



### FUNERAL



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# JPM burial evokes national reunion

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is today scheduled to lead the nation in the burial of her predecessor John Magufuli who died in Dar es Salaam last week of heart complications.

Dr Magufuli will be buried at his home village of Mlimani in Chato district, Geita region after mass viewing of his body in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Zanzibar, Mwanza and finally here in Chato yesterday.

An event schedule released yesterday says that today's ceremonies will be flagged off at around 7am, with the late president's body arriving at the Chato Parish church for a brief service.

Rev. Fr. Sospeter Tibajjuka will lead the prayer service, followed by taking the body to the Magufuli grounds for last rites for the national burial committee to say final words on the week long proceedings.

At the Magufuli grounds, Bishop Gervas Nyaisonga, the President of the Tanzania Episcopal Conference Bishop (TEC) will lead a fulsome funeral service.

President Samia will  
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Caskets bearing the bodies of the five members of a Dar es Salaam family who died in a stampede at the city's Uhuru Stadium late last week as multitudes bid former president Dr Magufuli final farewell lined up at the Kimara-Korogwe Lutheran church yesterday ready for the requiem mass. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



Joseph Magufuli, one of former president Dr John Magufuli's children, pays his last respects to his father at Chato yesterday. Photo: State House

## Hotels, catering on high as mourners take Chato apart

By Guardian Reporter, Chato

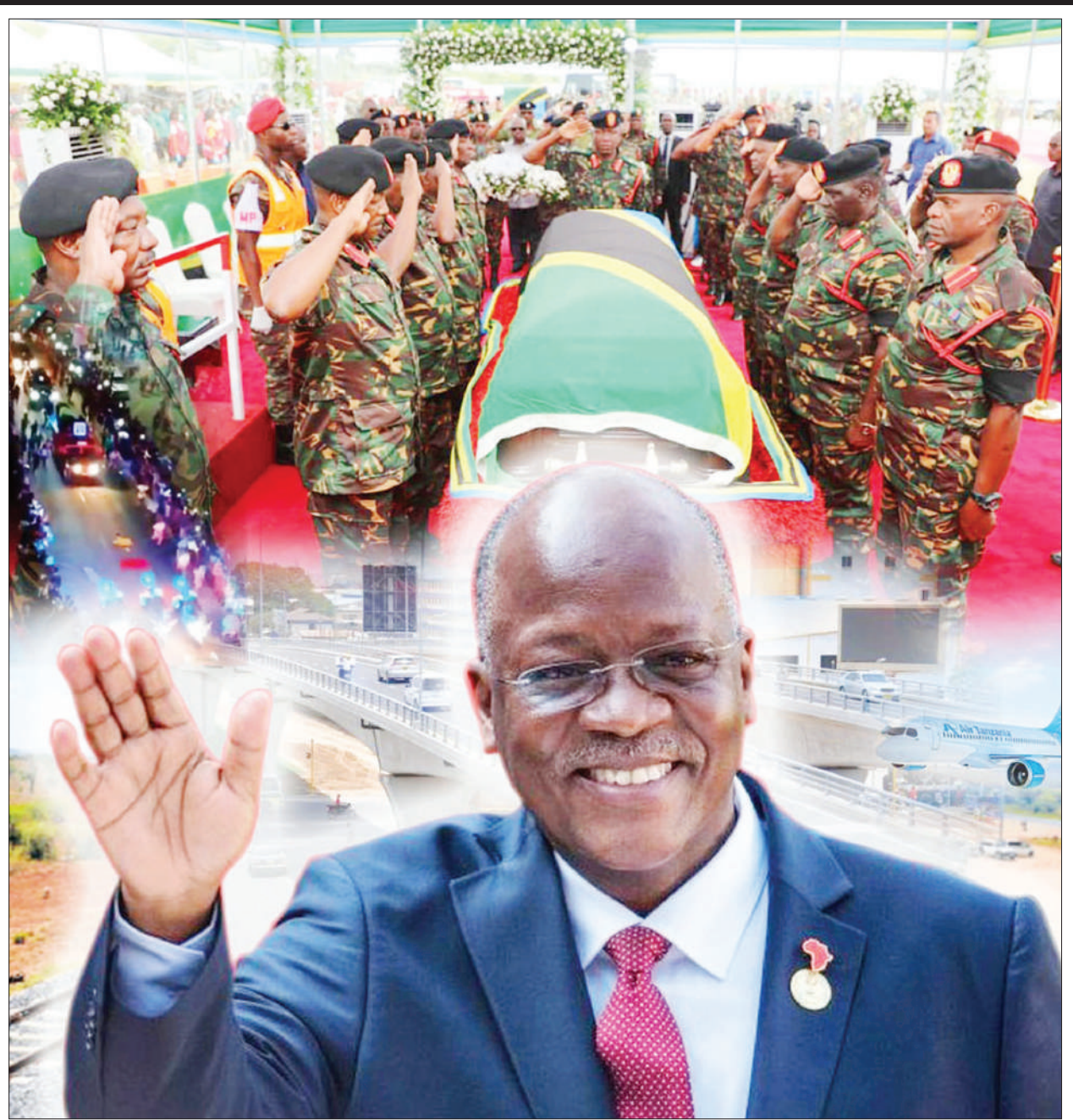
HOTEL and restaurant operators, roadside food vendors did good business in the past two days as demand surpassed supply, as thousands of mourners thronged Chato township to attend the farewell walk past and burial of the late

president John Magufuli. With most businesses closed except accommodation facilities and catering, homes turned into lodges and fishermen became day off cooks to make the most of the rare opportunity brought by the late leader's funeral.

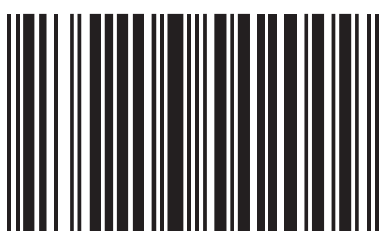
Given the township's modest size, catering services and lodging facilities were overstretched from Wednesday, when the convoy bearing the body of the late national leader arrived here from Mwanza.

Considering the big number of high-profile government officials and their support staff present here, security personnel and the media, other groups could scarcely find accommodation openings by Wednesday.

Mourners from nearby towns such as



Tanzania People's Defence Forces commanders salute before the casket bearing the body of former Commander in Chief President Dr John Magufuli during the paying of last respects at his home village, Chato, in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House



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Cai Dafeng, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, pays tribute to former president Dr John Magufuli by signing a condolence book at the Tanzanian Embassy in China yesterday. Photo courtesy Tanzanian Embassy in China

## Hotels, catering trade booming, mourners take Chato by storm

FROM PAGE 1

Kahama and Geita used routine public transport, while those from as far away as Dar es Salaam arrived in hired and personal vehicles on Wednesday and yesterday ahead of the burial service today.

Scores of visitors who missed accommodation and food services took a drive to nearby towns like Geita, Buseresere and Katoro, while a number of them remained in their vehicles for the night outside or within the Magufuli Stadium, the venue of the day long walk past ceremony.

Yet others talked with local households to use spare rooms for a fee, which turned out to be a roaring business, with residents leasing out extra rooms to pressed guests.

Bars were a particularly handy resort, with the few drinking joints in the town full to capacity, while the number of revelers kept increasing instead of decreasing as night turned the corner to dawn.

Getting enough food for the guests was a tall order as hotels and restaurants ran out of supplies late Wednesday, enabling the mushrooming of makeshift roadside vendors seeking to plug the gap.

However, this came at a cost to the guests as the price of food never remained the same. A spot check by The Guardian found that a portion of roasted goat meat that previously went for 8,000/- now sold at 16,000/- while a whole chicken which went for 15,000/- now retailed at 25,000/- to 30,000/-.

Meanwhile, the late president's family, close relatives and residents of Chato and nearby districts yesterday viewed the body of the late national leader ahead of formal burial proceedings today.

Yesterday's event was presided over by Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah, the deputy chairman of the national funeral committee chaired by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Others who paid their last respects yesterday include Majaliwa, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson, Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Venance Mabeyo and permanent secretaries of various event coordinating ministries.

The late President Magufuli died in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday last week. Announcing his death on a televised address, erstwhile Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said he succumbed to a heart condition he had been battling for nearly ten years.

The VP was sworn in on Friday to take over as Union President in accordance with the constitution, making history as the first woman President of the United Republic.

*Bars were a particularly handy resort, with the few drinking joints in the town full to capacity, while the number of revelers kept increasing instead of decreasing as night turned the corner to dawn*

## Samia, retired presidents leading in burying JPM

FROM PAGE 1

address the public before proceeding to the burial grounds where the late leader will be laid to rest at around 3pm. The burial service will be led by Bishop Severine Niwemugizi of the Rulenge Roman Catholic Diocese, Ngara.

Various top leaders including former presidents Jakaya Kikwete and Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the Speaker of the National Assembly, leaders of political parties' leaders, the private sector

and some international agencies will attend the burial ceremony.

During burial, lowering of the late president's body will be accompanied by a 21 gun salute from the military unit attached with the national funeral committee headed by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

Dr Magufuli, who had a few days to mark 62 years on March 21, died from a heart complication at the Emilio Mzena Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

The first events were the swearing in

of incoming President Samia on Friday, then on Saturday the late leader's body was moved from the mortuary to Uhuru Stadium in Dar-es-Salaam for city residents to pay their last respects.

On Sunday the body was taken from Lugalo Military Hospital where it was brought back in the night, taken to St Peter's Church in Oysterbay where the late president used to attend weekly prayers. The body was then returned to Uhuru Stadium to enable more city residents to pay their last respects.

On Monday, the body was moved to Dodoma for public viewing and then to Zanzibar on Tuesday, airlifted to Mwanza on Wednesday for more public walk past ceremonies, before the convoy drove to his hometown in Chato.

Yesterday was fully devoted to Chato residents and nearby towns who wished to pay their last respects, as the proper burial day is devoted to prayer services, parting words and military proceedings.

## Chato businesses, houses padlocked as local residents flock to stadium to bid JPM farewell

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

BUSINESSES including shops and other household activities and hotels in Chato Town were closed yesterday to give room to pay last respects to late President John Magufuli.

This paper visited the town's suburbs to see how the residents were following up reports of the mourning of Dr Magufuli's death and saw many people clustering around TV screens erected at the Old Bus Stand while many houses and shops were closed.

Timotheo Ludomya, a Chato businessman said some traders were forced to close their shops to join many other Tanzanians at the Soccer Stadium to pay their last respects to their beloved leader.

"As you can see these shops are closed, not because they have no goods in them or have been forced to close, but owners thereof have gone to pay their last respects to late Dr Magufuli, who has done a lot for this district," he said.

For his part, Robby Chacha claimed that he has closed his restaurant to give the opportunity to himself and his staff to go to the Soccer ground to bid last respects to the late Dr Magufuli who was born at Rubambangwe village in Chato District.

Late President Magufuli has been Chato Member of Parliament for 20 years and drew the government's trust by appointing him to various ministerial positions under Phase Three and Four governments.

Dr Magufuli is expected to be buried today at around noon at his Rubambangwe village, 2.5km from Chato town.

Dr Magufuli died on March 17 this year while receiving treatment at Mzena Hospital, Dar es Salaam.



The US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright, signs a condolence book in Dar es Salaam yesterday in honouring former president Dr John Magufuli. Photo: US Embassy





Religious leaders were among the hundreds of people who paid their last respects yesterday to former President Dr John Magufuli at his home village, Chato in Geita Region. Photo: Correspondent Richard Makafu

# Rampaging jumbos kill two farmers in Tunduru

By Guardian Correspondent, 25.

Tunduru

TWO residents from Mpanji and Kalulu villages in Kidodoma and Kalulu wards respectively in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region have died after being attacked by rampaging elephants in two separate incidents.

Reports say the first incident happened on March 23 this year midnight after a herd of elephants invaded a farm belonging to one of the deceased - Sofia Mbemba Ali (56).

Mpanji Ward Councillor Motta Mbale said the deceased was trampled on the stomach and on her left leg.

The deceased's husband, Sisi Abdele said the tragedy found him away from the home as he slept at his second wife's house, adding that her wife left behind seven children.

Reports say in the second incident that happened in Mpanji village farms a man identifies as Mohamedi Omari Kitemwe (45), a farmer who died at around 9 am on March 24 this year.

Residents say the deceased was attacked by a herd of elephants as he was leaving his house to go to his farm.

Kidodoma Ward Councillor Nyenje Kuchi said the deceased left behind a wife and five children and that he was buried on March

Residents from various areas in Tunduru District said herds of elephants were rampaging the farm areas while destroying crops.

Tunduru District Wildlife Officer, Limbega Ally confirmed the two incidents and that he has dispatched armed units to chase away the beasts to their reserve areas.

The doctor in-charge at Tunduru District Hospital, Dr Stephen Hikororo who conducted an autopsy on the two deceased said their deaths were caused by heavy bleeding.

Ruvuma Regional Police Commander Simon Maigwa confirmed the two tragic incidents, saying the police were still investigating.



**Residents from various areas in Tunduru District said herds of elephants were rampaging the farm areas while destroying crops**

## Mara Anglican Bishop lambasts critics, says Samia can deliver

By Guardian Correspondent, Bunda

ANGLICAN Church Bishop for Mara Diocese George Okoth has said President Samia Suluhu Hassan is capable to lead the country, just like the late Dr John Magufuli, and called on Tanzania to abandon the patriarchal system, saying ant leader is installed by God.

Bishop Okoth gave the remarks on Wednesday when speaking to this paper at the end of the Buhemba Community College Board meeting, during which both students and Board Members said Dr Magufuli's death was a big blow to them as he was still needed by the nation.

He said the Anglican Church

was greatly relieved by President Samia's speech in Dodoma on Monday that said she was the country's president, though female, and she can deliver.

Bishop Okoth said males who are used to the male-controlled system and think women cannot be presidents should know that the concept has halted here and that women can also be good presidents.

He said what now remains is for Tanzanians to pray for her as alone she cannot deliver, she needs god's assistance and cooperation from all citizens to accomplish her goals.

He said the basic issue is for the people to understand Samia did not appoint herself to the

presidency as God helped her to reach the position.

Bishop Okoth called on all Tanzanians as they continue to mourn the late Dr Magufuli, it would be better for them to be calm while looking upon God for guidance, just as the late leader used to do.

He said he remembers late Dr Magufuli for many things because the man was a trustful, ethical, and true patriot since the time he held various ministerial positions.

He added: "He fired public servants who were working without academic certificates or with fake certificates; he fired ghost workers whose salaries saved were directed to development projects," he added.

"He constructed roads, health centres, hospitals, and purchased planes using internal funds - taxpayers' money.

"Her made all Tanzanians proud, that they were not poor, and removed from us the concept that we Africans are condemned to poverty."

Bishop Okoth said he will also remember Dr Magufuli for his introduction of free education and proved wrong critics who said that would be impossible to accomplish

He said those who say President Samia Suluhu Hassan cannot deliver must be cursed by everyone as the lady can as she worked under late president Magufuli.

# CONDOLENCES

**DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI**  
1959-2021





**S.E.C (EAST AFRICAN) CO. LTD.**  
SALES AGENCY OF SHANGHAI MITSUBISHI ELEVATOR




The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of  
**S.E.C (EAST AFRICAN) COMPANY LIMITED** join fellow Tanzanians  
in mourning the death of The 5th President of the United Republic of  
Tanzania His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

**May his soul rest in eternal peace.**


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Website: www.mitsuelevator.com


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**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI)





**Rest in Peace**  
**DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI**  
1959 – 2021

The Management Committee, Leadership and Employees of Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) are deeply saddened by the untimely death of our beloved President, His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli. The late Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli will be remembered by TOSCI for his staunch patriotism, innate desire to expedite the development of Tanzanians as well as his bold and resolute vision for the country.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to H.E. Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mama Janeth Magufuli, family, relatives and all Tanzanians at this moment of grief.

**May His Soul Rest in Peace**

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**ADDRESS:**  
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Phone: +255 23 2640034 Fax : +255 23 2640035  
Email : info@tosci.go.tz ,Website :http://www.tosci.go.tz



# Chato bids final farewell to a proud son - Dr Magufuli



A member of the Tanzania Red Cross (C) assists a mourner who was overwhelmed after paying her last respects to former president Dr John Magufuli yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Assistance comes the way of another mourner who could not herself together after paying her last respects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



A Chato resident in tears after paying her last respects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



A mourner breaks into a scream on paying her last respects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (L), Foreign Affairs and East African minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (C) and Chief Secretary Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa also attended the sombre occasion. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



The casket bearing the former president's body is moved into the venue where the paying of last respects was held. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Tears flow during the paying of last respects. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Mourners wait for their turns to pay their last respects. Photo: State House





Government officials pay their last respects to former president Dr John Magufuli at Chato in Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House

# University students recall JPM on loans

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

STUDENTS from the country's higher learning institutions say they will remember late President John Magufuli for helping them to get loans for them, the step that removed protests and strikes at the learning institutions.

Speaking at separate interviews, they said students' loans were an essential component for them, especially when at the universities as they utilize the money for their daily upkeep.

University of Dodoma (UDOM) student, James Mwaijambe said: "A student's loan is very important as it helps him meet his upkeep expenses at the campus."

Mwaijambe, who is the UDOM's Students government 'Prime Minister', said without loans a student cannot study in peace as there are so many things he has to accomplish for himself.

Another student, Godfrey Ipyana, said the late Magufuli had his own convictions that helped in making the country where it is in the entire issue of development.

He said: "It is patriotism of the highest degree for fighting for his country and for all Tanzanians that made him accomplish many development projects which are clearly discerned by everyone."

"We have every reason to remember late President Magufuli, as he was the one who made education free, improved the health sector, and tirelessly fought corruption."

He said they, as the country's youth, should emulate the late President in order to drive forward the nation in its development aspirations.

He said late Magufuli did so to make the country self-reliant, instead of depending on foreign aid.

Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) student Erick Mugishagwe appealed to leaders to continue to be patriotic by fully managing various development projects initiated by the late President.

Mzumbe university student, Mbeya Campus Robert Magambo said the task of building new Tanzania concerns every Tanzanian.

He said as youth they will continue remembering late Dr Magufuli from his big accomplishments especially the issue of students' loans.

# Pakistanis mourn death of President Magufuli

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PAKISTANIS living in Tanzania have expressed their sorrow following the death of President John Magufuli, describing him as a leader who had a sound development vision.

Speaking on Tuesday at flag hoisting day which was held at the Pakistan High Commission in Dar es Salaam, former chairman of the Pakistan Welfare Committee Ghazi Naa Mullah said the country has lost a true patriotic leader.

