



### National Pg 3 Cash transfer programme pays off



### National Pg 4 Bishop: Tanzanians must work harder



### National Pg 6 Isaka-Mwanza SGR project on course



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# 'Appointments have professional outlook'



Children have an enjoyable time with an Easter holiday swim at a Dar es Salaam city resort, as captured by Correspondent Miraji Msala yesterday.

By Henry Mwangonde

A CROSS-SECTION of analysts yesterday hailed President Samia Suluhu Hassan for privileging professionalism in continuing appointments of senior government officials, but noticed an apparent lack of gender balance.

Analysts said in random interviews with 'The Guardian' that by assigning professionals in most of the dockets, it can be anticipated that efficiency will rise, improving public sector service delivery.

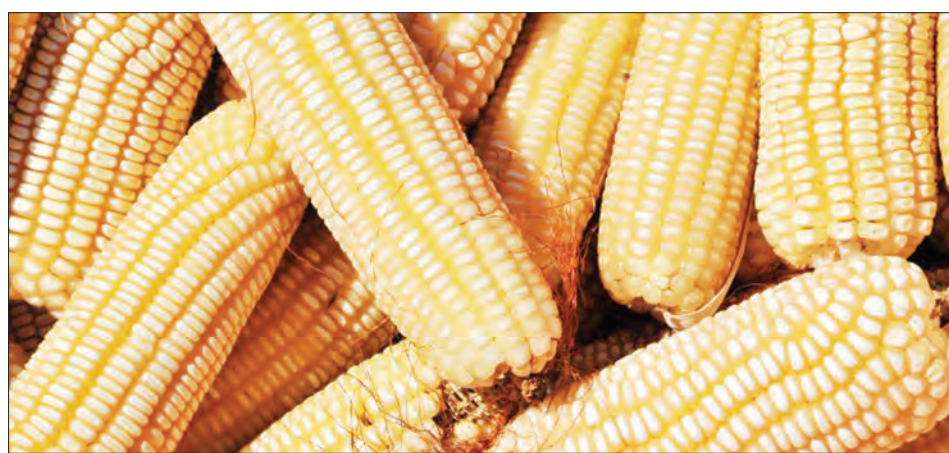
On Sunday this week, President Samia appointed permanent secretaries and heads of several government agencies, including the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority (TCRA), with some being transferred.

Dr Donath Olomi, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) said the appointments usher in hope for the future as most of those appointments are in line with their professions.

He, however, said the president seems not to be going fast with changes in this transition, as appointments mostly relate to familiar public officials serving in the previous government.

"We expect them to deliver. The

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## Maize imports ban foments smuggling

By Guardian Correspondent, Moshi

SMUGGLING has been increasing at Holili and Tarakea border areas in Rombo District, Kilimanjaro Region, following neighbouring Kenya's decision to clamp down on maize imports.

Regional Commissioner Dr Anna Mghwira made this observation during a visit to Holili border post at the weekend, noting that the market in the neighbouring state needs the produce, hence an uptake in smuggling.

"When you prohibit a commodity when there is great need for it, you invite smuggling and as for now, it is fast growing. Anyone who will be arrested doing so should blame no one as stern steps will be taken against them," Dr Mghwira said.

She called on maize traders to remain calm as the governments of the two countries work on the issue, without elaborating.

Members of the regional defence and security committee sat together with Customs Department officials for nearly three hours to discuss ways to reduce losses experienced by traders in the area.

Reading a brief statement on the movement of vehicles between January and March this year, Rombo District Commissioner Dr Athuman Kihamia said 1,763 vehicles passed through Holili border post out of which 830 belonged to

## Kidata settling again at TRA - 4 years later

By Guardian Reporter

NEWLY appointed Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Commissioner General Alphayo Kidata's (pictured) public services journey is an interesting recital strewn with elevating and painful experiences.

Under former President Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Kidata served in the top post at TRA from December 2015 to March 2017 when he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the President's Office.

In Sunday's appointment, President



Samia Suluhu Hassan reinstated Kidata as TRA Commissioner General replacing Dr Edwin Mhede, who was appointed to head the tax authority by the late Magufuli in June 2019.

Kidata has in the past six years traversed a series of ups and downs in the public service, which was the lot of many civil servants as the fifth phase moved to shake up old habits and instill new ways of discharging public responsibilities.

In January 2018, he was appointed High Commissioner to Canada but then axed towards the end of the year after

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## TPDC CEO's position safe after mild tremor

By Guardian Reporter

IT rarely happens that a person is twice rescued from the hangman's noose, but that is the story of the Tanzania Development Corporation (TPDC) Director General Dr James Mataragio (pictured).

He has remained on the post even after it was twice announced that he had been removed, the latest being on Sunday night when President Samia



Suluhu Hassan appointed Thobias Richard to the position, but early morning yesterday this appointment was annulled and Dr Mataragio was reconfirmed in the position.

The TPDC chief executive was once removed from the post and even appeared before the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court, but the late president John Magufuli restored him as the case against him collapsed, the whole episode taking place from August 20, 2016 to July 22, 2019.

It was alleged that the then TPDC chief executive altered and endorsed the TPDC revenue estimates and plan for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016 by inserting in the purchase of an airborne gravity

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## Kidata settling again at TRA - 4 years later

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the outbreak of a commercial dispute involving agencies of the two countries.

Back in 2015, Kidata served as Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development where he is credited with battling double allocation of plots, subsequently moving to the TRA as Commissioner General after Dr Philip Mpango served in the post briefly, before taking up the key position of Minister for Finance and Planning late 2015.

Kidata remained in the State House position for nearly a year to

January 2018 when was assigned the diplomatic position, before an unceremonious exit when on November 8th, 2018, Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Dr Faraji Mnyepe issued a statement on the envoy's removal, and even the forfeiture of his diplomatic status.

After nearly one year on September 20th, 2019 Kidata was appointed Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) for Mtwara, replacing Dr Jilly Maleko who was appointed ambassador, and less than two years later he makes a tempestuous comeback to TRA.

## TPDC CEO's position safe after mild tremor

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gradiometer survey equipment without the consent of the TPDC board.

On August 20 2016 Dr Mataragio was suspended from his post by the board for what was explained as serious audit shortcomings raised by the Controller and Auditor General for fiscal 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

On March 17 2018 he appeared in court along with four other top TPDC officials for abuse of office and allegedly embezzling US\$ 3.23

million (7.3bn/-) but was set free by the court after five months of intermittent mention.

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) entered an application saying the state had no intention to continue with the case against Dr Mataragio and his co-accused, and nearly a year later in July 2019 the late president Magufuli directed the Minerals minister to immediately restore the managing director in the position, saying he had been undermined owing to his patriotic position in the matter at hand.

## Institute calls upon farmers to have the soil they use tested to know acid level

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

UYOLE Centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) in Mbeya has called on farmers to come forward to have their farm soils analysed to avoid harvest loss due to huge acid content that affects crop production.

The call was made here at the weekend by TARI-Uyole director Dr Tulole Bucheyeki when addressing farmers in the Region on the effects of the increase of acids in the soil to their crops, food crops in particular.

Dr Bucheyeki said research done by the Centre has discovered that all Southern Highlands regions are faced by the challenge and if urgent steps were not taken, the nation can face food shortage, hence he called upon farmers to examine the soil fertility of their farms.

