



## EMPLOYMENT



**GRADUATES TOLD TO VENTURE INTO AGRICULTURE PAGE 3**

## AID



**BANK DONATES CEMENT TO TEMEKE SCHOOLS PAGE 4**

## ECONOMY



**NEW STRATEGIES TO BOOST REVENUE PAGE 6**

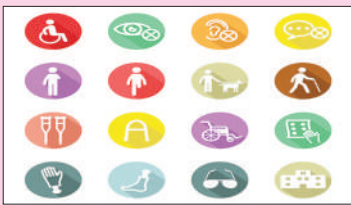
## DEVELOPMENT



**SOCIAL SERVICES IN NEW INVESTMENT AREAS PAGE 7**

## PWDS RIGHTS

Page 4



## TAX ON DRUGS

Page 5



## SPORT

Page 7



# JPM cancels Uhuru feast

## Diverts funds to hospital project

By Guardian Reporter



Works, Transport and Communications ministry permanent Secretary (Works) Elius Mwakalinga (3rd-L, gesturing) makes a point to Road Fund Board members during an inspection tour of road infrastructure in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has cancelled this year's Independence (December 9) celebrations and ordered that funds allocated for the event be directed to a new hospital in Dodoma.

A statement released yesterday by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the Head of State has decided the 835,498,700/- set aside for the December 9 celebrations to mark 59 years of independence be used to finance Uhuru Hospital construction in the capital, in Chamwino district.

Majaliwa spoke during a ceremony to mark 60 years of the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in Dar es Salaam. "The president has directed that Tanzanians spend the day by engaging in charitable social activities," he stated.

It is not the first time President Magufuli cancels Uhuru Day celebrations and ordering that the funds earmarked for that event be directed to Uhuru Hospital, as he first did so in 2018, where the money to be directed stood

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Police hold five relatives over child marriage bid

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

POLICE in Misungwi District, Mwanza Region, are holding a father and four relatives for conspiring to marry off his 14-year-old school dropout daughter.

Law enforcement officers pounced on Philipo Lutumula and the others, residents of Mwavile village in the district, on Wednesday after learning that they had already received dowry in the form of nine head of cattle and 100,000/- in cash.

Things turned upside down after a nurse who was on duty at Mwavile dispensary tipped off the police. The underage girl and her 40-year-old suitor had conducted health checks there and confided in her that they were formally getting married as the bride price was already paid.

Interviewed, District Commissioner Juma Sweda said that the government is determined to stamp out child marriage which is rampant in the district, as in other parts of Mwanza region and the Lake Zone as a whole.

He lashed out at parents and guardians in the district for the habit of using girl children as a quick way of getting wealth by dowry payment instead of working hard and educating the children.

"This is pure gender based violence. We have watertight evidence to successfully prosecute this case," he declared.

Speaking to this paper, the girl's father,

TURN TO PAGE 2

## TPSF, EU group ink key investment deal

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and the European Union Business Group (EUBG) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at developing activities to promote business development and investment.

The MoU focuses on developing research projects to outline positive interventions enhancing the country's business environment, in tax administration, labour and employment legislation, investment promotion, implementation of the business blueprint and its impact on the business and investment climate.

Speaking at the signing ceremony TPSF acting chairperson Angelina Ngalula said the pact shall identify

key areas for collaboration such as research, investment promotion and policy advocacy. TPSF and EUBG aim to jointly act as envoys to attract and facilitate foreign and domestic investment to contribute to economic growth, she said.

"We want to make use of all opportunities available to address issues to do with easing the business environment, and in the long run we hope to come up with solutions to most challenges collectively," she stated.

The MoU will among other things identify possibilities for joint training and education for EUBG and TPSF members on business practices in the various EU member states, she said.

The pact similarly seeks to support longer term research towards informed policy making and enable the two organisations to act jointly as advocates business environment research when interacting with

TURN TO PAGE 2



**Data show that the EU is the third largest investor in Tanzania, hence the MoU is open for review**

## NBS-OCGS readying for first gender study

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

PREPARATIONS are underway for a survey to set up the first Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), meant to ascertain the magnitude of inequality and how it can be addressed.

Opening the training of survey enumerators and supervisors here yesterday, Manyara regional commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti (pictured) said the objective of the survey was to generate appropriate evidence and understanding on the nature and extent of discriminatory



social institutions at the national and local levels.

In a speech read by Regional Administrative Secretary Misaile Mussa, the RC noted that the survey results will inform policy formulation and decision making in addressing gender inequality countrywide.

"The survey is vital to organise gender related statistics on the impact of norms, customs and laws so as to identify policy interventions that can most effectively foster gender equality and women's empowerment," he said.

Preparing the SIGI survey is among efforts initiated to produce a statistical base to help monitor the implementation of objectives set out in the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for

TURN TO PAGE 2

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DEVELOPER **RAMSUKI INTERNATIONAL**  
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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa presents a certificate to Nampak (T) Limited chief administrative officer Said Rabii at a 60th Association of Tanzania Employers anniversary event held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is ATE managing director Dr Aggrey Mulimuka. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Misaia

## Police hold five relatives over child marriage bid

FROM PAGE 1

Lutamula, said he did not take part in the dowry arrangements as he was tending to some errands outside the village.

He said he was informed by phone that the relatives on the side of the suitor were ready and his consent was required, which he gave.

"I thought she was grown-up enough to get married," he said.

The girl's uncle, Juma Lukuyege, said the idea seemed appropriate as the girl dropped out of primary school and had nothing to do at home.

"Because she was not in school, we as family asked her if she loved the man who asked for her hand in marriage and she answered in the affirmative," he said.

Data from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) indicates that Tanzania has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world. Two out of five girls get married before the reach 18 years of age, while up to 37 per cent of women aged between 20 and 24 get into marriage or union within that age bracket.

Last year, the High Court in Dar es Salaam declared as unconstitutional sections of the Marriage Act of 1971 which permit under-age marriage.

The 1971 legislation set the minimum marriage age for girls at 15 with parental consent and 18 for boys. It permitted the marriage of 14-year-old children when a court is satisfied that special, although unspecified, circumstances exist.

## TPSF, EU group ink key investment deal

FROM PAGE 1

decision makers and other stakeholders, she elaborated.

"This MoU is intended to be an enabling framework for closer collaboration between the two organizations and will guide the two parties in developing advocacy and business related activities in Tanzania particularly with the government ministries, departments and regulatory authorities," she stated.

In her remarks, EUBG Executive Director Cikay Richards said under the agreement EUBG will provide technical support to TPSF in key areas such as research, technical expertise, sustainability and business strategy and the business development.

TPSF in turn will provide insight and share experience on business investment and advocacy in the Tanzanian context from its wider role in the economy, she specified.

"Data show that the EU is the third largest investor in Tanzania, hence the MoU is open for review, also focusing on analysing areas of collaboration with other stakeholders working on facilitating ease of doing business," she affirmed.

The EUBG is a dedicated business group representing the wider interests of enterprises and investors originating from the 22 member states of the European Union and the EU Free Trade Area member states in their country operations, she added.

## JPM cancels Uhuru feast

FROM PAGE 1

at 995.1m/- that was set aside for Independence celebrations diverted to the Chamwino District Hospital project.

Also, in January last year, after receiving 2.415bn/- in dividends from telco Airtel, the president directed that the money be deposited in the project account.

Briefing the premier on the progress of building the hospital in Dodoma last month, Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Joseph Nyamhaga said that 4.4bn/- was availed for the project and 4bn/- had already been spent.

Majaliwa, who was unimpressed

by the pace of the works, went ahead to give the entities involved 15 days to complete the facility, namely the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) and Suma JKT. The idea was that the hospital be officially launched by President Magufuli as part of Uhuru Day activities.

"The speed is good but not enough; work day and night so that it is all done by December 5 and ready for official launch on December 9," he remarked.

The contractor was similarly directed to ensure that all construction materials made by Tanzanian industries such as tiles are sourced locally to boost local factories and create jobs.

## 'Tanzania's milk consumption still low though production up'

By Guardian Reporter

PRODUCTION of milk in the country has increased from 2.7 billion to 3.01 billion litres while milk drinking is reported to be still low.

This was revealed on Wednesday this week by Prof Elisante ole Gabriel, the Permanent Secretary (Livestock) in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries during his inspection tour of Galaxy Food and Beverages Limited in Arusha Region.

He said more efforts were needed to mobilise people to drink milk to improve their health.

"The country's milk consumption is 8 million litres per day. According to UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) every person is supposed to drink 200 litres of milk per year but a Tanzanian drinks at least 54 litres per year. I call all Tanzanians to increase their milk consumption to improve their health," said Prof Gabriel.

He called on the private sector, especially those in the dairy industry to continue supporting the government by

ensuring they add value to their products including their quality packaging.

He further said his Ministry was bent on improving livestock breeds to have better cows, including appropriate vaccination and dipping.

He also called on dairy factory owners in the country to ensure they attain milk production levels according to the factories' installed capacities saying it was unprofitable to have low milk production as opposed to its capacity as the government also stands to lose revenue from various levies.

Irfhan Virjee, Galaxy Food and Beverages Limited Managing Director told the PS that Tanzania was supposed to be the second country in dairy production in Africa as it was the second in the continent with a huge population of livestock.

He thanked the government for its efforts in improving the environment in the establishment of the factory and pledged that production will increase due to the availability of markets within and outside the country.

## NBS-OCGS readying for first gender study

FROM PAGE 1

instance Goal Number 5 which targets gender equality and women empowerment, which requires systematic production of gender statistics.

In this regard, the RC urged training participants to focus their attention on the program to ensure they dispense the required skills to undertake the survey, to ensure the quality of produced statistics.

Statistician General Dr Albina Chuwa said the implementation of the SIGI Tanzania Survey 2020 is yet another milestone to realize the quest for gender statistics, dearly needed for monitoring and evaluating national, regional and global development goals related to gender equality and women empowerment.

Her speech read by Ruth Minja, the Acting Director of Population and Social Statistics at the bureau said the survey will be conducted in 217 enumeration areas, with 182 locations in the Mainland and 35 in Zanzibar.

The survey is the first of its kind to be conducted in the country using a representative sample. It will involve collecting data by interviewing members of 4,340 households and 8,680 individuals, with the latter category set out as involving 4,340 women and 4,340 men.

In implementing these activities, NBS and the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) in Zanzibar are collaborating with different partners to ensure availability of core statistics, in terms of economic, social and environmental data to support policy formulation and development planning.

She therefore expressed

appreciation to UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for their support rendered so far to facilitate the holding of this survey.

Dr Mitra Sanadanda from UN Women said the UN agency has plenty to do to support member states to achieve gender equality. It has already achieved some milestones in illuminating the path of gender equality in Tanzania as elsewhere, she stated.

Since 2018, UN Women has been implementing the gender statistics project as part of the agency's 'Making Every Woman and Girl Count' program, conducted via NBS and OCGS.

She expressed satisfaction with the support rendered by sectoral ministries, actively contributing valuable inputs through inter-agency coordination meetings towards unveiling the survey project.

Expected achievements include establishing institutionalised gender statistics for the Mainland and Zanzibar, strengthening inter-agency coordination and developing a gender statistics strategy to be embedded in the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan II (TSMPII) and the Zanzibar Statistical Development Strategy (ZSDS).

Another achievement was setting a minimum set of gender indicators for the Mainland and Zanzibar plus SDGs indicators by the Household Budget Survey also conducted by NBS-OCGS.

Dr. Mitra told participants that the training was crucial for preparedness in data collection, needing sincere efforts enabling quality data collection from the field, across all regions in the Mainland and Zanzibar.



Tanzania Horticulture Association executive director Dr Jacqueline Mkindi (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an upcoming workshop focusing on ways to boost motivation for investing in business opportunities in horticulture in the country. With her are Tanzania Investment Centre mobilisation and investment director John Mnali (L) and Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania CEO Geoffrey Kirenga. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Ethiopian Jews flown to Israel amid Tigray conflict

TEL AVIV

HUNDREDS of Ethiopian Jews were yesterday airlifted to Israel - the first of several thousand waiting to emigrate there in a long-running saga.

It comes weeks after Israel announced plans to do so, after failing to implement a previous pledge to take in the community.

The immigrants are related to Ethiopian Jews brought to Israel decades ago in a series of secret operations.

But questions over their eligibility to settle in Israel held up

the process.

The issue gained greater urgency in recent weeks as fighting between the Ethiopian government and local forces in the Tigray region threatened to spread south to Gondar city, where most of the Jewish community are in transit camps.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his political rival, Alternate Prime Minister Benny Gantz, greeted the 316 new arrivals at Ben Gurion Airport.

"My wife Sarah and I stood there with tears in our eyes at the welcoming," Netanyahu said

in a statement. "when we see the immigrants, our Ethiopian Jewish brothers, leave the plane... come down and touch the ground, the land of Israel. "You waited so long to realise the dream and today it is being realised."

Immigration Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata - herself an Ethiopian-born immigrant brought to Israel in a clandestine airlift in 1984 - went to Ethiopia to oversee yesterday's transfer, dubbed Operation Rock of Israel.

The community, known as Falash Mura, are descendants of Jews who converted to

Christianity - many under duress - in the late 19th Century. In recent decades they have identified as Jewish again, living their lives in accordance with the faith.

However, unlike the Ethiopian Jewish community - known as the Beta Israel - previously evacuated to Israel, Falash Mura do not fulfil the criteria for automatic right to Israeli citizenship due to uncertainties over their ancestral lineage according to Jewish law.

The issue dragged on for years, until the government pledged in 2015 to transfer the whole community by the end of 2020.





Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority director Ndele Mengo (2nd-R) briefs Mbeya Urban legislator and National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (3rd-L, in glasses) during a tour of water sources in the constituency on Wednesday. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

## Govt to accomplish all stalled projects by June - PS

By Francis Kajubi

THE government yesterday firmly said that all stalled major water projects across the country will be accomplished by June next year.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Eng. Anthony Sanga said this in Dar es Salaam when opening one-day 4th National Multi-sectoral Forum dialogue on water resources management.

He said that since the Fifth-Phase government assumed power 90 percent of the 153 stalled water projects have been accomplished so far.

"Apart from accomplishing these projects the government has successfully connected clean and safe water to rural areas by 71 percent while the connection stands at 84 percent in urban areas," said Sanga while addressing water security stakeholders.

Themed: 'Accelerating the realisation of water security for all

through enhanced multi-sectoral dialogues' the dialogue brought together water stakeholders from the government, civil society organisations, private sector, and media practitioners to clearly highlight the dimensions and interactions amongst them regarding water resources management.

Co-organised by the Ministry of Water in collaboration with the 2030 Water Resources Group, World Bank, Global Affairs Canada, and Shahidi wa Maji, the forum on water management aims to enhance cross-sectoral coordination as envisioned in the country's Integrated Water Resources Management Development plan (IWRMD) by breaking down institutional silos.

The dialogue also targets catalysing the exchange of knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources required to improve the country's future water security.

The PS said apart from

discussing water security participants will discuss and agree to reposition mainstream media as part and parcel of ensuring the utility's security.

"The dialogue also intends to identify opportunities for the private sector in ensuring water security for all. You will have to reflect on the progress made so far and collectively agree on priorities and actions to be undertaken within a practical framework," said Sanga.

The dialogue forum that was launched in October 2017 came as a culmination of previous initiatives that took place between 2013 and 2016 where pilot annual forums on water were held.

Revealing success realised since the establishment of the forum, Dr George Lugomela, Director of Water Resources from the Ministry of Water said that for the past three years achievements made is the establishment of nine basin multi-sectoral forums, strengthened the relationship between the forum and creditors,

and improving transparency in public entities in issues related to water security.

Chairman of the National Multi-Sectoral Forum, Eng Mbogo Futakamba said this year's forum also intended to bring insights into the private sector's contribution towards water stewardship and strengthening water security since it linked to diverse technological innovators. It also focuses on highlighting ongoing potential contributions of the media towards supporting desired changes in society for achieving water security for all through educating the masses and raising awareness.

"Water cuts across all sectors and is fundamental to human and environmental wellbeing, as well as economic growth. Strengthening collaboration and partnership among all water users is, therefore, key to the performance and long term sustainability of all sectors of the economy," said Futakamba.

## Venture into agriculture, Pinda advises graduates

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has challenged graduates to change their mindsets and venture into agriculture, which has proved to have a wide range of opportunities.

He said labour market for the new graduates is increasingly becoming hard adding that without an open mind; the youth will keep on complaining while they are surrounded by potential opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, and Livestock.

Speaking at an Annual Learning Events (ALEs) organised by Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) in Dodoma yesterday, said that every year Universities in the country produced between 800,000 to 1,000,000 new graduates adding that without a mindset change, the graduates will continue roaming in streets with their certificates looking for white-collar jobs.

He advised the new graduates to join the agriculture sector and explore plenty of opportunities embedded in it that range from agricultural crops, livestock, fisheries to the value chain.

"Young graduates should open up their mind, There are a lot of agricultural opportunities in agriculture that can change the youth life and create employment only that you should produce quality products that meet local and international standards," he said.

He said challenges such as lack of capital, markets will always be there, the most important thing is to change such challenges into opportunities.

Don't be afraid to borrow capital from financial institutions because borrowing is not a sin, sin is to use the money for other purposes, he said.

Pinda also called for a new

approach towards the education system in Tanzania saying the current system of education does not produce job creators rather it creates job seekers.

Earlier on, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya said his office has opened doors for any person and organisations that need support and advice on agriculture.

He said the government has put in place a conducive environment in agriculture citing an example of ASDP II and The National Strategy for Youth Involvement in Agriculture that aims at facilitating and building the capacity of the youths for self-employment.

ANSAF Board Chairperson Edmond Ringo explained that the forum has been conducting the ALE for a couple of years now to learn and share recommendations to the government for implementation.

"This year's theme is unleashing youth employment in agriculture by leveraging on industrialisation. Different topics will be discussed and as usual, the recommendations will be presented to the government. We thank the past and present government for receiving and considering our recommendations," he said.

The Annual Learning Events involved ANSAF members, government ministries, Civil Society Organisations, and other partners with an interest in youth empowerment in agriculture and related sectors.

*"Young graduates should open up their mind, There are a lot of agricultural opportunities in agriculture that can change the youth life and create employment only that you should produce quality products that meet local and international standards"*

## Z'bar 2nd VP urges public officials to keep working hard despite challenges

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla has called on officials in the public institutions to continue performing their duties despite the challenges they face at their workplaces.

He said the shortage of working tools, poor office infrastructures in some institutions, and budgetary constraints should not be an excuse for forgetting their responsibilities expected by the nation.

Suleiman gave the remarks during his tour of institutions under his charge, including the Office of the House of Representatives at Chukwani and that of the Zanzibar Commission for HIV/AIDS at Shangani.

He said the government has decided to reduce unnecessary

expenditure so that the collected revenue should finance other essential projects for the community as pledged during the election campaigns.

He called on officials in the procurement sector and other administrative services to take caution by avoiding traps from some business people who are fond of selling sub-standard office equipment at high prices.

He said there were some officials who collude with unscrupulous traders in such deals which in the end see a lot of government funds allocated for the purchase of office supplies end in their pockets.

He praised staff and other workers in the Office of the House of Representatives and the Zanzibar Commission for HIV/AIDS for their patriotism in hard work.

He said the government was considering constructing a bigger

building that would cater to the needs of all the departments under the Office of the Zanzibar Second Vice President.

Touching on the issue of workers' rights, Suleiman called on departments' heads and public institutions to ensure the benefits of the staff under them are procured and paid in time.

He said workers' rights ought to be respected, and if these are not procured in time, then officials should discuss with the beneficiaries to avoid complaints.

Raya Issa Mselem, Secretary to the House of Representatives said the House leadership was now in the process of reorganizing the House meeting hall to enable it to perform in the desirable standards.

She said the reorganisation of the meeting hall includes fixing the members' address system as well as repairs to the leaking roof.



Lydia Ndebalema (R), a director with the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority, briefs Kinondoni district commissioner Daniel Chongolo (3rd-R) yesterday at the site where the agency is implementing a sewage system project to serve Mwananyamala referral hospital's maternity ward. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Nguvu Moja (SS) Kuwa Nasi - Yataka moyo

Nguvu Moja (SS) a local (Home Grown) Security Provider privileged to provide security to notable Barrick Gold Tanzania Mine Sites and to three other Extractive Mining Industries in the Lake Victoria Green Belt Zone; seek to employ energetic and competent Tanzania youths who have undergone Military training at National Service ie (Op Mererani and Op Magufuli); Retirees who served in Special Forces Units; Other Military Components, likewise, National Security and Defence Organs (i.e. Police etc) will be incorporated as per Local Content Regulation. **Age;** Not more than 45, to Retired militants will be critically scrutinized. Only those with required skills may be considered.

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Applicants should be healthy trustworthy, diligent, audacious with good conduct and no criminal record. Education Required - Completion of Tanzania Primary school to College Level.

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Cover letter be addressed to Human Resources Manager. Bring original certificate if contacted for interview.

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Humans Resources manager  
Nguvu Moja Security Services Ltd  
PO Box 105028, DAR ES SALAAM. Email: mojanguvu@gmail.com

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Application letters should reach Us before 30 December 2020 at 17 hrs 30
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for Interview

**NB** Beware of conmen NMSS does not receive money in exchange for a job. - Corruption is strictly forbidden. Any corrupt act must immediately be reported directly to TAKUKURU mob No (026) 2322003/2322695 or to mob No given herein. 0735862315 or 0721760716



COURSE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINING SECURITY TRAINING 2020



COURSE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND MINING SECURITY TRAINING 2020



By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to improve the teaching and learning environment at public schools in Temeke Municipality, the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) has donated 236 bags of cement for the construction of school infrastructures in the municipality.

The bags were handed over to Temeke Municipal Acting Executive Director, Deogratius Lukomanya by NBC Head of Corporate Banking Linley Kapya who pledged to continue backing government's efforts to improve education, health, environment and community development.

Kapya stated that the bank has a culture of sharing with the community part of its profits made from commercial activities and the donation is part of the bank's corporate social responsibility to contribute to the community.

He added that the bags of cement would help improve

# Bank donates 236 bags of cement to improve education in Temeke

the quality of education since giving the uncompleted schools a facelift would ensure a serene atmosphere for effective teaching and learning.

"Today we are sharing our profit with Temeke Municipal Council in a bid to improve school infrastructure in the municipality. As a financial institution operating in this area, we felt that it is crucial to support such an initiative so that we can give back part of the profit we make to the community," he said.

He pointed out that the donation was made after officials from the municipality approached the lender to request support to

repair and build rundown public schools in their area.

"The council came to us with various requirements from the schools amongst which were the construction of toilets. We felt that it is crucial to support such an initiative," Kapya noted.

In receiving the donation, Temeke Municipal Acting Executive Director Deogratius Lukomanya thanked NBC for the gesture. He expressed gratitude to the bank saying the municipality schools have projects which the cement will assist to complete.

He mentioned the schools that will benefit from the support and

the number of bags for each as Toangoma (20), Charambe (15), Faraja (10), Mbagala (20), Marten Lumbanga (10), Kibonde Maji (20), Kilimahewa (15), Kingugi (15), Ukombozi (20), Likwati (15), Yombo Dovyia (20), Kizuiyani (36) and Nzasa (20) primary schools.

Lukomanya called on all money lending institutions in the district

to come on board and support the education sector since most of their clients are teachers.

"We take seriously your level of support because there is a lot of reconstruction going on at the mentioned schools. On behalf of the Temeke Municipal Council and the government, we thank you for your gesture of support."

"Further, I call on private companies, non-governmental organisations, and wealthy individuals to assist public schools in our municipality," he added.

He further appealed to parents and guardians to take advantage of the free education system and send children of school-going age to school.



