



### National Pg 3

Crackdown on illicit brew in Mbeya



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Nchemba meets BADEA director general



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Mhagama pledges to motivate employees



## US cultivates women's business partnerships

By Guardian Reporter

US government authorities are seeking to facilitate the development of partnerships between women entrepreneurs in the United States and Tanzania.

Camille Richardson (pictured), the deputy assistant secretary of Commerce for the Middle East and Africa, convened a webinar on "Connecting with Women Entrepreneurs in Tanzania & Beyond," billed as the eleventh session in the US campaign for women empowered leave legacies through trade and investment' (WELLTI) coffee chat series.

Local participants at the webinar said that the Tanzania coffee chat event reflects the importance that the US Department of Commerce places on the commercial relationship between the two countries and is a follow-up to a visit by the deputy assistant secretary virtual meetings with Tanzanian officials in July 22-23 last year.

"Women entrepreneurs and innovators are an incredible resource that is ripe for business partnerships," the cabinet official noted, asserting that the US government-sponsored exchange programs can be utilised to tap into market intelligence, access to supply chains, and identify representatives for American products in Tanzania.

During the event, a group of Tanzanian

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## RUWASA signs 2.9bn/- contracts for six projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of six selected areas in Mbeya Region are within eight months likely to weather water scarcity following the signing of contract agreements between the Rural Water and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and contractors, for projects valued at 2.9bn/-.

Sambwene Sijabaje, the RUWASA regional manager signed the contracts on Tuesday with the various companies, witnessed by members of the regional defence and security committee chaired by Regional Commissioner Juma Homera.

The money was provided by the government to remove water provision challenges, including unreliable water supply, the manager stated, noting that the money will be used to purchase water pipes and the building of pipelines and accessories, from water sources to various wards residences targeted for the work.

After signing, some contractors expressed gratitude for being selected for the work, saying their involvement will

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# Colours of all parties visible as Zanzibar marks Revolution Day



Caskets bearing the bodies of journalists killed in Tuesday morning's road crash at Kalemela village in Busega District, Simiyu Region, lined up in Mwanza city's Nyamagana Stadium yesterday ready for the paying of last respects. Photo: Correspondent Neema Emmanuel

By Guardian Reporter

THOUSANDS of jubilant Zanzibaris and Mainlanders yesterday packed Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium to view colourful ceremonies to mark 58 years of the Zanzibar Revolution.

However, the event didn't take long as no major speeches were slated for the occasion, with President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi having delivered an in-depth appraisal of the state of the revolution in a night time televised address the day before.

High temperatures currently being experienced in the Isles and elsewhere in the country added to the brevity, officials said.

President Mwinyi arrived at the Stadium at 8:30am to deafening applause from well-wishers who waived green, yellow, pink and white-coloured hand-flags showing the spectrum of participants from the ruling CCM ranks and followers of opposition ACT-Wazalendo, tied in the government of the national unity (GNU) structure.

The president arrived in an open military vehicle, inspecting a guard of honour by various components of the armed forces, reviewing the military show and procession led by the youth brass band.

Cadres of the two political parties mingled with public servants from various government institutions for a colourful procession in identifiable groups as Zanzibaris turned up in thousands to celebrate the event, with the ceremonies being over in about three hours.

Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan, First Vice-President Othman Masoud

## Former president Dr Shein awarded Revolution Medal

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has bestowed the 1964 Revolution Medal to his predecessor, Dr Ali Mohamed

Shein.

The event was held at Zanzibar State House grounds yesterday and was attended by various government officials, political and religious leaders and heads of defence

and security units.

President Mwinyi bestowed the medal citing powers conferred upon the Zanzibar president under section 10(1) and (2) of

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi pictured yesterday waving to the hundreds upon hundreds of people who attended the climax of celebrations to mark the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution at Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium. Photo: Zanzibar State House

**“The 58 years of existence of the state in Zanzibar have not been easy. There are people who have sacrificed their lives to make the Zanzibar which is being seen today. We need to continue honouring these people as our heroes**

Othman, Second Vice-President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah, fourth Union President Jakaya Kikwete, former Zanzibar presidents Amani Abeid Karume and Dr Ali Mohamed Shein garlanded the podium, watched by thousands of spectators all over the country as many public officers and private sector employees remained at home for the public holiday.

Closing the ceremonies, the second vice president highlighted that the event was a vivid example that the Indian Ocean archipelago was on the move.

“The 58 years of existence of the state in Zanzibar have not been easy. There are people who have sacrificed their lives to make the Zanzibar which is being seen today. We need to continue honouring these people as our heroes,” he declared.

The Zanzibar Revolution occurred on January 12th 1964, overthrowing the Sultan of Zanzibar and a minority government packed with his allies, by local African revolutionaries.

Official Zanzibar history show that the revolution was planned and headed by the ASP leader Abeid Amani Karume, who subsequently became president of the new People's Republic of Zanzibar before the Union with Tanganyika, three and a half months later to form the United Republic of Tanzania.



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President Samia Suluhu Hassan exchanges greetings with Zanzibar First Vice President Othman Masoud Othman at Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium yesterday. It was at the climax of the 58th Zanzibar Revolution anniversary celebrations. Photo: State House

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the Presidential Affairs Act, No 3 of 2020, with the award having been published as legal notice no 24 of 2022 in the Government Gazette on January 10, 2022.

Delivering Dr Ali Mohamed Shein's biography, Capt Martin Mabena said Dr Shein was born on March 13, 1948 in Chokocho, Mkoani district in Pemba South Region and began his education in 1956 at Gulioni Boys primary school.

From 1965 to 1968 Dr Shein received his secondary education at Lumumba College, Zanzibar, and attended high school in 1969/1970 at the Vorenezh College in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), he narrated.

The former president is a doctor by profession and graduated in biochemistry and medicine from Odessa University in the same country in 1975, and from 1984 to 1988 he attended post-graduate studies for his PhD in chemistry and human diseases at Newcastle University in Britain, he said.

From 1981 to 1994 Dr Shein

## Former president Dr Shein awarded Revolution Medal

attended various training programmes within and outside the country including blood transfusion and operation of blood banks in Stockholm, and in 1994 he attended a management and situation leadership training in Dar es Salaam, along with training on HIV/AIDS issues in the planning for combating HIV/AIDS in developing countries at East Anglia University, Norwich in the UK.

Dr Shein was briefly employed as clerk in the Ministry of Education in Zanzibar in May 1969 and selected for the assistant permanent secretary Grade B position in the ministry up to September 1969 when he left for studies in the USSR.

His political life began when he contested the Mkanyageni (Pemba) seat in the House

of Representatives in the 1995 elections, and upon the formation of a new government in November 1995 he became deputy minister for Health

After the next general election in October 2000 he was appointed Minister of State in the President's Office (Constitutional Affairs and Good Governance), and emerged Vice President of the United Republic on July 13, 2001 upon the death of Dr Omar Ali Juma on July 4, 2001.

He was retained by the ruling party as running mate to Union presidential candidate Jakaya Kikwete for the delayed 2005 polls, and then nominated CCM candidate for the Zanzibar presidency in the 2010 polls.

The next polls in 2015 were as usual covered by confusion

and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) annulled the first vote, with the Civic United Front (CUF) boycotting the rerun poll, leaving Dr Shein to make a clean sweep of the polls in the March 2016 rerun.

**He was retained by the ruling party as running mate to Union presidential candidate Jakaya Kikwete for the delayed 2005 polls, and then nominated CCM candidate for the Zanzibar presidency in the 2010 polls**

## RC Sendiga asks people to vaccinate against Covid-19

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

IRINGA Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga has called on the people of the region to continue getting the COVID-19 vaccine and abandoning the misconception that the vaccine male potency and their wives not getting pregnant.

RC Sendiga made the remarks yesterday while opening a training course organized by the ministry of health (MoH) through national immunization programme for journalists from Njombe and Iringa regions where she said the community should be educated to ensure the vaccine is safe for their health.

The Ministry of Health in collaboration with stakeholders has continued to provide immunizations against various vaccine-preventable diseases including Covid-19 as part of the Government's and stakeholders' efforts to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases and deaths.

Sendiga said that the media is an important link in disseminating accurate information on the various immunization services provided by the government, including the Covid-19 vaccine.

The main purpose of the meeting was to ask key stakeholders (journalists) to help disseminate the information to the community so that everyone could take action to ensure that all those who need to be vaccinated get vaccinated on time and on schedule.

"We have asked you to help us send a message to the community about the vaccine as a whole and urge all beneficiaries for the relevant vaccines including Covid-19 to ensure they get vaccinated so that the whole community can be protected from the serious consequences that can befall the community by not getting vaccinated," she said.

Sendiga called for the cooperation of journalists and the general public so that they can achieve the goal of ensuring that every citizen is healthy.

RC assured the people that the vaccines provided at various

health facilities are safe, provided by experienced professionals who specialize in the field for a long time and are provided free of charge.

"Let me take this opportunity to emphasize that the aim of launching the vaccine was to protect the community against disease and to prevent outbreaks of disease, permanent disability and death," Sendiga noted.

The government has been at the forefront of access to immunization services including vaccines against measles, mumps, hepatitis, tetanus, pneumonia, diarrhea, measles and rubella, cervical cancer vaccines and vaccines for UVIKO-19.

Sendiga has said the community is still facing the challenge of misconceptions about the Covid-19 vaccine that it is leading to a decline in male and female impotence which is not true and should be condemned.

Earlier, Lotalis Gadau, the national immunization program officer, said the aim of the training was to remind journalists that in parallel with continuing to provide immunization education of Covid-19 but to continue with other immunization interventions to go hand in hand.

She said we must continue to educate people to vaccinate but not forget other vaccines and urged journalists to work together to help mobilize the community to understand the importance of vaccination "said Gadau.

It has been reported that more than 30,000 people in Iringa region have received various Covid-19 vaccines since the immunization exercise was launched in the region including Jensen 'JJ', Sinopharm and Pfizer in the region, while the goal is to reach more than seven hundred (700,000) people, according to Iringa regional immunization coordinator, Hans Mapunda.

Mapunda explained that as of 08 this month, the region had vaccinated the COVID-19 vaccine with a total of 29,094 people or 4.1 percent of the target population 706,396.

## RUWASA signs 2.9billion/- contracts for six projects

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boost job creation. Johannes Mgesi, a contractor, said that many projects were being implemented on a force account basis, denying private firms an opportunity to participate.

He appealed to the government to continue using the contractual method as private firms have invested a lot in building project manpower capacities.

For his part, RC Homera applauded the central government for disbursing the funds, as upon completion the projects will alleviate water scarcity in many rural areas. There are also other projects being

implemented with government funding, with 8.5bn/- spent so far, he stated.

The project funds were provided from Covid-19 loan funds and auxiliary disbursements in routine project funds, he affirmed, directing that before starting implementation work, the contractors must be introduced to residents in the areas concerned as a familiarisation quest.

Regional administrative secretary Dr Angelina Lutambi urged the contractors to implement the projects diligently, adhering to the timeframe set out in the relevant contract.

## Fishermen, seafarers told to take care of seagrasses

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

FISHERMEN and seafarers in the country have been asked to take care of seagrasses and coral reefs to save fish breeding sites.

Currently, there has been a rapid increase in marine degradation caused by illegal fishing.

This was stated yesterday by Tanga regional senior conservation officer, Humprey Mahudi, as he opened a one-day workshop to provide feedback on a research project on fish tadpoles production in Indian Ocean grasses.

Mahudi, said the use of sustainable fishing gear will go a long way in preserving the marine environment for the benefit of marine ecosystems.

"My call to the people as well as the users of the resources, that we can take care of the seagrasses and coral reefs that are the main producers of these fish, these days there has been a waste of these resources by illegal fishermen," he said.

Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences from the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr. Margereth Kyewalyanga said that prior to the study the situation was dire

as fishermen and sea users were unknowingly destroying the grass environment.

"Initially before conducting this study there was a lot of damage being done by sea users, the situation was bad but the users were doing environmental damage without them knowing if they were destroying it because they were seeing it as a normal use," said Dr. Kyewalyanga

For her part, Fadhili Malesa, Assistant Lecturer at the School of Fisheries Science and Technology, said the study identified areas that had been damaged by civilians while explaining ways to prevent such damage.

Workshop participants expressed the realities of the environment they are experiencing in their fishing activities while asking the government to assist them in conserving the marine environment.

The study of the production of fish tadpoles in seagrass and its distribution along the East African coast of Tanzania has been conducted in the sea in the area of Mwarongo and Kigombe in Tanga region.



Dignitaries including members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Tanzania follow proceedings at the climax of the 58th Zanzibar Revolution anniversary celebrations at Zanzibar's Amaan Stadium yesterday. Photo: State House

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businesswomen shared market insights with more than 125 US companies interested in exploring business opportunities in the East African region.

Carol Ndosi, co-founder of the Launch-Pad (T) moderated a panel consisting of Dr. Victoria Kisombwe, founder and CEO for Sero Lease and Finance Limited (SELFINA); Miranda Naimani, founding partner for Empower, and Mercy Kitomari, founder and CEO of Notre Heritage Ltd.

The speakers highlighted the power of women entrepreneurs to create advantages for US companies entering or expanding in the

## US cultivates women business partnerships

Tanzanian market.

US firms are particularly well placed to tap into WELLTI due to the extensive network of alumni of exchange programs living in Tanzania and connected with others elsewhere in Africa. This alumni network includes the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Mandela Washington Fellowship and the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE).

US and Tanzanian business connections run deep with over 60 years of bilateral relations, which the two countries marked last year. US firms currently have \$1.5bn

investments in Tanzania employing 2,000 people

Total trade (exports plus imports) between the U.S. and Tanzania totaled \$364m in 2020, making the United States the third largest bilateral trade partner outside Africa, and fifth overall. "These trade and investment figures demonstrate the need for increased local partnerships, which Tanzanian women entrepreneurs can play a leading role," officials noted.

Launched in January 2021, the US Department of Commerce's WELLTI series is a platform to connect women entrepreneurs in the United

States and international markets. Over the past year, this initiative has grown rapidly across the Middle East region and will culminate in an event led by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo on International Women's Day in March at the US Dubai World Expo pavilion.

The International Trade Administration (ITA) at the US Department of Commerce is the premier resource for American companies competing in the global marketplace. ITA has more than 2,200 employees assisting US exporters in more than 100 US cities and 75 markets worldwide.





Zanzibar young boys carry portraits of the former presidents and the current President during the 58th Zanzibar Revolution anniversary marked at Amaan Stadium yesterday. Fifth (L) is the Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: State House

## 'The Guardian' freelancer scoops Africa's top awards

By Guardian Reporter

THE Guardian newspaper freelancer Christina Mwakangale has become the first winner the Merck Foundation Africa Media Recognition Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021.

She became the winner in East Africa's Print category, followed by Veronica Romwald Mrema on the online category and Adam Gabriel Hhando, CG FM Radio.

Merck Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Merck KGaA Germany in partnership with African First Ladies announced the winners of Merck Foundation Africa Media Recognition Awards "More Than a Mother" 2021. The awards were announced by Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation and President of Merck Foundation More Than a Mother together with African First Ladies, who are also the Ambassadors of 'Merck Foundation More Than a Mother'.

The theme of the awards was: Raising awareness about Infertility Prevention, Breaking Infertility Stigma, and Empowering Girls and Women through Education. Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej, CEO of Merck Foundation celebrated the winners saying: "I am extremely proud and pleased to announce the winners of Merck Foundation Africa Media Recognition Awards 'More Than a Mother' 2021.

I would like to thank the African First Ladies for their consistent support as Ambassadors of Merck Foundation More Than a Mother.

I appreciate all the efforts put in by the African Media Fraternity who became the voice of the voiceless to raise awareness about sensitive social and cultural issues such as Infertility stigma and girl education action, in the past year.

I have always emphasized the prominent role of media as I strongly believe that both media and art have the capacity and ability to create a culture shift in our communities in a cost-effective way. I welcome all the winners to be members of our Merck

Foundation Alumni and work closely with us to support and empower women and girls at all levels."

Merck Foundation received a great response from African journalists in the form of several excellent entries. The 'Merck Foundation More Than A Mother' Awards Committee introduced second and third positions in order to select more than one winner for different categories.

The awards committee also announced Special Awards, to acknowledge the high quality of work received in more than one category by the same applicant and this to encourage their passion and dedication towards this noble cause. Senator Dr. Rasha Kelej, said, "I am very happy with the work showcased by all our winners; hence it gives me immense joy to announce that Merck Foundation is additionally rewarding the winners by providing them with one year access to an online educational training program called 'MasterClass'.

The MasterClass is an immersive online experience and self-paced learning course that can be accessed anywhere with the Internet. I encourage all the winners to be 'Merck Foundation More Than A Mother Advocate' to further raise awareness about infertility, eliminate the stigma around it and support girl education. I also welcome them as valuable members of 'Merck Foundation Alumni'.

She further added, "I would also like to announce the Call for Applications for the Merck Foundation Africa Media Recognition Awards 'More Than a Mother' 2022.

I am looking forward to the entries from the Media Fraternity across Africa this year to write meaningful and influencing stories and reports to raise awareness and sensitize our communities about Infertility Prevention, Breaking Infertility Stigma, and Empowering Girls & Women through Education. We shall soon share details on these awards for the upcoming year, 2022."

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

## Mbeya facing increasing use of illicit brew - RPC

MBEYA Region is faced with the increasing use of the illicit brew popularly known as "moshi" or "gongo", the situation which is health risk to the users.

Speaking here to reporters yesterday, Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Ulrich Matei said the police had been conducting frequent operations in various areas in the region and arrested both sellers and drinkers of the illicit liquor.

RPC Matei said in the crackdown made beginning January 5 this year, they arrested three people, prominent sellers of the drink in various areas of the region and that the crackdown continues.

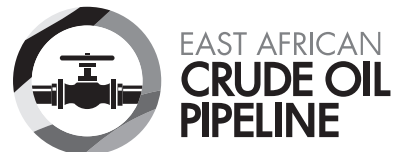
He added that on January 6 Police detectives

conducted an operation at Katumba village in Rungwe district and arrested one Atuganile Mwakalobo (52) with 21 litres of the illicit liquor that he was selling to people at his local brew shop in the village.

RPC Matei further said the detectives made another operation in Kyela District and arrested one Anyeshi Burton (50), resident of Kyimo village with flour that he was selling at his local brew bar in the village.

"There is also the smuggling into the country of prohibited liquor from neighbouring countries, and in our January 5 operation in Kyela we arrested one Gwantwa Mwakajila (45), a resident of Ikolo Village for smuggling in similar kind of illicit liquor," said RPC Matei.

He named the kinds of drinks the suspect smuggled in as including 20 bottles of Ice, 31 bottles of Carerhum and 14 bottles of 'Zikomo' all from neighbouring Malawi.



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: GRAVE REMOVAL AND RE-INTERMENT SERVICES FOR EACOP. REFERENCE NO: 0010007361

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in planning and executing of the relocation and re-interment of graves along the route affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. This process will include conducting the required engagement activities with regional and local authorities and the affected families.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- The grave relocation and re-interment services will comprise the following:
- Confirming coordinates and locations of graves as provided by Company
  - Conducting engagement with district and local authorities including District Health Officers to arrange all legal requirements for grave removals
  - Conducting engagement with affected families to ensure all grave removal ceremonies have been conducted and compensation have been paid.
  - Conducting engagement with affected families and community leaders to identify places where the graves will be relocated.
  - Working with local authorities to identify labourers to conduct the grave removal
  - Secure all required Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) equipment to safely deliver the grave re-interment exercise

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
- Experience relocating & reinterment of graves in Tanzania for industrial or other projects
  - Experience engaging authorities for grave removal activities in Tanzania
  - Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
  - Proof of registration with Occupation Safety and Health Authority - OSHA
  - Application for registration with the EVVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
  - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com](mailto:eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **21<sup>st</sup> January 2022**. Email subject should be 0010007361

**Note:** The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.



### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: PROVISION OF FIELD EQUIPMENT FOR EACOP. REFERENCE NO: 0010007360

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in providing field equipment to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- The required field equipment includes:
- Large and medium sized Marquee tents with open drop sides.
  - Plastic chairs, tables & dustbins.
  - 5KW petrol powered, portable generator.
  - 5m, 10m, 15m extension power cables.
  - Rechargeable handheld radios/Valkie-talkies and charging equipment.
  - Mobile hand sanitisers.