He said huge quantities of acids in the soil affect growth of the crops thereby reducing their production capability ending in

meagre harvests.

TERI-Uyole soil researcher Frederick Mlowe said the research carried out by the Centre shows that an untreated one-acre maize farm has the capacity to produce between seven and eight bags of the crop, but if treated it can produce up to 35 bags.

"Treatment of the soil to reduce the acid content is a savior to farmers because as for now they incur huge expenses in the upkeep of their farms, but end up in little harvests," Mlowe said.

Another soil researcher from the Centre Johnson Mtama said treatment of acids infected soil has been found out to be in the increasing of lime in the farms.

He said the quantity of the lime needed depends by laboratory analysis of the soil of the relative area, hence he called on farmers to send soil samples from their farms for analysis.

He said TARI-Uyole has modern equipment for the analysis of soil fertility and provide results within a short time.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (L, in white helmet) gets explanation from Tanzania Forest Service Agency chief executive Prof Dos Santos Silayo yesterday on the area earmarked for the construction of Julius Nyerere Hydropower Station across the Rufiji River. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Maize imports ban foments smuggling

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Tanzanians and 933 to Kenyans.

At the Tarakea border post a total of 1,242 vehicles passed through during the same period, 1,128 belonging to Tanzanians and 114 to Kenyans, he said.

Last week, Kenyan maize traders expressed concerns over the ban on the commodity

imports from Tanzania, urging regulatory authorities to review the restriction so as to save them from huge losses.

David Wainaina, the chairman of the Kenya International Freight and Warehousing Association (KIFWA), said: "Put a break on these harsh measures."

He appealed at the Namanga

border post last Wednesday that the Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities should meet and resolve the matter.

"If maize from Tanzania has always been clean, where does Aflatoxin come from?" he asked during a crisis meeting convened by the East African Business Council (EABC).

Kenya banned imports of maize from Tanzania and Uganda on March 5 over reported contamination with mycotoxins.

The order was made through the country's Agriculture and Food Authority (AFA) which asserted that Aflatoxin levels were higher than permitted safety benchmarks.



Reverend Allen Mbiso of the Mbezi Beach (Dar es Salaam) parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania pictured yesterday baptising one of scores of children as part of Easter celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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president seems to know a number of these people she has appointed. That is the reason she has shifted them to various positions for efficiency," he said.

Onesmo Olungurumwa, the national coordinator for the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) said the exercise is what is supposed to be the case, where appointing people in various positions should be based on competence.

Apart from commending the president, he said the country needs to come up with an altered mode of filling public offices by allowing interested individuals to apply and be considered on merit.

"Some countries have gone farther by forming appointing committees where one is publicly interviewed to get a job. That would reduce the task facing the president, being the appointing authority of all senior public offices," he said.

The coordinator however

## 'Appointments have professional outlook'

raised a gender concern on the appointments, saying there was gender imbalance with only seven women among the 57 appointees.

Anna Henga, the director of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) said it was important that the president considered professionalism in appointing technocrats as this had lately become an issue.

"She has started well; let us give her some time because not everything can be done overnight and as of now have seen that she has focused on professionalism which is a good thing and the best way to go," she said.

Reflecting further on the gender aspect, Henga said though the president has appointed a huge number of men, it was not a bad thing and it was expected in a patriarchal-based system, insisting that the president was on the right foot.

In the restructuring, President

Samia moved Permanent Secretary Doto James to the Ministry of Industry and Trade from the Ministry of Finance and Planning, while appointing Emmanuel Tutuba new Treasury Permanent Secretary.

Alphayo Kidata bounced back as TRA Commissioner-General, replacing Dr Edwin Mhede, who was appointed to head the tax body in June 2019.

The president also appointed Masha Mshomba as Director-General of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), replacing William Erio.

Dr Jabir Bakari Kuwe, then CEO of the e-Government Agency was appointed Director-General for the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), replacing James Kilaba.

Dr Allan Kijazi was appointed Permanent Secretary for Natural Resources and Tourism replacing Dr Aloyce Nzuki, while his deputy

is Ludovick James Nduhiye

Dr Hassan Abbas retained his position as Permanent Secretary for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, but will no longer serve as chief government spokesperson, a role that is now being shifted to the Information Services Department, to be headed by the former director of the Presidential Communications, Gerson Msigwa.

Observers saw the more notable changes in Sunday's appointments as including the departure of NSSF's William Erio, TRA's Edwin Mhede, TCRA's James Kilaba, and the minor tremor around TPDC's James Mataragio, whose revocation was reversed a few hours later.

The head of state also appointed Erick Hamisi as Director-General of the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) and Kaimu Mkeyenge as Director-General for the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC).

Other permanent secretaries appointed and their deputies are Prof Sifuni Mchome (Justice and Constitutional Affairs), deputized by Amon Mpanju.

Others are Dr Faraji Mnyepe (Defense and National Service), Brig. Gen Wilbert Ibuge (Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation), deputized by Ambassador Fatma Rajabu.

Christopher Kadio (Home Affairs) will be deputized by Ramadhani Kailima, Doto James (Trade and Industry), with Hashil Twalib Abdallah as his deputy.

Prof Simon Msanjila (Minerals), Mary Makondo (Lands and Human Settlements) with Nicholas Mkapa as deputy and Anthony Sanga (Water) as Nadhifa Kemikamba becomes his deputy.

Dr Leonard Akwilapo (Education, Science, and Technology) with Prof James Mdoe and Dr Carolyn Nombo as his deputies.

In the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, Dr Zaubu Abdi Chaula will be deputized by Dr Jim Yonazi

Dr Abel Nkono Makubi and Dr John Anthony Kiang'u Jingu become permanent secretaries in the Ministry of Health, Social Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, while Andrew Wilson Massawe was appointed permanent secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture. His deputy is Prof. Siza Donald Tumbo.

Dr Rashid Adam Tamatamah and Prof Elisante Gabriel Laizer were named permanent secretaries in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries for respective dockets, while in the Ministry of Works and Transport permanent secretaries are Joseph Kizito Malongo (Works) and Gabriel Joseph Migire (Transport).

In the Ministry of Energy the permanent secretary is Leonard Robert Masanja and his deputy is Kheri Abdul Mahimbali, the State House statement indicated.





Food vendors and other small traders conduct their business yesterday at Dar es Salaam's Mabibo mixed-goods market in conditions far from hygienic, largely owing to pervasive mud resulting from ongoing sporadic drizzles. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Tasaf beneficiaries establish income-generating projects in effort to boost livelihoods

By Polycarp Machira, Chemba

AT LEAST 84 beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in Chemba District, Dodoma Region, have established additional income-generating projects for livelihoods sustainability.

The residents of Makamaka village in the district have come to terms with the reality that TASAF's conditional cash transfer programme that they have been benefiting might at one point come to an end, thus the need for another plan for survival.

Through deductions on their remittances, the group has managed to save a total of over 1.8m/-, spending 1,860,000/- on the purchase of a posh mill, which will in return give them money.

Despite the financial gains expected from the project that is yet to start, it will also save the village residents the struggle to get milling service some seven kilometers away.