"We are very much saddened by the sudden death of President Magufuli. He was our favorite

leader, a brave and patriotic leader. He wanted to put the country on the right track, Magufuli worked hard day and night for Tanzanians," he said.

The flag hoisting was attended by a large number of the Pakistan Community members along with families and their Tanzanian friends who attended the function.

The joyful Pakistan Day festivity started with the National Anthem and the National flag-hoisting by the High Commissioner followed by recitation of the Holy Quran. Special messages of the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan on the occasion were read out by High Commissioner Muhammad Saleem.

In his remarks, Ambassador Saleem paid tribute to the founding fathers of Pakistan whose services and sacrifices led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the Sub-continent.

Recently, the High Commissioner said that during Magufuli's short tenure as the president, he contributed immensely to uplift the country and its people from poverty.

He described it as a big leap forward for the nation.

"Late President Magufuli was totally committed to steering the country as well as East Africa and the South-eastern Africa regions to socio-economic prosperity and development," he said.

He described the death of Magufuli as unfortunate and untimely but said the president has left a rich legacy of dedication, hard work, and a bright future for the country and the region.

"Tanzania is a strong, stable, and resilient nation. I am sure the country's new leadership and the nation will come stronger together to fulfill late Dr Magufuli's vision including the long Pakistan-Tanzania friendship and solidarity," the ambassador said.

During the event, a one-minute silence was observed to pay homage to the late President Magufuli, who passed away last week and his burial will take place today in his hometown Chato, in Geita Region

# CONDOLENCES

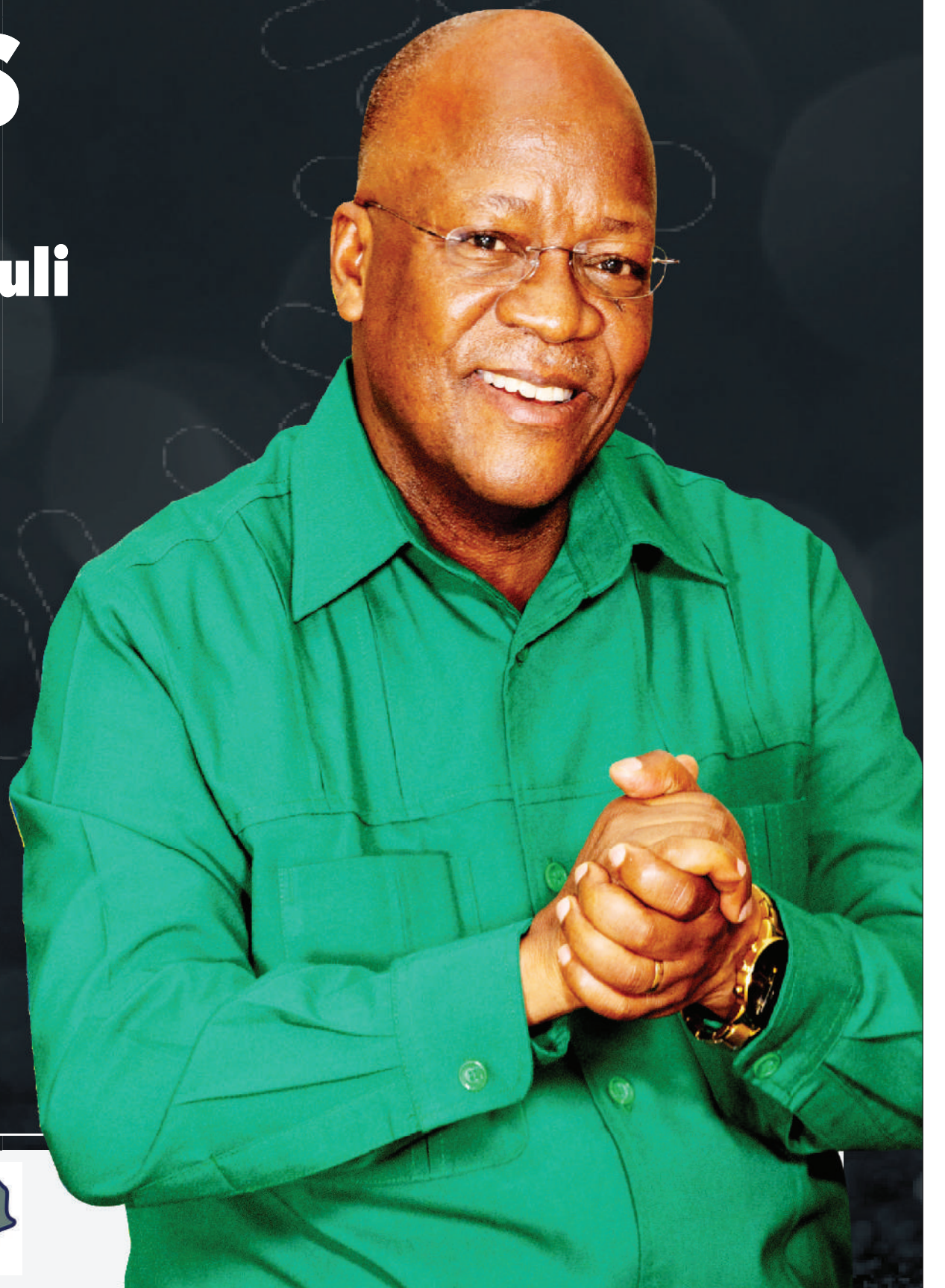
**H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli**  
**1959 - 2021**  
 Rest in Peace

"We extend our deepest condolences to the President's family and to the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania. President Magufuli was instrumental in paving the way forward for Tanzania, in particular, he saw the value in partnership, trust and shared benefits."

– Chris Showalter, CEO of Kabanga Nickel

"The late President's vision of a shared future has made possible the landmark partnership between the Tanzanian government and Kabanga Nickel. We shall honour this vision through the development of Tembo Nickel into a sustainable mining and refining company."

– Keith Liddell, Chairman of Kabanga Nickel





**REST IN ETERNAL PEACE  
H:E DR JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI**



**29th October 1959- 17th March 2021**

The Board of Directors, Management and Employees of Tanzania International Container Terminal Services (TICTS) wishes to send our deepest sympathy to **H.E President Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mama Janeth Magufuli, members of the Family and all Tanzanians** to mourn the death of our beloved President **His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.**

Our Late President will be remembered by his vision, patriotism and passionate Leadership which was dedicated to the massive economic growth of Tanzanians Economy to enhance Living Standards of the People.

**May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace**





Chato residents wait for their turns to bid final farewell to one of their own, former president Dr John Magufuli, yesterday. The message on the placard extols him as a diligent and selfless patriot and African hero who truly cared for the poor. Photo: Correspondent Richard Makafu

## China sends congratulatory message to President Samia

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping yesterday sent a congratulatory message to Tanzania's new President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

In his message, Xi stressed that China and Tanzania enjoy a deep traditional friendship, and have achieved fruitful results in their cooperation in various fields.

Noting that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Tanzania relations, Xi said he stands ready to work with Hassan to push for the new development of the China-Tanzania comprehensive

cooperative partnership featuring mutual benefits and win-win results, so as to serve the interests of the two countries and peoples.

On Monday, the Chinese leader sent a message of condolences to new Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan over the passing of the country's President John Magufuli.


Xi expressed deep condolences, and extended sincere sympathies to the Tanzanian government and people as well as President Magufuli's relatives.

Calling him an outstanding leader of Tanzania, Xi said that President Magufuli had


made positive contributions to promoting friendly cooperation between China and Tanzania and between China and Africa during his lifetime.

Magufuli's death is a huge loss to the Tanzanian people, and the Chinese people have also lost a good friend, Xi said.


Noting that China cherishes the profound traditional friendship between China and Tanzania, Xi said that China is willing to work with the Tanzanian side to deepen their comprehensive cooperative partnership, so as to bring more benefits to both countries and their peoples



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
LABOUR, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND PERSONS  
WITH DISABILITY  
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AUTHORITY  
(OSHA)**



## OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES



**Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli  
1959-2021**

Ministerial Advisory Board (MAB), Management and Staff of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), join all Tanzanians in mourning the death of Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli who was The President of United Republic of Tanzania.


We join his family and the rest of Tanzanians in mourning this national tragedy.

He will forever and always remain in our hearts and we pledge to continue supporting his ambitious nation-building endeavors.  
May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Occupational Safety and Health Authority,  
PO Box 519, Dar es Salaam  
Fax: + 255-22-2760552 | Telephone Number: + 255-22-2760548  
Email: info@osha.go.tz

Osha\_tanzania\_official
 Occupational Safety And Health Authority
 Tanzaniaosha
 Osha Tv Online

**TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD**



**Tender No. PA/001/2020-2021/HQ/G/185  
For  
Supply of equipment and materials for construction of  
400/220/132/132kV Chalinze substation  
Invitation for Tenders**

**Date: 25/03/2021**


1. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) has funds for implementation of various strategic projects during the financial year 2020-2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Supply of equipment and materials for construction of 400/220/132/132kV Chalinze substation which is divided into the following scope: -
  - Lot 1 for Supply of switchyard equipment
  - Lot 2 for Supply of Control, Protection and SCADA system equipment
  - Lot 3 for Supply of Steel Towers and Gantry structures
2. Each Lots has its own Tendering documents. Tenderer are allowed to quote for all Lots or Individual Lot.
3. The award will be made on Lot basis.
4. The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) now invites tenders from eligible Manufacturers/Authorized dealers of Supply of equipment and materials for construction of 400/220/132/132kV Chalinze substation.
5. Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
6. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering document during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below; -
 

The Secretary Tender Board,  
Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd,  
Street Address: Morogoro Road, Ubungo Area,  
Building/Plot No: Umeme Park Building,  
Floor/Room No: Ground Floor, Room No. G 04,  
City/Town: P.O. Box 9024,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
7. All Lots must be accompanied by a Tender Security using standard forms provided in section VIII of the tendering documents in bank guarantee or insurance bond in the amount of; -
  - i. lot 1 TZS 170,000.00
  - ii. Lot 2 TZS 50,000.00
  - iii. Lot 3 TZS 30,000.00
8. The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Tenderers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 43 USD (United States Dollar Forty Three) or equivalent amount in Tanzania Shillings (TZS) for each Lot. The method of payment will be through National Microfinance Bank (NMB) upon receipt of reference number from TANESCO. The document will be sent through e-mail of the applicant after certification of payment of subscription fee.
9. For foreign applicant's payment shall be made through the following accounts: -
 


| Currency | Bank      | Account       | SWIFT Code |
|----------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| 1 EURO   | CRDB Bank | 19J1043011100 | CORUTZ     |
| 2 USD    | CRDB Bank | 02J1043011100 | CORUTZ     |
| 3 USD    | CITI Bank | 0100235021    | CITITZTZ   |
10. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 23rd April, 2021 as detailed in Tender Data Sheet. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Tenderers' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below: -
 

Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd,  
Street Address: Morogoro Road, Ubungo Area,  
Building/Plot No: Umeme Park Building,  
Floor/Room No: Ground Floor, Room No. G 05,  
City/Town: P.O. Box 9024,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
TANESCO LIMITED



**TRISTAR ENERGY (TANZANIA) LIMITED**



**REST IN PEACE  
DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI  
1959 – 2021**

We, the Board of Directors, Management and Staff's of **Tristar Energy (Tanzania) Limited and Africa Fuels and Lubricants Limited**, following the passing of the 5th President of The United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, wish to extend our heartfelt condolences to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mama Janeth Magufuli, family and relatives, as well as the people of Tanzania.

We join everyone in mourning this great tragedy.

May his soul rest in Eternal Peace  
AMEN

Tristar Energy (Tanzania) Limited, Plot No.22, Block No.20, Nyerere Road,  
P.O. Box 50101 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Tel: +255222862083  
HQ: P.O.Box 51328, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tel: +97148997900, Fax: +97148841589  
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# The Guardian

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FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## JPM's burial climaxes shared grief, solidarity

**B**URIAL proceedings are taking place today at Chato in Geita Region, former President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli's home place and one of his presidential residences.

His passing has doubtless touched the hearts of an untold number of people at Chato, across Tanzania, in neighbouring countries and well beyond our borders.

The proceedings are thus a high moment in weaning the country off the shock and mental anguish arising from it, which has so far been softened somewhat by the stream of memorial services and funeral or somber music on airwaves.

The proper burial is in part a fairly secluded matter as the national funeral was done in the national capital, Dodoma, on Tuesday.

With most people wishing to bid farewell to the late national leader having done by viewing the body and usually showing one or other sign of salutation or expression of faith, today's ceremony will be much less protracted.

As is traditionally part of routine, the death of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces is a military itinerary in the first place, with civilians accompanying the armed forces in their task of taking the C-i-C's body to the precise place of burial. Today they are finishing the task with all the honours his position and rank deserve, as these proceedings are a token of solidarity and respect of institutions.

Living in peace and harmony is founded on respect for institutions, and here we should add a word to salute the steadfast observance of the faith on the part of the highest echelons of the military and police.

Their faith in institutions ensured that no elements came up in between with 'Plan B' that could upset the concord and harmony in the period between the sitting president's grave illness, death, announcement to the public and the swearing in of the former vice president to the position of commander in chief.

While it looks like it is simple procedure, it needed faith by security chiefs to be observed as set out in our country's Constitution, not think up other interpretations as some interest groups would want to do.

We have passed the test of solidarity of institutions at the time of the former president's death and have witnessed the public admission of that event and a

seamless swearing-in procedure led by the Chief Justice and by the heads of other pillars of the state.

Wed can now sit back and join President Samia Suluhu Hassan in her assurance that the country is safe, and that nothing will go wrong.

As a range of speakers have emphasized, those in top leadership are aware of what the nation expects from them, particularly relative to JPM's track record.

The bidding of farewell to the late national leader has cemented unity in the country in an unprecedented manner, first as leaders of the two sides of the Union organised this process mindful only of protocol as is usually the case and not the rifts and exclusiveness of old.

Much of this has to do with the late president's resoluteness to express even the societal needs of Zanzibaris, repeatedly proclaiming he was their leader as well.

All that the authorities need is to continue in this line, which has in a way been made easier by the nature of the constitutional succession, after a former Zanzibari minister and later Union vice president took office without dissent from public authorities on the Mainland. It all demonstrably illustrates faith in the union unreservedly.

That the final farewell ceremony and walk past the casket bearing the body of the late national leader was led by the Zanzibar Second Vice President was a telling epitaph of strides made in that direction.

It was an early fulfilment of a vow by the late Dr Magufuli to the late Zanzibar First Vice President, Seif Sharif Hamad, that he would welcome him to flag off development projects on the Mainland - to underscore the fact that we are one country.

Zanzibar's second VP comes from the ruling party, but the old divisions weren't just about ruling party and opposition but also Zanzibar and the Mainland virtually as mutually exclusive.

In that context, there is every reason to remain hopeful that nothing will go wrong, as there is unanimity of intention among leaders of the Union Government and the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government that a people-centred mode of leadership will continue to guide the conduct of top leadership. As they say, where there is a will, there is a way. May that indeed be the case in our country well into the future.



### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

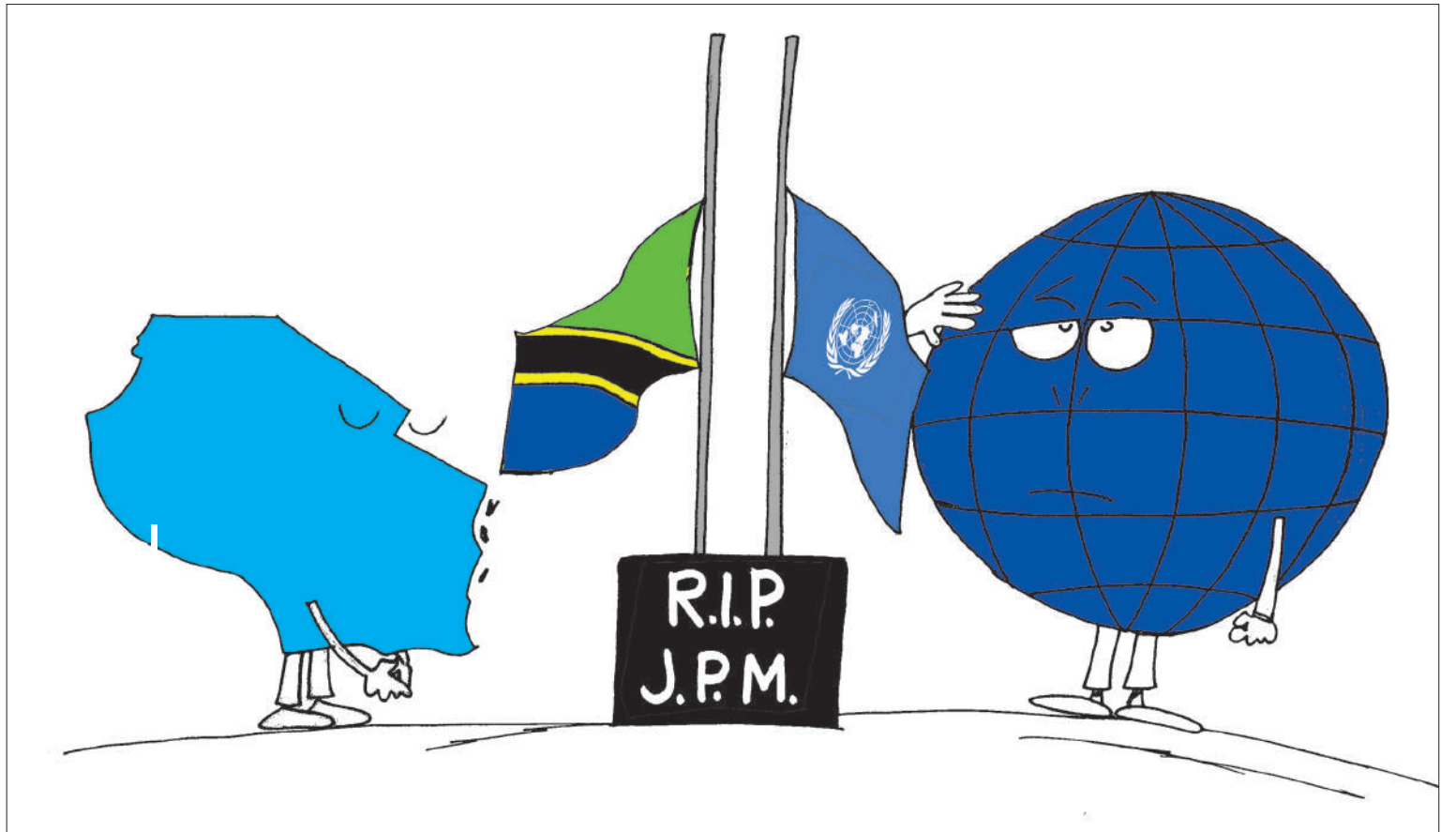
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By Omega Ngole

**A**N immense lot has been said about Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli (JPM),

Tanzania's President who passed away in a Dar es Salaam hospital on March 17. However, not much has been said about the particular role he has played in transforming and stabilising the country's higher education financing.