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
- Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
  - Proof of registration with the Occupation Safety and Health Authority - OSHA.
  - Application for registration with the EVVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
  - Compliance with Petroleum Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
  - Proof of available stock or ability to stock at short notice.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com](mailto:eacop-tz.eoi.1000001@totalenergies.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **15:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **21<sup>st</sup> January 2022**. Email subject should be 0010007360.

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Supporters of CCM and ACT-Wazalendo participating in the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution enter Amaan Stadium yesterday.



Zanzibar residents celebrating the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution enter Amaan Stadium yesterday.



Zanzibar Social Fund Institution workers participate at the ceremony.



Zanzibar Utilities Regulatory Authority workers take part in the ceremony



Motorbike taxi riders alias bodaboda also joined in the celebrations yesterday.



Supporters of various political parties chanting during the ceremony



Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinzi and senior government officials participate in the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution at Amaan Stadium yesterday



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinzi inspects a guard of honour mounted at the Amaan Stadium yesterday. All Photos: State House







## TARI-Uyole, Kyela DC to produce 15,000 oil palm better seedlings

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI), Uyole Center in collaboration with Kyela District Council have prepared 15,000 oil palm improved seedlings which will be distributed to smallholder farmers mostly in lowland, hot and humid district.

TARI-Uyole director Dr. Tulole Bucheyeki said this yesterday during an inspection of the oil palm seedling nursery which has been prepared for distribution to the people of Kyela District.

Dr Bucheyeki said the institute has done research on soil testing where it has found that there are many areas in the country that are suitable for the production of the oil palm and if the opportunity is used properly there is a possibility of increased oil production.

He said apart from the possibility of Tanzania being able to export oil but also the export of other chicory products will increase significantly and thus bring the nation a higher output than at present.

"We have done research to identify areas suitable for the cultivation of oil palm and for this district we have identified that all areas are suitable for the cultivation of this crop, we have prepared this nursery for distribution to the public," said Dr. Bucheyeki.

Dr. Bucheyeki said in the nursery which they have set up in collaboration with Kyela District Council they have prepared 15,000 seedlings which will be distributed to farmers in various parts of Kyela District.

Some growers of the crop in Kyela District asked the Government to continue to help them get quality seeds claiming that the prepared seedlings are still not enough

depending on the size of their fields.

One of the farmers, Ibrahim Lameck, said the people have been educated on the best farming techniques and techniques and have been encouraged to cultivate conditions that have increased the need for modern seeds.

He said if they were sure of the seed there was a possibility of increasing oil production as per the Government's targets and that it would also help reduce oil imports.

"We are asking for this seed preparation exercise to be sustainable because I am sure this existing one is not enough for us, we want to get rid of this indigenous agriculture whose productivity is low," said Lameck.

A study conducted by the TARI-Uyole Center in Mbeya, has revealed that Tanzania will start exporting cooking oil due to the increase in the area suitable for the cultivation of oil palm and the use of quality seeds for the crop.

Kyela District Agricultural Officer, Benard Libata said due to the existing cooperation between the Council and TARI, the people are confident of getting quality chicory seeds and at a level that meets their needs.

He said they will continue to work with the institute to ensure they develop the crop which was neglected due to low productivity.

The oil palm crop coordinator from TARI Uyole, Beatha Paul said if the seedlings are planted according to professional procedures it will be enough to plant them in an area of 700 acres.

He said due to the seedlings being ready to be planted, they are continuing with the process of encouraging the people to cultivate the crop to achieve the desired goals.



Residents of Moa ward in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, pictured yesterday taking part in the implementation of a Rural Water Authority and Sanitation project meant to supply potable tap water to their village. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) has said she intends to strengthen work performance principles in the public service to enable Tanzanians benefit from services provided by state institutions in the country.

Mhagama made the pledge here yesterday at her meeting with staff and workers from the Policy Development and Public Service management.

The minister stressed that her coming to the office means to continue with all that was good

## Mhagama vows to boost public servants morale

done by her predecessor and put in place robust strategies for the improvement of public service.

"I have come to double performance pace to assist President Samia Suluhu Hassan for the overall improvement of the public service and continue with all that was good that had been done," she stressed.

She added that she will utilise

the responsibility given by the President in finding solutions to challenges facing public servants in order to raise their morale and work harder.

"I will make sure public servants work hard and with diligence and ethics to go in tandem with the President's slogan "KAZI IENDELEE" (Work has to Continue), she said, and added that a public servant

has a great contribution in realizing President Samia, dream for bringing development to the people and that is why she has been employers to provide public servants their due benefits in time to raise their work morale.

Mhagama has begun task force meeting in the ministry soon after she was officially sworn in to the portfolio on Monday.



ROAD CLOSED: This heavy-duty containerised truck failed to move up a steep hill along the Iwambi section of the all-important Iringa-Mbeya-Tunduma truck road on Tuesday, effectively rendering the spot impassable to vehicular traffic. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE association defending for passengers' rights (CHAKUA) has established a separate department to serve students and children which will have the responsibility of making sure they travel in commuter buses (daladala) without being bothered or humiliated to and from school.

Speaking to this paper in Dar es Salaam Tuesday, the association's chairman Hassan Mchanjama said CHAKUA defends all passengers, but is establishing the new department due to indignity subjected to students and other children.

"Some bus conductors and drivers have been humiliating students; hence we decided to have a special unit that we hope will reduce the problem to enable

## Passenger rights body establishes unit to address students' plight

them travel without botheration," said Mchanjama, and named Adinan Mbezi to lead the department.

For his part, Mbezi said the department will start operating in a week's time by meeting with all passenger transport stakeholders, including bus owners, drivers and conductors' associations and others.

"Next Monday we shall hold a training seminar on the importance of transporting students to their schools without unnecessary delays and we believe that everyone will air his/her views during the seminar," Mbezi said.

He said after the seminar, officials from the department will visit commuter bus stands to see if the drivers and conductors abide by what they had gathered at the seminar.

"We want to start with Dar es Salaam, especially at notorious bus stands such as Gongo la Mboto and Mbezi Mwisho to Makabe and Mpiji Maghowe where students are subjected to great indignity, after which we shall turn to the regions," he added.

He also said they will operate in collaboration with members of road traffic police to assist

students to access to unhindered transportation.

"Other areas that we will deal with are schools, both public and private schools that provide school transport, as there also there is a huge problem needing immediate solution," he said.

He said some of school buses are overloaded with children, the situation that puts their safety into question; hence, the department will follow up on the matter.

He said his department will distribute brochures to the schools to remind school authorities to transport students safely.

## 1,000 primary, secondary students in Dar receive books from the WIPAHS

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 1000 Dar es Salaam primary and secondary students yesterday received counter books donated by World Islamic Propagation and Humanitarian Services (WIPAHS) ahead of school opening next week.

Speaking at the handing over, WIPAHS Managing Director Mohamedali Rajaan said the aim of the donation was to support parents without incomes to send their children to school.

Rajaan said that the institute gives education as the first priority adding that it also offers affordable fees in Wali-Ul-Asr centre (WEC), in Kibaha district, Coast region.

"When you empower children to access education, you empower the community. That is why the institute has donated the parents ahead of school opening next week," he said.

"Our centre takes care of kindergarten, primary, secondary up to college level to mention the few are all under WIPAHS umbrella to show

Aisha Salun, one of the parents benefitted from the donations, thanked WIPAHS saying it will assure her students to attend schools as well as reduce cost.

"We thank the institute for the donation to our sons. Indeed, I'm assured that my son will join Temeke Wailes secondary school next week," she said.

For his part, Amir Hamad, a standard seven pupil, at Azimio received with gratefully noting that it will add motivation to do better.

Recently it was reported that, the Temeke Municipal Council (TMC) awarded WIPAHS accolade of recognizing its contribution in different spheres of development

TMC Mayor Abdaalah Mtinika said WIPAHS was a true partner to complement government efforts ensuring there is clean water, quality education and women



**When you empower children to access education, you empower the community. That is why the institute has donated the parents ahead of school opening next week**







THURSDAY 13 JANUARY, 2022

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Hydroponic techniques can alter urban-rural landscapes

FOURTH phase president Jakaya Kikwete once identified the Lands ministry as the most problematic of all cabinet portfolios, and definitely one can add that even in regard to the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) which is a different ministry, the lands problem is biggest there as well. With vast population expansion in the 60 years of independence and even since President Kikwete left office late 2015, it is clear that land problems are even bigger as demand is intense and supply is obviously limited. How the problem is handled may occasion civil breakdowns, political strife.

Tanzania is decidedly not on the brink of chaos but plenty of intermittent violence underlines day to day life especially in rural areas, like conflicts between cattle herders and farmers, and even between villagers and wildlife in wildlife protected areas or national parks. Of late elephants have been rampaging into villages on the fringes of Ruaha National Park, and a park official explains that TANAPA 'educates' people on how to handle invasions of elephants without harm (that is, to the elephants). He said nothing on possible compensation for crops destroyed, though he said that any destruction by animals be reported.

One reason farmers find themselves trying to eke out a living next to wild beasts of all ranges of size and ferocity is reliance on range farming traditions, that is, one has one or two acres of crops as minimum for food needs and cash crops. With the climate stress that the world has undergone during the past

decade, forward looking agro-sector researchers came up with solutions, which may not be totally new to experts but definitely not widely practiced as yet. Even if they are practiced in a scattered manner, they ought to be the norm for everything save plantation agriculture strategic investment, not as routine domestic needs.

Of late experts contributing to this newspaper have been at pains to underline how the country can solve many of its agro-sector problems especially at the level of domestic consumption, by resorting to hydroponic farming. Many people even locally are familiar with it but the details - and the conditions of spreading it sufficiently - are not always in place, another reason why the new team (in part, that is) at the Lands ministry in liaison with Agriculture ministry expert could look closely at this technique. It needs significant capital layout to start but likely to be showered with success once a farmer grasps how to do it.

The technique is revolutionary in two aspects, first it abandons the seasonal farming habit for all year cultivation tied to using specially fertilized water for gardening of crops in all sorts of domestic plastics etc as containers. Secondly, it abandons farms for much smaller garden spaces not different from children's playgrounds in a house, but even this aspect needs some aspects of urban planning to be refashioned, to provide agro-product layouts as part renting facilities. Plantation investors will then have a field day, when rural occupants shift to towns with ability to produce food and cash crops.

## Good and inclusive governance is imperative for Africa's future

AMONG the seven key aspirations listed in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want - the African Union's (AU) shared 50-year development and transformation programme for realising the full potential of the continent - one stands out in its interconnectedness: "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law." The key to Africa's political and economic transformation in the next decade is found in this aspiration. Indeed, as former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said, "Good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development."

African countries continue to build on the governance gains that they have achieved since the early 1990s. According to the African Development Bank, good governance should be built on a foundation of effective states, mobilised civil societies, and an efficient private sector. The key elements of good governance, then, are accountability, transparency, combating corruption, citizen participation, and an enabling legal/judicial framework.

Since then, many African countries have undertaken institutional reforms that have significantly changed their governance architectures and put in place a new set of leaders. Since the early 1990s, for example, Ghana has diligently undertaken governance reforms, including the design and adoption of new democratic constitution, which places emphasis on the separation of powers with checks and balances to transform its political system. Ghana subsequently became a role model in the institutionalisation of democratic rule, as illustrated by the quick acceptance of defeat by incumbent President John D. Mahama during the 2016 elections.

More broadly, over the past decade, Kenya, Morocco, and Côte d'Ivoire have led the way. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance indicates that between 2008 and 2017, these countries experienced significant improvements, particularly in overall governance.

Fighting poverty and improving human development in Africa must begin with the creation of wealth, a process that requires the existence of a robust entrepreneurial class.

But Africa has a long way to go: Too many countries have not yet achieved the type of reforms that can prevent dictatorship, corruption, and economic decline. Due to continued sectarian violence, weak and ineffective leadership, and lack of political will, countries like the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan remain saddled by poor-functioning governance structures. The absence of good governance in many African countries has been extremely damaging to the government's corrective intervention role, particularly in the maintenance of peace and security, as well as the promotion of economic growth and the creation of the wealth needed to confront poverty and improve human development.

Without good and inclusive governance, Africa will not achieve its social and economic targets.

It is imperative that countries entrench mechanisms that promote constitutionalism, accountability, democracy, and good governance if Africa is to achieve its development goals. Fighting poverty and improving human development in Africa must begin with the creation of wealth, a process that requires the existence of a robust entrepreneurial class. In order to achieve these goals, there must be peace and security - especially the peaceful coexistence of the various ethnic/cultural groups that inhabit each African country.

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## Reducing the burden of cardiovascular diseases

By Special Correspondent

THESE are the key facts gleaned from the World Health Organisation (WHO) website.

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are the leading cause of death globally. An estimated 17.9 million people died from CVDs in 2019, representing 32 per cent of all global deaths. Of these deaths, 85 per cent were due to heart attack and stroke. Over three quarters of CVD deaths take place in low- and middle-income countries. Out of the 17 million premature deaths (under the age of 70) due to noncommunicable diseases in 2019, 38 per cent were caused by CVDs. Most cardiovascular diseases can be prevented by addressing behavioural risk factors such as tobacco use, unhealthy diet and obesity, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. It is important to detect cardiovascular disease as early as possible so that management with counselling and medicines can begin.

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are a group of disorders of the heart and blood vessels. They include, coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease, and deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.

Heart attacks and strokes are usually acute events and are mainly caused by a blockage that prevents blood from flowing to the heart or brain. The most common reason for this is a build-up of fatty deposits on the inner walls of the blood vessels that supply the heart or brain. Strokes can be caused by bleeding from a blood vessel in the brain or from blood clots.

The most important behavioural risk factors of heart disease and stroke are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use and harmful use of alcohol. The effects of behavioural risk factors may show up in individuals as raised blood pressure, raised blood glucose, raised blood lipids, and overweight and obesity.

Cessation of tobacco use, reduction of salt in the diet, eating more fruit and vegetables, regular physical activity and avoiding harmful use of alcohol have been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Health policies that create conducive environments for making healthy choices affordable and available are essential for motivating people to adopt and sustain healthy behaviours.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Spending geared towards health and prevention should not be seen as simply one cost at a specific point in time, but as an investment towards increased



welfare, productivity and economic growth. In study conducted by the American Heart Association in 2011 showed prevention strategies could be cost effective in the long run. A community-based programs promoting physical exercise, a balanced diet, and cessation of smoking and tobacco use carry a return-on-investment of \$5.60 for every dollar spent over five years. Prevention saves on costs and also save lives.

The burden of CVD mortality and morbidity has an enormous impact, not only on healthcare systems and patients' quality of life, but also on their productivity and on that of their informal caregivers. Most studies on the burden of CVD only analyze direct costs (related to devices, technologies, services and other resources used for treatment and prevention of CVD). Indirect costs, those arising from productivity gains or losses relating to illness or death, are much less studied, although productivity loss represents a major negative impact on individual CVD patients, their families, caregivers and society as a whole.

Risk factors for CVD can be categorized as modifiable and non-modifiable. Modifiable risk factors include obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, metabolic syndrome and lifestyle risk factors such as unhealthy diet, smoking and physical inactivity. Dietary factors are also important contributors to cardiovascular risk, either directly, or through their effects on other risk factors including hypertension, dyslipidaemia and diabetes mellitus. Reduction of risk factors in the population, especially blood pressure reduction and lipid-lowering can have important impacts upon mortality from CVD.

Protective effects against CVD have been demonstrated for several foods and dietary supplements thus presenting new possibilities for population-level reduction of CVD risk. In the PREDIMED observational

study, participants in the highest quintile of polyphenol consumption had a relative risk of CVD of 54% compared to those in the lowest quintile (Sosnowska et al. The role of nutraceuticals in the prevention of cardiovascular disease).

A nutraceutical is defined as a "food, or parts of a food, that provide medical or health benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease". The definition encompasses medicinal products made from natural ingredients. Polyphenols are phytochemicals with widespread distribution in foods of plant origin. They are found in fruits, vegetables, cereal and legumes. Additionally, they are found in beverages produced from plant products such as tea, coffee, wine and cocoa. A variety of polyphenols have been identified in cocoa and its derivative.

These include catechins, flavanol glycosides, anthocyanins and procyanidins. Cocoa-containing foods provide a higher content of flavonoids per serving than other beverages such as red wine and tea. Dyslipidaemia is an umbrella term for a variety of lipid abnormalities, which increase the risk of CVD. Reduction of total cholesterol (TC) and low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (LDL-C) is effective in the primary and secondary prevention of CVD events.

A recent meta-analysis of 19 randomized controlled trials of varying designs with a total of 1,131 participants indicated that cocoa flavanols were associated with reductions in total triglycerides (-0.10 mmol/L) and increases in HDL-C (0.06 mmol/L) intake. Recently published results from the Flaviola Health Study revealed that twice-daily ingestion of 450 mg of cocoa flavanols for 1 month decreased total cholesterol (TC) by 0.20 mmol/L and low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) by 0.17 mmol/L whereas high density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) increased by 0.10 mmol/L in a low

risk, primary prevention population. Consumption of flavanol-rich cocoa provides a significant lowering of 10-year risk for CVD.

Hypertension is an important modifiable risk factor for CVD. It has been shown that lowering blood pressure reduces CV risk by 20-25% for myocardial infarction, 35-40% for stroke and about 50% for heart failure. A meta-analysis of 42 randomized controlled trials indicated that flavanol-rich cocoa was associated with reduced diastolic blood pressure and mean arterial pressure. Flavanol-rich cocoa exerts a beneficial impact on blood pressure in patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension and in elderly subjects.

Diabetes mellitus is a well-established risk factor for CVD. Diabetes mellitus type 2 (T2DM) is associated with high risk for developing cardiovascular complications. Patients with diabetes and hypertension have about twice the risk of cardiovascular events as nondiabetic patients with hypertension. It has been estimated that the global prevalence of diabetes mellitus will rise to 552 million by 2030. A diet characterized by a higher intake of total polyphenols was associated with a better cardiovascular risk factors profile and a lower grade of subclinical inflammation in population with T2DM.

Dyslipidaemia, hypertension and diabetes are major modifiable risk factors for CVD. Current medical treatments for the management of diabetes and dyslipidaemia in some especially high-risk patients are insufficient and current evidence suggests that the application of nutraceuticals may have the potential to increase the effectiveness of therapy (as well as to reduce the residual risk). Consumption of flavanol-rich cocoa of which Ghana is famed for its premium quality looks very promising reducing the burden of CVD.



# 'Wars can't be cheap': Experts call for more soldiers in Mozambique



South African President Cyril Ramaphosa (C), in his capacity as Chair of the South African Development Community, with heads of state at the Troika Summit in Malawi on 11 January 2022. The summit reviewed the progress of the SADC mission in Mozambique where soldiers were deployed to fight terrorism. (Photo: GCIS)

“It's therefore time to rethink the entire mission, and for SADC's political and military leaders to both clarify the strategic objectives and commit to either properly resource the mission with the additional troops, transport helicopters, and heavy weapon support that it needs or withdraw from active combat operations entirely. Wars can't be fought on the cheap without severe consequences arising sooner or later

By Peter Fabricius

SOUTHERN African leaders meeting in Malawi this week must reinforce their military mission fighting insurgents in northern Mozambique, a mission which is “ridiculously under-resourced for the task it has been given”.