Speaking during a familiarization tour by TASAF officials and media in the district recently, the group Chairperson, Stella Joachim noted that the group members had several ideas of projects but settled on the posho mill.

"After getting training on entrepreneurship and financial training provided by TASAF, we embarked on plans to start a bigger project in addition to individually owned small projects at household levels" she said.

According to the team leader, they have formed a committee that will see the day-to-day running and management of the project and report to the members of the group.

She said the urge to start the project was high and the beneficiaries agreed to have deductions on the TASAF money that they get after every two months. With the guidance of the Ward Extension Officer, Amina Mohamed, they bought the posho mills and have constructed a building to install them.

Amina told the visiting team that the group, without a push from anywhere chose the project after she had guided on the plans and procedures to do so.

"I saw it as a good project bearing in mind the long distance they travel for milling services and it will also help them generate income that they will eventually share" she noted.

Iddi Ibrahim, one of the TASAF beneficiaries and member of the group expressed hope that the project will help them in the near future, more so once the conditional cash transfer programme ends.

The 78 years old father of three children who were enrolled in the programme in 2014, getting 36,000/- after every two months has achieved quite a lot and is very happy about TASAF.

He started by buying five chickens which later reproduced and when he sold them, he bought two goats. Using money from TASAF, he managed to till his 12 hectares of land, planting crops that he later sold and bought cows.

Currently, he owns ten cows, several goats, and chicken. He gets at least three litres of milk from the cows of which he sells two litres, leaving a litre for family use.

Another group member, Mustapha Ally, who is also a beneficiary of the conditional cash transfer programme had this to say, "I endured a long period of sickness, and it is only through TASAF money that I managed to get community health fund (CHF) card for treatment".

He said the CHF card helped fund treatment for his ten-year-old son who sustained a fractured hand while playing. The father of six children explained that he is able to meet school needs for the children because of TASAF.

He is also a sunflower farmer who by tilling his five-hectare farm has managed to buy two bulls and an ox plough and now provide ploughing services to neighbours at a fee.

"We proud of TASAF for it has made us who we are and with the group project, we are sure of surviving seen if the programme ends today," he said.

Maleeka ward chairperson, Abdallah Bari, though not member of the group described it as one of the greatest endeavors in the area.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

## Mbeya traders hail Samia's directives on tax collection

BUSINESSMEN in Mbeya Region say directives given by President Samia Suluhu Hasan to Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) officials to stop using force in collecting taxes have provided new hope to them.

On April 1 this year when swearing in various ministers she appointed, President Samia ordered TRA to stop using force when collecting taxes from traders saying the practice cause many businesses to close.

She also directed the Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba to expand taxpayers' base while being guided by wisdom and brains instead of force and harassment.

Speaking here at the weekend to this paper at different times the traders said in case they are adhered to in deeds, Tanzania will be among countries with huge number of big businessmen.

Elius Ngisi, one of the traders said the

practice being used made them regard TRA officers as their enemies when they visit their premises for tax purposes.

He said sometimes the officers were forcing them to close their business premises, pay the demanded tax after which they can reopen them.

"The President has shown that she has the intention to assist us in economic growth in order the government to collect tax to finance various development projects, we were playing hide-and-seek with TRA officers as if we were outright criminals," Ngisi said.

For her part, Mariam Mwaikambo, a trader at Sido Market in the city said there some businessmen who shifted their businesses to neighbouring countries to save them from collapse.

She those who continues trading were

those with high degree of perseverance, but those without simply closed down their businesses and started new ventures.

Mariam said the government is supposed to act as guardian of traders instead of being their enemy and that TRA officers should strategies including educating them instead of using muscles.

Former Mbeya Member of Parliament Joseph Mbilinyi "Sugu" wrote in his Twitter account that the practice of branding Tanzanians as meek (wanyonge) was merely degrading them.

However, on Sunday during Easter prayers in Dodoma, Vice President Dr Philip Mpango echoed President Samio's call to TYRA on the proper practice to collect tax from traders.



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# Relief as 3,000 villagers in Nyasa get clean, safe water

By Guardian Correspondent, Nyasa

NEARLY 3,000 villagers in Chimate village of Nyasa District, Ruvuma Region have been relieved following the completion of a 390m/- water project.

Manager of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Nyasa District Eng. Jeremiah Maduhu revealed this here over the weekend when inspecting the progress of the project.

He said that the project, which is 85 percent complete and is being implemented through a force account.

He said that when the project is completed it is expected to serve 2,798 people and preparations for the project began in June 2020 where the official construction work of the project started on July 20, 2020.

"Among the issues in the project include construction of a 75,000-meter water storage tank, 18 water points, and a 15-kilometer pipeline network," the official said, adding: "So far, 356m/- have been spent in executing the project, which is to be completed by next month."

Nyasa District Commissioner Isabela Chilumba said that out of the 18 water

points, 10 have been completed, asking people in the area to take care of the project. DC Chilumba commended RUWASA for executing well the project, which will now enable the people of Chimate to have access to clean and safe water.

RUWASA regional manager Eng. Rebman Ganshonga appealed to the people of Chimate village to ensure that they manage, maintain, and protect the water source so that the project is sustainable.

Eng. Ganshonga urged people in the area to protect water sources for the sustainability of the project.

"Please do not do human activities near water sources as if you destroy this source know that we'll have lost government money for free, the water will dry up," Ganshonga stressed.

One of the women in the village, Mary Ndembeka said: "Before this project women and girls in this village used to trek long distances looking for water. But now we're happy to get water within our homes."

"And, on top of all that, it was not uncommon for her children to get sick from drinking dirty water and then miss school."



Construction of a sewage system in progress yesterday as part of the implementation of the Ilala section of the second phase of Dar es Salaam's rapid transit bus project. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma



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### AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

#### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 TZS'000	2019 TZS'000
Gross written premium	22,224,831	22,160,007
Premium ceded to re-insurers	(12,672,443)	(11,529,978)
<b>Net written premium</b>	<b>9,552,388</b>	<b>10,630,029</b>
Change in gross unearned premium provision	590,875	32,099
Re-insurers' share of technical provisions and reserves (change in unearned premium)	(24,747)	62,565
<b>Net change of unearned premium provision</b>	<b>566,128</b>	<b>94,664</b>
<b>Net insurance premium revenue</b>	<b>10,118,516</b>	<b>10,724,693</b>
Commission income	3,660,225	3,219,730
Investment income	1,344,453	1,232,133
Other income	36,402	1,188
<b>Net income</b>	<b>15,159,596</b>	<b>15,177,744</b>
Gross insurance claims	(1,018,258)	(10,493,368)
Re-insurers' share of claims and benefits incurred	(2,303,556)	6,401,471
<b>Net insurance claims</b>	<b>(3,321,814)</b>	<b>(4,091,897)</b>
Acquisition costs	(3,740,987)	(3,495,290)
Administrative expenses	(6,382,464)	(4,721,277)
<b>(10,123,451)</b>	<b>(8,216,567)</b>	
<b>Profit before taxation</b>	<b>1,714,331</b>	<b>2,869,280</b>
Taxation expense	(1,265,434)	(710,603)
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>448,897</b>	<b>2,158,677</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>448,897</b>	<b>2,158,677</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020 TZS'000	2019 TZS'000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit before taxation	1,714,331	2,869,280
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
- Provision charge for bad debts	-	57,079
- Depreciation	255,103	247,815
- Amortisation	139,863	106,930
- Loss / (gain) on disposal of property and equipment	1,646	(2,001)
- Interest on lease liability	35,294	42,377
<b>Operating profit before working capital changes</b>	<b>2,146,237</b>	<b>3,321,480</b>
<b>Changes in:</b>		
- Insurance contract liabilities	(9,166,364)	(1,451,478)
- Receivables arising out of direct insurance arrangements	1,465,824	(330,136)
- Receivables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	(392,342)	(377,432)
- Reinsurer's share of technical provision and reserves	8,810,328	1,485,664
- Other receivables	(3,494)	(43,758)
- Payables arising out of reinsurance arrangements	(1,234,053)	(118,946)
- Other payables (excluding lease liability)	1,160,994	779,971
- Deferred acquisition cost	18,491	17,845
<b>Cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>2,805,621</b>	<b>3,283,210</b>
Payment of lease liability interest	(35,294)	(42,377)
Income tax paid	(1,338,580)	(656,022)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>1,431,747</b>	<b>2,584,811</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	650	4,356
Acquisition of items of property and equipment	(78,198)	(121,908)
Acquisition of intangible asset	-	(365,584)
Investment in government securities	(560,074)	(1,190,174)
Proceeds from deposits with financial institutions	500,027	832,004
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(137,595)</b>	<b>(841,306)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment of lease liability principal	(52,501)	(105,758)
Dividend paid	(500,002)	-
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(552,503)</b>	<b>(105,758)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>741,649</b>	<b>1,637,747</b>
<b>Movement in cash and cash equivalents during the year is as follows:</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January	5,029,723	3,391,976
<b>Cash and Cash equivalent as at 31 December</b>	<b>5,771,372</b>	<b>5,029,723</b>

#### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 TZS'000	2019 TZS'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Property and equipment		636,569	815,770
Intangible assets		287,856	427,719
Deferred tax		128,749	481,457
Deferred acquisition cost		1,622,617	1,641,108
Investment in government securities		4,518,914	3,958,840
Deposits with financial institutions		11,876,807	12,384,368
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions and reserves		16,690,695	25,501,023
Insurance receivables		3,561,748	4,635,231
Other receivables		65,090	61,596
Income tax receivable		225,116	-
Cash and bank balances		1,203,250	582,272
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>40,817,411</b>	<b>50,489,384</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Insurance contract liabilities		25,220,257	34,386,621
Payables arising from reinsurance arrangements		3,342,175	4,576,228
Other payables		4,380,380	3,271,888
Bank overdraft		449,010	577,215
Income tax payable		-	200,738
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>33,391,822</b>	<b>43,012,690</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,425,589</b>	<b>7,476,694</b>
<b>Shareholders' equity</b>			
Share capital		4,000,000	4,000,000
Retained earnings		1,200,451	1,538,128
Capital and contingency reserves		2,225,138	1,938,566
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>		<b>7,425,589</b>	<b>7,476,694</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Share capital TZS'000	Contingency reserves TZS'000	Retained earnings TZS'000	Total TZS'000
<b>Balance as at 1 January 2020</b>	4,000,000	1,938,566	1,538,128	7,476,694
Profit for the year	-	-	448,897	448,897
<b>Transactions with owners of the Company</b>				
Dividend paid	-	-	(500,002)	(500,002)
Transfer to contingency reserves *	-	286,572	(286,572)	-
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>2,225,138</b>	<b>1,200,451</b>	<b>7,425,589</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 January 2019</b>	4,000,000	1,273,766	44,251	5,318,017
Profit for the year	-	-	2,158,677	2,158,677
Transfer to contingency reserves *	-	664,800	(664,800)	-
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2019</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>1,938,566</b>	<b>1,538,128</b>	<b>7,476,694</b>

The above extracts are from financial statements of the Company for the year ending 31 December 2019 which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements were audited by KPMG, Certified Public Accounts and received Unqualified Audit Report. The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by Board of Directors in the Board Meeting held on 31 March 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

JAYESH G. SHAH  
Chairman

DAVID A. SAWE  
Director

## Work hard for the country to attain its development vision objectives, Bishop advises

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dodoma

ARCHBISHOP of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dodoma Beatusi Kinyaiya has called upon Tanzanians to work hard for the country to achieve the 2025 national development vision.

Archbishop Kinyaiya made a call over the weekend after presiding over a church service for two religious leaders—Father Felix Rashid Ikaji who died of diabetes on March 29th this year and founder of St Gema hospital, SR Gema Grace died of breast cancer.

Bishop Kinyaiya, advised Tanzanians to maintain the spirit of hard working under President Samia Suluhu Hassan, insisting that it is only through hard working that Tanzania would achieve its targeted development goals.

He expressed confidence with President Samia urging Tanzanians to support her hard working spirit so that she completes implementation of the ongoing development project.

"Tanzanians must work hard in support of President Samia and Vice President, Philip Mpango," he disclosed.

"The late Ikaji was a hard worker, he started working as a priest in 1980s, the job he has been doing until 2021 when he stopped due health complications," said Bishop Kinyaiya, adding the late Ikaji could walk long distances to preach the word of God in remoteness areas.

The late Father Ikaji served as a teacher and religious leader at Bihawana junior seminar in Dodoma from 1987 to 1989 then worked in 9 different Parish from 1989 to 2021.

He also described SR Gema Grace as a hard worker who apart from providing spiritual services to the people; she also attended to patients at the St Gema hospital in Dodoma.

"SR Gema's spirit of hard working made her popular soon after she completed national services training at Oljoro in Arusha and Mgulani in Dar es Salaam in between 1984 and 1985.

She then got an opportunity to attend a three years course as clinical officer at Sengerema District before she was enrolled as undergraduate student at Pisa University in Italy.



**The late Ikaji was a hard worker, he started working as a priest in 1980s, the job he has been doing until 2021 when he stopped due health complications**



# H.E. Dr. Philip Mpango

VICE PRESIDENT  
OF TANZANIA



The Management and Staff of ALAF Limited, a part of the SAFAL Group extend warm congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Dr. Philip Isdor Mpango upon taking office as the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania.





Fabian Ezekiel, a food vendor operating from a spot in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone, prepares one of the major items on the menu - ugali - at his roadside 'restaurant' yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Simiyu residents excited by Isaka-Mwanza SGR project

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Malampaka in Maswa District, Simiyu region have been extolling the benefits of the proposed 349km Phase V of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to be constructed from Mwanza to Isaka, including employment opportunities and economic growth.

Speaking before Works and Transport Minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho, one of the residents, Mzee Juma Saidi said they were prepared to participate in taking care of the equipment to be used in the construction work.

"We have already mobilised ourselves to work, as we have already seen the arrival of part of the equipment, we are ready to work hard to get income, but we shall also involve ourselves in the creation of history through the project," he added.

For his part, Dr Chamuriho said the government is satisfied with the preparations by the contractor as they have already identified camp sites, quarries and other essential locations for the project.

"As you can see the contractor is at the construction site as major preparations have been finalised including equipment, what remains is for president Samia Suluhu to come and lay the foundation stone," he added.

Chamuriho said the ministry will continue to closely supervise all sectorial projects to be completed in time and called on the people to use the opportunities to economically develop themselves.

