Morogoro regional officials and sugar out-growers during an inspection visit on sugar production in the region.

The current system of allowing sugar millers to import the product is of no benefit to the nation, he stated, cautioning millers to increase production to meet the country's demand.

"This year permits to import sugar will be issued to companies through normal arrangements, but next year there will be no permits for millers and if necessary the Tanzania Sugar Board will be given the permission," he emphasised.

Prof Mkenda said the government is monitoring the performance of sugar millers to see if they've put strategies in place to increase production in tandem with sugarcane growers as the plan is to stop importing the product

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## Coronavirus and food safety: What studies say

JOHANNESBURG

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, not much was known about SARS-CoV-2 (the coronavirus) and its survival in food, on various materials and on surfaces. Since then, several food safety agencies have assessed the risk of potentially acquiring the virus from contaminated food or food packaging. The consensus is that currently, there's no evidence it's a foodborne virus.

The main route of infection is from person-to-person via contact with one another, respiratory droplets and aerosols from coughing, sneezing and talking. Therefore, it's not considered a foodborne virus.

We surveyed the scientific literature to see what it said about the safety of food and SARS-CoV-2. This included the survival of the virus, how it's transmitted and how it can be inactivated in food and on surfaces.

Overall, the evidence suggests that the virus is not a risk to food safety. But it has caused disruptions to the global food supply chain.

One research question was whether the virus is transmitted via the faecal-oral route. The question arose because a study had found viral genetic material in anal swabs and blood taken from patients. This

was an important point because one of the symptoms of COVID-19 is diarrhoea. However, there are no reports to date showing faecal-oral transmission of the virus.

Furthermore, several studies have concluded that diarrhoea in COVID-19 patients isn't likely to occur from ingesting contaminated food. Rather, it's from the pathway of the virus, from the respiratory system to the digestive tract.

Viruses tend to survive well at low temperatures. Freezing can actually preserve them. So it's likely that SARS-CoV-2 would survive freezing of food. But several studies have indicated that this virus and similar ones are inactivated by cooking food at frequently-used temperatures.

The coronavirus appears to be stable at different pH values (3-10) at room temperature. More alkaline and more acidic conditions beyond this range appear to inactivate the virus. This means it's unlikely to survive the acidic environment of the stomach.

It's also likely that the virus in food will be at low concentrations. Importantly, the coronavirus, like other viruses, cannot multiply outside of their hosts. Therefore, it cannot multiply in food.

It's well-established that viruses causing respiratory infections can be transmitted by indirect contact through the environment. This happens when a person touches contaminated surfaces and then touches their mouth, nose or eyes, without first washing their hands.

Various experimental studies on the survival of the coronavirus on different

## MPs urging SIDO to innovate faster

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the Standing Committee on Industries, Trade and Environment of the National Assembly have called on the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO) to enhance technology and innovation in service provision.

They challenged SIDO to adopt modern technologies in its operations, increase innovation in nurturing small industries and thus help to create employment.

The committee's deputy chairperson, Eric Shigongo (Buchosa) said at a familiarization seminar about SIDO and its activities, that the organization should put more efforts in research on making

**SIDO should adopt creativity and new technologies to help solve challenges facing young innovators**

new equipment and machinery.

The organization ought to dwell on making simple modern machinery and take up innovation ideas from youth who do not have the capital to make their ideas work, he said.

"SIDO should adopt creativity and new technologies to help solve challenges facing young innovators," the MP underlined, noting that the organization is well placed to support small industries.

Other members of the committee expressed views on how SIDO can improve its activities, including uplifting the role of information communication technology (ICT).

Industry and Trade deputy minister Exaud Kigaha responded to issues raised by the lawmakers, saying the government will continue empowering SIDO to improve its technological capacity and types of machines using new technology, to produce equipment that suit the current market.

SIDO will continue building industrial

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## Slack mineral purchasing centres: Minister ponders STAMICO licence

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko (pictured) has instructed the Minerals Commission CEO Yahya Samamba to issue a notice of intention to revoke the licence of the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) for failing to establish centres for buying minerals in Geita and Mwanza regions.

The minister was inspecting the



installation of a gold refining plant expected to attain international standard 999.9 purity level, a joint venture project between STAMICO and Rozella General Trading of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at Ilemela area in Mwanza Region.

"This corporation has failed to implement the directives, including setting up other small buying centres at Rwangasa

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and ensure sufficient sugar supply within the country.

"Our problem of sugar shortage is not due to the lack of sugarcane, but the limited ability of factories to process all the sugarcane produced by out-growers," he said, noting that the government's strategy is to ensure that all sugarcane produced by farmers is processed.

Prof Mkenda said in order to ensure sugar availability the ministry encourages the use of quality seeds and irrigation as well as encouraging the construction of new sugar factories.

The Regional Administrative Secretary, Emmanuel Kalobelo, said the region has three sugar factories whose production is still low, a situation that put sugarcane farmers in a tight corner as at the end of the day their canes lack a market. He named those factories Kilombo Sugar Ltd I

and II, which altogether produce 126,000 tonnes and the third is Mtibwa Sugar which produces 50,000 tonnes.

Sugarcane production in Kilombo, primarily by smallholder farmers stands at 800,000 and 1m tonnes annually while the milling capacity stands at 600,000 tonnes of sugarcane from out-growers.

The Tanzania Sugar Board affirms that annual sugar production stands at around 300,000 and this season production is expected to reach 377,527 tonnes, well below the domestic and industrial use which stands at 655,000 tonnes. Other sugar millers are Kagera, TPC and Manyara.

Last May, the government moved to import 25,000 tonnes of sugar to offset an acute shortage of the commodity being experienced throughout the country.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (L) has a quick word with representatives of the city's Aga Khan Hospital and Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam at the weekend shortly after talks during which they expressed interest in investing in Amani Forest in Tanga Region and promoting medical tourism. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Slack mineral purchasing centres: Minister ponders STAMICO licence

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in Geita Region and Itungi in Mbeya Region without any reason at all," he said.

The new plant with a capacity to refine 480kgs of gold ore per day ought to start operating next month, the minister observed.

For his part, STAMICO Acting Director General Dr Venance Mwase said the new plant will propel minerals production and thus boost employment opportunities.

Regional Commissioner John

Mongella said the project will increase opportunities to the residents including employment and skills on many issues on the mining sector.

The refinery plant will add value to locally mined gold before exportation, being built at a cost of 8.8bn/-.

Construction work started March 15 last year and when operational will increase national income through royalty and inspection fees as well local council revenues through service charges, he added.

## MPs urging SIDO to innovate faster

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shades in the regions with programmes aimed at enabling entrepreneurs to establish industries at their areas, he stated.

SIDO has expanded its services and is now in every district countrywide, in an effort to help establish small industries and thus creating new jobs, he said.

SIDO Director General, Prof Sylvester Mpanduji, explained to the MPs that SIDO provides technical services and development of technology and industries, especially technology

of processing strategic crops like cashew nuts, sunflower and refining palm oil, elaborating that SIDO is undertaking the task in its seven centers of Iringa, Mbeya, Lindi, Arusha, Moshi, Shinyanga and Kigoma.

SIDO also provides other services like nurturing innovative projects through technology, training and providing work within its premises, along with linking innovators with financial institutions, he said.

In collaboration with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards

(TBS), the Tanzania Medical Devices Authority (TMDA), the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Government Procurement Services Agency (GPSA), SIDO provides entrepreneurial training in its regional offices, he stated.

SIDO also provides financial services to entrepreneurs with small industries through the National Entrepreneurship Development Fund (NEDF), collateral control firm CGS, the trade credit reinsurance scheme established in collaboration of

SIDO, NSSF, VETA, ABL freight company and NEEC.

SIDO in partnership with CRDB Bank provides loans to agro-processing industries, he stated, noting further that SIDO helped establish 4,410 micro, 3,406 small and 460 medium industries from 2016/17 to 2019/20.

Big industries established with support of the organization include the Iringa based Dabaga, Mwanza Quality Wine, Tausi Coffee in Shinyanga and Mart Super Brand in Manyara, he added.



Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (L) receives a souvenir gift from Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited's head of personal and business banking, Omari Mtiga, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. It was moments before the commencement of celebrations to mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science organised by Vijana ThinkTank, at which the bank donated 10m/- to support the initiative. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Study: Life-long antiviral treatment appears to prevent viral transmission from mother to baby

By Emily Henderson

ANTI-retroviral drugs are a vital tool in the prevention and treatment of HIV.

A new study of pregnant women in Tanzania shows that life-long antiviral treatment also seems to prevent viral transmission from mother to baby. The results of the study, which was conducted in part by researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden and published in Lancet HIV, make a promising contribution to the WHO's work with HIV prevention in low and middle-income countries.

Just over eight years ago, the World Health Organisation (WHO) issued recommendations known as Option B+ for a simpler and more effective prevention and treatment for HIV during and beyond pregnancy in low and middle-income countries. One arm of the Option B+ programme involved ensuring that pregnant

women with HIV were started on a life-long regimen of antiviral drugs, ART, as early as possible during their pregnancy. Option B+ made an important breakthrough in the prevention of the mother-to-baby transmission of HIV.

Lifelong ART intervention can also provide effective protection against progression to more advanced HIV and early death, and prevent the further infection of partners and future children. To date, however, research on how the treatment affects long-term viral levels in pregnant women with HIV in low and middle-income countries with a high HIV burden has been scant.

Now, researchers at Karolinska Institutet, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and Management and Development for Health, have examined the effectiveness over time of Option B+ intervention in Tanzania. According to UNAIDS figures from

2019, 4.8 percent of the Tanzanian population between the ages of 15 and 49, that is 1.7 million people, live with HIV.

The study, which was conducted in Dar es Salaam - Tanzania's largest city - included patient data for 10,161 pregnant women with HIV who had begun antiviral treatment on the Option B+ programme to prevent viral transmission to their unborn babies. At the time of data collection, 5.9 per cent of the city's pregnant women starting antenatal care were HIV-positive. About a third of the study participants had advanced HIV disease.

The researchers measured the level of HIV in the women's blood to gauge the effectiveness of the antiviral treatment over time. The data was collected between 2014 and 2016, and the women were monitored for up to four years.

The results showed that up to

90 percent of the women under study had suppressed viral levels up to four years after starting Option B+ care. In other words, it seems possible that the WHO goal of eliminating transmission from mother to baby can be achieved.

Our study confirms the lasting health benefits of life-long ART for women who go on Option B+ during pregnancy and therefore for their babies, too. The results also point to some other important challenges when it comes to deriving the full long-term benefits of Option B+. To focus, for example, on some sub-groups of women, such as young mothers, mothers who start ante-natal care late during pregnancy and mothers with advanced HIV," said Goodluck Lyatuu, Doctor and Doctoral Student, Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institutet, and Study's First Author.

## Coronavirus and food safety: What studies say

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types of surfaces under different conditions have been conducted. The virus was found to survive on different surfaces for different periods of time, depending on environmental conditions and initial viral load.

Nevertheless, one must be aware that survival may be different to these studies, in a more realistic setting, outside the laboratory. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other similar agencies and organisations don't consider contaminated surfaces a main route of transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

Current consensus is therefore that SARS-CoV-2 is not transmitted by food and is highly unlikely to be transmitted by food packaging

material, but it could be spread by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. It's therefore very important to properly clean and disinfect food contact surfaces and especially high-touch surfaces and utensils in a food environment.

SARS-CoV-2 belongs to the coronavirus family of enveloped viruses, which makes them susceptible to detergents and a variety of other microbicides, even more so than fungi, vegetative bacteria and yeasts.

Studies have shown that the fatty layer surrounding the virus is disrupted, leading to inactivation of the virus when using 0.1% sodium hypochlorite (diluted household bleach), 0.5% hydrogen peroxide and 62%-71% ethanol.

## SunCulture obtains \$11 million for solar-powered irrigation systems

By Special Correspondent

THE solar powered irrigation system supplier SunCulture now has an \$11 million line of credit for the dissemination of its solution in Africa.

The facility was funded by Triodos Investment Management, Nordic Development Fund (NDF), AlphaMundi and the African Development Bank (AfDB) EIF OGEF. It was part of a transaction arranged by SunFunder.

A consortium of investors is opening an \$11 million line of credit for SunCulture, a supplier of solar powered irrigation systems based in Nairobi, Kenya.

New financial partners include the Off-Grid Energy Access Fund of the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Energy Inclusion Facility (OGEF); Triodos Investment Management, the Danish government's Nordic Development Fund (NDF) and the investment company AlphaMundi.

The entire transaction was arranged by SunFunder, a financing company specialised in solar energy. SunCulture, which has already started drawing on

the credit line, believes the facility will make it easier for it to provide solar-powered irrigation systems to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of these land workers use diesel-powered irrigation systems to irrigate their plots. Thanks to solar pumping, farmers save money while reducing the environmental impact of their farms.

SunCulture estimates that the new line of credit made available to it will prevent the emission of 20,000 tonnes of CO2 per year. To facilitate the acquisition of its equipment in rural areas where purchasing power is often low, the Nairobi-based company uses the pay-as-you-go model, which is very common among solar home system suppliers in Africa. Its implementation is facilitated by mobile banking, which is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa.

"SunFunder has set up this facility with a group of like-minded lenders to support an innovative product and business model. We look forward to seeing SunCulture expand into Kenya and new markets," says Surabhi Mathur Visser, SunFunder's Chief Investment Officer.





Mkiwa Diwani (R), secretary of the Tanzania Albino Society in Kinondoni District, pictured in Dar es Salaam at the weekend receiving spectacles on behalf of the society's members approved for the offer after expert screening. It was a donation by Neema Zakaria. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has sent his condolences following the death of Dr Mohamed Seif Khatib, who was the former chairman of the Zanzibar Kiswahili Council (BAKIZA).

Dr Khatib who breathed his last yesterday at the Al-Rahma hospital in Zanzibar also served in several major public posts in Zanzibar and Tanzania mainland.

In a statement issued by the Directorate of Communications, Zanzibar State House, Dr Mwinyi said he has received the information with shock and sadness.

"I have been saddened over the passing on of our colleague. My

## Dr Mwinyi mourns passing of Dr Mohamed Seif Khatib

condolences to the family, friends and relatives. I'm also praying for him to rest in eternal peace," Dr Mwinyi was quoted in the statement.

He said Dr Khatib's death has left big gap inside and outside Zanzibar and he will be remembered for his contributions in the country's development

"I know Dr Khatib very well, he was a self-motivated and hardworking leader, he loved teamwork to ensure that he brings positive outcomes to his work," Dr

Mwinyi said.

The body of Dr Khatib will be laid to rest today at Umbuji in the Central District of Unguja South Region.

Born on January 10, 1951, Dr Khatib held the position of national chairman for the youths' wing of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) from 1978 to 1983.

He was a member of the CCM's National Executive Council from 1978 to 2002.

Between the year 2000 and 2002, Dr Khatib served as Minister

of Home Affairs when Benjamin Mkapa was President.

Dr Khatib later served as Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Information.

When he named his first cabinet on January 4, 2006, retired President Jakaya Kikwete picked Dr Khatib to be the Minister for Information, Culture and Sports.

Subsequently, he was named minister in the Vice-President's Office for Union Affairs on February 12, 2008.

## UN calls for more women in peacekeeping missions

By Henry Mwangonde

THE United Nations (UN) has called for collective efforts to address challenges affecting the participation of women in peacekeeping to achieve the recommended 15-per cent representation as only seven per cent and 25-per cent of women are serving in military and police contingents operations respectively.

UN resident coordinator Zlatan Milisic made the call yesterday during the handover of a consignment of essential commodities to support women in peacekeeping at the Peacekeeping Training Centre in Kunduchi, Dar es Salaam donated by the government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Milisic said there are still not nearly enough women in the UN peacekeeping contingents a move that made the Security Council to address it through resolution 2242 of 2015 which calls for doubling of women in military and peace keepers.

"Significant progress can be made if we all strengthen efforts to address challenges including improving women's awareness of deployment opportunities within the UN, presenting more exchange programmes to promote women peacekeepers learning from one another, providing more trainings and addressing gendered perceptions of the role of women," he said.

Giving a testimony on her experience in peacekeeping Major Justina Gessine said there is a lot that women need during peacekeeping in order to deliver their duties in some of the challenging environments.

"I can recall when I was deployed in the peacekeeping mission in Darfur as a second in Command to the Tanzanian battalion, I

experienced weather conditions to be the most challenging factor to work," she said, adding: "We all wanted to excel in our careers but it is difficult when you are a woman because we are in a male dominated sector and at times there are some sense of trying to over-protect women because some tasks are viewed too tough for women or some missions are viewed too dangerous for us."

She however noted that military work was about intelligence, planning, tactics and execution in which women do well because they are good planners and excellent directors and tacticians.

UAE envoy AbdulRahman Al Marzouqi said the initiative aims at enhancing women's participation in the security and peace sectors, establishing networks to support them around the world, and achieving the strategic goals of UN Resolution 1325, which emphasises the importance of women's effective participation in establishing peace and maintaining security by focusing on providing the necessary training for women's cadres.

He explained that the initiative in 2018 facilitated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the United Arab Emirates and the UN Women to hold a series of trainings that saw 357 women from the Arab, African and Asian from 17 countries trained in support of the UN Resolution 1325.

*I can recall when I was deployed in the peacekeeping mission in Darfur as a second in Command to the Tanzanian battalion, I experienced weather conditions to be the most challenging factor to work*

## 'Reports of stigmatisation of patients by health staff largely misconceived'

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

HEALTH. Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children ministry Permanent Secretary Prof Mabula Mchembe has called upon members of the public to abandon misconceptions that health workers stigmatise patients with breathing problems.

The PS also called on the public to go to hospital and health centres immediately they feel they have breathing problems.

He refuted misleading reports that isolation wards in hospitals were full and that some patients with breathing problems were being mixed up with other ordinary patients, saying these reports contribute to the creation of panic to people seeking medical treatment.

Prof Mchembe gave the remarks

during his visit of KCMC Referral Hospital in Moshi Municipality in Kilimanjaro Region to see for himself medical service delivery at the hospital especially in regard to patients with breathing problems.

"I have visited this hospital that has 739 beds, I have gone through all areas where patients are hospitalised, may of who were suffering from heart diseases, diabetes including isolation wards for patients with breathing problems and who have confirmed to be receiving appropriate medical treatment," he said.

"I was really pleased to see nurses close to patients, as opposed to what is being claimed that patients die due to proper medical attention, that is sheer propaganda," he added.

The hospital's acting medical services director Florence Kimario said in addition to receiving patients suffering from various diseases, they still face acute shortage of medical staff.

"We appeal to your ministry to look into our plight especially on the issue of nurses, so far we have only 239 while our need is 639 nurses, and due to the shortage, we have been forced to introduce nurses on shift basis," she said.

Emmanuel Mgonja a patients with breathing problems who was recovering said he had been well treated since he was admitted with severe condition 10 days ago.

Another patient, Elioinia Mzava appealed to the government to look into the interests of nurses and increase their numbers to save lives of many patients.



Morogoro district commissioner Bakari Msulwa (in specs) goes through records at the weekend with traders operating at Morogoro municipality's main mixed-goods market as well as officials from the municipality in the wake of President John Magufuli's recent directive on the allocation and use of stalls at the newly rehabilitated facility. Photo: Correspondent Idda Mushi

## FARM AFRICA

**Business Advisor – Cultivate**

**Duration: Full time fixed term contract**

**Location: Based in Dar es Salaam, with travel across Tanzania**

Farm Africa has attracted seed capital to establish a business development services (BDS) Unit called Cultivate. Cultivate is piloting an online BDS service delivery across 3 Farm Africa's countries of operation Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The Cultivate BDS service delivery consists a fully online capacity support where all the content is provided online with minimal physical support and a hybrid delivery mechanism where part of the content is accessed online while the other is facilitated on site or face to face. The online content delivery creates a pathway for Cultivate to scale its services and crucial to mitigate the limited travel constraint brought about by Covid-19. Cultivate will seek to de-risk SGBs' investment in appropriate BDS to actuate their growth plans, and stimulate and monitor improved business performance. The target businesses are small and growing agribusinesses (SGBs) in strategic value chains over the three countries.

Cultivate whilst financially donor driven in the pilot phase incorporates private sector commercial principles of excellent client relationship management, prudent cost controls, consistent product improvement and a clear path of return on investment. The Service delivery costs initially will be co-shared with the select SGBs to test the willingness to pay based on the perceived value of the services so that there is a clear path towards commercialisation of Cultivate services.

Cultivate is therefore seeking an experienced Business Advisor who will apply private sector principles while supporting SGBs in Tanzania to improve their operations, improve their revenue, profitability and access financing and investment through provision of targeted online Business Development Services.

If you are interested in this role, more information and details on how to apply can be found in our website. [www.farmafrika.org/jobs](http://www.farmafrika.org/jobs)

The deadline for applications is **5.00pm EAT on Monday 22nd February 2021**. Only candidates with the right to live and work in Tanzania will be considered for this position.

Farm Africa will not sponsor relocation or work permit application. While we **would like to respond to all applicants**, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Farm Africa is an equal opportunity employer and promotes gender equity. We also do not charge a fee at any stage of our recruitment process.



## HESLB beneficiaries reminded to start loans repayment early

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

HIGHER Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) has called upon beneficiaries who completed their education in the country's universities and other higher learning institutions to repay the loans in order to assist others who are joining higher institutions.

Speaking here recently at climax of the fourth exhibition of Funds for Economic Empowerment, Arusha zone HESLB manager Patrick Shoo said higher education graduates can repay their loans in small installments even if they were self-employed.

He said during the seven days of the exhibition they were able to interact with many entrepreneurs who visited their pavilion and were given details of their loans,

and others paid via their mobile phones transactions.

He said many graduates did not afford to pay back on reasons that they were unemployed while they were engaged in entrepreneurship activities, adding that they can mobilise themselves to pay back the loans even via their mobile phones.

"The only important issue is for them to get details of their loans so that they can begin paying back according to their income. Here we have been able to provide details of the loans to the graduates," he added.

HESLB was among government institutions that participated in the seven-day fourth exhibition of Funds for Economic Empowerment organised by National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) in collaboration with the government.

## Driver held over transportation of 'illegal immigrants' from Malawi

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaha

POLICE in Coast Region has arrested the driver of vehicle with Reg No. T 703 DTR, a resident of Uyoie in Mbeya City for allegedly transporting six illegal immigrants from Malawi.

Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa said the driver, who was not named was arrested at the weekend at Tanita area in Kibaha District at around 10.00 am as he was driving from Mbeya to Dar es Salaam.

Wankyo said initial interrogation established that the Malawians were travelling to Dar es Salaam to work as bar attendants and hair dressers.

In another development, the police in Coast Region have detained one Mhina Mrisho (42),

a resident of Miono in Bagamoyo District for shooting at and wounding Tatu Bakari, a resident from the same area.

RPC Wankyo said the incident occurred last Sunday at around 10.00 am whereas Mrisho fired three bullets at the woman while the suspect was at his farm.

The RPC said after the suspect's arrest and searched, he was found with two locally made firearms that he was owning illegally.

RPC Wankyo called on all people holding firearms illegally to surrender them at police stations voluntarily within seven days after which they would be arrested.

He also called on motor drivers and the people in general to desist from trafficking illegal immigrants.



New Pangani Falls production engineer Dalali Lunyamila (R) briefs Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) board members on operations at the Hale power generation plant in Korogwe District at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

## Six households homeless after rain strikes Namanguli village

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

HEAVY rains and driving winds have blown away roofs of six households in Namanguli village in Luchili ward, Namtumbo District in Ruvuma Region, leaving owners without shelter.

The incident happened recently when the rains accompanied by strong winds blew away roofs of five houses of one family and one

from a nearby family.