Linley Kapya (R), NBC Bank's head of corporate banking, pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a consignment of cement to Temeke municipal acting executive director Deogratius Lukomanya for use in improving the learning environment in public schools in Temeke municipality. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FEED THE CHILDREN		
Feed the Children Tanzania		
Statement of income and expenditure for the Quarter ended 30th September 2020		
	30-Sep-20 TZS	30-Jun-20 TZS
<b>Income</b>		
Feed the children HQ	470,885,669	1,753,675,345
<b>Expense</b>		
Salaries	169,662,312	552,163,354
Management Support.	-	168,960,000
Benefits	36,375,670	157,665,732
Advertising	-	517,000
Publicity-Public Relations	-	3,375,000
Bank Charges	951,195	3,328,842
Staff Welfare	-	12,891,000
Contract and casual labour	2,460,000	10,822,000
Depreciation	4,540,826	25,817,477
Insurance	976,912	4,720,216
Fees, Taxes, Licenses	750,000	1,550,000
Seminars & Conferences	320,000	4,893,800
Rent	18,711,000	74,397,272
Office Supplies	5,577,700	22,731,060
Small Office Equipment	-	9,750,000
Other Supplies	2,856,500	5,387,600
Postage & Delivery	429,578	1,103,787
Professional Services	-	35,366,758
Subscriptions & Memberships	300,000	232,000
Printing & Production	-	4,324,300
Maintenance & Repairs	8,843,762	7,985,100
Cleaning & Sanitation (office)	3,795,000	16,784,000
Security	3,423,800	21,646,675
Communications	7,023,744	32,301,020
Vehicle Maintenance	31,376,928	82,517,136
Staff Training	-	4,354,604
Travel Expenses	10,022,100	92,642,800
Staff Uniforms	-	3,321,700
Utilities	1,860,000	10,087,000
CHSP Letters & Artwork	3,079,140	9,052,700
Monitoring and Evaluation	35,460,000	41,813,150
Meal Support	29,921,000	101,396,799
Educational Assistance	8,352,500	20,246,736
Protection & Participation	19,767,500	10,640,900
Trainings and Seminars	12,493,800	139,862,190
Livelihood Development & Mgmt	51,554,702	59,025,640
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>470,885,669</b>	<b>1,753,675,345</b>
Surplus(Deficit)	-	-

## Statement of Cash Flow for the Quarter ended 30th September 2020

	30-Sep-20 TZS	30-Jun-20 TZS
(Deficit)/Surplus before taxation	-	-
Adjustment for		
Depreciation charge	4,540,826	25,817,476
(Gain) on disposal of PPE	-	-
	<b>4,540,826</b>	<b>25,817,476</b>
<b>Adjustment for working Capital</b>		
(Increase)/Decrease of Trade and other receivables	(42,764,200)	9,017,613
Decrease/(Increase) of Inventory	-	-
(Decrease)/Increase of deferred income	118,631,850	26,039,687
(Decrease)/Increase of severance payable	-	8,409,389
(Decrease)/Increase of Trade and other payables	6,081,285	(16,514,350)
<b>Cash Flow from operations activities</b>	<b>81,948,935</b>	<b>52,769,815</b>
<b>Cash flow from investing activities</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(2,400,000)
Proceeds on disposal of PPE	-	-
	-	<b>(2,400,000)</b>
<b>Cash flow from financing activities</b>		
Increase/(decrease) in financing activities	-	-
	-	-
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>86,489,761</b>	<b>50,369,815</b>
Cash and cash equivalent at the beginning of the year	85,749,223	35,379,408
<b>Cash and cash equivalent at the end of the year</b>	<b>172,238,984</b>	<b>85,749,223</b>

## Statement of financial position as at 30th September 2020

	30-Sep-20 TZS	30-Jun-20 TZS
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	45,493,842	50,034,668
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and Bank balances	172,238,984	85,749,223
Trade and other receivables	74,575,546	33,523,246
Inventory	-	-
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>292,308,372</b>	<b>117,560,569</b>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
Accumulated Fund	70,031,969	70,031,968
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>		
Severance payable	140,488,368	21,856,518
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	81,788,035	77,418,650
	222,276,403	77,418,650
<b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>292,308,372</b>	<b>169,307,137</b>

By Guardian Reporter

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has called on the government to take deliberate steps to ensure people with disabilities (PWDs) are placed in a favourable environment to enable them acquire their basic needs fitting to their conditions.

CHRAGG Chairman, Judge (Rtd) Mathew Mwalimu, issued the appeal yesterday during the commemoration of International Day for the Disabled Persons with this year's slogan "Every Disability is Apparent."

He said: "The Commission urges people who live with disabled people to take steps to help them and regard them as part of the community."

"The commission commends the government for various efforts it takes in the improvement of the rights and opportunities for the disabled people in the country. But in addition to these commendations, the Commission recognises the existence of PWDs both seen and apparent, and that PWDs are still faced with various challenges including health, education, employment and stigma."

## CHRAGG calls upon govt to defend rights of PWDs

Mwalimu said the commission also calls on the people to abandon traditional and misleading concepts that make

PWDs disheartened and see they were not acceptable, and do not have any contribution to the community around them and the nation in general.

He said the commission pledges to continue cooperating with all stakeholders to ensure the rights of PWDs are protected, strengthened, and defended in the country.

The origin of the International Day for the Disabled Persons is UN Resolution No. 47/3 of 1992 adopted on December 3 and is commemorated every year on this date.

The aim of the commemoration is to mobilise the community in various countries to recognise, respect, and defend the rights and equal opportunities and participation of disabled persons.

CHRAGG in collaboration with various stakeholders continues to defend the rights of PWDs and push for the implementation of the Act on Disabled Persons (Act No 9 of 2010) including both international and regional guidelines.

**...But in addition to these commendations, the Commission recognises the existence of PWDs both seen and apparent, and that PWDs are still faced with various challenges including health, education, employment and stigma**

## 3 TRC employees in court allegedly for stealing diesel from locomotive

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THREE Tanzania Railways Corporation employees have appeared at Tabora Senior Resident Magistrate Court charged under three counts of conspiracy to commit crime, fraud, and giving false information.

Before Tabora Senior Resident Magistrate Thomas Milanzi were Hamza Khamis, Sailisi Mbungu, and Lekwa Zakayo.

The prosecution side lead by State Attorney Tumaini Pius alleged in court that the accused committed the crime between April 8 and 18 2019 between Igusule and Sonjo railway stations along Tabora-Mwanza Line.

Pius claimed that in the first count, on April 8, 2019, the

accused, being TRC employees conspired to steal fuel from train No. X631 with locomotive Re. No. 9017 that was traveling from Isaka station to Tabora.

Reading the second count against all the accused, Pius claimed that on the same day, fraudulently they decanted 240 litres of diesel oil valued at 534,440/- from the train's locomotive.

He further claimed, in the third count against the first accused Hamza Khamis, that on April 18 2019 as a driver of the said locomotive, he gave false information that he spent all the 1,800 litres of diesel oil he was given for the Isaka-Tabora journey, knowing that this was not true.

All the three accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and are out on bail until December 16 this year when the case will come up for mention as investigations have not been completed.

In the meantime, three people who were facing different murder charges were returned to remand prison after preliminary charges were read against them of which they did not plead guilty before Senior Resident Magistrate Jovin Kato.

The accused, Ramadhani Juma accused of murdering Said Aman by stabbing him in the neck, Shija Mabala for allegedly killing Tua Kishiwa at Nzega and dumped the body in a forest and Athuman Hamis for allegedly severing the head of one Rahel Daudi.





Deogratias Ndejemi (on motorbike), legislator for Dodoma Region's Chamwino constituency, makes a stop-over at Ikoo village yesterday while on a routine inspection tour of road infrastructure. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Mwinyi commends NBC on support to Z'bar government development drive

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday commended the National Bank of Commerce (NBC)'s readiness to support the government towards the realisation of its economic development targets.

He made the remarks at the State House in Zanzibar during a meeting with NBC bank officials including Director Theobald Sabi, communications manager, William Kallaghe, and Ramadhan Lesso, the bank's Zanzibar branch manager.

"I am glad that you are ready to work and support the government's development endeavours. This kind of cooperation is important in providing quality services to the citizens," said the President noting that such support would enable the government to fulfill promises made to voters during presidential campaigns.

Dr Mwinyi asserted that the government is now working to identify various areas of cooperation with both the public and private sector.

He said the donated ambulance will help in improving the provision of health services to Isle residents especially children and expectant mothers. He added that such cooperation would result in the reduced child and maternal mortality rates in Zanzibar.

"We are ready to cooperate with the bank in implementing various priority projects in different development sectors including education and health," he told the bank officials.

NBC Managing Director, Theobald Sabi informed the President of the bank's operation saying it was established in 1967 in Tanzania mainland while in Zanzibar it started operations in 1969. He applauded the Isle government for the support and cooperation, thus ensuring the bank's smooth operations.

He said the bank sold 55 percent of its shares to the South African based 'Absa Group Limited' while the government owns 30 percent of the shares and the remaining 15 percent under International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Sabi noted that the bank will work closely with the government as it implements the ruling party's 2020-2025 election manifestos. He said that apart from the ambulance, the bank has also donated essential drugs to the ministry of health in Zanzibar.

"We have been supporting the country's health sector through the provision of ambulances in a number of regions in Tanzania mainland; we have now decided to direct our support to Zanzibar," said the NBC boss.

**“We are ready to cooperate with the bank in implementing various priority projects in different development sectors including education and health”**

By Guardian Reporter

YOUNG people suffering from Type 1 diabetes have appealed to the government to reduce tax on imported drugs for diabetes as treatment costs are very high for their poor families.

Speaking soon after a joint charity walk organised by Mzizima, Uhuru and Tanzanite Lion Clubs to raise funds for the purchase of special bangles to identify young people and children suffering from the disease, they said diabetes patients faces many challenges.

They said the challenges include high treatment cost

# Diabetes patients appeal to govt to reduce tax on drugs

and the community's lack of education on the disease hence stigma.

George Kwayu, the chairman of the association of young people and children suffering from diabetes called on the government to reduce levies of imported diabetes drugs to enable their affordability to them.

"Every day a diabetes sufferer spends about 50,000 for drugs

alone, apart from cost on examination and glucose test trips," he said.

Kwayu said it would be better for the government to reduce levies on traders selling these drugs to save their lives.

The association's Vice Chairman, Anicet Muchunguzi said parents and the whole community are supposed to recognise the existence of the

disease afflicting children, hence they should work together with the health stakeholders in assisting the children including contributing funds for the purchase of the special bangles.

The organisers of the charity walk and other stakeholders said they raised more than 10m/- that would be used to buy the bangles to identify children with diabetes.

# More men undergo circumcision in bid to restrain HIV infections in Simiyu Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE number of males who have undergone the 'cut' in Simiyu Region has increased, making it among the best 17 performing regions in provision of the service.

The move is said to reduce new HIV/Aids infection rates in the Region which has an infection rate of 3.9 percent. The national HIV/Aids infection rate is 4.7 percent.

Acting Regional Chief Medical Officer, Dr Hamis Kulemba made the revelation when speaking during celebrations to mark the World Aids Day 2020 held in Bariadi township council.

Founded in 1988, World Aids Day was the first ever international day for global health. Every year, United Nations agencies, governments and civil society organisations cooperate to campaign for specific themes related to HIV/Aids.

It is dedicated to raise awareness of the HIV/Aids pandemic caused by the spread of new infections

and mourning those who have died of the disease.

Dr Kulemba said they have been working with partners such as IntraHealth Tanzania which works with the government to strengthen the country's health workforce, increase access to and quality of health services, and improve the health and well-being of Tanzanians.

In between 2011 and 2012, the number of men who have been circumcised reached 27 percent and that by 2019, the number increased to 102.

A total of 194,704 males were circumcised in 2019 through the various campaigns conducted by the government in collaboration with IntraHealth Tanzania, he said.

"Conducting the 'cut' to men helps prevent them from being infected with HIV/Aids. Male circumcision can prevent HIV/Aids infection by 60 percent. The service is available at all the municipalities," he noted.

Dr Kulemba said they have been

taking measures to protect the residents from being infected with the disease whereas 87 percent of 64,820 people living with HIV/Aids who were registered between July and September 2020 have started receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy.

He said that among those using ARVs, children account for 7.1 percent (3,991). He said there are many children who are yet to start receiving sustained antiretroviral therapy.

Delays in checking the health status of children results in delayed ARV usage which affects their health. Parents should make sure that children are tested for the pandemic at early years," he said.

Male Circumcision Project Coordinator from IntraHealth Tanzania, Kentgen Dawson said the project is being implemented for five years from 2016 to 2021.

He said more than 60 percent of men in Simiyu Region have undergone the 'cut' through their project.



NMB Bank Plc chief internal auditor Juma Kimori (L) addresses accountants and auditors attending their annual general meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## The United Republic of Tanzania MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM



### PUBLIC NOTICE:

#### REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION FOR TOURISM BUSINESS LICENSES FOR THE YEAR 2021

Kindly be informed that applications for new Tourism Business Licenses (TTBL) and renewal of existing tourism licenses for the year 2021 is now open. All tourism operators are hereby advised to start applying for their respective TTBL licenses.

According to Tourism Act No. 29 of 2008, tourism activities which require licenses include: Tour Operators/Safari Outfitters; Photographic Safaris; Hunting Safaris; Travel Agents; Handling Agents; Hot Air Balloon Safaris; Horse Riding; Tourism Sea Ferries and Boat Safaris; Tourism Water Sports (Big Game Fishing, Scuba Diving etc.); Tourism Recreation (Zoo, Snake Parks etc.); Air Charter Services (Non Schedule Flight); Mountain Climbing or Trekking; Car Rental or Hire, Amusement Centers; Professional Safari Photographers (Filming); Exclusive Luxury Accommodation Facilities; Lodges; Tented and Mobile Camps; Town Hotels; Vacation Hotels; Villas; Cottages and Serviced Apartments; Motels; Camping and Caravan Sites; Tourism Hostels; Tourism Home Stays; Cultural Heritage Centers; Curio Shops; Cultural Tourism Enterprises, and Tour Guides.

Important; New applications must be accompanied by; (i) TIN Number (ii) Certificate of Incorporation or Sole Proprietor Extract/partnership Deed and (iii) Proof of Nationality of Shareholders.

All applications are processed through the electronic application system, **MNRT-Portal**, which is available at the Ministry's website [www.maliasili.go.tz](http://www.maliasili.go.tz). It should be noted that, submission of false information is illegal and punishable by law including revocation of a license.

For more information kindly visit our website at [www.maliasili.go.tz](http://www.maliasili.go.tz) or visit our Ministry's Headquarter Offices at UDOM, in Dodoma or Tourism Zonal Offices Located at Mpingo House, Dar es Salaam; PSSSF building, Mwanza; Iringa NSSF Block; and TANAPA Head Quarters in Arusha.

Issued by:  
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION UNIT  
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM  
Tel: +255759907390/+255 684498345/+255 752992644

Email: [dt@maliasili.go.tz](mailto:dt@maliasili.go.tz)  
1st December, 2020

Edit with WPS Office





Contractors Registration Board registrar Rhoben Nkori (R) presents a certificate to one of the participants of a capacity building seminar for southern zone contractors held in Njombe municipality earlier this week. Looking on are CRB deputy registrar (R&D) David Jere (2nd-R) and training coordinator Neema Fuime. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Contractors advised to be careful while filling documents during tender process

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

MEMBERS of the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) have been challenged to be careful while hiring experts to fill their documents during tender process as many of them have been committing serious mistake in their documents.

The board said those mistakes cause serious damage to the contractors finance because many of them miss the tender and those who happen to get them don't acquire any benefit by the end of the project.

The advice was aired yesterday by CRB Registrar Rhoben Nkori when officially closing the three days capacity building seminar for southern zones local contractors held in Njombe Region.

Either, he said many experts hired to fill the tender documents are selfish and consider only

what they achieve and they fill the tender documents without bearing in mind the fate of the contractors in that tender.

Nkori said sometimes those experts put lower price only to make sure the contractors secure the tender but at the end of the day contractors fail to finish the project and abandon the site.

"You must consider the credibility of those experts who fill your tender documents. Take someone who can tell you the truth because you may hire an expert who is after your money and not to help you," he cautioned.

"You may find that there are six tenders and six or seven bidders and you have hired the same expert to fill your tender documents, what do you expect to achieve there," asked Nkori.

Nkori also reminded contractors to work diligently and consider high standards

while implementing construction projects to attract more customers and shun away corruption practices during tender process.

One contractor, Patrick Nkwama commended CRB for the training which he said add value to their profession and urged the board to continue with such kind of training regularly. "Many of us face different challenges some are not competent in filling tender documents so with this kind of training we expand our knowledge and am sure after this training many of us will do better in implementation of construction projects," he said.

CRB conduct capacity building for local contractors to enable them improve their standards on various areas of construction industry.

When opening the training on Monday, CRB Board Chairperson Engineer Consolatha Ngimbwa

urged contractors to study carefully contracts before they sign them to avoid loss they may suffer during the implementation of different construction projects.

She said some of contractors are not faithfully that's why the government has decided to implement some of its construction projects by using force account model to save its money.

She said there are corruption practices in some of public procurement tenders the situation which lead to many contractors to enter into construction contracts without doing due diligence to satisfy themselves. "Some of you are not faithfully that's why the government has lost trust in you and opt to use force account in some of its construction projects, you must change and build good trust for the government to trust you," she said.

## Mpango urges ITA to come up with new strategies to bolster revenues

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MINISTER for Finance and Planning Dr Philip Mpango has challenged the Institute of Tax Administration (ITA) to conduct comprehensive research that will come up with the best solutions to increase revenues.

Mpango made the call recently when speaking in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the 13th graduation ceremony, whereby 383 students graduated.

In his speech Dr Mpango said the government has been wasting a huge amount of money adding that experts in tax would help to bridge the gap, noting that ITA should now embark on conducting the research to give solutions on tax issues such as property taxes.

He said that the experience has shown that the government loses most of its revenues caused by a number of factors including tax evasion.

"The institute must review its curriculum to enable its graduates be competent to deal with all issues related to taxes," he said.

He called on stakeholders including the government to ensure the institute becomes the centre of excellence.

ITA Rector Prof Isaya Jairo said the institute has trained 12,000 experts since 2008 which is 83 percent.

According to Prof Jairo, the institute trains almost 1200 expert every year adding that it trains experts to reach the government vision of a middle-income country.

The don noted that ITA will

in the next two years establish distance and online learning to give more chances to learners.

He said during corona infection, distance learning was the only solution in some higher learning institutions to prevent them from the pandemic."

He said the new graduates in tax will help the Tanzania Railway Authority (TRA) to collect more tax.

"It is our hope that the findings from our research will add value to nation revenues," he said.

He said ITA is finalising negotiations with Commissioners of Revenues from Comoro and South Sudan to build and improve their capacities in customs and tax management.

He said the institute has already signed a contract with Sudan to establish the five years strategic plan in customs and tax management adding that the country had benefited a lot in the previous years.

Prof Jairo said in the case of Comoro, ITA will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build its capacity in all matters related to customs and tax management.

ITA is an integral part of the Tanzania Revenue Authority whose programmes offer a unique blend of theoretical classroom training and real-life customs and taxation experiences.

*"It is our hope that the findings from our research will add value to nation revenues"*



### Expression of Interest

#### Forest Management Planning

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently supporting Tanganyika District Council in Katavi Region and Uvinza District Council in Kigoma region to develop forest management plans for:

1. Tongwe West Local Authority Forest Reserve (LAFR) in Tanganyika District Council
2. Tongwe East Local Authority Forest Reserve (LAFR) in Tanganyika District Council
3. Masito Local Authority Forest Reserve (LAFR) in Uvinza District Council.

JGI-TZ in collaboration with the Mpanda and Uvinza District Executive Directors is thus seeking to subcontract consultants to provide professional and technical expertise in developing technically and legally sound forest management plans for the three reserves aforesaid.

#### About Us:

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals and the environment, we strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) was founded in 1977 by Dr. Jane Goodall. The JGI with its partners makes a difference through landscape and community-centered conservation, chimpanzees research projects, provision of environmental education to youths, and the innovative use of science and technology. We work closely with local communities in Tanzania, inspiring hope through a collective power of individual action. JGI-TZ has a longstanding history on community-led integrated conservation in Western Tanzania.

#### Application Procedure:

To be able to access the full job advert, please visit the JGI career portal at [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org). Please send your expression of interest to the following e-mail address: [jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz). The application deadline is **8 days from the date of this advertisement**. Please note that only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted to submit full proposals. For any questions regarding this consultancy, please contact us through the following office general line: **+255 28 298 8178**.

216027501



HIGH COURT OF ZANZIBAR  
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: **SMZ/G0902/G/ICB/2020-2021/04**

FOR

### SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICE FURNITURE FOR NEW HIGH COURT BUILDING OF ZANZIBAR

#### Invitation for tenders

**4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement Notice (GPN) for High Court of Zanzibar that appeared in the **Zanzibar Leo**, of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020.
  2. The Revolution government of Zanzibar has set aside fund for the SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICE FURNITURE at the new High Court Building located at Tuguu Southern Region - Zanzibar, 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 which this information for tender, this has two (2) lots (i) Hard wood furniture (ii) Exported furniture, an interested bidder may bid either one lot or both.
- An interested bidder may bid either one lot or both lots.
3. You are hereby invited to submit your priced bid for the supply and installation of office furniture described in the Schedule of Requirement (SOR) and Prices as detailed in section VI. All Bid in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in Plain envelopes marked "SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICE FURNITURE AT NEW HIGH COURT BUILDINGS - TUNGUU ZANZIBAR."
  4. Bidding will be conducted through the Open Competitive International bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement Section 69 Act No.11 of 2016
  5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of Secretary of Tender Board of High Court - Zanzibar P. O, BOX 160, Vuga street - Zanzibar Tel: Tel:+255 772 133 533, **room no 4**. from 7:30 - 15:30 Monday to Friday except for public holidays.
  6. Interested bidders may collect a hard copy of complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English language and additional set from the Secretary of Tender Board, upon payment non-refundable of T.shs 100,000/ in

ACCOUNT NAME: REGISTRAR HIGH COURT REVENUE  
ACCOUNT NO.0404356000 PBZ LTD  
BRANCH NAME: FORODHANI  
SWIFT CODE: PBZATZTZ.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 1% of the bid amount in the format provided in the Bidding documents.
8. All bids in two (2) copies and one original, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to Secretary, Tender Board Judiciary of Zanzibar, P. O, Box 160, Room 4 Commercial Court Vuga Street- Zanzibar before **10:00hrs Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the address below.
9. Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**KB. MBARUK**  
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
JUDICIARY OF ZANZIBAR  
P.O.BOX 160  
ZANZIBAR

216027501



# RC wants water supply restored at town market within 2 weeks

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Municipal authorities have been given two weeks to ensure water supply service is restored at the town's main market.

The ultimatum was issued here on Tuesday this week by Dr Philemon Sengati, the Regional Commissioner during his inspection tours of the markets in the municipality.

During the tour, Dr Sengati found out water supply had been disconnected at the main market, and saw traders and other market users conduct business without reliable water.

"I want to see people in this market get reliable water within two weeks...this area is among strategic areas containing many people where water supply is essential to enable them conduct business without problems," he said.

He instructed municipal authorities to meet with market officials to put in place sustainable plans that would ensure water does not get disconnected by the water supply authorities due to bill payment failure.

Meanwhile the RC instructed Tabora Municipal authorities to ensure they install electricity and repair cracks on the roof of both the main and Kachoma markets to enhance security of goods belonging to traders in the markets.

He said municipal officials should come up with short term plans to ensure all shortcomings at the Kachoma market are resolved to have enabling environment for traders to conduct their businesses.



**I want to see people in this market get reliable water within two weeks...this area is among strategic areas containing many people where water supply is essential to enable them conduct business without problems**

# Dodoma RC orders: Take social services closer to investment areas by next month

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA regional commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge has given one month to institutions providing social services in the region to prepare special plans in taking social services in areas set aside for investment and settlement in order to woo investors.

The institutions include Tanzania Rural and Urban roads Agency (TARURA), Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and Dodoma Urban Water and sanitation Authority (DUWASA).

Speaking yesterday during his inspection tour in areas ready for investment and settlements at Nala IFM, Mahungu, Michese, Mkalama and Iyumbu areas in Dodoma City, Dr Mahenge said many investors were reluctant to come up because of lack of social services in the areas.