He also praised the Misungwi District Commissioner Juma Sweda to mobilise the people to give room to areas where the railway will pass promising they would be adequately

compensated after evaluation exercise was completed.

The Ministry's Deputy Minister Mwita waitara called on the people and Mwanza and Simiyu regions residents who would be employed in the project not to involve themselves in theft of equipment and fuel from the project sites.

For his part, Misungwi District Commissioner Juma Sweda thanked the government for implementing the huge national project and promised the minister for its protection.

The 1,219-km Dar es Salaam-Mwanza SGR project has been divided into five phases: Dar-Morogoro, Morogoro-Makutupora, Makutupora-Tabora, Tabora-Isaka and Isaka-Mwanza.

The contractor for the last phase is China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC-CRCC) whose contract was signed in January this year.



**We have already mobilised ourselves to work, as we have already seen the arrival of part of the equipment, we are ready to work hard to get income, but we shall also involve ourselves in the creation of history through the project**

## TCCIA, Arusha City Council team up in safeguarding environment

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) and Arusha City Council have established a joint tree planting programme to facelift the city's landscape and create new attractions for tourists that would push forward the tourism sector. Arusha Region's TCCIA Executive Officer Charles

Makoi says the joint plan aims to plant 20,000 trees during this year.

"Up to now we have planted 100 trees in the Themi Living Garden. We in TCCIA have decided to invest in environmental preservation to harmonised the tourism sector and revamping markets in the city centre," he said.

Makoi said in his statement that the plan officially started last year

by planting 20,000 trees in areas affected by drought including Muriet and Morombo towns.

The Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Government) has also been mobilising in improving projects and business environment through discussions for the development of the people.

Arusha City's Environment and Tourism Officer Michael Ndaisaba

said the tree planting plan aims to beautify tourist attractions for Arusha City.

He said the plan started in various Arusha City wards and that so far they have planted 15,000 trees in Muriet, Terat and Olmotony wards.

Ndaisaba thanked TCCIA members for being large stakeholders in environmental preservation.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
WIZARA YA MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI  
MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA  
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### TAARIFA KWA UMMA

Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) ni Mdhhibiti wa Sekta ya Mawasiliano ya Kieletroniki na Posta nchini. Pamoja na mambo mengine, ina jukumu la kusimamia gharama na tozo katika huduma za mawasiliano zinazotolewa na Watoa huduma na kuwalinda watumiaji wa huduma hizo.

Mnamo tarehe 5 Februari, 2021, TCRA ilitoa tangazo la kukaribisha maoni ya wadau kuhusu huduma za vifurushi zinazotolewa na Watoa huduma za mawasiliano ya simu za mikononi.

Kutokana na maoni hayo, TCRA iliandaa Kanuni ndogo za Vifurushi (Rules) za mwaka 2021, zenye lengo la kuweka utaratibu kwa Watoa huduma wa namna ya kupanga vifurushi, bei na muda wa matumizi ya vifurushi hivyo. Kanuni hizo zimeanza kutumika tarehe 02 Aprili, 2021.

Katika utekelezaji wa Kanuni hizi, watoa huduma waliwasilisha idadi na bei ya vifurushi vipya pamoja na bei za huduma nje ya vifurushi. TCRA imeidhinisha idadi ya vifurushi vilivyowasilishwa pamoja na bei za huduma nje ya vifurushi na tayari zimeanza kutumika tarehe 02 Aprili 2021.

Hata hivyo, TCRA imesitisha kwa muda matumizi ya bei mpya ya vifurushi vya data ili kutoa nafasi kwa Watoa huduma kupanga upya bei za vifurushi kwa ufanisi na kufanya uchambuzi wa kina kwa ajili ya kulinda maslahi ya watumiaji.

TCRA itaendelea kusimamia na kufuatilia kwa ukaribu huduma za mawasiliano kwa ustawi na maendeleo ya Taifa.

**IMETOLEWA NA MKURUGENZI MKUU**  
**MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA**  
Tarehe 02 Aprili, 2021

## Congratulation



**H.E Ambassador Hussein A. Kattanga**  
**Chief Secretary**

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of **TPB Bank Plc** joins fellow Tanzanians in congratulating **H.E Ambassador Hussein A. Kattanga** for being sworn in as the new **Chief Secretary** of the United Republic of Tanzania.

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# Herbs that treats Erectile Dysfunction

By Kizito Makoye

As rain sprinkled on the muddy soil, Patrick Nyembo and his wife Agnes waded on the mud-soaked pathway to a remote village in western Tanzania as they desperately try to reach a herbalist whose herbs are believed to treat a very embarrassing problem.

Distraught, the 45-year-old teacher in the bustling capital city of Dodoma had for years been harbouring a disturbing secret, no one knew except his wife. He had erectile dysfunction (ED) - a health condition making him unable to sustain erection during sexual intercourse.

However, last year Nyembo heard from a friend that a traditional healer in the western Tabora region was offering treatment to such patients using herbal extracts.

"I was excited to meet the herbalist. My wife and I travelled all the way to Tabora and when we met him I told him about my problem. He made me drink a dose of a slightly bitter concoction which completely healed me," said Nyembo.

Nyembo, whose love affair was in tatters, is among many men in Tanzania who have used traditional herbs to treat ED partly caused by hormonal imbalance due to lifestyle changes.

The herbal remedies have evoked a glimmer of hope among men suffering from ED also known as male impotence, as the Tanzania government approved herbal drug as treatment for the problem.

"I've spent a lot of money seeking help for this problem. I didn't know an herbal drug could solve it once and for all," said Nyembo proudly.

After years of dilly-dallying, the Tanzania Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children in 2018 endorsed a herbal drug called Ujana (Swahili for youthfulness) to be used in clinics

across the country for treating erectile dysfunction.

The new drug, whose dosage ranges from 300mg-700mg daily, depending on the severity of the problem, has been proven effective in treating ED, which doctors associate with the changing lifestyles and nutritionally imbalanced diets, which result in an extremely low level of testosterone.

Herbal remedies in Tanzania are governed by the Traditional and Alternative Medicine policy, which requires herbalists to be registered by the relevant authorities.

Ruth Suza, the registrar of the Alternative Health Practices Council of Tanzania, said the new policy guidelines on herbal remedies is part of government's broader push to integrate herbs into the conventional healthcare system, thus preventing reckless distribution of fake herbs.

"Many people claim to treat ED but not all of them are genuine healers. Some of them are doing it for making money," Suza said.

Traditional and alternative medicines are important elements of healthcare in Tanzania. Despite increasing access to modern medicines, the majority of Tanzanians still use herbal remedies for treating various diseases. There are more than 80,000 herbalists operating in Tanzania, according to the government.

Ester Innocent, a researcher at the Institute of Traditional Medicine at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, said the Ujana herbs, which were tested and endorsed by the chief government chemist, are potentially useful for improving men's blood flow during sexual stimulation to facilitate a successful intercourse.

Martin Massawe, a 33-year-old radio producer who lives in Dar es Salaam with his wife Nora and a young son, realised something was wrong two years ago.

"Things were not the same and our love life deteriorated. We tried to ignore it but the situation worsened," said Nora, a kindergarten teacher.