Paschal Laurent Yohana (24), a science teacher with a Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) degree, had hoped that one day would meet and thank the man who he believes made his dream come true. He will not - at least not in this physical world. This is because the man is the one many fondly refer to as JPM - and he is no more.

In a recent interview at his home village of Chokaa in Chunya District, Mbeya Region - some 890 km from Tanzania's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam - Paschal tells a story similar to numerous others one will likely hear from any village in the country.

"I'm thankful to the Government of President John Magufuli for supporting my university studies. I know for a fact that, without the Government loan I was issued with, my poor parents would not have afforded the costs," narrates Paschal, the seventh and last child of Chokaa small-scale farmers Laurent Yohana (79) and Judith Kamomba (65).

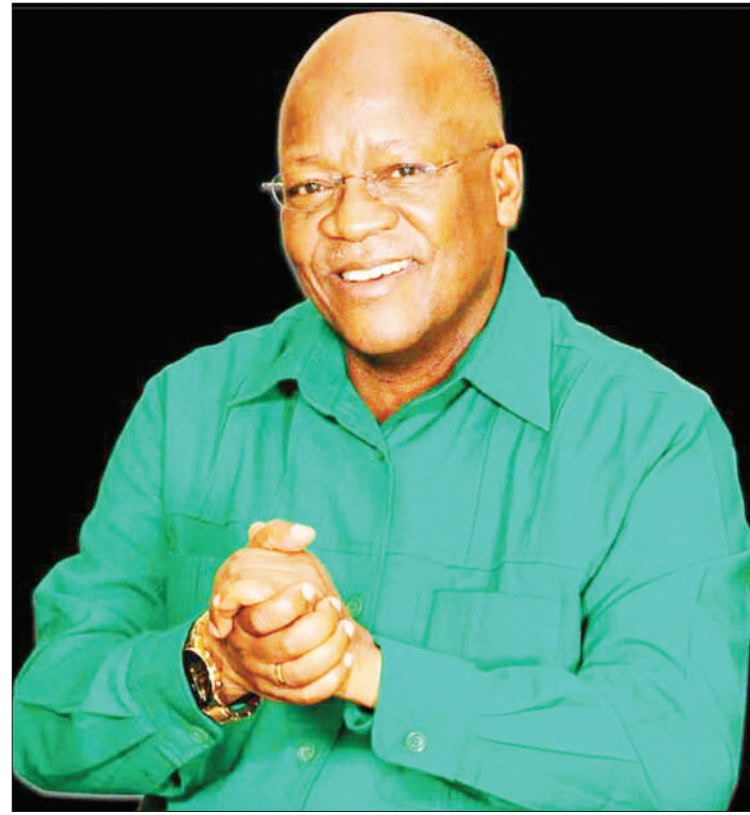
Paschal, a chemistry teacher who enjoyed 100 per cent financial support from the Government-owned Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB), joined Iringa-based Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) in 2017 and graduated last year.

He is among thousands of beneficiaries who have been supported by the Government at a total of 2.28 trillion/- (roughly USD 983.1 million) disbursed by the JPM administration since it assumed power in the first five-year term in 2015/2016 and right up to 2019/2020.

"I remember when President Magufuli visited our college in 2018 and categorically declared young Tanzanians from poor households were eligible for higher education loans... I hereby boldly testify that I have every reason to thank the JPM administration for keeping the word," said Paschal in an interview, his mother sitting nearby.

The mother soon chipped in: "We have never met President Magufuli, but we thank him profusely for facilitating my son's studies at the university. Considering the petty nature of our small-scale business, we just could never have adequately supported our only child (in his

## JPM's higher education funding agenda has produced miracles



education), who managed to go through to university."

For his part, the HESLB Executive Director Abdul-Razaq Badru remembers JPM as - in his words - "a transformational leader who was always keen on performance and results - not red-tape entailing needlessly prolonged processes".

"I joined HESLB in July 2016 when Dr Magufuli was only months in office and all of us really felt the heat and were already in transformation mode," he said in a recent exclusive interview.

"By merely noting his tone and directives on sustainability, we automatically resolved to re-engineer our business processes. We ended up collecting more loans calling for repayment and extending funding to more and more beneficiaries," he added.

According to the HESLB chief executive, when the JPM administration assumed office in 2015, an average of 2.1 billion/- used to be collected monthly, "but the President wanted to see the trend reversed so that collections would swell, and now the average monthly collection is TZS 16-17 billion.

He cited a specific case in point: "I recall in one event while officiating at an event related to the construction of hostels at the University of Dar es Salaam, where the President ordered that HESLB loan beneficiaries who were yet to pay up as agreed to present themselves and repay.

"He also demanded that we (HESLB) take legal action against defaulters, he was keen to see performance."

Badru explained that JPM's stood

firmly behind transformation, including amendments to the HESLB Act in 2016.

"The reforms were aimed at enhancing efficiency in the collection of due loans by specifically introducing new statutory roles with respect to both beneficiaries and the employers of all those who were enjoying government investment in the beneficiaries.

"Employers are now tasked to submit to HESLB lists of all new graduate employees within 28 days of recruitment for us to scrutinize. The beneficiaries, upon employment, are meanwhile obliged to inform employers that they benefited (from HESLB) loans and for immediate deductions and remittances to take effect," says Badru.

As a result, explains Badru, annual collections of due loans increased from 28.2 billion (USD 121,600) in 2016/2017 to 192.1 billion/- (USD 828,000) in 2019/2020, with the target for 2020/2021 set at 200 billion/-.

He elaborated: "The said amendments were not the only explanation for the rise in collections, as we also intensified inspection checks on employers and placed a premium on raising public awareness on the importance of loan repayment compliance - to both employers and individual beneficiaries, in particular. All these efforts sought to lead to concrete outcomes in line with the President's expectations."

Badru further noted that at HESLB the push for transformation ignited by the government headed by President

Magufuli, with support from then Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, also sought to vastly improve delivery of quality services.

He said that between 2016 and now, HESLB has increased the number of operational offices across the country from five to seven and embraced technology a lot more by introducing three new products to enhance service delivery.

The HESLB chief executive explained: "With the introduction of biometric-based Digital Disbursement Solution (DiDiS) in 2017/2018, about 85 per cent of students now receive funds in less than five minutes. Loan application and processing is 95 per cent automated and recently we have introduced online portal in our website for employers and beneficiaries to get loan statements and payment procedures."

In his tribute, Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students' Organisation (TAHLISO) chairman Peter Niboye meanwhile hailed Dr Magufuli for having students' interests "deep at heart".

He said: "According to our Constitution, he was the patron and we appreciate his commitment especially with respect to the boost in the students' loan budget from 347 billion/- (USD 149,600) in 2014/2015 to 464 billion/- (USD 200,100) in 2020/2021 plus the timely disbursement of the funds, which resulted in a calm atmosphere in the universities in the past five years." The increase in budget, Niboye said, allowed for a significant increase in the number of beneficiaries of Government loans in higher learning institutions from 93,100 in 2014/2015 to 145,000 in 2020/2021.

With JPM's passing, the nation stands reminded of the need for the sustainability of his vision under the leadership his successor, President Samia Suluhu Hassan, and whoever will serve as her lieutenants at all levels of leadership.

"Let me take this opportunity to assure you that nothing will be lost. Our country is in safe hands... My colleague, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi, and I will continue where he (Dr Magufuli) left off and we will get to where he envisioned Tanzania to be," said President Samia. Oh, how comforting!

• **Omega Ngole works with the Higher Education Students' Loans Board. He can be reached through Cellphone: 0757500800; Email: ongolet@heslb.go.tz**





**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
WIZARA YA UJENZI NA UCHUKUZI  
WAKALA YA BARABARA TANZANIA**



**LALA SALAMA MWANAMAGEUZI MAHIRI**



**HAYATI DKT. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI**

**1959-2021**

Mwenyekiti na Wajumbe wa Bodi, Mtendaji Mkuu, Menejimenti na Wafanyakazi wa TANROADS, kwa masikitiko makubwa tunaungana na Watanzania wote katika mazishi ya Hayati Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, aliyekuwa Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania leo siku ya Ijumaa tarehe 26 Machi, 2021.

TANROADS tutaendelea kukuenzi daima, kwa kuifuata falsafa yako ya 'Hapa Kazi Tu' na kufanya kazi kwa bidii, Juhudi, Maarifa, Kasi na Weledi Hususan katika utekelezaji wa miradi mikubwa ya Ujenzi na Uimarishaji wa Miundombinu ya Barabara, Madaraja na Viwanja vya Ndege kwa Maendeleo ya Taifa Letu.

Aidha, tunatoa pole nyingi kwa Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania Mhe. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Mama Janeth Magufuli na Familia, na Watanzania wote kwa msiba huu mkubwa wa Taifa.

Pumzika kwa Amani Shujaa wetu, Kiongozi Jasiri na Shupavu, Mwanamageuzi Mahiri, Mzalendo na Mwanamwema wa Afrika. Tutakukumbuka na Kukuenzi Daima.

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**MIUNDOMBINU BORA YA BARABARA NA VIWANJA VYA NDEGE KWA MAENDELEO YA TAIFA**



# Ugandan woman raises awareness on Down Syndrome with world commemorating Day

KAMPALA

AS the world commemorated the World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, a woman in the suburbs of the Ugandan capital Kampala is raising awareness about the genetic malformation in her community.

Rosemary Nambooze, 39, after going through the challenges of raising a child suffering from Down syndrome for over 10 years, decided to open up her home to children in her community who are facing the disability. "My son was born with a heart-related condition.

We had to visit hospitals constantly and adjusting to these challenges made me actually become aware of the deficiency of such services here," Nambooze told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement. It usually causes varying degrees of intellectual and physical disability and associated medical issues.

The World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

According to the Uganda Down Syndrome Association (UDSA), accurate figure on the prevalence of the malformation is not available although the number of babies born with the disability is estimated at about 1 in 1,000 births.

With Uganda's population of about 45 million people, this translates to about 45,000 people with the disability.

Experts say obtaining data on the prevalence of Down syndrome in Uganda is challenging because some health workers have not been



A child is assisted by health workers during a physical therapy session at Angel's center in Wakiso district, central Uganda, March 17, 2021. Angel's center was founded by Rose Nambooze, the mother of a child with Down syndrome. Staff members of the center take care of 100 children with Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, hydrocephalus and autism. (Xinhua)

formally trained to identify the disability. The other factor is due to sociocultural factors where communities associate children with the disability being a bad omen. Taking a step at a time, Nambooze opened

up Angel's Center for Children with Special Needs in her shanty house in Nansana Municipality. She started with four children aged between one year and 12 years.

After the number became overwhelm-

ing, she moved the child center to a more spacious place that accommodated over 160 children.

At the center, the children undergo physical therapy sessions, which include

speech and mobility training, games and writing. "We accommodate some of the children here, but others are taken by their parents and report back on a weekly basis.

We also limited the number of enrollment because we needed a small number that would be accommodative," Nambooze said.

When the COVID-19 pandemic broke out in the country a year ago, it hit her hard as all schools were closed under stringent lockdown measures that aimed at halting the spread of the pandemic.

"We used to get many volunteers and funders who used to come and help us out for various programs, but COVID-19 pandemic caused many of them to halt their journey," she said.

She said besides the effects of the pandemic, the center faces a challenge of lack of professional instructors. She said the children need a lot of attention and patience, especially during the learning session.

Despite the challenges, Nambooze is determined to push on in her efforts to raise awareness about the Down syndrome in her community. She plans to scale up community-based psycho-social support in her community.

"We need to go to the communities around and offer counseling services to parents who have children with Down syndrome. Some of them hide them under beds so that the society out there does not see them for fear of segregating them," Nambooze said.

She said she has a vision to integrate children with special needs into the community after acquiring practical skills so that they fully realize and utilize their potential in society. "We want to be a voice and break the silence of disability in communities through increasing access to information and service delivery," she said, noting that there is need to give disability a "human face". "These children remain beautiful, lovely and important to the social network of society," Nambooze said.

Michael Okiro, head of UDSA said the country continues to network and strengthen collaborations with partners worldwide to help in raising awareness of Down syndrome.

Okiro said through this collaboration many children with Down syndrome have had heart surgeries. "Throughout the year we have managed to get funders for heart surgeries for over 20 children," he said.

Xinhua

## TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LTD



Tender No. PA/001/2020-2021/HQ/G/184

For

Supply of Equipment and Materials for construction of 160km, 400kV Transmission Line from Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant to Chalinze

### Invitation for Tenders

Date: 25/03/2021

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) has funds for implementation of various strategic projects during the financial year 2020-2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Supply of equipment and materials for construction of 160km, 400kV transmission line from Julius Nyerere Hydropower plant to Chalinze which is divided into the following scope: -
  - Lot 1 for Steel Towers, Stubs and Tower accessories
  - Lot 2 for Conductors, OHGW and Ground Materials including Hardware and Fittings
  - Lot 3 for Supply of Insulators and Insulator Fittings
  - Lot 4 for Supply of OPGW including hardware and fittings
- Each Lot has its own Tendering documents. Tenderer are allowed to quote for all Lots or Individual Lot.
- The award will be made on Lot basis.
- The Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) now invites tenders from eligible Manufacturers/Authorized dealers of Supply of equipment and materials for construction of 160km, 400kV transmission line from Julius Nyerere Hydropower plant to Chalinze.
- Tendering will be conducted through the International Competitive Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 as amended in 2016, and is open to all Tenderers as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering document during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below; -
 

The Secretary Tender Board,  
Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd,  
Street Address: Morogoro Road, Ubungo Area,  
Building/Plot No: Umeme Park Building,  
Floor/Room No: Ground Floor, Room No. G 04,  
City/Town: P.O. Box 9024,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
- All Lots must be accompanied by a Tender Security using standard forms provided in section VIII of the tendering documents in bank guarantee or insurance bond in the amount of; -
  - lot 1 TZS 250,000.00
  - Lot 2 TZS 250,000.00
  - Lot 3 TZS 10,000.00
  - Lot 4 TZS 10,000.00
- The Bidding document in English may be purchased by interested eligible Tenderers upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 43 USD (United States Dollar Forty Three) or equivalent amount in Tanzania Shillings (TZS) for each Lot. The method of payment will be through National Microfinance Bank (NMB) upon receipt of reference number from TANESCO. The document will be sent through e-mail of the applicant after certification of payment of subscription fee.
- For foreign applicant's payment shall be made through the following accounts: -
 

| Currency | Bank      | Account       | SWIFT Code |
|----------|-----------|---------------|------------|
| 1 EURO   | CRDB Bank | 19J1043011100 | CORUTZ     |
| 2 USD    | CRDB Bank | 02J1043011100 | CORUTZ     |
| 3 USD    | CITI Bank | 0100235021    | CITITZTZ   |
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 23rd April, 2021 as detailed in Tender Data Sheet. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Tenderers' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below: -
 

Tanzania Electric Supply Company Ltd,  
Street Address: Morogoro Road, Ubungo Area,  
Building/Plot No: Umeme Park Building,  
Floor/Room No: Ground Floor, Room No. G 05,  
City/Town: P.O. Box 9024,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

MANAGING DIRECTOR  
TANESCO LIMITED

## China to implement urban renewal action plan for better living quality of residents

By Zhao Zhanhui, Han Xin

CHINA will implement an action plan for urban renewal, according to a draft outline for the country's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

Deputies and members attending the "two sessions," the annual meetings of China's top legislative body National People's Congress (NPC) and top political advisory body Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said the action plan is of significant importance for satisfying people's ever-growing needs for a better life.

"To implement the action plan for urban renewal is a prerequisite for cities to adapt to new development trends and achieve high-quality development," said NPC deputy Yang Weiguo, who's also the mayor of Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan Province.

As of the end of 2020, the percentage of permanent urban residents stood at over 60 percent, Yang said, adding that China has entered an important period of urban renewal, in which it should shift its focus from sole massive construction to working on both lines of renovating existing resources and restructuring incremental resources.

This year's government work report said that government investment will be weighted toward projects which will help significantly improve the people's wellbeing. Rebuilding and renovation of 53,000 old urban residential communities will begin, and the public service standards of county towns will be raised.

"The action plan of urban renewal is an effective solution to problems emerging amid urban development," said Wu Xiaodong, deputy to the NPC and mayor of Lishui, east China's Zhejiang Province. Cities emphasized a lot on construction speed and scale during past development, which resulted in promi-



Tourists are boating on the city moat of Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, to enjoy the night view, June 2, 2020. (File Photo)

nent problems of fragmentation of urban planning, construction and management, he explained.

The implementation of urban renewal action plan will bolster areas of weakness, largely improve the quality of cities, and comprehensively lift living quality, living environment and cities' competitiveness. China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development listed major tasks of urban renewal last year, including enhancing urban spatial structure, implementing projects of urban ecological restoration and functional maturation, advancing construction of a new type of urban infrastructure, and promoting innovation of old urban residential communities.

Lishui, by renovating urban villages, has not only constructed nearly 20,000 resettlement apartments, but also advanced the implementation of 75 major livelihood projects concerning education, healthcare and other issues in downtown areas, Wu introduced.

By promoting high-quality development, cities will be built into a beautiful place where human and nature coexist in harmony, Wu

added.

Urban renewal is a project for both livelihood and development. Statistics indicated that both China's urban GDP and fixed-asset investment accounted for nearly 90 percent of the country's total, and urban total retail sales of consumer goods also made up over 85 percent of the total. NPC deputies and CPPCC members believe that cities are an important sector for China to expand domestic market, bolster areas of weakness, facilitate investment, promote consumption, and build a strong domestic market.

Wu said the renovation projects for urban villages facilitated not only the construction of resettlement apartments, but also commercial complexes. Some nostalgic alleys have also been built into tourist sites, he added.

"We implemented community projects with market-oriented methods, which optimized the layout of commercial, community and industrial areas, significantly upgraded our industries, and created new consumption opportunities," he said.

People's Daily



# African elephant species now critically endangered

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING population declines over several decades due to poaching for ivory and loss of habitat, the African forest elephant is now listed as critically endangered, according to the update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The update also listed the 'African savanna elephants' as endangered. As per previous updates, the African elephants were treated as a single species, listed as vulnerable; this is the first time the two species have been assessed separately for the IUCN Red List, following the emergence of new genetic evidence.

In its statement availed to the media yesterday showed that the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List now includes 134,425 species of which 37,480 are threatened with extinction.