He thus gave 30 days for each institution mentioned to draw up special plan to be submitted to him on how they were mobilized to take the social services to the areas.

He stressed that these institutions should ensure they work together in order to take quality services to the people and in time.

"You should also ensure you will not be a hindrance to investors and the people by denying them these services," he added.

Joseph Mafuru, Dodoma City Director said the area set aside for investment at Nala was of 2,713 acres and have already paid a total of 3,5bn/- compensation to former land owners, adding that it incorporates 189 plots for factories.

He said the area was fit for investors because it is joined to the ring road being built around the city and that they have already started receiving applications from various firms including Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) and other traders from Mwanza, Arusha and Dar es Salaam.

Mafuru further said in regard to plots for settlement, the area has already been surveyed and were on various stages in issuing title deeds and building permits.

He said the areas include Mahungu, Michese, Iyumbu and the fast growing Mkalama area near UDOM.



# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

## Background:

The Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) is an ecumenical body established in 1992 by the Christian Council of Tanzania and the Tanzania Episcopal Conference, to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of social services (health and education) by the member churches in Tanzania. For 28 years, CSSC has been serving and coordinate a network of more than 900 church-owned health education facilities, including 105 large hospitals at Zonal, Regional and District/Council levels. In addition, CSSC coordinates a network of more than 1,000 church owned education facilities. Majority of these church health and education facilities are located in remote and rural areas where 70% of the Tanzanian population reside in those areas.

CSSC has been provisionally selected to be a Sub Recipient (SR) of the HIV/TB grant to be implemented by Amref Health Africa as a Principle Recipient (PR2) from January 2021 to December 2023. Depending on availability of funds, CSSC will implement Tuberculosis care and prevention interventions in Tanga, Ruvuma, Mara and Mbeya Regions. Priority populations in this module will include but not limited to all Key and Vulnerable populations (PLHIV, elderly, children, DM, Cancer patients, miners, mobile populations, prisoners, slum dwellers, out and inpatients at HF).

Key intervention areas will include; engaging all care providers (TB care and prevention); Community TB care delivery; Key populations (TB care and prevention), children, miners and mining communities; Stigma and discrimination reduction (TB); Human rights; medical ethics and legal literacy.

In view of the above, CSSC is hereby seeking applications from highly qualified, well experienced, competent and motivated persons to fill-in the following vacant positions.

**Title:** Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator- 1 Post  
**Report to:** Knowledge and Information specialist  
**Location:** Dar es salaam

## Job Summary:

This position is based at HQ. He/she will be responsible to provide expertise in monitoring and evaluation of TB Care and Prevention activities

## Duties and Responsibilities

- The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Coordinator will be responsible for the follow-up and monitoring the implementation of the TB Care and Prevention project and will report directly to Knowledge and Information Manager (KIM).
- Assist KIM in developing and strengthening M & E systems of TB Care and Prevention Project;
- Develop and monitor data collection tools/ instruments for qualitative and quantitative TB Care and Prevention project indicators;
- Facilitate collection, analysis aggregation and use of data for improvements in implementation of TB Care and Prevention activities;
- Carry out supportive supervision, onsite mentoring and coaching to Health facility staff in the respective regions using appropriate tools according to an agreed work plan;
- Monitor quality of data received from the Health facilities and other implementing partners and use information to identify quality strengthen strategies and give feedback to the project team and management of health facilities.
- Collect and prepare monthly, quarterly, semiannual and annual TB Care and Prevention project performance reports, including from all project sub recipients;
- Take lead in soliciting and documenting successes, challenges, case studies and lessons learned from the field sites and inform the projects;
- Assist in TB Care and Prevention project evaluation events;
- Carry out any other assignments as may be required by the immediate supervisor.

## Qualification

- Bachelor's in demography, sociology/ social sciences preferable Public health, M&E or statistics from a recognized University
- MPH or Postgraduate training in M&E/TB/HIV or TB infection control related field desired.

## Experiences and Skills

- 5 years' experience in project monitoring and evaluation activities.
- Should be Fluent in English and Kiswahili
- Should be computer literate with proficiency in data management and processing.
- Experience in planning and facilitating trainings
- Computer literacy including use of Microsoft office suite, databases and web applications.

**Title:** TB Regional Project officers-4 Posts  
**Report to:** Project Coordinator  
**Location:** Mara, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Tanga

## Job Summary:

The TB program officer is primarily responsible for the overall Planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of TB interventions in the Global Fund supported Regions. These includes but not limited to, facilitate TB screening, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and continuity of care including data management. The incumbent will facilitate and monitor implementation of TB management activities, facilitate dissemination and adoption of TB guidelines and tools. S/he will also facilitate different trainings and oversee successful sample transportation system.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure professional management of the project, including performance monitoring and reporting
- Maintains close liaison with the Regional TB and Leprosy Coordinators (RTLCS), District TB and Leprosy Coordinators (DTLCS) and other stakeholders engaged in provision of TB services in the respective District Councils and Regions.
- Conduct regular field visits to the targeted project Regions and Councils as per the monitoring/quality assurance plan to ensure quality is maintained throughout the project implementation.
- Support orientation sessions among community TB service providers including ex-TB patients on a new comprehensive community TB guideline
- Support advocacy for integration of TB interventions in different Platforms such as religious, traditional and community.
- Represent CSSC in regional and district meetings, and in any ad hoc committee meetings regarding TB activities
- To facilitate training and sensitization meetings to CHWs, religious and community leaders and traditional healers
- Work with other partners and government counterparts at regional levels to ensure consistent, high quality TB service provision with a focus on TB screening and testing.
- Work with NTLF and other partners to strengthen a sputum transportation system from communities and other sites with no Gene Xpert machines
- Ensure project reports are prepared accurately and timely submitted to donor and other parties in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the grant agreements
- Participate in the Health department and all other relevant meetings/forums and share TB/HIV plans and progress reports as required
- Perform other activities as assigned by the supervisor

## Qualification

- MD/Nursing/Other health-related degree from a recognized University is required
- MPH or Postgraduate training in Epidemiology, M&E/TB/HIV or TB infection control related field is an added advantage.

## Experiences and Skills

- 3+ years of relevant experience is required, at least three of which should be in TB and TB infection control technical areas
- Hands-on experience in basic trainings in TB and TB infection control required
- Thorough understanding of the Tanzanian Health system, its key stakeholders, and the policy environment (required).
- Excellent Coordination, analytical and problem solving skills.
- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation in English and Kiswahili.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, demonstrated leadership, and the ability to work collaboratively with culturally diverse partners.
- Competence in computer applications needed to execute position responsibilities -competency with Microsoft Office, internet and email systems.
- Ability to work independently as well as in collaboration with colleagues and partners.
- Willingness to frequent travel in rural areas.

**Title:** Drivers- 4 Posts  
**Report to:** Administrative Assistant  
**Location:** Mara, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Tanga

## Job Summary:

This position is responsible for carrying out duties as a driver, effectively and efficiently, observing all current CSSC vehicle policy and procedures. The driver will also be responsible for ensuring safety of the passengers, vehicle and the tools assigned to him/her and devising ways and maintaining high fuel efficiency and low maintenance costs.

## Duties and Responsibilities

- Carry out preventive maintenance checks of assigned vehicle(s) as per CSSC's prescribed checklist.
- Ensure that the assigned vehicle(s) is road-ready and has sufficient fuel and levels of oil for daily use.
- Carry out all driving tasks as needed by the office and as assigned by the supervisor and as per vehicle request approved form.
- Observe the specified speed limits at all times
- Bring to the immediate attention of the supervisor any and all minor/major defects that have happened or been noticed during the day or accidents that have happened that day. Present to the supervisor in writing the details of any accident by checking and filling vehicle report form in every Monday of each week.
- Record daily trips, fuel consumption, mileage, and timings in the "log book" provided for the assigned vehicle.
- Record all servicing and repairs both KM for service, next service and total cost of that service received in the log book provided for the assigned vehicle.
- Under any circumstance when the drivers are out of the office either after working hours or within the working hours the driver is supposed to place the car keys to the supervisor.
- Ensure the safe parking; whenever possible when the vehicle is on duty, vehicle is on the way at night, during breakdowns and when it is not in use.
- In collaboration with the Assistant Administrative Officer carry out the monthly check-ups.
- Drive staff on short and long trips as per daily Project requests.
- Maintain and adhere to road traffic policies and procedures as per Tanzania Government laws.
- Immediately notify his/her superior as well as the local authorities in case of any accident in which he/she is involved.
- At all times, implement established safety and security measures/procedures.
- Assure the confidentiality of dispatches delivered or received and that all such dispatches are recorded correctly
- Carry out work responsibilities in such a way so as to promote the image and work of CSSC
- Ensure all necessary vehicle documents (e.g. insurance, registration documents, etc.) are present in the vehicle and up to date.
- Keep track of the scheduled service time of the vehicle, in order to make sure that servicing is performed in time.
- Accurately fill in the vehicle log book with details of each journey
- Take care of vehicles tools and cleanliness.
- Ensure that assigned vehicle is completely equipped with a First Aid Kit, spare tire, working flashlight and batteries, vehicle jack, wheel brace and a tool kit (spanner, wrench, tyre, removers, patch kit, etc). Collect and deliver mail, documents, and other items;
- Optimize use of the vehicle; assist in the registration of new vehicles, renewal of insurance, road licenses, etc
- Ensure that all passengers use seat belts and secure any loose load.
- Undertake any other duty as will be assigned by the supervisor

## Qualification

- Secondary School Education Certificate
- Class C Driving License
- Certificate from National Institute of Transport or any other recognized Institute of driving and Motor Vehicle Maintenance.

## Experience and Skills

- Minimum of 3 years' experience working as a driver in the NGO/FBO, Government sectors et.
- Mechanic skills
- Firm belief in teamwork, gender equality
- Good command of English language
- High levels of creativity
- Sense of/awareness to security

## Mode of Application

Interested candidates are to submit their motivation letter and copy of the latest CV in one document indicating their preferred work station. The subject line of your job application email should indicate the position that you are applying for; your CV must include the contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three work-related traceable referees. All correspondence MUST reach CSSC before 1600hrs December 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 and channeled through the following email address: hr@cssc.or.tz

## Note that;

- Any application sent later than the mentioned date and time will not be considered.
- Only short-listed candidates will be contacted; if you are not contacted within two weeks after the deadline of this advert, consider yourself unsuccessful.
- Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



# The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2020

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

## Agro-sector census highlights challenges we need to address

**W**OEFUL use of modernised seeds and industrial fertiliser as indicated in the latest agricultural sector census is something of a wake-up call.

It is that our country faces an uphill task in its quest to modernise farming and lift millions out of poverty, on the basis of outcomes of the latest agricultural sector census.

This is what was aired at a recent press conference held to highlight findings of the census for 2019/2020, with the Tanzania Bureau of Statistics director general Dr Albina Chuwa underlining that out of 13.5 million hectares cultivated in the season, just around 2.8 per cent used industrial fertiliser and 20.8 per cent used improved seeds.

These are the facts on the ground, with which the chief statistician noted that with close to 60 million people, 68 per cent of Tanzania's workforce engages in farming, with something like 83 per cent of all holdings run by small farmers working on a household basis.

They dominate the sector as they contribute up to 75 per cent of total output. It is to this bulk that agro-sector modernisation is directed, and it appears that the rate of penetration is distinctively low, and it is not easy to find methods to quicken the pace.

Plenty of what the census brought out shows that the sector is still warped in tradition, which doesn't mean to say it is altogether a bad idea.

The census showed that 60.7 of cultivated land had manure applied to it, and an even greater tendency at traditional methods was noticed in seeds, where a whopping 76.7 per cent of the acreage was farmed with traditional seeds.

It implies that manure isn't as plentifully available and thus industrial fertiliser makes a modest penetration in the sector, while traditional seeds are abundant and families are compelled to save on small bundles of cash for purchasing modernised seeds.

That said, it isn't as if all is woe and doom as at least the country is largely self-sufficient in the basic staple, maize. And as has been sounded out in the past month or two, efforts need to be made to expand wheat acreage so as to halt importation of the vital staple, especially for commercially marketed bites.

The country's performance in other staples like cassava, rice, millet can be said to be decent, if with plenty of room for improvement, while the more traditional cash crops are fraught with price fluctuations.

Looking at the matter in that direction, these price shifts often to the disadvantage of the farmer hinder the take up of modernised seeds and fertiliser.

There is quite often no obvious benefit in terms of returns to the farmer when modernised methods are applied, as in one study there was the same marginal benefit from using input as with not using them.

The farmer would get a better gross turnover, but the earnings would be twice the total cost of inputs, while using traditional inputs leads to precisely the same earnings pattern, twice that cost of cultivation.

One uses 100,000/- for inputs and earns a total of 200,000/- and another farmer uses 400,000/- for inputs and earns 800,000/-; it is the same margin but higher yields. That is why input loans are vital, so that farmers don't forgo basic needs to buy inputs, with low prices.

## E-Government enables fast pace but is far from immune to errors

**T**OP government officials are understood to be working especially hard to correct anomalies noticed in lists released online about employment of teachers, unavoidably a massively contested field where candidates labour to give data incorrectly to obtain employment as recent graduates.

The data management havoc compelled permanent secretaries in three ministries to coordinate to correct those errors. That is what was being heard early this week, as the government sought to clarify on shortfalls and mistakes in listing the names of portions of 13,000 teachers being drawn into public service. The matter is to be concluded quite soon, hopefully.

Permanent secretaries from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Education, Science and Technology as well as President's Office (Public Service and Good Governance) had to closely supervise efforts to make those corrections.

It was unclear what sort of programming error occurred. However, if one tries to fiddle with a protected document to make alterations, anything can happen.

Still, the watchword was on correcting the lists by following prescribed criteria, not worrying on the data management per se. It means that a problem arose with the sorting due to the vast list of names.

The matter went abuzz on social media, with many questioning who precisely was responsible for listing the names, citing the example of a teacher who was named 196 times.

Top officials said the government was addressing the drawbacks, with many names featuring mistakenly owing to a technical fault when uploading the names.

That was how the confusion was explained - for instance, listing names of teachers as employed only to be

discovered that they had completed secondary school only as recently as last year.

Here it was noticed that applicants filed incorrect data, including as to when they completed Form Four or would have graduated.

Details showed that most applicants completed Form Four between 2010 and 2014, with PORALG needing to verify that those picked for employment are the right ones, a lengthy verification operation.

Yet it was a bit surprising that the verification was being done quite rapidly, within two or three days from its start early this week, implying that some usable software was in place to check anomalies.

Everything will then be clear at that point, as to dates of graduation, obtaining employment, etc. It isn't all that difficult, really, but it has caused the three ministries a few headaches.

It remains laudable, all the same, that the public service was taking in 13,000 teachers for whom it was proceeding to prepare employment permits, having verified their eligibility, their current status, etc.

The public service chief civil servant said that at present 8,000 names of teachers have been released and 5,000 others will be released later.

By the time the verification ends, teachers listed as selected but in an irregular manner will no longer be on the list, with a piece of trickery noticed as one filling an application for one or other subject, and providing incorrect data of being capable or qualified in a science field like mathematics so as to secure recognition as eligible for consideration.

This kind of inaccurate data wasted the time of ministerial executives for nothing, and the reason is sheer dishonesty from a section of the public. It thus compels manual checks instead of electronic processing of documents as the best case scenario.

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## Don't underestimate power of natural gas to transform Africa

By NJ Ayuk in Johannesburg

**A**FRICA has already made an indelible mark in the oil industry. It is home to four of the world's top 20 crude oil producers - Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, and Libya - and these same four countries also have some of the largest oil reserves in the world.

So far, the continent hasn't made quite as much of a splash in the gas industry. The only African countries on the list of the world's top 20 gas producers are Algeria and Nigeria. Meanwhile, one of the states with the largest gas reserves is Mozambique, which is still several years away from bringing its major fields on line.

But the gap between African oil and gas doesn't have to be permanent. The continent's gas industry is on the verge of real transformation, as the African Energy Chamber (AEC) notes in its 2021 Africa Energy Outlook, released last month.

I would like to describe what forms that shift might take - and explain how the changes would benefit Africans.

### New sources of production

Some of the change I expect is going to happen in the upstream sector - that is, in the realm of exploration and production.

First, the continent's current leading producers will likely produce more. North African states such as Egypt and Algeria will account for part of this increase, as they are looking to ramp up development at existing natural gas fields.

But another part of it will stem from programmes designed to reduce the flaring of associated gas found in oil fields. For example, both Nigeria and Angola have plans to expand the use of associated gas. The former is determined to deliver its production to the domestic market, while the latter is looking to split its production between the local market and the export-oriented Angola LNG project.

The upshot of these trends is that the list of Africa's top gas producers will probably remain static until the middle of the decade.

As the AEC's outlook explains: "The continent's top five crude oil producers - Nigeria and Angola from the west, and Algeria, Egypt and Libya from North Africa - complete the top five natural gas producers for 2020 and 2021.

These five countries contribute about 90 per cent of the overall natural gas output from the continent for both 2020 and 2021, and the expected forecast suggests that the share of these countries will remain the same going into the mid-2020s.

At that point, though, new

producers will start to play a more prominent role. Mozambique is due to launch its first greenfield project at Area 1 in 2024, while its offshore zone may become a major source of natural gas by 2025-2026.

The Mauritania-Senegal offshore zone may follow a similar timeline, as the Greater Tortue/Ahmeyim blocks may begin yielding natural gas in 2023, followed by the Yakaar-Teranga and BirAllah projects.

What's more, all four of the projects mentioned here will support gas liquefaction plants capable of producing and exporting LNG.

By the end of the decade, then, there will be more than five countries accounting for the bulk of Africa's total gas production. Nigeria, Angola, Algeria, Egypt, and Libya will be joined by at least three others - Mozambique, Mauritania and Senegal.

### Domestic consumption versus exports

Meanwhile, consumption patterns are expected to shift along with production patterns. Once again, this shift will likely begin once the large new fields in the Mozambique and Mauritania/Senegal provinces come online.

The change may not be obvious on a macro level, because it won't be evident in the split between exports and domestic consumption. That is, Africa will continue to use about 70 per cent of the gas it extracts and exports will continue to be the remaining 30 per cent.

As the AEC's outlook explains, though, the geography of African gas exports will not remain static. "The pattern has been relatively stable since 2012 with about 70 per cent serving local markets, 20 per cent exported to Europe and 10 per cent exported to Asia," the report states.

It elaborates: "The mid-2020s LNG startups are also expected to distort this picture by increasing the market share for East Asia LNG exports."

"This development is, however, not a consequence of local markets' rising demand but rather the shrinking ability of North African countries to maintain their export capacity to Europe on the back of strong domestic demand growth."

"By 2030, the expectation is effectively for East Asia and Europe to be inverted, while the domestic market share remains constant."

In short, Africa is on track to produce more gas by the end of the decade but will keep the same share of the total for its own use. At the same time, Asia will replace Europe as the most important market for African gas exports.

### Gas means jobs

These trends are interesting, but you may want to ask: What do

they mean for ordinary Africans, for people who are less concerned with production data and trade balances than with questions about how to support their families?

Well, they mean a great deal. As I've mentioned, the 2021 Africa Energy Outlook report projects that African gas production will rise, especially after new fields come on line and ramp up development in the middle of the decade. It also anticipates that African gas consumption will rise, even if domestic consumption continues to absorb a full 70 per cent of total production.

As production goes up, upstream operators will create jobs. They will need people to help them build, operate, maintain and repair production, transportation and processing facilities. They will also need people to administer their local operations.

Additionally, they will need to meet legal requirements or contractual commitments for local content, so they will need to hire African contractors. Those African contractors, in turn, will need employees of all kinds, and so will hire African workers.

And as consumption goes up, even more jobs will be created. Distributors will need new pipelines to deliver the gas to end-users, so they will need people who can help them build, operate, maintain, repair and administer those pipelines along with associated infrastructure facilities such as storage depots.

And even in the absence of pipelines, they will need to acquire tankers and containers so that they can bring gas to customers by road, rail or river. Accordingly, they will need people to procure, operate, maintain, repair and administer these operations.

Meanwhile, there's more. The hiring of more African workers is sure to have knock-on effects. If, for example, employees of upstream operators need a way to get to a remote worksite, local transportation companies may be able to serve them. If so, those transportation companies may have to hire more people to drive their vehicles.

Likewise, if African construction firms need to procure extra building materials to uphold their contracts with upstream operators, local suppliers may be able to meet their needs. And if so, those local suppliers may have to hire more people to handle their inventory.

In other words, as Africa's gas industry grows, it has the potential to create thousands and thousands of jobs! Some of them, such as construction jobs, will of course be temporary.

Some of them will be more permanent, though, especially if the governments of gas-producing

states work with upstream operators to develop local hiring and training standards that expand the capacity of the local workforce.

### All the way down the value chain

But the knock-on effect doesn't have to stop there. In my most recent book, *Billions at Play: The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals*, I urge African oil and gas producers to look as far down the value chain as they could.

I advise them to pursue projects that treat hydrocarbons not just as exportable raw materials but as inputs for value-added operations such as fertiliser or petrochemical manufacturing.

I also suggest that they look for ways to focus on gas-to-power projects with the intent of improving domestic electricity supplies - and not just because new power grids would benefit African businesses.

It is true, of course, that some African businesses will be able to create more jobs if they do not have to worry about blackouts. Likewise, it is true that gas-to-power projects will create jobs of their own in areas such as construction, operations, maintenance and administration.

However, it is also true that African households need and deserve access to reliable energy supplies, regardless of employment levels - and that gas-to-power plans can help them!

I'm hardly the only person to reach this conclusion. When I wrote *Billions at Play*, several African countries had already rolled out ambitious gas-to-power schemes. For example, Nigeria was in the process of implementing a programme that promoted associated gas as fuel for new power plants.

Since then, others have followed suit. For instance, as the AEC's energy outlook notes, Senegal has unveiled plans for using its future gas production to generate electricity for the domestic market. Mozambique already has a couple of gas-to-power projects in the works, too.

But it shouldn't stop there. I would like to see more gas producers do this as they ramp up gas production in the second half of the decade.

If they do, they will have accomplished something beyond merely increasing output levels. They will have taken concrete action to strengthen their economies and benefit their own citizens. And in so doing, they will have made their mark on the world!

**NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber; CEO of Centurion Law Group, and the author of several books about the oil and gas industry in Africa.**



# Keeping climate ambition alive: Challenges remain but signs of progress abound

WASHINGTON DC

For those of us in the international climate action community, 2020 isn't ending the way we expected when we rang in the new year. Even before 2020 dawned, countries were hard at work planning for their first updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), in line with the Paris Agreement's five-year NDC revision cycle. NDCs are official statements, prepared by countries themselves, outlining the commitments they are making to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate change's impacts. They are at the heart of putting the Paris Agreement into practice and pursuing action on a global scale.

We were thrown a curveball, however, as an unexpected and devastating global pandemic shifted national priorities toward public health and economic recovery. And even though we faced one of the hottest years on record—in which the impacts of climate change were seen and experienced in wildfires, floods, hurricanes, droughts, and other adverse events—countries' domestic agendas were forced to deal with pandemic-related topics.

Still, the imperative to act has not disappeared. In fact, it is more critical than ever. Fortunately, while work to support and enable countries to increase ambition in their enhanced NDCs was delayed in some cases, it was not derailed. The work has had to forge ahead through significant and unforeseen obstacles, but it has continued. And the NDC Partnership has played a significant role in keeping action on the agenda and keeping results within reach.

The NDC Partnership is a global coalition of countries and institu-



tions collaborating to drive transformational climate action through sustainable development. While nations signal their Paris Agreement commitments with NDCs, the NDC Partnership brings together countries, institutions, and resources in new ways to accelerate implementation and enhance ambition over time.

We have seen significant progress in the implementation of national climate commitments during the four years since we were founded to support developing countries in achieving their commitments under the Paris Agreement. We grew to more than 180 members, including developed and developing countries as well as major international institutions

and non-state actors. We mobilized and disbursed more than a billion dollars through multiple member-managed NDC financing facilities. And through an innovative Climate Action Enhancement Package launched just a year ago, a total of 65 countries now receive support to enhance NDC quality and raise climate ambition. A great deal of this work was accomplished despite the challenges of a global pandemic.