As Massawe became increasingly worried when he repeatedly failed to perform sexual intercourse, that's when his wife Nora advised him to seek medical help.

Last year, the couple made an appointment to see Dr. Ali Zehri, a urologist at Aga Khan hospital in Dar es Salaam, who specializes in helping men with difficulty getting and keeping an erection. The doctor examined Massawe's penile blood vessels with a duplex Doppler machine to ascertain if he had any blood flow problems.

"I was very shocked when the doctor told me I had erectile dysfunction. He calmed me down saying the condition is treatable," he said.

According to Massawe, Zehri advised him to use herbal remedies recently approved by the government as part of his treatment and asked him to make lifestyle changes.

"I started taking the herbs and within days I started to see some improvements and at last situation returned to normal," said Massawe.

Erectile dysfunction is a serious problem in Tanzania, mostly affecting middle aged and older men, but doctors say an increasing number of young men develop it.

A study conducted by Muhimbili University College of Health and Allied Sciences in 2013 suggests there's an increase in the prevalence of erectile dysfunction in the population, with 55.1 percent of diabetic patients attending diabetic clinic found to have some form of erectile dysfunction.

"Sexual stimulation usually supplies more blood to the penis through the arteries, causing it to erect," said Zehri.

According to him even men in relatively good health usually develop



stress or substance induced ED, which is caused by anxiety or too much drinking of alcohol.

However, Zehri said, Ujana herbs enhance the effects of nitric oxide, a natural chemical in the body that relaxes the penis muscles and increases blood flow.

"This herbal remedy works well. Once the patient regains his erectile function, his confidence improves," said Dr Zehri.

While Ujana is hailed as panacea for men with erectile dysfunction, critics say unscrupulous herbalists take advantage of its popularity to rip off their customers by giving them unapproved herbs purporting it to be Ujana.

Globally, male impotence is also affecting many people. A 2013 study published in the Journal of Sexual Medicine noted that 1 in 4 men under

the age of 40 who sought help for ED actually suffered from the condition. Almost half had severe ED.

According to a Massachusetts Male Aging Study, it is estimated that more than 300 million men globally will suffer from the condition in 2025.

While most ED patients are effectively treated with conventional and alternative herbal medicines, studies also show that, for some, the disorder is a sign of heart disease.

Professor Mohamed Janabi, the director of Jakaya Kikwete heart institute in Dar es Salaam, estimates that ED is a cardiac risk factor in 10 to 20 percent of patients who do not have other risk factors for heart disease.

While the risk factors are typically associated with older men, ED is often the only cardiac risk factor in a younger man. "When young men

have erectile dysfunction, we can see that as a sign for potential heart problems," Janabi said.

Moreover, Zehri said, irrespective of what type of ED men suffer, they must see the doctor as soon as possible.

For Massawe, Ujana herbal medicine has proved effective in treating his condition. Although he learned that to prevent future risk of developing heart problems, he has to make lifestyle changes such as going to the gym, eating healthier meals and reducing intake of alcoholic beverages.

He routinely goes for a checkup. He and his wife, Nora, are expecting their second child in May.

"One lesson I have learnt in life is that, don't lose hope, for there is a solution for every single problem," said Massawe.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

## CANCELLATION OF LICENCE GRANTED TO WIAFRICA TANZANIA LIMITED

(Issued under Section 22 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306)

**WHEREAS** on 14th August, 2014 the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (here in after referred to as the **AUTHORITY**) issued to **WIAFRICA TANZANIA LIMITED** (here in after referred to as the **LICENSEE**) National Application Services Licence, Network Facilities Licence, National Network Services Licence and Radio Frequency Spectrum Resource Licence (herein after referred to as the Licences) for the provision of electronic communication services (hereinafter referred to as Licensed Services) in the United Republic of Tanzania;

**AND WHEREAS** the **LICENSEE** has failed to provide the licensed services to customers as required under Section 21(b) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306 and has failed to pay regulatory fees as required by the provisions of Section 21(g) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306;

**WHEREAS** Section 22 provides that the Authority may cancel or suspend a licence if the licensee is in material breach of licence conditions and has failed to remedy such breach; and

**WHEREAS** the **AUTHORITY** has consulted the Minister for Communication and Information Technology on the cancellation of the Licence in accordance with Section 6(3) of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act, Cap. 172 of the laws of Tanzania;

**NOW THEREFORE**, by powers vested upon it by the Law, the **AUTHORITY** hereby informs the public that the **LICENCES** issued to **WIAFRICA TANZANIA LIMITED** are cancelled.

Issued by:  
Director General

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority  
Mawasiliano Towers  
20 Sam Nujoma Road  
P.O. Box 474  
14414 DAR ES SALAAM



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS  
REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
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## INVITATION FOR APPLICATION OF QUALIFICATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SMARTPHONES ASSEMBLY FACTORY UNDER PUB- LIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) ARRANGEMENTS (TENDER NO. NO AE-020/HQ/2020-21/PPP/01)

### RE-ADVERTISED

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is looking for a prospective private party towards establishment and operation of smartphones assembly factory under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements.
- TCRA now intends to qualify interested reputable and capable company(s) for this business opportunity under Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Maintain and Transfer (DBFOMT) arrangements. It is expected that invitation to bid to the pre-qualified bidders will be made in 4th May 2021.
- The qualification process will be conducted through International Competitive bidding (ICB) under the procedures specified in Public Private Partnership Act, Regulations, 2020 and is open to all applicants as defined in the Regulations.
- Interested applicants may download the qualification documents from the link: <https://www.tcra.go.tz/smart-phone-assembly-factory> or obtain the same from the office of Secretary of the Tender Board at Mawasiliano Towers, 20 Sam Nujoma Road, Dar Es Salaam from 09:00-15:00 On Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
- Applicants, who submitted their applications earlier, are advised to re-submit the applications with updated information.
- Applications for qualification should be submitted electronically via [smartphonefactory@tcra.go.tz](mailto:smartphonefactory@tcra.go.tz) or physically in sealed envelopes, in one original plus Two (2) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes and "Tender No. AE-020/2020-2021/PPP/01-RE-ADVERTISED for establishment and operation of smartphones assembly factory under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements" on or before 4th May 2021 at 1100hrs East African Time.
- Applications will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of applicant's representatives who chose to attend in the opening at the TCRA conference room.
- Late applications, portion of applications, and applications not received, applications not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

DIRECTOR GENERAL  
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Sport should be power to drive social change

**S**PORT pertains to any form of competitive physical activity or game that aims to use, maintain or improve physical ability and skills while providing enjoyment to participants and, in some cases, entertainment to spectators. Sports can, through casual or organised participation, improve one's physical health. Hundreds of sports exist, from those between single contestants, through to those with hundreds of simultaneous participants, either in teams or competing as individuals.

In certain sports such as racing, many contestants may compete, simultaneously or consecutively, with one winner; in others, the contest (a match) is between two sides, each attempting to exceed the other. Some sports allow a "tie" or "draw", in which there is no single winner; others provide tie-breaking methods to ensure one winner and one loser.

A number of contests may be arranged in a tournament producing a champion. Many sports leagues make an annual champion by arranging games in a regular sports season, followed in some cases by playoffs.