"Africa's elephants play key roles in ecosystems, economies and in our collective imagination all over the world. Today's new IUCN Red List assessments of both African elephant species underline the persistent pressures faced by these iconic animals," said Dr Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General.

"We must urgently put an end to poaching and ensure that sufficient suitable habitat for both forest and savanna elephants is conserved. Several African countries have led the way in recent years, proving that we can reverse elephant declines, and we must work together to ensure their example can be followed."

He noted that the latest assessments highlight a broad-scale decline in African elephant numbers across the continent. The number of African forest elephants fell by more than 86 percent over a period of 31 years, while the population of African savanna elephants decreased by at least 60 percent over the last 50 years, according to the assessments.

"Both species suffered sharp declines since 2008 due to a significant increase in poaching, which peaked in 2011 but continues to threaten populations. The ongoing conversion of their habitats, primarily to agricultural and other land uses, is another significant threat," he said.

Dr Oberle further said despite the overall declining trend of both African elephant species, the assessments also highlight the impact of successful conservation efforts. Anti-poaching measures on the ground, together with more supportive legislation and land use planning which seeks to foster human-wildlife coexistence, have been key to successful elephant conservation.

"As a result, some forest elephants have stabilised in well-managed conservation areas in Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. Savanna elephant numbers have also been stable or growing for decades especially in the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area, which harbours the largest subpopulation of this species on the continent," he noted.

Dr Dave Balfour, assessor of the African elephants and member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Elephant Specialist Group said: "While the results of the assessment place the continental population of savanna elephants in the endangered category, it is important to keep in mind that at a site level, some subpopulations are thriving. For this reason, considerable caution and local knowledge are required when translating these results into policy," said.

The decision to treat African forest and savanna elephants as separate species is the result of the consensus that has emerged among experts following new research into the genetics of elephant populations. Forest elephants occur in the tropical forests of Central Africa and in a range of habitats in West Africa. They rarely overlap with the range of the savanna elephant, which prefers open country and is found in a variety of habitats in Sub-Saharan Africa including grasslands and deserts.

The forest elephant, which has a more restricted natural distribution, is thought to occupy only a quarter of its historic range today, with the largest remaining populations found in Gabon and the Republic of the Congo.

"The recent decision to list both African elephant species as threatened (the African forest elephant as critically endangered and the African savanna elephant as endangered) will help to strengthen international efforts to control poaching and provide guidance on the geographical trends in intensity of threats. It will also support those countries and regions that have implemented successful conservation efforts through local knowledge and initiatives, so that a plan for continent-wide recovery can be successful," said Dr Thoma Lacher, IUCN Red List Committee and Texas A&M University Red List Partner.

"Conservation efforts to protect savannah elephants have seen many populations begin to recover, but sadly the same is not true for forest elephants, which remain under intense pressure from habitat loss and poaching," he said.

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (or The IUCN Red List) is an invaluable resource to guide conservation action and policy decisions. It is a health check for our planet - a Barometer of Life. It is the world's most comprehensive information source on the global conservation status of plant, animal and fungi species. It is based on an objective system for assessing the risk of extinction of a species should no conservation action be taken.



PanAfrican Energy Tanzania would like to extend its deepest condolences to all Tanzanians for the passing of

**His Excellency**

**President John Pombe Magufuli.**

His life and his legacy shall echo through history and reverberate through our future ambitions in Tanzanian.



**PANAfrican**  
Energy

**PANAfrican**  
Energy

In light of recent historic events, we at PanAfrican Energy Tanzania would like to extend congratulations to the Tanzanian nation's new President,  
**Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan.**

We look forward to her leadership and through her grace and courage, a continued upward trajectory of the oil and gas industry, as well as the flourishing partnership between PanAfrican Energy Tanzania and its host nation.



**Conservation efforts to protect savannah elephants have seen many populations begin to recover, but sadly the same is not true for forest elephants, which remain under intense pressure from habitat loss and poaching**



# Friendship Bench helps to tackle mental health challenges in Zimbabwe

HARARE

**R**OSEMARY Choga, a community healthcare worker, compassionately and attentively listens as a client narrated her problems.

The intimate exchange between the two, who were sitting on a wooden bench, went on for more than 30 minutes as the client offloaded her emotional baggage that she could not carry alone anymore. After the brief session, the visibly relieved patient thanked Choga and went her way, with her invisible mental weight no longer holding her back.

Choga is a member of the Friendship Bench, an organization that trains grandmothers who work as community health promoters for the city health department to provide mental health support to people suffering from common mental issues such as anxiety and depression.

The 63-year-old grandmother from Budiriro, a high-density, low-income township south-west of the capital Harare, has been trained to administer problem-solving therapy to patients, and she performs her duties with passion.

"Out of 10 patients, studies have shown that three suffers from mental health-related issues," Choga told Xinhua shortly after a session with a client.

She said psychological interventions through the Friendship Bench are helping address mental health issues such as depression, or known in the local Shona language as "kufung-ingisisa" -- an idiom for non-psychotic mental illness which can be loosely translated as "thinking too much."

"When some people are on the verge of committing suicide, if we speak to them, those thoughts might disappear," said Choga. "Many of our members were suicidal, but through talk therapy, support and monitoring, they recovered."

As the name "Friendship Bench" suggests, sessions often take place on wooden benches, which are usually placed at community health centers where clients can confidentially speak with grandmothers about their problems.

When clients come to the benches seeking mental health services, they are screened with a Symptoms Questionnaire of 14 questions to determine the state of their mental health.

This way insures that the grandmothers can help their patients to identify their problems and find their own solutions. Clients are usually offered about six counseling sessions that last for about 30 minutes each. Chengetai Nyamukapa, the country coordinator for the Friendship Bench, said the program came from the necessity to find a space to offer mental health assistance, which was not widely available at primary healthcare centers before.

"So what we do is we train cadres, mostly our grandmothers in terms of delivering this problem-solving therapy so that as they are in their communities they come across people with issues to do with mental health challenges," she said.

"When we train them on the problem-solving therapy, they are able to sit with their clients on the friendship bench, and on the friendship bench what they do is they create a safe space for the client and the client is able to verbalize or talk about whatever is affecting him or her."

In a country where clinical services for mental health care are extremely limited, the Friendship Bench's thoroughly vetted sustainable community-based psychosocial interventions have proved to be helpful in tackling mental health challenges.

With fewer than one psychiatrist per 1 million people and a similarly small number of psychologists, the Friendship Bench is there to plug the shortage of mental health support.

As an organization anchored in research, the Friendship Bench offers all the intervention programs based on empirical research that has been carried out and proven to be effective.

Unlike conventional therapy in which the patient is diagnosed with an issue and is then treated based on the finding of the diagnosis, Friendship Bench's psychological interventions aim at empowering clients to find their own solutions to their problems, Nyamukapa said. "We do this via various sessions."

A client can actually have from 2 to 3, or 6 sessions, depending on how they are able to find solutions to their own problems," she said.

To make the intervention more accessible to the public, the therapy is conducted in the local Shona language and is adapted to local cultural concepts. The non-use of medical terminology prevents stigma and encourages more people to openly seek assistance without fear of discrimination.

On why grandmothers make good psychological support providers, Nyamukapa said research has shown that working with grandmothers helps to alleviate problems related to depression.

"In terms of grandmothers, we are saying our grandmothers have got experiences, our grandmothers have got the wisdom and our grandmothers have been there and they are there within our communities, they are not going anywhere," she said.

Grandmothers are often best equipped to provide care because they have the patience to listen and guide their clients toward a solution bit by bit, unlike other relatives who tend to prescribe their patients what to do, Nyamukapa said. In addition, the grandmothers involved in the project not only provide a safe space to share problems but also empower their patients through solution-oriented discussions and guidelines. They ensure that clients graduate from that face-to-face intervention by encouraging them to join income-generating projects, Nyamukapa said.

Clients are invited to take part in the income generation component of the Friendship Bench, the peer support group called "Circle Kubatana Tose," where they are taught to make bags out of recycled material and learn to share their stories with others. "Why? Because we are saying they are in this environment where they understand each other. And as they make the bags, as they make the cakes, or as they are in the garden, you know, it's a safe space for them that takes them away from the problems that they have been facing," Nyamukapa said.

By promoting open communication, the initiative encourages people to open up about mental health issues thereby counteracting the stigma of mental illness. Since its formation in 2006 by Dixon Chibanda, a Zimbabwean psychiatrist, the program has trained more than 700 grandmothers to lend a supportive ear and to those dealing with mental illness.

There are now more than 120 Friendship Benches, dotted



Rosemary Choga (F), a community healthcare worker, speaks to a group of women during a meeting in Budiriro, Harare March 18, 2021. Friendship Bench, an organization based in Zimbabwe, trains grandmothers who work as community health promoters to provide mental health support for issues such as anxiety and depression. (Xinhua)

across healthcare centers in Harare, the neighboring town of Chitungwiza and in Gweru, and to date, more than 80,000 people have accessed treatment free of charge. The concept has now been expanded to other countries, providing a blueprint for alleviating challenges of mental health. The idea is being implemented in Malawi and Tanzania, and has been adopted even in developed countries such as the United States.

Nyamukapa said the Friendship Bench aims to have a bench within walking distance of every community. There's also work being done to train young people to offer therapy to their peers as a means of making the benches accessible to the young in colleges and universities.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the re-

sulting economic fallout have negatively affected the state of many people's mental health and created additional challenges for people already suffering from mental health illness.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for psychotherapeutic services has gone up significantly, Choga said, and the Friendship Bench is providing much-needed therapeutic care at a time when it's needed the most. Despite the risks posed by the pandemic, some grandmothers, who are at a larger risk of getting infected by the virus, still choose to continue providing health services to their local communities. Some services have moved to virtual platforms due to mobility and safety concerns.

Xinhua



**So what we do is we train cadres, mostly our grandmothers in terms of delivering this problem-solving therapy so that as they are in their communities they come across people with issues to do with mental health challenges**

## CONDOLENCES



**DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI**  
1959 – 2021

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Bank of Baroda (Tanzania) Limited are deeply saddened by the untimely death of our beloved President, His Excellency Dr. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI. Your visionary and passionate leadership will be remembered always.

REST IN PEACE.



## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



### THURSDAY

| 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                  |
| 7:10 AM   | MATANGAZO                      |
| 07.15 AM  | TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI          |
| 07.25 AM  | UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI           |
| 07.40 AM  | KUMEPAMBAZUKA II               |
| 08.00 AM  | HABARI NYEPESI                 |
| 08.10 AM  | KUMEPAMBAZUKA III              |
| 09.00 AM  | HABARI ZA BIASHARA             |
| 09.10 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  | YALIYOMO YAMO                  |
| 13.00 HRS | NEWS BULLETIN                  |
| 13.10 HRS | DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS            |
| 13:30 HRS | DJ SHOW                        |
| 16.00 HRS | NEWS BRIEF                     |
| 16.03 HRS | DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS            |
| 16.30 HRS | HOJA YA LEO                    |
| 18.30 HRS | DIRA YA DUNIA BBC              |
| 19.30 HRS | SPOTI LEO                      |
| 20.00 HRS | NEWS BULLETIN                  |
| 20.10 HRS | UCHUNGUZI KAMILI               |
| 21.00 HRS | NEWS BRIEF                     |
| 21.05 HRS | MALUMBANO YA HOJA              |
| 23.00 HRS | NEWS BRIEF                     |
| 23.03 HRS | AFRO TIZII                     |

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



| THURSDAY       |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 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  |
| 23:00-01:00HRS | MUSIC & JINGLES    |
| 01:00-05:00HRS | LETE RAHA(marudio) |



## EX-MAGOMENI QUARTERS RESIDENTS SAY MAGUFULI AN ANGELIC LEADER

By Francis Kajubi

**T**HE country's immediate former President John Magufuli was an angelic leader sent to defend and protect interests of the majority poor, ex-Magomeni Quarter residents Chairman, George Abel said.

Commenting on the sudden death of President Magufuli in Dar es Salaam last week, Abel said Magufuli who gave them new apartments to live free of charge for five years, will always be in their hearts. Some 644 families will benefit from the offer which the late president announced in 2018 when he laid a foundation stone for the construction of new flats to replace the single units.

"It's a pity that President Magufuli will not be there when we finally enter the new houses next month," he said while promising to keep praying for the country's fifth phase president to rest in eternal happiness.

Abel said President Magufuli's intervention in the dispute pitting the residents against Kinondoni Municipal Council over demolition of their single unit houses 2011, enabled them to get a fair deal which would not have been possible.

"We thank the late president for completion of the project that we have been waiting for anxiously since 2012. We are now looking forward to the day when we shall officially be given our apartments,"



New Magomeni apartment blocks in final stages of construction.

he added. Abel said the ex-Magomeni Quarter residents are looking forward to another unique and caring presidency under Samia Suluhu Hassan who took over from the late Magufuli last week. "We all know that she is aware of the project and hope that the five year offer granted by President Magufuli will be maintained," he noted.

The ex-Magomeni Quarter residents Chairman further explained that they have completed an exercise to verify documents before shifting into their new apartments.

"I am glad that most of the beneficiaries have their documents with all necessary details," he stated while noting that the residents have been subjected to a special seminar on how to keep amenities of the new apartments safe and clean.

The late Magufuli who was Minister for Works prior to becoming president, met the residents in 2016 when he promised them to occupy new apartments for free for a period of five years. President Magufuli whose government provided 20bn/- for construction work of eight apartment blocks in 2017, ordered Tanzania Building Agency to undertake the project which was due for completion last year.

Apart from the residential flats, the 20 acre plot will also host a commercial complex, primary school and a recreation park.

## How Magufuli surprised mining corporates with drastic reforms

By George Wachira, Nairobi

THE late President Magufuli of Tanzania will be remembered as the leader who was ready to "bulldoze" bureaucracy and status quo to promptly create socio-economic changes. With speed and resoluteness, he specifically changed the legal, regulatory, and fiscal frameworks governing the foreign dominated mining sector, all within two years of his presidency.

After South Africa, Tanzania is deemed the number two mining giant in Africa in key minerals like gold, diamonds, and nickel which are mostly concentrated in the north-western part of Tanzania, where global mining conglomerates are active. The mining zone also happens to be the late president's home area, perhaps advising his familiarity with sector issues and urgency to implement corrections.

Despite the large size of the mining sector in Tanzania, accrual of economic benefits to the country was deemed not significant enough. By 2017 Magufuli had delivered revised mining laws and regulations increasing gold royalties from 4 percent to 6 percent. Further, he introduced 16 percent government ownership of mining companies' stock without compensation, with the opportunity to purchase a further 34 percent ownership. Exportation of concentrates and unprocessed minerals was banned requiring that value addition processing be done in Tanzania.

Were these changes too drastic for foreign investments? This is a question inviting binary answers depending on who is asked. However, the mining investors appear to have finally assimilated the new changes and moved on with business. What is significant is that the Tanzania mining legal and regulatory precedents may influence how developing nations (including Kenya) negotiate future mining deals with corporate investors.

Magufuli was simultaneously reforming the natural gas sector where investment terms and conditions with multinational companies had already been concluded, only

awaiting final investment decisions for commercialisation of natural gas resources into LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) for exports.

The late president required that previous contracts be renegotiated and tightened for increased assurances and more revenues for Tanzania under a new Host Government Agreement which is yet to be finalised. There was also a new policy to prioritise natural gas production for local industrialisation ahead of LNG exports. This is indeed already happening with piped natural gas feeding power generating plants and large industries like cement, thus replacing imported fuel oil.

Legal backtracking in the Tanzania gas sector, may have caused multinationals to shift LNG investment priorities from Tanzania to the neighbouring Mozambique. This is happening at a time when global oil and gas fortunes are changing as the world enters transition to renewable energy. Yes, Tanzania faces the danger of missing immediate LNG investment opportunities.

The East African Crude Oil Pipeline pumping transit export crude oil from Uganda via Tanga, was a default opportunity for President Magufuli, mainly delivered by Total, the main investor in Uganda upstream, after Kenya failed to show flexibility on an alternative pipeline route through south of Kenya. Lamu port route was judged by Total to be insecure and with limited supporting infrastructure.

Perhaps the biggest regional shift delivered by Magufuli was the redefinition of diplomatic relationships between Tanzania and Rwanda which during the times of President Kikwete were sour. This has permitted Rwanda to redefine its transit preference through Dar Es Salaam Port, and this has negatively impacted Mombasa.

A Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) from Dar is expected to eventually land in Rwanda. Magufuli had already implemented an electricity powered SGR section from Dar to Morogoro funded with commercially backed capital.

For whatever reasons, real or imagined, the late Magufuli



Barrick Gold's Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in Shinyanga.

was not seen as truly warm towards Kenya. He put many irritating hurdles and nuisances to bilateral trade and immigration with Kenya. These are aspects which Kenya expects the new administration in Tanzania to address, for indeed they do divert essential diplomatic goodwill and efforts.

The socio-economic reform legacies of the late President risk being overshadowed by the impacts and toll of the Covid-19 pandemic in Tanzania when these are finally assessed. He may have seriously erred against science in his attitude and approach

to the Covid-19 episode, thus putting Tanzania and indeed neighboring countries to a high level of health risk. May the late John Pombe Magufuli rest in eternal peace, as we all heartily welcome Madam President Samia Suluhu Hasan and wish her every success in leading Tanzania to prosperity.

## World's first space hotel set to open in 2027

LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA-BASED company Gateway Foundation has revealed plans to build the first space hotel, expected to open in 2027. Called Voyager Station, the project will be built by Orbital Assembly Corporation (OAC), which describes itself as "the world's first large-scale space construction company." Voyager Station is described as "a rotating space station designed to produce varying levels of artificial gravity by increasing or decreasing the rate of rotation."

"It will be the first habitable space station with artificial gravity," states OAC's website. Expected to cover a total of 50,000m2 with a huge ring-shaped form, the project will include restaurants, bars and gyms as well as hotel rooms, accommodating up to 280 guests and 112 crew members.

"We're trying to make the public realise that this golden age of space travel is just around the corner.



An illustration of a room in the proposed first space hotel.

It's coming. It's coming fast," said John Blincow of OAC. "We cannot call SpaceX our partner, but in the

future we look forward to working with them." Construction of the Voyager facility is expected to start

in 2026, and the company intends to welcome its first passengers to the hotel in 2027.

Voyager Station will be composed of three main parts: Docking Hub (Inner Ring), Outer Ring Truss (ORT) and Habitation Ring. Docking Hub (Inner Ring) is the first "piece of Voyager to be built is an un-pressurised ring structure with docking arms and stabilisers designed to capture and lock in place a visiting spacecraft to unload passengers and cargo." "All passenger and cargo access to the station will be through a set of pressurised access tubes connecting the Docking Hub to the Outer Ring Truss," according to OAC's website.