South Africa lost its first soldier in the operation last month. Without a lot more infantry and equipment, casualties could start rising and the entire mission could be jeopardised.

That's the urgent message from military experts as well as a small, but plucky contingent of special forces who are effectively fighting the Islamic State-affiliated extremist group and killing many of its members. But they are almost on their own, without infantry back-up or adequate air support and other logistics and cannot sustain the intensity of the conflict without major reinforcements.

The special forces of South Africa, Tanzania, Botswana and Lesotho have been in northern Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province since mid-July 2021 as part of the SADC Mission in Mozambique (Samim).

SADC – the Southern African Development Community – is holding an extraordinary summit in Lilongwe, Malawi, on Wednesday this week to decide on the future of the military intervention when its current mandate expires on 15 January.

SADC ministers have recommended to their leaders that Samim's mandate should be extended by six months to mid-July. Officials told Daily Maverick that they expect the heads of government will endorse this extension.

But it's not clear if they will also agree to beef up the mission – which is urgent. Military officials originally envisioned Samim as a force of almost 3,000 soldiers with a few hundred special forces soldiers in the vanguard, to be bolstered by three battalions of infantry. They were also supposed to be supported by several attack and transport helicopters and other air and naval support.

But the infantry have not been deployed and neither have the helicopter gunships. A South African Navy strike craft was sent to Cabo Delgado last year, but then withdrew because of mechanical problems and has not been replaced, according to media reports.

Two South African Air Force Oryx utility helicopters are doing most of the airlifting, providing vital support to a few hundred special forces from South Africa, Tanzania, Botswana and Lesotho. Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and

Zambia are also contributing to Samim, but mostly with logistics.

The two Oryx helicopters are clearly overstretched and both have been hit by gunfire, sources say. They are battling to supply reinforcements for forces that come under attack because of their many other assignments in a rising number of clashes with the enemy.

South Africa lost its first soldier in the operation when South African Special Forces (SASF) Corporal Tebogo Radebe was killed in an ambush east of the village of Chai in Cabo Delgado's Mocimboa district on 20 December last year. This followed an offensive launched by Samim and the Mozambique Armed Defence Forces (FADM) which captured two bases of the insurgents who call themselves Al Sunnah wa Jama'ah (ASWJ) and also Islamic State, Central Africa Province.

According to a Samim spokesperson, 14 insurgents were killed in the raid and 13 Mozambican civilians, believed to have been abducted by ASWJ, were freed. Samim said a total of 23 insurgents had been killed in the weeks-long offence around Chai.

It added, though, that apart from the South African who died, another two Samim members had been injured. Military sources said the two Samim soldiers injured were SASF soldiers who had been shot in an engagement with ASWJ on 19 December.

Early in September, another SASF soldier had been injured, they added. Later, on 25 September, Samim said, a Tanzanian special forces soldier had been killed and another two Tanzanian special forces soldiers and one Lesotho special forces soldier injured in a joint Samim and FADM attack which destroyed an ASWJ base, south of Chitama settlement in Nangade District, Cabo Delgado province.

Samim said that 17 ASWJ terrorists had been killed in this operation and another was killed the next day in a firefight south of Messalo River.

The total number of Samim casualties now seems to stand at 11. Apart from the two killed and six injured in firefights with ASWJ, one Tanzanian soldier had died falling from a helicopter, a Lesotho soldier had died from cerebral malaria and a Botswana soldier had died when he was accidentally run over by a truck.

Mozambique, Samim – and the Rwanda Defence Force, which has a much larger force deployed in Cabo Delgado than SADC has – are killing many more insurgents than they themselves are losing.

But the special forces are nonetheless more overstretched than they need to be or should be in a counter-insurgency war.

Though the Rwandans were originally in the forefront of the early fighting, they appear to have subsequently stuck to a restricted mandate, protecting the liquid natural gas processing facilities at Afungi near Palma in the far northeast of Cabo Delgado and also to keep open a 70km corridor from there to the port of Mocimboa da Praia in the south.

This has left Samim and FADM to police a large warzone which has recently expanded, as their operations have driven some insurgents into Niassa province, west of Cabo Delgado.

Mozambican soldiers have been widely criticised for running away when attacked, but much of their problem seems to be that they are badly equipped, especially when it comes to ammunition.

Two Mozambican soldiers were killed in the same contact which cost Radebe his life and three had been wounded alongside the two South Africans injured the day before.

It's not quite clear why SADC has not so far deployed the full envisaged Samim force, though the main obstacle is probably cost. In July last year President Cyril Ramaphosa told Parliament he needed R984-million to deploy about 1,500 SA troops into Mozambique for three months. In October, SADC extended the Samim mission until 15 January.

But the SA government has not budgeted any more funds and seems to have stretched out the R984-million to cover six months of operations by deploying only special forces and not much equipment. So far, all the SADC countries participating in Samim seem to have financed their own contributions. However, officials have told Daily Maverick that SADC is negotiating with foreign donors to try to get further funding.

The journal Vrye Weekblad reported last week that the parlous condition of the state arms company, Denel, was part of the reason only two Oryx helicopters and no Rooivalk attack helicopters had been sent to Mozambique.

Darren Olivier, a director at the African Defence Review, warned that, “The SADC mission in Mozambique is ridiculously under-resourced for the task it has been given, and if the mission is simply extended without a change to that then we should expect many more casualties along with potential mission failures.”

“The South African Special Forces troops currently deployed in Mozambique, along with their counterparts from other countries like Botswana, Lesotho, and Tanzania, are extremely capable soldiers who have done sterling work over the past few months. But they are not superhuman, and

have been given an impossible task.

“Right now the SADC force is too small, has responsibility for too large an area, and has too few supporting assets like aircraft. They have only two Oryx transport helicopters to support 300-400 troops deployed across a huge area and, worse, have limited vehicle mobility as a result of the region's harsh terrain. This has meant that most engagements, actions, patrols, and similar have had to be done on foot and without support from either aircraft or heavy weapons, making the troops vulnerable.

“That there haven't been more casualties is testament to the quality of the troops, but they're being squeezed ever tighter and pushed to the point of exhaustion. Mistakes will inevitably creep in, and even the best troops have limits.

“Moreover, when it becomes necessary to rotate the current forces out, as must be coming soon, it's unlikely that enough replacement teams will be available from the relevant countries' special forces units. Will the deployment remain the same size, but with more conventional units? That will be a recipe for disaster.

“It's therefore time to rethink the entire mission, and for SADC's political and military leaders to both clarify the strategic objectives and commit to either properly resource the mission with the additional troops, transport helicopters, and heavy weapon support that it needs or withdraw from active combat operations entirely. Wars can't be fought on the cheap without severe consequences arising sooner or later.”

On Monday, Ramaphosa chaired a meeting in Lilongwe of the troika of SADC's organ on politics, defence and security and of the other countries contributing troops to Samim, to draft recommendations for the full SADC summit on Wednesday.

“Since the deployment of Samim in Mozambique, significant progress has been made,” he said. “The security situation in Cabo Delgado is improving, which has allowed for some internally displaced persons to return to their homes and resume their normal lives.”

Samim and FADM had opened safe passage for the supply of humanitarian aid to the people affected by the insurgency.

But Ramaphosa said there had also been challenges and “a magnitude of ground that still needs to be covered in the work of Samim. Therefore, we cannot let our guard down.”

He called for “a strengthened commitment to defeat and uproot terrorism from our region”.



# ANC January 8th statement: Promises, promises – but can they be kept?

SOUTH AFRICA

**T**HIS matters. The ANC is still the only political party able to form a national coalition of interests in our country. But, despite the noble aims to improve service delivery, and work for unity, the road ahead for the movement is still strewn with self-constructed potholes. And the usual promises.

It is easy to forget that while it is the leader of the ANC who delivers the party's annual January 8th Statement, Saturday's speech by President Cyril Ramaphosa was in fact a statement of the ANC's entire national executive committee. This means it is the entire NEC, with all members and factions, speaking as one voice. In this case, Ramaphosa suggested it had gone through a full 15 drafts before being published.

This suggests it has been thought through. It may also be hoped that its contents are the result of general broad agreement across the factions in the NEC. Of course, this may be a forlorn hope.

One of the major promises made by the NEC is to "build a social compact to decisively address unemployment and poverty". The document suggests the compact would "set out the obligations and commitments of all social partners, government, business, labour and community". This would then "address the burning challenge of youth unemployment".

This appears to be in stark difference to the occasional studied silence of the ANC on the issue, and the absolute silence that greeted the last release of our unemployment figures.

**That said, this is not a new promise.**

Ramaphosa's CRI7 campaign, ahead of the Nasrec elective conference, mentioned exactly the same idea, that of a "social compact". It is now more than three years later and there has been no implementation of such a thing.

We could go back much further, to 2009, when the ANC promised to create jobs, particularly for young people.

So far, it has singularly failed to do so.

Ramaphosa has been President since 2018 and has not implemented such a compact, so the only reason he may now be able to do so is because he believes he has an increased mandate.

The ANC NEC also says: "We have undertaken several economic reforms in areas such as energy security, the efficiency of our ports, digital migration and access to broadband, and ease of doing business."

**This may be partially true.**

It is true Ramaphosa has said companies will be able to use embedded generation to produce



Paul Mashatile, Premier Stan Mathabatha, President Cyril Ramaphosa, deputy president David Mabuza and Gwede Mantashe cutting the cake at the ANC 110 anniversary held at the old Peter Mokaba stadium in Polokwane on 08 Saturday January 2022. Photo: Felix Dlangamandla/Daily Maverick

their own electricity and to sell the surplus they generate. But it has taken some time for this to be fully implemented.

While there have been announcements about massive investment in our ports, it is also true that Transnet has been hit by computer hackers and was for a period last year unable to process cargo at the usual rate.

And it is unlikely that most business organisations believe it has become much easier to do business.

While it is important for the ANC to make these promises, it is hard to see how they will be implemented – certainly to the extent that they will deal with the extent and scale of the problem.

Perhaps the most burning issue is a basic income grant (BIG), with pressure building for its introduction.

The NEC does refer to this, but very carefully, saying only "there is a clear need for some form of income support for unemployed and poor South Africans based on clear principles of affordability and sustainability".

**This is a statement, not a promise.** However, during her speech before Ramaphosa spoke on Saturday, Cosatu president Zingiswa Losi said it was the ANC that provides "free electricity" to the poor and "provides social grants to 27 million people". This links to claims that many voters believe they could lose their social grants if the ANC is voted out of power. This claim is highly contested.

So urgent is the need for a BIG, and so brutal the politics around it (as many millions of voters stand to gain from it), it may be difficult for the ANC to avoid implementing some kind of

measure before the 2024 elections. This may be one of the issues that allows the ANC to stay above 50% support level in those elections. This may mean the ANC wants to use the issue as a promise ahead of those polls.

Related to the issue of unemployment and jobs is the NEC's statement that "transitioning to a low-carbon, ecologically friendly and socially sustainable economy presents opportunities to create jobs, inclusion and growth in sectors such as renewable energy, grid construction, manufacturing of renewable components, battery storage, green vehicles and green hydrogen while furthering our environmental protection objectives".

This suggests, again, that the ANC believes the move towards greener energy is a huge opportunity for the country. And while he will deny it, some may see this as another rebuke for Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe.

The NEC's comments about recent events, the violence in July and perhaps the fire at Parliament (the SACP's general secretary Blade Nzimande linked the two in his speech on Saturday) also suggests an important political view of the situation.

The statement says: "These democratic gains are, however, threatened by a concerted effort to destroy the institutions of our democratic State, to erode the values of our Constitution and to undo the social and economic progress made. This worrying confluence of subverting actions is evinced by the blatant acts of state capture and criminality described in the report of the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, the concerted campaign of

public violence and destruction that took place in July last year, as well as ongoing acts of wanton theft, destruction and obstruction of vital public and private infrastructure, including communication and logistical networks."

Of course, there is no mention or speculation of who may be involved in doing this. And, for many, the finger of speculation may well point to people within the ANC itself. This is because it is they who have the most to lose from a fully functioning state – and particularly the party's former leader and former president, Jacob Zuma, who, despite being sentenced to jail, has not lost his right to attend NEC meetings as an observer.

In a sense, this may be directly related to the party's stated aim of renewing itself.

Key to this is the Zondo Commission report and the release of its first part at the start of the year.

As part of its response to this, the NEC states: "We will put in place mechanisms to process any parts of the commission report that pertain to the organisation, its employees or members and to consider how the commission's recommendations can help to enhance the fundamental renewal and rebuilding of our movement."

This gets to one of the key political questions of this year. There are now several people in the NEC who are likely to have adverse findings against them in the final Zondo Commission report. These include the liar Malusi Gigaba, Nomvula Mokonyane, Mosebenzi Zwane and several others (there is a much longer list of people to peruse on this).

These are people who sit on the

NEC, which issued this statement. And while some, such as Gigaba, have resigned from their Cabinet positions, they have not resigned from their positions on the NEC.

Former health minister Zweli Mkhize, while not implicated at the Zondo Commission, is another example. He resigned from Cabinet but retains his position on the NEC.

Will the ANC allow them to remain in their positions if they go on trial? Could it be that some are even elected back to the NEC at the party's conference in December this year despite the very public evidence that has been seen against them.

The issue of the renewal of the ANC is now clearly an electoral issue, and it seems from this statement that the NEC understands this. This is why that phrase is mentioned so many times in the final document.

It is also possible that the ANC is about to start its campaign for 2024 now, because it knows how vulnerable it is (it should not be forgotten that the most likely outcome of that election is still for the ANC to retain power with one small coalition partner).

This also folds into what may be the other dominant story of the year, Ramaphosa's bid for re-election as ANC leader. He is still the most popular politician in the country by far. However, so many promises have been made and broken in the past that it is hard to see the party making huge progress in dealing with these issues over the next 12 months.

Which may lead to the ANC promising, again, in a year's time, to create jobs and to renew itself.

DM

## CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Bioenergy sorghum's roots can replenish carbon in soil

By Special Correspondent

THE world faces an increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and a shortage of carbon in the soil. However, bioenergy sorghum can provide meaningful relief from both problems, according to a new study by Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists.

The study, "Bioenergy sorghum's deep roots: A key to sustainable biomass production on annual cropland," was recently published in *GCB Bioenergy*.

According to the research, bioenergy sorghum hybrids capture and sequester significant amounts of atmospheric carbon dioxide in soil. The crop can improve soil fertility and potentially earn carbon credits to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the study shows that bioenergy sorghum's unusually deep root system can reach sources of water and nutrients untapped by other annual crops. These results suggest the crop can help manage fertilizer runoff from other annuals in a crop rotation.

The senior investigator for the work is John Mullet, Ph.D., professor and Perry L. Adkisson Chair in Agricultural Biology in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics. A key collaborator is Bill Rooney, Ph.D., professor and Borlaug-Monsanto Chair for Plant Breeding and International Crop Improvement, Department of Soil and Crop Sciences. Both are in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Bryan-College Station.

The US Department of En-



ergy Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy funded the project.

Mullet is an expert in bioenergy crops' genomics, genetics and gene regulatory networks. Rooney spearheaded the development of bioenergy sorghum hybrids over the past 20 years. For the past 15 years, Rooney and Mullet have collaborated to develop bioenergy sorghum.

In fact, Mullet and Rooney have been working to improve bioenergy sorghum varieties to produce an ideal annual bioenergy crop. The hybrid used in the recent study creates high yields of biomass for fuel,

power and bioproduct generation. The crop also has excellent drought resilience, good nitrogen-use efficiency and a deep root system.

"There is an assumption that the most sustainable bioenergy crops are perennial because they require fewer inputs and can sequester more biomass than annuals," Rooney said. "Those statements are true, but U.S. agriculture always requires annual cropping varieties and options as well."

New benchmark for carbon credit modeling, soil fertility

The study shows that an acre planted with a bioenergy sorghum hybrid accumulates about 3.1 tons of dry root bio-

mass over the crop's 155-day growing season. Bioenergy sorghum roots also grew to over 6.5 feet deep over their growing season.

These new metrics make it easier to predict how much atmospheric carbon dioxide might be captured inside roots. The numbers can also shed light on how many carbon credits a planted field might earn.

"Frankly, the numbers are quite favorable," Rooney said.

The numbers are also important for understanding the crop's potential to improve soil fertility and water-holding capacity by replenishing soil organic carbon. However, previ-

ous research has shown that in the U.S., soil organic carbon levels have fallen by 50% over the past 100 years in land planted with annual crops.

This drop in soil carbon levels could be due to cropping practices, microbial activity and changing land use, Rooney said. These complex factors mean that predicting how long it might take to replenish lost carbon requires sophisticated modeling. The restoration process is likely to take many decades.

"For modeling, they need to have a realistic number to start with," Rooney said. "We haven't historically had enough info to do that, but this study provides a benchmark for scientists and policymakers."

## A need for further research

In this study, Rooney and his team managed the field trials and helped with phenotyping. Mullet and his team characterized the root system and the genes expressed within.

Over multiple years, the study considered in-depth how one bioenergy sorghum hybrid interacts with two soil types, Rooney said. He stresses the need to conduct further research.

"In this study, we didn't sample the genetic diversity of bioenergy sorghum at all, except for one standard type," Rooney said. "And looking at multiple environments and expanding the range of we are evaluating is essential."

Bioenergy sorghum as part of a sustainable bioenergy production system

Modeling studies estimate that millions of acres of abandoned and marginal cropland in the U.S. are available for planting. Many of those acres are in the Gulf Coast region. The region is ideal for bioenergy sorghum production because of ample rainfall, long growing seasons and low competition with grain crops, Mullet said. Furthermore, the crop has improved over the years in terms of productivity, resilience and composition, thanks to Mullet's and Rooney's efforts.

"Recently, I've decided the most important thing we can do is continue research on bioenergy sorghum optimization, but also to help design and build biorefineries that will process materials from the crop in a way that's optimal," Mullet said.

Carbon captured in biofuels and bioproducts at biorefineries, and by bioenergy sorghum roots could generate carbon credits, potentially benefiting producers and industry.

Yet despite the Gulf Coast's excellent potential for biofuels production, there are no bioenergy research centers and very few biorefineries in the region, Mullet said.

Therefore, Mullet is now working to attract industry and government funding to help build the next generation of biorefineries designed to use bioenergy sorghum biomass for the production of biofuels, bioproducts and biopower.

"The project has expanded to not just producing biofuels and bioproducts, but also directly capturing carbon and sequestering it," he said.

# China hopes to expand East African rail network and develop ports

By Special Correspondent

CHINA is proposing a grand infrastructure plan for the Horn of Africa that would involve expanding the two major railroads and developing ports on the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Under the proposals, announced during last week's visit by China's foreign minister Wang Yi, the Mombasa-Nairobi Railway in Kenya will be extended to Uganda, Rwanda, South Sudan, and eventually to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Meanwhile the line linking the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa with Djibouti would be extended to Eritrea - but both plans will only happen in "due course".

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Wang also called for faster development of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean to develop a framework of "two axes plus two coasts".

"This is part of our effort to help this part of the region to accelerate the building of industrial belts and economic belts to create more jobs," Wang said at a briefing with Kenyan counterpart Raychelle Omamo in the coastal city



Rail is key to China's connectivity plans for Africa.

of Mombasa on Thursday.

Besides Kenya, Wang visited Eritrea, which occupies a strategic location on the Red Sea and signed up for the Belt and Road Initiative in November, and Comoros, an archipelago on the Indian Ocean where China has been increasing its footprint under its Maritime Silk Road, the seaborne part of the BRI.