Sport is generally recognised as system of activities based in physical athleticism or physical dexterity, with major competitions such as the Olympic Games admitting only sports meeting this definition. Other organisations, such as the Council of Europe, preclude activities without a physical element from classification as sports. However, a number of competitive, but non-physical, activities claim

recognition as mind sports.

The International Olympic Committee (through ARISF) recognises both chess and bridge as bona fide sports, and SportAccord, the international sports federation association, recognises five non-physical sports: bridge, chess, draughts (checkers), Go and xiangqi, and limits the number of mind games which can be admitted as sports.

Sport is usually governed by a set of rules or customs, which serve to ensure fair competition, and allow consistent adjudication of the winner. Winning can be determined by physical events such as scoring goals or crossing a line first.

It can also be determined by judges who are scoring elements of the sporting performance, including objective or subjective measures such as technical performance or artistic impression.

Records of performance are often kept, and for popular sports, this information may be widely announced or reported in sport news. Sport is also a major source of entertainment for non-participants, with spectator sport drawing large crowds to sport venues, and reaching wider audiences through broadcasting. Sport betting is in some cases severely regulated, and in some cases is central to the sport. According to A.T. Kearney, a consultancy, the global sporting industry is worth up to \$620 billion as of 2013. The world's most accessible and practised sport is running, while association football is the most popular spectator sport.

## Wanted: Global actions to prevent future genocides

**G**ENOCIDE is the intentional action to destroy a people—usually defined as an ethnic, national, racial, or religious group—in whole or in part. A term coined by Raphael Lemkin in his 1944 book *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe*, the hybrid word genocide is a combination of the Greek word (genos, 'race, people') and the Latin suffix -caedo ('act of killing').

The United Nations Genocide Convention, which was established in 1948, defines genocide as "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such" including the killing of its members, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately imposing living conditions that seek to "bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part", preventing births, or forcibly transferring children out of the group to another group. Victims have to be deliberately, not randomly, targeted because of their real or perceived membership of one of the four groups outlined in the above definition.

The political instability task force estimated that, between 1956 and 2016, a total of 43 genocides took place, causing the death of about 50 million people. The UNHCR estimated that a further 50 million had been displaced by such episodes of violence up to 2008. The word genocide has also come to signify a value judgment as it is widely considered the epitome of human evil.

The Rwandan genocide occurred between 7 April and 15 July 1994 during the Rwandan Civil War. During this period of around 100 days, members of the

Tutsi minority ethnic group, as well as some moderate Hutu, were slaughtered by armed militias. The most widely accepted scholarly estimates are around 500,000 to 600,000 Tutsi deaths.

In 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a rebel group composed of Tutsi refugees, invaded northern Rwanda from their base in Uganda, initiating the Rwandan Civil War. Neither side was able to gain a decisive advantage in the war, and the Rwandan government led by President Juvénal Habyarimana signed the Arusha Accords with the RPF or Rwanda Patriotic Front on 4 August 1993.

Many historians argue that a genocide against the Tutsi had been planned for at least a year. However, Habyarimana's assassination on April 6 1994 created a power vacuum and ended peace accords. Genocidal killings began the following day when soldiers, police, and militia executed key Tutsi and moderate Hutu military and political leaders.

The scale and brutality of the massacre caused shock worldwide, but no country intervened to forcefully stop the killings. Most of the victims were killed in their own villages or towns, many by their neighbours and fellow villagers. Hutu gangs searched out victims hiding in churches and school buildings. The militia murdered victims with machetes and rifles. Sexual violence was rife, with an estimated 250,000 to 500,000 women raped during the genocide. The RPF quickly resumed the civil war once the genocide started and captured all government territory, ending the genocide and forcing the government and genocidaires into Zaire.

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By Prinston Anthony Nimene

**A**FRICAN countries have been receiving FOREIGN AID since independence for the past 60 years, and Africa is yet to be developed or self-reliant. Since 1970, the world has spent over five trillion dollars in aid. Much of that money has come to Africa. Helping Africa is a noble cause, but the campaign has become a theater of rampant corruption, and abuse of power.

The Marshall Plan was an American initiative passed in 1948 for foreign aid to Western Europe. The goals of the United States were to rebuild war-torn regions, remove trade barriers, modernize industry, improve European prosperity. However, it hasn't been the case in Africa. Foreign Aid has contributed to corruption in Africa through the large amounts of money that are sent over, and exploitation of resources. The money that floods into Africa come not only from individual government-to-government aid programs, but also international partners such as the World Bank, WTO, and the IMF, which act as intermediate between the donor governments and receiving governments.

When Aid is offered the main objective is to help promote economic development and welfare that can be used to create the essentials of life in these countries. Foreign aid has become more about what it can do for African elites and severing the special interests of GOVERNMENT officials rather than the public, and this has led to the situation where Africa has failed to set its own pace and direction of development.

African governments have become so reluctant to generate revenue neither do they listen to the views, and opinions of their citizens simply because aid has created dependence, nearly half of most African country's budget comes from financial assistance provided by other nations, and international organizations leaving Africans citizens in no position to develop new economic policies, and development agenda.

All African government does is to sit and wait for the next aid check to come their way as they maximize worth, and the population continued to survive on less than a dollar per day.

However, countries such as Tanzania Botswana, and Mauritius where aid has also been given have directly invested on the needs of their citizens, and infrastructure development. Foreign aid can help only those African countries that undertake political, economic, institutional, and anti-corruption reform.

## Foreign aid and corruption: Age-old problems in Africa



Foreign aid is hurting - not helping - sub-Saharan Africa. Providing developing countries and in particular sub-Saharan Africa with aid in social, economic and humanitarian forms - has been a priority since the post-independence era in the 1960s.

### Corruption:

Corruption is an age-old problem in Africa and has its root from colonialism and was introduced by the corrupt colonial governments.

Corruption has become part of everyday routine in the continent, and the most neglected human rights violation of our time. It fuels injustice, inequality, and deprived Africans from many basic services. It is a major catalyst for distrust in democracy in Africa. Much of the Aid Africa's received often gets looted by corrupt governments, and officials. In Most African countries, all the government does is to sit and wait for the next aid check to come their way. For instance, in Mozambique since they started receiving foreign aid, the level of dependency as a percentage of their GDP rose by 16 percentage points in less than 20 years; and Zambia for the past years been relying on foreign aid. Yet, when Zambia gained her independence the country was categorized as a middle-income country.

Today, Zambia is positioned among the poorest nations around the world despite receiving huge foreign aid. In Uganda critics argue that due to foreign aid, Uganda is more indebted than ever, and aid is also blamed for sustaining the unfair, and corrupt regime of President Yoweri Museveni from a political collapse.

There is an argument that if not for foreign aid the current regime of President Museveni would have collapsed due to public discontent

in the face of major challenges facing the country, and it could be replaced. In 2019, the Global Corruption Barometer revealed that more than one out of four people or approximately 130 million citizens in the 55 African countries surveyed paid a bribe to access essential public services. The continent is live experiencing extreme poverty today compared to the 1990s. Unless these challenges are addressed, many countries in Africa risk missing their Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets come 2030. Corruption continues to harm the efforts to bring people out of poverty.