Household members whose houses were blown away included Shabani Issa, Achumi Issa, Zuberi Issa, Mkwawa Issa, Saidi Issa and Osmundi Menas all residents of Namanguli villages in Luchili Ward.

Acting Namanguli village executive Hija Siwena said no one was injured in the incident as many household members had

not returned from their farms.

Siwena said the village leadership in collaboration with Luchili Ward Councillor visited the victims to console them.

The wind also blew away roofs of two classrooms at Kilangalanga primary school, one classroom at Ligunga primary school and one classroom at Lusewa primary school in Lusewa township.

Namtumbo District Executive

Director Evance Nachimbinya visited the affected schools and directed for the reroofing of all classrooms in order to have classes continue as normal.

Ongoing rains in Namtumbo District, Ruvuma Region have been accompanied by strong winds and lightning, even though many farmers say they expect to harvest bumper food crops.



### Expression of interest to lead data collection for the final evaluation for the Food for Education project

#### I. Introduction

Project Concern International, a Global Communities Partner (PCI)'s integrated school feeding program, called Food for Education (FFE III), is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition (MGD) program. Since 2016, the program has provided school meals for more than 200,000 students in the Mara Region, Tanzania.

The program has enabled vast improvements in 231 primary schools through an integrated package of interventions to improve students' literacy outcomes, enhance their overall educational performance and improve students' health and nutrition practices.

#### II. Evaluation Scope and Objectives

PCI is seeking a consultant or firm to lead data collection for a mixed-methods, cross-sectional final evaluation study. The consultancy is expected to begin early March 2021 and conclude by the end of June 2021, with an estimate of 30 days to execute responsibilities. The final evaluation purposes include: A) Assess the project strategy's relevance and the validity of assumptions made during project design; B) Measure progress from baseline and midline, including the effectiveness, efficiency, and timeliness of interventions; C) Assess sustainability efforts; D) Document lessons learned, challenges, and unanticipated effects.

#### III. Consultant Deliverables.

- Prepare for data collection by reviewing and translating tools as appropriate.
- Obtain study approval for all relevant GoT partners (NBS, COSTECH, PORLAG, etc.)
- Prepare materials for training and Co-lead 5-day enumerator training, particularly for EGRA
- Work with Evaluation Consultant to build surveys into mobile data collection platform
- Collect an estimated 3500 surveys in 100 schools and submit clean quantitative data.
- Collect qualitative data from an estimated 70 participants in Bunda, Butiama, Musoma, and Serengeti and translate all transcripts into English
- Prepare a final data collection field report detailing data collection processes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future data collection or project implementation.

#### IV. Consultant Qualifications

The consultant(s) should have a good understanding and experience in the national school feeding sector plans and systems, and National education policies and strategies. The suitable candidate should possess a minimum of masters training in social / education and /or health sciences or related field, and have a minimum of five years' experience in assessing education and development programs with:

- Experience in administering literacy assessments such as the EGRA; gender analysis tools; education programs and public health; and in evaluating school feeding programs
- Extensive experience leading project evaluations using quantitative and qualitative data
- Extensive experience conducting data collection in Kiswahili and ability to communicate effectively in English; Knowledgeable of the Tanzanian context
- Experience evaluating projects funded by the U.S. government/USDA strongly preferred.

#### V. Submission Information

Interested candidates should submit the following by February 28, 2021: a) Letter of interest describing qualifications, b) CV of key team members, and c) A list of previous, relevant evaluations with the date and client contact information. Please send an electronic copy of the materials with the subject line "FFE III Data collection for the Final Evaluation" by email to Wilfred Donath, [wdonath@pciglobal.org](mailto:wdonath@pciglobal.org), and Amy Williams, [arwilliams@globalcommunities.org](mailto:arwilliams@globalcommunities.org). Any questions or clarification questions should be submitted in writing through the same emails above.



**TANZANIA INTERNATIONAL  
CONTAINER TERMINAL SERVICES LTD**  
A member of the Hutchison Port Holdings Group

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CATERING SERVICES

Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited (TICTS) is a member of Hutchison Ports. Hutchison is the world's leading port investor, developer and operator, with a network of 52 ports in 27 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe, the Americas and Australasia. Over the years, Hutchison Ports has expanded internationally into other logistics and transport-related businesses including cruise terminals, airports, distribution centers, rail services and ship repair facilities. In 2019 the Hutchison Ports network handled a combined throughput of 86.0 million TEU worldwide.

TICTS is inviting expression of interest from established and reputable companies for providing Catering Services 24 hours 7 days a week for its 600 employees plus customers and stakeholders, located at 3 different locations in Dar-es-Salaam.

Interested vendors are required to submit their expression of interest with details of their capability and experience in a sealed envelope to TICTS finance office at PSPF building along Sokoine drive before or on 26th February 2021 at 3:00pm, with the title Expression of Interest for Catering Service and addressed to:

Tender Committee  
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited  
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam  
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019  
Email: [ticts@ticts.com](mailto:ticts@ticts.com)



A member of the HPH Group  
CK Hutchison Holdings





Prof Emmanuel Njema (2nd-L), Chairman of the Institute of Finance Management Governing Council, presents a certificate to a Master of Science in Information Technology and Management graduand at graduation ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## IFM: It is vital for Tanzania to invest in relevant digital skills

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Institute of Finance Management (IFM) has underscored the need for the country to invest more in relevant digital skills so as to support the efforts aimed to attain and maintain middle income status.

Prof Emmanuel Njema, chairperson of IFM governing council made the call over the weekend in Dar es Salaam at the 13th graduation ceremony to confer 19 students with Master of Science in Information Technology and Management.

He said the graduation ceremony for the MSc. Information Technology and Management is a programme run jointly by IFM and Avinashillingam University of India.

He emphasized that investing in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) was vital if the country is to achieve the industrial economy goals.

He said sustainability of

achievements requires strategies to address challenges that may thwart the development but investing in information and communication technologies is vital and could spur the industrial economy.

The don said given the current speed of technological innovations, Tanzania still needs qualified people to cope with the development.

“As graduates in the field, you stand at the foothills of an enormously powerful journey that is deep, meaningful and important and will actually do enormous things for Tanzania and for the world,” he said.

Prof Mjema wanted the graduates to stand as an important cornerstone of the country's development and be ready to utilize their skills to transform their communities.

He said in order for them to be good leaders, they need to think deeply on ICT's role in the economy's growth.

IFM deputy rector Dr Emmanuel Mzava said this year's ceremony saw a total of 19 graduates being conferred with master degrees in IT and Management.

Dr Mzava said the programme was introduced to leave a path for those who completed undergraduate programmes and wished to prepare better for the challenges facing the IT industry.

“The combination of unique staff's experiences from IFM and Avinashillingam University have acquired necessary skills to cope with the ongoing technological changes and can as well be agents for change,” he said.

He noted that the IT experts also have a huge role to ensure sustainability of the country's economy through application of various innovative and digital solutions.

Dr Mzava said the demand for IT experts is still high as the country has embarked on e-government systems where all transactions are done online.



Higini Mwacha (L), director of Shinyanga-based Vanson Microfinance Ltd, distributes food at the weekend to children with albinism being cared for by Buhangija Centre in Shinyanga Region. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Iringa District Council staff told to collect data of all taxable buildings to ensure fair revenue

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

VILLAGE and ward executive officers in Iringa District Council have been ordered to collect accurate statistics of all taxable buildings in their respective areas so as to facilitate smooth collection of property tax.

Iringa district council executive director, Bashir Mhoja made the directives here yesterday when he met with local government leaders.

Mhoja tasked leaders to accomplish the exercise as soon as possible and submit the list to the council, saying the meeting meant to create a common understanding on how they are going to jointly work hard to ensure that property taxes are collected on time. “Iringa district council has a total of 134 villages and 29 wards, so the meeting here is aimed to empower them with essential skills to support them collect correct data on buildings that are eligible to be charged the property tax.”

He said the property tax for about five years was inherited by

the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) from the local authorities (LGAs) but the government has restored the task back to the councils and local government authorities.

Mhoja said that after being collected; the taxes will be sent to the central government fund (government coffers).

“The council collects the tax and sends it to the state coffers and later on the government returns the allocation to the council at equal distribution in order to implement various developmental projects, including education, health, water and infrastructure,” he explained.

Mhoja explained that the challenge in collecting property taxes as it learnt from TRA is that the owners do not provide accurate information about their houses and buildings and added that they have already put in place strategies to deal with it.

“Some years ago, the property taxes were collected by the Tanzania Revenue Authority but due to the shortage of staff, the government has returned

the responsibility to councils and local governments to help collect it, as they have sufficient staff including village and ward officials to do the job,” he said.

He said that the meeting had only one job to translate the property tax and IDs and added that the remaining work so far was for the executives to collect building data (inventories) in the council as well as hold meetings with the public.

TRA regional manager Lamson Tulianje urged the officials to be careful, observe ethics by obtaining accurate information from property owners so as to avoid unnecessary confusion.

The village, ward and division officers assured the DED that they are going to work hard which include providing education to the public on the importance of paying tax.

In July 2016, the government shifted the responsibility for property tax administration and collection from the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

## SunCulture obtains \$11 million for solar-powered irrigation systems

By Special Correspondent

THE solar powered irrigation system supplier SunCulture now has an \$11 million line of credit for the dissemination of its solution in Africa.

The facility was funded by Triodos Investment Management, Nordic Development Fund (NDF), AlphaMundi and the African Development Bank (AfDB) EIF OGEF. It was part of a transaction arranged by SunFunder.

A consortium of investors is opening an \$11 million line of credit for SunCulture, a supplier of solar powered irrigation systems based in Nairobi, Kenya.

New financial partners include the Off-Grid Energy Access Fund of the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Energy Inclusion

Facility (OGEF); Triodos Investment Management, the Danish government's Nordic Development Fund (NDF) and the investment company AlphaMundi.

The entire transaction was arranged by SunFunder, a financing company specialised in solar energy. SunCulture, which has already started drawing on the credit line, believes the facility will make it easier for it to provide solar-powered irrigation systems to farmers in sub-Saharan Africa.

Most of these land workers use diesel-powered irrigation systems to irrigate their plots. Thanks to solar pumping, farmers save money while reducing the environmental impact of their farms.

SunCulture estimates that the

new line of credit made available to it will prevent the emission of 20,000 tonnes of CO2 per year. To facilitate the acquisition of its equipment in rural areas where purchasing power is often low, the Nairobi-based company uses the pay-as-you-go model, which is very common among solar home system suppliers in Africa. Its implementation is facilitated by mobile banking, which is widespread in sub-Saharan Africa.

“SunFunder has set up this facility with a group of like-minded lenders to support an innovative product and business model. We look forward to seeing SunCulture expand into Kenya and new markets,” says Surabhi Mathur Visser, SunFunder's Chief Investment Officer.



### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF CATERING AND CAMP MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED, TANZANIA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited (“The Company”) an AngloGold Ashanti’s (“AGA”) asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Catering and Camp Management Services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below service.

#### Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01121	Provision of Catering and Camp Management Services for Geita Gold Mining Limited

#### II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	<b>5%</b>
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA</b>	<b>75%</b>
Demonstrable good HR practices with a clear organization structure	10%
Managerial and key personnel competence profiles	10%
Level of experience demonstrated by applicant's past clients	15%
Proof of having permits/certifications/valid licences in the Food Industry from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and ability to provide full range of contract requirements (catering, camp management, housekeeping, functions and ad hoc e.g. COVID19 measures)	10%
Proof of ability to prepare nutrition criteria, quality food and inclusion of healthy food	10%
Certification by industry specific standards e.g. ISO22000	10%
Other Quality and Environmental Management standards (e.g. ISO 90001 & ISO 14001)	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest (“LOI”) by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01121) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than 0830 A.M 02 March 2021 (the “LOI” Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.



## Ensure every Std Seven student can read and write, ADEM tells teachers

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE Agency for the development of educational management (ADEM) has tasked primary school teachers to ensure that every Standard Seven student is able to read and write.

ADEM manager, Venant Mwesiga made the call here over the weekend when opening three-day training for head teachers from Simiyu Region. He said head teachers play an important role in ensuring that children graduate while they can read, write and pass their exams and join secondary education.

So far, Mwesiga said: "We've trained head teachers from four regions of Mwanza, Simiyu, Shinyanga, and Geita. These

kinds of training are geared towards empowering them with skills on how to maintain school performances."

Lake zone education quality controller, Victor Bwindiki said that the head teacher was responsible for managing the school's curriculum as well as the school's education program, "that's why it is important to empower them with such skills to boost education in their respective areas".

He however said that the government is currently looking at the possibility of providing quality control training to secondary school teachers to ensure that they raise the standard of education.

In this area, parents in various areas are encouraged to ensure

that they contribute food for the school children to reduce absenteeism and raise the level of achievement.

Bwindiki urged the teachers to use the money provided by the government to repair the school infrastructure and that if they adhere to the training it will help them.

For his part, the head teacher of Itubilo primary school, Mashaka Paulo promised to follow the training guidelines given to them to ensure he manages the quality control of the school.

Mashaka said the training was aimed at building leadership capacity and that he would work with school committees and fellow teachers to ensure the issue of quality control becomes a priority.



Tanzania Forest Service Agency commissioner Prof Dos Santos Silayo (3rd-L) together and Prisons Commissioner General Suleiman Mzee (2nd-L) visit a tree nursery at Msalato Prison in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Pangani

PANGANI District Commissioner in Tanga Region Zainabu Abdallah has said her district has in place a strategy in the coming five years to construct more Form V and VI secondary schools as so far there are only two such schools in the district.

In addition, she said, Pangani District has plans to improve the education sector in the coming five years by constructing dormitories in all of its five secondary schools including infrastructure.

She said in the coming five years they also plan to improve the infrastructure for primary schools by constructing more pit latrines, classrooms, teachers' offices and quarters.

The DC said examination pass levels for secondary schools has gone up but for primary schools many students failed in their Std VII examinations, hence great efforts were needed to rectify the situation.

## Pangani District to construct more secondary schools - DC

She said Pangani District scored number three position from bottom in Tanga Region's primary schools and vowed to visit the villages to find out what the problem was.

She said as for now a VETA college was being constructed in the district to take up Form IV students who did not pass their final examinations.

She said in the coming five years, road construction at tarmac level will be in place and already a road from Tanga to Pangani, Sadani up to Bagamoyo had begun with the initial 50 kms and funds for compensation to land owners had been procured and will soon be paid out.

She also said they are in the process of constructing tarmac roads in Pangani town as well as the construction of 500-metre bridge on Pangani river to connect with Bweni.

In regard to water projects, in the next five years a project is in the pipe line to distribute water from Pangani river to Pangani town, Muheza, Korogwe and Handeni districts

The DC also said they have a strategic plan to revive sisal, cashew nut crops cultivation including strategic farming for various other crops to ensure people of Pangani develop economically.

In regard to fishing, the DC said at present they are constructing a fish market in Pangani town as well as an international market for selling sardines in Kipumbwi Ward in the district, as well as promising to improve tourism.

In regard to the health sector, she said in the next five years they will construct more health centres, beginning with two and will ensure medicines will be available at all times.



Hester livestock vaccination factory manager Dr Umapati Dasgupta (R) briefs Livestock and Fisheries ministry permanent secretary Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (L) during the latter's visit to the facility at Kibaha in Coast Region at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## New study: Zero waste programmes can create 18,000 jobs for Dar city residents

By Guardian Reporter

A new study from Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) finds that cities that invest in zero waste programmes and policies create good green jobs, in addition to known benefits of reducing pollution and improving community health.

This report comes as municipal governments worldwide are making critical decisions about which programs to invest in to increase climate resilience and rebuild local economies that have been damaged by the COVID-19 crisis. The study projects that if Dar es Salaam were to recover 80 per cent of recyclable and organic material in its waste stream, the city could create over 18,000 new jobs.

In a global meta-analysis of job creation potential of different waste management sectors, the research makes clear that what's good for the environment is also good for the economy.

Zero waste strategies score highest on environmental benefits and create the most jobs of any

waste management approach-reuse creates over 200 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators, recycling creates around 70 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators as well as remanufacturing creates almost 30 times as many jobs as landfills and incinerators.

Zero waste is a comprehensive waste management approach that prioritizes waste reduction and material recovery, with the ultimate aim of creating a circular economy, shrinking waste disposal to zero. In contrast, disposal-based systems rely on incineration ("waste to energy") and landfills to handle most of the waste stream, resulting in higher economic costs and environmental consequences.

Zero waste systems not only create more jobs, they create better jobs. Studies show that jobs in zero waste go beyond basic manual labor, provide higher wages, offer more permanent positions, and improve quality of life.

For example, the innovative

and decentralized zero waste model that is being implemented by local non-profit, Nipe Fagio in low-income communities of Dar es Salaam align environmental stewardship and social inclusion by working with vulnerable populations and engaging the community in effective and cost-effective solutions. It reduces the burden of waste management by tailoring it to the local reality.

Ana Lê Rocha, executive director of Nipe Fagio, stated: "The zero waste model in Dar es Salaam has the potential to create 40 jobs in each community of 5,000 households on average, generating income inside the community and multiplying its impact through capacity building and education."

Report author Dr Neil Tangri, Science and Policy Director at GAIA, stated: "With the world still reeling from the pandemic, job creation is a top priority. Zero Waste offers a strategy to create good jobs and reduce pollution without breaking the bank. It's a triple win for the economy, the environment, and the city."



### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR PROVISION OF COMMISSARY SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED), TANZANIA

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Commissary Services and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below service.

#### Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01120	Provision of Commissary Services for Geita Gold Mining Limited

#### II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	5%
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	5%
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	5%
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA</b>	75%
Demonstrable good HR practices with a clear organization structure	7.5%
Managerial and key personnel competence profiles	7.5%
Level of experience demonstrated by applicant's past clients	10%
Proof of plan and ability to maintain stock and constant replenishment of items	10%
Proof of ability to provide wide range of popular choice of soft drinks and alcohol from local to International brands	20%
Proof of having permits/certifications/valid licences in the Food Industry from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and ability to provide multitude of products from non-perishables food items, beverages, beauty items, frozen and chilled goods as well as fresh produce (the stock).	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME01120) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 02 March 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.



# Morogoro in new strategy to curtail stunting haunting under-five children

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro Region have unveiled strategies aimed at addressing stunting for under-five children.

Regional Administrative Secretary Emanuel Kalobelo unveiled this here yesterday when addressing regional nutrition stakeholders in a forum which was organised by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to him, development of any nation depends on the health of its people which can only be achieved if there is public awareness on the real causes of malnutrition.

Kalobelo said it was better for every district council to list down challenges that lead to stunting for under five children for them to be addressed.

In achieving this, Kalobelo directed district directors from all the districts in the region to ensure that they prepare progressive nutrition programmes in their districts before November, this year.

He also reminded them of a directive by the government to set aside 1,000/- every month to combat malnutrition in children.

“You should ensure that you keep the set amount to fight stunting in children from your own sources,” he said.

Gairo District Commissioner, Siriel Mchembe advised that the nutrition committee be extended to regional level to address child pregnancies.

Malinyi District Commissioner,

Mathayo Masselle said the committee should as well educate men for the best way eat balanced diet at their homes.

Experts have advised on several times that for Tanzania to beat malnutrition and attain food security, the country must diversify crops and train small-holder farmers on modern resilient farming methods.

The regional programme manager Nuhu Salehe said the programme which started in 2019 included Dodoma, Rukwa, Iringa and Morogoro regions aimed at helping the government to come up with strategies to reach out to 1.5 million women who have reached the age of maturity.

She said the programme is aimed at addressing malnutrition to 1.1 million children and prepare 330,000 adolescent girls.



**You should ensure that you keep the set amount to fight stunting in children from your own sources**



Nipashe newspaper senior reporter Salome Kitomari briefs Urambo district commissioner Angelina Kwingwa (L) during the latter's familiarisation tour of The Guardian Limited newsroom in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has launched a credit facility of up to \$2 billion aimed at funding women-owned small and medium enterprises in multiple African countries including Tanzania.

The institution will work with African Guarantee Fund (AGF) -which offers partial insurance for loans to SMEs- to disburse the loans through banks in the programme dubbed Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA).

Banks in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are signing on to the programme.

“As the implementing partner

# AfDB ready with US\$2bn loans for women’s SMEs

of AFAWA's Guarantee for Growth programme, we are already observing an increased appetite from banks for this innovative product that seeks to support women entrepreneurs,” Jules Ngankam, African Guarantee Fund's Group CEO said in a statement.

“We have recently signed agreements with leading banks on the continent who are keen to increase their women SMEs portfolio.”

The initiative is expected to reach an average of 18,000 women

small and medium enterprises and create 80,000 direct jobs.

It is estimated that African women face a \$42 billion financing gap. This is due to lack of access to collateral in the form of land and property.

Guarantee for Growth, which receives support from the Group of Seven (G7) countries as well as the Netherlands and Sweden, has three pillars: boosting access to finance, providing technical assistance to financial institutions and women business owners; and improving

the enabling environment for women's SMEs.

The programme will build on AGF's existing business in Kenya and other markets. Some of the local lenders that have struck loan guarantee deals with AGF include NCBA and Ecobank.

AGF typically guarantees half of the value of a loan balance to a single SME borrower or half the value of an outstanding SME loan portfolio and charges banks a fee of between 1.5 percent to three percent for the risk guarantee.



A scene near one of the buildings yet to get into use at the recently inaugurated long-distance bus terminal in Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Luis suburb, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# AfDB financing action against climate change through NDCs

By Special Correspondent

THE response to climate change is expected to reach cruising speed in West Africa. Countries in the sub-region have just received financial support from the African Development Bank (AfDB). The funds are aimed at scaling up efforts to meet the targets for nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The African Development Bank (AfDB) is supporting the momentum of West African countries in achieving the targets they have set themselves under the Paris Climate Agreement, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This support translates into funding, the amount of which remains to be determined. The funds will enable governments to develop the technical capacity and institutional infrastructure needed to combat climate change. This includes making available to the private sector new sources of financing for energy efficiency and climate change mitigation projects.

The main objective of the Paris Accord is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure that global temperatures remain within a range of 1.5°C to 2°C by 2100. To achieve this goal, each country plays its part by defining, over a specific period of time, the NDCs that are appropriate to its context and resources.

The funds released by the AfDB are accessible through the African Climate Technology and Finance Network and Centre (ACTFCN). The Bank will also ensure the preparation of a concept note analysing the use of internationally transferable mitigation results (Itmo) in selected West African countries. A component implemented by a consortium led by the Nigerian company, Triple

E Systems Associates, which specialises in environmental, energy, engineering and climate change consulting services.

“This intervention will ensure the establishment of a solid platform including processes, procedures and structures that will guarantee a real and concrete participation of West Africa in the use of Itmo for the realisation of part of their NDC ambitions. It will serve as a basis for replicating these operations in other African countries,” says Gareth Phillips, the AfDB's Director of Climate Change Finance and Environmental Conservation.

The AfDB's support will also enable West African states to be better equipped for the upcoming global climate negotiations. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, COP26 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had to be postponed to November 2021 in Glasgow, UK.



**This intervention will ensure the establishment of a solid platform including processes, procedures and structures that will guarantee a real and concrete participation of West Africa in the use of Itmo for the realisation of part of their NDC ambitions**

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

KILOSA District Council in Morogoro Region plans to construct four new secondary schools including one for girl students so as to solve the challenge on classrooms shortage for students.

Initially the district allocated 400m/- in its FY 2020/21 budget to improve secondary education and the construction of new schools this year.

This was disclosed to reporters by the Council Executive Director Asajile Mwambambale on

# Kilosa District sets sights on four more secondary schools

improvement to the education sector in the district.