Wang's visit may help revive plans to extend the Mombasa-Nairobi line to Malaba on the border with Uganda, which stalled after China's Export-Import Bank asked Kenya in 2018 to redo a study to prove its commercial viability.

Blinken cautions Africa on China during virtual 'trip' to Nigeria and Kenya

China is making inroads into the Horn of Africa and has already invested heavily in Djibouti, which is home to its first overseas military base. Fur-

ther investment in ports in the region may prove crucial to the success of the Maritime Silk Road.

Seifudein Adem, a professor of global studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, said a proposed rail link between Addis Ababa and Assab, a port in Eritrea, may be the winning card in China's new diplomatic strategy in the Horn.

Adem said: "Since Ethiopia is already linked to Kenya through a transnational road system, it is conceivable that the entire Eastern and Central African region would be interconnected before very long, with the other regions to follow."

Adem said the expansion of rail networks in the Horn of Africa has been one of Beijing's main strategic objectives in Africa as a way of boosting connectivity.

"Having a standard gauge railway connect-

ing the region's coastal and inland ports (including dry ports) will be essential for the region in the medium term," said Deborah Brautigam, a professor of international political economy at Johns Hopkins University and founding director of the China Africa Research Initiative (CARD).

She said if African countries want economic integration with each other and the world, they will need to reshape their economic geography. But Wang's comments that it will happen in "due course" suggests "it depends on African governments creating the conditions (peace, stability, realistic feasibility studies) that will allow Chinese capital to be employed productively and sustainably," Brautigam added.

Despite the renewed interest in rail investment, Yu-Shan Wu, a postdoc-

toral research fellow at the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Pretoria in South Africa said: "China is unlikely to commit to large infrastructure projects as it did in the past. Such projects also depend on their feasibility."

"China's now a big player: why Beijing is doing more in Horn of Africa"

W Gyude Moore, a senior policy fellow with the Centre for Global Development and a former Liberian public works minister, said: "Morocco recently signed onto the BRI - so it seems more of an indication of China doubling down in these regions."

"On the infrastructure front, the Chinese have repeatedly baulked at financing the rest of the [Kenyan] standard gauge railway so I would adopt a wait-and-see approach here."

# Record legal shipment nudges Africa towards \$7bn cannabis market

By Guardian Correspondent

CANADA-based Instadose Pharma Corp completed a record shipment of 2.125 tonnes of medicinal cannabis from South Africa to North Macedonia on 25 December 2021, according to a statement released by the company, boosting hopes that the African cannabis market will be worth over \$7bn annually by 2023.

This follows the shipment in August of just over 2,000kg of THC and 6,500kg of CBD flower and trim from Lesotho by Highlands Investments.

A 2020 report by Prohibition Partners estimates that the bulk of the market will reside in five countries: Nigeria (\$3.7bn), South Africa (\$1.7bn), Morocco (\$900m), Lesotho (\$90m) and Zimbabwe (\$80m), if the necessary legislation is introduced.

However, according to Sibusiso Xaba, co-founder and CEO of the Africa Cannabis Advisory Group, writing on bizcommunity.com, the most significant recent developments have been in South Africa, the market that he expects to be the largest by revenue.

According to Xaba, over 15 tonnes of legal cannabis were exported by the continent to the rest of the world in 2021, representing a tenfold increase on 2020, with South Africa, Lesotho and Uganda among the main exporters.

Despite industry concerns about regulation, he says that progress in South Africa is "undeni-

able". The country produced a cannabis master plan and has taken steps to allow the commercial cultivation of hemp, a botanical class of cannabis that contains less THC, the psychoactive compound that causes a high.

A report from Research and Markets estimates that the global market for cannabidiol (CBD) - a cannabis derivative that does not produce psychoactive effects - will hit \$2.73bn in 2021 and rise to \$7.99bn by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 19.6%.

Going a step further, University of Cape Town lecturer Nqobile Bundwini claims in a recent research paper that if cannabis were destigmatised and allowed to flourish, it could revive the ailing South African economy.

Despite being the world's most commonly cultivated drug, getting investors on board to develop the industry remains a problem, she says.

"The cannabis industry is massive. But the stigma attached to it results in endless challenges. A lack of knowledge about the industry, legal red tape, a lack of funding and limited banking options, and widespread social disapproval are just a few of the pain points," she told *lémah Davids* of the University of Cape Town News.

"I feel that South Africa has a tendency to lag behind and not optimally use its rich resources. And if we don't, we will get left behind - in a situation where we should in fact be the pioneers, and leading from the front."



# SA Police minister intervenes amid fresh claims of 'rogue' operations

By Caryn Dolley

**A** CONTROVERSIAL City of Cape Town police investigations unit, where a former cop criminally charged in two separate cases seems to have been based, is set to be investigated following fresh claims that it is in effect a rogue operation.

Police Minister Bheki Cele's office has confirmed he will investigate the City's Safety and Security Investigations Unit's (SSIU) operations.

This comes after the Good party's Brett Herron, previously a DA councillor, wrote to Cele requesting that he investigate.

"While the term 'Rogue Unit' is politically loaded, there is arguably no better description for Cape Town's SSIU," Herron said in a statement last week.

"The structure appears to be modelled on the national Special Investigating Unit (SIU). The SIU reports directly to the President, who is constitutionally empowered to proclaim investigations. In the Cape Town version, the President's role is performed by [mayoral committee member for safety and security] JP Smith.

There is no constitutional provision for special investigations units reporting to city councillors."

This week, police ministry spokesperson Lirandzu Themba confirmed receipt of Herron's letter and that "Minister Cele has made a decision to look into the matter".

Meanwhile, the City's JP Smith maintains the SSIU is legal.

"We've obtained legal opinion that confirms that the SSIU functions well within the law. The SSIU has never reported to a politician and reports to an Executive Director, as do all other line departments," said Smith.

The controversy surrounding the SSIU fits into a broader picture of friction over policing between the DA-run City of Cape Town, which has a metro police service, and the national ANC government, which controls the overarching South African Police Service (SAPS).

It also fits into the murky arena of claims of rogue intelligence and police officers in the pay of criminals and operating within different tiers of government, problems that intensified during the State Capture years under Jacob Zuma's presidency.

The City's SSIU was previously known as the Special Investigating Unit.



Illustrative image | From left: City of Cape Town mayoral member for safety and security JP Smith. (Photo: Leila Dougan) | Police Minister Bheki Cele. (Photo: Gallo Images / Sowetan / Thulani Mbele) | Good party secretary-general Brett Herron (Photo: Leila Dougan)

It made news headlines in 2017 when the City's SIU was reportedly shut down. Then Cape Town mayor Patricia de Lille, at the time with the DA, said the unit was overstepping its mandate.

**Claims of 'rogue' unit in Cape Town**

In representations to the DA's federal executive chair in 2018, De Lille said: "The powers of investigation which the [unit] appear to have accorded to itself, was impermissible and contrary to law.

"Alderman Smith used the [unit] contrary to the purpose that it was created for. Moreover, he acted with the intent to undermine his political opponents and this amounts to serious abuse for his own political gain."

Later that year, after intense infighting among DA figures, De Lille resigned from the party. She now heads the Good party and Herron is its secretary-general - and the Good party is now in effect pushing for the SSIU to be investigated.

This follows the arrest in December of a prominent Safety and Security Directorate staffer, former police officer Reynold Talmakkies, in a second criminal case involving him.

Talmakkies has been widely referred to in media reports as the unit's head. However, while the City deny this before, Smith now says the SSIU always had another chief.

Last year, Daily Maverick asked the City whether Talmakkies headed the unit. It responded: "The City can confirm that Mr Talmakkies is still employed by the Safety and Security Directorate."

Asked again last week if Talmakkies headed the unit, Smith at first did not reply. Daily Maverick subsequently resubmitted the question to the City.

Smith then responded: "Nyaniso Ngele is and always has been the Chief of the Safety and Security Investigations Unit. Mr Talmakkies has been alternately placed within the Directorate." (Nyaniso Ngele was previously listed on the Western Cape government's site as the provincial head of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate.)

Two ex-cops and two sets of criminal accusations

Counteracting this, the ANC claimed Scheepers was spying on rival politicians for then Western Cape premier Helen Zille - something she denied. Scheepers' name also cropped up in the murky world of corruption claims against police officers. In an affidavit from 2015, he claimed that "three of my informers reported to me on various occasions that a high-ranking officer in the SAPS regularly attends meetings with very well-known drug lords and criminal gang bosses... in the Western Cape."

"The senior officer, on several occasions, received huge amounts of money for the exchange and delivery of drugs." However, questions were subsequently raised about whether the informers might have been coached to make statements to tarnish the reputation (thereby muddying the investigations) of the senior police officer, widely believed in cop circles to be Jeremy Vearey. Vearey was Western Cape detective head until being controversially fired at the end of May 2021.

**Kinnear and rogue Crime Intelligence claims**

Scheepers' name was also linked to matters relating to Lieutenant-Colonel Charl Kinnear, who was assassinated outside his Bishop Lavis home in September 2020. At the time of his murder, Kinnear was investigating, among others, fellow cops.

In December 2018, Kinnear wrote a letter of complaint to his bosses about certain police officers in the Western Cape, some with links to Crime Intelligence. He alleged they were working to frame him and some of his colleagues, including Vearey. Kinnear referenced Scheepers in this letter, claiming his phone calls were illegally tapped after he exposed a matter relating to Scheepers (he did not accuse Scheepers of bugging his calls).

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (Ipid) last year found evidence suggesting a "rogue" unit of police officers had indeed operated in the Western Cape.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 203 00--

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

3 LETTERS: CRY, LNB, ONE  
 4 LETTERS: EAST, SAVE, GIVE, REAL, DARE, EASE, RANK (7 WORDS)  
 5 LETTERS: EASEL, EDITS, DRIVE, DAILY, EVOKE (5 WORDS)  
 6 LETTERS: ASSIGN, BETTER, ONLINE, DEARIE, PASTOR (5 WORDS)  
 7 LETTERS: BARAKOA  
 8 LETTERS: COLOMBIA  
 10 LETTERS: ENGINE ROOM

1 2 3 4  
 5 6 7 8  
 9 10  
 11  
 12  
 13 14 15 16  
 17 18  
 19  
 20

**CLUES: Across**  
 1 maize with high sugar content  
 5 in control of  
 7 a grass-like plant with triangular stems, growing in wet ground  
 8 Identities of People  
 10 an act that harms someone  
 11 calm, peaceful  
 13 a person who uses something  
 15 a set of moral principles  
 17 act a part in a play or film in an overly restrained or unemotional way  
 19 very old  
 20 a native of Ossetia

**Down:**  
 1 a small mark  
 2 flat, level  
 3 kind of rocks which metals are found  
 4 a person's head  
 6 fierce anger that continues with great force  
 7 strict in judgment  
 9 annoying  
 12 to shout  
 14 grasses growing in water  
 16 indicating that a voice or instrument is silent  
 17 United Arab Emirates  
 18 Latin word for "deity"

**WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS**

S I T U A T I O N S  
 A L T E R A T I O N S  
 L O M E P A N E L  
 T E N D E D  
 T I D N P L Y  
 R U S S I A  
 N I L S  
 S N A R S T A R K  
 F L A M I N G O  
 I S L E R  
 G L O O S E R S

**CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS**

S H A B U S H A B U  
 O T T O  
 R O O K S M A L L  
 T P A S T E B L  
 A A K R B O Y  
 S S I V A N  
 H A R P E S S A Y  
 G I O A  
 P A S S L A W S  
 R I O T E  
 O T E N U R E A

**RADIO One**

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI

## JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHIZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MOTOMOTO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MOTO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MOTO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS DJ SHOW 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00 HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO





Thursday 13 January 2022

# Letshego battles to undo legacy of credit hitches in local subsidiary

By The Banker Reporter

**L**ETSHEGO Holdings Limited has said business in the country remained challenged last year as it struggles to address legacy credit portfolio challenges.

The Gaborone based group which operates locally as Letshego Tanzania Limited said in its second half performance for last year, said through its digitalization programme known as LetsGo Mall, both East and West markets are set to achieve its five year plan to increase income and profit contribution towards 50 percent of earnings.

"In 2021, Ghana and Uganda have maintained their positive growth trajectories, with Kenya likely to join the BWP100 million PBT club. However, business momentum in Tanzania has remained challenged through 2021," the report said.

On cost of credit risk, Letshego Holdings said it improved in the second half, and is projected to remain well below one percent for the full year. Progress in enhancing credit processes and frameworks within individual subsidiaries has been successful.

"Examples include addressing legacy credit portfolio challenges in Tanzania, and establishing regional standards



Letshego Holdings CEO, Andrew Okai.

in the automation of straight-through processing for government databases in Uganda," the report noted.

The 2021 second half report further noted that cre-

ating a future-fit business after the launch of the LetsGo Digital Mall across ten markets marked a significant milestone in the digitalisation journey. The LetsGo Mall is

expected to optimise customer experience given the ease of access and shortened processing times, the report noted.

Digitalisation is a key enabler for exponential growth in customer acquisition, which leads to enhanced franchise value. Enterprise Active Customers (EAC) on the LetsGo Mall is currently approaching 100,000, with new EAC registrations currently exceeding 10,000 per week. The Group is on course to achieve its targeted one million EAC by 2023, the report added.

As for targets this year, Letshego Holdings said momentum is strong as the group begins to reap the benefits from investments in derisking, diversification and digitalisation. "The ongoing pandemic, with the highly contagious fourth wave caused by the Omicron variant, will remain a factor to watch in terms of fu-

ture impact and business performance," the report stated.

During the past year, the Botswana Stock Exchange listed company was rated as stable by global rating agency, Moody's. "Moody's has affirmed Letshego Holdings Limited's rating at a corporate family rating of Ba2, issuer ratings at Ba3/NP and outlook stable. Against the backdrop of ongoing fluid economic conditions arising from the pandemic, this is a very positive result," the report explained.

Letshego's second half has shown sustained business resilience, reflecting an overall solid financial performance and significant strides in the Group's strategic agenda. Letshego's top line performance in H2 is projected, at a minimum, to mirror the first half, while profit-before-tax is expected to surpass H1.

# Big things expected from eNaira in 2022

LAGOS

Adoption and usage of Nigeria's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), the e-Naira is expected to pick up this year as Fintechs offer support platforms and modalities, say tech experts, along with the warning also warning that the app for the digital unit of exchange needs to be upgraded.

Nigeria launched a CBDC in 2021, paving the way for others to follow, such as Ghana which forged ahead with its own eCedi digital currency. In the first three weeks of launch, the e-Naira attracted approximately 500,000 users, according to Bloomberg.

Dimieari Von Kemedi, CEO of Angala Fintech, a financial services provider for small businesses in Nigeria, told ITWeb Africa that "uptake of the e-Naira will definitely pick up as the Central Bank of Nigeria continues public enlightenment and Fintechs play their role" in support of the digital currency. Kemedi believes several other African countries, including Ghana, Kenya and Morocco, taking a cue from Nigeria through introduction of their own respective CBDCs.

The e-Naira is the Nigerian central bank's response to increased use of cryptocurrencies in the West African country after banks were banned from processing crypto transactions. According to Bloomberg about 60,215 Bitcoins have been traded in Nigeria since 2017 at a total value of nearly US\$4-billion.

"A large amount of young Nigerians are unwilling to embrace the e-Naira due to lack of confidence in the ability of officials to secure transactions and prevent additional exposure" to online risks such as fraud, said Murega Mungai, the trading desk manager at AZA Finance, a frontier markets Fintech provider of treasury and FX services.

Mungai added, "For the CBN to realise the potential benefits, a lot of work needs to be done including remove bugs from the app and making it user friendly and efficient. Citizens - especially the youth - must be warmed to the benefits of the e-Naira and the pool of users' needs to be broadened to include the unbanked and under-banked."

And to be deemed useful, the e-Naira "must make business transactions easier, reduce the cost of financial transactions, and improve payment efficiency" in the Nigerian economy. Nigeria has battled for foreign currency in the past two years while its fiat Naira currency has also been volatile. Although its economy recovered last year from its recession in 2020, Nigeria has struggled to return to pre-pandemic levels, in part because of inflation and rising unemployment.

# Cryptocurrencies pose contagion risk by moving in sync with stocks, IMF says

WASHINGTON

The correlation between cryptocurrency assets and traditional assets such as stocks increased significantly and raised the risk of contagion across financial markets, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Cryptocurrency assets are no longer on the fringe of the financial system. Given their high volatility, their increased co-movement with stocks could soon pose risks to financial stability, especially in countries with widespread cryptocurrency adoption, the Washington-based fund said in a blog post on Tuesday.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, cryptocurrency assets such as Bitcoin and Ether showed little correlation with major stock indexes, said Tobias Adrian, one of the blog's writers and

financial counsellor and director of the IMF's monetary and capital markets department. "They were thought to help diversify risk and act as a hedge against swings in other asset classes," he said.

"But this changed after the extraordinary central bank crisis responses of early 2020. Cryptocurrency prices and US stocks both surged amid easy global financial conditions and greater investor risk appetite."

The price of Bitcoin hit record highs in 2021 and coincided with Wall Street's growing appetite for cryptocurrency. It started last year trading at slightly under \$30,000 and more than doubled by April with the stock market debut of cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase. October's peak above \$66,000 came after the launch of a Bitcoin futures exchange-traded fund on the New York

Stock Exchange.

Tesla boss Elon Musk helped the market to rise - and fall - with controversial tweets about cryptocurrencies. The move by El Salvador in September to make Bitcoin legal tender also made an impression.

However, China's regulatory action against the trading and mining of cryptocurrencies piled pressure on the digital tokens. Climate change activists also shone a spotlight on the huge amount of electricity used to power computers required to mine new Bitcoin tokens.

"Our analysis shows that spillovers between cryptocurrency and equity markets tend to increase in episodes of financial market volatility - such as in the March 2020 market turmoil - or during sharp swings in Bitcoin prices, as observed in early 2021," said Tara Iyer, co-writer of the

IMF blog and an economist in the fund's global financial stability analysis division. The correlation between cryptocurrency and equity markets "permits the transmission of shocks that can destabilise financial markets", she said.

The interconnectedness also raises the possibility of transfer of investor sentiment between those two asset classes. Spillovers from Bitcoin returns and volatility in stock markets, and vice versa, have risen significantly from 2020 to 2021 compared with the period between 2017 and 2019, according to the IMF research.

"Bitcoin volatility explains about one sixth of S&P 500 volatility during the pandemic and about one tenth of the variation in S&P 500 returns. As such, a sharp decline in Bitcoin prices

can increase investor risk aversion and lead to a fall in investment in stock markets," the fund said.

The stronger association between cryptocurrency and equities is also apparent in emerging market economies, Mr Adrian said. For example, correlation between returns on the MSCI emerging markets index and Bitcoin was 0.34 in the period from 2020 to 2021, a 17-fold increase from the preceding years, he said. "Stronger correlations suggest that Bitcoin has been acting as a risky asset," Ms Iyer said.

"Its correlation with stocks has turned higher than that between stocks and other assets such as gold, investment-grade bonds and major currencies, pointing to limited risk diversification benefits in contrast to

what was initially perceived."

Stablecoins are displaying similar correlation with stocks. Spillovers from the dominant stablecoin, Tether, to global equity markets also increased during the pandemic, although they remain considerably smaller than those of Bitcoin, explaining about 4 per cent to 7 per cent of the variation in US equity returns and volatility, according to the IMF blog.

It is time to adopt a comprehensive, co-ordinated global regulatory framework to guide national regulation and mitigate the financial stability risks stemming from the cryptocurrency ecosystem, said Mahvash Qureshi, a co-author of the blog and division chief in the IMF's monetary and capital markets department.