Our success was made possible by the impressive commitment of our members and their shared conviction that by working together, we can be more than the sum of our parts. And as we finalize our second work program to guide us from 2021-2025, we aim

to build on our early successes to drive still more ambitious action on climate change and sustainable development. While countries are finalizing their five-year NDC revisions, our second Work Program will support the transition from planning to implementation, and once again into planning for higher ambition. And it comes as we face a stark reality, that global action on climate change still lags well behind what is needed.

More effectively engaging youth in climate action is one way the Partnership has driven ahead with bringing a whole-of-society approach when developing and implementing climate solutions. In our first years, 17 countries requested support related to youth en-

agement. As a result, our Steering Committee called for a Youth Task Force (YTF).

Despite the pandemic, the YTF led a consultative process this year with youth from around the world to identify priorities and obstacles for youth engagement in climate action and make recommendations for the Partnership to meaningfully engage youth. Moving forward, as we implement the Youth Engagement Plan (YEP), youth will have a seat at the table with processes, projects, capacity, and engagement mechanisms all built specifically with this audience in mind.

While COVID-19 presents monumental challenges, it also presents opportunities to integrate green recovery as countries rebuild their economies. In June, the Partnership launched an Economic Advisory Initiative to deploy economic advisors to prepare green recovery plans and packages in response to COVID-19. Our drive to put climate

at the heart of COVID-19 recovery plans is driven by country needs captured in our HYPERLINK "https://issuu.com/ndcpartnership/docs/ndcp\_covid\_response\_blog" "t \_blank" survey of 68 developing countries at the onset of the pandemic. Our unique coordinating role and responsiveness means we have already deployed advisors to planning and finance ministries in 33 countries, with support from 13 of its members. A virtual HYPERLINK "https://ndcpartnership.org/thematic-expert-group" "t \_blank" Thematic Expert Group and a HYPERLINK "https://ndcpartnership.org/green-recovery-network" "t \_blank" Green Recovery Network have also been established to enhance the economic advisory support and facilitate ongoing learning. This level of responsiveness and coordinated support is exactly what we need to keep climate action relevant and in sync with the global state of affairs. Five years after the Paris Agreement's signing, actions like these are keeping it alive.

This month, at our Annual Members Forum, Costa Rica and the Netherlands pass the torch to the NDC Partnership's new Co-Chairs, Jamaica and the United Kingdom. While there is much to be proud of as we reflect on progress made in this year and the past four years, we still face major challenges. We, as a Partnership and an international community, are grateful for Costa Rica and the Netherlands' leadership over the past two years. They have set a high bar, but with Jamaica and the U.K. taking the helm, our record of strong, decisive, and forward-looking leadership is all but guaranteed to continue.

The challenges we face are great, but we are up to the task.

AGENCIES



Alliance Life  
ASSURANCE  
Think Life, Think Alliance Life

Job ref. No. ALAL/2020/09.

Position: Retail Manager

We are looking for an experienced Life **Retail Manager** to join our Team. As a Retail Manager you will be responsible for establishing, managing and growing the Retail channel to ensure sustained support and growth of Retail Business portfolio. Retail Manager Reports to the Sales & Marketing Manager and will be based in Dar es Salaam.

**Role Purpose:** The position holder will be responsible for creating and implementing an approved retail sales and marketing strategy, in-line with Alliance Life's Sales Strategy, including growing the retail business and delivering the set retail sales budget through development of strong retail team.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Attain retail revenue targets;
2. Profitable and efficient management of the Retail Business Distribution Channels;
3. Build and develop a high performing retail team.
4. Lead the retail team with integrity and create a working environment that promotes maximum productivity.
5. Accomplish management responsibilities which include building a strong team providing ongoing coaching, mentorship and support structures for effective goal achievements, identifying and managing associated risks, and completing daily management tasks.
6. Retail Business development.
7. Products development and management.
8. Negotiate, influence, and collaborate to build successful relationships
9. Meet or exceed business goals and objectives, while fostering a team atmosphere
10. Develop and implement performance management criteria for Financial Planners to meet or exceed business and individual goals
11. Provides regular management reports to management and recommend improvement action items.
12. Team motivation through recognition, including team incentive programs for outstanding achievements.
13. Performs supervisory responsibilities.

**Qualifications and Key Competencies:**

1. A business related degree from recognized Institution – Insurance and Risk Management Qualification would be an added advantage.
2. Professional insurance certificates/ diplomas/advanced diploma will be an added advantage.
3. Minimum of 5 years' experience in the insurance market with a similar product sales and relationship management role, and a proven track record.
4. Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office.
5. In-depth knowledge and understanding of life assurance operations, policies and procedures, and retail market.
6. Market intelligence acquisition and business planning and implementation skills.
7. Proven product development skills, business development and market development skills.
8. Excellent interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills.
9. Corporate marketing, networking and partnership building skills.
10. Team building, management and retention.
11. Effective time management and administrative skills.
12. Results oriented, self-motivated and driven with a proven performance track record.

**General Information:**

Shortlisted candidates will be required to meet all costs associated with their attendance to the interview. Please note also successful candidates will be required to meet their relocation costs to Dar es Salaam.

**How to Apply:**

Applications to be sent to [hr@alliancelife.co.tz](mailto:hr@alliancelife.co.tz) quoting the Job Reference Number and Designation given above in the subject line, latest by 17:00 Hrs. on **11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

216028301



Alliance Life  
ASSURANCE  
Think Life, Think Alliance Life

Job ref. No. ALAL/2020/10

Position: Bancassurance Manager

Alliance Life Assurance Ltd was established in 2010 as the first locally privately owned Life Insurance Company in Tanzania. The company has spread its sphere of influence throughout the region to become one of the leading insurance and financial services companies in East Africa providing life insurance solutions to both corporates and individuals. Alliance Life is highly rated in leadership, innovation, customer service, and risk management.

We currently have an exciting career opportunity for a **Bancassurance Manager** reporting to the Sales & Marketing Manager. The Position will be based in Dar es Salaam with some travelling outside Dar es Salaam as and when required. Role Purpose: The position holder will be responsible for creating and implementing an approved Bancassurance strategy, in-line with Alliance Life's Sales Strategy, including business growth and development within banks to profitably generate product revenue targets, and to develop strong relationships and partnerships in the market

**Responsibilities:**

1. Drive the achievement of the set financial targets while delivering consistent, seamless and trusted customer service to ensure customer retention and loyalty.
2. Develop and implement an approved Bancassurance strategy in line with the company's sales strategy, and periodically review the strategy and performance taking appropriate and remedial action to assist all involved in the process to achieve desired performance.
3. Design and develop need based products for target market and maximize on the cross selling opportunities between the company and bank products & Work closely with business teams to ensure that Bancassurance targets are met.
4. Relationship management for all Bancassurance partners and business stakeholders, internally and externally, to identify opportunities and ensure efficient service delivery to all stakeholders including improved customer service.
5. Provide leadership, direction and pace for Bancassurance taking appropriate steps to make Alliance Life the preferred choice for life insurance services.
6. Provide requisite support to Bancassurance teams whilst ensuring adherence to laid down processes, policies and procedures.
7. Provide technical guidance and ensure continuous training for business teams on all insurance products.
8. Regularly report the performance of Bancassurance Channel in accordance with applicable structures and ensure the section is fully aligned with the rest of the department.

**Qualifications and Key Competencies.**

1. A business related degree from recognized Institution – Insurance and Risk Management Qualification would be an added advantage.
2. Professional insurance certificates/ diplomas/advanced diploma will be an added advantage.
3. Minimum of 5 years' experience in the insurance market with a similar product sales and relationship management role, and a proven track record.
4. In-depth knowledge of life assurance and banking operations, policies and procedures.
5. Market intelligence acquisition and business planning and implementation skills.
6. Proven product development skills, business development and market development skills.
7. Excellent interpersonal and communication and negotiation skills.
8. Team player with attention to detail
9. Strong time management
10. Results oriented, self-motivated and driven with a proven performance track record.

**General Information:**

Shortlisted candidates will be required to meet all costs associated with their attendance to the interview. Please note also successful candidates will be required to meet their relocation costs to Dar es Salaam.

**How to Apply:**

Applications to be sent to [hr@alliancelife.co.tz](mailto:hr@alliancelife.co.tz) quoting the Job Reference Number and Designation given above in the subject line, latest by 17:00 Hrs. on **11<sup>th</sup> December 2020**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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# Digitisation could transform African agriculture

MBABANE

Placing an online order for farming inputs saves Velebantfu Dlamini about USD12 in transport fees for a round trip of about 320 kilometres. The 26-year-old vegetable farmer from Nkhungwini in the Shiselweni Region, south of Eswatini, uses a portal to order from the National Agriculture Marketing Board (NAMBoard) Farm Store. NAMBoard then delivers his order leaving Dlamini with time to stay in the field and look after his crops.

"Ordering through the portal is convenient although the delivery of the inputs takes about two weeks longer," Dlamini told IPS, adding: "During the COVID-19 lockdown, I waited for fertilisers for about two months."

NAMBoard has established the portal through a European Union-funded project, the Climate Smart Agriculture Market Oriented Agriculture Project (CSMA). The portal is only connected to the NAMBoard Farm Store, which has disadvantages for the farmers as the prices are not competitive.

Besides using the portal, Dlamini said he communicates with NAMBoard extension officers via WhatsApp to give them updates on his crops. He can take pictures of the crops, and if diseased, they can help with a diagnosis and a possible resolution.

"The extension officers hardly visit me, but they're up to date on what is happening on my field," said Dlamini, adding: "That means they have time to visit other farmers because we're many."

Dlamini is one of the very few farmers in African countries who have access to digital services. According to a Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and Dalberg Advisors report, more than 90 percent of the market for digital services that support African smallholders remains untapped, and it could be worth more than US\$2.26 billion.

The Digitalisation of African Ag-



Farmers are producing without knowing market demand for their produce which leads to food waste or scarcity. Technology can fix the food system by ensuring that information is shared timeously across the value chain. File photo

riculture Report 2018-19 states that an inclusive, digitally-enabled agricultural transformation could drive greater engagement in farming from women and youth and create employment opportunities along the value chain.

Speaking to IPS, former CSMA project manager, Bheki Ginindza, said there is a need to empower consumer associations so that they can request food people want to eat to be healthy. The next step is consolidating information systems within the markets in Africa so that it's clear what consumers are going to eat and in what quantities each year.

"Right now, farmers produce with-

out this information which leads to flooding the market, which result in food waste, or scarcity which increases food prices," he said.

Ginindza said that once all the information is in place, it could be uploaded to a portal that links farmers with the market and input suppliers. For now, everyone operates on 'gut instincts'.

"Then the information can be disseminated to all farmers via mobile phones," said Ginindza, noting that there was a high penetration of mobile networks in African countries. "In short, we need technology that will ensure information is communicated at the right time across the

value chain."

Technology in agriculture came under sharp focus during the one-day Resetting the Food System from Farm to Fork summit hosted by the Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation (BCFN). According to Emily Ma, lead for food systems at X, the moonshot factory, one of the biggest challenges of the food system and opportunities came from a McKinsey report released a few years ago. The report outlined the level of digitalisation of various industries.

"At the very bottom of the list were food and agriculture," said Ma.

She urged all players in the food

system to start organising how information is shared so that in a world where the average food item travels many miles to its destination, people, consumers and producers, can make the right decisions.

She said as a global tech company, X, the moonshot factory, was paying close attention to their own culture, operations and philosophy of food to prevent food waste. Ma said, a couple of years back, the company realised that food waste was a big challenge within its operations.

"We're also consumers, so we decided to bring big data, hardware and even robotics to help solve the problem of food waste," said Ma. An estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted globally each year, which is equivalent to one-third of all food produced for human consumption, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Another tech giant, Microsoft, is looking at its company in terms of reducing food waste. It was analysing its operations and supporting other activities related to reducing carbon and ensuring water efficiency, said its director for agribusiness solutions, Darney Debnam.

"Microsoft is also committed to supporting other companies - whether its retailers or food services with using Microsoft capabilities or other tech to reduce food waste," said Debnam. He said an example would be ensuring a company maintains a longer shelf life for a product using technology.

Speaking at the same event, Andrea Renda, the senior research fellow and head of Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation, and the Digital Economy (GRID), at the Centre for European Policy Studies, warned that technology could be harmful if not used properly.

"All these technologies can be used for good and bad," said Renda. "We need to use them carefully and as a means to a more sustainable end because if we don't use them properly, they can end up exacerbating the problem of sustainability that the current food system has generated over time."

Renda also said many technologies could be a gamechanger in the food system. He said incorporating technologies in the whole food supply chain for optimised production and distribution plus using the collaborative economy to reduce food waste could enhance the food system and make it more sustainable.

AGENCIES

BY MOHAMED M DIATTA

## High expectations for the next AU Commission chair

African leaders are set to elect a new African Union Commission (AUC) at the continental body's next ordinary summit early in 2021. At the top of the commission's hierarchy is the chairperson, a key position occupied since January 2017 by Chad's former foreign minister, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

Heads of state have to choose an AUC chairperson for the next four years, starting in January 2021. Although Mahamat is set to run unopposed, what are the considerations in picking a new chair?

Africa is facing many economic and conflict-related problems. A leader is needed who can deal with these challenges but who also has the acumen to solve with the internal dysfunctions and allegations of corruption and mismanagement at the AU Commission.

Technically, AUC chairs are charged with overseeing the commission's administration and finances, promoting and popularising the AU's objectives and enhancing its performance. They're also responsible for consulting and coordinating with member states, development partners, regional economic communities, etc.

The AUC chair's good offices could help in conflict prevention, an area where the PSC has struggled

The chair must also appoint and manage AUC staff, and act as a depository for AU treaties and legal instruments. The protocol on the establishment of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) allows the chair to play a role in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in Africa. So the AU Commission chair needs to be a technically sound manager and a seasoned diplomat.

The past three chairs were former foreign affairs ministers with



The main task will be delivering an effective new structure that tackles internal dysfunction at the commission. File photo

a wealth of knowledge on continental challenges, priorities and commitments. Their ministerial positions also allowed them to build and sustain relationships across Africa and beyond. This mix of skills and experience is vital.

A priority for the next AUC chairperson and the commission as a whole is the AU institutional reforms. These reforms were approved by AU heads of state and have been partially implemented, particularly those relating to the organisation's financial self-sufficiency and streamlining the commission's various departments. It remains to be seen how this will translate into a more efficient AU that serves Africa's needs.

Another priority is kick-starting the African Continental Free Trade Area

(AfCFTA), alongside the newly-established AfCFTA Secretariat. Due to COVID-19-related challenges, trading under the AfCFTA has been postponed to 1 January 2021.

The next AUC chair needs to address allegations of corruption and mismanagement at the commission

But the real test for the AUC's incoming leadership will be the roll-out of the commission's new structure. The next AUC chair will have to ensure that the new structure succeeds, this will include addressing internal dysfunction and allegations of corruption and mismanagement at the commission.

Given that the head of state chosen to chair the AU has a one-year term only, the commission chairperson plays an

important role in ensuring continuity of the AU's work. One of the continent's priorities - peace and security - remains a challenge.

Conflict and violent extremism in South Sudan, Sudan, Libya, Mali and the Sahel, and the Lake Chad Basin, have fluctuated between complete deterioration and substantial improvement. No lasting resolution has been found. Political tensions are also rife in many countries, including Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, where both incumbents have been re-elected in controversial elections.

Both the AUC chairperson and the commissioner for political affairs, peace and security could play a pivotal role in resolving these conflicts, through for example supporting the PSC, which holds

the primary responsibility in these matters. The AUC chairperson's good offices could also go a long way in conflict prevention, an area where the PSC has struggled.

The chair's biggest task will be to ensure a smooth transition to the new AUC structure

In essence, this all fits into the AU's Silencing the Guns by 2020 agenda, which according to recent research by the Institute for Security Studies has had only 'marginal achievements.' This is due to 'institutional, conceptual, political and operational issues' that complicate its implementation.

The magnitude of Africa's peace and security problems makes it difficult for the AUC and its chairperson to solve them alone. But the commission's involvement could undoubtedly help.

The AU is still seen as an organisation of heads of state, far removed from the African people. This is largely due to the AU's principled positions, which often overlook people's grievances and appear to side with incumbent heads of state. Bringing the AU closer to Africans will require bridging the gap between governments and their citizens through more democratic, transparent and inclusive governance.

The past few years have seen a new impetus to make Africa's voice heard in the global multilateral system. Examples include the 2017 AU-European Union (EU) summit and the rekindling of AU-United Nations (UN) relations. Regular meetings and consultations now take place between the AU and EU, and AU and UN.

However the AU's failure to agree on a single platform for negotiations with the EU is a stark reminder of the problems still to be overcome. This same goes for differences on African candidacies for positions in global organisations where consensus around a single African nominee has at times been difficult to find and uphold.

For Africa to be heard, it must speak with one voice. The next AUC and its chairperson are expected to be at the forefront of this endeavour. The chair's biggest task will be to ensure a smooth transition to the new AUC structure so that it can effectively and efficiently implement the vast and complex continental agenda.

AGENCIES



# CBFM supports pregnant mothers in Nanjirinji village

By Gerald Kitabu

COMING out of her house wearing a smiling face, Mosi Hassan Kikope (26), a resident of Nanjirinji village in Kilwa District, Lindi region walks hurriedly with her baby boy on her back towards the village government office but before stepping on to the door, green uniforms of her fellow women involved in the village Natural Resource Committee tells her that she is not one of them.

She poses for a while on the door, returns, and sits under a big mango tree near the office. She picks up a fallen ripe mango and begins to eat while closely watching a group of the village Natural Resource Committees entering the village government office. Mosi's hasty movement to and from the village government office is deliberate. For a couple of days, the village government office was quiet, now she thinks that distribution of a share of money set aside for pregnant mothers had finally come.

Mosi is not pregnant but she has a baby boy she gave birth to almost three months ago. The child is called Mdasilu Chowela.

The village has put in place a plan where all pregnant mothers get registered and given an allowance of 50,000/- for medical kits. The kits help them during delivery. This means that the money is given to each pregnant woman to help attend clinic and buy some facilities to help her and her newborn during giving birth.

Mosi, a Makonde by tribe commends the government plan saying the plan has helped many pregnant mothers who have no money for transport and other facilities to attend the clinic. So, she had gone to the village government office, hoping that it was her turn to collect the 50,000/- for her last born Mdasilu. She had not collected the money before when she was pregnant with the last born.

The government through Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) has made it possible to fund hundreds of women and in fact, the plan has made a difference in women's lives.

Many women have benefited from the village government plan. Mosi's sister Somoe Kikopa who is also pregnant is on the list of beneficiaries. She concurs with her young sister. She is currently waiting for her turn.

She says the plan has helped many poor pregnant women because before, it was difficult to get the money for medical kits for many women in the village. To access health services, women have to travel more than 160km from Nanjirinji to Kilwa Masoko hospital.

"Without this plan maybe some women would have died due to lack of money for transport and other facilities required for the clinic. The roads infrastructure are bad such that only a few vehicles can manage to come to this areas and at times, the vehicles come to ferry agricultural crops such as sesame,



Mosi Hassan Kikope (26) sits for a recent interview with our correspondent, Gerald Kitabu, at her Nanjirinji village residence in Kilwa District on how the village has benefited from Community Based Forest Management.

cashew, and Maize," she said.

Their mother Masha Kassim (50) says the plan is amazing.

"Every pregnant mother must be attended to. The plan has brought maternal services closer to many poor women and it has attracted even more women from other villages in the village," she says.

"I recommend that the government should back up this program by extending and improving community-based forest management because during my time women used to suffer a lot but this village better program of supporting the women, their life has been simplified life," she says.

The village Chairman Mohamed Mkalimaga assured Mosi of her money. He said the government was preparing for her to go and sign for the cash.

He said after raising enough money from CBFM, the village government set down and listed all important issues that need to be addressed, and the first thing that comes out was to have a special plan to support pregnant mothers through this CBFM program.

Dr Evelyn Mtede, a Medical Officer-in-charge at Nanjirinji Health Centre said the village government system is a unique one, very rare in the country. It is a very good plan because the act of giving birth does not tell when it will happen. It comes when one is not prepared.

"This is a big support to the government hospitals because, as you know, most government

hospitals have many challenges including lack of staff and medical kits for pregnant mothers. Therefore, the act of the government to equip these women fifty thousand shillings is laudable," she said.

She explained further that usually when a pregnant mother goes to the health centre, the medical costs range between 40,000/- and 50,000/-. So, for having this program, many women will be assured of getting all medical kits on time.

"When I arrived here, I was very much happy to learn about this program. Until now, I am still thinking how men leaders of this village can manage this plan which is rare in our government villages and even in some districts' offices," she explained.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism (MNRT), Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) is one kind of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) approach that takes place on village land, on forests that are owned or managed by the Village Council on behalf of the Village Assembly and leads to the establishment of Village Land Forest Reserves (VLFM).

Therefore, on CBFM, local people play a role as both managers and forest owners. Management is exercised through village institutions elected by all community members. The role of the districts is to support and assist

the communities to manage their own forests sustainably.

Priority for pregnant mothers Explaining the genesis of the plan, the village Chairman Mkalimaga explained that since the establishment of the village in 1974, the village government had no such a plan. Many women were dying due to lack of nearby health centre.

"The district hospital is far away from some 160 km from the village, there is no reliable transport and the roads infrastructures were very poor. In 2012 the village in collaboration with development partners particularly Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI) and WWF decided to set aside 64,551 hectares of Mbumbila A village land forest reserve. The village started implementing CBFM to manage the village land forest reserve.

The MCDI helps the communities with long-term technical supports on different aspects including sustainable harvesting, value addition, and marketing of forest products. Also to enhance sustainable technical knowledge on managing village forest reserves and sustainable forest-based enterprises; capacity building to new VNRC and village council members is very essential.

After realizing a huge profit, the village decided to form another village land forest reserve called Mbumbula B. The forest has 18,987 hectares. To date, the village has a total of 83,538 hectares from the

two forest reserves.

He said between 2012 and 2017 the village raised a total of 812,597,513 shillings from sustainable harvest under CBFM. Before setting aside the village land forest reserve, the village used to raise 30,000,000 from small levies.

After raising the money the village put in place a plan on how to use the money. The first priority was given to help pregnant mothers deliver safely. The village proposed 50,000/- shillings for each pregnant mother to help them buy medical kits. The types of equipment for the clinic and during delivery. "You know many rural communities are poor and so are women. We have seen how women are dying due to pregnancy complications and lack of facilities, so we made this our first priority," he said.

"So far a total of 280 women have benefited from the plan. The village has used a total of 14,000,000/- shillings to help the expected mothers buy medical kits," he said.

Lack enough, the pregnant mothers are included in another village plan that involved all village residents that if one falls sick he or she is given another 50,000/- shillings for a referral to the district or regional hospital for further medical attention. Pregnant mothers have also benefited from community insurance.

Besides helping the village's pregnant mothers, the village has used 70,000,000/- to build the village office. Some of the money

has also constructed the village government office. Furthermore, the village contributes 100,000/- for each student who passes the Standard Seven exams to join form one. The village government has spent a total of 57,000,000 to construct three school classrooms, a store, and a teacher's office. The village has used 20,000,000/- for building teacher's house, purchased 40 desks for 2,880,000/- and constructed a classroom for nursery pupils at Kitochi hamlet costing 20,000,000/-. The village has bought school uniforms for 323 village pupils at a cost of 2,700,000/- shillings. The

Simon Lugazo from Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) and Faustin Zakharia from Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) commended Nanjirinji village initiatives saying the villages implementing CBFM, have transformed the economics and governance of forest product value chains, a situation that has contributed to improving their lives through income generation. Citing an example of Kilosa District in the Morogoro region, they said this CBFM has also helped in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

They called on the government and other stakeholders to called on the government to formalize and give rural communities legal rights to own, protect, and benefit from forest resources and services.