The company said that "the outer ring truss will be built next. The truss is composed of a triangular unpressurised ring truss supported by a network of spokes of the Docking Hub". "The truss will be the backbone of the station and provide mounting for habitable modules, solar panels, radiators, and a rail transport system."

The Habitation Ring is the main part of the project. "Each module will have a pressurised volume of 1,809.5m3 and have two to three internal levels. Modules will come in a variety of configurations including: Air Water Power (AWP) module, Gymnasium and Assembly (GA) module, kitchen, restaurant, and bar (KRB) module, Crew Quarters module, which will be configurable for gravity and micro-gravity habitation." There will be also privately owned modules used for villas, hotels, or commercial activity, while government-owned modules are used for scientific research, training, and staging facilities.



## DR KALEMANI SALUTES DANGOTE CEMENT FOR INVESTMENT IN CNG STATION IN MtwARA

By Property Watch Reporter

**D**ANGOTE Cement has been hailed by Minister for Energy, Dr Medard Kalemani for investing billions of shillings in a compressed natural gas station to power its fleet of vehicles at its mega factory in Mtwara.

Speaking during the launch of the station last week, Dr Kalemani said the move will lower production costs for the cement manufacturer as natural gas is cheaper compared to diesel and coal which the factory has been using for many years.

"I would like to congratulate Dangote Cement's management for this important investment that also helps save the country foreign currency used to import fuel," he said during a ceremony to officially launch the facility.

He urged other investors to emulate Dangote Cement's move saying it helps wean the country from dependency on oil imports to power trucks and other motor vehicles. "The government will continue supporting investors who are committed to use natural gas as a source of energy," he added.

Briefing the minister on the investment, Dangote Cement's Country Manager, Alhaj Abdullahi Baba said in a speech that in addition to the CNG station, the company has converted a fleet of 250 trucks to use compressed natural gas instead of diesel.

"This is the first commercially scaled initiative of such a nature in East Africa," Alhaj Baba said adding that the



An aerial view of Dangote Cement's new compressed natural gas plant which was recently commissioned in Mtwara by Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemani. Photo courtesy of Dangote

CNG station, with a capacity of 5,000 standard cubic meters per hour (equivalent to 5,000 litres of oil) will be used to provide clean, safe and much lower cost fuel to its trucks.

"These trucks have been converted to run on two energy sources, diesel and CNG, at the same time. The station's capacity will be

sufficient to support the company's future fuel strategy including the use of 100 percent CNG trucks on the major dedicated routes," he added.

The cement manufacturer's chief further noted that a second station will be built in Dar es Salaam later this year. Tanzania, like

Nigeria, is endowed with large reserves of natural gas and its use for automotive applications has significant financial and environmental benefits.

Owned by Africa's richest man, Alhaj Aliko Dangote, the local subsidiary of Dangote Group of companies, the local company

become the first in the market to convert its fleet of trucks to use natural gas. Dangote is now Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation's largest private customer for gas and the country's second largest consumer of gas after state owned power utility, TANESCO.

## Helios announces key acquisitions to advance Africa's aspirations

LONDON

INDEPENDENT telecom infrastructure company Helios Towers has signed agreements with Airtel Africa to acquire its passive infrastructure operating companies in Madagascar and Malawi, and has entered into exclusive MoU for the potential acquisition of its passive infrastructure assets in Chad and Gabon. A statement released to the media explains that the transactions comprise four separate agreements, all of which are subject to required regulatory approvals.

"Two separate agreements, one for each market, for the acquisition of Airtel Africa's passive infrastructure companies in Madagascar and Malawi for a total expected consideration of \$108 million. These acquisitions are both anticipated to close in or around Q4 2021, subject to separate customary closing conditions including required regulatory approvals," reads part of the statement.



"In each of Chad and Gabon, the Group has entered into exclusive memorandum of understanding arrangements and, subject to obtaining a passive infrastructure licence

in each jurisdiction, is expected to complete the acquisition of Airtel Africa's passive infrastructure assets in those countries in or around Q1 2022," it continues. The telecom-

munications companies add that the transactions assets are expected to generate aggregated annualised revenues of US\$89-million and Adjusted EBITDA of US\$27-million (in the first full year of ownership), with further growth anticipated through 315 committed build to suits ("BTS") and colocation lease-up. They also state that the transactions - expected to be financed through Helios Towers' existing cash and debt facilities - represent 2,227 existing sites across Madagascar, Malawi, Chad and Gabon.

"Together with the committed BTS and acquisition of assets in Senegal announced on 12 August 2020 - which is expected to close in H1 2021 - increases Group site count to c.11,500 towers, nearing the Group's 2025 vision of expanding to 12,000+ towers. Long-term service contracts for an initial period of 12 years provide \$1.1 billion of future contracted revenue, which together with the previously announced 15 year service agreement with Free Senegal, increases Group contracted revenue to c.\$4.6 billion and extends average remaining life to 8 years," according to the statement.

It adds: "Strong hard currency Adjusted EBITDA mix at 85% for the port-

folio, reflecting EUR-pegged currencies in Chad and Gabon and USD-linked revenues in Madagascar and Malawi, which further strengthens Group Adjusted EBITDA in hard currency to c.70%." Commenting on the Transactions, Kash Pandya, Chief Executive Officer of Helios Towers, said: "We are delighted to announce these acquisitions which, alongside the previously announced entry into Senegal, means we will deliver on our 2025 ambition to increase our operational presence to at least eight markets well ahead of schedule and represents a significant step towards our target of 12,000+ sites."

"Additionally, as a result of service contract structuring and market selection, our hard-currency revenues and adjusted EBITDA will improve further, providing enhanced future stability for the business and complimented by the 12-year service contracts with Airtel Africa.

We look forward to strengthening our relationship with Airtel Africa and the other MNOs by delivering exceptional services levels in these markets over the coming years, driving the sustainable growth of communications across Africa," Pandya added.

NAIROBI

WITH 'boarding parents' that mimic the roles of a mother, a father, or a nanny; waking up a child on time, supervising bed-making, showers, and homework; and the leeway to pick children for home dinners, elite boarding schools in Kenya are increasingly becoming attractive to foreigners. To some, Kenya's elite boarding schools should start being marketed as the region's best, owing to the increasing number of international students.

At Brookhouse School Karen along Nairobi's Magadi road, foreign students account for 45 percent of 760 student population in both day and boarding school, from early learning, primary and secondary. The students are from Tanzania, Uganda and others beyond the region including Nigeria, Malawi, and the US.

"A good number of the boarders are from the region, or of parents who are in Kenya on international placements or are expatriates and hence choose to have their children in boarding," says Andrew Kimwele, Brookhouse Headteacher boarding.

"The boarding system is flexible. Students can choose to board weekly, experience boarding for a month, or be a full boarder. At the moment, we do not have weekly boarding due to Covid-19." The school offers boarding from Year 7 and Year 8, equivalent to Class Seven and Eight in the Kenyan curriculum system, to secondary.

Eric Mulindi, Brookhouse Head of Secondary School says what makes boarding schools attractive is the mentorship and games, which are outside the academics. "From 3.35 pm, students are exposed to mentorship programmes," he said.

## Boarding schools a new attraction for foreigners

With fees of about Sh2.5 million a year for full boarders, the schools offer a rounded, multicultural 'school of life' from mentorship from Kenya's top CEOs to games that almost guarantee them to be professionals in adult life.

Equity Group CEO James Mwangi, elite athlete David Rudisha, wildlife conservationist Paula Kahumbu, former vice-president Moody Awori, businessman Manu Chandaria, top athlete Tegla Loroupe and educator Mary Okelo are among the school's patrons. Dormitories

At the sleeping quarters, one room that is shared by two students is larger than most single rooms in the city, with each student having their own bathrooms, a study table and a wardrobe. The students are allowed to have home clothes, mobile phones and laptops with a connection to Wi-Fi.

"As a parent, you can come and pick your child for dinner any time. We don't have restrictions that we think are unnecessary. You have to make students feel at home," Mr Mulindi added. At St Andrew's Turi, it is a boarding school with about 600 students. Only five students board only for a week.

Of this, half of the students are locals with the rest distributed from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, Ghana, South Sudan, Malawi, Ethiopia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, the UK and the US. Boarding starts from the sixth year level to A' level. Angela Jackson-Mapetia, the Prep Admissions Registrar says the school has become a good fit due to many parents' work-life.

"Due to the position of Kenya in Africa, people are relocating here. To maintain a consistent education for their children, that is globally acceptable, they end up looking for an international school," Mrs Mapetia said, during a recent International Schools Fair at The Hub, Karen.

The Christian-run school has tutors assigned 10 to 12 children each to help them adjust to academics or those feeling homesick. There is also a married Christian couple to supervise every boarding house, matrons and house Chaplains. In the afternoon, the children engage in athletics, rugby, poetry, drama, and water sports.

"What makes this school attractive is the Christian element. We are not like a typical boarding school. We have other activities



Inside a hostel at Brookhouse School in Nairobi.

like Bible studies where everyone has to participate," Mrs Mapetia said, adding that the school also admits students from other religions. "Preps for junior school go for an hour a day while in senior school it takes like two hours," she adds.

By the time a child gets to Year 12 and 13, they live in their own room in a dorm that is like a residential flat, preparing them for college. The term fees for Year 5 to 6 under weekly boarding is Sh702,500 and Sh739,500 for full boarding.

International trips

Other than the international curriculum that makes students win scholarships and positions in top universities such as Princeton, Yale, and colleges in Canada, Japan and Spain, parents are keen on talent-building. St Andrew's Turi, for instance, is known for its choir which competes in South Africa. "We are leaders in me-school, an improvement model testing on the seven habits for personal growth," Mrs Mapetia said.

"As a Christian school, it is about training students to understand what it means to be a good citizen and a leader and develop those skills to incorporate Christian values in all positions." For Brookhouse, the school has in the past seen 12 schools from the UK visit to recruit children to study in their institutions.

"For the schools to come in search of students here, it means there is a market. When they visit, they realise they rather have their children here in Kenya than abroad," Mr Mulindi said. The school is owned by Inspired, a global premium schools group with over 70 schools globally from Switzerland, Belgium, and South America

and hence has to apply the same standards across the globe.

There are at least 150 international schools in Kenya, according to the Kenya Association of International Schools (KAIS), teaching both 8-4-4 or Competency based Curriculum (CBC) and international curricula of their choice.

"On average, international schools educate about 200,000 Kenyans. Further, the department of immigration processes on average 20,000 student passes every year, with the bulk of those being for students attending international schools," said Jane Mwangi, secretariat coordinator of the KAIS.

The lobby group for elite private schools states that the rise in the number of international students has been driven by increased expats due to its regional and logistics hub status. This also due to the high number of consulates, embassies and foreign-owned companies.



## TECHNOLOGY

## BRITAIN'S COMPETITION WATCHDOG CALLS UPON HOMEBUILDERS TO DROP UNFAIR GROUND RENTS

LONDON

**B**RITAIN'S competition watchdog ordered two of the country's biggest homebuilders to remove "unacceptable" ground rent terms from their contracts on Friday after property owners were left out of pocket.

The Competition and Markets Authority said it had written to Taylor Wimpey and Countryside Properties over concerns its use of terms that double ground rent every 10 or 15 years is a breach of consumer protection law. The watchdog demanded the terms were removed from existing contracts and must not be included in future.

"These ground rent terms can make it impossible for people to sell or get a mortgage on their homes, meaning they find themselves trapped. This is unacceptable," Andrea Coscelli, chief executive officer of the CMA said.

The decision came after the CMA started enforcement action against four residential housing developers in September 2020 for using the unfair contract terms and over "the possible mis-selling of leasehold homes." The government is looking to crack down on unfair selling practices after some home owners complained they didn't understand their property did not include the land upon which it stands.

Companies then charged hefty ground rents to buyers, who realised the fee doubled every decade making the property unsaleable in some instances. The CMA said the terms can also affect buyers' property rights and that if the house-builders did not address the concerns, further action



A Taylor Wimpey building site in St Albans, Britain. The homebuilder has come under fire over contracts that penalise buyers.

would be taken "including through the courts."

UK Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick said on Friday that the government asked the CMA to investigate the issue and he strongly welcomed their efforts to "bring justice to homeowners affected by unfair practices."

"This behaviour must end," he said. "The government is pursuing the most significant reforms to leasehold

in forty years, including by protecting future homeowners, restricting ground rents in new leases to zero and ending the use of leasehold in new houses altogether."

The two homebuilders can respond to the watchdog's concerns and avoid court action by signing formal commitments - known as undertakings - to remove the ground rent terms from their leasehold contracts.

The CMA said it would continue investigating two construction companies, Barratt and Persimmon, over similar concerns. Taylor Wimpey said it would continue to co-operate with the CMA "to find a satisfactory resolution within the required timescale."

## Saudi Arabia's PIF launches \$3bn tourism and infrastructure venture



Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is launching the Soudah Development Company that will invest \$3bn in tourism infrastructure and attractions in the mountain region of Asir. RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, is launching a new venture that will invest \$3 billion in developing tourism and infrastructure projects in a mountainous area of the Asir region.

The Soudah Development Company (SDC) will develop Soudah and Rijal Alma'a into a tourist destination for residents and visitors with the aim of contributing about \$8bn to the kingdom's gross domestic product by 2030, according to a statement announcing the project by Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, crown prince and chairman of the fund.

The planned developments include 2,700 hotel rooms, 1,300 residential units and 30 commercial and entertainment attractions. SDC will build various offerings across the hospitality, residential, commercial and entertainment sectors. The

venture aims to attract over 2 million visitors annually and create 8,000 direct and indirect permanent jobs by 2030. Saudi Arabia's PIF is a seminal part of the kingdom Vision 2030 initiative, which seeks to diversify the economy, nurture local industries, create jobs and reduce the reliance on oil revenue.

Last month the fund launched a five-year strategy, with the aim of doubling its assets to \$1.07 trillion and plans to invest a minimum of \$40bn a year into the domestic economy until 2025 and create 1.8 million jobs. It will contribute \$320bn to the kingdom's non-oil economy. The fund aims to grow assets under management to over \$2tn by 2030.

"Our investment in the Asir region reflects our confidence in the character of the location, which is a rich amalgamation of identity, heritage and experience," Yasir Othman Al-Rumayyan, governor of the fund, said. "SDC will provide yet an-

other remarkable destination in the diverse and growing portfolio of Saudi Arabia's experiences capturing the imagination of a broad range of investors and travellers."

Building up the tourism sector is a strategic imperative of the kingdom and the Vision 2030 aims to increase the sector's contribution to more than 10 per cent of GDP by 2030 from 3 per cent currently.

"SDC aims to create a roadmap to transform the region's vast public areas into a diverse landscape that organically and respectfully integrates yearlong adventure and culture tourism, while highlighting the region's distinct culture, geography and its verdant nature," the fund said.

"Preserving the environmental integrity of the destination will be a priority and the development will follow a rigorous regulatory framework and urban planning code."

The new Asir venture is among

other key tourism projects Saudi Arabia has undertaken like the Red Sea Development. That project covers more than 28,000 square kilometres including an archipelago of more than 90 islands. The first phase is set to complete by 2023, with the entire project due to be delivered by 2030.

The kingdom economic diversification also includes an expansion of entertainment complexes in different locations across the country to boost leisure tourism.

In 2017, the PIF set up the Saudi Entertainment Ventures Company, known as Seven, to invest and build 20 entertainment destinations, 50 cinemas and two large theme parks in prime locations across the kingdom.

The fund is also investing in mega-projects including the Qiddiya entertainment city featuring a Six Flags theme-park and major new tourism resorts on the Red Sea coast.

## Majority of home loan borrowers in Dubai in 2020 were end-users

DUBAI

AROUND 83 per cent of people in Dubai who took out a mortgage in 2020 planned to live in the property, according to a new report by mortgage consultancy Mortgage Finder. Covid-19-related travel restrictions also meant UAE residents accounted for 97 per cent of mortgage transactions in 2020.

"We anticipate that as travel restrictions ease and Covid-19 vaccine programmes are rolled out globally, we will see non-resident borrowers re-enter the market in the final quarters of 2021," Brendan Kennelly, senior mortgage consultant at Mortgage Finder, said. "Investors from the GCC and Europe, particularly the UK, are often keen to invest in the UAE."

The low interest rate environment and the 5 per cent increase in the loan-to-value ratio by the Central Bank of the UAE in March 2020 made mortgages more achievable for new property buyers, as well as those looking to refinance their home loans. Mortgage transactions for villas/townhouses and apartments recorded an almost even split, at 51 per cent and 49 per cent, respectively, the report found.

"This increase in popularity of villas/townhouses is something we see continuing throughout 2021. This will remain a lasting effect of the Covid-19 lockdown and movement restrictions, which saw the importance of having an outside area, like a garden or pool, become more prevalent," Mr Kennelly added.

The areas in Dubai that registered the most mortgage transactions last year were Dubai Marina, Arabian Ranches, Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Hills Estate, Jumeirah Golf Estate and Jumeirah Village Circle. Yas Island, Saadiyat Island and Al Reem Island accounted for the most mortgage-backed transactions in Abu Dhabi, the report found.

Mortgage transactions in Dubai increased 40 per cent in the second half of 2020

following the lifting of Covid-19-related movement restrictions. The highest number of mortgage transactions were registered in October 2020, Mortgage Finder, which is part of the Property Finder Group, said.

Finance for completed properties accounted for 65 per cent of overall mortgage transactions, while the alignment between property prices and final valuations was significantly closer for completed properties compared with those purchased off-plan. Only 16 per cent of valuations for completed properties came in below the property price, while 88 per cent of valuations for off-plan properties were below the purchase price.

"It is no surprise that properties purchased off-plan experienced a higher percentage of down-valuations. Buyers of off-plan properties commit to the purchase around two years prior to the final handover date," Mr Kennelly said, adding that UAE property prices have been on a downward trend in recent years.

The report also found that the average mortgage amount was Dh1.6 million and the average mortgage term was 21 years. For completed properties, the average mortgage amount was Dh1.72m, while for off-plan properties (finance upon handover), it was Dh1.39m.

The Emirates Interbank Offered Rate declined by almost 80 per cent in 2020, Mortgage Finder said. This impacted mortgage interest rates. Rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve also helped reduce interest rates further in the UAE as the dirham is pegged to the greenback.

"Given where mortgage rates are currently sitting, and following many consultations with our banking partners, this is not an area we anticipate can fall much further in 2021," Mr Kennelly said. "However, we see potential for variable rate mortgages to become more competitive in comparison to some fixed-rate products."



Dubai's skyline.