He said the construction of a secondary school for girls was being built at Manzese area, in Kilosa town and is about 50 per cent complete.

“We in Kilosa District are on high gear to ensure students finishing Std VII continue to

secondary schools, and as for now those who passed their primary education are already in Form I,” he said.

He said they were currently finishing the construction of two classrooms at Magole secondary school and one classroom at Mikumi secondary school.

He said the district also plans

to construct three secondary schools in Mikumi area to cater for students who pass their Std VII examination.

“The construction of the schools is expected to begin in March this year and by December they will enroll students selected to join Form I at the beginning of 2022, he added.



TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Africa ought to prevent chronic malnutrition amongst children

**M**ALNUTRITION refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients. The term malnutrition covers two broad groups of conditions. One is 'undernutrition' which includes stunting (low height for age), wasting (low weight for height), underweight (low weight for age) and micronutrient deficiencies or insufficiencies (a lack of important vitamins and minerals). The other is overweight, obesity and diet-related noncommunicable diseases (such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer).

Malnutrition affects people in every country. Around 1.9 billion adults worldwide are overweight, while 462 million are underweight. An estimated 41 million children under the age of 5 years are overweight or obese, while some 159 million are stunted and 50 million are wasted. Adding to this burden are the 528 million or 29 per cent of women of reproductive age around the world affected by anaemia, for which approximately half would be amenable to iron supplementation.

Many families cannot afford or access enough nutritious foods like fresh fruit and vegetables, legumes, meat, and milk, while foods and drinks high in fat, sugar, and salt are cheaper and more readily available, leading to a rapid rise in the number of children and adults who are overweight and obese, in poor as well as rich countries. It is quite common to find undernutrition and overweight within the same community, household or even individual - it is possible to be both overweight and micronutrient

deficient, for example.

In April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. The Decade aims to catalyse policy commitments that result in measurable action to address all forms of malnutrition. The aim is to ensure all people have access to healthier and more sustainable diets to eradicate all forms of malnutrition worldwide.

UNITLIFE, the United Nations initiative dedicated to fighting chronic malnutrition through innovation, and the Ecobank Group's Foundation—the pan-African banking group with operations in 33 countries across the continent—announce the launch of the "Make the Connection" campaign, which aims to raise awareness and funds to prevent chronic malnutrition in Africa.

144 million children under the age of 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition worldwide. The prevalence is highest in Africa, where as many as 24 African countries have rates above 30%. In other words, 1 in 3 African children do not eat a diet that meets their nutrient needs during the first 1,000 days of their lives. As a result, they face life-long consequences affecting their physical growth, cognitive development and immune systems.

The disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to countries' health systems and the global economy have exacerbated the malnutrition crisis in Africa. Nutrient-rich foods such as vegetables, fruit and animal-sourced foods have become less accessible and less affordable for millions of families.

## Horticulture for poverty alleviation: The underfunded global revolution

**H**ORTICULTURAL produce and processed products from the developing world are becoming increasingly popular both in domestic and international markets. Global production and exports are rising steadily. However, yield increases have been smaller than area growth and have been negligible or even negative in the least developed countries. While experience shows that horticulture can offer good opportunities for poverty reduction because it increases income and generates employment, care must be taken that small and poor farmers are not excluded from the opportunities in these market sectors.

Development agencies must put more emphasis on horticultural research and development, especially in the priority areas such as genetic improvement, safe production systems, commercial seed production, post harvest facilities, and the urban/ peri urban environment. There is increasing insight into how household poverty in rural and peri-urban areas is affected by developments in the markets for fruit, vegetables and flowers. Horticulture has been defined as the agriculture of plants, mainly for food, materials, comfort and beauty for decoration. According to American horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey, horticulture is the growing of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and of plants for ornament and fancy.

A more precise definition can be given the cultivation, processing, and sale of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and ornamental plants as well as many additional services. It also includes plant conservation, landscape restoration, soil

management, landscape and garden design, construction and maintenance, and arboriculture. In contrast to agriculture, horticulture does not include large-scale crop production or animal husbandry.

Horticulturists apply knowledge, skills, and technologies to grow intensively produced plants for human food and non-food uses and for personal or social needs. Their work involves plant propagation and cultivation with the aim of improving plant growth, yields, quality, nutritional value, and resistance to insects, diseases, and environmental stresses. They work as gardeners, growers, therapists, designers, and technical advisors in the food and non-food sectors of horticulture.

Thousands of horticulture farmers in Zanzibar are set to benefit from a €4 million project aimed at addressing challenges including access to markets.

Horticulture farmers have long complained of lack of expertise in the production, handling and transportation of produce from the farm. Horticulture has traditionally been grown for subsistence use but recently has been turned into cash crops. Farmers believe the coming up of a joint project, dubbed 'Value Web Horticulture and Income Growth' or Viungo Project which is a collaboration between government and civil society organisations, will end the problems.

This project has come to liberate organic vegetable and fruit growers, we believe now we will prosper. The association was established with the aim to help fruit and vegetable growers, who have long complained on the access to market and expertise in agriculture.

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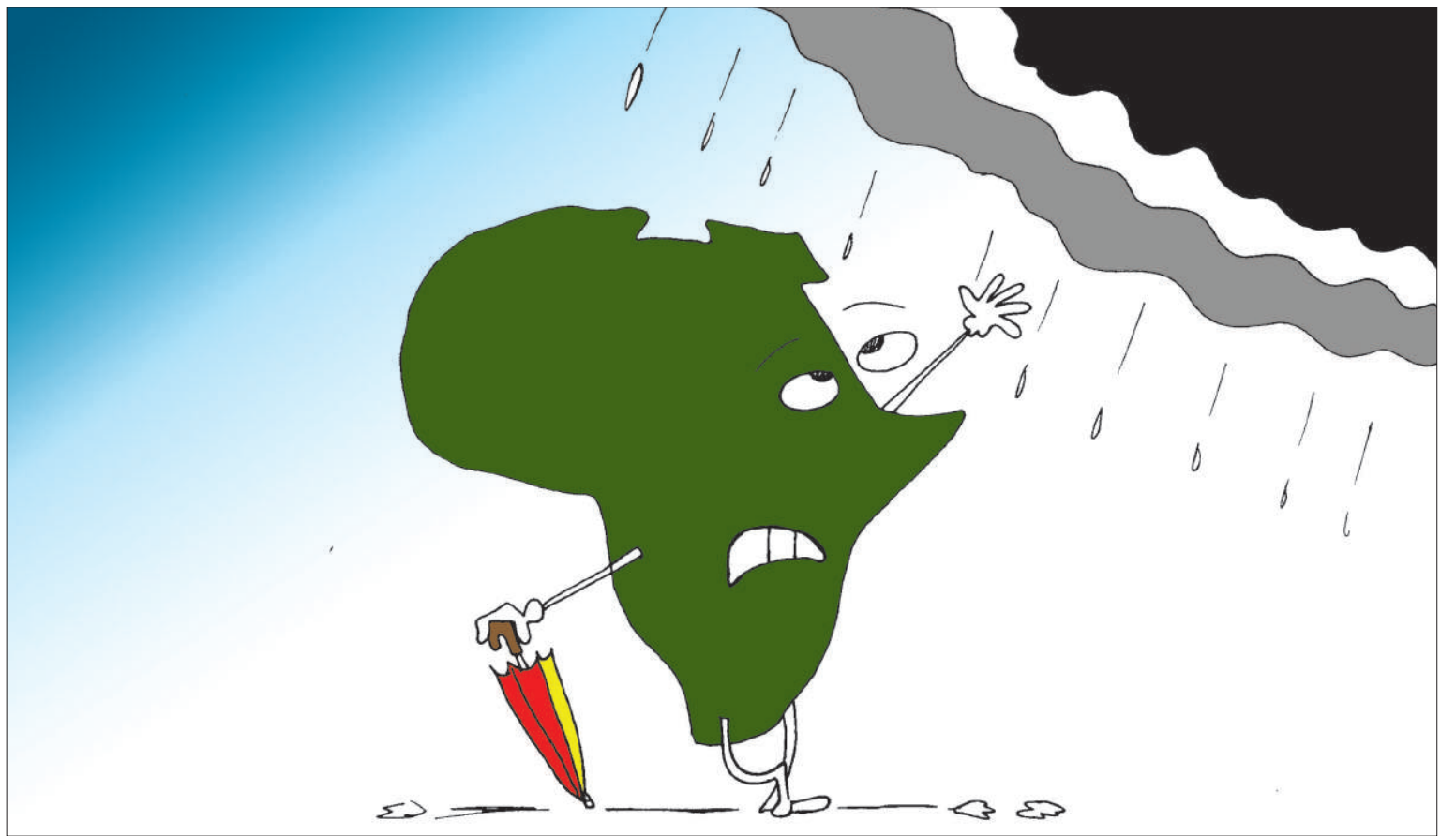
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## Diversity and inclusion is the paradigm shift needed to boost performance and patriotism

By Ismaila Badjie

**T**HE subject of diversity and inclusion is an evergreen subject to which many scholars have weighed in. The multinationals across the world have adopted this approach for company innovation and profitability and this can be extended to countries such as The Gambia. If one wishes to see the implementation of this, no need to look further than the Biden-Harris administration in the USA.

As the world becomes a global village, all smart companies (small or large) look up to diversity to innovate and stay ahead of the curve in business. A study I have conducted in the shipping industries this year concluded that diversity and inclusion is an essential element which affects excellent team performance, creativity, innovation, work efficiency, productivity, profitability, and diverse viewpoints in general. We need to also be aware that diversity is not only physical attributes such as gender, tribe, creed, nationality, religious, height etc but also cognitive which is arguably the most important in innovation and company improvement. Further on diversity, we need to understand that its both acquired and inherent. Inherent diversity has to do with all the traits that an individual possesses from birth; such as gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Acquiring diversity on the other hand has to do with the traits an individual obtains from experience (Ann Hewlett, Marshall & Sherbin, 2013).

Now that we have a synopsis of diversity and inclusion, let me submit to us the need of it in The Gambia and how this will help us as a nation going forward.

Adoption and implementation of workplace diversity and inclusiveness of employees in every organization ought to be explored (Cano, 2020; and Inyang, 2007). In the Gambia, we need to review our employment strategy and hire people based on both inherent and acquired diversity. How are we hiring today? Your guess is as good as mine but is it too late? Not. As I look around, I see lots of professionals in the area of Human Resource management and if given the responsibility, they will hire the right people for the right roles.

Leadership: Barak (2016) argues that successful management in the recent past is associated with numerous axioms among



Further on diversity, we need to understand that its both acquired and inherent. Inherent diversity has to do with all the traits that an individual possesses from birth; such as gender, ethnicity, and sexual orientation

which the ability to manage the increasing workforce D&I are of great importance. Its an open secret that where there is diversity (inherent and acquired), the leaders needs to manage conflict. Let me state here that conflict is not a bad thing, its how its managed which could make or break a society. In fact, we can argue that conflict is good for the innovation, profitability and smooth running. An organizational resilience with regards to workforce diversity is desirable to impact organizational performance. One needs a strong leader!

Respect of diversity of opinions. The analogy we can give here is that of a gardener - the best garden is one with various flowers, color and shapes which are well shaped and follow a pattern to make it unique/special. More on the analogy - did you take time to see how a music band works? Imagine if all the instruments are the same? If all were flutes or all were drums, or all were vocalist? The work done by the musicians in managing and discipline involved in the band is like the kind of leadership we need to run a company and by extension a state.

Diversity of abilities and focus on the core competences of our people - when I look at Gambia, I see a blessed nation but one which is busy on the wrong things in life - Can you imagine a combination of the strengths of the various tribes in The Gambia, the physical attributes of men, the multitasking skills of the women, the local knowledge of those living in The Gambia and the international skills sets of those living abroad,

the business ideas of those who went to business schools to those running businesses without formal education? Imagine all those being led by a charismatic, understanding and appreciative leader with diversity and inclusion mindset with foresight/vision. The vision needs to be well documented and referred to daily as our guide?

I submit to the government of The Gambia or any company leader who wishes to improve innovation, profitability and create a cohesive and adhesive team for better results to consider :-

Establishment of diversity and inclusion department working in tandem with the human resources department.

Search honestly for the right talents without focus on gender, tribe, creed etc. In fact, when the shortlisting is being done, I submit to us that such unconscious bias data are removed such as tribe, name, date of birth and focus simply of the capability, experience, and what s/he brings to the table.

Process map all the employees in an organization to ensure the group is as diverse as possible and linked to a performance KPI

Seek leaders (not managers) to lead such teams. The team is as strong as its weakest link. Not afraid to fail but ready to 'fail fast', learn from it and improve.

Imbed diversity and inclusion in the organizations values and make it a performance indicator and reviewed quarterly.

Create a mutual trust and acceptance of one another, there is a need to form a more cohesive

and adhesive team with the right leadership - sense of belonging.

Create a thinking organisation/nation to encourage staff to participate in work teams in decision making processes with ideas being rewarded.

Considerable improvement in the equity of accepting and including all personnel with the capacity to deliver into managerial roles regardless of their social standards (i.e., ethnicity, nationality, gender, etc) as well as cognitive diversity.

Exposure to employ from a large pool of people to occupy different roles, but extra vital to involve them in all major operations and decision-making processes by tapping their skills and capabilities.

Make individuals feel a sense of purpose and includes them in designs such as giving opportunities to those abled differently to be part of the decision making body in various strata of society from designing of roads to building of offices to staffing.

Finally, I submit to us that the power of diversity & inclusion when embedded into the missions and core values of an organization (nation) should target at improving its performance. This should reflect innovation and creativity leading to increased profits and in the case of a nation - increase our happiness index and creates a sense of belonging, nationalism, patriotism and sense of purpose. We need to embrace diversity and inclusion to make the right development needs for us to make headways.

Thank you so much for reading.



# COVID-19 pandemic has shown humanity at its best – and at its worst

GENEVA,

**W**HO and UNICEF have a long, deep and very special relationship. Neither of us could do what we do without the other.

UNICEF's success is WHO's success, and we are proud to be your partner on so many issues: Ebola, polio, maternal health, nutrition, infection prevention and control, primary health care – the list is long.

Never has our partnership been more important than it is now. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world in ways we could never have imagined when it started just over a year ago.

It's sobering to think that on this day 12 months ago, more than 3000 new cases of COVID-19 were reported to WHO. Yesterday, 3000 cases were reported every 15 minutes. The pandemic has held a mirror up to our world. It has shown humanity at its best and worst.

It has exposed and exploited the fault lines, inequalities, injustices and contradictions of our world, within and between countries. The pandemic has also become a child emergency, with children bearing both its direct and indirect consequences.

Children may be at lower risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19, but they have suffered many of the most severe social and economic consequences, and will bear a large burden of the long-term fallout.

Many children have missed out on months of schooling, and have been exposed to a greater risk of violence. Girls are especially at risk in places where they may never go back to school, as they approach the age when they will go to work or be married.

Since the beginning, UNICEF has been, and will continue to be, an indispensable partner in ensuring that children are a primary consideration in the global response to COVID-19.

Together, we have engaged, empowered and communicated with communities about the risks of COVID-19 and how to stay safe; We have developed joint guidance for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in schools;

We've supported health workers with improved infection prevention and control, and we've supported them to deliver better care and psycho-social support for patients, their families and communities; We've procured and delivered essential supplies;

We've provided the joint analytics that are key to an effective pandemic response; We've supported countries to maintain essential health services, including in humanitarian settings;

And through the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator and COVAX, we are poised for the largest vaccination campaign in history. Vaccines are the shot in the arm we all need,



A health worker at a local health centre in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, prepares a vaccine injection. The dispatch of millions of COVID-19 vaccines to Africa started in February.

literally and metaphorically.

But we must also remember that vaccines will complement, not replace, the proven public health measures that countries around the world have used successfully to prevent and contain widespread transmission.

As governments, institutions and individuals, we all have a role to play in stopping this pandemic with the tools we have. The pandemic will subside, but the inequalities that preceded it will still be there.

There's no vaccine for climate change, poverty or malnutrition. None of these challenges can be met by a single agency. Let me outline three areas in which the partnership between WHO and UNICEF, bilaterally and through the Global Action Plan on Health and Well-Being for All, must become even deeper and stronger as we work together to support countries to respond, recover and rebuild.

First, as we support countries to respond to the pandemic, we must en-

sure that all people and communities enjoy equitable access to life-saving vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics – rich and poor, urban and rural, citizen and refugee.

A year ago, we were defenceless against this virus. Now we can detect it with rapid diagnostic tests, we can treat it with dexamethasone and oxygen, and we can prevent it with vaccines. The urgency, ambition and resources with which vaccines have been developed must be matched by the same urgency, ambition and resources to distribute them fairly.

UNICEF has played a vital role in procuring vaccines and preparing countries to deploy them rapidly once they receive them. Together, we have supported 124 countries to perform readiness assessments for vaccination.

But we face significant challenges. More than 130 million doses of vaccine have now been deployed globally, but 75% of them have been in only ten countries that account for 60% of glob-

al GDP.

Meanwhile, almost 130 countries, with 2.5 billion people, have yet to administer a single dose. Many of these countries are also struggling to secure the resources for testing, personal protective equipment, oxygen, and medicines.

I have issued a call to action to ensure that by World Health Day on the 7th of April, vaccination of health workers is underway in all countries. UNICEF can play a key role in meeting that challenge. As a trusted advocate, you can use your voice and experience in communities to build acceptance of vaccines;

You can deploy your unparalleled logistics and supply capacities to deliver vaccines to the last mile; You can negotiate the best deals for the communities you serve; And you can mobilize your networks of National Committees to resource this historic effort to save lives and livelihoods.

Second, as we support countries to

recover from the pandemic, we must support them to maintain essential health services, including routine immunization for children. The pandemic has shown that we can only meet the major crises of our time with a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach.

In the same way, the challenges of child development can only be met with a multi-sectoral approach that addresses their access to services, their mental health and well-being, their nutrition, their risk factors for developing NCDs later in life, their educational outcomes, their chances on employment, and their need to be protected from violence.

And third, as we support countries to rebuild from the pandemic, we must invest in primary health care. The pandemic has given us a brutal reminder of the importance of primary health care, as the eyes and ears of every health system, and the foundation of universal health coverage.

Ultimately, our fight is not against a single virus. Our fight is against the inequalities that leave children in some countries exposed to deadly diseases that are easily prevented in others; Our fight is against the inequalities that mean women and their babies die during childbirth in some countries because of complications that are easily prevented in others;

And our fight is to ensure that health is no longer a commodity or a luxury item, but a fundamental human right, and the foundation of the safer, fairer and more sustainable world we all want.

History will not judge us solely by how we ended the COVID-19 pandemic, but what we learned, what we changed, and the future we left our children.

IPS

## Give us access to Tigray to find missing refugees, NRC pleads

UNITED NATIONS

**T**HE Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has called for unimpeded access to all parts of Ethiopia's Tigray Region, to locate an estimated 20,000 unaccounted for refugees and assess damage to its Hitsaats Camp which was looted and set alight in early January.

"3,000 of the refugees have been relocated or have been able to move themselves to camps in southern Tigray, but that leaves possibly as many as 20,000 completely unaccounted for and that's the real problem. We don't know where those people are," Jeremy Taylor, NRC's head of Advocacy, Media and Communications for East Africa and Yemen Region, told IPS. He added that according to satellite imagery, NRC believes that the camps were empty at the time of the looting and burning.

The NRC's Shimelba and Hitsaats camps provided shelter and food for about 25,000 Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers. The Tigray Region has been rocked by conflict since November 2020, when forces loyal to the Tigray People's Liberation Front clashed with federal soldiers over the autonomy of the region and the composition of the federal government. Recent satellite imagery received by the NRC shows the camp among buildings looted and burned between Jan. 5 and 8. A school and a health clinic were also damaged.

Operations at the NRC camps stopped in November, at the start of the conflict. The camps house education facilities including eight classrooms, child friendly spaces and Youth Education Pack Centre which provides instruction in literacy and life skills for children separated from their parents. The interruption in services to the displaced coincided with a blackout of the Tigray Region. Telecoms services were cut and roads were blocked.

The NRC has condemned the destruction of its buildings, stating that the "rampage of burning and looting by armed men deepens an already dire crisis for millions of people". It has called on the government and donor nations to investigate the destruction and hold perpetrators to account.

Taylor said NRC employees fled to their villages and some later travelled to urban areas to send word about the dire situation in Tigray.

"For three months that region has been completely blocked off from the world. The reports that have trickled out speak to extensive violence, extensive conflict and extensive impact on civilians," he said.

The NRC says three months since the start of the conflict, fighting and tough bureaucratic challenges are impeding humanitarian access into Tigray and rendering independent verification of the fate of refugees and facilities impossible.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said on Feb. 6 that it had struck an access deal with the Abiy Ahmed government that would boost transportation capacity and ensure strengthened partnership with the authorities to deliver humanitarian assistance into Tigray.



In Ethiopia's northern Tigray region. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) says that for three months Ethiopia's Tigray Region has been completely blocked off from the world. The reports that have trickled out speak to extensive violence, extensive conflict and extensive impact on civilians, the humanitarian agency says. (File photo)

"WFP has also agreed to provide emergency food relief assistance to up to 1 million people in Tigray and launch a blanket supplementary feeding intervention to assist up to 875,000 nutritionally vulnerable children and pregnant and lactating mothers," the statement added.

Acknowledging that the food and nutrition security situation is "especially challenging," the WFP called for "strong partnership between the government and the entire humanitarian community" to quickly heighten response to the humanitarian needs. The NRC says, a good start would be unfettered access to the area for

"Some aid has got in, but it is a trickle of it. It has been patchwork and it has only reached certain parts of the Region – mostly main towns and main roads controlled by the government. It is not being sustained," said Taylor.

The NRC has welcomed the WFP's statement, but says while it is indicative of progress, some major challenges remain.

"Until we are able to access all parts of Tigray, until we are able to access the areas where the camps were we just will not be able to know what happened to them and we will not know the full extent of the dam-

age to our facilities because satellite imagery can only show so much," said Taylor.

The NRC says for Tigray, a response that aligns with the scale and breadth of the crisis has not started. Taylor says humanitarian aid work would require an assessment to people's location and their needs. For now, the NRC is not able to do that.

"What is needed is complete access to all parts of the region to bring in supplies and people. The real issue here is what happened to the people and that is our main concern."

Agencies



# Peace in Yemen, but not without women's role in peacebuilding

NEW DELHI

**T**HE armed conflict in Yemen which has lasted six years, has killed and injured over thousands of civilians, displaced more than one million people and given rise to cholera outbreaks, medicine shortages and threats of famine. By the end of 2019, it is estimated that over 233,000 Yemenis have been killed as a result of fighting and the humanitarian crisis. With nearly two-thirds of its population requiring food assistance, Yemen is also experiencing the world's worst food security crisis. The United Nations has called the humanitarian crisis in Yemen "the worst in the world".

The conflict in Yemen has its roots in the failure of a political transition, when the 2011 uprising in Yemen forced then President Ali Abdullah Saleh out of power, ending his 33 years of rule in the country. With accusations of corruption and failed governance, and long standing unresolved conflict with the Houthi group who are based in the north of the country, Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to hand over power to his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. As President, Abdrabbuh Hadi struggled with corruption, unemployment and food insecurity in the country.

The armed Houthi group capitalized on popular discontent and consolidated their control over the governorate of Sa'da and neighbouring areas in the northern parts of Yemen. By September 2014, the Houthis had managed to extend territorial control by taking over a number of army and security positions in the capital Sana'a. In early 2015, President Hadi and the members of his government were forced to flee. By March 2015, at the request of President Hadi, a coalition of states led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) intervened with the aim of restoring the internationally recognized government back to power, marking the beginning of a full blown armed conflict in Yemen.