Commenting on how CBFM has managed to help Nanjirinji villagers invest in basic social services like the allowance for the pregnant mothers and other development projects, Kilwa district Forest Officer Njabha Lyatura said the main objective of forest conservation is to enable the community benefit from their own villages. That's why we say in CBFM, local people play a role as both managers and forest owners. They decide on the profits accrued from the forest for implementing development projects. The role of the districts is to support and assist the communities to manage their own forests sustainably.

Kilwa District Executive Director (DED) Godfrey Jafary commended Nanjirinji village government initiatives saying it is one of the villages that should be emulated by other villages in the district.

He said through CBFM, the village has managed to generate income and provide basic social services. For example, the village provides fifty thousand shillings for each pregnant mother for buying medical kits.

"As you know, pregnant mothers need to prepare for delivery. They need to buy medical kits, but this service is being provided by the village government. The village leaders have gone further to help them get health insurance. This is something to be proud of," he said.

"The population is increasing on daily basis. Currently, the district's population is more than 200,000 people. Therefore, when you have such initiatives right from the village is a big support to the district council," he said.

# Landmark alliance launches in Africa to fight COVID-19 misinformation

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday launched a new alliance, the Africa Infodemic Response Alliance (AIRA), to coordinate actions and pool resources in combating misinformation around COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies in Africa.

Digital platforms have been inundated with COVID-19-related information since the pandemic began in late 2019. Information about the virus has been shared and viewed over 270 billion times online and mentioned almost 40 million times on Twitter and web-based news sites in the 47 countries of the WHO African Region between February and November 2020, according to

UN Global Pulse, the United Nations' Secretary-General's initiative on big data and artificial intelligence.

A large proportion of this information is inaccurate and misleading and continues to be shared by social media users intentionally or unknowingly every day. The COVID-19 infodemic is amplified online through social media but health misinformation is also circulating offline.

Measuring precisely how much of what is circulating is misinformation is difficult, but fact-checking organizations in Africa say they have debunked more than 1000 of such misleading reports since the onset of the pandemic. Some of the widely shared misinformation include conspiracies around unproven treatments, false cures and anti-vaccine

messages.

"In health emergencies, misinformation can kill and ensure diseases continue to spread. People need proven, science-based facts to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing, and a glut of information - an infodemic - with misinformation in the mix makes it hard to know what is right and real. This crucial new alliance brings unique reach, knowledge and skills to help stop the impact of dangerous misinformation," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

Among others, the Africa Infodemic Response Alliance will work collaboratively to counter false information around COVID-19 vaccines and complement on the ground public health awareness

raising and community engagement efforts by creating demand for vaccines in the region.

The network is the first initiative of its kind and it brings together 13 international and regional organizations and fact-checking groups with expertise in data and behavioural science, epidemiology, research, digital health, and communications to detect, disrupt and counter damaging misinformation on public health issues in Africa.

The Alliance will encourage proactive disclosure by data holders and support journalists and media outlets to effectively share lifesaving information based on scientific evidence and debunk disinformation on health issues.

It also aims to support individual African countries in developing tai-

lored infodemic management strategies, including analysing trends and behaviours, recruiting specialists and refining systematic engagement strategies rooted in research and analytics.

This initiative puts into practice key recommendations on infodemic management that were developed by over 1300 experts from across disciplines in early 2020 under the auspices of WHO's global Information Network for Epidemics (EPI-WIN).

The Alliance members are Africa CDC, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the United Nations Verified initiative, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and United Nations Global Pulse. Participating and supporting bodies include Africa Check, Agence France-Presse Fact Check, PesaCheck, Dubawa and Meedan.

"Africa can only beat the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks by relying on trusted information that is based on insights scientists bring to the conversation. To fight misinformation and mischaracterization, public health experts must work with the community and media consistently and continuously. This is the value that the AIRA partnership brings to the collective of responses in the continent," said Dr John Nkengasong, Director, Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).



# Joe Biden's appointees: It IS the economy at stake



By J Brooks Spector

As the US president-elect had promised, the incoming Biden administration unveiled a major chunk of his appointees who will deal with economic policy in a Tuesday event similar to the one for foreign policy positions the week before. Despite the newest appointees' impressive collective experience, expertise, credibility, and some significant racial/gender diversity, these nominations did not entirely escape controversy. In particular, one nominee - Neera Tanden - may have already become a zombie nominee, even before the Biden administration actually begins its first day in office.

However, rivalling the Biden appointments announcements for the public's attention, inevitably, are the final weeks of Donald Trump's eye-watering, but not especially funny, comic opera of a presidency. Even now, the Trump presidential campaign (yes, it still exists, despite every swing state now having had its vote totals officially certified and confirmed) continues to solicit contributions, ostensibly for its mad fight to overturn the election results.

This self-serving public appeal for money to fight the good fight in the courts has now raised more than \$150-million. However, the very small print - those diabolical T's and C's - explains to donors that their gifts are not really going to pay the lawyers in all those increasingly futile legal filings and lawsuits being carried out in various state and federal courts, and may, instead, be used for almost anything he wants for himself or even for a 2024 presidential run. Really. Meanwhile, along the way, various legal hangers-on for the Trump campaign have taken to issuing death threats to state officials who have carried out these certifications of vote totals. Someone may get seriously hurt in this "fun".

There are now also rumours swirling around that the president is considering giving pardons to his adult children, to son-in-law Jared Kushner, to Rudy Giuliani, and maybe even to himself, for things that they may have done that are not - yet - the subject of criminal investigations. If these are issued, it is crucial to note that such par-

From left, US Office of Management and Budget director nominee Neera Tanden, Treasury secretary nominee Janet Yellen and president-elect Joe Biden. File photos

dons would not apply to criminal acts that would be charged under New York State law.

Even as this poisonous clown show with Giuliani and company has continued without let-up (but with no further hair dye malfunctions or press conferences in front of landscaping companies and adult bookstores), the president's very own, most faithful, exceedingly loyal political slave and equerry, Attorney General William Barr, suddenly announced he had found no evidence of electoral corruption, fakery, fraud, theft, black magic, the miraculous transmutation of elements, or any other chicanery in the 2020 election. None. Bupkis. Now let that announcement settle into readers' thoughts for a minute.

The very man who had exerted superhuman efforts to dilute or divert the impact and import of the Mueller investigation into Russian electoral interference and cooperation, or "accidental" collusion, between the 2016 Trump presidential campaign and elements of Russian secret services, was now saying the core, fundamental tenet of the Trump 2020 campaign - the lament that "we wuz robbed" by those demonic forces of Democrats, a vast network of the fake news media, the so-called "deep state", those nefarious Chinese, the Venezuelans and the mysterious reach of the long-dead Hugo Chavez, and insidious hi-tech and vote tabulating companies - simply was not true. Hearing this news must have been a rather painful shot into the solar plexus over in the Oval Office.

Trying to clean up the story slightly, after the fact, a justice department spokesperson told Politico on late Tuesday evening:

"Some media outlets have incorrectly reported that the Department has concluded its investigation of election fraud and announced an affirmative finding of no fraud in the election. That is not what the Associated Press reported nor what the Attorney General stated. The Department will continue to receive and vigorously pursue all specific and credible allegations of fraud as expeditiously as possible."

Meanwhile, in response to all these goings-on, the Wall Street Journal editorial board cut to the chase, writing:

"We're open to evidence of major fraud, but we haven't seen claims that are credible. Now comes Mr. Barr, who has no reason to join a cover up. He likes his job. He wanted Mr. Trump to win. As the election timetable closes, Mr. Trump should focus on preserving his legacy rather than diminishing it by alleging fraud he can't prove."

Just to be on the safe side, though, in a very clever CYA move, Barr also assigned counsel to look into the justice department

and FBI's handling of the 2016 Russian interference probe, thereby giving a little poison pill to the incoming Biden administration. On the one hand, if they shut down this inquiry as a silly waste of money, they get to hear the howls of Trumpian true believers reach incredible decibel levels. Alternatively, if there actually are any sorts of miscues uncovered, no matter how tiny or technical, the true believers will have a teensy-tiny smoking gun to wave about during the Biden administration's entire term of office. Sweet.

Meanwhile, over in the real world of the president-elect's efforts to set up an administration that can enter office ready to get to work from 20 January to deal with the pandemic, and amid coming to grips with the complex logistics of vaccine delivery and the continuing economic crunch, Biden formally introduced his pick for Treasury secretary, the ultra-experienced Janet Yellen (formerly chair of the Federal Reserve Bank, a board member there, and prior to that the head of the Council of Economic Advisors under President Obama).

There were also introductions for the head of the National Economic Council, Brian Deese, now at investment giant BlackRock; Princeton University economist Cecilia Rouse as the new chair of the Council of Economic Advisors and the two other statutory members, economists Jared Bernstein and Heather Boushey; longtime political and economic adviser Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo as the deputy secretary of the Treasury; and Biden's choice to be the director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Neera Tanden.

In his introductory remarks, Biden was at pains to describe his team as a cohesive group who will understand the predicaments and anxieties of working and middle-class families, and will be prioritising the kind of economic growth that focuses on employment. (This was obviously meant as a contrast to the Trump administration's four-year obsession with the stock market indexes.)

Within hours of these announcements, there was already some muttering (and a bit of snarling) about Biden's choices. From one corner, there are voices from among allies of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party offering concerns about some nominees' ties to the world of banking and finance such as in the case of Deese.

As Politico reported: "We are concerned, as our name suggests, with revolving door hires." Jeff Hauser, who founded the Revolving Door Project to scrutinize executive branch appointees, told Politico last week: "And Brian Deese's [relationship] to BlackRock makes it less likely that the federal government will rein in BlackRock

as it should be."

A second critique of Biden's picks so far, in foreign policy and now with economic policy, has been the relative paucity of African Americans on the roster, despite their major role in Biden's electoral success. At this point, African American appointments include US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, CEA Chair Cecilia Rouse and Treasury deputy Adeyemo, but the muttering is that, so far at least, no first-prize, first-chair Cabinet appointments have been made. Yes, the secretary of homeland security is a Hispanic American and the OMB head is South Asian-American, but, so far, the real demographic different from a Republican Cabinet and related offices has come in the gender balance sphere where a significant number of Biden's appointees, especially in economics, are female, and his entire communications team in the White House is female as well.

Republican presidents usually have an easier time dealing with the demographic puzzle since a Republican Cabinet's biggest diversity issues come from whether there are enough real business voices in the mix (and, previously, sufficient numbers of full-throated global interventionists); or whether there are enough far-right economic fundamentalists to balance the inevitable Wall Street contingent. By contrast, the Democrats' balancing act must take into account gender, race, ethnicity, and progressive fire-breathers versus middle of the road/politically experienced/moderates as appointees. In this incoming administration, the Biden plan seems to be to pick people he is already comfortable with and, largely, those with whom he has worked before in the Senate or as vice president.

The third voice of opposition, however, is coming from well outside the Democratic universe, as a growing number of Republicans say Tanden's style has bruised their feelings with her sharp-edged tweets and other public pronouncements. (Imagine that, those poor Republican senators with their tender, but now-wounded egos and those horrific emotional bruises from Tanden's reputation as an electronic street fighter.)

Tanden was a Hillary Clinton protagonist as well, so that may be salt in the wounds of some. (One Washington observer and friend wrote to this writer to say, "I suspect Tanden is dead in the water. She has spent WAY too much time saying partisan things on partisan networks to have an easy time in the Senate. She'd be an easy one to pick off, if the GOP wants a few scalps.") For her part, at her introduction, she made a point of explaining that her family survived on housing coupons and food stamp aid and

so she fully understands the plight of the poor.

But in recognising her potential vulnerability, as Yahoo reported:

"The first order of business for Neera Tanden, Joe Biden's nominee to lead the federal Office of Management and Budget, appears to be deleting more than a thousand tweets, some of which contain criticisms of the senators who will vote to confirm her. Ms Tanden is the president of the Centre for American Progress [a moderately progressive think tank in Washington]. Like many people involved in national politics, she spends a lot of time online, especially on Twitter. Also like many Americans, Ms Tanden gets into fights on social media and makes incendiary posts.

"Unlike most Americans, however, the people she often tweets about will now have a hand in determining whether or not she will join a presidential administration.

"Sen. John Cornyn, a Republican, called Ms Tanden Mr Biden's 'worst nominee so far' specifically because of her 'insulting' tweets. 'I think, in light of her combative and insulting comments about many members of the Senate, mainly on our side of the aisle, that it creates certainly a problematic path,' he said to USA Today."

It is not even 20 January yet and already the GOP is bringing out their howitzers because their feelings are hurt by a sharp-tongued policy wonk who has had lots of media exposure.

In times gone by, a president's first round of appointees was usually given a pass on grounds the president should have the people he wants around him to help succeed or make his mistakes. Back in 1959, when Allen Drury wrote the best-selling Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Advise and Consent*, the very idea of a knockdown, drag-out fight over a Cabinet-level confirmation - complete with evidence, variously, of long-ago, far-left political sympathies and closeted homosexuality - was a stunner. Now, all it seems to take is some acerbic tweets to make real trouble for a nomination.

It will be increasingly interesting to see how many needles Biden manages to thread for his remaining picks, including such heavyweight positions as secretaries of defence and health and human services, and director of the CIA, among others.



# EXPERT COUNSELS TANZANIANS TO BUY PROPERTY INSURANCE TO AVOID DESTITUTION

## Tollgates on Maputo Ring Road next year

### MAPUTO

Four tollgates will be built on the 70 kilometre Maputo Ring Road next year, and will start operating in the second half of the year, according to Angelo Lichanga, chairperson of Revimo, the public company that operates the road, cited in Tuesday's issue of the independent daily "O Pais."

Motorists were always supposed to pay tolls to use the Ring Road, but vehicles have been driving along it since 2017 without paying a penny. The failure to collect tolls is costing the Mozambican state, which, in the absence of tolls, must pay for the upkeep of the road, millions of dollars a year.

Speaking in Matola, at the First Maputo Provincial Roads Council, Lichanga said building work has already begun on two of the tollgates, at Kumbeza and Matola-Gare, and next Saturday work will start on the gates at Costa do Sol, on the Maputo beach front, and at Zintava, in Marracuene district.

A fifth tollgate will be at the tourist resort of Macaneta, also in Marracuene. This is currently operating from improvised premises. Lichanga said the decision on how much motorists will have to pay at each toll gate has not yet been taken. The Ring Road cost 315 million dollars, and of that sum 300 million dollars is a loan from China.

Revimo also operates the suspension bridge across the Bay of Maputo, and the roads connecting the southern end of the bridge to the South African province of Kwa-Zulu Natal. Toll gates are already fully functional on the bridge and the road to the South African border.

For many years the government has spoken of enforcing a "user pays" approach to road maintenance - but, until the suspension bridge was completed, in 2019, the only major road with toll gates was the Maputo-South Africa motorway. In 1997, this road was leased to the South African company Trans African Concessions (TRAC) for 30 years. TRAC ensured the construction and maintenance of the motorway and collects tolls from motorists at two toll gates.

Although TRAC has kept the motorway operating without requiring funds from the Mozambican state budget, this model was not followed anywhere else in the country. Almost the entire Mozambican road network is run by the State, through the National Roads Administration (ANE). Since the state does not have the funds to pay for the regular maintenance needed, the roads deteriorate, and every now and then the government obtains loans from the World Bank, the European Union, or some other sympathetic agency, to rehabilitate the roads.

For decades the State has effectively been subsidising the companies that own heavy trucks (which cause most of the damage to the roads), and the rich individuals who own cars. Repeatedly the government talks about leasing out stretches of the main north-south highway (EN1) to private operators, who will collect tolls. But the power of the motoring lobby is such that this has not yet happened.



By Francis Kajubi

**T**ANZANIANS have been encouraged to buy insurance cover for their property and lives to avoid destitution once disaster strikes because they stand to be compensated.

Sanlam Tanzania Limited's CEO, Khamis Suleiman said in Dar es Salaam last week that many Tanzanians still consider insurance as a luxury other than a necessity because of ignorance of its importance.

"We offer services that a common Tanzanian can manage to pay for their property through an insurance premium finance model or a debit order service that allows one to pay in installments," Suleiman said when Sanlam and Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania Limited unveiled their joint bancassurance services.

He gave an example that annual premium for property worth 100m/- is simply 177,000/- while that of a motor vehicle stands at 4.13m/- hence affordable to many owners of such property in the market who stand a chance to get full compensation when disaster strikes.

According to the 2012 census, Tanzania has 6.6 million residential and commercial properties but only less than



Sanlam Tanzania Limited headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

10,000 houses were ensured. There were 400,000 houses in Dar es Salaam alone. The census unveiled that the few insured properties were due to a pre-condition to acquire loans from banks. Suleiman who has 35

years of experience in the industry and heads one of the oldest insurance companies in the market said uninsured property may make families poorer once struck by disasters such as fire outbreak, floods and storms.

"Being the oldest insurance firm in the country we have enough experience of how important residential properties are to individuals. We know that people spend almost lifetime savings to be able to own a decent house but many have either built or bought their houses using mortgage products," the Sanlam Tanzania CEO added.

He said on average building or buying houses costs tens to hundreds of millions of shillings hence once destroyed, families may be forced to live with neighbours, friends or relatives while struggling to rebuild them.

"With this kind of investment it is absolutely important to ensure that these properties are covered against risks of fire and other forces of nature," Suleiman advised adding that Sanlam's partnership with Standard Chartered Bank will allow clients to access all insurance products and services through bancassurance.

In May last year Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority and Bank of Tanzania launched regulations that allowed banks to partner with insurance companies to offer insurance services.

Sanlam is a global insurance company that in June this year celebrated 102 year of its existence but has been in Tanzania for over 20 years now with more than 40 employees on its payroll.

## UBA Group subsidiaries win six Bankers Awards

By Property Watch Reporter

IN recognition of its brand acceptance and the role in facilitating economic development across Africa, six subsidiaries of United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc have been named 'Bank of the Year 2020' by the Banker Magazine.

Published by Financial Times of London, the Banker Magazine named UBA Benin, UBA Cote D'Ivoire, UBA Chad, UBA Liberia, UBA Sierra Leone and UBA Zambia as best bank in their respective countries. For the second year running, UBA's multiple initiatives which include its investment in digital technology, adherence to world-class customer services offerings and financing critical projects have been recognised by the organisers of the world's leading award in finance.

The 2020 edition of the awards ceremony was held virtually mid this week and the exceptional win makes it the second time ever in the history of the banker awards, that any banking group will be clinching as many as six wins in the same year. The group made history with the same number of awards in the 2019 edition of The Banker's awards.

Middle East and Africa Editor for The Banker, John Everington explained that a rigorous and highly analytical process is made to reach each Bank of the Year decision and the institution's reputation for independence, authority and integrity is applied to each submission.

"More banks apply for the Bank of the Year Awards than any other similar process and our access to data on each bank and focus on transformation, inclusion and diversity in the industry is well known," Everington said.

"Winning Bank of the Year, this year more than any other, is an opportunity for your bank to position itself as playing a key role in

what the future holds and building towards a recovery in economies in 120 countries worldwide," he added.

Responding to the success, UBA Africa CEO, Oliver Alawuba, expressed delight over the recognition from The Banker saying, "The recognitions come as a reassurance that we are on track in consolidating our leadership position in Africa, as we continue to create superior value for all our stakeholders."

"Following the multiple awards won by UBA Group and five of our subsidiaries in 2019, this year's award is another testament of our hard work and increasing effort by the UBA Group to impact the African continent, positively," Alawuba added.

He further noted that this year's award comes at a very auspicious time due to the coronavirus outbreak but pointed out that the UBA Group has been able to stand strong and resilient in its mandate of delivering excellent financial services to over 21 million customers, across 23 countries of operations. Alawuba dedicated the awards to the over 20,000 staff of bank, adding, "We believe that this award will spur us on in our renewed commitment to exceed customers' expectation, always."

Since 1926, the Bank of the Year awards has been celebrating the best of global banking and is regarded as the industry standard for banking excellence and the 2020 edition highlights those institutions that have outshone their peers in terms of performance, strategic initiatives and response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Banker Magazine is a publication of the Financial Times - a leading global finance news publication which has been in existence since 1888. The Banker magazine is the definitive reference in international banking for high level decision makers.



United Bank for Africa headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria.



## USAID'S TULONGE AFYA PROJECT HELPING MOTHERS BUILD FUTURE OF THEIR HOMES

By Property Watch Reporter

**Y**OUNG mothers in some regions of the country have applauded United States Agency for International Development's 'Tulonge Afya' Project for enabling them to upbringing healthy babes hence securing futures of their homes and legacy.

Speaking at a USAID 'Tulonge Afya' meeting held in Arusha, the young mothers talked about customs, traditions, beliefs and issues around faith which have impacted on their lives. They speak of such things because they have made it harder for them to do the basics to keep their babies healthy.

"Two weeks after I gave birth to my first born, he cried a lot," said Marium Evance who is a mother of two. Her arms cradled around her newest born, Leila perched preciously on her hip. "I didn't know what to do," she stated noting that she then decided to ask elders who told her to give the babe something to eat because milk was never enough.

"But I refused," she added while her peers clapped in support. "I stuck to breastfeeding her exclusively till she was six months old. Only then did I start giving her food supplements," she explained.

Evance was giving testimony at a get-together for mothers of children under the age of five for young mothers in Arusha city. Among the dignitaries present was US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright and Bongo Flava artist, Mwasiti.



US Ambassador to Tanzania, Dr Donald Wright (C) holds one of the babies of a mother who attended a young mothers' 'meetup' event held in Arusha earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

The young mothers talked about various issues which relate to their struggle to exclusively breastfeed their children for six months as advised by health experts against popular 'customs' that deny them decision-making.

Their stories are reflective of the broader desire for these types of spaces, where new mums can let loose and figure out how to best care for their babies. Arusha is one of 12 regions where these 'mother meet-ups' happen.

They're supported by USAID 'Tulonge Afya' Project, a five-year undertaking that seeks to catalyze opportunities for Tanzanians to improve their health status by transforming

socio-cultural norms and supporting the adoption of healthier behaviours.

Mother meetups are managed under 'Tulonge Afya's Naweza' platform and are designed to bring together young mothers with babies aged not more than five years, to talk about the health issues that matter to them, their families, and the welfare of their children.

They are modelled after 'kitchen parties,' a sort of send-off for soon-to-be-married women, replete with the expectations of looming motherhood such moments tend to trigger.

For many of these women, such meetings are affirming, entertaining and exciting. They are an opportunity for tête-à-

têtes about the one thing that matters to them most: their baby's health.

"This approach - bringing mother together in conversation about their babies' wellbeing - supports the government's push to reduce maternal and newborn deaths," said representative of the Project Coordinator, Dennis Kabuta from EMAC Tanzania. For the Project Coordinator, interventions such as these help Tanzania get closer to eliminating preventable maternal and newborn deaths.

That is why he is a fan of USAID 'Tulonge Afya project' because he believes that such projects empower individuals to take actions to improve their health and benefit entire communities.

As a mum also his advice for all the new mothers is, "Fight the traditions, customs and beliefs that keep you from becoming healthier, embrace all the positive customs. But also share these lessons - because what you've learnt today is your weapon in the fight to for your health, and that of your child," Kabuta advised.

Commenting on the initiative, Ambassador Wright reiterated the US government's commitment to safeguarding the wellbeing of mothers and their under five kids by investing in their health and livelihoods.

"The US government has provided significant support the Tanzanian health sector, investing in infrastructure development, health policy reforms, capacity building and social and behaviour change," he said.

He noted that the American People will continue to provide funding to support maternal, newborn and child health interventions, family planning, and HIV/Aids prevention, care and treatment in Tanzania for the foreseeable future so that young mother like Marium Evance and their kids can live and survive happily. The USAID 'Tulonge Afya, Project is being implemented in 29 districts of the country including Arusha City and District Council.

## Chinese contractor to help strengthen Namibia's transport, logistics

WINDHOEK

The Namibian government's plan to develop the country into a transport and logistics hub in southern Africa helped by the groundbreaking of the rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway line between Walvis Bay and Arandis on Monday.