Tobias Adrian, director of the IMF's monetary and capital markets department.

# Mobile money agents handle Sh6.2 trillion in 11 months

NAIROBI

Cash transacted by mobile money agents jumped 36 per cent to Sh6.2 trillion in the nine months to November.

Data from the Central bank of Kenya shows transactions at the agents rose from Sh4.6 trillion in a similar period a year earlier, indicating their growing use during the pandemic. Mobile money agency business has been booming especially as banks seek alternatives

for brick and motor channels to reach their customers.

Kenya's increased reliance on mobile money agents for transactions from an annual Sh2 trillion six years ago. For four years between 2016 and 2019 Kenyans transacted Sh3 trillion on average as transactions grew modestly below 10 per cent.

However the increase has been pronounced since 2020 when transactions grew 16 per cent following the outbreak of

the Covid-19 pandemic that shifted more customer settlements to mobile, boosting agency businesses that supports the sector. CBK introduced relief on mobile phone payments that were in place from March 2020, allowing free mobile money transactions of up to Sh1,000 and from banks to mobile wallets.

This was aimed at encouraging cashless payments on mobile phones as part of efforts to contain the spread of the

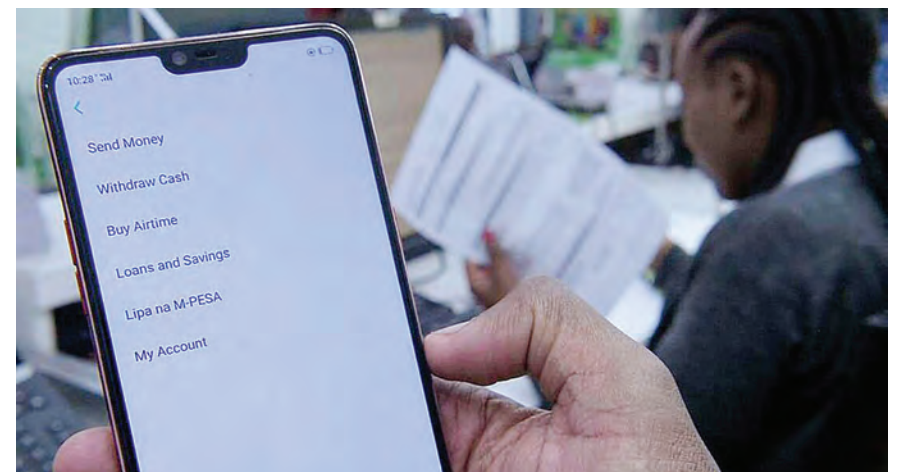
coronavirus. The growth also indicates the impact of eased restrictions with the reopening of learning institutions and resuming businesses activities, which push up the demand for goods and services.

The pandemic last year had slowed economic activities, which in turn led to layoffs and reduced incomes, resulting in declined spending and investment. Growth slid to negative 0.3 per cent in 2020 five percent in 2019.

This was the first annual GDP contraction since 1992 when the output slid 0.8 per cent.

Recovery has, however, started with a GDP rebound of 10.1 per cent in the second quarter and 9.9 per cent in the third quarter of last year. The CBK is expecting the economy to grow by 6.1 per cent in 2021 and 5.6 per cent this year.

ers only, will offer services for small and medium-sized enterprises as it "evolves" in the future.



Safaricom employee displays the M-Pesa money transfer service on a smartphone inside a mobile phone care centre in Nairobi.



# Airtel Tanzania board praises outgoing MD, welcomes Dinesh Balsingh as new MD

By The Banker Reporter

**A**IRTEL Tanzania Plc has commended performance of its outgoing Managing Director, George Mathen who has managed to boost profits while sustaining growth of Airtel Money platform.

In a statement mid this week, Airtel Tanzania's board of directors also welcomed designate Managing Director, Dinesh Balsingh and challenged him to maintain the good performance the company has witnessed under Mathen.

"Airtel Tanzania Plc has today announced a change in its leadership team with the appointment of Dinesh Balsingh as Managing Director designate for following the resignation of George Mathen, Balsingh will assume office from January 2022," the statement said.

The board of directors said Mathen, who spent two and half years as Airtel Tanzania Managing Director, was instrumental in leading the company's growth and transformation. "During his tenure, Mathen managed to transform the company and yield fantastic results, with a great turnaround that has seen Airtel Tanzania become more profitable and win the second spot by customer market share, that created a strong dividend paying company for its shareholders," the statement.

The statement added that Balsingh who is by qualification a sales and marketing professional with over 20 years of experience



New Airtel Tanzania managing director, Dinesh Balsingh.

within the telecoms industry, having worked across multiple geographies and roles. He has led various functions such as sales, marketing and customer service during his career and has strong leadership experience of managing country operations in India and Nigeria.

Regarding Balsingh, the statement

explained that he started his career with Hutchison Essar Limited in 2000. He later moved to Airtel in 2006 and Tata Docomo in 2011. Thereafter, he rejoined Airtel in Nigeria where most recently, he delivered significant market share growth in his role as Chief Commercial Officer. Balsingh holds

a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Thiagarajar School of Management.

"The board of directors wishes Mathen the very best in his future endeavours and welcome Balsingh the newly appointed Managing Director," the statement concluded.

## Namibian B2B e-commerce startup, JABU closes \$3.2m seed round

WINDHOEK

JABU, a Namibian B2B e-commerce startup, has raised a \$3.2 million seed financing round to expand into more countries in Southern Africa as well as grow its team. Closed last year, the funding came from investors including Afore Capital, Y Combinator, FJ Labs, Quiet Capital, Kli Capital, Pareto Capital and unnamed angels.

The Namibian startup works with local and multinational suppliers such as Namibia Breweries Limited, ABInBev, Bokomo, Coca-Cola, Namibmills – and digitizes orders, payments and logistics. It currently has over 6000 retailers on its platform and has its fleet of vehicles along with eight distribution centers.

Suppliers using the platform have dashboards to see where their products are being delivered, check key performance indicators and book merchandising. They can also make advertising and marketing campaigns at shops, perform product giveaways and tap into merchandising revenue.

JABU's revenue mainly comes from distribution it carries out itself or via third-party fleets. Merchandising and targeted marketing and advertising also bring in money for the company. It will take commissions from transactions performed on merchants' wallets in the future.

JABU which is prepping for a Series A fundraising this quarter will use the seed round and subsequent growth round to expand into Botswana and South Africa, grow its tech and operations team, and train its field agents.

Founded in 2020 by David Akinin, JABU is powering the way in which shop-owners order, source, and stock their products, and executing the last mile of distribution for FMCG brands. The startup operated in stealth mode for much of last year and became the first Namibian startup to be accepted into the Y Combinator Accelerator for the summer 2021 batch.

BANKING & FINANCE

## Truckers' Covid-19 test impasse resolved on EAC ministers talks

NAIROBI

Long-distance transporters have suspended their strike after Uganda government halted mandatory Covid-19 test of truck drivers at its borders following the East African Community (EAC) member states' inter-ministerial meeting on Monday.

The meeting of the line ministries in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan held to resolve the current impasse at borders agreed that Uganda allows all trucks with negative Covid-19 results from member countries to continue with their journey.

"Resolution by Ministerial-level meeting held on 10 January to resolve the impasse at Kenya borders with Uganda resolved that Ministry of Health Uganda to recognize Kenya results uploaded in the Regional Electronic Cargo and Drivers Trucking System (RECDTS)," read part of the communique from the meeting.

In the meeting, the ministers agreed that Uganda authorities immediately conduct antigen tests for free to all drivers currently in the traffic to clear the backlog which is expected to last seven days. However, it was agreed that the reality on the ground will guide the period needed to clear the backlog.

The four ministers also agreed that



Long-distance trucks form a queue at Sikata on the Webuye-Kanduyi-Malaba highway in Bungoma County.

all countries to follow the current EAC protocols and that Uganda should not revert to the 72-hours validity period of the result until all EAC countries have discussed and

agreed. "All countries confirm that fully vaccinated drivers should have their negative results valid for 14 days and that a follow-up meeting to be

held on January 14, 2022, to review the situation," said the statement.

Minister of Health Uganda also agreed that any cost of testing in future should not

be paid by the driver or transporter but by the importer. Following the above agreement, Kenya Transporters Association Limited (KTA) sent a communication to its more

than 5,000 members who were on strike to resume their journey.

"While appreciating the difficult circumstances and hardship that our drivers go through, we request everyone to end the strike but remain vigilant as we monitor the implementation of the resolutions," said KTA chairperson Newton Wang'oo.

"We wish to advise transporters and drivers to proceed with their journeys and cross the borders to Uganda as we continue to engage the stakeholders."

Transporters have been on a go-slow since early this month where they parked their trucks and sealed off the road, vowing not to cross into Uganda until the government harmonises their positions, scraps the \$30 Covid-19 test charges or scraps the mandatory testing like the other EAC states.

A crisis meeting called by Uganda's Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja had tasked the ministers of Health and East African Community (EAC) Affairs to study the drivers' concerns and make recommendations to the ministerial committee that was seeking to end the strike. The chairperson of the Uganda Freight Forwarders Association, Hussein Kidde, had urged Kampala authorities to find a balance between containing health pressures and economic needs.

"I think we should focus on a common EAC approach as opposed to each country going it alone," he said. The member states agreed that drivers who have been tested for Covid-19 in any member state be given a certificate whose validity is 14 days, and that those with valid certificates are free to move within the EAC region.

## GCC banks will benefit from economic recovery in 2022, S&P says

DUBAI

Banks in the Gulf Co-operation Council area will benefit from a regional economic recovery this year, according to S&P Global Ratings.

Higher oil prices, supportive government spending and normalising non-oil activity will boost regional banks' growth, the ratings agency said in its latest report GCC Banking Sector Outlook: On the Recovery Path in 2022 released on Tuesday. Strong capitalisation and government support will continue to reinforce lenders' creditworthiness, it said.

The ratings agency, which expects Brent crude's price to average \$65 a barrel this year, said improving economic sentiment and higher hydrocarbon production should lead to accelerated economic growth.

"We expect banks' asset quality

indicators to deteriorate only slightly as regulatory forbearance measures have helped the corporate sector to deal with the negative effects of the pandemic," S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Mohamed Damak said.

Like their global peers, GCC banks faced tougher operating conditions as the pandemic disrupted economic momentum. However, the regional economies, especially the UAE and Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's biggest economies, bounced back strongly on the back of mass inoculation programmes and fiscal measures. The GCC banks are also positively geared to the rising interest rates, the New York-based agency said.

In a tight job market, accelerated inflation readings over the past few months and increasingly hawkish forward guidance from the US Federal Reserve, S&P expects three rate rises

in 2022, with the first in May. "This will prompt a similar reaction from GCC central banks given their currency pegs ... [however] banks will benefit from such an increase assuming no material impact on asset quality," Mr Damak said.

"On average, a 100-basis-point increase in rates would result in a 14 per cent increase in earnings and 1 per cent capital accretion ... we do not expect a major slowdown in lending growth following a rate increase as this is more dependent on government spending and oil prices."

The Fed is quickening the pace at which it is pulling back its support for the post-pandemic US economy as inflation surges. It expects to raise interest rates to deal with inflation, which it had earlier characterised as mainly a "transitory" problem.

Currencies of Gulf states, with the

exception of Kuwait, are tied to US dollar, and central banks in the region usually mimic the Fed's interest rate moves. A rise in lending rates in the region will help banks improve their net interest margins and profitability.

The ratings agency said lower global liquidity is likely to have a limited impact on GCC banks because of their "strong net external asset positions or limited net external debt positions." Banks' efficiency, facilitated by low cost of labour and limited taxation, will continue to support profitability, S&P said.

In a separate report this week, Egyptian investment bank EFG Hermes said major banks in the Middle East and North Africa are expected to post a 29 per cent annual increase in their aggregate fourth-quarter income amid continued economic recovery.



GCC DEBT YIELDS NEAR RECORD LOW

S&P Global Ratings credit analyst, Mohamed Damak.



# TCB, StanChart's renewed deal provides opportunity for agents nationwide

By The Banker Reporter

MOBILE money agents are headed for a bright future thanks to a renewed partnership agreement between Tanzania Commercial Bank and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited.

Mobile money and banking agents in Dar es Salaam said the deal assures them of having two reliable banks as principal partners. "To us it's just a good opportunity that promises a bright future," said Pendo Saidi who is an agent based at Mwenge in Dar es Salaam.

She said TCB and StanChart Tanzania are big banks with thousands of clients who transact regularly hence provide a wider market for agents to serve them. "Because their partnership now involves more regions, more agents will get involved but also more clients of the two banks which means increased

commission payment to us," said the mother of an eight year old girl who is already attending primary school.

Saidi's observation was backed by Shida Masumbuko who is an agent based at Makumbusho. Masumbuko said the two banks agreement means his plans to extend services to Coast region where his original home is. "This means an opportunity for agents to expand their areas of operation, as for me I am going to open a new agency at Kibaha," he said.

Speaking in the commercial capital when the deal was revealed last week, TCB's Director of Technology and Operations, Jema Msuya said the signing of a collaboration agreement with Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited, will increase the number of agents while driving the bank's financial inclusion

agenda.

"Financial inclusion is a key aspect of our operational strategy and through our over 3,500 agents we have been able to take banking services closer to where people live and do business. In the next three years, we plan to increase the number of agents to more than 10,000," Msuya said.

In remarks after signing the agreement, TCB's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi and his StanChart Tanzania peer, Sanjay Rughani, said the enhanced partnership will be of mutual beneficial for the two banks and their customers.

Moshingi said under the new arrangement, StanChart customers will have access to TCB's extensive branch network of more than 80 physical outlets across the country plus thousands of agents. Initially the partnership was available only in



Tanzania Commercial Bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi (L) and his Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited peer, Sanjay Rughani shake hands after signing an agreement to rekindle their strategic partnership at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

Mbeya, Tabora, Kagera and Dodoma regions.

"Our bank has 48 branches, 36 mini-branches and over 3,500 banking agents country-wide. Our partnership with Standard Chartered

Bank Tanzania will also enable some of our customers to make transactions with them hence increase transactions for both banks," he noted.

Principally, the two lenders' strategic partnership allows StanChart

Tanzania customers to be served through the TCB network where the former it has no physical presence. The TCB chief noted that since running physical branches is ex-

pensive, the collaboration enables StanChart Tanzania to cut its operational costs.

In return, TCB benefits from the setup in terms of increased international exposure by leveraging StanChart Tanzania's superior positioning on the global markets. StanChart Tanzania is a subsidiary of London based Standard Chartered Bank Plc. "Today, we revamped the partnership which was first signed six years ago. The partnership is important because it benefits both parties," he added.

Currently StanChart Tanzania which has presence in 60 of the world's most dynamic markets, and operates in a further 85, has only three branches in the country located in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Mwanza.

Speaking at the same event, StanChart Tanzania CEO, Sanjay Rughani said the purpose of their

bank is to partner and connect people to prosperity through which it supports the government's financial inclusion agenda. "Standard Chartered Bank is keen on forming strategic partnerships that promote our customers experience and extend value to them," he said.

"Through this enhanced partnership, we have an opportunity to serve our customers better in an additional 19 regions where Tanzania Commercial Bank has physical presence," Rughani noted. With the enhanced partnership, StanChart Tanzania customers will now be served in over 20 regions including Manyara, Kagera, Dodoma, Iringa, Shinyanga, Kigoma, Lindi, Mbeya, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Mtwara, Njombe, Mwanza, Singida, Ruvuma, Rukwa, Tabora, Tanga and Zanzibar.

## Temenos expands partnership with Red Hat to deliver digital banking automation

LONDON

Banking software company, Temenos, has extended its strategic relationship with the world's leading provider of enterprise open-source solutions, Red Hat. This latest move would see Temenos integrate Red Hat Process Automation Manager with Temenos Infinity cloud-native digital banking services.

As a result of this integration, business processes underpinning onboarding and origination journeys are modelled and delivered via Red Hat Process Automation Manager, an industry-standard enterprise-grade tool that can enable banks to deliver faster, frictionless digital and onboarding journeys across multiple channels.

The collaboration further enables Temenos and Red Hat to leverage their respective technologies and expertise to accelerate the growth of digital banking on hybrid cloud infrastructure across banking segments. Temenos is the top-selling digital banking platform worldwide, and Red Hat is widely adopted within the banking sector. All of the Fortune Global 500 commercial banks and more than 90 percent of the Fortune 500 use Red Hat technologies.

More broadly, Temenos and Red Hat are streamlining the path to open, cloud-native banking. Temenos digital banking services are built for the cloud in containerized microservices. On Red Hat OpenShift, these cloud-native applications can run across multiple clouds or in a hybrid, on-premise, and cloud environment.

To scale efficiently and deliver a simplified, more seamless digital experience that customers expect from their bank requires a high degree of automation, from identity checks and screening to credit scoring and risk assessment. This integration with Red Hat Process Automation provides the tools banks need to model the flows and policies required for the onboarding and origination of a wide range of products. With a flexible solution landscape, ranging from simple retail and SME loans to complex credit solutions.

Red Hat Process Automation Manager on Temenos Infinity enables automation everywhere, helping users improve accuracy, increase productivity, and volume processing. It can also assist customers with their compliance requirements, such as fair lending practices and cost savings—all under one extensible and flexible platform.



Joaquín de Valenzuela Muley, SVP & Business Line Director – Temenos Infinity.

## Global economic growth to slow through to 2023, says W.Bank

WASHINGTON

The global economy is entering a pronounced slowdown amid fresh threats from Covid-19 variants and a rise in inflation, debt and income inequality that could endanger the recovery in emerging and developing economies, according to the World Bank.

Global growth is expected to decelerate to 4.1 per cent in 2022 and 3.2 per cent in 2023 from 5.5 per cent in 2021 as pent-up demand dissipates, fiscal and monetary support is unwound across the world and supply disruptions persist, the Washington-based lender said in its Global Economic Prospects report on Tuesday.

"The world economy is simultaneously facing Covid-19, inflation and policy uncertainty, with government spending and monetary policies in uncharted territory. Rising inequality and security challenges are particularly harmful for developing countries," David Malpass, president of the World Bank Group, said. "Putting more countries on a favourable growth path requires concerted international action and a comprehensive set of national policy responses."

The damage from the Covid-19 pandemic – which unleashed the worst recession since the Great Depression in the 1930s – has been greater in middle-income and poor countries, reversing gains made in reducing poverty levels over the past two decades, a report by the World Bank in 2020 said.

The debt burden of the world's low-income countries rose 12 per cent to a record \$860 billion in 2020, according to a World Bank report last year. Even before the pandemic, many low- and middle-income countries were in a vulnerable position, with slowing economic growth and public and external debt at elevated levels, the report said.

At a time when governments in many developing economies lack the policy space to support activity if needed, new Covid-19 outbreaks, persistent supply chain bottlenecks and inflationary pressures could increase the risk of a hard landing in emerging markets and developing economies, the lender said.

The slowdown will coincide with a widening divergence in growth rates between advanced economies and emerging and developing economies, it added. Growth in advanced economies is expected to decline from 5 per cent in 2021 to 3.8 per cent in 2022 and 2.3 per cent in 2023 – a pace that will be sufficient to restore output and investment to pre-pandemic levels.

However, growth in emerging and developing economies is expected to drop from 6.3 per cent in 2021



David Malpass, president, World Bank Group.

to 4.6 per cent in 2022 and 4.4 per cent in 2023 as the continuing withdrawal of macroeconomic support, together with Covid-19 flare-ups amid the spread of the Omicron variant and continued vaccination obstacles weigh on the recovery of domestic demand, the World Bank said.