## China's steel production up by 13pc amid infrastructure surge

BEIJING

CHINA'S steel mills produced 12.9% more in the first two months of this year compared with the same period last year in expectation of strong demand from construction and manufacturing, Reuters reports, citing statistics published today by the country's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

Average daily output reached 2.97 million tonnes, up from 2.94 million tonnes in December 2020 and also up from the 2.58 million tonnes average daily output recorded in January and February 2020. The uptick comes as investment in Chinese infrastructure and real estate surged 36.6% and 38.3% in the first two months of this year, respectively, according to the NBS.

Investment in the country's manufacturing sector also rose by 37.3% in January-February from the same months in 2020. Reuters cited consultancy Mysteel, which calculated that production capacity of 163 major blast furnaces stood at above 82% in the period.

The surge comes after the Chinese government pledged to cut steel output to reduce carbon emissions, of which steel production accounts for 15% of the country's total emissions. The city of Tangshan, China's top steelmaking hub, pledged yesterday to cut emissions by 50% on heavily polluted days, Reuters noted.

In a first for Chile, China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) has won the concession to operate and upgrade a 195km toll highway in what is billed as the country's biggest infrastructure project and the first public-private partnership scheme awarded to a Chinese company.

Meanwhile Chile's General Directorate of Public Works Concessions said CRCC offered a Total Concession Income of some \$1.1bn (CLF 29.9 million), beating two other proposals submitted by Sacyr Concesiones Chile and Consortium Cintra-Intervial.



## WORLD

# N.Korea missile launch tests Joe Biden, alarms Japan ahead of Olympics

SEOUL/TOKYO

NORTH Korea launched two suspected ballistic missiles into the sea near Japan yesterday, underscoring steady progress in its weapons programme and ramping up pressure on the new U.S. administration as it reviews North Korea policy.

The apparent tests were reported by authorities in the United States, South Korea, and Japan, and coincided with the start of the Olympic torch relay in Japan.

They would be the first ballistic missile tests by North Korea in nearly a year and the first reported since U.S. President Joe Biden took office in January.

Analysts said the latest missile tests did not mean denuclearisation diplomacy was dead, but they highlight an inconvenient truth for the U.S. administration: Pyongyang's arsenal is advancing, posing new threats and increasing its potential bargaining power should talks resume.

"Every day that passes without a deal that tries to reduce the risks posed by North Korea's

nuclear and missile arsenal is a day that it gets bigger and badder," said Vipin Narang, a nuclear affairs expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States.

Yesterday's launches came just days after North Korea fired several cruise missiles in an exercise that Biden said was not provocative but "business as usual".

The Biden administration is in the final stages of its North Korea policy review, officials have said, and has been simultaneously signalling a hard line on human rights, denuclearisation and sanctions, while making diplomatic overtures that have been rebuffed by Pyongyang.

It would be a mistake for Washington to ignore the advances in North Korea's short-range missiles, especially after leader Kim Jong Un declared in January that his military had the technology to miniaturise nuclear warheads and place them on tactical missiles, said Markus Garlauskas, a senior fellow with the Atlantic Council and former U.S. National Intelligence Officer for North Korea.

"Downplaying North Korean ballistic missile



North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un

tests will not help U.S. diplomacy with North Korea in any way, and would only encourage North Korea to further test the bounds of what the new administration can accept," he said.

The missile launches highlight the threat North Korea's illicit weapons programme poses to its neighbours and the international community, the United States military's Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement.

The command said it was monitoring the situation and consulting allies. There was no official comment from the White House or State Department on the test.

North Korea typically confirms such missile tests - which it says are part of its sovereign right to self-defence - in state media the day after they happen.

Japan's coastguard said the first missile was detected soon after 7 a.m. and flew about 420 km (260 miles), followed by a second 20 minutes later that flew about 430 km.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff reported that two "short-range

missiles" were fired into the sea between the Korean peninsula and Japan from North Korea's east coast.

South Korean and U.S. intelligence agencies were analysing the data of the launch for additional information, the JCS said in a statement.

Narang said even short-range ballistic missile tests would be a "step up" from the weekend cruise-missile test and allow North Korea to improve its technology while sending a proportionate response to recent U.S.-South Korea military drills.

## REGIONAL REACTION

The launches overshadowed the start of the Olympic torch relay in Japan, beginning a four-month countdown to the summer Games in Tokyo.

"The first launch in just less than a year represents a threat to peace and stability in Japan and the region and violates U.N. resolutions," Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said in comments aired by public broadcaster NHK.

## Shootings pile pressure on Biden

ROME

THE second deadly mass shooting in the United States in just a week is putting renewed pressure on President Joe Biden to deliver on the gun control promises he made as a candidate.

A gunman on Monday killed 10 people, including a police officer, at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado six days after another gunman fatally shot eight people at spas in the Atlanta area of Georgia.

Authorities said on Tuesday the suspect of the Colorado shooting was a 21-year-old man who purchased an assault weapon less than a week earlier. Investigators have not established a motive.

Biden said at the White House on Tuesday: "I don't need to wait another minute let alone an hour to take common sense steps that will save the lives in the future, and I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to act."

The Democratic president called on the Senate to approve two bills passed by the House of Representatives on March 11 that would broaden background checks for gun buyers. In addition, Biden also called for a ban on assault-style weapons.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki told reporters that Biden also is "considering a range" of executive actions to address gun violence. Such actions would not require congressional approval.

Biden, who took office in January, faces an uphill battle in winning congressional passage of gun-related measures he pledged during his presidential campaign.

The US has the world's highest rate of civilian gun ownership, RAND Corp research shows. There were more than 43,000 gun deaths last year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, in a country with a gun fatality rate consistently higher than those of other rich nations.

"I've beaten the National Rifle Association nationally twice, passed meaningful gun legislation at the federal level, and I'll do it again," Biden said last year at one of several campaign events focused on firearms violence, referring to the Republican-aligned NRA gun rights group.

"As president, I promise you I will get these weapons of war off the street again," Biden added, referring to a national ban on assault-style weapons that lapsed in 2004.

The numerous mass shootings have failed to prompt lawmakers to pass gun control legislation, thanks in large part to opposition from congressional Republicans and the NRA. The right to bear arms is enshrined in the US Constitution's Second Amendment and many in the country cherish gun rights.

Still, nearly 70 percent of US citizens support adding "strong or moderate" federal gun restrictions such as background checks, a 2019 Reuters poll found.

## Congressional action

Biden's fellow Democrats hold slim majorities in the House and Senate. Most bills require 60 votes in the 100-seat Senate to move forward, a tough hurdle for gun control legislation considering that Republicans hold 50 of those seats.

Background checks are conducted to review a buyer's criminal and mental health history and other factors that could bar someone from buying a gun. A Senate panel held a hearing on gun issues on Tuesday. Any new gun control measures signed by Biden would almost certainly face a legal challenge that could reach the Supreme Court, whose 6-3 conservative majority is seen as sympathetic to an expansive view of gun rights.

As a candidate, Biden had pledged to hold gun makers accountable in the courts for firearms violence, to sign new laws restricting assault weapons and to expand background checks for gun sales.

After fierce NRA lobbying, Senate Republicans in 2013 thwarted legislation that would expand background checks, ban assault-style weapons and bar high-capacity gun magazines. The NRA since then has encountered internal upheaval and legal challenges.

Agencies

## Kenya orders closure of 2 refugee camps, gives UNHCR 2 weeks

NAIROBI

KENYA on Wednesday ordered the closure of two sprawling camps that host hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighbouring Somalia and gave the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) two weeks to present a plan to do so, the interior ministry said.

The Dadaab and the Kakuma refugee camps in northern Kenya together host more than 410,000 people, a small proportion of whom are from South Sudan.

Authorities in Nairobi first announced their intention to shut the Dadaab camp, which is closer to the border with Somalia than Kakuma, back in 2016, citing national security concerns.

Fred Matiang'i, the Interior Minister, has now given the UNHCR 14 days to draw up a plan for the closure of both Dadaab and Kakuma, his ministry said in a tweet, adding that there was no room for further talks on the issue.

Agencies

## Xi calls for continuous reform to healthcare system

"THE philosophy of putting people's lives first and foremost must be upheld," he added.

President Xi Jinping (pictured) has called for continuous reform to the medical and healthcare system to better protect people's well-being, saying, "Health is the most important indicator of people's happy life."

At a key meeting of the central leading group for deepening overall reform in March 2017, Xi praised Sanming's experience in medical reform, urging promotion of its practices nationwide.

Xi made the remark when inspecting a hospital in Sanming, Fujian province, on Tuesday. Reform of the healthcare system, rural vitalization and forestry reform were highlighted during the second day of his inspection tour in Fujian, which started on Monday.

At Shaxian General Hospital, Xi learned about local

efforts to reform the medical and healthcare system as well as how the reforms have benefited local people. He urged continuous efforts to improve healthcare services, building on existing achievements.

The hospital has jurisdiction over 12 grassroots branch hospitals and 128 village health clinic extensions. Its establishment was also one of the measures to reform the local medical and health system.

Xi has paid close attention to the progress of the country's medical reform. At a key meeting of the central leading group for deepening overall reform in March 2017, Xi praised Sanming's experience in medical reform, urging promotion of its practices nationwide.

During the inspection, Xi mentioned unbalanced development in the country's health sector. He also underlined the need to continue to intensify reforms of the coun-



try's medical and healthcare system and increase medical resources in the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25) period.

"The philosophy of putting people's lives first and foremost must be upheld," he added.

While visiting a rural property rights transaction center in Sanming's Shaxian district, Xi stressed respect for people's pioneering spirit in reforms, saying the people are the real heroes.

He hailed the active efforts made in the district in collec-

tive forest tenure reform, and said Sanming is an important birthplace of such reforms.

In the past, Chinese farmers were excluded from collectively owned forestry and shared few timber revenues. As a result, they lacked the incentives to protect forests, and timber theft was rampant.

To solve those problems, Fujian launched a reform to decentralize the collective forest tenure system in favor of individual or household management in 2003.

The move is considered the start of China's new round of forest tenure reform. It echoed Xi's instruction to develop forestry as an industry while protecting the environment when he worked in Fujian between 1985 and 2002.

Local authorities have explored a number of reform measures, including taking steps to encourage farmers to transfer their timberland to forest cooperatives and is-

suing more loans to forestry businesses to solve their financial problems.

The total output value of forestry reached 114.6 billion yuan (US\$17.6 billion) in 2019 in Sanming. The city's forest coverage is expected to exceed 80 percent in 2020, local authorities said.

Xi told officials that for major reforms, trials should be conducted first to gain experience before such reforms are promoted. The methodology of "crossing the river by feeling the stones" is relevant for institutional reforms and will continue to work, he added.

Xi also went to Yubang, a village famous for Shaxian delicacies such as pork wonton, peanut sauce noodles and over 100 other dishes, and called on local people to turn the restaurant business into a pillar industry to increase farmers' incomes and promote rural vitalization.

Xinhua

## Russian company seeks to start producing Sputnik V in Germany in summer

BERLIN

RUSSIA'S R-Pharm, the company which produces the Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccine, intends to launch jab production in Germany in summer 2021, the DPA agency reports, citing Alexander Bykov, the company's health economics director.

According to DPA, the production can be set up in June or July in Bavaria's Illertissen. "We are making every effort to start the production in summer. We already have equipment and staff

there," Bykov noted.

On March 4, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) reported that the rolling review of the Russian jab had begun. The process is expected to be completed by mid-May, clearing the path for the shot developers to apply for a registration certificate. "We are expecting a decision of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) because it will be a legal basis for us to start the production," the R-Pharm top manager underlined. Vaccine doses produced in Illertissen



can be shipped to EU countries.

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) hopes that the EU will consider the application exclusively through the scientific prism rather than a political agenda. According to RDIF CEO Kirill Dmitriev, the Russian

side expected other EU members to follow Hungary's suit and authorize the use of Sputnik V irrespective of the EMA conclusion.

Earlier, Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko announced that an EMA expert group would arrive in Russia on April 10 to supervise the Sputnik V trials.

On August 11, 2020, Russia became the first country in the world to register a coronavirus vaccine, the jab was named Sputnik V and was developed by

the Gamaleya Center. Sputnik V is based on a human adenoviral vector-based platform.

The jab has now been authorized in more than 50 countries around the world with a total population of over 1.3 billion people.

The jab's efficacy stands at 91.6%, which was confirmed in a review published in The Lancet, a respected medical journal. Sputnik V is ranked in the top three vaccines in the number of state authorizations obtained around the world.

Agencies

## China's democratic systems ensure people run the country

DATA unveiled during China's recently-concluded "two sessions", the annual sessions of China's national legislature and top political advisory body, have further shown the world the vigorous vitality and high efficiency of the country's socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics.

Statistics show that all 9,180 suggestions submitted by lawmakers to last year's annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, had been handled by late January, with feedback given to relevant NPC deputies. About 71.28 percent of the problems raised by NPC deputies in their suggestions have been resolved or given a schedule for solution.

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, has received a total of 5,974 proposals since its third annual session held last year, and 5,044 of them were placed on file. Of the 5,044 proposals filed, 99.64 percent have been handled.

No two political systems are entirely the same. A country must follow a political system and a development path that best suit its national realities and nature.

The path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics is the logical outcome of the evolution of history, theory, and practice as the Chinese people have long engaged in struggles since the advent of mod-

ern times. It is a requisite for maintaining the very nature of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and fulfilling its fundamental purpose.

Since the founding of the New China, especially since the reform and opening-up, the CPC has united with and led the Chinese people in making significant progress in developing socialist democracy, and opened up and kept to the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics, thus charting the correct course for achieving the most extensive possible people's democracy in China. Since China entered a new era of development, the path of socialist political advancement with Chinese characteristics has become wider, the system of institutions

through which the people run the country has been further improved, and the country's systems of socialist democracy have shown greater vitality.

Facts have proved that China has developed an institutional design that guarantees people's political participation to the greatest extent. China has upheld and steadily improved the system of people's congresses, a political system fundamental to the Party's leadership, the people's position as masters of the country, and law-based governance.

The system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation led by the CPC, as a basic political system in China, is a great political innovation made by the CPC, the Chinese

people, non-communist parties, personages without party affiliation, as well as a new type of party system growing from China's soil.

Meanwhile, the country has made the system of regional ethnic autonomy and the system of community-level self-governance system its basic political systems.

International observers believe that the fact that the Chinese people hold high expectations of the annual "two sessions" has fully demonstrated that China's institutional systems have been recognized by the people, and that China's socialist democracy is the broadest, most genuine, and most effective democracy to safeguard the fundamental interests of the people.

People's Daily



## After H&M, more brands criticised on Chinese social media over Xinjiang

BEIJING

MORE foreign retail brands were criticised on Chinese social media yesterday after Beijing's propaganda offensive against Sweden's H&M sparked by the company's expression of concern about labour conditions in Xinjiang.

Earlier this week, China denied allegations of human rights abuses by its officials in the western region of Xinjiang after the European Union, United States, Britain and Canada imposed sanctions on the officials.

Beijing hit back with retaliatory sanctions on European lawmakers, scholars and institutions.

Chinese state media singled out H&M on Wednesday for a statement that was reported by media last year in which the Swedish retailer said it was deeply concerned by reports of accusations of forced labour in Xinjiang, and that it did not source products from the Chinese region.

It was unclear why the H&M statement was back in the public eye.

A social media frenzy ignited by a government call to stop foreign brands from tainting China's name prompted internet users to search for other previously issued statements on Xinjiang by

foreign retailers.

Brands targeted by Internet users included Nike Inc, which in an undated statement said it was "concerned" about reports of forced labour, as did German sportswear firm Adidas.

Some internet users said they would stop buying Nike and will support local brands such as Li Ning and Anta, while others told Adidas to leave China.

Shares of Anta Sports Products Ltd jumped over 6% in Hong Kong on Thursday after issuing a statement saying it would continue to use cotton from Xinjiang. Li Ning Co's shares surged by more than 7%.

State tabloid Global Times reported that Spain's Inditex, owner of Zara, had "quietly removed" a statement on Xinjiang cotton from its English and Spanish-language websites on Thursday.

Inditex did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

### BOYCOTT

Internet users also targeted the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), a global group that promotes sustainable cotton production which said in October it was suspending its approval of cotton sourced from Xinjiang for the 2020-2021 season, citing concerns over human rights.



A woman enters a store of the Swedish fashion retailer H&M at a shopping mall in Beijing, China March 24, 2021. REUTERS

BCI members include Nike, Adidas, H&M and Japan's Fast Retailing. "If you boycott Xinjiang cotton, we'll boycott you. Either Adidas quits BCI, or get out of China," one internet user wrote.

Nike, Adidas and the BCI did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In response to the furore, H&M said on Wednesday it respected Chinese consumers and that it was committed to long-term investment and development in China.

But by yesterday morning, H&M did not exist on some Chinese store locator maps. Searches for H&M stores on Baidu Maps yielded no results. The Swedish clothing retailer's official store on Alibaba's Tmall,

an e-commerce platform, was inaccessible.

At a daily media briefing at the Chinese foreign ministry, spokeswoman Hua Chunying, when asked about H&M, held up a photograph of Black Americans picking cotton.

"This was in the U.S. when Black slaves were forced to pick cotton in the fields," she said.

Hua then held up a second photograph of cotton fields in Xinjiang.

"More than 40% of the cotton in Xinjiang is harvested by machinery, so the alleged forced labour is non-existent."

Overnight, People's Daily, the main newspaper of the Communist Party, rolled out a social media campaign in support of cotton sourced from Xinjiang. The graphic "I support Xinjiang cotton" posted by the newspaper on the Twitter-like microblog Weibo has since attracted about 2.2 million likes.

Japanese retailer Muji, owned by Ryohin Keikaku Co, told the Global Times on Thursday that it is a user of Xinjiang cotton, winning praise from Chinese internet users, who lauded the firm's "survival instincts".

Agencies

Putin says Russia attaches great importance to relations with Greece

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin congratulated Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on the occasion of Greece's national holiday, Independence Day, the Kremlin press office reported yesterday.

"In his congratulatory telegrams, Vladimir Putin stressed that Russia attaches great importance to relations with Greece based on long-standing traditions of friendship, cultural and spiritual affinity," the statement says.

The Russian president also said he was confident that the Russia-Greece Year of History whose opening is timed for the 200th anniversary of the start of the Greek people's national liberation struggle would contribute to strengthening mutually advantageous ties between the two countries, the press office said.

Greece will hold a military parade on March 25 to celebrate 200 years since the start of the country's national liberation revolution against the Ottoman Empire's rule that lasted four centuries. Russia, France and Great Britain helped Greece in its almost decade-long struggle.