The Saudi-led coalition and the Houthi armed group that have been fighting since March 2015 have been responsible for an array of human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law and also likely to amount to war crimes.

Amnesty International has documented the Coalition's use of six different types of cluster munitions, including US, UK, Brazilian-manufactured models in Sana'a, Hajjah, Amran and Sa'da governorates.

Women are always the most affected groups in wars, says Kawkab Al-Thaibani, former Director of Women4Yemen Network to IPS News. "Women not only have to



Kawkab Al-Thaibani

survive the challenges of the war, but also carry extra packages of discrimination against them. It is tragic that women face violence at all levels, with no exception, war gives them zero protection," Kawkab says.

Rights group Human Rights Watch in its World Report 2021 said in 2020, the Yemeni government, the Houthi armed group, and the STC-affiliated Security Belt Forces "abused women and committed acts of gender-based

violence, including sexual violence."

"To rub salts in the wounds, the pandemic makes the lives of the Yemeni women a nightmare. The picture looks so dark and if this situation continues, women will disappear from public and private spheres," says Kawkab.

The rate of violence against women in Yemen was already very high in the context of the ongoing conflict - in

2017, UNFPA had recorded 2.6 million women and girls at risk of gender-based violence. With the added economic, health and social stressors of Covid-19, domestic violence cases are on the rise, UN Women said in its report.

"Yemeni women, peace activists and human rights activists have been doing a great job in handling this alarming situation, but the international community has to step up in

supporting women's cause," says Kawkab, who has also been working on including women in the country's peace building process.

The United Nations Security Council in 2000, adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction. However, when it comes to Yemen, the Security Council has failed to reflect on the importance of gender dimensions, and push for women's meaningful participation in any discussion regarding the current peace process.

"War is the face of toxic masculinity, and it will never give women space, because women are peace agents," says Kawkab.

"The war in Yemen is the biggest challenge we are facing, but the lack of desire by the negotiators to include women in any talks, another challenge.

"The new government has zero presence of women and all parties have their own narrative of justifying this absence. On one hand it's the Yemeni culture towards women, and on the other it's simply the absence of women in the grassroots, women are absent from local council, they are absent from political parties, they are absent from empowering themselves through political training or political activism.

"Women are one of the most resilient groups in the society, they are unfettered by the disproportionate challenges they face, despite their work they are left completely out of peace negotiations," says Kawkab.

Recently U.S. President Biden said that the Saudi-led war in Yemen "has to end", and halted U.S. support for offensive military operations in Yemen and pledged, "America does not check its values at the door to sell arms or buy oil."

Greeting this move by the U.S. with cautious relief, Kawkab says, "I am not very optimistic about these measures because they are all politically motivated, and not towards ending the war, or providing Yemeni people with stability.

"As a woman pushing for peace, I know to gain true conciliation, we also need accountability and transitional justice. International experts who are affected by colonial mindset will not be able to achieve peace and stability in Yemen, because they too keep ignoring the true voices of peace, and that's women." **IPS**

# Goods trade growing in China: Only exports gain 3.6 per cent in 2020 amid virus-hit global supply chains

**W**ITH China's exports in full swing, and helping mend the coronavirus-fractured global supply chains despite intermittent threats and hostile moves from the US and Australia, the country's exports have proven to be a tower of strength for its economy with a full-year gain of 3.6 percent in 2020.

The annual growth in exports, far better than initially expected, builds on a solid base for economic growth to be firmly in positive territory in the past year, exporters and economists said, envisioning the country's export strength to continue as the bedrock of economic growth in 2021.

They anticipate the export machine to be exceptionally busy in the first quarter of 2021 as the coming Spring Festival - a traditionally week-long or more national holiday that usually causes a labor shortage - will be different this year, with recent sporadic coronavirus outbreaks prompting many places in China to encourage people not to travel back to their hometown and remain at work.

The country's exports in US dollars grew by 18.1 percent year-on-year to \$281.93 billion in December. For all of 2020, exports gained 3.6 percent to \$2.59 trillion, customs data showed on Thursday.

Imports were up 6.5 percent to \$203.75 billion in December and the full-year figure edged down 1.1 percent to \$2.06 trillion.

China became the only major economy in the world to achieve positive commodity trade growth in 2020, General Administration of Customs (GAC) Spokesman Li Kuiwen told a press conference on Thursday.

## Exports boom

Having recently visited Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong Province, known for hosting the twice-a-year Canton Fair - the nation's most prestigious trade fair--Zhou Yu, an exporter based in East China's Shandong Province, exemplifies a multitude of exporters trying their fortune in the world's largest export country.

Zhou's business involves shipping domestically made suitcases and travel bags to Mexico and her recent visit to Guangzhou was intended to secure client orders a seat in cargo containers piled up at the Yantian port in Shenzhen, Guangdong.

"Everyone is vying for cargo container vacancies and some carriers have adopted a lottery system [for consignees]," Zhou told the Global Times on Thursday.

The results are uplifting for a year disturbed by the pandemic. They also point to renewed momentum in the trade sector.

The country's exports were up only 0.5 percent in US dollar terms in 2019, a sharp decline from a 9.9 percent gain in 2018, according to customs data. Its imports shrank by 2.8 percent in 2019, a free fall from a rise of 15.8 percent in 2018.



China's exports of medical devices and stay-at-home products surged in 2020, contributing to the global fight against the pandemic, customs data showed on Thursday.

The country's exports of textile items including masks, medical instruments and medicines jumped 31 percent in 2020 year-on-year, boosting overall export growth by 1.9 percentage points, Li revealed at the press conference, and exports of laptops, tablets and household appliances grew up 22.1 percent, fueling export growth by 1.3 percentage points.

According to a report by the China Association for Medical Devices Industry, some of the medical devices associated with detection of COVID-19 saw exceptional growth in 2020. Exports of infrared thermometers, for example, rose more than 2,358 percent in the first half of 2020, reaching \$1.059 billion in value.

"The growth in trade was due to effective prevention and control of the epidemic in China. When the global manufacturing industry stalled, China's manufacturing industry stood out, which enabled global orders to return to China after the third quarter, and enabled China's foreign trade to still achieve good results last year," according to Hu Qimu, a senior researcher at the China Digital Economy Institute.

Tian Yun, vice director of the Beijing Economic Operation Association, who has visited exporters in East China's Zhejiang Province in December, said local mask manufacturers have been flooded with orders from overseas markets since the third quarter.

The robust orders personify a strong rebound in exports over the last two quarters of 2020, effectively fixing the big dent left by the first quarter when the economy contracted 6.8 percent, Tian told the Global

Times.

The final results were far better than initially expected in May, Tian noted. In May, the country's exports were estimated to remain flat in a best-case scenario while imports might record a double-digit decline.

In a research report sent to the Global Times, Wang Tao, chief China economist at UBS, said China's exports were stronger than expected in 2020, owing to rising demand for protective gear and stay-at-home products.

"This was the case even in the US market where Chinese products face higher tariffs," Wang said, expecting a strong global recovery to help China's exports surge an estimated 10 percent in dollar terms this year.

Trade between the world's top two economies was back on the growth track in 2020, per customs data, reversing a plunge in the previous year when bruising trade tensions clobbered bilateral imports and exports.

The export strength is seen as underpinning the market consensus on China being the only major economy to grow over 2020. The full-year GDP is scheduled to be announced by the National Bureau of Statistics on Monday.

## Economic bedrock

While the country might still hit uncharted waters this year amid continuing geopolitical uncertainties, its almighty export machine is likely to continue powering ahead to bolster the economy this year, market observers said.

The manufacturers, temporarily vexed by power shortages at the year-end as Zhejiang opted to curb power consumption to meet carbon emissions targets,

would continue to see robust orders, Tian said.

Calling for smaller exporters to consider the use of currency hedging amid yuan's strength, the economist said that a potential hiatus in the country's travel rush tradition this year due to heightened coronavirus control measures would augur well for exporters working around the clock to deliver goods to their buyers.

Many regions in the country including Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces - the twin trading powers - have rolled out measures including Spring Festival subsidies and overtime pay, to encourage people to avoid traveling to their hometowns for the holidays.

Shaking off concerns over factory power usage curbs, Wang Hanyu, owner of a small invitation card factory in Yiwu and also Wenzhou, of East China's Zhejiang Province, said overseas orders continue to pour in and that orders are presently settled in the yuan rather than the dollar in Yiwu, the world's largest small commodities market, render yuan strength not a concern for local traders.

According to Li, China's foreign trade is expected to achieve positive growth in 2021 despite uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 and other external issues.

The pandemic has fueled overseas orders to flow back to China where effective virus containment makes the country the only silver lining in the virus-fractured global supply chains, a trend that won't just go away this year, experts said.

Large-scale vaccination is expected in Europe and the US in the first quarter, which would help in preventing the virus' spread, however, global vaccine production is grappling with under-capacity, Hu told the Global Times on Thursday.

Many developing countries struggle to seek funding for vaccine purchases. This, coupled with woes over supply chain stability and security, renders it impossible for China-heading orders to consider a fast withdrawal, Hu said.

In geopolitical terms, this year, albeit still being overshadowed by uncertainty, tends to be a better year for China, economists said.

The incoming Joe Biden administration would result in a thawing of China-US relations and if the two countries can reach a consensus on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for a Trans-Pacific Partnership, a substantial improvement is expected in bilateral ties, according to Hu.

There is a big chance of the UK kicking off negotiations over a bilateral economic and trade pact with China in the post-Brexit era, as the UK will be relying much more on the Chinese market, he added, noting that China-India relations and Beijing-Canberra ties are likely to be in a better shape.

With warmer relations in sight and efforts vowed by China to ease shipping container stress, the likes of Zhou would continue their pursuit of export-powered success. **Global Times**



# 'Tanzania shows traditional diet causes less inflammation'

BONN, Germany

URBAN Tanzanians have a more activated immune system compared to their rural counterparts. The difference in diet appears to explain this difference: in the cities, people eat a more western style diet, while in rural areas a traditional diet is more common.

A team of researchers from Radboud university medical centre (Netherlands), the LIMES Institute at the University of Bonn, the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) and the

Kilimanjaro Clinic Research Centre in Tanzania presents in a recent study that this increased activity of the immune system could contribute to the rapid increase in non-communicable diseases in urban areas in Africa. The study has been published in the scientific journal *Nature Immunology*.

The survey was conducted among more than 300 Tanzanians, some of whom live in the city of Moshi and some in the countryside. The team found that immune cells from participants from Moshi produced more inflammatory

proteins. The people surveyed had no health problems and were not ill, but an activated immune system may increase the risk for lifestyle diseases, such as cardiovascular disease.

The researchers used new techniques to investigate the function of the immune system and the factors that influence its activity. They looked at active RNA molecules in the blood—known as the transcriptome—and the composition of metabolic products in the blood.

These analyses showed that metabolites derived from food

had an effect on the immune system. Participants from rural areas had higher levels of flavonoids and other anti-inflammatory substances in their blood.

The traditional rural Tanzanian diet, which is rich in whole grains, fiber, fruits and vegetables, contains high amounts of these substances.

"In people with an urban diet, which contains more saturated fats and processed foods, increased levels of metabolites that are involved in cholesterol metabolism were found," says Prof. Mihai Netea,

a researcher at the LIMES Institute and the ImmunoSensation2 Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bonn and the Radboud university medical center in the Netherlands. He and his colleagues also found a seasonal change in the activity of the immune system. In the dry season, which is the time of harvest in the study area, the urban people had a less activated immune system.

## Western countries can learn from the results

It has been known for some

time that a Western lifestyle and eating habits lead to chronic diseases. Prof. Joachim Schultze from the DZNE and the LIMES Institute stresses: "We showed that a traditional Tanzanian diet has a beneficial effect on inflammation and the functioning of the immune system. This is important because rapid urbanization is ongoing, not only in Tanzania, but also in other parts of Africa." The migration from the countryside to the city is leading to dietary changes and is accompanied by a rapid increase in the number of lifestyle diseases,

which puts a heavy burden on the local healthcare systems. The researchers emphasize that prevention is essential, and diet can be very important for this.

Additionally, these findings from Africa are also relevant for Western countries. Urbanization took place a long time ago in most western countries. By studying populations at different stages of urbanization, researchers therefore have unique opportunities to improve their understanding of how diet and lifestyle affect the human immune system.

# 'I'm a fighter': First female, African head of WTO ready for the battle

By Jason Burke

EVEN for an economist, there are lots of very large numbers in the life of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala. As the chair of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, she has overseen the annual immunisation of millions of children. When managing director of the World Bank, she oversaw \$81bn worth of operations. In her stints in charge of Nigeria's finances, she tackled Africa's most populous country's \$30bn debt. And she has 1.5 million followers on Twitter.

There are lots of smaller numbers too: the 20 non-profit organisations that have appointed Okonjo-Iweala to their advisory boards, the major banks and corporations she has advised, the 10 honorary degrees in addition to her own doctorate, 20 or so awards, dozens of major reports authored, and the books.

Then there are the multiple lists frequently featuring Okonjo-Iweala, 66: the world's 100 most powerful women, 100 most influential people in the world, 10 most influential women in Africa, top 100 or 150 women in the world, and many others.

On Monday, Okonjo-Iweala looks set to be added to a new list: that of the director generals of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a position that has never before been occupied by an African or a woman. She will take over the institution, with its budget of \$220m and staff of 650, at a critical time.

It will be the moment to put all the number-crunching experience she has gained over a 40-year career to use. The global trading system - with the WTO at its

heart - is facing a make-or-break moment, say experts. But can Okonjo-Iweala fix it?

Okonjo-Iweala was six when Nigeria gained its independence from Britain in 1960. She grew up in a small village in the country's southern Delta State. Her parents, both distinguished academics, were studying in Europe on scholarships, so she and her six siblings were raised by a grandmother. Life was not easy. By the time she was nine, Okonjo-Iweala had learned to cook, fetch wood and manage many of the household tasks.

The civil war pitting the separatist Biafra state against the Nigerian central government disrupted her education and exposed her to further hardship. "I was eating one meal a day and children were dying. So, I learned to live very frugally. I often say I can sleep on a mud floor as well as a feathered bed and be very comfortable. It has made me someone who can do without things in life because of what we went through," Okonjo-Iweala told *Forbes* magazine last year.

When her three-year-old sister became chronically ill with malaria, it was Okonjo-Iweala who carried her for three miles to the doctor's surgery, pushing through a crowd of 600 and climbing through a window to get the treatment that saved the child's life.

At the end of the war, Okonjo-Iweala went to the US to study economics at Harvard and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), married her childhood sweetheart and, at the age of 25, began working for the World Bank, rising steadily up the institution's hierarchy, travelling widely, and only leaving when invited to



be finance minister of Nigeria in 2003.

The appointment plunged Okonjo-Iweala into a no-holds barred battle to force through economic reforms. "When I became finance minister they called me Okonjo-Wahala- or Trouble Woman," she told the *Guardian* in 2005. "It means: 'I give you hell.' But I don't care what names they call me. I'm a fighter; I'm very focused on what I'm doing, and relentless in what I want to achieve, almost to a fault. If you get in my way you get kicked."

She tackled Nigeria's massive debt by convincing sceptical western powers to grant relief. Gordon Brown called her "a brilliant reformer", though others were less appreciative of the deal she did with creditors. Some commentators point out that many of the promises she made to Nigerians of economic growth

and job creation went unfulfilled.

"She can be really firm and bold, maybe scary to some people, but at the same time she's still her[self]. A woman who makes us laugh. She has jokes," said Ada Osakwe, an economist who worked with Okonjo-Iweala in government.

Now that the US elections have removed the opposition of the Trump administration to her appointment, it will be the WTO that she will run. This is a far more exposed and far more influential position than any Okonjo-Iweala has held before.

The Geneva-based organisation has faced bitter criticism from all quarters for decades. It was the primary target of a movement protesting against the more nefarious consequences of the form of capitalism and process of globalisation it promotes, while more recently it has been attacked by the US for failing to tackle the challenge posed by China's model of state capitalism.

Poorer nations in the global south have long protested against the advantages they say it has given the developed world, and their relative lack of influence over decision-making compared with richer states. Agricultural subsidies have been a particular point of contention. The organisation has not sealed a major multilateral trade deal in years, and hopes that it could somehow curtail overfishing or help manage the commercial wild west that is e-commerce have been dashed.

The Covid-19 pandemic, with struggling economies and growing protectionism worldwide, poses further challenges.

"The WTO needs ... a fresh look, a fresh face, an outsider, someone with the capability to implement reforms and to work with members to make sure the WTO comes out of the partial paralysis that it's in," Okonjo-Iweala said in an interview with CNN.

Osakwe, the economist, said the appointment was

# Robots at reception: South African hotel now turns to machines to beat COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG

STAFF at Hotel Sky in Johannesburg's wealthy Sandton district adheres to strict COVID-19 protocols, wearing masks and physically distancing from guests as much as possible; all, that is, except Lexi, Micah and Ariel.

For the three concierges couldn't breathe germs on you even if they wanted to: they're robots.

Robot hospitality is not new - Japanese hotels have been deploying them for years and in 2015 Tokyo's Henn'na, or 'Strange', hotel became the first to be fully staffed by machines.

Several robot-staffed Tokyo hotels are now using them to serve guests with mild COVID-19 symptoms.

But Hotel Sky, which launched this year, is the first in Africa to use automated attendants, a concept that could cause a stir in a country with one of the world's worst jobless rates.

"It'll never replace people, but it is going to change the space," Paul Kelley, Hotel Sky Managing Director said.

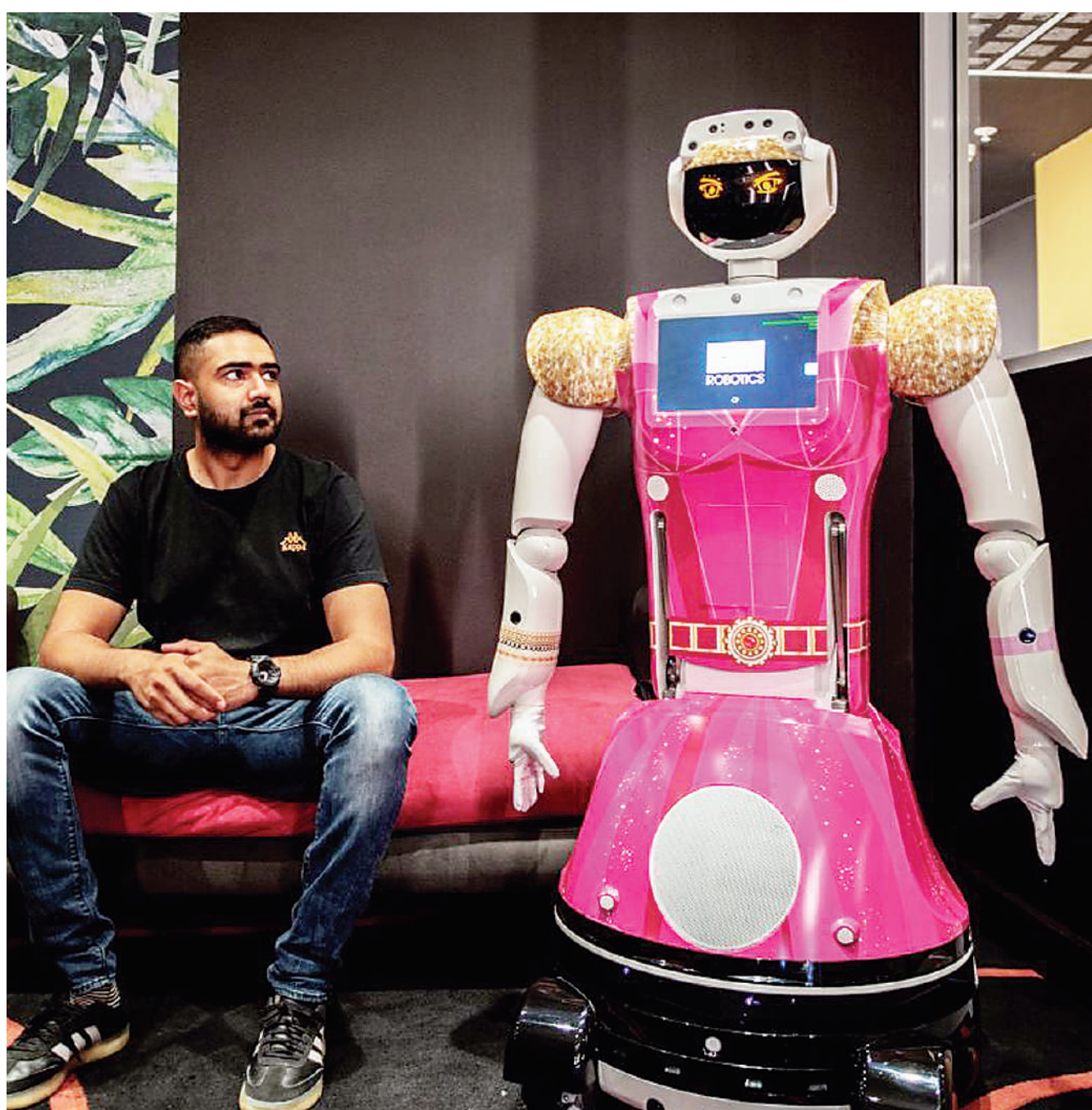
"I think that it is the future," he said, adding that they planned to launch an offshoot in Cape Town next month.

Lexi, Micah and Ariel deliver room service, provide travel information and can drag up to 300kg of luggage from the marble-floored lobby to the rooms.

If the hotel receives a guest with COVID-19 symptoms, the robots could be deployed instead of people as a precaution.

Otherwise, "guests can choose whether they want to interact with staff members or make use of the self service, which is all controlled by their phone," Herman Brits, the hotel's general manager, said.

Steve Pinto, CEO of CTRL Robotics, which supplies the droids, said they could also scan customers' facial expressions to determine how happy they were.



"It helps management to understand how customers are experiencing the facilities at the hotel," he said, after getting a robot painted in a riotous orange and white pattern to take a selfie.

Reaction to the robots has been mixed. Even highly intelligent robots don't always "get" what you want. "I think the world is moving towards

this digital space, but we are not used to it," hotel guest Ernest Mulenga said. "The human touch is still something that is appealing to me."

# DRC bracing to Contain Ebola outbreak, as Guinea another country to announce cases

KINSHASA

THE Democratic Republic of Congo, World Health Organisation (WHO), and humanitarian agencies are rushing to stop the spread of the deadly Ebola disease after three cases were confirmed in one week.

These cases are reported in Butembo, an epicentre of a previous outbreak (the 10th in the country) that was declared over in June last year.

"Thankfully, World Vision had trained and equipped faith leaders and motor cycle riders on how to help their communities contain such outbreaks. This provides a ready and available force for effective community engagement to safeguard families, especially children," Anne-Marie Connor, the national director for World Vision in DRC explains.

"Since March 2020 we adapted our programmes to augment the COVID19 standard operating procedures, and thankfully most of the measures like frequent handwashing, and physical distancing work for Ebola prevention as well," World Vision East zone director, David Munkley adds.

WHO and the government have commenced shipment of vaccine doses to Butembo and ensuring shipment of cold chain equipment to the affected zone, as well as working to strengthen laboratory capacity.

This part of the country suffers cycles of violent conflict that complicate surveillance efforts, and constrain access to affected areas by responders. Ongoing health emergencies such as COVID-19, malaria, common cholera and measles outbreaks further stretch the country's ability to rapidly detect and respond to new Ebola cases.

"An outbreak of such a highly contagious disease, in a region experiencing mass people movements due to violent spikes of conflict that have recently affected nearly 26,000 families, is worrisome," says World Vision's national director Anne-Marie Connor.