Meanwhile, the Middle East and North Africa region experienced a strong economic recovery in the second half of 2021, bringing output back to pre-pandemic levels in some economies, the report found.

Growth in the Mena region is forecast to accelerate to 4.4 per cent in 2022, driven by a recovery in contact-intensive sectors, lower oil production cuts and a generally accommodative policy environment, according to the lender. However, growth in the region is expected to slow to 3.4 per cent in 2023, the World Bank said.

Further Covid-19 outbreaks, social unrest, high debt in some economies and conflict could undermine economic activity in Mena, it added. Changes to oil prices could also undermine activity in the region with gains and losses accruing differently for oil importers and exporters.

"The choices policymakers make in the next few years will decide the course of the next decade," said Mari Pangestu, the World Bank's managing director for development policy and partnerships. "In a time of high debt, global co-operation will be essential to help expand the financial resources of developing economies so they can achieve green, resilient and inclusive development."

Mr Malpass emphasised the importance of debt transparency and sustainability to foster growth amid a growing debt burden among low-income countries. Nearly 60 per cent of low-income countries are already in debt distress and many emerging markets are struggling as well, he added. It presents "developing countries with immense challenges brought from exchange rates, inflation, debt sustainability and economic growth."

"In 2022 alone, IDA [International Development Association] countries will have to prepare around \$35bn in debt service to their official bilateral and private sector creditors." "Deep debt relief is much needed for the poor countries" and if we wait too long, it will be too late, Mr Malpass said. He also urged to have a debt reconciliation process.

"We have to work towards rebalancing the creditor and debtor powers in sovereign debt restructuring. There's the possibility of including, for example, an aggregated collective action clause in all new official sector and private sector debt and debt equivalent instruments," he added.

### Stanbic IBTC Holdings launches fintech arm to consolidate earnings

LAGOS

Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc has announced that it will establish a wholly-owned fintech subsidiary, according to a recent regulatory filing. The holdings financial service company told the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) and the investing public that it has commenced the process of seeking regulatory approvals.

Competition in the banking sector and the threat of fintech operators are forcing many banks to seek alternative earnings sources. Regulators recently approved payment solutions service provider licenses to MTN Nigeria and Airtel Africa. Also, Standard Chartered bank announced that it is shutting down 50% of its branches to focus on digital banking in Nigeria as competition intensifies in the fintech and banking space.

According to the statement, the proposed wholly-owned financial technology subsidiary will be known as Stanbic IBTC Financial Services Limited, the Holdings stated. The group said this is however subject to receiving all required regulatory approvals, including licensing by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).



## WORLD

# 'Too soon to treat COVID-19 like flu as Omicron spreads'

COPENHAGEN

THE Omicron variant of COVID-19 is on track to infect more than half of Europeans, but it should not yet be seen as a flu-like endemic illness, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

Europe saw more than 7 million newly-reported cases in the first week of 2022, more than doubling over a two-week period, WHO's Europe director Hans Kluge told a news briefing.

"At this rate, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation forecasts that more than 50 percent of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next 6-8 weeks," Kluge said, referring to a research center at the University of Washington.

Fifty out of 53 countries in Europe and central Asia have logged cases of the more infectious variant, Kluge said.

Evidence, however, is emerging that Omicron is affecting the upper respiratory tract more than the lungs, causing milder symptoms than previous variants.

But the WHO has cautioned more studies are still needed to prove this.

On Monday, Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said it may be time to change how it tracks COVID-19's evolu-



A resident looks at the syringe after being inoculated with the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination center in Quezon City, Philippines on Tuesday. Officials assume the local transmission of the highly contagious omicron variant is driving the current spike in COVID-19 cases as the government enforces stricter health restrictions in the country. AP

tion to instead use a method similar to flu, because its lethality has fallen.

That would imply treating the virus as an endemic illness, rather than a pandemic, without recording every case and without testing all people presenting symptoms.

But that is "a way off", WHO's senior emergency officer for Europe, Catherine Smallwood, said at the briefing, adding that endemicity re-

quires a stable and predictable transmission.

"We still have a huge amount of uncertainty and a virus that is evolving quite quickly, imposing new challenges. We are certainly not at the point where we are able to call it endemic," Smallwood said.

"It may become endemic in due course, but pinning that down to 2022 is a little bit difficult at this stage."

Agencies

## China, Russia call for stability in Kazakhstan

NEW YORK

CHINA and Russia have vowed to strengthen cooperation to prevent chaos or war from erupting in Central Asia following the riots in Kazakhstan, their shared neighbor.

State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov made the pledge in their telephone conversation on Monday. They talked about bilateral ties and exchanged views on the situation in Kazakhstan.

Lavrov introduced the assessment of the situation in Kazakhstan made during the recent summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, saying that it has become increasingly clear that the current chaos in the Central Asian country is being orchestrated by external forces.

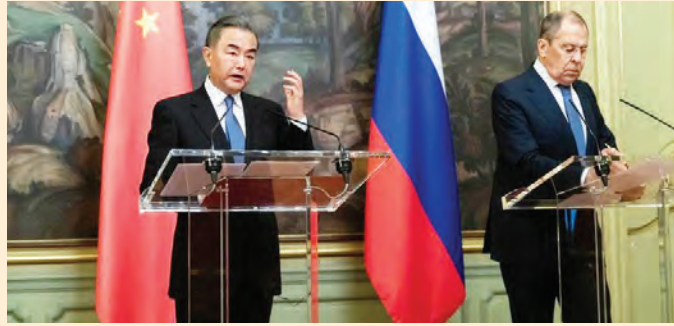
Noting that this assess-

ment also accords with that of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Central Asian country, he said the situation in Kazakhstan has improved significantly since the CSTO sent peacekeeping troops to the country at Kazakhstan's request.

The CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance in Eurasia that consists of six former Soviet republics Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Belarus.

Wang said that China agrees with President Tokayev's assessment on the nature of the riots, and supports the CSTO in assisting Kazakhstan in fighting violent terrorist forces and playing a positive role in restoring stability in the country on the premise of respecting its sovereignty.

President Xi Jinping sent a message to Tokayev on Friday



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (left) and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meet the press after their talks in Moscow, Russia. File photo

in which he expressed China's firm opposition to any attempt by external forces to provoke unrest and instigate a "color revolution" in Kazakhstan.

China and Russia, as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and friendly neighbors of Central Asian countries, must prevent chaos or war from erupting in Central Asia, Wang said.

He underlined the need for the two countries to consistently

strengthen coordination and cooperation to jointly oppose external forces interfering in the domestic affairs of Central Asian countries, and guard against unrest provoked by a "color revolution" and the three evil forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Both countries should leverage their own strengths to help Central Asian nations with pandemic response and economic development in order to elimi-

nate the risk of social turbulence, Wang said.

China supports the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in strengthening coordination and cooperation with the CSTO to jointly address various challenges to regional security, he added.

On bilateral ties, Wang said China will continue to firmly intensify strategic coordination with Russia to safeguard both countries' legitimate rights and interests and uphold world peace and stability.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to China and his attendance at the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics will not only be the first in-person meeting between the Russian and Chinese heads of state in nearly two years, but also a major event in international relations at the start of this year, Wang said.

Agencies

## WEF: Climate crisis, social divides top global risks in 2022

GENEVA

AS the world enters the third year of the pandemic, the climate crisis, growing social divides, heightened cyber risks and uneven global recovery are the top global risks in 2022, the World Economic Forum said in a new report published on Tuesday.

The "Global Risks Report 2022" warns that five of the top 10 global risks are environment-related, including climate action failure, extreme weather and biodiversity loss. Meanwhile, the main short-term global concerns include the erosion of social cohesion, livelihood crises and infectious diseases.

"We've seen what can happen when there is public-private collaboration, when we put our faith in science and technology, and when there is global coordination. The result of that was developing a vaccine for COVID-19," Saadia Zahidi, the WEF's managing director, told Xinhua in a virtual interview following the release.

"Now, if we can do that for one specific and very urgent area, we can do the same thing for other areas that require urgent attention, and that includes climate change. There are a number of technologies that are now available; it's really about making that green transition."

Now in its 17th edition, the latest annual report from the Geneva-based forum urges leaders to adopt a coordinated, multi-stakeholder response, and create policies that manage risks and resolve systemic issues.

"Half of the world is still not vaccinated, and half of the

world still does not have access to the internet," Zahidi stressed. "We're seeing a rising divergence between the developing world and the developed world."

"It's really about working out who has the best possible models that help governments move out of a constant focus on the emergency situation, towards building recovery and investing in resilience."

"That is where I think the experiences of economies and pulling together the economic, social and green agendas closer together. That's where the proof point is going to lie. And those are the models that the rest of the world have to emulate," she added.

### Uneven recovery

The report, which has been developed with the WEF's strategic partners Marsh McLennan, SK Group and Zurich Insurance Group, also warns that global economic recovery from COVID-19 will be uneven and potentially volatile in the coming years.

A global survey of experts found that only one in six is optimistic, and only one in 10 believes that global recovery will accelerate. The economic fallout of the pandemic and diverging levels of recovery also continue to threaten cooperation on other global challenges, at a time when climate and environmental risks loom large, the report emphasizes.

Zahidi added: "China is amongst the very positive growth stories that we've seen in the world in the last 30 years, with people coming out of poverty, having new

economic opportunities, and now seeing how China manages this transition, this economic and green and technological transition that is underway. That's going to provide a role model to others."

Zurich Insurance Group's chief risk officer Peter Giger says in the report: "The climate crisis remains the biggest long-term threat facing humanity. Failure to act on climate change could shrink global GDP by one-sixth, and the commitments taken at COP26 are still not enough to achieve the 1.5 C goal." "It is not too late for governments and businesses to act on the risks they face and to drive an innovative, determined and inclusive transition that protects economies and people."

### Building coalitions

Last month, the WEF announced that due to continued concerns over Omicron it will defer its annual meeting, which is usually held in the Swiss ski resort of Davos. Initially scheduled to take place between Jan 17-21, it is now planned for early summer.

In the meantime, participants will join "State of the World" online sessions, bringing together global leaders to find solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.

"A lot of the forum's work is about building coalitions that help address some of these global challenges, whether that is greater access to vaccines and more resilient healthcare systems, building better education and skills systems, or managing the transition towards a greener economy," Zahidi said.

Agencies

## South African parliament fire suspect faces additional charge of 'terrorism act'

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African prosecution has added a charge of "terrorism act" to a Cape Town man who is suspected of setting fire to Parliament, which eventually gutted parliament buildings, the court heard on Tuesday.

Zandile Christmas Mafe, 49, had been charged with housebreaking with intent to steal and theft, two counts of arson, possession of an explosive device and destruction of an essential infrastructure.

In Mafe's second appearing at Cape Town Magistrates' Court after a 7-day postponement required by the prosecution, it was heard that the prosecution added a count in terms of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, and that the accused was diagnosed of paranoid Schizophrenia after being sent for mental observation by the State last Monday.

The accused "did unlawfully and intentionally deliver, place, discharge or detonate an explosive or other lethal devices in, into or against a place of public use, a state or government facility, or an infrastructure facility, at or near Parliament, upon or about Jan. 2," read the charge sheet.

The matter has been postponed until Feb. 11, for Mafe to go for 30-day mental observation at a hospital as applied by the prosecution.

However, the defence plans to bring the bail application before that, while the date has not been set, as the prosecution office is closed for decontamination, Eric Ntabazalila, regional spokesperson of the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa (NPA), told media outside the court.

In a separate live interview with local TV channel eNCA, Ntabazalila said the prosecution decided to add the charge of "terrorism act with using explosives to destroy the parliament" after viewing a footage showing Mafe's presence in the parliament.

He also said the reason for the mental observation is that it will determine whether Mafe is able to keep instruction or understand the proceeding of the court after the bail application starts.

Outside the court people were protesting against the arrest of Mafe, who is said to be homeless, alleging the move is a cover-up.

Mafe was allegedly caught with suspected stealing property after he gained entry to the parliamentary precinct without authorization, according to the police.

The fire, which lasted more than 70 hours from Jan. 2, severely damaged the building of the National Assembly (NA), the lower house, and completely burned down the NA chamber.

It also caused extensive damage to the century-old Old Assembly building that houses the National Council of Provinces, the upper house.

The Parliament received a fire and safety report of Cape Town Fire and Rescue Services last Thursday, which contains preliminary observations of the firefighters during the course of their work, but said it "does not in any way" purport to provide conclusive findings and evidence regarding the cause and the circumstances surrounding the fire.

Xinhua

## Int'l partners to expedite Somalia's electoral process, shun division

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S international partners on Tuesday called for the rapid completion of the electoral process in line with the recently revised timeline and cautioned leaders to shun division.

The partners including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations, welcomed the deal struck on Sunday between Prime Minister Mohamed Roble and six regional leaders on procedural updates and an expedited timeline for the House of the People elections.

"It is time for all Somali leaders to focus on the rapid implementation of agreed decisions so that a credible electoral process can be concluded by Feb. 25," the partners said in a joint statement issued in the capital, Mogadishu.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were first to be held between December 2020 and February 2021, respectively, but they were delayed due to wrangles over the selection of the elders, composition of the committees and how the polls would be conducted.

The electoral commission has since then issued election schedules which some have not been implemented, and sources said the challenges that have delayed the country's elections were addressed during the national consultative talks which ended in Mogadishu on Sunday.

The partners said they are pleased that the Prime Minister and the Federal Member State leaders made decisions on the basis of consultations with civil society, women representatives and opposition figures.

"We call on all Somali political leaders to put the national interest first, prioritize the conclusion of an electoral process broadly accepted by Somalia's people, and avoid provocations that may distract from that process and increase the risk of confrontation or even violence," the partners said.

Xinhua

ON Jan. 1, 2022, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement officially came into force for six ASEAN members, including Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, and four non-ASEAN signatory states - China, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, indicating that the world's largest trade deal so far has set sail.

It will also take effect on Feb. 1 for South Korea, which has already completed the ratification process. Besides, other participants in the RCEP are also gathering pace in proceeding with the ratification of the agreement.

On the first day of 2022, customs authority in Qingdao city, east China's Shandong province, issued a

## RCEP officially enters into force on first day of 2022

RCEP certificate of origin, also the first one of its kind in the country, for a batch of over 2,800 tons of calcium chloride to be exported to Japan by Qingdao Haiwan Group at the RCEP Qingdao Pilot Innovation Base for Economic and Trade Cooperation.

"With the certificate of origin, the tariff rate for the batch of goods can be reduced from 3.3 percent to 3 percent after its arrival in Japan," said Liu Kun, business manager at the company, adding that tax reduction for the batch of exports amounted to nearly 10,000 yuan (\$1,574).

On the same day, 16 customs departments under the customs of Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu prov-

ince, including that of Changzhou and Nantong cities and Suzhou Industrial Park, issued a total of 36 RCEP certificates of origin, which involved over \$5.48 million worth of exports.

The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and regional institutions across the country released 158 RCEP certificates of origin for 69 companies on Jan. 1, 2022, which concerned \$12 million of exported goods and are expected to cut customs duties by \$180,000 for these companies.

RCEP certificates of origin for goods to be exported to Singapore, Thailand, Japan, New Zealand and

Australia have been fully electronically issued. The CCPIT has also enabled companies to make reservations and ask for mail service and fast issuance concerning RCEP certificates of origin to facilitate customs clearance and help companies benefit from tariff reduction and exemption.

"China will fully implement the obligations of the RCEP agreement starting from today," said Yang Zhengwei, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade and Economic Affairs, China's Ministry of Commerce, on Jan. 1.

Tariffs on more than 65 percent of China's trade in goods with the ASEAN, Australia and New Zealand

immediately reached zero under the agreement. Meanwhile, 39 percent of South Korea's exports to China and 50 percent of the latter's exports to South Korea have been subject to zero tariffs right after the RCEP took effect.

Under the RCEP, China and Japan have established free trade relations for the first time, and immediate zero tariffs have been implemented for 25 percent of Japan's exports to China and 57 percent of China's exports to Japan. Within about ten years since the RCEP took effect, about 90 percent of merchandise trade between members that have approved the agreement will eventually be subject

to zero tariffs.

The RCEP will notably bring regional economic integration in East Asia to a new level, noted Tu Xinquan, dean of the China Institute for WTO Studies, University of International Business and Economics.

Many RCEP members are China's neighbors, and as they reach agreements on rules of trade in goods, including the rules of origin, customs procedures, sanitary and phytosanitary measures as well as standards and technical regulations under the RCEP, the reduction of tariffs and the abolition of non-tariff barriers will produce a combined effect, which will significantly enhance trade relations between members, Tu said.

People's Daily



## Mali announces general mobilization against sanctions imposed by UEMOA, ECOWAS

BAKAKO

THE Malian Council of Ministers, chaired by transitional President Assimi Goita, has announced the general mobilization of all Malians against the recent decisions of West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the 15-member West African economic bloc, ECOWAS, to slap additional sanctions on Mali over delayed elections.

According to the press release of an extraordinary session of the Malian Council of Ministers held Monday, religious and customary authorities were asked to organize prayer sessions in places of worship.

ECOWAS groups 15 countries, including The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. Members of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), also known for its French acronym UEMOA, are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

In view of the extreme measures taken against a landlocked Member State which has been at war with

terrorism for a decade, the Malian government decided to develop a response plan to "safeguard the sovereignty and preserve the integrity of the national territory."

The transitional government has also asked all its social partners to observe a truce in their demands to allow the country to "face the challenges of the day," while urging Malians to remain "calm and serene" by reassuring them that all measures will be taken to deal with the consequences of the measures imposed by ECOWAS and WAEMU.

Various parties and organizations in Mali on Tuesday condemned the sanctions imposed on the Malian people by WAEMU and ECOWAS. Algeria and Guinea also announced Monday, in separate press releases, their support for the authorities of Mali and the Malian people after the said sanctions.

The Government of Mali has decided to recall its ambassadors accredited to the Member States of ECOWAS and close its land and air borders with the States concerned, in response to economic sanctions imposed by ECOWAS and WAEMU.

Xinhua

## EU will demand Poland pay fines for disciplining judges

BRUSSELS

THE European Union executive is set to demand that Poland pay around 70 million euros (\$80 million) of fines in the coming weeks for failing to scrap a contentious system for disciplining judges, sources have told Reuters.

The dispute is one of many battles pitting Poland against the EU, which accuses the nationalist government in Warsaw of backsliding on democratic standards, including the independence of the judiciary. Warsaw denies the charge.

"I regret that the situation of the rule of law in Poland shows no signs of improvement and judges continue to be under pressure. We will continue to do our duty to defend the rule of law and judicial independence," said Vera Jourova, EU commissioner for values and transparency.

Separately, a spokesman for the Commission told reporters that the Brussels-based executive had received Poland's latest explanation in the dispute, adding: "The EU has ways to ensure payment of fines due from Poland."

Jan 11 was the deadline for Warsaw to tell the Commission when and how it would dismantle the Disciplinary Chamber of Poland's Supreme Court, which the EU's top EU court had ordered suspended, or pay fines worth 1 million euros a day.

Should Poland's response fail to satisfy the Commission, which enforces European law, a source in the EU executive said it would send an invoice to Warsaw, with a 45-day deadline to pay.



European Commissioner for Values and Transparency Vera Jourova

By then, the fine would amount to some 70 million euros, said a second Commission source, adding that the call for payment would be sent to Warsaw "very soon". A Polish government spokesman did not respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

### Unprecedented

Asked about the case, a deputy Polish justice minister last week accused the EU of making "illegal demands" and said Warsaw would not give in to "blackmail".

The ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party introduced the new policing system for judges in 2017 amid a sweeping overhaul of the judiciary widely denounced as undermining the independence of courts and judges.