The project will be undertaken by China Gezhouba Group Corporation (CGGC) in Namibia and the development is set to enhance 70 percent of the railway network, and make the railway transportation meet the railway transport capacity of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Namibia's Minister of Works and Transport, John Mutorwa, who delivered the keynote address, said the project located on the west coast of Namibia will cover a total length of 107.5 km. The project is funded by the Namibian government with 56 percent of its own funds and 44 percent of the loan from the African Development Bank.

Officials from Namibian Ministry of



Officials from Namibia's Ministry of Works and Transport and China's Gezhouba Group Corporation in Namibia break ground for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway between Walvis Bay and Arandis in Arandis, western Namibia, on Nov. 30, 2020.

Works and Transport and China Gezhouba Group Corporation in Namibia break ground for the project of the

rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway line between Walvis Bay and Arandis in Arandis, western Namibia, on

Nov. 30, 2020.

The Namibian government's plan to develop the country into a transport

and logistics hub in southern Africa helped by the groundbreaking of the rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway line between Walvis Bay and Arandis to Mutorwa, having good ports and good road networks will improve Namibia's competitiveness to becoming an international logistics hub as it shares borders with Angola, South Africa, Botswana, and Zambia. The potential to be a logistics hub for the inland regions of the SADC is the vision of the country, he added.

Speaking at the event, CGGC representative Li Lijie, said they are glad and thankful that the Namibian government awarded them the contract to further develop the country's rail infrastructure.

"We have now commenced AISI from Walvis Bay to Swakopmund. We are looking forward to making this collaboration a success and we will definitely do our best," he added. The construction period of the estimated 1.029-billion-Namibia dollar-project (about 72.72 million U.S. dollars) is expected to last 821 days.

## R500m retail upgrade at Boardwalk Casino and Entertainment World set for early 2021

JOHANNESBURG

The planned R500m extension and upgrade to the retail area at Boardwalk Casino and Entertainment World in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2021.

The Flanagan & Gerard Group and Emfuleni Resorts development is expected to more than double the retail space in the Boardwalk Precinct, which will be tenanted with retailers to the local market, and will be ready to open in 2022.

A development of this kind typically creates about 2,000 jobs during construction and roughly 1,500 permanent posts thereafter. Local contractors and materials will

be used wherever possible. As part of the development, there will be significant investment in upgrading surrounding roads. Second Avenue will be widened into four lanes, and it will include a new entrance into Boardwalk Mall.

The retail space will be increased to 23,000m<sup>2</sup> along with an extensive upgrade and reconfiguration. More leisure and retail options will be added, with more shops, restaurants, and entertainment, including the new Sun Park Square which is designed to host events.

Additional development plans

Bongi Siwisa, chairperson of Emfuleni Resorts - a subsidiary of Sun International, says, "As long-standing partners of Sun International and investors

in the Boardwalk Hotel and Casino, including its current retail, Emfuleni is pleased to extend our investment to the new Boardwalk Mall. We believe it is going to be a great asset for ourselves and its community."

Says Paul Gerard, MD of Flanagan & Gerard, "We have always felt that this is a unique, strategic and exciting retail development opportunity in South Africa, and our view still holds. It is a privilege to be working with visionary partners of the calibre of Emfuleni Resorts and Sun International to develop the ultimate convenience shopping experience in Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, and we look forward to being part of the venture that will make this vision a reality."



Architectural perspective of the entrance to Boardwalk Mall.

## US company plans \$11bn Zambia-to-Mozambique rail line

LUSAKA

Florida-based rail developer Railnet International is aiming to arrange an \$11bn investment in a medium-speed rail line between Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, its chief executive said.

Donald Kress said in an interview with Reuters that the company was in talks with governments in the three countries and had, on 21 March, signed an agreement to start feasibility studies in Zambia. "We have a group known as Magcor International and their chief executive has arranged financing through a group of investors," he said.

He added: "Until we have signed a contract with the investors, they have requested to remain anonymous." The idea is to build a link between Zambia's Copperbelt province to the port of Beira in Mozambique via Harare in Zimbabwe.

Feasibility studies are expected to begin in the next six weeks and would be followed by detailed engineering design for the project on the Zambian side. Railnet expects to begin construction in January 2021.

If built, the line would allow freight trains to travel at 120 km/h and passenger trains at 160 km/h. Misheck Lungu, Zambia's permanent secretary for transport, said Railnet would build its line parallel to the existing one.

Railnet, which was set up by a group of rail professionals to develop, design, build and operate rail systems, is also planning an 18,000km railway network that would link the West African nations of Mali, Senegal, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Côte D'Ivoire, Liberia, and Nigeria. It said this ambitious rail system would boost countries' economies, increase regional trade and improve the countries' access to world markets.

The proposed rail system would be aimed at freight transport, and would connect mining, agriculture and manufacturing areas, which Railnet says will boost trade-based industrialisation that "will have an effect on the region of 300 million that has never before been possible." In addition to upgraded and newly constructed railways, Railnet also intends to develop complementary infrastructure along rail routes, including communications, power, and water.

The West African scheme is one of a number that the company has planned for Africa. Its other projects include: The G Rail system for Ghana. This will be a combined passenger and freight service linking mining and agricultural areas. The system would cover over 2,000km route miles with over 4,000km of track; The Dakar-to-Bamako project envisages the upgrading of a 1,228km railway to standard gauge between Senegal and Mali, and is aimed at facilitating the export of Mali's estimated 2 billion tonnes of bauxite; and Upgrading some 5,000km of rail in the Democratic Republic of Congo from narrow to standard gauge.



## CONSTRUCTION

# The Guardian PROPERTY WATCH

DISCOVER INFORM INSPIRE

## BRITISH HOUSE PRICES RISE 6.5PC IN NOVEMBER, HIGHEST RATE RECORDED SINCE JANUARY 2015

LONDON

British house prices rose 6.5 per cent in November year-on-year, the fastest rate since January 2015, as the housing market boom accelerated against the backdrop of a wider economy struggling with the effects of Covid-19.

The average house price is now £229,721 (\$306,402), up 0.9 per cent from £227,826 in October, according to the latest Nationwide House Price Index. Despite the increase, Robert Gardner, Nationwide's chief economist, said the outlook remained highly uncertain due to the pandemic and will depend on how well Covid is contained, as well as the policy measures implemented to limit the economic fallout.

"Annual house price growth accelerated from 5.8 per cent in October to 6.5 per cent in November - the highest outturn since January 2015. Data suggests that the economic recovery had lost momentum even before the latest lockdown came into effect," he said. "Behavioural shifts as a result of Covid-19 may provide support for housing market activity, while the stamp duty holiday will continue to provide a near term boost by bringing purchases forward."



A man walks past houses in Maida Vale in London, England. Britain's housing market has bounced back strongly from the first lockdown earlier this year when the market ground to a halt.

Britain's housing market has bounced back strongly from the first lockdown earlier this year when the market ground to a halt, propelled by demand for bigger properties from those cooped up in their homes for long periods and finance minister Rishi Sunak's emergency stamp duty holiday that will expire at the end of March. The strength in demand contrasts

with weakness in the wider economy as a whole, which is struggling with heightened restrictions that aim to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Britain's economy is expected to contract 11.3 per cent in 2020 - the biggest contraction in more than 300 years - according to official figures, with the cost of the pandemic set to hit £280 billion this

year alone. The government will borrow £394bn in the 2020-21 fiscal year to help prop up the economy, the equivalent of 19 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Labour market conditions have also weakened, with the unemployment rate hitting 4.8 per cent in the three months to September, and expectations it will hit 7.5 per cent by the middle of next year.

"Despite these headwinds, housing market activity has remained robust. October saw property transactions rise to 105,600, the highest level since 2016, while mortgage approvals for house purchase in the same month were at their highest level since 2007 at about 97,500," said Mr Gardner.

He expects housing market activity to slow in the coming quarters, "perhaps sharply", if the unemployment rate weakens further and "especially once the stamp duty holiday expires at the end of March."

However, analysts said the government might extend the tax break or roll out a new mortgage guarantee scheme to prevent house prices from sliding backwards. "A relatively narrow cohort of well-off households, who already own their homes with little debt, seem to be driving the market with the savings that they have realised this year from working from home," said Samuel Tombs, an economist with Pantheon Macroeconomics.

Nationwide's figures contrast with Halifax data published on Monday which indicated that consumer confidence in the housing market cooled last month. Fourteen per cent of those surveyed by Halifax said that they believed their home became more valuable in November, compared with 17 per cent in September and October.

## PIF-backed Saudi Real Estate Refinance plans debut bond issue

RIYADH

Saudi Real Estate Refinance Company (SRC) will tap international debt markets for a debut \$500 million dollar-denominated bond early next year, to fund the growth of its loan book, its chief executive said.

The company, founded three years ago to support a domestic market for home loans, will also tap the local sukuk market with a one-year, 10 billion riyals (\$2.7 billion) guaranteed bond issue programme before its international foray, Fabrice Susini said. "We will target around \$500m for the first international issuance, probably not below. It could be a bit more. We'll see. It will depend ... on the situation in the market at that time," Mr Susini said.

SRC is also planning to enter into the structured finance market next year, either through a securitisation of some of its loan book or issuance of a covered bond as the company looks to diversify its funding sources.

SRC was co-founded by the kingdom's Public Investment Fund and the Ministry of Housing in October 2017 to boost home ownership in the biggest Arab economy. It does not lend directly to end-users, but provides liquidity to the home loans market by buying mortgages from banks and other lenders, freeing them up to extend more loans to the sector.

Mortgage take-up rates were low by international standards when the company was formed, with only about 150,000-170,000 issued for a country with more than 30 million inhabitants, Mr Susini said.

PIF provided 5bn riyals in initial funding, but the company has already tapped local sukuk markets on a couple of occasions following the issue of its 750 million riyals (\$220m) debut Islamic bond in March last year.

SRC "probably underestimated" the amount of time it would take for its product to become established among banks and mortgage lenders, but since the second half of last year the market has witnessed "exponential growth", Mr Susini said.

He cited mortgage lending



A View of a construction site in Riyadh. The value of mortgages written in the kingdom increased to 280 billion riyals in the first nine months of this year, a 40% increase on the 200 billion issued throughout 2019.

figures by the Saudi Central Bank, which showed the kingdom's residential loans market increased in value by 97bn riyals to about 312bn riyals by the end of the third quarter of 2020, from about 215bn riyals at the end December 2019. "So already in nine months ... you increase by 40 per cent the inventory," he said.

For the past 12 months, new mortgage issues in the kingdom have fluctuated between 17,000-25,000 loans per month. The central bank's most recent figure for September was 27,889 loans, which was a 66 per cent year-on-year increase.

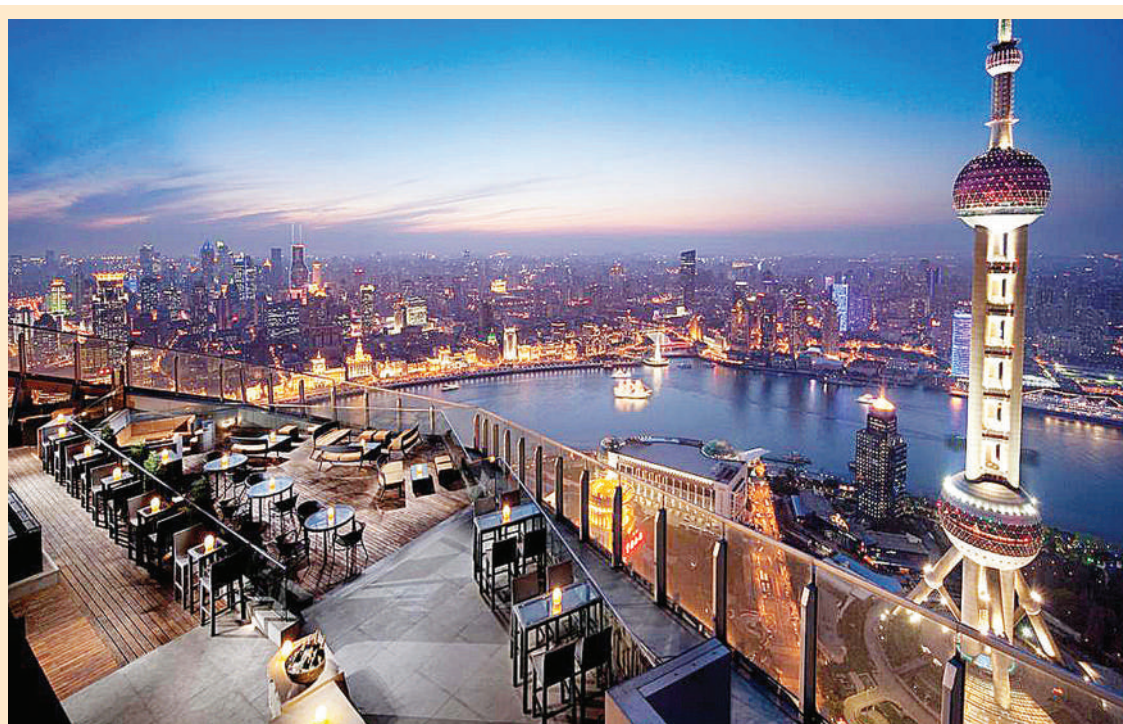
SRC's balance sheet reflects the surge by the end of October, multiplying "more than three times our total balance sheet deployment," Mr Susini said. About 2.1-2.2bn riyals was deployed at the end of 2019, and by the end of October this reached 6.5bn riyals.

Although much of its growth has been organic, SRC spent 3bn riyals in July buying a portfolio of mortgages from the kingdom's Public Pensions Agency. The deal showed that there are "more players" in the kingdom that have originated mortgages outside of the 11 main banks, Mr Susini said.

"We are agnostic as to who is originating these mortgages, as long as it complies with the regulations ... our objective is to facilitate the process for origi-

nators," he said. "But the big driver ... the ultimate bearing we have in mind is the ultimate borrower, the Saudi citizen - making sure that they can get

access to financing at the most competitive rate possible for a product that is best suited for their situation."



A bird's eye view of Ritz Carlton Hotel in Shanghai.

## Shanghai now replaces London as the most connected city in the world, IATA reveals

GENEVA

Shanghai replaced London as the most connected city in the world, according to the latest rankings by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

London, which was at the top of last year's rankings, slipped to eighth position this year due to a 67 per cent decline in connectivity as the coronavirus pandemic continues to dent travel demand to and from the UK capital. This meant Shanghai moved up to the top spot, from second position last year.

"The dramatic shift in the connectivity rankings demonstrates the scale at which the world's connectivity has been re-ordered over the last months," Sebastian Mikosz, IATA's senior vice president for member external relations, said on Thursday.

"But the important point is that rankings did not shift because of any improvement in connectivity. That declined overall in all markets. The rankings shifted because the scale of the decline was greater for some cities than others."

New York, which was the third-most connected city last year, is not placed in this year's top 10. Chinese cities dominate the rankings, taking five of the top 10 spots. Beijing is listed in second place, Guangzhou is third, Chengdu is fourth and Shenzhen is in sixth place, with Chicago being the only non-Chinese city in the top five. Tokyo, Bangkok, Hong Kong and Seoul have also dropped out of this year's top 10 rankings.

"In a short period of time, we have undone a century of progress in bringing people together and connecting markets. The message we must take from this study is the urgent need to re-build the global air transport network," Mr Mikosz, said.

China has been the first major global economy to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic as the government takes measures to keep the epidemic under control. As of Thursday, the number of infections in China reached 86,490 with 4,634 deaths, according to Worldometer. In the US, total infections have now topped 13.1 million and more than 268,000 deaths have been recorded.



## WORLD

## CDC chief warns Americans face 'rough' winter from COVID-19 surge

LONDON

THE head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned on Wednesday the COVID-19 pandemic, still raging with unprecedented fury nationwide, will pose the country's grimmest health crisis yet over the next few months, before vaccines become widely available.

CDC Director Dr Robert Redfield urged stricter adherence to safety precautions such as wearing face coverings, social distancing and good hand hygiene to slow the spread of a highly contagious respiratory virus now claiming well over 2,000 U.S. lives a day.

The sober message from one of the nation's top health officers followed Thanksgiving holiday observances in which millions of Americans disregarded warnings to avoid travel and large gatherings even as COVID infections and hospitalizations surged largely unchecked.

Besides the monumental loss of life, Redfield said, the country faces the prospect of a healthcare system strained to the point of collapse. The contagion has now reached every corner of the country - with 90% of all hospitals in areas designated as coronavirus "hot zones" - and continues to spread on a much steeper trajectory than any previous wave of the pandemic.

"The reality is that December, January and February are going to be rough times," Redfield told a livestream presentation hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. "I actually believe they're going to be the most difficult time in the public health history of this nation."

President-elect Joe Biden amplified the bleak forecast during a roundtable with workers and small business owners hard hit by

the devastating economic fallout of the pandemic.

"Christmas is going to be a lot harder. I don't want to scare anybody here, but understand the facts - we're likely to lose another 250,000 people dead between now and January. You hear me?" Biden said.

More than 270,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 to date. And the University of Washington's influential Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation has projected the toll could reach nearly 450,000 by March 1 without greater attention to social distancing and mask-wearing.

## VACCINES ON HORIZON

The dire warnings came as U.S. health experts on Wednesday welcomed British emergency approval of Pfizer Inc's COVID-19 vaccine, a sign that U.S. regulators may soon follow suit.

As U.S. coronavirus hospitalizations jumped to their highest since the onset of the global pandemic, Britain gave emergency use approval to the vaccine developed by Pfizer and German partner BioNTech SE, the first Western country to take such action.

Britain said it would start inoculating high-risk people early next week, a move that could help reassure Americans about the prospect of an expected mass-vaccination program reminiscent of the anti-polio campaigns of the 1950s and 1960s.

"This should be very reassuring. An independent regulatory authority in another country has found this vaccine to be safe and effective for use," U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar told Fox Business Network on Wednesday. The British approval is also likely to "put a little pressure on" U.S. regulators to move



CDC Director Dr Robert Redfield

swiftly, said Kirsten Hokeness, an immunology and virology expert at Bryant University in Rhode Island.

## REGULATORY AND SOCIAL HURDLES

A CDC advisory committee recommended on Tuesday that medical workers and residents of long-term care facilities should be first in line to receive initial doses of the vaccines.

U.S. COVID-19 hospitalizations hit a record for a fourth consecutive day on Tuesday, approaching 100,000, according to a Reuters tally. At the same time, exhausted healthcare professionals are short-staffed, with many of their colleagues falling sick.

A U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel of outside advisers is due to meet on Dec. 10 to discuss whether to recommend emergency-use authorization of the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna's vaccine, also found to be nearly 95% effective, is expected to be reviewed a week later. While some U.S. health officials described a rollout timeline that assumed FDA authorization would come within days of the Dec. 10 meeting, FDA officials have said it could take weeks.

Pfizer, Moderna and a third producer, AstraZeneca Plc, have already started manufacturing their vaccines and say distribution could begin almost immediately after approval. AstraZeneca, however, may have to conduct an additional trial to gain U.S. approval after a dosing error led to better results in recently released data than for its planned regimen.

Agencies

## US urged to stop grandstanding on DPRK sanctions

BEIJING

CHINA urges the United States to make more effort on promoting the political process of the Korean Peninsula issue, instead of being obsessed with grandstanding, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said Wednesday.

Hua's remarks came after a US official accused China of violating its obligation to impose international sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Hua (pictured) pointed out that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a responsible major country, China has always implemented the Security Council's resolutions and fulfilled the country's international obligations. China has also actively promoted the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue.

China has repeatedly stated its position on the resolutions of the UN Security Council related to DPRK, Hua said, adding that the resolutions' goal is to realize denuclearization and maintain peace and stability on the Peninsula.

"Sanctions are only the means which must serve to achieve the goal," Hua said, adding that under the current situation, all parties should step up efforts on promoting the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue, and pay more attention to the negative impact of sanctions on the DPRK's humanitarian situation and people's livelihood.

She stressed that with the continuous spread of the coronavirus, China once again call on the Security Council to start discussions on rolling back sanctions as stipulated in relevant resolutions as soon as possible and make necessary adjustments to the sanctions, especially on people's livelihood, so as to create conditions for the political settlement of the Korean Peninsula issue.

Xinhua



## Virus: S. Korea students sit college exam behind barriers

SEOUL / RAMALLAH / BAGHDAD

NEARLY half a million South Korean students nervously began a hyper-competitive university entrance exam yesterday with COVID-19 students taking the exam in hospital and others separated by transparent barriers.

South Korea is battling a third wave of coronavirus infections, forcing authorities to take strict steps to ensure all students could safely take the test, deemed a life-defining event for high school seniors to win a degree that could help land a better job in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Police and school officials guarded some 31,000 test venues across the country, which in normal years are usually filled with praying parents and cheering squads distributing hot drinks and snacks.

"It's my second test, and I just wanted to get it done despite the risks of contracting the coronavirus. That's all I was thinking about coming here," Jeon Young-jin, 19, told Reuters in front of a test venue in Seoul.

Some 35 people who have tested positive for COVID-19 sat for the test at designated hospitals, while special venues were provided to help another 404 who are in self isolation.

Proctors for the confirmed and suspected cases were required to wear protective equipment and collect exam papers in plastic bags and wipe them before handing over to the staff outside.

The government has tightened social distancing curbs, and declared a two-week special anti-virus period ahead of the exam.

The Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) reported 540 new cases on Friday, including 516 domestic infections and 24 imported.

The country's total tally rose to 35,703, with 529 deaths.

Turkish Health Minister Fahrettin Koca outlined a road map for vaccination as the country struggles with an increasing number of coronavirus cases and deaths.

The first batch of vaccines is expected to arrive after Dec. 11 and people including medical staff and those over 65 years old with chronic diseases will be vaccinated in the first phase, according to minister's remarks in state Anadolu news agency.

Although Koca didn't mention a specific vaccine name, Turkey has previously said it agreed with China to purchase 50 million doses over the next three months. The country is also in discussions for 1 million doses of the vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE.

Turkey recorded 31,923 COVID-19 new cases, including 6,690 symptomatic patients, as the total number of symptomatic COVID-19 patients in the country hit 513,656, its health ministry announced.

Agencies

## Cooperation with Russia to be enhanced

BY XU WEI

PREMIER Li Keqiang called on Wednesday for better alignment between the Belt and Road Initiative and the development strategies of Russia in order to enable new breakthroughs in bilateral cooperation in the economy, trade, energy and agriculture.

Speaking during a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin via video link, Li (pictured) urged the two nations to proactively foster new area of openness and cooperation while consolidating

the foundation of traditional cooperative areas.

The two sides must accelerate their pace of cooperation in manufacturing, the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the digital economy and small and medium-sized enterprises, he said.

The meeting, which was the 25th regular meeting between the Chinese premier and the Russian prime minister, also included Vice-Premiers Han Zheng, Sun Chunlan and Hu Chunhua and their Russian counterparts.

To harness the foundation of popular support for bilateral re-



lations, Li highlighted the need to strengthen people-to-people exchanges, saying that the two sides must work more closely together in education, tourism

and the Winter Olympics.

China and Russia, as each other's largest neighbor, have always respected each other, maintained a good neighborly policy and remained committed to achieving win-win outcomes, he said.

The downturn in the global economy and sluggish world trade and investment has not slowed the pace of bilateral cooperation, with new progress being secured in more areas, he said, adding that the two nations have developed even closer trade ties and cross-border e-commerce has blossomed.

The steady progress in major strategic programs such as energy and fresh outcomes in bilateral cooperation in the Far East and at local level are also testament to the strong complementary nature and huge potential of China-Russia cooperation, the premier said.

Beijing is ready to work with Moscow to summarize the outcomes and experience from bilateral cooperation and give fresh impetus to the sustained and sound growth of the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era, he added. Xinhua

Agencies

## Xi calls for global efforts in resolving Palestine issue

BY ZHANG YUNBI

CHINA is ready to continue to work with the international community and make unremitting efforts to achieve an all-around, just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue at an early date, President Xi Jinping said.