"Addressing public health challenges of this nature requires rapid mobilisation of resources to fire up multi-sector responses. A new Ebola outbreak announced in Guinea this weekend further confounds the international response mechanisms," says Patrick Saah, World Vision's director for sustained humanitarian emergencies in the DRC. World Vision has been a leader in facilitating ebola vaccine deployment, acceptance and compliance during the worst Ebola epidemic in West Africa, as well as the 10th outbreak in the DRC in 2019/20. World Vision continues to actively monitor this outbreak in coordination with other humanitarian stakeholders.



# Why incarceration further disadvantages Australia's indigenous

SYDNEY

**K**EENAN Mundine grew up in the Aboriginal community social housing called The Block, infamous for poor living conditions, alcohol and drug use, and violence, in Sydney's Redfern suburb. At the age of about seven, soon after losing his parents to drugs and suicide, he was separated from his siblings and placed in kinship care.

"I felt robbed of my childhood. I didn't feel safe and it made me struggle with my living conditions and mental health. I couldn't concentrate at school and got into lot of trouble. I spent sleepless nights contemplating what my situation would be if my parents were still alive. At the age of 14, I ended up on the streets and tried to work my way around it," Mundine tells IPS.

Today, he is using his own lived experience of navigating the criminal justice system that helped change the trajectory of his life to devise creative and innovative solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people so they can break free from the cycle of violence, police and prisons.

Indigenous ATSI people are globally the highest incarcerated people, making up 28 percent of the prison population even though they comprise only 3.3 percent of the total Australian population. Many are introduced to the criminal justice system at a young age, often incarcerated for trivial offences, and they remain in the system for life.

"Most children in prison come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and have already experienced violence, abuse, homelessness, and drug or alcohol abuse. A significant number of young Indigenous people in detention centres and prisons suffer from previously undiagnosed Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder. Criminalising their behaviour creates a vicious cycle of disadvantage," Australian Medical Association President, Dr Omar Khorshid, tells IPS via email.

The Australian Government's 2020 Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (ODI) Report notes that over-representation of ATSI people in the criminal justice system is the result of a higher prevalence of the common risk factors for offending, which stem "in part from their experience of dispossession, forced removal and intergenerational trauma and racism - structural and systemic factors including laws, policies and practices that can unintentionally operate to their detriment".

Between 2000 and 2019, the ATSI adult people's imprisonment rate has increased 72 percent and in 2018-19, the ATSI youth detention rate was 22 times the rate for non-Indigenous youth, according to the ODI report.

Challenging Australia's Indigenous incarceration record during its third Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva on Jan. 20, several UN member states urged Australia to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 years to 14 years.

"In 2019, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child had recommended 14 years as the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The Australian Government must now do what is right and introduce legislation to raise the age, so children aged 10 to 13 years are not sent to prison as recommended by the national RaiseTheAge Campaign Alliance," Australian Lawyers for Human Rights president, Kerry Weste, tells IPS via email.

"Despite the fact that indigenous children represent only six percent of young people in Australia, they comprise 57 percent of those in youth detention, and an alarming 78 percent of 10- to 13-year-old children detained," says Weste.

The treatment these children have been subjected to could amount to a violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,

which Australia has ratified.

Carly Stanley, who grew up in a large Aboriginal community in inner-west Sydney suburbs, recalls accompanying her grandmother to visit her uncle in prison and cousins in police cells. She accepted that this was normal because everyone in the community had someone behind bars. Although Stanley had a supportive family, she experienced trauma during her childhood. She dropped out of school and engaged in criminal activity and drug use, but she was fortunate not to ever have been in trouble for it.

"It is only when I got older and did a course in Aboriginal studies, learning the history of my people, did I realise that this situation was specific to our community," Stanley, who worked for many years for government and non-governmental organisations, tells IPS. She realised that the processes and the structures in place didn't take into consideration Aboriginal people's cultural, social, economic, emotional, health and wellbeing into account.

"I tried to make changes as a senior officer inside the departments I worked for, but I realised very quickly that that wasn't going to happen. It ignited my passion to help my people and get better outcomes for them through community-led solutions," says Stanley, who along with Mundine established Deadly Connections, a grassroots Indigenous organisation.

Through Deadly Connections, Mundine says, "We have been able to implement direct interventions from a culturally responsive perspective to get our people social justice and participate in the economy. The government and institutions have many employment accreditation courses, but it is a big challenge to find a job when you have a criminal record."

Research indicates that time in a juvenile justice centre is the most significant factor in increasing the odds of reoffending. On Jun. 30, 2019, 78 percent of ATSI adult prisoners had a known prior imprisonment, compared with 50 percent of non-Indigenous prisoners. Over the period 2000-01 to 2018-19, 55 percent of ATSI young people in sentenced supervision had more than one supervised sentence, compared to 34 percent for non-Indigenous young people, according to the 2020 ODI report.

"Simple reforms such as decriminalising public drunkenness, ending punitive bail laws and taking other steps to reduce the number of people held on remand can significantly impact Indigenous over-incarceration rates in Australia," Weste tells IPS.

While the large majority of ATSI adults in prison are male, the rate of female imprisonment is increasing more rapidly. Structural factors related to sentencing laws appear to be contributing to this increase, with 40 percent of all female prisoners being unsentenced (on remand) at Jun. 30, 2019, up from 37 percent a



**Keenan Mundine outside The Block, an Aboriginal community social housing area where he grew up. Today, he is using his own lived experience of navigating the criminal justice system that helped change the trajectory of his life to devise creative and innovative solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people so they can break free from the cycle of violence, police and prisons.**

year earlier.

"Australia is in the midst of a mass imprisonment crisis, with the number of women in our prisons skyrocketing by 64 percent in the last 10 years. Too often, discriminatory laws and excessive police powers form a toxic combination that results in more and more women - and ATSI women in particular - being separated from their families and funnelled into the prison system," Monique Hurley, Senior Lawyer, Human Rights Law Centre, tells IPS via email.

"Governments across Australia must act now to remove laws that disproportionately and unfairly criminalise women," says Hurley.

Since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which had found that 'too many Aboriginal people are in custody too often', Australia has lost 455 Indigenous people in custody - 295 in prison, 156 in police custody or custody-related operations and four in juvenile detention, according to

the Australian Institute of Criminology's Deaths in Custody in Australia 2018-19 Statistical Report.

"Throwing people behind bars is outdated and ineffective. Governments must invest in strengthening communities and tackling the drivers of crimes - that means affordable housing, adequate social security payments so people can afford basic necessities, community-driven programs to keep young people engaged at school, strengthen culture and drive employment and mental health and wellbeing programmes," Sophie Trevitt, Executive Officer of Change the Record, a national Aboriginal-led justice coalition of legal, health and family violence prevention experts, tells IPS via email.

Australia has spent AUD one billion in 2019-20 on detention-based supervision, community-based supervision and group conferencing. The cost of detention-based supervision was AUD 584.5 million, accounting for the majority of this expenditure.

As Cheryl Axleby, co-chair of Change the Record, tells IPS via email, "Only by empowering and strengthening our communities - and directing funding away from a broken and harmful prison system - will we create safer and more equal communities for everyone."

The new National Agreement on Closing the Gap includes targets for reducing the rates of adult incarceration by at least 15 percent and youth detention by at least 30 percent by 2031.

"The Indigenous Advancement Strategy Safety and Wellbeing Programme includes investing in adult and youth 'through-care' services, which provide intensive case management to those in prison or detention, starting pre-release and continuing post-release to address the underlying causes of offending and prevent reoffending," according to a spokesperson for Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt. **IPS**

## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



23.00 HRS	PROGRAMME
<b>05.00 AM</b>	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUK.
<b>06.00 AM</b>	AMKA NA BBC
<b>06.30 AM</b>	NIPASHE
<b>06.50 AM</b>	MATANGAZO
<b>07.00 AM</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>7:10 AM</b>	MATANGAZO
<b>07.15 AM</b>	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
<b>07.25 AM</b>	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
<b>07.40 AM</b>	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
<b>08.00 AM</b>	HABARI NYEPESI
<b>08.10 AM</b>	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
<b>09.00 AM</b>	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
<b>09.10 AM</b>	MATANGAZO
<b>09.20 AM</b>	BRAND TALK
<b>09.30 AM</b>	KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA
<b>10.00 AM</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>10.03 AM</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>10.10 AM</b>	YALIYOMO YAMO
<b>13.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>13.10 HRS</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>13.30 HRS</b>	DJ SHOW
<b>16.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>16.03 HRS</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>16.30 HRS</b>	HOJA YA LEO
<b>18.30 HRS</b>	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
<b>19.30 HRS</b>	SPOTI LEO
<b>20.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>20.10 HRS</b>	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
<b>21.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>21.05 HRS</b>	DURU ZETU
<b>22.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
<b>22.15 HRS</b>	AFRO TIZII

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

# CAPITAL RADIO

TUESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA (marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI (marudio)



WWF for a living planet®

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

### JOB VACANCY – ADVERTISEMENT

#### COORDINATOR - EAST AFRICA PROSECUTORS' FORUM ON WILDLIFE AND RELATED CRIMES

##### 1. Background:

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade specialists, in alliance with WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is seeking a Project Coordinator to support the running of a regional forum for wildlife prosecutors in East Africa.

TRAFFIC implements a diverse portfolio of work funded by a variety of donors in the government and private sector. The role of the Coordinator will be to support the President and Secretariat of the East African Association of Prosecutors in operationalizing the Association's newly created website to organising virtual or blended workshops for Association members on subject areas such as anti-corruption, wildlife forensics, harmonization of wildlife laws, money laundering and cooperation in combatting transnational crime.

##### 2. Specific Responsibilities and duties:

- Working with the Legal Officer of TRAFFIC East Africa and secretariat of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors, and liaising with the offices of national prosecutions in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, organise and facilitate a physical or virtual workshop, targeting members of the prosecution and judiciary services from each country.
- Collect and analyse data secured from Prosecutors' offices on court decisions related to wildlife crimes across East Africa, and upload to WILDLEX, an IUCN hosted database.
- Provide content and update the EAAP website on a regular basis.
- Prepare contracts with third party suppliers and consultants; supervise their work to ensure deliverables are met according to agreed quality standards and arrange for timely payment of supplier invoices.
- Manage and account for financial expenditures in the implementation of project activities.
- Support quarterly progress project reports (narrative) and work with TRAFFIC East Africa's finance staff to ensure the timely preparation of financial information/spends for quarterly and end of project donor reporting.
- Oversee monitoring and evaluation activities related to the project.
- Respond to donor requests for ad-hoc information and attend meetings as required to support the project with partners, Government agencies or to attend regional workshops, and;
- Other relevant support as required by the Director of East Africa office.

##### 3. Requirements:

- Must be eligible to live and work in Tanzania, and to travel within East Africa region (e.g. Uganda, Kenya);
- Hold a Bachelors Degree in Law and a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice;
- A minimum of five years relevant experience of working in a project management capacity; covering administration, budgeting, financial reporting and contracting;
- Experience in event management a definite advantage;
- Must be fluent in written and oral English;
- Computer literate (Microsoft Office) with strong spread sheet skills;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with strong organisational ability;
- A good team player, used to meeting tight deadlines and working under pressure; and also willing to work on own initiative;
- Have an interest in wildlife conservation; and
- Depending on national and regional circumstances, be willing to travel in the region which may require occasional periods of up to one week away from home

##### 4. Applications:

Applications must include a cover letter, along with a complete CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to TRAFFIC East Africa via email to: [trafficz@traffic.org](mailto:trafficz@traffic.org) by midnight Tanzania time, **28 February 2021**.

We thank all applicants for their interest in this position but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The interviews will take place over Skype and/or in person in Dar es Salaam or Arusha, Tanzania.

We thank everyone for their interest in this position but only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The interviews will take place virtually.





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## Firm donates artificial limbs worth 360m/- to benefit 600 people

By Smart Money Reporter, Dodoma

A record 600 people in the country have received artificial limbs valued at 360m/- donated and manufactured by Dar es Salaam based Kamal Group.

Kamal Group's Public Relations Manager, Hedwick Peter said in Dodoma this week while presenting 200 limbs to Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenista Mhagama that each limb has a market value of 600,000/-.

Peter said the 200 limbs will be distributed to the needy in three regions of Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Iringa. "You shall recall that this is not the first time that we are doing this....Through our Peoples' Empowerment Foundation (PEF), we have donated about 600 artificial limbs during the past five years," she said.

The artificial limbs are manufactured by Kamal Steel Factory, a subsidiary of Kamal Group. She said through the PEF, Kamal Group targets to empower people with disability through donations so as to enable them go about their income-generating activities.

"Economic opportunities for people with disabilities are limited due to many reasons hence our decision to



Jenista Mhagama (2nd R) Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), presents an artificial limb to an unidentified person with disability after receiving 200 limbs from Kamal Group in Dodoma yesterday.

assist with prosthetic limbs," Peter added while noting that the group is committed to support state efforts in empowering people with disabilities.

Kamal Group has subsidiaries dealing in steel manufacturing and artificial limbs project. It has also been feeding over 2,500 children at Chani-ka and Nzasa Primary Schools for the past seven years now.

"We are delighted to have received positive feedback from school management and parents with on increased attendance by pupils and now want to double the number of beneficiaries in the coming few years," he said.

Speaking after receiving the donation, Minister Mhagama said the government is doing everything possible to help

people with disabilities live a decent life but commended Kamal Group for the support.

"So the campaign that is aimed at arresting everyone who misuses people with disabilities for their own selfish motives will be a sustainable one," Mhagama warned while acknowledging that Kamala Group's role in helping people with disabilities is the highest level of corporate social responsibility.

"This is the third time that Kamal Group is inviting me to witness the handing over of artificial limbs, as government, we appreciate this kind of support," she said. Present at yesterday's event was the Member of Parliament for Dodoma Urban, Anthony Mavunde and Mhagama's Deputy, Umyy Nderiananga.

## Top economists warn US against underestimating climate damage

WASHINGTON DC

NOBEL laureate Joseph Stiglitz and Lord Nicholas Stern published a paper on Monday excoriating the US government—and many of their own peers in economics—for methods used to estimate the cost of climate change.

The warning from two influential economists that policymakers are understating the looming damage from warming temperatures comes just days before President Joe Biden's administration is expected to release an interim report on what's known as the "social cost of carbon."

Calculations to define the social cost of carbon allow regulators to adjust federal benefit-cost analyses to account for environmental damage associated with fossil fuels, capturing potentially enormous economic impacts that aren't reflected in market prices paid to fill a fuel tank or generate electricity by burning gas. This approach enabled President Barack Obama to

go ahead with dozens of regulations that account for pollution from energy use. President Donald Trump's team virtually eliminated the social cost of carbon to reverse Obama era policies, drawing criticism from many resource economists.

The paper from Stiglitz and Stern, chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics, runs for 24 000 words and covers topics such as mathematical modelling to concepts such as intergenerational justice traced back Emperor Justinian I in the Sixth Century. "We only had 75 pages in the paper so we couldn't go through everything," said Stiglitz, an economics professor at Columbia University.

Without a new approach to the social cost of carbon, the authors warn that the US is significantly underestimating the financial impact of carbon emissions and hindering President Biden's efforts to steer the country to-

ward a net-zero economy by 2050.

In dollar terms, Stiglitz and Stern suggest the social cost of carbon should be at least \$100 a metric ton. That's well above the \$60 level, in 2018 dollars, set under President Obama. The Trump administration disbanded the interagency working group responsible for the social cost of carbon and lowered the estimate to \$8. "They just made it up," Stiglitz said.

Stiglitz and Stern assail US policymakers' assumption that there's only one market failure they need to consider: a lack of a price on greenhouse gases. Important to include too, they write, are inequality, technological innovation, disclosure of risk in capital markets, the incumbent power of existing infrastructure and social networks, and the damage from other kinds of pollution.

They attack conventional models used in climate economics research and by the Obama administration. "It is a fundamental mistake to begin the



Joseph Stiglitz.

analysis of climate change under the premise that, but for the mispricing of emissions, the economy is efficient," they warn.

The paper expands on their 2017

World Bank-backed High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices. Stiglitz and Stern now recommend an approach to pricing greenhouse gas that emphasises how globally

agreed-on climate limits affect economic analysis. They prefer a framework that "implies that growth, especially correctly measured, may actually be enhanced with stronger climate change policies."

The US needs to update the social cost of carbon for reasons that go beyond Trump's changes. Scientists have learned much more about change in the intervening years, according to Stiglitz and Stern, and even the value used by the Obama administration is no longer high enough to set the US on a path to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Without using an approach that is up to the task, they warn, the US may fail to live up to its political goals. "Almost surely," they write, if the new administration relies on the same climate-economic models, "the US would be committing itself not to achieve the Paris goals."

## Uber loss in 2020 narrows to \$6.76bn as delivery service picks up

SAN FRANCISCO

UBER posted a full-year net loss of \$6.76 billion for 2020, 20 per cent lower than in 2019, as its delivery service picked up while its ride-sharing business slumped.

Revenue during the period dropped 14 per cent on the previous year to \$11.1bn as the company's ride sharing service registered declines in bookings due to Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns across the world.

Despite the losses, Uber remains "well on track to achieving our profitability goals in 2021," the company's chief financial officer Nelson Chai said in a statement late Wednesday. The company narrowed its fourth quarter net loss by 12 per cent to \$968 million, while revenue dropped 16 per cent to \$3.16bn during the period.

Revenue in the US and Canada declined 26 per cent in the last quarter, followed by a 43 per cent drop in Latin America but a 25 per cent increase in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and a 70 per cent increase in the Asia-Pacific region.

Uber sees "many many opportunities" in the mobility business as different regions gradually recover



Uber's chief financial officer, Nelson Chai.

from the Covid-19 pandemic, Dara Khosrowshahi, the company's chief executive, said. However, the timing for a complete recovery depends on when countries fully reopen, he added.

Uber's stock closed 6.1 per cent up at \$63.20 per share on Wednesday. It fell 4.8 per cent in after-hours trading to \$60.10 a share. "While 2020 certainly tested our resilience, it also dramatically accelerated our capabilities in local commerce," Mr Khosrowshahi said.

"With two global businesses stitched together by world-class tech and increasingly valuable membership programmes, we are more focused than ever on making people's lives a little bit easier ... helping them go wherever they want and get whatever they need," he added. In the last three months of 2020, Uber's ride-hailing business slowly recovered while its delivery business boomed.

The company earned \$17.2bn in gross bookings

in the last quarter, 5 per cent less than the same period a year earlier. Delivery gross bookings surged 128 per cent in the period and mobility bookings declined 47 per cent. Uber's delivery business more than doubled in 2020 to nearly \$44bn in annual bookings. Restaurants on Uber Eats exceeded 600,000 in the fourth quarter to December 31.

The company has expanded its delivery business beyond meals. Last year, it acquired new businesses like Cornershop in Mexico for groceries and Postmates courier service (which delivers Apple products) while divesting others like ATG and Jump to structurally lower its cost base.

"These decisions have resulted in a much more focused and ultimately stronger company," Mr Chai said. Uber, which went public in 2019, cut nearly a quarter of its staff over multiple rounds of layoffs in the first half of last year as the Covid-19 pandemic upended its core business.



# Local Halal certification bureau seeking Turkish and Malaysian affiliation

By Smart Money Reporter

**N**EWLY established Mico International Halal Bureau of Certification Limited Tanzania (MIHB) has applied for affiliation to Turkish based Hafsa Halal Organization to get global recognition of its activities.

Secretary of MIHB Tanzania, Sheikh Jummanne Kasonso said in Dar es Salaam last week that Hafsa is a Turkish based global halal board which brings together various certification bodies around the world hence convenient for MIHB.

"Hafsa's main objective is to set universal halal standards to be used by the certifying bodies all over the world," Kasonso said adding that MIHB is also seeking affiliation from Malaysian government halal certification body.

According to Sheikh Kasonso, Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) has endorsed MIHB as legitimate halal supervising body charged for the slaughtering of animals in all abattoirs with respect to Moslem principles.

He said MIHB is currently involved in certification of procedures that include issuance of halal certificates in slaughter houses, butcheries, restaurants, kitchen and catering facilities and manufacturing.

"We also deal with hygiene of staff handling animals at any point to ensure that they are medically examined prior to appointment and that their health is constantly monitored," he said while noting that clean and protective clothing are basic requirements for any certified institution.

Sheikh Kasonso further noted that MIHB experts will conduct inspection, analysis and supervision where applicable, auditing and consultancy relating to halal products and



Halal certification emblem.

facilities through use of modern technology.

"Our goal is to eradicate doubtful and fake halal products and services in the country to protect consumers. We will maintain strict criteria for universal acceptability and obtain international recognition based on professionalism so that locally slaughtered animals can sell abroad," he noted.

MIHB which is the first company of its kind to be established in the country, will establish a comprehensive and standard programme for preparation area, surfaces, equipment, tools and utensils being used by slaughter houses, butcheries and restaurants. "But we will also ensure that halal food is stored appropriately and separately from non-halal animals with mandatory labelling for such facilities," Sheikh Kasonso stated.



Patrick Safari, Director of the Commercial Department at Iposita.

## Iposita to use codified addressing system to ease delivery of parcels

KIGALI

THE National Post Office (Iposita) has adopted a codified addressing system that will make it possible for them to deliver packages and mails to the exact locations by use of grid code technology.

Just like many companies that do commodity deliveries in Rwanda, Iposita has been depending on the street numbers established by government, or make phone calls to parcel recipients for directions.

However, this was challenging in terms of time and ease with which deliveries would be done, especially in areas where house numbers have not been assigned, says Patrick Safari, the Director of the Commercial Department at Iposita.

"When you are delivering parcels in the country, you are faced with the challenge of identifying the exact location where you should meet the recipient. This is because, in peri-urban and rural areas, there are plots in which the street addressing system has not yet been established. In addition, there are rural places where Google Maps does not work," he said.

"And so, when making deliveries, our drivers are forced to call the recipients and ask, 'Where are you?'" he added. However, this is set to change with the new system which is capable of providing location of every Rwandan by use of a digitized address. To use the service, Iposita's clients will have to use a smartphone application provided by Akutari Limited, a Nigerian firm that is partnering with Iposita to deliver the technology.

osita to deliver the technology.

After opening the app, the client will be required to undertake an easy registration process, feeding in a few details like their names and phone numbers. Using the phone's GPS, the app will locate the house, office or compound where the person is standing while registering and will generate a grid code for that location.

According to Iposita, Rwandans and foreign residents can voluntarily sign up to obtain an address.

Safari told The New Times that Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority has already given the technology a go-ahead and that Iposita will be undertaking training for its drivers and staff on how to use it, as well as sensitizing the public about it before it can go operational - hopefully this year. In addition to this, Iposita has to incorporate this technology into their system, before they will start to do deliveries using it.

Under the system, every home and office even in a multi-story facility can have their own grid code - and this will assist them to have their parcel deliveries at their doors. Speaking about its safety, Safari said that it is a patented technology, and that Akutari has been asked to keep all the information of people in Rwanda on a server within the country.

"As an operation requirement, we agreed with Akutari that people's data has to be stored on a server in the country, under the authorization of RISA for privacy and protection of personal data," he said. Meanwhile, in March last year during the lockdown, Iposita launched delivery services for essential products to people in the City of Kigali, and this is still going on - according to Safari.

# Crypto's rapid rise means investors need gold, top miner says

MELBOURNE

"If you're into cryptos, you want to consider having some gold," Newcrest Mining Chief Executive Officer Sandeep Biswas said. The astonishing rise of cryptocurrencies, including red-hot Bitcoin, just handed one of the world's leading gold miners one more reason to urge investors to buy the age-old haven that is bullion.