A key role in the Greeks' struggle for independence was played by Russia's victory over Turkey in the 1828-1829 war when most of the Turkish army left Greece and was routed by the Russian troops in Eastern Anatolia and Bulgaria. Greece gained its autonomy in 1829 and full independence in 1830.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin will attend the military parade in Athens on March 25.

Agencies

## AstraZeneca says COVID-19 vaccine 76% effective in new analysis, to seek US approval

ASTRAZENECA'S said its COVID-19 vaccine was 76% effective in a new analysis of its U.S. trial - only a tad lower than the level in an earlier report this week criticised for using outdated data.

Interim data published on Monday had put the vaccine's efficacy rate at 79% but had not included more recent infections, leading to a highly unusual public rebuke from U.S. health officials.

The small revision to the efficacy rate will go a long way to putting the vaccine back on track for gaining U.S. emergency use authorisation - which it plans to seek in the coming weeks

- and help AstraZeneca in its efforts to dispel doubts about its effectiveness and side-effects, independent experts said.

AstraZeneca also reiterated that the shot, developed with Oxford University, was 100% effective against severe or critical forms of the disease. There have been eight severe cases - all among trial participants who received the placebo.

"The vaccine efficacy against severe disease, including death, puts the AZ vaccine in the same ballpark as the other vaccines," said William Schaffner, an infectious disease expert from the Vanderbilt University

School of Medicine, adding that he expects the shot to gain U.S. approval.

The latest data was based on 190 infections among more than 32,400 participants in the United States, Chile and Peru. The earlier interim data was based on 141 infections through Feb. 17.

It also said the vaccine showed 85% efficacy in adults 65 years and older, higher than the 80% rate reported on Monday.

AstraZeneca said the latest data has been presented to the independent trial oversight committee, the Data Safety Monitoring Board, and it

plans to submit the analysis for peer-reviewed publication in the coming weeks. "The primary analysis is consistent with our previously released interim analysis, and confirms that our COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective in adults," Mene Pangalos, executive vice president of BioPharmaceuticals R&D at AstraZeneca said in a statement.

The drugmaker noted there were 14 additional possible or probable cases to be analysed so numbers in later updates of the trial results may fluctuate slightly.

The updated 76% efficacy rate compares with rates of about 95%

for vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna in their trial data.

Experts have noted, however, that AstraZeneca's latest data is particularly significant because it was compiled after more infectious variants of the coronavirus became prevalent. "This appears to be a very effective vaccine with no safety concerns," said Paul Griffin, a professor at the University of Queensland.

"Hopefully, this should now give people the confidence that this vaccine is the right one to continue to use moving forward," he said, adding that he and his parents have received the vaccine.

Agencies

## Uighur Muslims protest in Turkey as Chinese foreign minister visits

ISTANBUL

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara yesterday as Uighur Muslims protested against the treatment of their ethnic kin in the far-western Chinese region of Xinjiang.

Beijing approved an extradition treaty between the two nations in December and with the deal awaiting ratification by Ankara's parliament, activists among some 40,000 Uighurs living in Turkey have stepped up efforts to highlight their plight.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said regional and international issues as well as bilateral relations will be discussed during Wang's visit. He is scheduled to meet Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan at 1100 GMT.

Uighurs' worries have been fuelled by Ankara's dependence on China for COVID-19 vaccines until now, having received 15 million doses from Sinovac Biotech and ordered tens of millions more. This week,

Turkey received 1.4 million doses of the vaccine developed by Germany's BioNTech, the first significant batch of



Ethnic Uighurs and activists attend a protest against the visit of China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to the Turkish capital in front of the Chinese Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, on Wednesday. REUTERS

non-Chinese vaccines.

Around 300 demonstrators gathered in Istanbul, chanting "Dictator China" and "Stop Uighur Genocide, Close the Camps". Some waved the blue-and-white flags of the independence movement of East Turkestan, the name by which it refers to Xinjiang.

Uighurs hold regular protests in the capital Ankara and the largest city Istanbul to protest against China's treatment of Uighurs.

U.N. experts estimate at

least a million Uighurs and other Muslims are held in detention centres in northwest China's Xinjiang. The United States said in January China has committed "genocide and crimes against humanity" by repressing Uighurs.

China denies accusations of abuses in Xinjiang, and has said the complexes it set up in the region provided vocational training to help stamp out Islamist extremism and separatism.

Cavusoglu has denied that

the extradition agreement between the two countries would lead to Uighurs being sent back to China, describing it as a routine accord similar to ones Turkey has with other countries.

A Chinese embassy spokesperson said last month that Uighurs who have been holding regular protests near China's diplomatic premises in Turkey in recent months were trying to deceive Turkish people and damage relations.

Agencies

## Conflicts, disease worsen hunger in 15 African nations

NAIROBI

ACUTE hunger is set to soar in 15 African countries in the coming months if there is no urgent and scaled-up assistance, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization and World Food Programme warned in a report issued on Tuesday.

Although acute hunger is due to rise steeply in most world regions, from Afghanistan in Asia, Syria and Lebanon in the Middle East, to Haiti in Latin America and the Caribbean, the majority of the affected countries are in Africa, the report entitled "Hunger Hotspots" said.

The two UN agencies added that political conflicts, the coronavirus pandemic and climate change will have drastic effects on the lives of millions of people in the coming months.

"We are seeing a catastrophe unfold before our very eyes. Famine which is mainly driven by conflict, and fueled by climate shocks and the COVID-19 pandemic, is knocking on the door for millions of families," said David Beasley, WFP executive director.

Among the African countries identified by the report as facing catastrophic levels of acute hunger are South Su-



Ethiopian refugees who fled the Ethiopia's Tigray conflict wait in lines for a food distribution by Muslim Aid at the Um Raquba refugee camp in Sudan's eastern Gedaref state. (File photo)

dan and Nigeria, with families in pockets of South Sudan already in the grip of, or at risk of, starvation and death, the report said.

While launching a humanitarian response plan for South Sudan last week, the UN asked for US\$1.7 billion in funding to enable UN aid agencies and partners to deliver lifesaving assistance to the East African country.

"Approximately 7.2 million South Sudanese have been pushed into severe food insecurity due to sporadic violence, extreme weather and the economic impact of COVID-19," Tomson Phiri, the WFP spokesman, said.

The FAO and WFP report said countries facing the highest risk in West Africa are Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Burkina Faso and Mali. In East Africa, South Sudan,

Ethiopia and Somalia face the biggest risk. Also facing threat are Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

"Targeted humanitarian action is needed to prevent hunger or death in these most at-risk situations and to safeguard the most vulnerable communities," the report said. In his statement at the launch of the report, Qu Dongyu, FAO's director-general, said globally, more than 34 million people are grappling with emergency levels of acute hunger, meaning they are one step away from starvation.

"The magnitude of suffering is alarming. It is incumbent upon all of us to act now and to act fast to save lives, safeguard livelihoods and prevent the worst situation," Qu said.

Agencies

## China confident in achieving social, economic development targets of 2021

CHINA'S top economic planner is confident that this year's social and economic development targets will be achieved under the support of macro policies and the efforts of market entities, said a press conference held during the "two sessions," or the annual sessions of the National People's Congress and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

In the first two months of this year, China's economy maintained momentum of steady recovery gained since the second quarter of 2020, said Ning Jizhe, vice chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) during the press conference.

The approved power generating capacity and number of rail-

way trucks loaded also increased 24.2 percent and 16.5 percent, respectively in the same period, Ning added.

During the Spring Festival holiday, the revenue made by key companies in retail and catering sectors rose 28.7 percent year-on-year, and 4.9 percent from that in the same period of 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. China's box office revenues hit 12.26 billion yuan (\$1.88 billion) last month, making the world's highest single month record in a single market. Besides, the rates of work resumption among invest-

ment projects and construction enterprises after the Spring Festival were also higher than those from a year ago.

The purchasing managers' index in the manufacturing sector, as well as non-manufacturing business activity index stood at 50.6 percent and 51.4 percent, respectively. The figures have been maintained above the threshold indicating an increase or decline in business conditions for 12 consecutive months.

Last year, China was the only major economy that secured positive energy, in which investment played

an irreplaceable role, Ning remarked. This year, the country will keep major economic indicators within an appropriate range, and will further give play to investment, he added.

Ning introduced that 610 billion yuan from the central government budget will be allocated for investment this year, 10 billion yuan more than that in 2020. The capital will be leveraged on key areas including old urban residential community renovation projects, issues of agriculture, farmer and rural area, water conservancy, major infrastructure projects, ma-

major national strategies, social causes, and ecological progress.

The country will issue special-purpose local government bonds totaling 3.65 trillion yuan this year, and priority will be given to fund infrastructure and public service projects with certain returns, such as those in transport, energy, farming and water conservancy sectors, Ning said.

The investment in high-tech industries rose 10.6 percent year on year in 2020, 7.7 percentage points higher than the total investment growth. This year, China will further enhance

macro-direction, better plan industrial layout, focus on energy conservation, new-gen information technologies, biology and new energy sectors, and expand investment in high-tech industries and emerging industries with strategic importance.

The country will launch a 14th Five-Year Plan for new infrastructure construction, vigorously develop digital economy, expand 5G application, and accelerate construction of industrial internet and data centers.

China will implement urban renewal strategy, advance renovation of old ur-

ban residential communities, and promote urbanization with townships as an important carrier.

Besides, it will advance a series of major transport and water conservancy projects including Sichuan-Tibet railway, Xining-Chengdu railway and Datengxia hydropower project.

Ning disclosed that China will further encourage non-governmental investment, keep expanding market access for private enterprises, support innovative development of the private sector, and encourage non-governmental capital in new infrastructure and new urbanization initiatives, major projects, as well as projects that bolster areas of weakness.

People's Daily



# SPORT



Ruvu Shooting head coach, Charles Boniface Mkwasa.

## Overconfidence costs Ruvu Shooting in VPL, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COAST Region's Ruvu Shooting head coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa has made it clear that the team's lack of good results in their recent games in the Vodacom Premier League has been brought about by his players' overconfidence.

According to the tactician, the Ruvu Shooting players have been way confident to the extent of making many mistakes.

Ruvu Shooting have won just one of their last four Vodacom Premier League games and conceded loss in the remaining three games.

As a result, Ruvu Shooting now sit in their longest-serving position, sixth, after accumulating 34 points in the 24 games they have played so far.

Commenting on the situation, Ruvu Shooting's Information Officer Masau Bwire said: "After a brief hiatus from the league to give room for international tournaments, we gave a short break to our team's players and held a technical bench session to assess our unsatisfactory performance during the day."

The official disclosed: "The coach made it clear to us that one of the challenges our players had was overconfidence, and a lack of focus, which brought about failure to make the most of the opportunities we were able to create."

"But this situation also affected our resilience, something that started to work after the team returned to camp on Tuesday last week," he said.

Mkwasa disclosed he is unhappy with his team's lack of consistency in the Vodacom Premier League and he will use the league's short break to make amends for all problems so as to regain their lost form."

He added he has admitted that they did

not start the league well this season but later they stayed compact and played at a higher level.

The gaffer pointed out his team lately have not had a continuation of their quality.

He said his squad is still good and the key is to increase the competition on the field to ensure they finish the league in the top four as they set the goals for themselves.

"We really don't have much progress in the league at the moment because every now and then we win one match and then the next two we lose something that is not good.

"During this short break of the league we need to look at where we are wrong and get back to our best by making sure we win most of our remaining matches to finish in the top four," he noted.

Mkwasa admitted that the league has been very difficult as it is on the brink and every team is fighting to achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

He stated: "Right now there are teams that are preparing to save themselves from the scourge of relegation, there are those who are vying for the title and top positions so it has made the league very difficult and in order to win you have to fight hard."

Mkwasa, popularly known as 'Master', has set a record of being among two local coaches to successfully lead an outfit into the top six positions in the Vodacom Premier League.

Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC, led by tactician Habibu Kondo, is placed fifth with 35 points after cruising to 1-0 win over Ruvu Shooting in the top flight's match at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 11.

Mkwasa is also the only native coach to have won the best coach of the month award so far this season, a prize he won back in November last year.

Ruvu Shooting currently sit sixth in the league log with 35 points after 24 games under their belt.

## Gomes confident Simba SC will beat AS Vita Club

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S Simba SC head coach Didier Gomes has stated that he believes his team will emerge victorious in their CAF Champions League's Group A game against Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita Club.

Simba are hoping to host AS Vita Club in the fifth tie of Group A set to be played in Dar es Salaam on April 3.

In the two teams' previous match, which took place in Kinshasa on February 12, AS Vita Club lost 1-0 to Simba.

So far Simba are leading Group A with 10 points, coming out victorious in three outings and registering one draw.

The competition's defending champions, Al Ahly of Egypt, are placed second in the group with seven points.

The AS Vita Club is positioned third with four points, whereas Al Merreikh of Sudan are at the bottom with a point.

"We know we have a tough game ahead of us against AS Vita, but I'm very confident my players will fight to get three key points here at home,"

the tactician noted.

Simba's midfielder, Lius Miquissone, noted his selection for the showpiece's best squad of the week signals his readiness to continue to fight for his squad in order to achieve the team's goals.

The midfielder has twice been named in the best squad of the week in a tournament organized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF).

He was first named along with Simba defender Joash Onyango and, in the second time, he was named along with Simba defender Mohamed Hussein.

Miquissone has scored two goals for Simba in this season's CAF Champions League group stage.

The midfielder scored his first when Simba took on Al Ahly, he as well drilled in for Simba in the squad's match against Al Merreikh, with the clashes taking place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The midfielder said: "It is a pleasure for me to be in the Champions League's best team and the way I'm mentioned adds strength to me to do more here and I am grateful for the support I get, the quest for success is in progress," he said.



## SPORTS

## Kagera Sugar head coach to punish undisciplined players



Kagera Sugar's head coach, Francis Baraza.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

KAGERA Sugar's head coach Francis Baraza recently had a meeting with the team's players, giving his charges new terms.

One of the conditions is slashing the salary of every player who would show misconduct, including refusal to turn up for training for no apparent reason.

Baraza joined Kagera Sugar recently as the squad's head coach from Biashara United, which has, since mutually leaving the coach, been placed fourth in the Vodacom Premier League's standing.

The Kenyan coach said he noticed that many of his new outfit's players were not giving their all on the pitch and he quickly sat down with them to plan various programs, which would lift them up and take them to a better position in the league standing.

Baraza is working hard to see to it Kagera Sugar battle it out in next season's domestic top flight as the team are positioned 13th with 25 points after playing 24 games, winning six, notching draw in seven and losing 11. "I have started my responsibilities within the team since last Wednesday and the first thing I did was meet the officials and players to get to know each other and keep things the same but later I only met players to build and plan strategies to ensure the team is a safe place," he said.

He disclosed: "The thing I noticed when I was following this team was the players not being in a position to commit on the field, their morale was low and that's why upon my arrival I just sat with them to find out their problems and how to do it to restore the team's quality."

He pointed out: "The main thing I told you is that every player should be committed and love to practice because I know most Tanzanian players are lazy, teams would practice one day and then rest for two days and then do it again."

He stated: "Now I have told them that I am not such a coach because I like players who love to train and work

hard on the field." He disclosed: "I have given them the conditions that anyone who does not practice without a valid reason will be deprived of their salary and I will also not tolerate those who show misconduct."

Baraza said he as well deployed the same conditions when he was coaching Biashara United and that is why the team are in a good position in the domestic top flight, apart from putting good showing.

"The fact is this side has good players with good standards, restoring their morale is the key."

## OBFT now awaits AIBA decision on Tanzania's boxers for Olympics

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHILE awaiting the decision of the International Boxing Association (AIBA), the Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT) is planning to send two boxers to the Olympics.

More than 11,091 athletes are expected to battle it out in the Olympics. They will compete in 33 different sports disciplines, including boxing.

Earlier, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced the withdrawal of boxing from the Olympics before restoring it to the African Championship, which took place in Dakar, Senegal in search of Olympic standards.

In the Dakar event, Tanzania's Michael Isendi and Yusuph Changalawe were eliminated in the quarterfinals.

Other two local pugilists were beaten in the preliminary stage of the showdown.

"Isendi and Changalawe are the ones we are giving us the opportunity to participate in the Olympics as AIBA will change the structure of boxers in member states to meet Olympic standards," the OBFT Secretary General, Lukelo Willilo, stated.

He said there is a process in place for AIBA to qualify boxers to participate in the Olympics due to their ranks, so if the program is completed, Isendi and Changalawe will be the ones set to hoist the country's flag in boxing in the Games.

"These two are the best in Tanzania, they are among the top 50 boxers, so if the AIBA program is completed, the



Magereza Boxing Club's Issa Athuman (R) trades blows with JKT Club's Boniface Mlingwa in one of this year's National Boxing Championship's fights, which took place at Tanganyika Packers venue in Dar es Salaam recently. Mlingwa won by points. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

country will be represented by two boxers at this season's Olympics," he disclosed.

He stated that while they are waiting for the deal, the national team boxers are also preparing for the World Boxing Championship, which are used as Olympics' qualifiers, slated to take place in May this year in France.

He noted: "Although it is possible that the French tournament will be cancelled, we will not stop preparing for it until the AIBA officially announces,

otherwise our training will continue for the current Olympics games."

After being cancelled last year due to COVID-19, Olympic Games will start on July 23 2021.

The IOC, IPC, Tokyo 2020, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Government of Japan agreed new dates for the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, in 2021.

The Olympic Games Tokyo 2021 will be celebrated from July 23 to August 8 2021.



## Africa Cup of Nations: Burkina Faso, Guinea qualify for finals

JOHANNESBURG

BURKINA Faso and Guinea booked their places at next year's Africa Cup of Nations finals as they secured a top-two spot in their respective qualifying groups on Wednesday.

Burkina Faso drew 0-0 away to Uganda to become the sixth country to qualify, joining holders Algeria, Mali, Senegal and Tunisia, who secured their berths last November, and hosts Cameroon.

Guinea joined them after beating Mali 1-0 in Group A with Seydouba Soumah scoring the winner 15 minutes from time.

Guinea, captained by Liverpool midfielder Naby Keita, went top with 11 points and out of the reach of third-placed Namibia.

Burkina Faso advanced to nine points in Group B, one ahead of Uganda and a further point clear of Malawi.

But with Malawi to host Uganda in their last qualifier on Monday, Burkina are guaranteed a top-two finish, irrespective of the result of their last qualifier at home to bottom-placed South Sudan.

Malawi kept their chances alive as they won 1-0 away to South Sudan on Wednesday. The game was played in Khartoum, the capital neighbouring Sudan, because the

stadium in Juba is still under construction.

A 4-0 win for Ethiopia over Madagascar moved them top of Group K, although they must still go away to the Ivory Coast in their last qualifier in a tight group.