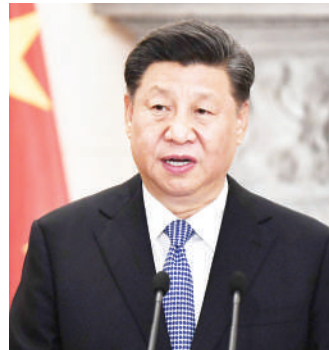
Xi made the comment in a congratulatory message to a special United Nations meeting on Tuesday for observing the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Xi also called on the global community to contribute to re-

alizing peace, stability and development in the Middle East.

The world should now pay more attention to the severe challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic poses for Palestine and should help the Palestinian people fight the novel coronavirus, Xi said.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, China has sent Palestine, through bilateral and multilateral channels, multiple shipments of aid for fighting the virus, and as a good friend of Palestine, China will continue to offer help within its capacity, he said.



In 1977, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the annual observance of Nov 29 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Xi emphasized that China pays close attention to the Palestinian issue, always stays true to international justice and morality, supports the just cause of the Palestinian people regaining their legitimate national rights, and supports efforts that are conducive to promoting a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

The Palestinian issue, Xi said, which is at the heart of the Middle East issue, is a matter of importance to regional peace and stability, international fairness and justice, and human conscience and morality.

Achieving Palestine and Israel's neighborly, peaceful coexistence is not only the dream of generations of the Palestinian and Israeli people, but also the ardent expectation of the people of all countries in the region and of the international community, he said.

The world should stay committed to the two-state solution as the right direction and strive to promote the Middle East peace process on the basis of relevant UN resolutions and the "land for peace" principle, he added.

Xinhua

## APEC members should work together to deliver brighter future for Asia-Pacific, world

"LET us work in solidarity and weather the storm together. Let us stay true to openness and cooperation and make development and circulations at home and overseas reinforce each other. Together, we can surely deliver a brighter future for all of us, both here in the Asia-Pacific and across the world!" said Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Xi made the remarks in a keynote speech titled "Fostering a New Development Paradigm and Pursuing Mutual Benefit and Win-win Cooperation" while addressing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Dialogues via video link in Beijing on Nov. 19.

Stressing that humankind shares a common stake, Xi called on all countries to intensify all-round global cooperation against COVID-19

and promote global recovery. He profoundly expounded on the global significance of China's active actions in fostering a new development paradigm and sent a positive message that China will remain committed to opening-up and continue to work with other countries for win-win results.

At its recently concluded fifth plenary session of the 19th Central Committee, the Communist Party of China (CPC) deliberated on and adopted the recommendations for formulating China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).

According to the recommendations, China will complete building a moderately prosperous society in all respects within the set time frame. From next year on, China will embark on a new journey toward fully building a modern

socialist country.

The international society paid high attention to China's development blueprint and its bright prospects for economic and social development in the new development stage, looking forward to further deepening the mutually beneficial cooperation with China.

Actively responding to the international community's expectations and concerns, Xi promoted the spirit of the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee and elaborated China's important measures for economic development in the new development stage.

"We will expand domestic demand as a strategic priority and ensure smooth flow of economic activity," Xi said, adding that China will vigorously make scientific and technological

innovations to foster new growth drivers, and continue to deepen reform and energize the market.

The international society followed closely Xi's in-depth explanation and commented that China's strategic decisions will not only continuously inject important impetus into its economic development and promote high-quality development, but also ensure that China remains a key stabilizer and driver for the world economy.

In today's world where economic globalization has become an irreversible trend, no country can develop itself by keeping its doors closed. China is already deeply integrated into the global economy and the international system.

By fostering the new development paradigm, China will forge closer ties with the world. The new development paradigm will enable the country to fully unlock its market potential and create greater demand for other countries. It will also enable China to open up wider and share more opportunities for common development with other countries, and to continue to deepen international cooperation for shared benefits.

China solemnly declared to the world that the new development paradigm is a strategic decision it has made based on its current stage and conditions of development and with full consideration given to economic globalization and changes in the external environment.

People's Daily



## Biden promises help to US workers hit by pandemic, Trump hints at 2024 run

WILMINGTON

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden on Wednesday promised a group of workers hit by the raging COVID-19 pandemic that more aid would be on the way, while President Donald Trump hinted he may be ready to begin planning another run for the White House in 2024.

Biden, who has pledged to act quickly to provide more resources to fight the health crisis after he is inaugurated on Jan. 20, told a group of workers and business owners that any emergency aid approved by Congress before he takes office would be only a "down payment."

Republicans and Democrats are trying to resolve a months-long standoff in Congress over a stimulus package for businesses affected by coronavirus shutdowns as well as the millions who have lost jobs.

"My transition team is already working on what I will put forward to the next Congress to address the multiple crises we're facing, especially the economic crisis and COVID," Biden told the workers at a roundtable in his home

state of Delaware.

More than 270,000 people in the United States have died of COVID-19, which is resurgent across the country. The United States leads the world in the number of infections as well as the number of deaths reported every day.

"I don't want you to give up hope," Biden told the workers. "Hang on, we'll get through this."

Trump has refused to concede the Nov. 3 election and his lawyers continue to file legal challenges to the outcome, alleging electoral fraud without providing evidence. State and federal election officials have repeatedly said there is no such evidence. Most of the lawsuits have been rejected by judges.

Trump's campaign said on Wednesday he had filed suit against the Wisconsin Election Commission and several local officials in the state asking a U.S. District Court to find "constitutional violations" and send the matter to the state legislature to override the state's results and select Republican electors.

At a White House holiday reception on Tuesday night, Trump appeared to



President-elect Joe Biden

acknowledge that his legal efforts could fail and in that case he would run again.

"We are trying to do another four years," he told the assembled group, according to a Republican source who was at the event. "Otherwise, I'll see you in four years."

A source familiar with the internal debate says Trump has been discussing with advisers not attending the

inauguration ceremony on Jan. 20 but instead announcing his 2024 bid that day. The source said there had been no decision. Only a handful of outgoing U.S. presidents have chosen to miss the swearing-in of their successors.

Trump also tweeted a video on Wednesday in which he repeated unfounded accusations about the election being rigged and said he would keep up the fight against the outcome. Trump, who spoke from behind a lectern with the presidential seal, posted a two-minute version of the message on Twitter with a link to a 46-minute version on Facebook.

A day earlier, Attorney General William Barr, who has long been seen as a Trump ally, said the Justice Department has found no evidence of widespread fraud.

Trump's claims have gained

traction among his followers, however, helping to raise as much as \$170 million for an "Election Defense Fund" that can be used for a wide variety of future political activities, including another run for the presidency, according to media reports.

### 'VIOLENT RHETORIC'

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger said Biden was headed for victory after the state's second recount and criticized Trump for fomenting false claims.

"Even after this office request that President Trump try and quell the violent rhetoric being born out of his continuing claims of winning the states where he obviously lost, he tweeted out 'expose the massive voter fraud in Georgia,'" said Raffensperger, a Republican.

"This is exactly the kind of language that is at the base of a growing threat environment for election workers who are simply doing their jobs."

Agencies

## Still time to extend New START, says Russian envoy to US

WASHINGTON

THERE is still enough time to extend the Russian-US Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START), Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov said Wednesday at a videoconference organized by Washington's Brookings Institution.

He was asked whether there is any time left for the countries to extend the treaty. "We have time. We can get it [extension] very quickly. If anybody can call me now from State Department or White House, I am ready to come. I am ready to continue such negotiations," he noted.

The diplomat also highlighted that Russia has "an excellent team in Moscow" tasked with arms control issues.

The envoy added that Russia is still in talks with the current US administration to secure a possible extension of the treaty. "Yes, we are in close contact with [US Special Presidential Envoy for Arms Control] Marshall Billingslea who is a key negotiator from the American side," Antonov added.

According to him, the parties are exchanging proposals on the New START extension.

"We are still in dialogue, we hope that we will continue it for the foreseeable future," the Russian ambassador concluded.

Agencies



**We have time. We can get it [extension] very quickly**

Xinhua

## UN General Assembly president calls for joint efforts to fight 'infodemic'

UNITED NATION

UN General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir on Wednesday called for joint efforts to fight misinformation and disinformation about COVID-19.

"Aside from the virus and its impacts, another adversary has been plaguing our response: misinformation and disinformation. COVID-19 is a communications crisis. It is not simply a pandemic. It is an 'infodemic.' And this has cost lives," said Bozkir (pictured).

Misinformation and disinformation can lead to lack of diagnostic tests, poor observance of public health measures and lack of immunization, he told a vir-

tual event for the sharing of best practices to respond to an infodemic, which was organized by the permanent mission of Australia to the United Nations, together with the permanent missions of France, India, Indonesia and Latvia.

Misinformation and disinformation are not new concepts or new behaviors. But their existence in the context of COVID-19 has sharpened the risks, as well as the collective resolve to respond, he said.

It is clear that to address this issue, joint efforts by multiple stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, academia, and technology



and social media companies, are required, said Bozkir.

Journalists and media workers also have a crucial role in helping the public make informed decisions. Member states must support journalists and media workers so they can do their jobs throughout the pandemic, he said.

Given recent developments, it is likely that the world will see several viable vaccines for the COVID-19 pandemic in the coming months. However, these welcome advancements will only work if people have confidence to use them, he said. "Building vaccine confidence and countering disinformation is in our collective interest."

Xinhua

## 22nd China Hi-Tech Fair closes in Shenzhen

THE 22nd China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF) concluded in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, on Nov. 15.

During the five-day-long event, 9,018 high-tech projects were on display, among which 1,790 new products and 767 new technologies were introduced to the public for the first time.

A total of 760 investment institutions and nearly 400 scientific research institutes at home and abroad participated in the fair and carried out 356 project matching meetings.

Through the platform of the CHTF, more and more self-developed high-tech products of China have found new application scenarios and promoted industrial upgrading, entering workshops as well as the life of ordinary people.

In Exhibition Hall 5 of the Shenzhen Convention & Exhibition Center, venue for the fair, a high-tech product that looked like a big yellow fish was particularly eye-catching.

It was an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) that could dive into 4,500 meters below the sea surface for exploration.

As China's first deep-sea



Photo shows visitors visiting the booth of Huawei at the 22nd China Hi-Tech Fair (CHTF). (Photo/official website of the CHTF)

scientific research AUV, the product has a body fully made out of metal and equipped with various advanced technical devices such as cameras and sensors, according to Guo Feng with the Shenyang Institute of Automation, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

It could perform functions like micro-topography measurement, near-sea optical photography and water anomaly detection, and could meet the needs of fine exploration of deep-sea hydrothermal vents and cold spring areas.

In the industrial robot zone of the advanced manufacturing technology exhibition at the fair, intelligent carrier robots independently devel-

oped and manufactured by Shenzhen Casun Intelligent Robot Co., Ltd., one of the Chinese leading manufacturers in mobile industrial robots, demonstrated their skills.

Petite and yet agile, the heavily laden vehicles could always deliver goods accurately to destinations no matter what obstacles they encountered.

These carrier robots may look alike, but they actually belong to different models and could be applied in different scenarios, said an employee of the company.

For example, one type of the company's intelligent carrier robots could read QR code label affixed on the

ground, obtain information about location and destination, and then realize positioning and navigation, the employee added, explaining that this type of carrier robots works 5 times more efficient than ordinary intelligent robots.

Based on a closed-loop system with the algorithm-chip-big data full chain, Shenzhen Intellifusion Technologies Co., Ltd. has established an offline scenario for future urban commerce.

In such a scenario, customers could tap a smart touch screen and scan a QR code to quickly find out the locations of places like bathrooms and garage elevators in a shopping mall. They could also grasp the real-time traffic data about the shops from the screen and avoid the crowds and long waiting lines.

New technologies and equipment such as AI, 5G, and big data have become the highlights of this year's CHTF.

Such high-tech products representing wisdom and innovation have not only innovated the mode of production in factories and workshops, but created more application scenarios in the houses of ordinary people.

People's Daily

## 2020 likely world's second hottest year, UN says

GENEVA

THIS year is on track to be the second hottest on record, behind 2016, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said on Wednesday.

Five data sets currently place 2020, a year characterised by heatwaves, droughts, wildfires and raging hurricanes, as the second warmest since records began in 1850.

"2020 is very likely to be one of the three warmest years on record globally," the Geneva-based UN agency said in its State of the Global Climate in 2020 report.

Stoked by extreme heat, wildfires flared across Australia, Siberia and the United States this year, sending smoke plumes around the globe.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (pictured) said in a speech at Columbia University in New York that human-caused greenhouse gas emissions are to blame and policies have yet to rise to the challenge.

"To put it simply the state of the planet is broken," Guterres said. "Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal," he said.

A less visible sign of change was a surge in marine heat to record levels, with more than 80 percent of the global ocean experiencing a marine heatwave, the WMO said.

"2020 has, unfortunately, been yet another extraordinary year for our climate," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas, urging more efforts to curb the emissions.

Greenhouse gas concentrations climbed to a new record in 2019 and have risen so far this year despite an expected drop in emissions due to COVID-19 lockdowns, the WMO said last month.



The latest WMO report said the global mean temperature was around 1.2 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 baseline between January and October this year, placing it second behind 2016 and marginally ahead of 2019.

Hot years have typically been associated with El Niño, a natural event that releases heat from the Pacific Ocean. However, this year coincides with La Niña which has the opposite effect and cools temperatures.

### The WMO will confirm the data in March 2021.

A climate pact agreed in Paris five years ago compels countries to make efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, above which scientists warn of catastrophic climate change.

While it is not the same as crossing that long-term warming threshold, the WMO says there is at least a one in five chance of temperatures temporarily, on an annual basis, exceeding that level by 2024.

Guterres said that last year natural disasters related to climate change cost the world US\$150 billion, and that air and water pollution are killing 9 million people annually. He urged world leaders to align global finance behind the Paris pact, to commit to reaching net zero emissions, and to fund efforts to adapt to climate change.

## Initiative on jointly building a community with a shared future in cyberspace released

THE international community should adopt more proactive, inclusive and coordinated policies that benefit all, speed up global information infrastructure construction, promote innovative development of the digital economy and enhance public service capacity, said an initiative on jointly building a community with a shared future in cyberspace.

The initiative was released by the Organizing Committee of the World Internet Conference Wednesday.

It stressed the current pandemic highlights greater prominence and urgency to the building of a community with a shared future in cyberspace. In the face of emerging risks and challenges, the international community must enhance solidarity and cooperation in cyberspace, and

uphold fairness and justice for shared benefits of the digital economy.

The initiative includes four parts: achieving shared development, ensuring common security, realizing joint governance and enjoying benefits together. The four parts call on the international community to adopt more proactive, inclusive and coordinated policies that benefit all, speed up global information infrastructure construction, promote innovative development of the digital economy and enhance public service capacity, advocate a cybersecurity vision that features openness and co-



The Light of Internet Expo of the 6th World Internet Conference kicks off in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang province on Oct. 18, 2019. (File photo)

operation, and encourage Internet development while laying equal emphasis on cybersecurity so as to jointly uphold peace and security in

cyberspace, stay committed to a multilateral and multi-party approach to cyberspace governance to foster a more just and equitable

governance system in cyberspace, and advocate Tech for Good with a people-centered approach, narrow the digital divide, and achieve common prosperity.

The initiative calls on all governments, international organizations, Internet companies, technical communities, social organizations and individual citizens to take the approach to global governance, which is based on extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, uphold the philosophy of "achieving shared development, ensuring common security, realizing joint governance, and enjoying

benefits together", and work together to build cyberspace into a community where we can jointly advance development, safeguard security, participate in governance, and share the benefits.

Cooperation and dialogues at global, regional, multilateral, bilateral and multi-party levels need to be promoted in a bid to jointly maintain peace and stability in cyberspace and strengthen strategic trust among countries, it said. It also opposes acts of attacks, deterrence and blackmailing in cyberspace, and stands against conducting activities that undermine other countries' national se-

curity and public interests through the use of ICTs.

It calls to strengthen support and assistance to the vulnerable groups and advocates Tech for Good with a people-centered approach. More policies, measures and technical tools should be employed to improve digital skills of the vulnerable groups for promotion and improvement of digital literacy among the public.

Countries need to reduce barriers in market access and other fields for smooth trade channels and establish mechanisms for information sharing and mutual trust and recognition, it said. Secure and reliable digital technologies should be encouraged to facilitate cross-border trade for sharing the benefits of e-commerce.

People's Daily





Emirate Aluminium Profile Company's Marketing Officer, Issa Maeda (L), speaks to journalists in Dodoma recently on the firm's sponsorship for Vodacom Premier League side, Dodoma Jiji FC. Sitting (L) is the club's secretary general, Fortunatus Johnson. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Dodoma Jiji FC gets new sponsors

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

IN a bid to boost pursuit of successful campaign in the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League, Dodoma Jiji FC has received sponsorship from construction firm, Emirate Aluminium Profile, for one season.

The sponsorship contract will end in May next year, in which the domestic top flight season will come to a close. Emirate Aluminium Profile's Marketing Officer, Issa Maeda, said their sponsorship for the club will cover one season and they will not disclose the value of the contract.

He, nevertheless, noted there is money that will go directly into the club's account, whereas the other cash will be presented to the team's players. "Apart from the money that will go into the club's account, which we will not disclose, we will be presenting 500,000/- every month to the best player who will be selected by the technical bench, players and the club's fans who will be voting online," he said.

"We are late to enter into a contract with Dodoma Jiji FC because the league has already started but we have arranged for the team and the

technical bench to select players who performed well in the four months the league has taken place and, after that, we will, this month, start our official process," he disclosed.

Dodoma Jiji FC's secretary general, Fortunatus Johnson, said they were looking for sponsors who would be able to invest in the team to provide funding that would help to run all club activities in the right environment to achieve the goals they have set.

"After seeing that it was possible for the Emirate Aluminium Profile to sponsor us, we easily agreed with them after they had told us they would be giving us 500,000/- at the end of each month to a player, who would do well, but we still welcome other investors as this team is in the country's capital city," Johnson disclosed.

Dodoma Jiji, who are battling it out in the Vodacom Premier League for the first time, are currently placed ninth in the league's table, having collected 16 points in 12 matches.

The squad, in its previous top flight clash, cruised to a comprehensive 3-0 victory over fellow league debutants, Mbeya's Ihefu FC, at the former's venue on November 28.

## Top five best Ugandan footballers in Simba SC's history

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has benefitted from some wonderful Ugandan players over the years and midfielder Taddeo Lwanga who joined on Wednesday will hope to emulate his successful compatriots at the Msimbazi Street-based outfit.

The long list of Ugandan footballers to have played for Simba SC include Joseph Owino,

Emmanuel Okwi, Juuko Murushid, Hamisi Kiiza, Patrick Ochan, Abel Dhaira, Dan Sserunkuma, Brian Majwega, Robert Ssentongo, Alex Ndugga, Mussa Mude and Derrick Walulya.

Here, we have looked back at those who had the most endearing legacies at Simba SC, popularly known as 'Wekundu wa Msimbazi', during the players' stay there.

### Patrick Ochan

The Ugandan midfielder joined Simba in 2010 after starring in the CECAFA Kagame Cup with St. George of Ethiopia. He was named in the team of the tournament.

Coming back from an injury setback he initially struggled before eventually coming into his own.

His form attracted the interest of DR Congo giants, TP Mazembe, who paid a then very decent sum of \$100,000 for his service alongside Tanzanian forward, Mbwana Samatta, in 2011.

### Joseph Owino

The former Uganda's

SC Villa centre back played for Simba between 2009 and 2011 before injury affected his form thus returning to Uganda's URA FC after a loan stint with Tanzania's Azam FC in 2011.

Owino re-signed for Simba in August 2013 on a two-year deal. His two spells were nagged by persistent injuries, he nonetheless won one Premier League title and the Mapinduzi Cup and he is still fondly remembered by many fans.

He is regarded as one of the most cerebral defenders to ever play for Simba.

He could read the game very well, exhibited good positional sense and good footwork.

He was part of the Msimbazi Street club's 'invincibles' who lifted the league title without losing a single game in 2009/10 season.

### Juuko Murushid

Juuko is a full-blooded defender who picked cards almost every game. Even with his poor disciplinary record, one cannot exclude his defensive ability.

Yes, he was never a composed head but he was loved by the Simba faithfuls for his rough and rugged style which helped to intimidate opponents.

He thrived in physical confrontation and rose to the challenge in tough games that needed physical battles.

Juuko was a walking yellow card, but rivals' strikers knew they were in for a tough afternoon every time he decided to



Former Simba SC defender Juuko Murushid.

play to his full strength.

His clumsy tackles at times led to his fallout with Simba leaders and fans who accused him of unprofessionalism and not caring enough while others interpreted it as full commitment to the cause.

### Hamisi Kiiza

Hamisi Kiiza might have joined from Simba's rivals Yanga and only played for a single season, which ended with a fall out with the club administrators, but he still was one of the best Ugandans who ever played for Simba.

His spell at Msimbazi

Street-based club was extremely short but so eventful on and off the pitch.

He scored 24 goals for Simba despite missing a good number of games for disciplinary issues.

He tarnished his reputation with Simba fans by refusing to travel to an up-country game due to payment issues.

He was suspended and later released forcing him to miss at least five games and subsequently deny him a fair shot at winning the golden boot.

He finished with 19 goals to his name, two shy of the award's eventual winner, Yanga's

Amissi Tambwe.

### Emmanuel Okwi

The most illustrious Ugandan player in Simba's history and arguably the greatest foreign player to ever wear the famous Msimbazi Street outfit's red jersey.

He arrived at Simba in 2009 alongside Joseph Owino as a teenager and left as the club's certified legend.

He terrorized Mainland Tanzanian Premier League's sides' defenders with his speed and remarkable dribbling technique in his three different spells with Simba.

Four Mainland Tanzania Premier League titles, Federation Cup and an appearance in the CAF Champions League quarter final are part of Okwi's achievements with Simba.

He also scooped the league's golden boot award during the 2017/18 season after scoring 20 goals for Simba in his third spell which ended in 2019 when he moved to Egypt's Al Ittihad after impressing with Uganda's national team at the Africa Cup of Nations finals.

Nobody will ever forget that brilliant afternoon he had at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam against Yanga in 2012.

What about that volley against Yanga in 2015? How can soccer followers forget that sweet strike against Algeria's ES Setif in 2012?

## Company upbeat about backing 2021 Kilimanjaro Marathon

By Guardian Reporter

UNILEVER Tanzania Company is, next year, set to co-sponsor the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon for the second consecutive year.

The race is a world class event that will be marking the 19th edition in February next year, making it one of the oldest and most exciting marathons within the East Africa region.

One of the key issues that has made the event a success is quality, variety and number of sponsors involved every year and some like Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group, which sponsors the race via Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand, have been there since day one of the marathon in 2003 when it started with less than 500 runners who ran for fun, an additional key factor is the professionalism of the organizers.

Unilever Tanzania, manufacturers of the country's most popular brands like Vaseline, Omo, Vim and Sunlight, are one of the water table sponsors for the 2021 race, which is scheduled for February 28 at the Moshi Cooperatives University (MoCU) venue.

According to the Unilever Tanzania's Assistant Customer Marketing Manager, Lilian Kibbassa, this is their second time in a row for the company to take part in the marathon as water table sponsors.

"From the experience and exposure



A section of the Unilever Tanzania's staff, who took part in this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, pose for picture after the completion of the race which took place in Kilimanjaro.

we got in the previous edition, we decided to be part of this exciting experience again as this also helps us to promote our products in a special way due to the huge number of participants and spectators, local and international, that are normally in Moshi during this time," she disclosed.

According to Lilian, they are proud to be part of a premier international event where their brand, Vaseline, gets to play a vital part with its healing property.

Regarding the water table experience, she stated it is something they are looking forward to eagerly

as they get to serve water and other beverages supplied by Bonite Bottlers and TBL Group to the thousands of grateful runners participating.

"This is normally such a great experience for our staff some of whom do participate in the races while others offer services at our well branded water table point," she noted.

She stated they will be sponsoring a good number of their staff to participate in the event's different races and at the moment they have started training in readiness for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon 2021.

"We have a running group that encourages all of them to continuously practice for the marathon as part of our team building techniques," she noted.