Bitcoin soared to a record this week as Elon Musk's Tesla said that it had made a \$1.5 billion investment in the digital currency. That move injected fresh vigor into the debate over whether the new product would over time erode gold's appeal. Biswas said that while the two assets were distinct, owning bullion would benefit cryptocurrency holders as it's more stable.

"Gold is a different class of investment," Biswas said. "It's a tangible asset: you can see it, you can touch it, you can feel it, you can mold it, you can make it into jewelry, whatever you want." Gold and Bitcoin can coexist, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc. While the digital currency may be pinching some demand from the traditional haven, the precious metal's standing will endure, the bank said in a December note.

Spot gold is about 3% lower year-to-date at \$1,841 an ounce after setting a record above \$2,000 last year. Bitcoin, which can be prone to major swings, is up more than 50% in 2021, and was holding near \$45,000.

Meanwhile MasterCard has kick-started the process of accepting cryptocurrencies into its network, in response to the increased use of cards to purchase crypto assets. As a preparation for the future of crypto MasterCard will enable merchants, customers and businesses to move digital value through crypto or fiat.

The adoption of cryptocurrencies to the Mastercard network will be selective based on its principles for digital currencies. The focus will be on stablecoins as are more reliable and regulated. A good number of digital coins in circulation still need to revamp their compliance measures. It is expected that consumers operating in the ecosystem will rally around crypto assets that offer security and reliability.

MasterCard will focus on consumer protections similar to that of credit cards, strict compliance protocols such as Know Your Customer for capturing illegal activity, adherence to laws and regulations the regions of operation, and offer stability as a unit for spending not solely investment.

Last year, Mastercard partnered with BitPay and Wirex to create crypto cards that help people transact their cryptocurrencies. This year, MasterCard teamed up with LVL (a crypto exchange). In all these partnerships, cryptocurrencies do not move through MasterCard's network, instead, the crypto partners do the conversions on their end then transmit them through the MasterCard network. The change will allow more merchants to access crypto, cut out inefficiencies, and allow both merchants and consumers to avoid the back and forth in crypto conversions.



Newcrest Mining CEO Sandeep Biswas.

## Spotify to let employees work from anywhere amid Covid-19 pandemic

LONDON

SPOTIFY has announced that it's adapting a "Work from Anywhere" model, which will allow employees to choose whether they want to be in the office full time, be at home full time, or a combination of the two.

The company will also introduce more flexibility around locations, so employees will be able to choose the country and city where they work. Spotify will provide co-working space memberships for employees who choose to work remotely but still want a dedicated workspace.

"As part of our ongoing Dynamic Workplace effort, we're reevaluating our office spaces across the globe for increased sustainability, flexibility, and well-being to ensure that all of our employees, regardless of ability or situation, can work comfortably and efficiently," the company said in a blog post.

"The ultimate goal of our new design approach is to ensure that employees have a place where they can focus, collaborate, and create—whether that's at a desk, in a conference room, or in cafe spaces."

An increasing amount of companies are starting to consider remote work as a more permanent option due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Salesforce announced this week it will let employees choose whether they want to come into the office again, saying "the 9-to-5 workday is dead." Twitter and Square are letting employees work from home "forever," while Microsoft said workers will have more flexibility to work from home.



## Coca-Cola Kwanza launches 'Mwanamke Shujaa Excellence in Leadership Awards'



Coca-Cola Kwanza's business development and commercial director, Josephine Msalilwa (R) addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam recent during the launch of 'Mwanamke Shujaa Excellence in Leadership Awards 2021'. She is with Sarah Pima, the competition's chief judge. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Smart Money Reporter

IN recognition of women's extraordinary roles played in the country, Coca-Cola Kwanza Limited has launched a 'Mwanamke Shujaa' leadership awards to coincide with International Women's Day which falls on March 8 annually.

The local subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, launched a new season of the campaign this week to celebrate the significant role being played by Tanzanian women in raising families but also grow the country's economy.

Coca-Cola Kwanza Business Development and Commercial Director, Josephine Msalilwa said in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the competition that the motive behind the initiative is to celebrate, recognize and inspire women from different sectors of the economy.

"It's about celebrating women's achievements and successes, and inspiring young women that they too, can reach their goals and achieve great success," said Msalilwa who is one of the few women directors at the beverages manufacturing conglomerate.

She pointed out that responsible corporate citizens believe that it is companies' responsibility to bring sustainable change in the country's different sectors where women

operate hence Coca Cola Kwanza management's decision to introduce the award.

"The 'Mwanamke Shujaa' award is aimed at amplifying the important contributions of women in our society," she added while noting that the word which casually translates to 'A brave woman,' also provides a platform for women to inspire, network, build confidence and share experiences among each other.

Msalilwa further noted that because this year's theme for International Women's Day is, '2021 is Focused on Women in Leadership,' Coca-Cola Kwanza has decided to focus on recognizing efforts being made by women in different capacities by targeting 10 different sectors of the economy. "I have already met great and amazing Tanzanian women, who are determined to break barriers and reach greater success," she noted.

Backing the Coca Cola Kwanza Director, the campaign's Coordinator, Yvette Gadi said, 'Mwanamke Shujaa' awards align well with the theme of the 65th session of UN Commission on the Status of Women.

"Women's full and effective participation in decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls," Gadi said while quoting the UNCSW theme.

She said Coca Cola Kwanza which is a subsidiary of a global beverages conglomerate has an important role to play in advancing the UNCSW's agenda by implementing practically what the world body states in its mandate.

"Imagine a world where all people have equal rights and opportunities with women and girls not being afraid of walking and doing whatever they like," she argued saying the 'Mwanamke Shujaa' campaign will run for three weeks with activities being done virtually and through the media.

She said activities to be undertaken will include women in leadership positions live television shows, beaming of

documentaries, online live question and answer sessions that will climax into a closing banquet where awards will be bestowed.

Commenting on the awards, Chief Judge of the competitions, Sarah Pima said the aim is to recognise women who have excelled in leadership and appreciate their outstanding performance in the 10 shortlisted sectors of the economy.

"This year, we plan to award 10 outstanding women in different sectors including those who have excellence in education, sports and games, business and entrepreneurship, health, science and technology, among others," Pima said. Other sectors include tourism, social, cultural and community leadership, media, entertainment and agribusiness.

Coca-Cola Kwanza Ltd has been involved in various sustainability initiatives that empowers women's across its rank and file staff through initiatives such as 5by20, a Coca-Cola global initiative to provide economic support to five million women to run their own businesses in developing countries by 2020.

The local company has also trained women in business and entrepreneurship, give them working equipment and network more the 50,000 Tanzanian women as part of the 5by20 program.

## Biden faces South African push to extend concessions on trade

JOHANNESBURG



SOUTH Africa is apprehensive about striking a new trade deal with the US and would rather maintain existing relations with the world's largest economy, the nation's top trade official said.

South Africa is currently party to the so-called Generalised System of Preferences and the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, which together allow most sub-Saharan African countries duty-free access to the American market for almost 7 000 products. AGOA is due to expire in 2025, while Richard Neal, the chairman of the House of Representatives' Ways & Means Committee, has called for the GSP – the US's oldest and largest trade-preference program for the world's poorest economies – to be updated.

"We are hoping we can keep the current unilateral agreement in place," Lionel October (pictured), the director-general of South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, said in an interview last week. "We are working more on continuing GSP preferences, hopefully getting an extension to AGOA, even though we might have to give some concessions. But rather than a full-blown trade agreement" that may take four to five years to negotiate, he said. Trade in goods and services between South Africa and America was valued at \$17.8 billion in 2019, while \$2 billion of exports from Africa's most-industrialised economy were cleared under the GSP and AGOA, according to US government data.

South African officials plan to meet their American counterparts early next month to discuss trade relations under President Joe Biden's administration, according to October. "We are planning to put a lot of effort into our relationship with the US," he said.

While Kenya is negotiating a bilateral trade deal with the US, a country-to-country deal isn't an option for South Africa because it is part of a regional customs union with Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini and Namibia. The government also fears that any new accord could be accompanied by conditions that would prejudice local industry, October said.

Here are other key issues addressed by October:

### Local manufacturing

The government will need to maintain some form of protection for South African manufacturers if it is to build up local production capacity and create employment, according to October. "We have been relying on our mining and finance sector to drive growth," he said. "Countries only become successful if they have manufacturing and agriculture. That is where the high-paid jobs are, it is where the mass employment is. We need protection when it is needed. Obviously you can't become uncompetitive."

### Automobile industry

Africa's largest auto-making nation is experiencing an investment boom, with the world's biggest vehicle producers adding to manufacturing capacity. Expansion plans being implemented by Ford Motor Co. will generate investment totaling R33 billion (\$2.3 billion) and see the construction of 13 new factories and the overhaul of a rail link between Pretoria, the capital, and the southern coastal city of Port Elizabeth by 2025. Toyota is ramping up production of its hybrid cars, while Isuzu Motors Ltd. is reviving an old General Motors Co. plant in the south of the country. The government is now reaping the fruits of a 20-year effort to build up the industry, which generates almost 15.5% of the nation's exports and employs more than 100 000 skilled workers, according to October.

### Steel production

The steel industry lies at the heart of the country's industrialisation drive and a master plan to encourage output will be announced soon. Demand has already been picking up, driven by an infrastructure-development drive and an expanding mining industry, with investments being made in furnaces and plants being modernised. The government wants to substantially increase local participation in the steel industry, including taking up a bigger stake in ArcelorMittal SAs South African unit, October said.

### Trade relations

A new continental free-trade accord that came into effect this year will increase African countries' market access, encourage regional trade and promote industrialisation – a goal that has been beyond the reach of most small African nations, October said. South Africa intends to step up trade with Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria and Egypt, and work with them to make in-roads in the automotive sector.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

## Sh696m payout for Kakuzi rights violation victims

NAIROBI

THE parent company of Kakuzi, Camellia Plc, has paid Sh696 million to settle claims of alleged human rights abuses perpetrated by employees in its Kenyan agricultural operation.

The amount includes payouts to victims of alleged violence and rape as well as remedial investments in the local community in Murang'a County where Kakuzi runs its agricultural business. The multinational also paid Sh348 million to settle similar allegations brought against its Malawian subsidiary, Eastern Produce Malawi (EPM), raising its total spend on the human rights row to Sh1 billion.

"These claims have now been resolved at settlements costing up to £4.6 million (Sh696 million) in relation to the Kenyan claims, and £2.3 million (Sh348 million) in relation to the Malawian claims," Kent-based Camellia said in a trading update. The settlement, the multinational added, clears the path for investigations into the allegations and prosecution of any individual offenders found culpable.

UK law firm Leigh Day had initially filed rights abuse claims against Kakuzi in the High Court in London but the assertions were dropped, with the litigation going

ahead against Camellia and its subsidiaries Linton Park Plc and Robertson Bois Dickson Anderson Limited.

"The companies announce that an innovative and mutually beneficial resolution of all the claims has been reached, without any admission of liability by the companies or by Kakuzi," Camellia said. As part of the deal, Leigh Day has agreed not to bring or support any further claims against any part of the Camellia Group in connection with their operations in Kenya, "for a substantial period."

The multinational decided to settle to limit its exposure in the dispute. It had already spent more than Sh500 million in legal fees which it said would be difficult to recover from the petitioners even if it won the case. Leigh Day took up the case on a no-win no-fee basis.

"EPM and the companies also know that even if they had successfully defended these claims all the way to trial they would not have been able to recover their legal expenses from the claimants," Camellia said.

The human rights row triggered a major fallout which saw UK supermarkets Tesco, Sainsbury's and Lidl suspend purchase of avocados from Kakuzi in October last year when the issue was reported by The Times of London. It was not immediately clear



Kakuzi PLC's Murang'a County premises.

whether Kakuzi has been reinstated as a supplier to the major retailers.

"The settlement is intended not only to resolve the claims themselves, but also to help Kakuzi to strengthen its relations with the local communities and to continue to support the thousands of smallholder farmers who rely on Kakuzi to get their avocados to market," Camellia said. The alleged abuses were carried out by employees of Kakuzi and EPM, including security guards. Camellia owns a 50.7 percent stake in Kakuzi, giving it

control of the company.

"Although not party to the litigation or the settlement, Kakuzi has confirmed that it will be putting in place certain measures, for the benefit of the communities on and around its farm," the multinational said.

The measures include funding of charcoal kilns and access to firewood, building two social centres for community meetings, and employing predominantly female safety marshalls on Kakuzi's farm "to give visible reassurance to those using access routes and

particularly women."

### Access to local amenities

Kakuzi will also build three new roads accessible to the community without any requirement to obtain a licence to give people better access to local amenities. The company will establish a technical working group to survey and demarcate land which has been previously donated by Kakuzi and design and implement a human rights defenders' policy.

"The cost (over three years) of these projects, together with payments for the individual claimants and a contribution to their legal fees will be up to a sum of £4.6 million (Sh696 million)," Camellia said.

The measures will build on governance reforms launched by Kakuzi last year as the legal battle was heating up. The agricultural firm in November appointed its second-largest shareholder, John Kibunga Kimani, as its non-executive director after denying him a board seat for years.

Dr Kimani has strong credibility among the community in Murang'a given his squatter background and his philanthropic efforts, including funding education of poor students. He was raised on Kakuzi's farms as a squatter but has since amassed a 32.2 percent stake in the company worth Sh2.3 billion,



## WORLD

## No-nonsense Nigerian woman to be named boss in double first for WTO

GENEVA

THREE months after the Trump administration rejected her, former Nigerian finance minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was expected to receive unanimous backing later yesterday to become the first woman and first African director-general of the World Trade Organization.

A self-declared "doer" with a track record of taking on seemingly intractable problems, Okonjo-Iweala will have her work cut out for her at the trade body, even with Donald Trump, who had threatened to pull the United States out of the organisation, no longer in the White House.

As director-general, a position that yields limited formal power, Okonjo-Iweala, 66, will need to broker international trade talks in the face of persistent U.S.-China conflict; respond to pressure to reform trade rules; and counter protectionism heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A 25-year veteran of the World Bank, where she oversaw an \$81 billion portfolio, Okonjo-Iweala ran against seven other candidates by espousing a belief in trade's ability to lift people out of poverty.

She studied development economics at Harvard after experiencing civil war in Nigeria as a teenager. She returned to the country in 2003 to serve as finance minister and backers point to her hard-nose negotiating skills that helped seal a deal to cancel billions of

dollars of Nigerian debt with the Paris Club of creditor nations in 2005.

"She brings stature, she brings experience, a network and a temperament of trying to get things done, which is quite a welcome lot in my view," former WTO chief Pascal Lamy told Reuters. "I think she's a good choice."

Key to her success will be her ability to operate in the centre of a "U.S.-EU-China triangle", he said.

The endorsement of the Biden administration cleared the last obstacle to her appointment.

## SWEET BUT STRONG

Okonjo-Iweala becomes one of the few female heads of a major multilateral body. She is expected to join the WTO's Geneva lakeside headquarters within weeks where her portrait is set to be hung beside others of men, mostly white and from rich countries.

Her bright Nigerian prints are sure to stand out among the suits there where the majority of top staff are also men, like most of the delegates and ministers that walk its corridors.

The Trump administration's main criticism of her was that she lacked direct trade experience compared to her main South Korean rival and even supporters say she will have to quickly get up to speed on the technicalities of trade negotiations.

She has rejected this, saying that she has plenty of experience of trade plus other ex-



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

perience.

"The qualities I have are even better," she said.

Raised by academics, the mother-of-four earned a reputation for hard work and modesty amid the pomp of Nigeria's governing class, acquaintances say.

"She is persistent and stubborn," said Kingsley Moghalu, former deputy governor of Nigeria's central bank who worked with her when she was the country's first female finance minister.

Even when her elderly mother was kidnapped in the Niger Delta, she refused to back down on a series of oil reforms, one of several incidents that earned her the nickname 'Okonjo-Wahala', Wahala meaning "trouble" in Nigerian Pidgin.

"People recognise that this is not someone who is going to tolerate nonsense," her son Uzodinma Iweala, a writer, told Reuters.

"She's a very strong woman like many African women. There's that song 'Sweet Mother'

and that's true for her but you also know that you don't cross a Sweet Mother."

## REFORMING THE UNREFORMABLE

The 26-year-old WTO that Okonjo-Iweala inherits after a six-month leadership gap is partially paralysed, thanks to the Trump administration which blocked appointments to its top appeals body that acts as the global arbiter of trade disputes.

But even before Trump, negotiators had struggled to clinch deals that must be agreed by consensus, with the United States and other developed WTO members arguing that developing countries, notably China, cannot cling on to exceptions and that rules need to change to reflect China's economic growth.

Okonjo-Iweala who is a special envoy for the World Health Organization on COVID-19 and, until recently chair of the board of global vaccine alliance Gavi, told Reuters that trade's contribution to public health would be a priority.

The WTO currently faces deadlock over an issue of waiving intellectual property rights for COVID-19 drugs, with many wealthy countries opposed.

High on the to-do list will also be fisheries subsidies, the subject of the WTO's main multilateral talks that missed a deadline to conclude by end-2020.

Asked about the challenges ahead, she joked that a book she wrote about fixing Nigeria's broken institutions could well apply to today's WTO: 'Reforming the Unreformable'.

"I feel I can solve the problems. I'm a known reformer, not someone who talks about it," she said. "I've actually done it".

## Putin hopes for constructive development of relations with Italy under new PM Draghi

MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin has congratulated Mario Draghi on his appointment as Italy's Prime Minister in a telegram published on the Kremlin's website yesterday.

"I expect that your activity as head of government will facilitate constructive development of Russian-Italian relations, bilateral cooperation in various spheres to the benefit of our nations and in the interest of strengthening stability and security on the European continent and in the world as a whole," the message says.

The president wished Draghi success in fulfilling the tasks standing before the newly formed government, as well as good health and prosperity.

Former President of the European Central Bank Mario Draghi officially agreed to head the Italian government on Friday, announcing its composition approved by the Italian president.

Agencies

## UK PM Johnson wants 'cautious but irreversible' path out of COVID-19 lockdown

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday he would plot a cautious but irreversible path out of the COVID-19 lockdown this week after the vaccination of 15 million vulnerable people.

With nearly a quarter of the United Kingdom's population now inoculated with a first dose of a COVID vaccine in a little over two months, Johnson is under pressure from some lawmakers and businesses to reopen the shuttered economy.

"We've got to be very prudent and what we want to see is progress that is cautious, but irreversible," Johnson told reporters. "If we possibly can, we'll be setting out dates."

"If because of the rate of infection, we have to push off something a little bit to the right - delay it for a little bit - we won't hesitate to do that."

Johnson, due to set the path out of lockdown on Feb. 22, said the rates of infection were still high and too many people were still dying.

Asked if he would ensure schools reopened on March 8, Johnson said he would do everything he could to ensure that.

If many people get infected, there would be a high risk of mutation in the virus and higher risk of it spreading to older and more vulnerable groups, he said.

The biggest and swiftest global vaccine rollout in history is seen as the best chance of exiting the COVID-19 pandemic which has killed 2.4 million people, tipped the global economy into its worst peacetime slump since the Great Depression, and upended normal life for billions.

The United Kingdom has the world's fifth-worst official death toll - currently 117,166 - after the United States, Brazil, Mexico and India.

## VACCINE PASSPORTS?

Britain has vaccinated 15.062 million people with a first dose and 537,715 with a second dose, the fastest rollout per capita of any large country, Hancock said he expected vaccine supplies to increase as manufacturing accelerated.

An influential group of lawmakers in Johnson's Conservative Party is urging an end to the lockdown as soon as the most vulnerable nine groups are vaccinated. They want no more rules beyond May 1.

"We're all filled with sorrow for the people we've lost, the harms that we've suffered but we don't honour those we've loved and lost by wrecking the rest of our lives," lawmaker Steve Baker said. "We've got to find a way to rebuild our society and our economy and our prospects, our livelihoods."

Britain is speaking to other countries about giving its citizens certificates showing they have been vaccinated so that they can travel abroad in the future to countries that require them, Johnson said.

Agencies

## Sierra Leone activates emergency response following Ebola cases in Guinea

FREETOWN

THE government of Sierra Leone has activated its Health Emergency Response System to level two following seven confirmed Ebola cases in neighboring Guinea.

The country's Health Ministry said in a statement on Sunday that it has all the structures in place that was established during the 2014/15 Ebola response.

"We will build on our expertise and experience to mount a solid response that not only prevents the introduction of Ebola into the country but should the virus be introduced has a strong system that protects the lives of all Sierra Leoneans and interrupts the transmission of the virus," said the statement.

Xinhua

## Zimbabwe receives its first batch of COVID-19 vaccines from China

HARARE

A BATCH of COVID-19 vaccines donated by China arrived in Robert Mugabe International Airport in Zimbabwe's capital here on early Monday morning.

The 200,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccines are the first batch that Zimbabwe has received as it steps up efforts to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccines will cover all frontline health workers firstly, and the excess will be extended to vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions, according to Zimbabwe's vaccine deployment strategy.

Zimbabwean Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, together with Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Guo Shaochun, attended the handover ceremony

at the airport. Chiwenga, who is also the health minister, expressed gratitude to China for donating COVID-19 vaccines to the southern African country, saying the batch of vaccines is a timely donation as Zimbabweans are suffering from the pandemic.

"We receive this vaccine as it gave the hope to the nation that finally we may be on the verge of returning to some semblance of normalcy.

"That's what we are aiming to achieve," said the senior official. "The vaccine also offers the possibility that our people who have borne the brunt of the economic ravages of the pandemic might finally turn a new page, following the unfortunate interruption to the economic activities that have been necessitated by the need to contain the spread of the virus," Chiwenga added.



Guo, for his part, said the donation represents the essence of the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation and the profound friendship between China and Zimbabwe.

"The vaccines arriving today are China's first major assistance program in Zimbabwe in the Chinese New Year, which began three days ago," Guo said. "I am confident this donation will reinforce your position

in the fight. Let's continue to march hand in hand and make the new year more fruitful for our bilateral relations," Guo added.

In an interview with Xinhua on Friday, Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa also expressed his gratitude to China for its offer of COVID-19 vaccines, saying the donation is a testament to the long-standing friendship between the peo-

ples of Zimbabwe and China.

"These vaccines are certainly providing a new light of positivity for the people of Zimbabwe in these tough times, (vaccines) which have been donated by the Chinese government and its people.

A light at the end of a dark tunnel. We are most grateful for this lifesaving gesture," Mnangagwa said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin on Feb. 8 announced that China would provide vaccine aid to 53 developing countries.

Zimbabwe is among the first three African countries to receive the COVID-19 vaccines from China, as Equatorial Guinea has received its vaccines on Wednesday, while Sierra Leone is expecting vaccines from the Asian country later in February.

Xinhua

## Russia open to China's initiative to bring US back to Iran nuclear deal - senior diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW has discussed China's initiative to hold a multilateral meeting aimed at convincing the United States to rejoin the Iranian nuclear deal with Washington and Beijing and can take part in it, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters yesterday.

"We discussed it with both Chinese and American colleagues. We are open to taking part in this even, even though it is clear that it is crucial to at

least set out indicative understanding of what this meeting can result in for it to have meaningful substance," he said.

The senior diplomat underlined that the meeting is especially relevant as February 21 is approaching when the bill passed in Iran that frees Tehran from complying with the IAEA additional protocol enters into force unless the US lifts its sanctions.

"We are calling on the US to show political will and send a signal to Iran and other mem-



bers of the international community showing readiness to rejoin the JCPOA.

It would be important to start by lifting all sanctions which formed the backbone of the so-called policy of maximum pres-

sure towards Iran under the [former US President Donald] Trump administration," Ryabkov stressed.

The deputy minister is convinced that this step will stop the situation from deteriorating further as a result of pre-announced actions of Tehran. He added that Moscow is calling on the Iranian colleagues to show responsibility and restraint.