The Polish judges' association Iustitia, which accuses PiS of degrading the courts, said the Disciplinary Chamber had suspended six judges so far for challenging government policies, and that two more were awaiting a decision.

Of the six, two have been suspended for more than one year, their cases reassigned to other judges or started from scratch, including one for the murder of a child, Iustitia said.

Iustitia has said more than 1,000 judges have been nominated since PiS changed the law to allow judges appointed by government officials - rather than by other judges - to staff judicial

panels. If Poland continues to refuse to pay for failing to obey the order of the Luxembourg-based European Court of Justice - the decisions of which are binding for all member states - the Commission would eventually deduct the total due from EU funds earmarked for Warsaw.

However, the timing is unclear as other EU countries have so far either implemented measures prescribed by the ECJ or paid promptly on their own for failing to do so.

## Decrease in global tension depends on US position in talks with Russia - Duma speaker

MOSCOW

THE US should either support security guarantees proposed by Russia or assume the responsibility for refusing to do so, a decrease in global tension currently depends on Washington's actions, State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin wrote on his Telegram channel yesterday.

The politician noted that "nowadays Washington is like an elephant in a china shop - it is destroying the system of international security which was thoroughly built over time in order to avoid the repetition of World War Two."

He reiterated that earlier, the United States "unilaterally withdrew from the most important international agreements which allowed to preserve the military and strategic balance worldwide."

The Duma speaker also pointed out that the US, circumventing the UN, "makes decisions on bombing sovereign states, invading the territories of other states." Additionally, "the OSCE which, as an institution, is supposed to ensure security in Europe, is degrading."

"The way out of the current situation, the decrease of global tension, now depends on US' actions. It should either support the security measures proposed by our country or assume the responsibility for the possible consequences of the absence of guarantees. Washington's response should be specific and substantiated, without prolonging the process," the lawmaker stressed.

According to him, European countries should be outraged by Washington's policy since "if something happens, it will flare up here (in Europe - TASS) and not



overseas."

"The US, while conducting a policy of its own exclusivity, does not think about the security of its allies," the politician asserted.

The negotiations between Moscow and Washington dedicated to Russia's proposed security guarantees concluded on January 10 in Geneva. On January 12, Russia will discuss its security concerns in Europe, as well as its drafts on security assurances at a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in Brussels, and on January 13 at the Vienna session of the OSCE Permanent Council.

On December 17, 2021, the Russian Foreign Ministry published the draft agreements between Russia and the US on security guarantees and the measures of ensuring the security of Russia and NATO member states.

They include, among others, legal guarantees that NATO won't expand eastward and won't admit Ukraine into its ranks, as well as the introduction of restrictions on the deployment of serious offensive weapons, including nuclear ones.

Agencies

## All administrative villages in China covered by broadband Internet services

AS of the end of November 2021, China's administrative villages had all been connected to broadband Internet services. At present, more than 97 percent of the counties and 40 percent of the rural townships across the country are covered by 5G network.

Rural and urban areas of the country have enjoyed equally fast Internet, with the average download rate of optical fiber network in rural areas exceeding 100Mb per second. Residents in rural areas have an increasingly strong sense of gain in sharing the fruits of Internet development.

Xingqin village in Marme township, Geze county, Ali prefecture of southwest China's Tibet autonomous region, is one of the 130,000 administrative villages in China that have got access to fiber-optic Internet since the implementation of the country's compensation mechanism for telecom universal services. Today, residents in the village can watch short videos via their mobile phones while herding sheep at an altitude of about 4,600 meters.

In recent years, Geze county has accelerated network infrastructure construction, laying about 1,000 kilometers of fiber-optic cable. With the administrative villages of the county covered by network signals and broadband Internet services, the scenario of herdspeople surfing the Internet via mobile phone while herding their flock became a reality long ago.

"I can see my cattle and sheep as well as my yard via my mobile phone and don't have to run back and forth to check on them anymore," said a resident in Daxiaobanzi village, Nalang township, Jone county, Gannan Tibetan autonomous prefecture, northwest China's Gansu province.

According to the villager, since Daxiaobanzi village got access to broadband Internet services,



Photo taken on Dec. 13, 2021 shows network maintenance workers testing and adjusting 5G base station antennas at Shuicun village, Zhongming township, Yi'an district, Tongling city, east China's Anhui province. File photo

many local residents, including himself, have used a video surveillance system launched by China Telecom, one of China's three telecom giants, to monitor their animals and communicate with their family. The system enables migrant workers in cities far away from their homes to check on their parents and children via mobile phone.

In an effort to narrow the digital divide between rural and urban areas, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) and Ministry of Finance have jointly formulated a compensation mechanism for telecom universal services, and facilitated the building of 60,000 4G base stations in rural areas and supported 130,000 administrative villages in the construction of fiber-optic networks through the mechanism since October 2015, eliminating the historical problem of poor communication services in rural areas.

To effectively lower the threshold for once-improvised people to get access to and afford the Internet, China has encouraged basic telecommunication service providers to continuously offer service-price discounts of 50 percent or more to rural residents who have been lifted out of poverty, according to Xie Cun,

director of the information and communication development department of the MIIT.

Targeted measures taken to cut rates for basic telecommunication services have significantly reduced the burden of broadband service charges on rural residents, helping more than 28 million rural households that were once plagued by poverty save a cumulative total of over 8.8 billion yuan (\$1.38 billion), said Xie.

In the country's vast rural areas, residents can enjoy a telecom service plan covering personal mobile phone, fixed broadband and Internet TV services for only 30 yuan to 40 yuan a month.

China Unicom, one of China's major telecom operators, has developed a smart agriculture project that has helped 16,000 once-improvised people in Yuexi county, Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture in southwest China's Sichuan province embark on a new journey toward prosperity.

Thanks to the project, which built 5G base stations and installed various devices, including cameras, in local orchards, data on environmental factors, such as light, pest, manure of fermented night-soil mixed with water, temperature, and humidity, as well as real-time monitoring im-

ages are continuously transmitted to a big data center from orchards.

The intelligent control system of the project enables farmers to operate agricultural equipment such as equipment for drip irrigation remotely.

The key to expanding the usage of Internet services in rural areas is to integrate relevant services into agricultural production and bring into play the role of the Internet in facilitating poverty alleviation and rural vitalization, empowering the production and life of people in rural areas, and improving public services, said Tian Yulong, chief engineer at the MIIT.

Continuous improvement in Internet services has underpinned the development of e-commerce, tourism, and smart agriculture in rural areas of China, which have become important sources of income for farmers.

During the first three quarters of 2021, rural online retail sales in China reached 1,429.31 billion yuan, up 16.3 percent year on year, while the online retail sales of agricultural products climbed 1.5 percent from the same period of 2020 to 304.39 billion yuan, according to latest data.

So far, all elementary schools and middle schools in rural areas have basically been connected to Internet services, Tian said, adding that in particular, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, China has witnessed notable results in the development of online education.

The country will continue boosting the integration of the Internet into the health and education sectors and encourage various cities to promote the in-depth integration of network technology into e-commerce, rural tourism and farming, so as to unleash the dividends of digital technologies and advance the modernization of agriculture, according to Tian.

People's Daily

## Ethiopia security forces 'neutralise' 433 suspected rebel fighters

ADDIS ABABA

SECURITY forces in Ethiopia's Oromia regional state have "neutralized" 433 suspected Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) rebel group fighters, Ethiopia state media outlet Walta TV reported on Tuesday.

Walta TV reported another 115 suspected OLA members have been captured during security operations in Horo-Guduru Wollega zone of Oromia regional state. "A successful operation to return peace to the zone is being done in coordination with security forces, with an additional 623 suspected OLA agents captured during recent security operations," Walta TV reported quoting Bekele Dechasa, Chief

Administrator of Horo-Guduru Wollega zone. The OLA is a breakaway faction of an ex-rebel group Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

The OLF is an opposition political party claiming to fight for the rights of ethnic Oromos who make up about 35 percent of Ethiopia's 110 million plus population.

The OLF was designated as a terrorist group by the Ethiopian parliament in 2011. The OLF was removed from the terror list in July 2018 to help facilitate negotiations and foster reconciliation.

However, a breakaway faction estimated to have around nearly 3,000 fighters operates in the western and southern parts of Oromia regional state, the principal homeland of ethnic Oromos.

WASHINGTON

## World Bank slashes global growth forecast amid new pandemic waves

THE World Bank Group on Tuesday slashed global growth forecast for this year amid incessant COVID-19 flare-ups, rising inflation and lingering supply bottlenecks, warning of various downside risks to global growth prospects.

In its newly released semi-annual Global Economic Prospects, the multilateral lender projected that global economy is on track to grow by 4.1 percent this year, 0.2 percentage point lower than the forecast

in June. It also revised down estimation for 2021 global growth by 0.2 percentage point to 5.5 percent.

The U.S. economy is estimated to grow by 5.6 percent in 2021, and moderates to 3.7 percent this year. The Chinese economy is estimated to grow 8.0 percent in 2021, and slow to 5.1 percent this year.

The Euro area economy is expected to expand by 5.2 in 2021 and 4.2 percent in 2022. "The world economy is simul-

taneously facing COVID-19, inflation, and policy uncertainty, with government spending and monetary policies in uncharted territory," said World Bank Group President David Malpass.

The Washington-based development organization highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic has raised global income inequality, partly reversing the decline that was achieved over the previous two decades. By 2023, annual

output is expected to remain below the pre-pandemic trend in all emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) regions, in contrast to advanced economies, where the gap is projected to close. In developing economies, particularly in small states and fragile and conflict-afflicted countries, output and investment will remain markedly below pre-pandemic trends, "owing to lower vaccination rates, tighter fiscal and monetary policies,

and more persistent scarring from the pandemic," the report noted.

The World Bank called for a rapid global rollout of vaccination and redoubled productivity-enhancing reforms, which, it argued, can help lower international vaccination inequality.

For most of 2021, the main obstacle was the limited access to vaccine doses, "with low-income countries suffering the most," according to the

report. New variants and vaccine deployment bottlenecks remain "major obstacles." To soften the increased global inequality, the report called for a concerted effort to mobilize external resources and accelerate debt relief efforts, noting that the recent 93-billion-U.S.-dollar replenishment of the International Development Association - the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries - is a key milestone in this respect. More progress, however, is

needed on the implementation of the Group of 20's Common Framework for debt restructuring for low-income countries under stress, Malpass said. "In light of the projected slowdown in output and investment growth, limited policy space, and substantial risks clouding the outlook, emerging and developing economies will need to carefully calibrate fiscal and monetary policies," said Ayhan Kose, director of the World Bank's Prospects Group.

Xinhua





Yanga's newly signed winger, Denis Nkane. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Can Nkane live up to expectations at Yanga?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

I loved how Yanga's newly signed starlet, Dennis Nkane, was described by domestic print media once he was unveiled as the club's player.

I read a Kiswahili newspaper that identified the winger as a wonderkid. I read elsewhere and he was again identified as a wonderkid.

In English, wonderkid is a word used for a young star who seems to be unique.

Wonderkids are often young players who are tipped to excel in the future. I do not know if that will happen to Nkane.

Young Tanzanian footballers who join prominent outfits in the country are having a difficult time getting a place in the first team.

Life becomes more difficult for them as the days go by. Senior players in the same outfits are already having a difficult time. What about the youngsters?

At the end of last year, for example, two popular clubs, Simba SC and Yanga, won their respective NBC Premier League matches.

Yanga thrashed Dodoma Jiji FC 4-0, Simba SC beat Azam FC 2-1. Yanga's goals were scored by two Congolese footballers, a Ugandan player, and a Tanzanian player.

Simba SC's goals were scored by footballers from Senegal and Mali. Azam FC's goal was scored by a footballer in Zambia. This is the three outfits' life.

The foreign professionals are enjoying life in these clubs so much that local footballers that play for the clubs are failing to step up.

What can one say about a youngster like Nkane? He needs the luck to make his way into Yanga's starting lineup.

In the past, winger Mrisho Ngassa was tipped to scale great heights when he was a young player.

He put impressive showing for Yanga when he joined the side from Kagera Sugar.

The same could be said of Simon Msuva, he was as well tipped to scale great heights when he joined Yanga from Moro United. He indeed lived up to expectations.

What about Nkane? Will he follow this trend? He is well spoken of by those who know him.

I have watched his videos, he seems to be brilliant on the pitch.

The problem is that in recent years local youngsters are failing to play in popular outfits. And the ones that struggle the most are offensive footballers.

We have seen many defenders settle well but life has become difficult for players that play in midfield and attack.

Yanga has this time signed Nkane, the club should remember that its winger, Dickson Ambundo, has not played for it in any league match. Soccer fanatics only see him attend training.

Ambundo was the first-team footballer when he played for Dodoma Jiji FC.

It seems Yanga had made no mistake in picking him up, today, however, soccer fanatics do not see him play for his club in league games.

Simba SC roped in a defensive midfielder, Abdulswamad Kassim, from Kagera Sugar during the mini transfer period.

The footballer looked like he would be a midfielder who would perform well at his new outfit but all was not

well for the player given Simba SC has recently let him go.

Forward Yusuph Mhulu is struggling at Simba SC. Soccer followers do not see him play regularly.

Another local striker, Waziri Junior, was at Yanga and he decided to terminate his contract with the outfit.

These are the players that local football fanatics expected will excel in popular outfits the same way Ngassa did.

Other forwards, Adam Salamba and Ditram Nchimbi, were as well tipped to excel at the popular sides but they could not live up to expectations.

It was not possible for them to make their presence felt and the foreign players continued to perform well.

As a result, John Bocco is, to this day, the only reliable local forward, the towering attacker, however, has begun to falter.

If the senior national team is announced, soccer followers will expect foreign-based attackers, Mbwana Samatta and Simon Msuva, to be the players the squad will bank on when it comes to getting good results.

But in a nation without many foreign-based players, soccer followers expect popular clubs' players to help the national team get good results.

I do not doubt Yanga's Dickson Job's competence in the defensive department, the youthful footballer is proving people wrong and has already made his presence felt in his outfit.

Fullback, Israel Mwenda, left Kinondoni Municipal Council FC for Simba SC and is slowly appearing to be Shomari Kapombe's rightful successor.

Mwenda can take over the position at Simba SC and possibly in the senior national team.

Yanga has recruited left fullback, David Bryson, from Kinondoni Municipal Council FC. He was playing alongside Mwenda at the Kinondoni outfit.

Despite suffering injuries while joining Yanga, now Bryson appears to be stable and is slowly taking over on the left side of his new outfit's defense.

The biggest problem remains for local footballers who play in the offensive area.

I do not know if Nkane will either achieve success or not but it will be good for the nation if he will perform well.

Soccer fanatics need footballers who can competently challenge foreign professionals the same way Simba SC midfielder, Jonas Mkude, does.

One cannot blame Nkane for joining Yanga even though he will hardly be assured of regularly turning out for the side, he has certainly been lured by money.

There is a huge gap between cash offered by modest outfits and prominent clubs' cash.

Biashara United, Nkane's former side, could be a good place for the winger to continue to mature but if Yanga had tabled a lucrative salary of 2m/- for the player, he would certainly have opted to move to the latter.

Sometimes soccer followers can blame these players but they do not know what the footballers are going through at the negotiation tables.

Modest clubs are also ready for offers for their players, many local outfits are facing a difficult situation.

If a popular outfit offers about 30m/- to sign Nkane, his outfit will certainly not refuse the offer. Modest clubs know their lives.

## Yanga's failure to eclipse Azam FC at 2022 Mapinduzi Cup semis a wake up call

By Correspondent John Kimbute

WHILE no team in the Premier League, 2022 Mapinduzi Cup, or other tournaments can assure itself success by one hundred percent, some upsets catalyze an internal look as to what a team is doing.

This is the case concerning exit by penalties for Premier League contenders, Dar Young Africans SC, popularly known as 'Yanga', from 2022 Mapinduzi Cup as it is an antidote to their rampaging media over-presence, where since at least last year they are overdoing their end of reign self-assurance that the traditional champions are back, etc.

And it is not just propaganda that the Jangwani Street outfit's leadership employs in seeking to convince the club that this is the situation.

Debating this point on media talk shows achieves nothing as it is based less on soccer than drum beating about club capacities, meanwhile, there is a hidden dagger which the communications network of the club knows it relies upon, but will not admit it.

Failure to scale the semi-final hurdle against multiple tourney winners, Azam FC, was in that sense a salutary reminder that a lot of work needs to be done to make the side a champion club.

From Yanga's 2-0 win over Azam FC at the October Premier League meet to the former's draw with the latter is a reminder that in soccer a club has to always improve, not sitting on its laurels as Yanga pundits were doing lately.

The reason for praising the side and insisting on becoming champions, or rather they are champions in waiting, was the network's reliance on the hidden dagger of sabotaging Simba SC in its league ties and perhaps in the Zanzibar tourney as well.

Without a big club which one wields at any moment and floors the Goliath in front of him, it is not easy to be that assured, literally unmindful of any weaknesses that the club side still



Yanga winger, Ducapel Moloko (R), negotiates his way past Azam FC midfielder, Ibrahim Ajibu (L), during the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup tournament's semi-final played in Zanzibar on Tuesday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

demonstrates, and which need to be corrected.

Only when the side fails at a key encounter against a good side like Azam FC would this anomaly, lack of readiness, and over-reliance on propaganda come out in the open, as well as sheer inadequacy of its sabotage tactics to ensure victory for its side.

To the extent that the Yanga inability to sufficiently handles the Azam FC challenge in the Isles tourney was a result of its outward preoccupation with Simba SC instead of building the side tactically and to that extent, psychologically, it can only be said that the loss was self-inflicted.

It can't be said how far the technical bench has been part of this underhand campaign against their archrivals, and how far this impression that due to that reason the club side stands to win the Premier League - and the Isles tourney is only a dress rehearsal - would have affected their mental preparedness. That is a sort of moot question.

What though cannot be doubted is that the players and

their immediate associates, especially assistant coaches, trainers, and club officials of various ranks are definitely in the know of what is happening, and it enables them to bristle with confidence that this is the year the Jangwani Street side gets out of its interminable captivity to its next-door rivals. If they had this confidence because of a higher level of investment in players or club facilities, getting the best coaches around, that would be one thing.

But having a hidden weapon is akin to relying on sorcery to win the premierships - that is fraught with pains.

This atmosphere has a debilitating effect on the team as they are supposed to have won before they play, having been implanted with the idea that they are entitled to the championship, not that they look like they stand to win, or have a definite chance of scaling the tourney.

While the club's standing in the premier league is yet to suffer, looks fairly solid, indicators of weakness seem to be calling on the side, and Azam

FC's ability to reverse their 2-0 results to a draw in full-time play shows changed capacities on either side.

Everything else remains equal, it means Azam FC is slightly better, Yanga - a bit weaker.

To figure out how Azam FC has improved on the Jangwani Street side requires delving into a whole host of factors, and pundits will say if recent registrations during the December-January window explain the shift, at least in part.

Whatever the case the shifts (any specific one in particular) can add morale to the team or improve its pattern of play, when one thinks for instance of Ibrahim Ajibu as a well-rated player whose presence can make a difference, depending on how he fits into a certain pattern of play.

These are the issues that Yanga ought to focus upon, the subtle details of how any of the top teams is improving or declining - including their lineup and techniques- not focusing on sabotaging their traditional rivals.

## Wheelchair tennis players set for Nairobi Open tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's National Wheelchair Tennis Association (TWA) has disclosed its plans to see to it wheelchair tennis players compete in all events scheduled for this year.

Riziki Salum, TWA secretary-general, said the association is confident that the national wheelchair tennis side will compete in all events next year, starting with the Nairobi Open which will be held in February.

Salum said the team to compete at the Nairobi Open will be selected at end of this month.