She pointed out that the staff members are already excited about featuring in the marathon and are looking forward to a wonderful experience.

She disclosed the ambiance in Moshi during the Marathon is something most of the staff and participants in general look forward to as it is normally an outing for families and friends as some participate in

the races while other come in as spectators as part of local tourists.

For Moshi residents, she disclosed, one of their products, Omo, will be looking forward to undertake some corporate social responsibility events that they will unveil later as a way of giving back to the community.

Lilian said she is grateful to the race's other sponsors including Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor-42km), TIGO (21km), Grand Malt (5km Fun Run), water table sponsors Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement, Kibo Palace Hotel, Absa Bank Tanzania and the official suppliers, namely Keys Hotel, Garda World Security, and CMC Automobiles, for backing the race.

She also expressed sincere regards to the event's organizers, Kilimanjaro Marathon Company, and national coordinators, Executive Solutions Ltd, for supervising the race smoothly.

"The sponsors have played a key role because it is not easy to put together such a big event without proper investment," she disclosed.

"We have invested in this great event because it is worth it. We get to promote our products and services to a wide range of people within one area," she noted. The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon's Local Race Director, John Bayo, lauded Unilever Tanzania for choosing to, once again, sponsor the marathon.

"This shows how committed they are to the event as it must have given them a good return at the end of the day, I also call on other potential sponsors out there to emulate Unilever," he said.

Aggrey Marealle, Managing Director of Executive Solutions Ltd, stated: "More than 11,000 runners are expected to take part in the Kilimanjaro Marathon 2021 race come February as registration is ongoing through [online-www.kilimanjaramarathon.com](http://online-www.kilimanjaramarathon.com)."

He said the athletes can moreover register for the race via Tigo Pesa by dialling "149\*01#". organizers have further reminder every person, who will attend the race, to book accommodation now.

## Yanga plot Ruvu Shooting downfall in VPL

VODACOM Premier League leaders, Yanga, have disclosed they will be out to notch three points when they confront Ruvu Shooting in a league clash, slated for Sunday in Dar es Salaam.

Yanga's Manager, Hafidh Saleh, said they know Ruvu Shooting are one of the toughest teams in the Vodacom Premier League due to the quality of the squad the latter have.

He noted: "We have a tough game against Ruvu Shooting which we hope to play on Sunday, we know it will be a tough game due to the importance of getting

positive results in this game so we can't underestimate Ruvu Shooting."

"Our squad is in camp for the preparations for this game, we started the camp on Tuesday and the good news for us is the return of some of our team's players, who missed the previous game against JKT Tanzania, including Kibwana Shomari," he said.

Yanga have amassed 31 points, having taken part in 13 matches, whereas Ruvu Shooting are placed fourth with 23 points.

After occupying the Vodacom Premier

League's top spot, Yanga's head coach, Cedric Kaze, has told his players that they should not surrender the silverware.

Kaze's statement comes after Yanga had edged the league's other challengers, Azam FC, 1-0 in a clash, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam last week.

Azam, who were positioned first in the table before taking on Yanga, are consequently placed second with 26 points.

In the last two league games they played against Azam FC and JKT Tanzania, Yanga recorded 1-0 victory over the two teams, with midfielder Deus Kaseke, netting the goals.

Kaze said he had held a meeting with his players immediately after the game against JKT Tanzania urging them to keep on the momentum, which they started with in the first phase before going to the second phase.

The Burundian coach said in the past seven days, his outfit had a tough

schedule which saw them play three games in a row and managed to get seven points out of nine which is not bad for them due to the difficulty of the teams they have faced.

He stated: "We are still strengthening the team and the players are fighting hard to ensure the team stay on top, as our goal is to continue holding on to the first spot until the end of the league, this is the only tactic that can give us the silverware."

He disclosed: "Three games in seven days, no player's body can withstand the rigours, so, I congratulate my players for fighting to make sure they make their fans happy."

By Correspondent Ismail Tano



## Solskjaer demonstrates, again, he lacks the judgment to succeed

MANCHESTER, England

THERE is no hiding place in the Champions League. If you are not ruthless and decisive in key moments, the only guarantee is that you will pay a heavy price. It gets even worse when you throw naivety into the mix, as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Manchester United discovered to their cost with a 3-1 home defeat against Paris Saint-Germain on Wednesday.

United have shown great promise at times in the Champions League this season by winning in Paris and beating RB Leipzig 5-0, but they have also displayed inexperience and ineptitude -- the shambolic defending while losing to Istanbul Basaksehir was a particular low point -- and the shortcomings of their players and manager came to the fore once again against PSG.

Solskjaer's side went into this Group H clash knowing that a draw would secure qualification for the round of 16 ahead of next week's trip to Leipzig. But missed chances by United's forwards and an inexplicable decision by Solskjaer not to substitute midfielder Fred when he was walking headlong into an inevitable red card enabled PSG to claim the victory that revives their own qualification hopes and leaves United needing to avoid defeat in Germany on Tuesday in order to make it through to the knockout stages.

They may have to do it without Marcus Rashford too, with the forward being forced off with a shoulder injury late in the second half.

"We go into a game wanting to win," Solskjaer said after the match. "The games against PSG and Leipzig show how much we've developed in these types of games. It was just about finishing today."

Solskjaer's United team has proven to be so spectacularly unpredictable that it would be foolish to bet against any result when they face Julian Nagelsmann's side in six days' time, but they really shouldn't be travelling to that game in need of a point to qualify.

Last month's defeat in Istanbul now looks hugely damaging to United's hopes, with the Turkish outfit losing every other game in the group. That loss left United vulnerable to another setback and PSG ensured that they suffered it at Old Trafford, with two goals from Neymar and one from Marquinhos giving the French champions a rather flattering winning margin.

But United are now in a mess of their own making, which began in Turkey and culminated with Solskjaer's failure to replace Fred at half-time in this game while the score was 1-1, thanks to Rashford's deflected equaliser.

Everyone inside Old Trafford could see that Fred was walking a tightrope from the moment he escaped a red card for pushing his head into the face of Leandro Paredes on 20 minutes. Referee Daniele Orsato reviewed in the incident on the pitchside monitor before deciding only to issue a yellow card to the United midfielder. It was an incredibly lucky escape for Fred, but by half-time, he had also somehow avoided a second yellow following reckless challenges on Marco Verratti and Paredes again.

Any manager, not even an experienced one, would ordinarily withdraw Fred at the interval to avoid the risk of him being sent off.

United have a track record of being hit by costly red cards in Champions League games at Old Trafford. Rafael da Silva (against Bayern Munich in 2010), Nani (Real Madrid 2013) and Paul Pogba (PSG 2019) were all sent off in games that either ended in defeat or elimination for United.

Solskjaer should know that red cards in the Champions League are often punished by ruthless opponents, so he should have replaced Fred with Pogba or Nemanja Matic and protected his team. His subsequent admission that he thought about withdrawing Fred at half-time, before deciding against it, does not do Solskjaer many favours.

"Fred shouldn't put his head towards him [in the first half]," Solskjaer said, when asked about the apparent headbutt on Paredes. "I don't think he touched him. He was a bit lucky to stay on."

So did you think about taking him off?  
"Yeah... Fred has played really well," Solskjaer said. "We spoke about staying calm and on your feet. The second yellow card was nowhere near a foul. Ander [Herrera] knows that."

It is true that, by the time Fred was dismissed on 70 minutes for a careless challenge on Herrera, United had missed two clear chances to take the lead. Anthony Martial missed both of those golden opportunities to score, once again highlighting that he lacks the cold-headed ability of a truly elite striker to hit the back of the net. Had Martial scored either of those second-half chances, United would have gone 2-1 ahead and in a position to kill the game. But the reality was different, with Marquinhos restoring PSG's lead following another failure by United defend a corner properly.

"If Marquinhos had bigger studs on he'd have been offside," Solskjaer said, before adding unconvincingly, "You can't really put your finger on the deciding factors."

The goal was a minute before Fred was sent off, so United's hopes had quite literally gone in 60 seconds.

(Agencies)

# Zidane can fix Real Madrid, but only if he wants to stay and do the work

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

FOLLOWING Real Madrid's 2-0 defeat to Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Tuesday, Zinedine Zidane says he won't resign. Despite their fifth defeat in their last 11 outings. Despite the very real risk of the team exiting the Champions League in the group stage for the first time in the competition's history. Despite the fact that right now, this group appears as tough as wet tissue paper... and about as useful, too.

That matters because conventional wisdom is that Zidane won't be fired. Or, at least, there are several more circles of hell into which this team has to descend before that happens. Like whiffing badly against Borussia Monchengladbach next Wednesday -- a win guarantees qualification, a draw will be enough if Shakhtar lose to Inter -- while screwing up their next two Liga tests, this Saturday against Sevilla and the following weekend in the Madrid derby. Even that might not be enough for Real Madrid president Florentino Perez to pull the trigger.

Why is Zidane so rooted to his job? It's not just the nearly two decades at the club as player, coach and assistant. Or even the three Champions League titles and two Liga crowns in five years. It's the fact that current results aside, Zidane suits Real Madrid perfectly.

He doesn't cause controversy. He doesn't badmouth the club in public, and he doesn't moan to friends in the media in private. He doesn't annoy the star players. He doesn't pick fights with other managers. He doesn't harass referees. He doesn't demand the club embark on an expensive rebuilding process. He hasn't lost his cool since that night in Berlin in July 2006.

Zidane is easy and manageable, and that's what Florentino wants and needs right now.



Zinedine Zidane

That won't change unless, as we said, matters degenerate badly. Really badly.

What could change, however, is that Zidane walks away. He's done it before, after all, and you can envision, perhaps, a moment where he asks himself if his message is getting through to this crew. If he feels he can no longer get them to perform. If this job is too stressful and not rewarding enough.

The thing about a guy like Zidane is that he's not defined by his career as a manager. Not just because he was one of the greatest footballers of his generation and his managerial achievements may never match that, but rather because, unlike other ex-footballers, this isn't somebody who was burdened with a burning desire to coach the moment he hung up his boots.

A full seven years passed from the day he retired to when he became an assistant coach. He doesn't need this -- not financially, not emotionally -- and when he feels he's no longer the best guy available for the job, he'll walk away.

That's my reading, anyway. The inscrutable stone face will decide when his time is up.

So, should that time be now?

There's a school of revisionist thought that,

above all, blames the front office. It maintains that, since Toni Kroos' signing in 2014, the only legitimate superstar to arrive that contributed in any significant way was Thibaut Courtois -- a goalkeeper. Instead, Real Madrid got a pricey, permanently injured \$140m dud (Eden Hazard, who has two league goals to his name in 16 months) while spending another \$120m on promising but frustratingly raw Brazilian kids (Rodrygo, Vinicius Junior) and a further \$70m on a striker who rarely plays and rarely scores (Luka Jovic, who also has two goals to his name).

Real have spent a further \$350m over the past six years on a gaggle of players -- Eder Militao, Ferland Mendy, Alvaro Odriozola, Mariano Diaz, Theo Hernandez, Brahim Diaz, Dani Ceballos, Alvaro Morata, Mateo Kovacic and Danilo -- who have either come and gone without leaving much of a mark, or are so pedestrian that they likely never will.

Some were sold at a profit and some have done well elsewhere, but the point is that, apart from Ferland Mendy (and you wonder sometimes if he only looks good because the alternative is Marcelo), few will be remembered fondly at the Bernabeu.

The problem with this

fact is that it ignores the fact that Real Madrid won significant silverware during this period: three Champions League crowns and two Liga titles. And no, it wasn't solely down to riding the Cristiano Ronaldo bandwagon either. He left in 2018. They still won La Liga the following year without him, and with Zidane at the helm.

A more apt criticism might be that the club didn't do enough to refresh the side in terms of adding youth. Here, the additions have been hit (Fede Valverde, Martin Odegaard, Mendy), miss (Jovic, Odriozola, Eder Militao) or the jury's still out (Vinicius and Rodrygo, who, lest we forget, are still 20 and 19, respectively).

What has really hurt them is injuries, like the ones that stalled the growth of Isco and Marco Asensio. And, of course, they never got the lift Hazard was supposed to provide, both in terms of goals and stardust.

Now, all of the above is not an exoneration of Zidane this season. These are merely mitigating factors that make Real's post-lockdown run to the title, in which they gained 31 of 33 points in La Liga, that much more remarkable. And it raises the question: Why could they do it six months ago, but not now?

Injuries (Sergio Ramos, Dani Carvajal, Valverde and, until Tuesday night, Karim Benzema) offer a partial explanation, but only a partial one. They don't explain why Raphael Varane, who is 27 and a World Cup winner, should suddenly play like Rafael Benitez (who is 60 and only going to win a World Cup as a manager or if he buys a plastic replica).

They don't explain why this team continually makes foolish mental errors. They don't explain why, as they did on Tuesday, they can go out, come close to scoring a couple of goals and then go limp as a rag doll.

A clue might come from the numbers. Real Madrid's attacking output in the league and Champions League this season is virtually identical to last season's as measured in Expected Goals: 1.53 to 1.52. Defensively they're worse, conceding a 1.00 xG compared to 0.83 last year, and they're especially worse compared to their post-lockdown Liga xGC, which was 0.70.

There's no point in looking at numbers on their own; best to combine them with the "eye test," and what this suggests is two things. One is a team that plays in spurts, sometimes doing enough to get the upper

hand, sometimes not and then suffering for long stretches. That was likely true last season, too. The other is a side that concedes too much and too many high-quality chances in particular. Why? Partly because of systemic failures up the pitch, but largely because of individual errors at the back.

And this brings us back to Zidane. This is a crisis he needs to coach his way out of on the training pitch. Both in practical terms -- defending better as a unit, so that when mistakes happen there's a fail-safe -- and, perhaps primarily, in mental terms, knowing which players aren't right and when (yes, I'm talking about Varane) and installing the sort of calm and preparation you need to ride out games at this level.

The question about whether he sticks around is simple. Barring a cataclysm, the job is his for as long as he wants it. And, from what we can tell, he'll want it for as long as he feels he has the right message for the players and for as long as he feels he can get it across to them.

Short-term, that's how Real Madrid gets fixed. Long-term, it will take investment and planning and patience and health.

So, Zizou, it's on you. Do you feel you're up for it?

## Neymar: I want to play with Messi 'next season'

LONDON

PARIS Saint-Germain forward Neymar told ESPN he wants to play with former Barcelona teammate Lionel Messi again next season.

Messi, 33, is out of contract at Camp Nou next summer and is free to talk to other clubs from January onwards.

Neymar, who formed part of a potent front three with Messi and Luis Suarez during four years with Barca, has been constantly linked with a move back to the Camp Nou since leaving for PSG in a world record €222 million transfer in 2017.

"What I want most of all is to play with Messi again, to be able to enjoy him once again on the pitch," Neymar said after PSG's 3-1 Champions League win against

Manchester United on Wednesday when asked about the Argentine superstar joining him in Paris.

"He can play in my place, I have no problem with that! But I want to play with him next year, for sure. We have to do it next season."

Neymar's comments will increase speculation that Messi could join him in the French capital in 2021.

Messi wanted to leave Barca in August after the 8-2 Champions League elimination to Bayern and sources told ESPN at the time that Manchester City led the chase to sign him.

However, PSG were also monitoring the situation and coach Thomas Tuchel has said that the Argentine would be "very welcome" in Paris.

Barca hope to be able to convince Messi to sign a new contract with the club, but talks over a renewal are on hold until a new president is elected on Jan. 24.

The new president's first task will be to sit down with Messi and his

father and agent, Jorge, and sell him his vision for the club to convince him to stay.

Neymar and Messi could also be reunited at Barca. The Blaugrana tried to re-sign the Brazil star in 2019, but failed to strike an agreement with

PSG over a fee.

Barca were considering making a renewed attempt to bring him back this year, too, until the coronavirus pandemic hit their transfer plans.

Neymar also made a brief comment about fellow South American

Diego Maradona, who died at the age of 60 on Nov. 25: "Life is sometimes very complicated because people who had to be eternal leave and Diego had to be an eternal figure."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Zidane can fix Real Madrid, but only if he wants to stay and do the work**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Mbeya City FC's new coach Mathias Lule.

## Mbeya City FC appoints Ugandan Mathias Lule as new head coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

MBEYA City FC leadership has announced the appointment of the side's new head coach, Mathias Lule.

Lule, a CAF A License tactician from Uganda, was the assistant coach of Uganda senior national football team, 'Cranes'.

The tactician takes over at Mbeya City FC, which features in this season's Vodacom Premier League Vodacom Premier League, replacing Tanzanian Amri Said.

Said has become the first coach to be sacked by two different teams in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

He was earlier sacked by Biashara United in mid October after failing to help the club post victory in seven straight games, picking two points from draws for the team based in Mara.

The appointment of Lule by Mbeya City FC has come about due to the outfit's poor performance in the domestic top flight.

The Mbeya City Council-owned squad has won just one of the last five games, settling for the 15th spot.

Mbeya City FC's process of finding a new coach began more than three weeks ago when the outfit's leadership received applications from 14 A-licensed coaches, four Tanzanians and 10 foreign coaches.

The coaches who applied for the position are tacticians from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Portugal, Mexico, Italy, as well as Tanzania.

Mbeya City FC's Chief Executive Officer, Emmanuel Kimbe, said Lule has arrived in Tanzania and he will directly go to Tanga where the team will play a Premier League match against Coastal Union at Mkwakwani Stadium tomorrow.

Kimbe stated: "He has been given a two-year contract, he has already arrived in the country and will join the team directly in Tanga. The club board formed a special committee that reviewed applications and profiles of coaches who had applied for the job."

"The committee unanimously agreed to appoint Lule, who is the assistant coach of Uganda's national team and the one who succeeded to help the squad qualify for the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals held in Egypt," he said.

One of the biggest tasks Lule will have to do is making sure the team perform well and do away with the risk of relegation.

Lule's appointment follows a lengthy period of his inactivity after he was part of Uganda's 'Cranes' staff whose employment contracts were terminated upon the completion of the 2019 AFCON finals.

Matha, as he is fondly known by the football family, is aged 41.

His other qualifications are a diploma in youth football he got in Denmark and Sweden. He is making his way back to Tanzania following his spell at Stand United in 2014.

He was then elevated to the head coach status of the Uganda U-17 national team, 'Hippos', and was later appointed as an assistant coach for the senior team, 'Cranes', his most remarkable achievement is helping the squad qualify for the 2019 AFCON finals and the next year's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) which will take place in Morocco.

He, in his heyday in soccer, played for outfits, namely State House, Iganga and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) FC, before he retired from the beautiful game to concentrate on coaching.

As a former defender, he preaches solid and compact play with occasional quick counter attacking football. Lule's official employment contract with Mbeya City FC took effect on December 2 this year.

# Burundian midfielder hopes to add experience to Yanga



Said Ntibazonkiza

By Correspondent Michael Mwebwe

YANGA's latest signing, Said Ntibazonkiza 'Saido', is looking to add his experience to his new team following his arrival in Tanzania on Wednesday night.

The 33-year-old was signed by Yanga in October this year after his fine performance for Burundi's national team

as they beat Tanzania's Taifa Stars 1-0 in an international friendly played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Ntibazonkiza yet again produced a moment of brilliance when Burundi needed him most during the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers

against Group E leaders, Mauritania.

His 79th minute equalizer gave Burundi their first point of Group E after playing three games.

His brace in the return leg against Mauritania helped Burundi grab their first victory of the campaign and resurrected their qualification hopes.

The well travelled Burundi star, who has played in France, Turkey and Netherlands' top flight leagues, signed a one and half year deal with the Tanzania's football big guns.

He is hoping he will be able to pass some of his experience to help bring success to Yanga.

The midfielder is expected to start training with the team ahead of his registration when the transfer window opens on December 15.

Ntibazonkiza said: "I'm very happy to be here. I am thankful to the Yanga leaders and all the supporters who are here. Due to fatigue, I won't talk much, let us hope to meet on the pitch where the actual work is done. Lots of talking is meaningless, let's meet in the ground."

"We normally say Yanga are a people's team, I am thankful for the trust you have shown and adopted me as your very own, it gives me confidence to perform my responsibilities. I won't let you down."

The former French side Caen player added: "I am a player, I need to prepare myself. I hate talking a lot, I prefer doing my work on the pitch and let people be the judge."

"Yanga have a good team, they are doing well. I hope to bring my experience to the team and help them do better."



George Lwandamina

## Ambitious Lwandamina looks to make his mark at Azam FC

By Correspondents Michael Mwebwe & Nassir Nchimbi

ZAMBIAN George Lwandamina has been appointed as new head coach for Vodacom Premier League club, Azam FC's, replacing Romanian Aristica Cioaba, who was sacked last week following a series of poor results.

Lwandamina, former Yanga head coach, has signed a contract until the end of the season.

He disclosed: "I have experience in African football. I am sure I bring another dimension of doing things. We expect to do better. I have ambitions, I have my own objectives, they have their objectives. We will try to put our objectives together and move forward and make sure we do better."

The coach, popularly

known as 'Chicken' in the Zambian football family, has previously coached Zambia's Zesco United, Mfulira Wanderers, Green Buffaloes, Red Arrows and Zambia's national team, Chipolopolo.

At Zesco United, he won four Zambia Super League titles in two spells and he also guided them to the semi-finals of the 2016 CAF Champions League.

Barely two months after leaving Zesco United, Lwandamina surprised many by joining unfancied Zambia's second tier side, Prison Leopards, as a technical director despite being courted by top flight giants, Nkana.

He will take over from Burundian Vivier Bahati, who took over from Cioaba on an interim basis and led the team in the 1-1 draw with Biashara United in a Vodacom Premier League's match on Monday

that saw Azam extend their winless run to three matches.

Azam FC's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Abdulkarim Mohamed Amin Nuridin 'Popat', announcing Lwandamina's arrival, said: "We needed an experienced coach. He was the most suitable among the candidates we received."

"He has a wealth of experience, his CV speaks for itself. He is not new in Tanzania having coached at Yanga. He also helped Zesco United progress further in the CAF Champions League. He is one of the most successful coaches that is why he is here."

Azam are preparing to face Gwambina FC in a league clash in Misungwi, Mwanza. Azam FC sits second on the domestic top flight table, five points behind league leaders, Yanga.

## Wheelchair basketball course climaxes in Dar

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

A four-day wheelchair basketball course which attracted 20 participants and took place at Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park in Dar es Salaam ended yesterday.

Aziz Mwaruka, the Tanzania Wheelchair Basketball Association (TWBA)'s Technical Director, said the course, which was sponsored by International Community of Red Cross (ICRC)/MOVABILITY, covered many pertinent issues which will help in the development of wheelchair basketball in the country.

He said the course will help them prepare for future tournaments and equip the participants with modern rules, regulations and techniques of the sport.

Mwaruka said Tanzania plans to field its athletes in international tournaments depending on the situation of Covid-19 crisis in many countries.

"The aim of the course was to equip participants with rules, regulations and modern techniques of wheelchair basketball, participants were coaches and athletes, all are based in Dar es Salaam, with the exception of one who came from Zanzibar," he said.

He said they plan to organize a course of similar nature in other parts of the country, depending on availability of resources.

The course was officially closed by National Sports Council (NSC) official Jacob Nduye and other instructors were Robert Manyerere, who was chief instructor, and Bahati Mgunda.

The ICRC/MOVABILITY advocates that sports can promote rehabilitation and enable people with disabilities to be more fulfilled.

"Sports are not only an outstanding instrument for personal development, they are also a powerful unifying force. They are a major issue for the inclusion of people with disabilities in all spheres of society," the organization's website says.

"Sports and recreational games generate enthusiasm and well-being. Regular exercises can provide physical, but also mental benefit."

"Collective passion and support for a particular sport or a team creates a sense of community. People with disabilities who participate in sports sometimes even forget their disabilities and this helps them feel better and progress."

"In order for people with disabilities to participate in sports, physical rehabilitation is an essential first step. And the needs for physical rehabilitation services and devices, especially in low- and middle- income countries, are very high."

The website stated: "In fact, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), one billion people are in need of assistive technology. Sadly, this figure should rise to more than two billion by 2050."

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