On February 9, spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Wenbin said that Chinese authorities

propose conducting multilateral talks as soon as possible to agree the issue of Washington's rejoining the Iranian nuclear deal.

According to him, the meeting should discuss "the possibility of Washington's return to its agreements in accordance with a roadmap."

In 2018, Trump withdrew the US from the JCPOA and launched a maximum pressure campaign towards Iran, practically aimed at economical suffocation of the country.

## Smaller protests in Myanmar as junta deploys more soldiers, armoured vehicles

PROTESTERS in Myanmar kept up demands yesterday for the release of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and an end to military rule, though crowds were smaller after the junta deployed armoured vehicles and more soldiers on the streets.

Suu Kyi, detained since a Feb. 1 coup against her elected government, had been expected to face a court on Monday in connection with charges of illegally importing six walkie-talkie radios, but a judge said her remand lasted until Wednesday, her lawyer, Khin Maung Zaw, said.

The coup and arrest of Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi and others have sparked the biggest protests in Myanmar in more than a decade, with hundreds of thousands coming

on to the streets to denounce the military's derailment of a tentative transition to democracy.

"This is a fight for our future, the future of our country," youth activist Esther Ze Naw said at a protest in the main city of Yangon. "We don't want to live under a military dictatorship. We want to establish a real federal union where all citizens, all ethnicities are treated equally."

The unrest has revived memories in the Southeast Asian nation of bloody outbreaks of opposition to almost half a century of direct army rule that had ended in 2011, when the military began a process of withdrawing from civilian politics.

Violence this time has been limited, al-

though police have opened fire on several occasions to disperse protesters. One woman who was hit by police fire in the capital Naypyitaw last week is not expected to survive.

Yesterday, security forces used rubber bullets and catapults in the city of Mandalay, wounding two people lightly, media and residents said.

The government and army could not be reached for comment.

## CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

As well as the demonstrations in towns and cities, the military is facing a strike by government workers, part of a civil disobedience movement that is crippling many func-

tions of government.

Armoured vehicles were deployed on Sunday in Yangon, the northern town of Myitkyina and Sittwe in the west, the first large-scale use of such vehicles since the coup.

More soldiers have also been spotted on the streets to help police who have been largely overseeing crowd control, including members of the 77th Light Infantry Division, a mobile force accused of brutality in campaigns against ethnic minority insurgents and protests in the past.

Crowds were smaller, though it was unclear if people were intimidated by the soldiers or fatigue was setting in after 12 days of demonstrations.

"We can't join the protests every day," said

a laid-off travel officer worker in Yangon who declined to be identified. "But we won't back down."

Earlier, more than a dozen police trucks with water cannon vehicles were deployed near the Sule Pagoda in Yangon, one of the city's main demonstration sites.

Protesters also gathered outside the central bank, where they held signs calling for support for the civil disobedience movement. An armoured vehicle and several trucks carrying soldiers were parked nearby.

Later, police sealed off the headquarters of Suu Kyi's party in Yangon shortly before protesters arrived and chanted slogans, a witness said.

Agencies



# China to create more opportunities for world economic recovery

By He Yin

CHINESE President Xi Jinping recently called for ensuring a good start for fully building a modern socialist country, sending a positive signal to revitalize the confidence of the world.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks when addressing the opening of a study session at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee attended by provincial and ministerial-level officials.

What Xi said showed the world China's grand vision of embarking on a new journey to fully build a modern socialist country.

It is generally believed by the international community that as China further implements its new vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development, the country will surely make steady progress in building a new development paradigm and usher in broader prospects for win-win cooperation with the rest of the world.

The global economy is still in a complicated and severe situation, whose recovery is unstable and unbalanced.

As the COVID-19 pandemic keeps spreading across the world, the global economy will still be gloomy in the first half of 2021, and is expected to expand 4 percent for the whole year, according to

the latest World Bank Global Economic Prospects.

China, the only major economy that secured positive growth in 2020, can inject strong impetus to world economic recovery and development, as it embarks on a new journey to fully build a modern socialist country and promotes constant economic recovery and high-quality development.

The fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee approved the CPC Central Committee's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, which won worldwide attention.

What the world sees in the proposals are China's resolution and confidence to keep strategic composure and concentrate efforts on its own affairs.

Against markedly increasing instability and uncertainty in the international context, the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee fully demonstrated the foresight of the CPC, said Lydia Samarbakhsh, a member of the executive committee with the French Communist Party.

Raquel León de la Rosa, a Mexican expert on China-related issues, believes that as a major engine for world economic growth, China will continue contributing to the recovery of global



A fully-loaded large container ship leaves the Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, Jan. 1, 2021. File photo

economy. Whether a country has adopted a suitable development philosophy fundamentally determines its development, and even its fate. The international society believes that by pushing forward the vision of innovative, coordinated, green, open and inclusive development, China has achieved higher-quality growth and strengthened its capacity for sustainable development.

It was estimated that the pandemic may drag as many as 100 million people back into extreme poverty, and the international community is worried that unbalanced economic recovery will further widen the gap between the rich and poor in some countries.

Against the backdrop, what development visions shall be adopted and how to achieve stable and balanced economic recovery is a common concern of the world.

China commits to a people-centered philosophy of development, as well as a principle of development for the people, development by the people and development achievements shared by the people.

It has continuously enhanced people's sense of fulfillment, happiness, and security, and strived to achieve common prosperity, which is quite inspiring for the inclusive and sustainable development of the global economy.

Fostering a new development paradigm with domestic circulation as the mainstay and domestic and international circulations reinforcing each other, is a major strategic task concerning China's overall development introduced in the proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan as well as a heated topic among the international community.

To build the new development paradigm requires establishing a high-level socialist market economy system, implementing high-level opening-up, and enhancing the interaction between reform and opening-up. It signifies the dialectical unity of achieving high-level self-reliance and high-level opening-up.

China has signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with relevant countries, completed investment agreement negotiations with the European Union (EU) as scheduled, announced that it would actively consider joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), and promoted high-quality construction of the Belt and Road—all examples of China's efforts to unswervingly implement high-level opening-up and promote international cooperation and win-win results.

People's Daily

## Sudan condemns Ethiopian forces for new 'aggression'

KHARTOUM

SUDAN condemned on Sunday Ethiopian forces for their new "aggression" on Sudanese lands, without providing the specific time.

"Sudan condemns the aggression of Ethiopian forces on the lands legally belonging to Sudan, which was a direct violation of Sudan's sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the Sudanese foreign ministry in a statement.

The Ethiopian aggression was also "a violation of the values of neighborliness and positive interaction among countries that enhances stability and security," the ministry added.

It demanded Ethiopia immediately stop its encroachment on Sudanese territories and ensure completion of the re-demarcation of the borders as agreed upon, while holding Ethiopia fully responsible for the consequences of its "aggression."

Since September 2020, the border between Sudan and Ethiopia has been witnessing rising tensions and skirmishes between the two sides.

Sudan accuses Ethiopian farmers, backed by armed forces, of seizing Sudanese border lands in Sudan's Fashaga area and cultivating them since 1995.

The border area of Fashaga between Sudan and Ethiopia, one of the five localities of Sudan's Gadaref State, often witnesses deadly attacks by Ethiopian militias during the preparation for agricultural season.



**Sudan condemns the aggression of Ethiopian forces on the lands legally**

Agencies

## Italy gets green superministry as Draghi eyes EU funds

MILAN

PRIME Minister Mario Draghi has put climate change at the heart of his plans to run Italy by creating a superministry to ensure a transition to green energy drives recovery and makes full use of European Union funds.

Draghi's first job will be to redraft Italy's Recovery Plan, which must be handed to the European Com-

mission by April to tap more than 200 billion euros (US\$240 billion) of funds needed to revive the recession-hit economy.

Under an EU agreement, 37 percent of this money must be dedicated to the transition to a low carbon economy.

The former European Central Bank chief, who took office on Saturday as the head of a unity government created to steer Italy out of the

coronavirus crisis and economic slump, has picked physicist Roberto Cingolani to head a new ecology transition ministry. "Ours will be an ecological government," Draghi told his first cabinet meeting on Saturday.

In his role, Cingolani will take over

energy matters previously shared with other ministries and combine them with the environment portfolio.

Chief technology and innovation officer at Italian defense group Leonardo and a Ferrari board member, the 59-year-old has worked in top scientific research centers in Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States, focusing on robotics, artificial intelligence and "digital humanities".

His appointment is a sign of Draghi's intention to involve experts in employing the EU recovery fund and picking the right technologies to drive long-term development.

The creation of the new ministry helped to win over Italy's 5-Star Movement, which prides itself on its green credentials, but had faced internal strife over the prospect of joining a cabinet containing its political foes.

Agencies



## At least 17 countries have purchased China-produced COVID-19 vaccines

MORE countries announced they would purchase China's COVID-19 vaccines or start mass inoculations using them, as senior officials of various countries stressed the safety of the Chinese vaccines despite some Western media questioning their efficacy and safety.

Senior officials of countries including Turkey, the Philippines and Indonesia have either televised the use of Chinese vaccines or stressed their safety.

Turkey on Thursday decided to start mass inoculation using Chinese producer Sinovac's inactivated COVID-19 vaccine CoronaVac starting with health workers, after local drug and medical equipment body approved the CoronaVac for emergency use on Wednesday, local media reported.

Turkey's Health Minister Fahrettin Koca received the first dose of the CoronaVac vaccine live on television on Wednesday, becoming the first person in Turkey to receive the vaccine.

Turkey has agreed to purchase 50 million doses of CoronaVac vaccine and has received delivery of an initial 3 million doses, Reuters reported.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo received the first dose of CoronaVac on Wednesday live on television.

Indonesian Ambassador to

China Djauhari Oratmangun told the Global Times in an exclusive interview on Thursday that Indonesia already began mass vaccinations on Wednesday, thanks to good collaboration with China.

He expressed his confidence in the Chinese vaccine, noting that Sinovac's vaccine received a license from Indonesian authorities after scientific and technical evaluation.

"Indonesia's trust and confidence in Sinovac's vaccine is reflected in Widodo being the first to receive a shot. We share President Widodo's sentiments," the ambassador said.

Jordan launched its vaccination campaign on Wednesday with China's Sinopharm's vaccine. Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh and several other members of the government have received Sinopharm's doses previously.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte also praised Chinese-made vaccines, saying they are as good as the shots developed by the Americans and the Europeans, Reuters reported.

Duterte said in a late-night televised address on Wednesday that "the Chinese are bright. They would not venture (into producing vaccines) if it is not safe, sure and secure." He was responding to questions about



A medical staff member receives the Covid-19 vaccination in Shaoxing, East China's Zhejiang Province on Jan. 12. File photo

the level of protection Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine can provide.

More countries this week moved ahead with purchasing Chinese COVID-19 vaccines.

Algeria decided to purchase Chinese vaccine, and the first batch will arrive at the end of this month, according to China Central Television. The Global Times learned from Sinovac that Algerian representatives have visited the company.

Ukraine signed an agreement on Monday with Sinovac to purchase 5 million doses of CoronaVac vaccine, which became the only supplier to Ukraine so far.

At least 17 countries have pur-

chased COVID-19 vaccines developed by Chinese developers including Sinovac, Sinopharm and Cansino, according to the Global Times calculation.

Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine had an overall efficacy of 50.4 percent in Brazil's final-stage trials, and experts said the overall result is good enough considering almost all the trial participants in Brazil were high-risk medical workers, and the 77.96 efficacy for mild-case protection means the vaccine will reduce the amount of people needing hospitalization by 78 percent.

Global Times

## Museveni explains reported kidnaps after public uproar

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni has explained the alleged kidnaps of people by security forces before and after the Jan. 14 presidential elections.

Museveni (pictured) in a televised address late on Saturday said a total of 241 people were arrested by different security agencies, noting that some of the suspects were released while others are still in custody helping police to track down those on the run.

The president's address followed a public uproar with reports of plain-clothed security operatives abducting people on streets.

Museveni said the arrests followed intents by criminal elements to disrupt the elections by causing chaos in the capital Kampala and other part of the country.

Sporadic riots broke out on Nov. 18-19 in the capital Kampala and several parts of the country following the arrest of opposition presidential candidate Robert Kyagulanyi on his campaign trail in eastern Uganda.

According to government, a total of 54 people were



killed and several others injured by security forces as they dispersed the rioters.

Museveni said the criminality forced government to deploy some parts of the army and a commando unit to help police keep law and order.

"In case of Kampala, we also brought a commando unit which had distinguished itself in fighting in Somalia and which had destroyed ADF (Allied Democratic Forces)," Museveni said. Uganda has troops deployed in Somalia on an African peacekeeping mission.

ADF is a Ugandan rebel group holed up in the jungles of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo," he said. "They (security forces) killed a few who tried to attack them and arrested scores of those law breakers," Museveni said, noting that most of those arrested were in the central part of the country.

The president said security personnel who would be found for having violated the law will be held accountable.

He said security forces are taught to respect human rights and where cases of abuses are reported, action will be taken.

Museveni ordered security forces to make readily available information of those who have been arrested and are still in custody.

"The security people should make this information available to the public so that this talk of disappearance is answered," he said.

Museveni lashed out at the proposal of the European Union's parliament to sanction some government officials over what it described as not free and fair Jan. 14 presidential elections.

Museveni won the elections with 58.64 percent. The president cautioned Ugandans not to get excited over foreign interference, noting that most of it ends up being tragic, citing the support some foreign governments gave to military strongman Idi Amin who had carried out a coup in 1971.

Xinhua

## Japan assesses damage after earthquake struck near Fukushima

By Bloomberg

JAPAN began assessing damage and restoring power after a magnitude-7.3 earthquake struck off Fukushima late Saturday, leaving about 150 people injured and temporarily cutting power to almost a million households.

No deaths were reported, according to public broadcaster NHK, and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference on Sunday that no incidents were reported from reactors. Six coal- and gas-fired power units, with a combined capacity of about 3.6 gigawatts, are offline due to the quake without any timeline for restart, according to the Japan Electric Power Exchange.

The powerful tremor, which was felt in Tokyo, occurred just one month before the 10-year anniversary of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that led to a meltdown at three reactors of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant and left about 19,000 people dead or missing. The latest tremor was an aftershock of the 2011 quake, according to Japan's national meteorologist.

Major industries appeared to escape significant damage. Although about 14 percent of the country's total crude oil refining capacity went offline because of the



This aerial picture taken from a Jiji Press chartered aircraft shows the landslide site on the Joban Expressway in Soma, Fukushima prefecture on Sunday after a 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck off Japan's east coast late on February 13. (AFP)

quake or related power outages, Toyota Motor Corp and Nissan Motor Co said their

factories were not affected and scheduled to operate yesterday.

Tokyo Electric Power Co said there was a minor overflow of water from the pool that stores used atomic fuel at the Fukushima nuclear plants, but no uncontrolled radiation was detected, NHK reported. Suga said Monday 12 people sustained serious injuries from the quake and 141 were slightly injured.

Mitsui Chemicals Inc. said its Ichihara plant, which includes a naphtha cracker, in Chiba was shut due to a power outage. It would take about 10 days to restart the plant.

East Japan Railway Co said part of its high-speed bul-

let and local train services will remain suspended until Monday due to damages to electrical lines. The Tohoku Shinkansen bullet train line would need 10 days to resume its full service, according to NHK.

East Nippon Expressway Co cleared one lane for emergency cars after a landslide. They are continuing to do clearing work, and expect regular travel to resume the middle of this week.

Orocobre Ltd said an initial inspection of the Naraha Lithium Hydroxide Plant with the construction contractor Veolia Jenets found

minor damage to the site office but did not find any visible defects to plant equipment.

The Saturday-night tremor hit the Tohoku region, 220 kilometers (135 miles) north of Tokyo, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. More than 830,000 households in the Tohoku and Kanto regions experienced power outages, but supply resumed in most areas by Sunday morning.

Day-ahead wholesale electricity prices for Tokyo surged nearly 3-fold to about 14 yen per kilowatt hour on Sunday due to the numerous outages at regional power plants. Rates slipped 46 percent on Monday as traders expect more plants to resume operations, avoiding a supply crunch.



# SPORT



Dar Jogging Club's Chairman, Ramadhan Namkoveka.

## Dar jogging club to elect new officials

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM's jogging outfit, known as Dar Jogging Club, is set to hold polls at the end of this month to elect new office bearers.

The outfit's Chairman, Ramadhan Namkoveka, said the election will be held on February 28 at Noel Park in Temeke from morning.

He said the election will be held following a resolution the outfit's executive committee had made at its annual general meeting, which took place at the end of last month.

"On January 31 this year, we had a general meeting at Noel Park where among other issues we agreed to have an election at the end of this month, all preparations for the election are going on very smoothly," he said.

Namkoveka said at the election, interested people will compete for the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Executive

Committee members.

He asked the outfit's members, especially women, to come forward and contest for the leadership posts at the election.

"We asked all those who are interested to come forward and contest, we want to see more women in leadership positions," Namkoveka said.

He said collecting forms started last Saturday while the closing date for the exercise is February 20.

Namkoveka stated after collecting forms, names of those who have been selected to contest will be submitted to the Dar Jogging Club's election committee, Temeke District's Office of Arts, Culture and Sports, and Temeke Jogging Association for final scrutinization.

He said the club was formed to promote healthy lifestyle among people in the country.

"The government through Vice-President Samia Suluhu is encouraging people to do exercises, jogging is a component of exercises, we ask all people in the country to join jogging clubs so that they can remain healthy," he said.

## DStv launches first original Pan-African lifestyle channel

By Guardian Correspondent

THE DStv's pioneering Pan-African lifestyle channel, HONEY, is expected to beam across the continent from February 15 on DStv Channel 173.

A lifestyle channel for curious and connected Africans, HONEY, offers an exciting blend of African lifestyle content, including bold and unscripted shows by African producers and talent.

The content line-up, the firm noted, covers lifestyle, food and cooking, relationships and weddings, along with reality shows from various territories throughout the continent.

Fronted by some of Africa's biggest female voices including household names such as Pearl Umeh (Nigeria), Patricia Kihoro, Foi Wambui (Kenya), Anele Mdoda, Mbali Nkosi and Anele Zondo (South Africa), the channel is unapologetically bold and vibrant.

HONEY showcases Africans living their best lives, and depicts an honest modern-day view of our diverse countries, cultures, and people.

The DStv disclosed it is continuing to be bold in delivering the best content the continent has to offer, while ensuring that people celebrate the way they live.

This is a lifestyle channel made in Africa, for Africans by Africans.

HONEY will be a go-to channel for authentic African stories and will include shows namely Pastors' wives, Love swap, Making the menu, Yes! Ndio! Beenit!, Ehe, it's a match, Shine shine, Hoot, cook, go, The next big trender and The buzz.

In the Pastors' wives show, the viewers will meet the women who keep things together in well-known religious households.

This reality series, produced by Sonia Mbele who was also responsible for The Real Housewives of Joburg, features pastors' wives from across the continent as they do their best for their families and church communities.

The firm noted viewers have to expect opulence and plenty of behind-the-pulpit drama.

In the Love swap show, a Nigerian reality drama series presents a relationship challenge in which couples swap partners for a home-cooked meal.

Each episode will culminate in a joint dinner featuring both couples, during which they share their impressions of each other and what they have learned about their own relationships.

In the Making the menu show, a Kenyan series, two food bloggers create a bespoke meal for a popular local eatery, with the restaurateur deciding which dish deserves a space on the menu.

Viewers will also enjoy a journey through

Nairobi's cultural attractions and the city's sights, sounds and traditions as the contestants look for inspiration outside the kitchen.

The Yes! Ndio! Beeni show has singer and actress Patricia Kihoro and TV and radio host Foi Wambui teaming up for another Kenyan production.

Foi is a celebrated radio host on Hot96 and Radio Jumbo, whose entertaining sketches and self-development and lifestyle-related content have made her a YouTube sensation.

Along with her fellow YouTuber and online influencer, Patricia, she helps suitors pop the question in Yes! Ndio! Beeni!

The pair act as event planners to design a proposal that not only stays true to the couple's love story but guarantees a 'yes!'.

In the Ehe, it's a match there is more matchmaking in this colourful dating show shot in Zambia, in which a cooking cupid invites two potential love birds to his or her home and cooks them a meal.

After the meal, the two decide whether to meet up again at a local eatery. Will they or won't they find love?

The Shine shine show presented by Mbali Nkosi, focuses on personal transformation, with a makeover squad coming to the rescue of someone in need of a new look and a confidence boost to take the next big step in their life.

Viewers can look forward to witnessing surprised and deserving contestants undergo dramatic transformations.

In the Hoot, cook, go, a vibrant food culture, particular palates and often curious cultures are put to the test as three teams compete for a prize on this show.

Each team is given a chance to show off exactly who they are with a plate of food that they only have an hour to prepare.

When they hear the hooter, it's time to get in the car and move on to the next team's house.

Anele Mdoda hosts The buzz, a talk show also featuring Pearl Umeh from Nigeria, Rachel Wakesho from Kenya, Zanna Katoka from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Davina Mavuwa from Zimbabwe.

Sparks fly as these five women, with different personalities and from different cultures, solve a viewer's dilemma, whether concerning romance, health, side hustle or family and friends.

The next big trender show will, from March 19, showcase the search for Africa's hottest influencers.

Six aspiring social stars from Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya and South Africa go all out to win over the opinionistas.

## SPORTS

# Professionalism, discipline always pay dividends in sports

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

SEVERAL days ago, the grand finale of the National Football League (NFL) of America fondly dubbed the Superbowl was held and the gladiatorial contest pitted two championship contenders against each other, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers versus the Kansas City Chiefs.

Just to be explicitly clear, though, the football league we're talking about here is American football, which is a totally different kettle of fish from run-of-the-mill football, which the rest of the globe is so accustomed to.

Returning back to our original theme, this year's Superbowl was especially significant for one particular reason, the intense rivalry between the quarterbacks of the two opposing sides.

In American football, the quarterback is the architect-in-chief of a team's attack, he calls the shots and pulls the strings of a team's offensive assaults, chiefly by delivering pinpoint and unerring passes to his teammates, who then score touchdowns, which is the primary objective of this often brawny and punishing sport.

Now, in this year's Superbowl, tongues had been set merrily a-wagging in the build-up to the anticipated affair itself because Tampa Bay's quarterback was none other than the 43-year-old (yes, your eyes are not fooling you) Tom Brady, who would be appearing in unbelievably his tenth Superbowl clash. Just to give an indication of the high esteem in which Tom Brady is held, he has been many a time been referred to as the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) quarterback to have ever laced up boots.

However, his opposite number in the same exalted quarterback position on the Kansas City Chiefs, the African-American Patrick Mahomes, was certainly no slouch himself.

Indeed, Mahomes has often been lauded for his inimitable and excitingly unique style as a quarterback and it is a popular refrain in American football that he is



Dar es Salaam volleyball players participate in the Faru tournament, organized by Faru Volleyball Club, held in the city last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF FARU VOLLEYBALL CLUB

absolutely revolutionizing the style of the quarterback itself.

So, in a predictably epic, winner-takes-all, no-holds-barred contest between two colossuses of the sport, what would give? Or to put it another way, who would blink first? Well, in the end, it was the evergreen 43-year-old veteran Tom Brady who would surprisingly and easily carry the day.

The million-dollar question, though, Dear Reader, is, what on earth does this have anything to do with Tanzanian sportsmen and sportswomen?

Well, it doesn't take an expert physicist versed in quantum mechanics to figure out that as a 43-year-old, Brady has exceeded everyone's expectations.

And, how has he done so? By always ensuring that professionalism, discipline and sheer dedication to his craft have been his watchwords during a lengthy, admirable and glittering career.