Amanuel Gebremichael, captain Getaneh Kebede and Abubakar Nassir scored in the first half and Shimeles Bekele tapped home a late fourth goal in Bahir Dar.

A 2-0 win for Sudan away at Sao Tome e Principe put them level atop Group C with Ghana and South Africa, who clash in Johannesburg on Thursday.

Mohamed Abdel Rahman and Saifeldin Bakhit scored either side of the interval.

Byiringo Lague's 67th-minute winner ensured Rwanda moved into second place in Group F as they beat Mozambique 1-0 in Kigali.

The final two rounds of the preliminaries for the next Cup of Nations see matches played every day from Wednesday through to next Tuesday, finalising the 24-team field for January's tournament. The top two teams in each group, except that involving Cameroon, qualify.

(Agencies)

## Blatter banned by FIFA a 2nd time for financial wrongdoing

GENEVA

SEPP Blatter was banned for a second time by FIFA on Wednesday for financial wrongdoing, seven months before the 85-year-old former president's first ban expires.

Blatter has recently been in poor health and was put in an induced coma for one week after undergoing heart surgery in December, at the time when FIFA was deciding his case.

FIFA said its ethics committee banned both Blatter and former secretary general Jérôme Valcke for six years and eight months for self-dealing in awarding themselves contractual bonuses worth millions of dollars, mostly linked to staging World Cups.

The charges against both men under the FIFA code of ethics included conflicts of interest, receiving gifts and breach of their duty of loyalty. Valcke was also charged with abuse of office.

Wednesday's verdicts added to a slew of ongoing legal activity connecting the past and present leaderships of soccer's governing body.

Both Blatter and Valcke, who also face criminal proceedings in Switzerland and deny wrongdoing, will start serving the new bans when their current ones expire.

Blatter and Valcke were previously banned for six years and 10 years, re-

spectively, in separate cases. Blatter's first ban expires in October and Valcke's initial ban will be served in October 2025.

Both appealed against their first bans at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and can also go to the Lausanne court to challenge the latest sanctions.

In the new case, both men were each fined 1 million Swiss francs (\$1.07 million) and ordered to pay within 30 days. It is unclear what power FIFA has to enforce payment.

FIFA's allegations of self-dealing in bonus payments led to former finance director Markus Kattner being banned for 10 years last year.

Lawyers acting for FIFA detailed the allegations in June 2016 against the former top officials. They spoke then of "a coordinated effort ... to enrich themselves through annual salary increases, World Cup bonuses, and other incentives totaling more than 79 million Swiss francs (\$84.5 million)."

The investigations against Blatter, Valcke and Kattner were opened in September 2016 when the ethics committee was run by officials appointed in 2012 and later ousted by current FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

Blatter's lawyers argued last November the case should not proceed with officials appointed during Infantino's presidency.

## Cameroon deny Bayern star's 'wrong email' claim

YAOUNDE

CAMEROON have vigorously disputed the suggestion that Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting missed out on a national team call-up because of an administrative error, and have suggested the Bayern Munich striker was simply ignoring their attempts to contact him.

Last week, Bild reported that an administrative error from the Cameroon FA (FECAFOOT) sent Choupo-Moting's letter of invitation to the wrong email address. Choupo-Moting, 32, was among the players initially requested by coach Antonio Conceicao, but was eventually left out of the final list released by the coach.

When asked, Conceicao told the media that the player had not responded to his invitation. That characterization was met by a swift response from Choupo-Moting's father Camille, who told Naja TV that neither his son nor his club received the invitation.

"I was contacted by the association to find out what was going on. I contacted FC Bayern and they confirmed that they had not received the invitation," he told Naja TV.

"It looks like they sent it to the wrong email address instead. For me, that's a lack of professionalism.

"When sending invitations, be sure to send them to the correct

address. If that doesn't happen, I don't understand why it's the club's or Maxim's fault."

That claim has been disputed by the federation.

Cameroon head of communications Parfait Siki has made it clear that the federation have multiple ways of contacting players prior to making official call up announcements, and they followed those processes in their attempt to reach the former Paris Saint-Germain and Stoke City forward.

"The Cameroon Football Federation FECAFOOT made no mistake of the email address or contacts to the club and to the player," Siki told ESPN.

"We sent out invitations to all players including Choupo on the 5th of March 2021. We sent to clubs and players individually.

"For the particular case of Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, we got no reply. We called him and he didn't answer. Normally, we are supposed to have a reply within 10 days.

"We did a follow-up by calling him and sending his invitation via his WhatsApp contact, still no response."

Siki went on to suggest that this could have been Choupo-Moting's way of showing disinterest in making himself available for the fixtures, citing previous history with the striker.

# Bayern's Davies opens up about how his refugee background shaped who he is today

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

ALPHONSO Davies is on course to be one of football's biggest stars of the decade. At 20, the Canada international is already a Champions League winner with Bayern Munich and rated as one of the best defenders in the world, but it is his backstory, as a child born in a refugee camp to parents who fled from war in Liberia, which makes his journey to the top so remarkable.

Davies spent the first five years of his life as a refugee in Ghana before being re-settled with his family in Edmonton, Canada, where he learned to play football with Free Footie, an organisation which provided facilities, equipment and transport for children unable to afford kit to play.

But by the age of 17, Davies had earned a move to Bayern after making the breakthrough with the Vancouver Whitecaps becoming, at 16, the second-youngest player to appear in MLS after Freddy Adu.

Now, having become a global star with Bayern, Davies was appointed on Wednesday as a Global Goodwill Ambassador for UNHCR, the United Nations' Refugee Agency, saying: "I want people to know about the importance of helping refugees, wherever they are, in camps or cities, as they need our support to survive, but also access to education and sports, so they can fulfil their potential and truly thrive."

Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said Davies "personifies the power of sport," with the player determined to use his story to inspire those enduring the same difficulties he experienced as a child, but also lead the way in helping to eradicate the stigma felt by many refugees.

ESPN caught up with Davies in a round-table Zoom interview arranged by UNHCR to discuss his new role, in which he spoke candidly about his journey from troubled beginnings to being able to use his platform as a globally-recognised footballer to shine a light on the difficulties still being experienced by refugees across the world.

**Q. What was the message from your parents about your start in life?**

**A.** From what my parents told me, it was a tough road. It wasn't easy for them to leave a war-torn country in Liberia and then go to a refugee camp. There were struggles to find food, find water, and then having a kid as well, but they fought through it. They were happy.

**Q. It wasn't an easy choice for your parents, but an important one?**

**A.** The story my dad told is how it was during the war in Liberia. You knew there were only two opportunities: you either become part of the war or try to get out. I'm happy they chose to get out because my parents had no intention of carrying guns, shooting guns. That's not who they are. Everything in the refugee camp was a battle, it wasn't easy, but they were alive. I can just visualise the smile on their faces knowing we were going to have a better life once we got accepted in the resettlement program to go to Canada. They were so excited, it was an amazing relief.

**Q. How do you balance being an activist with football?**

**A.** I believe my personal story can help make a difference in people's lives. It makes me work harder and I'll never forget where I come from. Being a refugee is part of my story and I'm happy to share everything about it. It motivates me each and every day to be who I am, to reach out to people, to tell them that there's hope and help others be aware of what the situation is. I want to be a role model to other refu-



ALPHONSO DAVIES

gees as well. For them to look at me and see there's hope. To let them know if we believe in ourselves, we can make it. I really want to raise awareness and open people's eyes to the situation that is going on around the world.

**Q. There are many refugee crises ongoing right now, in countries such as Syria, Myanmar and DR Congo, so how can you use your experiences to inspire children in those situations?**

**A.** I want use my story to motivate people, to give them a little bit of hope that they can be what they want to be. There are lot of situations going on around the world, in a lot of countries, which are sad. I want to share my story, give my support and obviously make people aware of these situations as well. That's what I want to use my platform for. That's what I want to do and will do.

**Q. Can you help remove the stigma around refugees? There remains a lot of racism and negativity towards them.**

**A.** It's really important. Even though I'm a footballer, I still encounter racism. And even when it's not about the colour of your skin, you are looked at differently when you have been resettled. It's a tough situation to be in. We have to raise awareness, making sure people understand that we're all human beings, we're all in this world together and we should have respect and love for one another. But, I mean, it's tough stuff. There's people out there that really don't care. They say whatever they want to say and those are the people that we're trying to change, trying to open their eyes to see that no matter where you come from, we can help each other as much as possible.

**Q. How did growing up in Canada help shape your football career?**

**A.** When I moved to Canada, football helped me make friends. Football helped me express myself. Football did a lot for me. Playing the game in Canada -- it was amazing. That's where I made a lot of friends. That's where I became myself. It's amazing, that feeling you have playing each and every

day with your friends. I was a shy guy in school, but once I started playing football that's when I started making more and more friends. It shows you who you are as well. I mean, football is not just running around playing a game. It's a lot of other factors involved. Joining the Whitecaps, it was when I was with my team Edmonton Strikers, we went to Vancouver for a showcase and I think one of the coaches, or one of the scouts, saw me and contacted my coach at the time and told them they wanted me to come in for a chat.

So I went down, obviously. They liked what they saw and my mom wasn't really too fond of the situation -- going to Vancouver myself at 14 years of age. For my parents, schooling is a big one for them, they wanted me to have a strong education to be able to have something to fall back on. And I'm glad it all worked out. I promised my parents that I'd stay the same, I wouldn't change so they let me go. Everything worked out well at the end.

**Q. You are now the most recognisable Canadian athlete, fans buy Bayern Munich shirts with your name on, so how important is it to use your voice and profile?**

**A.** I am just using my platform to raise awareness of situations going on around the world. I am very grateful that people are wearing my jersey, looking up to me. It's amazing. Even now, I still look up to big athletes and listen to what they say, so I'm happy that I can use my platform and my voice to motivate young people raise awareness for situation around the world.

**Q. How do you discuss your role with teammates or opponents? Do you try to convince other players to follow your lead?**

**A.** There are a lot of other people there doing the same as me. For me, talking to my teammates, I think they know I'm now an UNHCR ambassador, but I haven't had the chance to talk to them yet. I'm still fairly new to it, but the opportunities will come where I can sit down with them, talk to them

and share opinions about the situation.

**Q. Does your refugee past have an influence on your career?**

**A.** Yeah, looking back on my story, for me it is my story and people see it as motivation. I believe my story can push others, young refugees or young footballers, to make it. All I want to do is give them hope and excitement to say that, if he can do it, I can do it. That's the message I want to give out to them. For me, every time I look back on my story, it helps me work harder every day. I know where I came from and where I am now and that is the motivation that I have in me.

**Q. You haven't forgotten your roots, but who helps keep your feet on the ground?**

**A.** I have quite a small circle around me and everyone within that circle wants the best for me. I think the main ones are my family -- knowing their story, where we came from, that keeps my feet on the ground. My mom always tells me to be a good boy, as she calls it. My friends too, they help me keep grounded, and my manager too -- he just tells me to remember where I came from. The support around me is amazing and everyone has their best interest in mind for me.

**Q. Do you have any plans to go back to Ghana?**

**A.** I haven't been back since I left, but that's definitely on my list. I want to go back to see where I grew up, where my family grew up and where I was for the first five years of my life. I'm excited that I'll be getting the chance to go back, although it's not possible right now with everything that is going on (with the COVID-19 pandemic). But in the future, I would love to go back and see the country.

**Q. Finally, what is your message to all refugees?**

**A.** I just want to say we support you and we're here. I am excited to join the programme to help spread the word and hopefully you guys can take my story as motivation in your own life. I am happy to be working with the UNHCR and excited to get things started.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Bayern's Davies opens up about how his refugee background shaped who he is

today

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Special Olympics Tanzania (SOT)'s Director, Charles Rays, poses for picture with a section of the country's athletes with special needs that battled it out in the 2020 Pan Africa Regional Games, which took place at Cairo International Stadium, Nasr City, Egypt. PHOTO: SOT

## Special Olympics association hails late Magufuli

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SPECIAL Olympics Tanzania (SOT) has hailed the departed President John Pombe Magufuli's contributions to education and sports among the intellectually challenged children in the country.

Charles Rays, SOT Director, said Magufuli introduced free food and education to all government primary and secondary school students.

According to Rays, the initiative motivated many mentally challenged students and their teachers to attend classes.

Magufuli is to be laid to rest at his home village in Chato, Geita today where people of all walks of life are expected to witness the burial ceremony.

The SOT official noted: "President John Pombe Magufuli will be remembered for introducing free food and education to intellectually challenged students and their teachers, this encouraged many students to attend classes without absconding."

"People should remember that many children with mental problems come from financially challenged families," he said.

He also said SOT will remember Magufuli for encouraging children with special needs to attend Special Olympics' activities which include training, competitions, and seeing to it teachers attend seminars and courses.

"When we went to the World Special Olympics finals in Dubai in 2019, the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) supported us" he added.

During Magufuli's term, SOT sent domestic athletes with special needs to the first-ever Special Olympics Pan-African Games, hosted by Egypt under the auspices of the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the Chairperson of the African Union.

More than 1,000 volunteers and 100,000 spectators were present in selected venues in Cairo to celebrate the accomplishments of over 1,000 athletes from 47 Special Olympics' Member Countries around the African continent.

Tanzania's athletes collected more than 10 medals at the event.

Rays said they are waiting for permission and support from the government, through the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, to host the 14th edition of the National Special Olympics in September.

He said the championships is expected to attract 420 athletes, 84 coaches and 40 volunteers, parents and guardians from all parts of the country.

The body, through work in sports, health, education and community building, is addressing inactivity, injustice, intolerance and social isolation by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities which leads to a more welcoming and inclusive society.

“

When we went to the World Special Olympics finals in Dubai in 2019, the government through the National Sports Council (NSC) supported us”

## KMC FC to resume training in Dar tomorrow

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DAR ES SALAAM's Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club is expected to resume training camp in Dar es Salaam tomorrow ready for continuation of this season's Vodacom Premier League.

The KMC FC players were given a break after the senior national squad 'Taifa Stars' went for preparations for the AFCON qualifiers, along with mourning former President, the late John Magufuli, who is expected to be buried in Geita today.

Christina Mwangi, KMC FC Information Officer, disclosed they are currently mourning and, once the former President is laid to rest, they will return to the pitch to continue preparations.

"At the moment all our players are on holiday, but they will return to normal duties tomorrow after the burial of our beloved President Magufuli," she disclosed.

The KMC FC official said they will return fast to make sure they do well in the remaining 10 games in Premier League.

She said at the moment every outfit in Premier League is fighting to make sure it finishes in good position in a bid to land an opportunity to take part in continental tournaments.

"We will fight in those 10 games even if we do badly then it should be a draw, not a loss, because those matches are the closing stage's outings and we have to fight hard," she said.

The KMC FC currently sits fifth in the league with 35 points after participating in 24 games.

Their last win came in a fixture against Ruvu Shooting, with KMC FC edging the former 1-0 at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Their next away match will be more of a home fixture to them, as they will confront the top flight leaders, Yanga, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city on March 7, pursuing participation in CAF club tournaments.

The Kinondoni club has been less consistent this season, with the team lacking consistency on away games and failing to win against the league giants in the first round of the league.

The domestic top flight's second round has provided them a chance to amend that.

After playing the league leaders, KMC FC will welcome league debutants Gwambina FC, currently sitting 11th in the league table with 27 points after taking part in 22 games with two games in hand.

Misungwi District-based Gwambina FC is fighting to ensure it efficiently represents the district in Premier League next season.



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) Football Club

## Sports, entertainment stakeholders turn up at Magufuli's burial today



Dar es Salaam's Kijitonyama choir performs at an occasion for paying last respect to the body of Tanzania's fifth phase President, John Pombe Magufuli, at Uhuru Stadium in the city last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA's number one sports supporter, the late President John Pombe Magufuli, is to be buried at his home district of Chato, Geita today, with people of all walks of life set to witness the burial ceremony.

Sports stakeholders and their counterparts in arts and entertainment sectors are some of the personalities, who will attend the burial of the former Head of State.

The former President died in Dar es Salaam last week and soon after his death's announcement by the Republic of Tanzania's new President Samia Suluhu Hassan, social media was awash with condolence messages from local and international people, institutions, companies, organizations, sports personalities and individuals.

Almost all local musicians composed and released tribute songs, describing Magufuli as a patriotic leader who will be missed by many.

Musicians of all genres composed songs to honour the departed President.

In his tribute song, musician Peter Msechu said the loss of the President is a big blow to the country. He said the country will live to remember his development policies.

However, he assured all people that the country is safe as it is in the safe hands of President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Musician Ali Kiba also did his tribute song, reminding Tanzanians to remain united.

Kiba used a popular speech by Magufuli which had the former Presi-

dent saying he is sacrificing his life for poor Tanzanians.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), Tanzania Netball Association (Chaneta), Athletics Tanzania (AT), Tanzania Open Boxing Federation (OBFT), Tanzania Hockey Association (THA), Wheelchair Tennis Association (WTT) and many others sent their condolence messages.

The sports associations stated the country has lost a person who really wanted to see sports develop and operate in a professional manner.

International sports organizations in the likes of International Football Association (FIFA) and Confederation of African Football (CAF) also mourned the passing of President Magufuli.

Senior national team 'Taifa Stars' coach Kim Poulsen said qualifying for the 2022 AFCON finals in Cameroon is the best way for the side to honour the President.

Local football giants, Simba SC, Yanga and Azam FC, too sent their condolence messages.

"The country has lost the person who really loved sports, forward ever, we will live to remember him," Yanga said in their condolence message.

The team said in an effort to honour the former President they will clinch this season's Vodacom Premier League's top honour.

Yanga players and the outfit's Chairman, Mshindo Msolla, joined other mourners to pay their last respect to the former President at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC stated it is sad that the country has lost a President who loved sports and the outfit promised to honour him by doing well in the CAF Champions League.

Azam FC also promised to do well both on and off the field to honour the fallen president.

During his five years and five months as President of the country, Magufuli was an avid sports enthusiast, as he twice turned up at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam to grace Vodacom Premier League clashes involving Simba SC and Kagera Sugar and Yanga versus Simba SC.

During the recent budget Magufuli announced that the government will sponsor national teams competing at international competitions.

Once the senior national team qualified for 2019 AFCON finals which was held in Egypt, he hosted the team at the State House, where he handed over 50m/- to the team and he moreover gave each of the side's player a piece of land in Dodoma.

Some of former national team players were also offered pieces of land in Dodoma.

The country also hosted the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations finals, with Magufuli presenting Ibn/- to back the country's preparations for the finals.

The national U-20 squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes' also qualified for this year's U-20 Africa Cup of Nations finals which was held in Mauritania.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**5 EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

**Friday Night Live** The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest Djs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

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