"We have agreed that from this year, national wheelchair tennis team should compete at all events, we will start with the Nairobi Open," Salum stated.

"The provisional squad for the Nairobi-bound team entered camp on January 10 at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, we will select players for the trip at end of this month," he said.

He also said TWA is confident that it will send its team to Turkey in May for Portugal World Team



Female wheelchair tennis players put their skills to show during training at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) courts recently.

holders. BNP Paribas' qualification showdown.

The TWA organized a general meeting in Dar es Salaam recently. The meeting was attended by the association's top leaders that including the body's chairman, John Bura, and other wheelchair tennis stake-

holders. The general meeting also agreed that the wheelchair tennis governing body should intensify efforts to develop the game in schools and communities.

"We have planned to reach out to many schools and communi-

ties in the country, the country has many youths with disabilities that can play wheelchair tennis and take part in many local and international events," Salum revealed. "The identification will also help in player transition as most of the players we have now are in

advanced ages," he said. Tanzania wheelchair tennis team competed in the World Team BNP Paribas which was held in Italy in 2017.

The squad has also competed in many regional events and performed well.



## Iheanacho overshadows Salah, Mahrez at Africa Cup of Nations

YAOUNDE

KELECHI Iheanacho overshadowed fellow Premier League stars Mohamed Salah and Riyad Mahrez on Tuesday as Nigeria made a winning start to their Africa Cup of Nations campaign and title-holders Algeria were held.

The Leicester City forward scored the only goal on 30 minutes as Nigeria overcame lacklustre Egypt 1-0 in a clash of Group D big guns in the northwestern city of Garoua.

His match winner and overall performance earned Iheanacho the man-of-the-match award on a day when prolific Liverpool scorer Salah and Manchester City winger Mahrez failed to sparkle.

Captain Salah cut an isolated, frustrated, figure at the Stade Roumde Adjia and when he did get a scoring chance in the second half, his prod was saved by the boot of goalkeeper Maduka Okoye.

It was an otherwise uneventful evening for the Nigeria shot-stopper, who must have anticipated being called into action more often against the record seven-time African champions.

"We had three things in mind -- winning, retaining possession and cutting off the supply to Salah," said Nigeria caretaker coach Augustine Eguavoen.

"Every game will be treated like a final because each team in Cameroon must be respected regardless of the name of the country.

"There are no minor football nations anymore in Africa so if you do not plan and make the effort, you can be shocked."

This was the eighth meeting of the Super Eagles and the Pharaohs in the flagship African tournament and three-time champions Nigeria have won four and drawn two.

Nigeria succeeded after a troubled build-up in which German coach Gernot Rohr was fired following an unimpressive World Cup qualifying run and former national star Eguavoen took temporary charge.

Eguavoen's squad was without forwards Victor Osimhen, Emmanuel Dennis and Odion Ighalo for a variety of reasons, but his team went on the offensive from the kick-off and did him proud.

Speedy winger Moses Simon played a major role when the Super Eagles took the lead at the 30,000-capacity stadium.

- Guinea-Bissau still winless -

His cross was only partially cleared by Ahmed Hegazy and Nigerian Joseph Aribio nodded the ball into the path of Iheanacho, who hammered a half-volley past goalkeeper Mohamed Elshenawy.

After the later Group D match Guinea-Bissau are still without a win in three Cup of Nations appearances as Judilson 'Pele' Gomes missed a penalty and the woodwork saved Sudan twice in a 0-0 draw.

Algeria were hot favourites to win the opening Group E match against Sierra Leone, a lowly ranked team making a first Cup of Nations appearance since 1996.

But captain Mahrez could not inspire his team in the Atlantic port city of Douala and several excellent saves by Sierra Leone goalkeeper Mohamed Kamara saw him voted man of the match.

AFP

## Ivory Coast lose first-choice keeper Gbohhou to doping ban

YAOUNDE

AFRICA Cup of Nations title hopefuls Ivory Coast were dealt a blow on the eve of their first game at the tournament as first-choice goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohhou was ruled out for doping.

The Ivorian Football Federation revealed news of the FIFA-imposed ban on Tuesday, 24 hours before the Elephants play Equatorial Guinea in their opening group game in the Cameroonian city of Douala.

"FIFA can confirm that its Disciplinary Committee has provisionally suspended Sylvain Gbohhou on the grounds of doping," a spokesperson for football's world governing body told AFP.

The 33-year-old started all six matches in the group stage of African qualifying for this year's World Cup, including most recently a decisive 1-0 defeat in Cameroon in November.

He was their first-choice goalkeeper at the 2019 Cup of Nations and appeared in every game bar the final when the Ivory Coast won the continental title in 2015.

"He tested positive after the game here two months ago and we appealed immediately," said Ivory Coast's French coach, Patrice Beaumelle, at a press conference in Douala.

Beaumelle revealed he had asked Gbohhou to see an optician because he was struggling to deal with long balls, and that the goalkeeper was then prescribed treatment.

"That was the end of it, but then he tested positive in November, although they didn't find what medication caused it.

"We all support him. He has been training on his own, has not been sleeping or eating and has lost weight.

"We were hoping for a positive outcome but I discovered last night that FIFA were upholding the ban and that we have 20 days to appeal, which we have done."

AFP

# Vlahovic's next move: Join Arsenal, Juventus, Man City? Stay at Fiorentina?

WHILE most headlines are focused on the futures of Borussia Dortmund's Erling Haaland and Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappe, it's Fiorentina striker Dusan Vlahovic -- Serie A's top scorer this season with 16 goals -- who has emerged as the most coveted player of the January transfer window.

Always a player with high potential, the Serbia international was signed from FK Partizan for around €2 million when he turned 18 on Jan. 28, 2017, and netted 20 goals from 22 games for Fiorentina's Primavera side before graduating to the first team in 2019-20.

With 21 goals in 37 Serie A games last season, Vlahovic's progress has been so remarkable over the past year that he seems to be getting better on a month-by-month basis. He is now starting to look like a complete centre-forward and is not far off being mentioned in the same breath as his two world-class peers.

Until this season, Vlahovic predominantly played in a deep-sitting Fiorentina side where, especially under former coach Beppe Iachini, he was often left to chase shadows. Even once he got hold of the ball, there would often be 40-50 meters left to negotiate his way past multiple defenders, or hold on to the ball to win a free kick or lay it off.

This season, however, under Vincenzo Italiano, Vlahovic has prospered in a far more proactive and aggressive side in which many of his goals have come after possession has been regained from successful pressure high up the pitch. In the calendar year of 2021 he scored 41 goals from 56 games in all competitions from an average of 2.8 shots per game, while an xG of 10.4 for 16 Serie A goals this season is also worth noting.

Having already re-



Dusan Vlahovic)

buffed repeated attempts to extend his contract, which expires in 2023, Vlahovic, who turns 22 at the end of the month, looks set to depart. But with every top club in Europe after him, and a potential transfer fee of €80m to consider, which club would suit the free-scoring Fiorentina star? ESPN has assessed the moves open to him.

ARSENAL

Given the level of interest in the player, it's hardly surprising that Arsenal would want to make an audacious attempt to land Vlahovic this month, especially as the top clubs who don't manage to land Haaland once his €75m release clause becomes active are likely to have the Serbian next on their radar, should he still be available in the summer. Though Edu, Arsenal's sporting director, may not have the lure of the Champions League to offer yet, the club are in a better place to qualify for the competition this season after two consecutive eighth-place finishes.

From a technical viewpoint, Vlahovic would add a new dimension to Mikel Arteta's front line, as he likes dropping deep to get hold of the ball, creating space in front of the centre-backs, and is adept at flicks and layoffs with his preferred left foot.

The 6-foot-3 striker would also add more physical presence in the box. Arsenal are among the best crossers of

the ball in the Premier League, so with a more consistent supply in central areas, one can assume Vlahovic would thrive.

JUVENTUS

Long considered the front-runners to sign Vlahovic, as they were already scouting him heavily before his major breakthrough last season, a move to Turin now seems less likely. Juventus have to grapple with tight financial controls and need to move players like Dejan Kulusevski and Aaron Ramsey on before they can compete for new arrivals in Vlahovic's price range.

In fact, Juve's only real chance of landing him is to wait until 2023 to get him on a free transfer, or somehow persuade Fiorentina to let him leave on loan with an obligation to sign him permanently as they did with winger Federico Chiesa.

That said, staying in Italy is reported to be an option that Vlahovic is keen to consider. He has adapted well on and off the pitch and, in such a case, Juventus certainly look the most viable destination. Having studied the player for months on end, Juve would have a clear plan in mind for his future and, with Alvaro Morata likely to depart after his loan spell from Atletico Madrid ends in the summer (or even possibly before then), there's clearly room to fit in a genuine

"No. 9," even with Moise Kean's two-year loan from Everton containing a €28m obligation to sign him permanently in 2023.

MANCHESTER CITY

As well as being notoriously tight-lipped about his targets, manager Pep Guardiola's preferences can be tough to predict. Assuming that the City boss is keen to sign a centre-forward at all, given some previous comments in his news conferences, Vlahovic should feature highly on a list that likely includes Haaland and perhaps even still Tottenham's Harry Kane (though Spurs' demands for €150m seem to have scuppered any chance of that deal).

In the event that Haaland heads elsewhere, it begs the question whether Vlahovic is already at the level required for what is possibly the best side in world football right now. Some sources I spoke to certainly think so, but City's recent teams have thrived with quick, mobile forwards like Sergio Agueiro and David Silva, which suggests a different profile of player to the Serbian.

On one hand there's little to suggest that his fine hold-up game, excellent finishing and heading technique wouldn't thrive in a team that dominates the opposition, but the notoriously picky Manchester City hierarchy might still see some shortcomings

in terms of creativity and overall technical ability.

MANCHESTER UNITED

Another club who have Haaland ahead of Vlahovic on their wish list, United's two main centre-forwards -- Edinson Cavani and Cristiano Ronaldo -- turn 35 and 37 next month, while Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood (neither of whom are out-and-out No. 9s anyway) are still looking to find the net consistently this season, and Anthony Martial is keen to depart for more game time.

With interim manager Ralf Rangnick a big fan of Haaland, sources have told ESPN that United have made the Norway international their top target for next summer. But it's not certain they will get him and Vlahovic fits the technical profile of an ideal upgrade for the Manchester United attack, even if he may end up being more expensive than their first-choice option. If more spending is on the agenda, then landing him would go down as one of the more sensible acquisitions seen at Old Trafford over the past few years.

NEWCASTLE

According to reports, Newcastle had been one of the first Premier League clubs to sound out the Serie A top scorer. But Vlahovic has moved beyond the point of being a target for anything but the top clubs in Europe, let alone signing up for a relegation battle -- never mind how exciting the Newcastle project may look a year or two down the line with their new Saudi-backed owners.

Newcastle deserve praise for setting a high bar and being quick off the mark to register their interest, but Vlahovic won't be heading to St James' Park in this transfer window, or any other for that matter.

STAY AT FIORENTINA

With sources close to the player citing that

"money will not necessarily be the decisive factor" when deciding his future, the prospect of staying in Florence for another six months or even a year does still seem like the most valid scenario.

The prospects of grabbing an unexpected Champions League spot may have recently faded as the club sit seventh in Serie A, nine points off fourth-placed Atalanta, but European football next season at Artemio Franchi is still a possibility. Regardless of their final position, Vlahovic extending his contract with Fiorentina seems to be off the table despite numerous attempts from the club, so it's only a matter of time before he moves.

Verdict

Despite a recent slump in form, Fiorentina are a much-improved side under Italiano's guidance and, with Serbia already qualified for the 2022 World Cup, there are enough challenges ahead for the young player not to feel he is stagnating.

On the evidence of the last six months, Vlahovic is in good hands with Italiano and even staying at the club until his contract expires won't do his continued progress any harm. He may well decide it is best to take some time and think about his future carefully, rather than rushing into a decision this January.

However, there will come a time -- and this may be in the summer -- where Fiorentina will have to start planning for a future without their best player. They have already landed a replacement of sorts by signing Poland international striker Krzysztof Piatek on loan from Hertha Berlin for the rest of the season, but this year's transfer windows will be the last chance for the club to cash in on Vlahovic before his transfer value starts to decrease.

ESPN

## Salah says he is not asking for 'crazy stuff' in new Liverpool deal

YAOUNDE

LIVERPOOL forward Mohamed Salah says he is not asking for "crazy stuff" in any new contract he signs with the Premier League club but wants the deal to reflect his huge contribution at Anfield.

The Egypt international has fewer than 18 months remaining on his current deal and has reiterated whether he stays or goes remains in the hands of Liverpool.

Reports have suggested that Salah, who has won the Champions League and Premier League with Liverpool, is looking for a weekly salary of more than £300,000 (\$408,000).

That would smash the Reds' wage structure and would represent a significant policy change by the club, with the owners reluctant to hand out lucrative contracts to players once they reach 30, which Salah does in June.

Salah, who has scored 111 goals in 165 Premier League matches for Liverpool, and is on track for a third Golden Boot in five years, said he wanted to be appreciated.

"I want to stay, but it's not in my hands. It's in their hands. They know what I want. I'm not asking for crazy stuff," Salah told GQ magazine.

"The thing is when you ask for something and they show you they can give you something (they should) because they appreciate what you did for the club.

"I've been here for my fifth year now. I know the club very well. I love the fans. The fans love me. But with the administration, they have (been) told the situation. It's in their hands."

Salah, currently playing for Egypt at the Africa Cup of Nations, has made the three-man shortlist, along with Bayern Munich's Robert Le-

wandowski and Paris Saint-Germain's Lionel Messi, for FIFA's best men's player of 2021.

He finished seventh in the race for last year's Ballon d'Or, but the Egyptian's ambition is to be the best in the world.

"I can't really lie and say honestly I didn't think about it," he said. "No, I think about it. I want to be the best player in the world.

"But I will have a good life even if I don't win. My life is OK, everything is fine."

AFP



Mohamed Salah)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Vlahovic's next move: Join Arsenal, Juventus, Man City? Stay at Fiorentina?

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## KMC FC announces strong squad for Mbeya, Rukwa trips



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC fullback, Kelvin Kijiri (2nd R), keeps Mbeya Sugar striker, Riphat Khamis, in check during this season's NBC Premier League match that took place in Morogoro last year. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

By Correspondent Michael

Mwebe

**K**INONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) FC is on its way to Rukwa to begin a new era after the sacking of head coach, John Simkoko, and his assistant, Habibu Kondo, last week.

The Kinondoni tax collectors will be led by newly appointed head coach Thierry Hitimana, when they face Prisons in the NBC Premier League at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa on Sunday.

Hitimana, the former Simba SC assistant coach, took charge of KMC FC immediately after he was appointed on January 6 and has been busy with his tuning his squad ahead of the league resump-

tion this weekend.

KMC FC will have another away game against Mbeya Kwanza FC on January 21 at the Sokoine Memorial Stadium in Mbeya.

Things have been going well for Hitimana in the lead-up to their two away games.

By all indications, the head coach is happy to have a strong and fit squad of players training.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC's Communication, and Media Officer, told the press: "We are going to play two

tough away matches with a head coach who has joined the squad recently."

She stated: "Our focus in training has been getting good results, we are going to fight for the much-needed six points."

She added all players are fit and in high morale which will help them in their quest for victory as they push to climb high in the league standings.

KMC FC sits in 11th place on the log, having managed three victories in 11 encounters so far this season.

The outfit drew 1-1 in its last league assignment against Ruvo Shooting, which took place in Dar es Salaam last year.

Christina pointed out: "All teams we are going to play against are tough and very competitive, and away matches are always very challenging, so we are going for the two games knowing very well we are in for a tough fight to assert our status."

"KMC FC is a great team with players who are capable of fighting for the interests of the club."

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**EATV THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SalamaNa

Every Thursday at 9pm

**'SalamaNa'** is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## DGC golfer Hameer passes on

By Correspondent Mohamed Ugasa

DAR ES SALAAM Gymkhana Club (DGC)'s prominent amateur golfer, Akber Hameer, has passed away in the city on Tuesday evening.

Hameer that was obsessed with the game died after a long illness that confined him at his residence.

Gout is the sickness that unfortunately shattered his dream and ambition of playing golf in the last 20 years.

He used to play in partnership with experienced professional golfer, Hassan Mwanzenza, and Seif E-mailjee, who is now based in Canada.

Hameer is remembered for his obsession with the game that prompted him to sponsor the 1996 Tanzania Open tournament staged at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club.

The tournament saw Mwanzenza make his last touch on the trophy as an amateur golfer.

The event saw Hameer's friend, Satinder Bancil, who travelled from Nairobi, hit a rare feat hole in one at the then par three 12th of the back nine.

Hameer's firm, the CATS group, had sponsored the four-round scratch Stroke Play championship.

He was estimated to be aged 70 and has always been in memory of another local golf stalwart, Hussein Omari, who died on January 13 last year.

The good-hearted Hameer still has living appreciation from Dar Gymkhana Club caddies whom he financed their upcountry visits to feature in the Tanzania Golf Union-sanctioned tournaments.

Hameer played golf to attain a handicap of 12 before hanging clubs as a result of the sickness.

Hameer was expected to be buried at the centrally located Kisutu graveyard in Dar es Salaam yesterday afternoon.

## Geita Gold FC confirms Felix as head coach

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Ismail Tano

THIS season's NBC Premier League debutant, Geita Gold FC, has confirmed Fred Felix 'Minziro' as the club's head coach.

Geita Gold FC's information officer, Hemed Kivuyo, said Felix who was training the team in an acting capacity will now be the outfit's head coach.

He said the decision to appoint the tactician was reached due to his vast experience and he knows the club very well.

"Management of the club has decided to name Fred Minziro as the head coach, he is one of the respected and celebrated local coaches," Kivuyo stated.

"He also has a vast knowledge of the local league, he is moreover the one who guided the team to Premier League promotion," he said.

Waziri Mahadhi is the current assistant to Felix but Kivuyo said the head coach will mention his assistant next week, as the club does not want to impose any assistant on him.

Felix was an assistant to Burundian, Etienne Ndayiragije, at the outfit.

The Burundian tactician was fired last year due to the poor performance of the team.



Fred Felix 'Minziro'. PHOTO: COURTESY OF GEITA GOLD FC

Felix is the one who led the outfit to Mainland Premier League promotion but the tactician was relegated to an assistant coach's post.

With 11 Premier League fix-

tures played, Geita Gold FC sits ninth in the standing with 12 points and the team's next match will see it confront Dodoma Jiji FC at Jamhuri Stadium.

Meanwhile, Ghanaian midfielder, James Kotei, who had a successful stint with Simba SC in Mainland Premier League a few years back, has said he has returned to

Tanzania to ensure Championship side DTB FC wins promotion to next season's Premier League.

Kotei has joined DTB FC as a free agent from the Belarus side, FC Slavija Mazyr, an outfit he served after leaving Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa.

The defensive midfielder said he is happy to be part of the squad that is battling to secure promotion to Premier League next season.

He noted he will cooperate with teammates to ensure the team achieves its goals.

The footballer stated: "DTB FC is a good team and I am happy to be back to work in Tanzania, this is an honour to play for a team full of talented and experienced players."

"I believe if we join forces we will achieve our goals."

Ramadhan Nsazurwimo, DTB FC head coach, disclosed that adding Kotei to the squad aims at strengthening the outfit's midfield.

The tactician pointed out his club's midfielder had no competent midfielder in a defensive role, noting he believes Kotei will add quality to the squad.

"In my report to the club's leadership I wanted a strong midfielder to strengthen my defense, so with his arrival, I believe he will add something to my squad," Nsazurwimo revealed.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

TELL ME MY FRIEND!



WHEN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE A SECRET THEY WILL COME TO BE YOUR FRIEND