Therein lies the takeaway secret for our sportsmen and sportswomen on the domestic sports patch: if they aspire to enjoy longevity in their chosen sports of the astonishing kind of Tom Brady, then the bald truth of the matter is that they will have to be disciplined and display utter devotion to their craft just like Brady and erstwhile sporting icons such as the

legendary Roger Milla, who memorably stole the show as a 38-year-old at the 1990 World Cup and the seemingly ageless English goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, who was unforgettably and admirably the custodian of the net for the England national side during those same 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

Indeed, there are no shortcuts to success. In the ferociously competitive sporting arena where no quarters are asked and none given, one is soon found wanting if one isn't disciplined or dedicated.

Thus, the sheer importance of discipline and dedication cannot be overestimated.

## Ngorongoro Heroes ready for Ghana in Africa U-20 Cup of Nations



Tanzania's national U-20 football squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes'

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PLAYERS making Tanzania's U-20 football side, Ngorongoro Heroes, have stated they are ready for today's fixture against Ghana in this year's Africa U-20 Cup of Nations tournament, which kicked off in Mauritania on Sunday.

The Ngorongoro Heroes' delegation leader, Khalid Abdallah, stated in an interview with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) website the players are ready for today's clash against the Black Satellites.

The finals started on Sunday and will come to an end March 4. The opening game saw the hosts lose 1-0 to Cameroon.

Ngorongoro Heroes are in Group C and the squad is in action against Ghana in the group's opener.

They will lock horns with Gambia on Friday and wind up the group stage games against Morocco on Monday next week.

Ngorongoro Heroes' official said the players are excited with the challenge ahead of them and they are looking forward to representing the country at the tournament.

Abdallah said the good thing is that

all players are ready and in shape for the encounter.

He disclosed the technical panel has told the players on the importance of winning the opening game.

"We arrived in Mauritania and the players had training at Stade Municipal, they are excited with the challenge ahead of them and they have promised to play their lungs out for their country," he said.

Before departure to Mauritania, the team played two friendlies against Uganda and the former's head coach Jamhuri Kihwelu said he is happy with preparations.

He disclosed: "The two games we played against Uganda are good as they have helped us to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our team and help the players be ready for competitive matches."

Twenty seven players are making the team. They are Rahim Sheikh, Anderson Solomon, David Kameta, Laurent Alfred, Rajabu Athuman, Ben Starkie, Hassan Kapalata, Abdul Suleiman, Kelvin John, Tepsi Evance, Razak Shekimweli, Novatus Dismas and Ibrahim Shah.

Others in the team are Omary Jumanne, Nassor Saadum, Abubakar

Salum, Zubeir Foba, Kassim Shabaan, Abdulrazack Mohamed, Paschal Gaudence, Salim Said, Ally Msengi, Ashraf Malolo, Alphonse Mabula, Abdulsatasabiri Kapilima, Abdulkarim Yunus and Daniel Mgori.

The team has six players who play outside the country. They are captain Kelvin and Ibrahim who both play for England's Leicester City FC youth squad, Germany's Wilhelmshaven's Starkie, Dismas of Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv, Nassor of MFK of Czech Republic and Msengi, registered by South Africa's Stellenbosch FC.

Ghana's squad is made up of mostly home-based players with Germany's Schalke 04's Joselpho Barnes and Frank Assinko, who plays for Koge of Denmark, turning out to be foreign-based players in the side.

Tanzanian referee Frank Komba is among referees expected to officiate the finals.

Other teams at the finals are the hosts, Mauritania, Cameroon, Uganda and Mozambique who are in Group A while Group B consists of Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Namibia and Central Africa Republic.



## Messi 'happy' leading Barca revival but PSG a reminder of what could await

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi put his arm around Ilaix Moriba, the 18-year-old born in the same year Messi made his Barcelona debut and who was now being given his own chance to play for the club's first team.

Ilaix had just set up the opening goal against Alaves on Saturday when he was congratulated by his 33-year-old captain, whose task it is on Tuesday to lead this youthful Barca to an unfancied victory against Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League last 16.

From nurturing the next generation of Barcelona talents to confronting one of Europe's richest, most ambitious clubs, the fork in the road for Messi's future is becoming clear.

PSG may not be Messi's preferred choice this summer, especially if Manchester City decide the Argentinian is the final piece of the jigsaw for a team already ahead of the rest in the Premier League.

But the two clubs remain his most realistic destinations, both united in representing almost everything that staying put at Barcelona would not. Clubs ready, in theory, to win the biggest trophies immediately and able to spend whatever it takes to do it.

Meanwhile Messi's suspicions in August, when he sent the burfax requesting he depart for free, have arguably been confirmed. Barcelona appear neither ready to win the biggest trophies immediately nor able to spend what is needed to do it.

As it stands, Koeman's team sit third in La Liga, eight points behind Atletico Madrid. They were beaten by Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Super Cup and trail Sevilla 2-0 after the semi-final first leg of the Copa del Rey.

And yet while nobody knows what Messi will decide, perhaps not even Messi -- who told La Sexta in December he "wouldn't be right to say what I'm going to do because I don't know either" -- there is reason to think Barca's chances have not only survived the disappointments but been improved in spite of them.

### - Barcelona stabilised -

When Messi explained to goal.com why he wanted to go last summer, he reiterated his desire for a "winning project" but also said he "wanted to live my last years in football happily". He admitted how hard it

## Salah vows Liverpool won't give up title fight

LONDON

MOHAMED Salah has warned Manchester City that Liverpool will "fight like champions" despite a miserable run that plunged his side's Premier League title defence into turmoil.

Jürgen Klopp's side are languishing 13 points behind leaders City after crashing to a 3-1 defeat at Leicester on Saturday.

Salah had given Liverpool the lead with his 17th league goal of the season, but the Reds collapsed in the closing stages.

Klopp conceded the title to City after Liverpool's third successive defeat.

It is a remarkable decline after Liverpool romped to their first title in 30 years last term.

But, after 24 hours of painful fallout from the loss at the King Power Stadium, with Liverpool fans hanging a banner in support of the German boss on the railings outside the Kop reading 'Jurgen Klopp YNWA, Egypt forward Salah made a defiant statement of intent.

"It's been a tough period for many reasons. We are champions and we will fight like champions, until the very end," Salah wrote on Twitter.

"We will not allow this season to be defined by the recent results we've had. That is my promise to all of you."

While retaining the title may now be beyond Liverpool, they are still in the Champions League.

was to tell his family they were leaving.

For the first few weeks of the season, he seemed distracted, like a player giving his all while simultaneously wishing he was somewhere else.

Yet Barcelona stabilised under Koeman -- never perfect and always far from the finished article -- but with a renewed sense of purpose emerging.

Koeman has enabled struggling players to flourish and promising youngsters to shine.

Pedri, the 18-year-old attacking midfielder, has stood out, his eye for a pass chiming with Messi's quickness of thought.

"In Pedri, Messi has found a reason to enjoy the game again," wrote Diario Sport in January.

Ansu Fati sparkled before injury struck in November while in defence, the 21-year-old Ronald Araujo, who is also expected to miss the first leg with an ankle problem, emerged as Koeman's most reliable central defender.

Frenkie de Jong has excelled in recent weeks and Ousmane Dembele is enjoying his best spell at the club so far. Messi, like the team, has looked happy. "He is focused, he is happy, he has found that ruthless streak again," said Koeman on Saturday.

Excitement may prove misplaced or, at least, premature given there are no guarantees Barcelona's depleted defence will not cave against PSG and Kylian Mbappe, even with Neymar absent.

Another humbling in Europe may not undo the good work Koeman has done but it would serve as a painful reminder to Messi of past failures and ground to make up.

A positive result could do the opposite, providing affirmation of steps already taken and evidence that a move even to the richest clubs would bring no guarantees.

Most importantly, there is an opportunity to rubberstamp what Koeman has started and to confirm the growing sense of a club slowly rebuilding again.

With presidential elections due next month, the reality is Koeman may not see this transition through but Messi can decide if his role in any revival will be fleeting or more fundamental.

"There is only one person who can choose his future and it is him," said Koeman. "I would like him to stay for many more years and I'm trying to make sure he is happy like he is now. But his future is in his hands."

AFP

## How the pandemic has wrecked Premier League home advantage -2

By Tom Hamilton, ESPN Senior Writer

CAULFIELD believes the impact of empty stands on players is subjective. Some may flourish without the "threat or fear" of crowds, "but for a lot of players, because they are competitive animals who want to perform well in front of a ground, they find a challenge because they enjoy the thrill of the crowd," he told ESPN. "The crowd is their feedback -- you think of the greatest stand-up comedians of the moment, their feedback is the laughter or silence from the crowd. Football is the same, the cheer, roar and the excitement.

"How many times have you heard: the crowd kept us going and scoring in front of them is the best feeling ever. That is not there anymore, don't be surprised if now and again if levels dip because there is nothing coming back to you."

### Is the same thing happening elsewhere in Europe?

Economics professors (Carl Singleton, James Reade both from the University of Reading, and Dominik Schreyer, WHU, Otto Beisheim School of Management) have been analysing home advantage across Europe. Their paper "Eliminating Supportive Crowds Reduces Referee Bias" saw home advantage decrease by 3% in games played without crowds, which included analysis of matches dating to 2002.

In the Dutch Eredivisie -- which has seen the biggest swing in favour of the away teams with home teams winning on average 55% of home matches prelockdown, to 38% postlockdown -- Feyenoord manager Dick Advocaat told ESPN before their trip to Ajax in January: "As a football player, you want to play in a full stadium, and the passion and emotion that comes with it. But the fact that there is no audience in the Johan Cruyff Arena is to our advantage, you have to be honest about that."

## Klopp v Nagelsmann - Germany's coaching heavyweights face off

BERLIN

JULIAN Nagelsmann has the chance to inflict more misery on Jürgen Klopp when the two German coaching heavyweights do battle as RB Leipzig take on Liverpool in the first leg of their last 16 Champions League tie on Tuesday.

Klopp, 53, has earned cult status on Merseyside having ended Liverpool's 30-year wait to be crowned English league champions in 2019/20, the season after lifting the Champions League.

But a run of three wins in 12 games has left the Reds relying on a European run to save their season.

Twenty years his junior, Nagelsmann is seen as a rising star.

Under his stewardship, Leipzig announced their presence on the Champions League stage last season by reaching the semi-finals and dumped out Manchester United to reach the knockout stages this campaign.

AFP Sport looks at how the coaches compare:

Former defenders, born leaders

Both were centre-backs, but while Klopp hung up his boots in his early 30s after 325 appearances for Mainz, Nagelsmann was just 20 when a knee injury cut short his career.

Nagelsmann started out scouting for current Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel with Augsburg's reserves, then worked his way up through Hoffenheim's youth academy.

He was just 28 in February 2016 when Hoffenheim made him the youngest permanent head coach in Bundesliga history.

That faith was rewarded as he took Hoffenheim from struggling to survive to the Champions League qualifiers, where they lost to Klopp's Liverpool in 2017, before making the move to the Red Bull-backed Leipzig in 2019.

Klopp also made his name at one of German football's more modest sides in seven years at Mainz before making a habit of awakening sleeping giants with Dortmund, then Liverpool.

He won back-to-back Bundesliga titles in 2010/11 and 2011/12 to briefly break Bayern Munich's stranglehold.



Liverpool's Anfield has been their not-so-secret weapon for a long time. But without fans, their unbeaten record has gone and so too has the sense of invincibility around them at home. (Agencies)

For those teams further down the league like FC Emmen -- dead-last in the Eredivisie, with no wins from 21 games -- they are lamenting the lack of their 12th man. "We miss the audience, 100 percent," FC Emmen manager Dick Lukkien told ESPN. "If you look at the past years, that was a perfect collaboration. We are now the victim of that. I think it cost us a lot of points. The lack of the audience is very important to us."

In the Bundesliga, Borussia Dortmund's home record is poor this term compared to last prelockdown. Before the break last season, Dortmund were undefeated at home. Postlockdown, they have lost six of 14 home matches in the league. The players miss their fabled "Yellow Wall" of support in the Südtiribüne. Interim boss Edin Terzic told Sky after the win at Leipzig on Jan. 9: "Sure, we miss our fans. Whenever we take to the pitch they sing 'Let's go Dortmund, fight and win,' that's the slogan we work hard for."

Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc told Bild following the Mainz draw on Jan. 16: "We miss the Südtiribüne.

When we have fans behind us, it just helps us extremely."

In La Liga, Real Madrid have lost a total of eight games across all competitions this season and four of those have come at home, all against so-called "lesser" teams (losses to Cadiz, Alaves and Levante in La Liga and the 3-2 Champions League defeat to Shakhtar Donetsk). ESPN sources say there's a recognition in the club that there's a huge difference between playing in front of a full house in the Santiago Bernabeu and at an empty Alfredo di Stefano stadium at the training ground on the outskirts of Madrid.

The players' routines have changed too. Take big European games at the Bernabeu: you'd usually get thousands of fans greeting the team bus on its arrival at the stadium prematch. Now, playing at Valdebebas, the team don't even get on a bus at all; they just stroll over from the residence nearby after the team meeting. "I don't like playing without fans," Real Madrid boss Zin-

edine Zidane said in June.

Over at Barcelona, one source told ESPN that playing in stadiums like Osasuna, which are traditionally considered very tough and claustrophobic, is a lot less stressful without fans. (Six La Liga sides have more home wins than draws and losses this season, with three of them -- Barcelona, Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid -- joining Sevilla in being as good away from home.) Though the players do miss the supporters.

"It's horrible to play without fans, it's a very ugly sensation," Leo Messi said in December. "Seeing no-one [in the stands] is like a training session, and it is very tough to really get going at the start of a game."

"The truth is, it's very ugly and that's why we are seeing such evenly matched games. It's very difficult to win, regardless of who you are playing against the pandemic has caused football to change a lot, and for the worse. You can see it in the matches, and I hope this all ends soon and we can get fans back into the stadiums and return to normality."



Jürgen Klopp (left) got the better of Julian Nagelsmann in their only previous Champions League meetings when Liverpool beat Hoffenheim. (Agencies)

However, Bayern had the last laugh when Arjen Robben's winning goal at Wembley sealed a 2-1 win in the 2013 Champions League final. After taking charge of Liverpool in 2015, more Champions League final heartache was to come for Klopp as the Reds lost the 2018 final to Real Madrid.

He finally lifted the Champions League trophy in his third final a year later before romping to the Premier League title last season.

Innovators

Known for making their presence felt on the sidelines and in post-match interviews, neither is afraid to get into a heated argument with a rival coach or match official.

"They are both emotional coaches who let their emotions out on the pitch -- that's the biggest similarity," Leipzig striker Yussuf Poulsen

told AFP.

Both owe their success to the German brand of energetic, high-pressing football, but have also proved innovative in their own ways.

Klopp attracted headlines by appointing a throw-in coach at Liverpool, while Nagelsmann had a giant video screen built at Hoffenheim to give players live feedback during training.

Nagelsmann has also caught the eye for some striking fashion choices, particularly on the biggest stage for Leipzig's Champions League matches.

"I wear what I like. I'm a football coach, not a model," he said after being quizzed over his attire for a 5-0 defeat to United earlier in the season.

Klopp, by contrast, keeps a low profile with what he once described as a "baseball cap and a bad shave".

What does the future hold?

Klopp signed a contract until 2024 last season, which if he sees out would take him to nine years at Anfield.

Despite Liverpool's struggles this season, he is still a revered figure for having ended the three-decade wait for a league title and delivered a sixth European Cup the year before.

It will take many more months of poor results before Klopp's position will come under threat.

Liverpool may, therefore, be an unlikely next destination for Nagelsmann should he follow Klopp and Tuchel's path from the Bundesliga to one of England's top jobs.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

How the pandemic has wrecked  
Premier League home advantage -2

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Tanzania's U-20 football team, Ngorongoro Heroes.

## Ngorongoro Heroes battle U-20 Africa Cup of Nations favourites Ghana

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's national U-20 football team, Ngorongoro Heroes, will begin their U-20 Africa Cup of Nations tournament campaign against favourites Ghana in Group C at the Olympic Stadium in Nouakchott, Mauritania at 7.30pm.

Ngorongoro Heroes are in a difficult group, with Morocco and Gambia making up the two other teams. Ngorongoro Heroes are looking to start their campaign on a high despite this being their first ever experience at the youth tournament.

They qualified after reaching the final of the 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship, which took place in Arusha.

The regional tournament was also used as the U-20 Africa Cup of Nations tournament's qualifiers.

Much as Ngorongoro Heroes lost 4-1 to Uganda in the Arusha tournament's final, they

had their ticket to Mauritania safely tucked after beating a stubborn South Sudan side 1-0 in the semi-finals.

They had finished top in Group A after victories over Djibouti and Somalia.

The Tanzanian team will look for inspiration and confidence from their seniors who have qualified back-to-back to two senior tournaments, the 2019 Total Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt and the Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) in Cameroon last month.

However, Ngorongoro Heroes' coach Jamhuri Kihwelu 'Julio' is confident they can go a step better than their seniors and proceed to the knockout stage.

Kihwelu will have his work cut out against the West Africans who are the all-time record champions.

In preparation for the tournament, Ngorongoro Heroes had a training camp in Dar es Salaam where they played three friendly matches against Uganda and Vodacom Premier League club, Namungo FC.

Uganda cruised to 1-0 victory over Ngorongoro Heroes in the first tie before the latter registered 5-3 win over the former in the second match.

In the final build up match, Ngorongoro Heroes beat Namungo FC 3-2 and they will look to build on with that same line of confidence when they take to the pitch in Mauritania.

Kihwelu has named a strong squad for the tournament that will include several foreign-based players including striker Kelvin John, Ally Msengi, Novatus Dismas, Ben Starkie, Ibrahimshah Faisal, Nassor Saadun and Alphonse Mabula.

The team will also have four players who featured at the 2019 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations in Tanzania, including skipper John, who also captained the U-17 team, Paschal Gaudeance, Zubeir Foba and Mabula.

Ngorongoro Heroes' second game is against Gambia on Friday, their final group encounter against Morocco will take place on Monday next week.

Due to the restrictions imposed to curb the spread of the coronavirus, no fans will be allowed in any of the three venues during the three-week tournament.

## Simba SC takes aim at Biashara United

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC management has said that the outfit is ready for its Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match against Biashara United, which will take place at Karume Stadium in Mara on February 18.

Simba are placed second in the top flight with 39 points, whilst fourth-placed Biashara United has registered 32 points after playing a total of 19 matches in the league.

Haji Manara, Simba's information officer, said that they are ready for the top flight and the side entered camp yesterday before heading to Musoma to confront their opponents.

He said: "The squad will report to the official camp for the start of preparations for our game against Biashara United, we know it will be a tough game but there is still something we need to accomplish."

He disclosed: "Fans should continue to support us as our goal is to see to it that we do well in the league as well as the CAF Champions League."

The VPL defending champions returned back to Dar es Salaam on Sunday from DR Congo where they played AS Vita Club in this season's CAF Champions League's group stage match and won 1-0 against the hosts.

"We know that Biashara United are a good team and they have good players so we respect them but we will go into the field looking for three points," he said.

Simba, who have two matches on hand, will go into this match after settling for 2-2 draw with Azam FC in a past VPL fixture.

They will thus hope to turn things around, notch victory against Biashara United and close their points' gap with age-old rivals Yanga who sit on top of the league.

Simba will be playing Biashara United who are on a four-match winning streak.

Biashara United's last loss came in a duel against JKT Tanzania in Dodoma on December 13 last year. The hosts notched 2-0 victory.

The Lake Zone team are lately in fine form, given they recorded an away 2-1 victory over Mwadui FC and the former moreover saw their head coach, Francis Baraza, win the league's Best Coach of the Month award for January, and the club's striker, Deogratius Mafie, lift the top flight's Best Player of the Month honour for the same month.

Despite Mwadui FC showing a good game against Biashara United, the hosts could not believe what happened to them especially during the added on time.

The hosts under the tutelage of their coach, Amri Said 'Stam', were the first to score after Biashara United defender, Abdulmajid Mangalo, failed to clear an attack and netted into his own goal on the 85th minute.

Biashara United showed that they are a team of top character, who did not rest on the pitch, given they levelled matters on the 90th minute through Yusuph Kabeja, who netted a penalty kick, before scoring the winning goal with a free kick.

## Kim Poulsen returns as Taifa Stars' head coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

KIM Poulsen has made a return as Tanzania's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach after two years, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) announced yesterday.

Poulsen has been appointed on a three-year deal, replacing Burundian Etienne Ndayiragije who parted ways with the team last week after early exit from this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Cameroon.

Ndayiragije was named Taifa Stars' head coach soon after the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) 2019 in Egypt, and, two months later, he led the Taifa Stars to CHAN qualification for the first time in 10 years.

He also led Tanzania to the group stage of qualifiers for FIFA World Cup, Qatar 2022.

A week after Ndayiragije's exit, TFF confirmed in its statement that Poulsen is back for another spell as Taifa Stars' head coach.

"Tanzania Football Federation has appointed Danish Kim Poulsen, as Taifa Stars' head coach. The coach has signed a three-year deal to lead Taifa Stars," read a part of the statement, TFF disclosed in the statement.

Kim is tasked with leading Tanzania back to the Total Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Cameroon 2021 as well as giving a strong shot at the qualifiers for FIFA World Cup, which are set to start in June next year.

His first task will be to assemble a team for the 2021 AFCON qualifiers next month.

Taifa Stars will travel to West Africa to face Equatorial Guinea on March 20 before travelling back home to host Libya two days later in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania are currently third in the



Kim Poulsen

2021 AFCON qualifiers Group J, having managed to beat Equatorial Guinea 2-1 and drawing 1-1 with Tunisia at home while losing two away games against Tunisia and Libya to collect four points from as many games.

In the World Cup qualifiers, Taifa Stars are set to battle neighbours, DR Congo, Benin and Madagascar for a chance to move to the second and final phase of qualification.

Poulsen (61) has also had two spells as Tanzania's national junior teams' coach, with the highlight of his career being leading the national U-17 team, Serengeti Boys, to the 2017 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Gabon.

## Azam FC says ready for Mbeya City FC in VPL

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Azam FC, are looking forward to their top flight game against Mbeya City FC, which will take place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, noted after the team had taken part in two away games against Simba SC and Ruvo Shooting, they are now at their backyard.

In the two games, Azam FC collected one point from a possible six, they posted 2-2 draw with Simba and lost 2-1 to Coastal Union.

"After two away games, we are now back at our backyard where we will welcome Mbeya City FC on Thursday evening, we will meet at Azam Com-

plex, entertainment is in progress," he disclosed.

Azam FC sits third in the top flight with 33 points from 19 games and the team face Mbeya City FC, placed second from the bottom of the Premier League table with 15 points from 19 games.

The two teams go into Thursday fixture with mixed results from their previous matches. Azam FC lost while Mbeya City FC posted 1-1 draw with league leaders, Yanga.

In the game that ended with Azam FC losing 2-1 to Coastal Union, the former's only goal was scored by defender, Daniel Amoah, while the latter scored through Haji Ugando and Rajab Majimengi.

After the game, Azam FC's head

coach George Lwandamina blamed the defeat on the poor condition of the pitch, saying it was difficult for his charges to play their normal passing football.

"We have lost, but in my opinion the pitch contributed to our defeat, the condition of the pitch was not that very good for us to play our football," he said.

Mbeya City FC's head coach, Mathias Lule, hailed his players for playing well to earn a draw against Yanga and he said they are looking forward to the duel against Azam FC.

"I thank my players for playing well today, we could have won but a draw is not that bad, we are now looking forward to our next game against Azam FC," he said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV**  
**TUESDAY**  
11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 S5ELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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