### Corruption and democracy:

Africans are concerned, and skeptical on their governments because, there is no proof that shows how foreign aid has positively contributed to their livelihood, or economic development. As long as corruption continues to go largely unchecked, democracy will continue to be under threat in Africa because, corruption chips away at democracy to produce a vicious cycle, where corruption undermines democratic institutions, and it remains a major challenge in Africa socio-economic growth, and development.

Every year Africa's continues to lose billions from embezzlement, bribery, and tax avoidance. Weak institutions have failed to check corrupt officials, and the movement of ill-gotten gains out of the region. About 70% percent

of Africa's resources are invested outside the continent. The effects of corruption go beyond the corrupt government or individual, and it damages the rule of law, social justice and erode the truth in democracy, and elected officials to act in public interest.

If Africa's utilize her resources and invest in infrastructure and agricultural development, Africa's economy will be much better, and Africa will be a Middle-income continent. African governments must get serious about anti-corruption both adopting and enforcing legal frameworks, strengthening their institutions and ensuring accountable for public procurement. Institutions charged with providing basic public services should be more transparent and accountable in their operations.

Politicians and senior public officials should improve policies and mechanisms to allow citizens to access public information, demand accountability from their governments, and report corruption. Whistleblowers of corruption should also be protected by their government because there is an obligation to act against corruption, and the tendency of stealing as a full time GOVERNMENT JOB must stop, if Africa's is to realize her full potential.

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# Corporations, wealthy pay in Biden infrastructure plan, not drivers and riders

WASHINGTON

**P**RESIDENT Joe Biden's plans to spend billions of dollars on the United States' crumbling roads and mass transit include a novel twist - making companies and wealthy households, rather than drivers and riders, pay the cost.

Biden will unveil more details about the first stage of his infrastructure plan, which could be worth as much as \$4 trillion, in Pittsburgh on Wednesday.

Business groups and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have been pushing Biden to raise U.S. fuel taxes, some of the lowest in the world, for the first time since 1993. They also want a new mileage tax that would sweep in electronic vehicles to plug holes in the national highway fund.

But the White House has rejected those ideas, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg told CNN on Monday. A gas tax is politically risky and would weigh more heavily on lower-income Americans, who often travel longer distances for work.

Instead, Biden is expected to propose the biggest federal tax increase in decades, according to two sources familiar with the plan. It includes raising corporate income taxes back to the 28% rate before the 2017 tax law, and increasing the marginal tax rate on high-earners, according to two sources familiar with the plan.

White House aides say that Biden may also rely on some federal borrowing to fund the package, given historically low interest rates.

Whatever the plan, it is likely to inspire heated debate among Republicans, Democrats, economists and academics about the right way to plug the holes in the U.S. economy opened by the vast spread of COVID-19.

"The president has a plan to fix the infrastructure of our country... and he has a plan to pay for it," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said on Monday. If members of Congress don't like it, "we're happy to look at their proposals," Psaki added.

## THE IMMENSE U.S. HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The nation's nearly 50,000 miles here) of interstate highways were considered one of the world's cutting-edge infrastructure projects when they were constructed. But the national piggy bank for funding road and mass transit projects since 1956, the Highway Trust Fund, has been in the red since 2008.

Congressional budget forecasters warn it could have

a \$207 billion shortfall by 2031 without new sources of revenue.

The fund is powered by an 18.4 cent per gallon tax on gasoline and a 24.4 cent tax on diesel, both of which have not been raised in nearly three decades, even as fuel efficiency standards have improved.

That makes fuel cheap. German drivers paid \$6.12 per gallon of fuel in 2019, versus \$2.87 in the United States, according to the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. In Britain, taxes account for 63% of the fuel price at the pump, versus 19% in the United States.

Biden has vowed not to raise taxes on Americans making less than \$400,000 a year, which includes the overwhelming majority of the country.

Influential trade groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, have failed to convince lawmakers to raise the fuel tax to pay for roads. "We believe in a user-based system for roads, bridges and transit" said Ed Mortimer, its vice president of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Some Republicans, including Senate committee leaders John Barrasso, of Wyoming, and Chuck Grassley, of Iowa, introduced a bill that included a gas hike tied to inflation and a national electric vehicle fee last year.

Some sort of compromise on funding is necessary.

"If the White House and lawmakers can't find agreement on the Highway Trust Fund, then it doesn't bode well for the rest of the package," said Quincy Krosby, chief markets strategist at Prudential Financial, who consults on transportation financing.

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES GET A



US President Joe Biden

## BREAK

Biden is also expected to ignore calls from lawmakers for a new way to tax motorists based on how far they drive, not how much fuel they use, a third source familiar with the plan told Reuters.

A vehicle's miles traveled, or VMT, tax would mean electric car owners help pay for the nation's infrastructure and help to offset rising fuel efficiency standards that have led to

declining trust fund revenues.

Just about 2% of cars sold in the United States in 2020 were electric, according to S&P Global Platts. Biden's plan calls for a nationwide network of charging stations, but no additional taxes for drivers of those vehicles.

"We offer tax incentives for electric vehicles, so it seems counterproductive then to tax them," said a Democratic legislative aide engaged in the talks.

A VMT tax could take years to implement fully, but it does have bipartisan support. "As a conservative, I strongly believe in the user-pays principle, and I believe that we need to start ensuring that all users pay their

fair share for the roads they're using," said Sam Graves, the ranking Republican on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The committee's chairman, Peter A. DeFazio, a Democrat from Oregon, has supported raising the gas tax but also wants to provide seed money to experiment with a VMT system, which he calls inevitable.

Agencies

# Inter-Korean missile race may leave North Korea with tactical nuclear weapons

SEOUL

**N**ORTH Korea has surged ahead during recent years in an inter-Korean arms race that has led to a proliferation of short-range missiles on the peninsula and left Pyongyang closer than ever to deploying tactical nuclear weapons.

North Korea's years-long quest to develop precision missiles capable of evading detection and striking targets in South Korea has accelerated in the wake of the country's 2018 self-imposed moratorium on testing its larger intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

Meanwhile, a 2017 agreement between Washington and Seoul lifted bilateral limits on South Korean missile payloads, leading to the development of at least one heavier weapon that could play a key role in strategies aimed at preempting North Korean attacks or "decapitating" its leadership.

The new missiles tested by North Korea last week appear aimed at matching or surpassing South Korea's quietly expanding arsenal, and are the first such tests since leader Kim Jong Un declared in January that the country could miniaturise nuclear warheads to fit on tactical weapons, underscoring the high stakes for the Biden administration as it mulls options for reducing tensions.

South Korean officials see bigger and better short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) as a way to reduce their dependence on the United States, which stations around 28,500 troops in South Korea.

In a speech last year, South Korean Defence Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo boasted that the country had developed a missile with "sufficient range and the world's largest warhead weight to protect peace on the Korean Peninsula," referring to the new Hyunmoo-4's 800-kilometre range and 2-ton payload.

It was likely no coincidence, analysts noted, that North Korea said its newest SRBM could carry a 2.5-ton warhead.

In a statement on Tuesday, Kim Yo Jong, the leader's sister and a powerful politician in North Korea, cited Jeong's speech in defending the North's right to develop its own missiles.

"As Seoul has developed new capabilities of this type, Pyongyang has been close behind," said Joshua Pollack, a researcher at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) who co-wrote a report last year warning that advances in conventional, precision strike missiles in both Koreas have helped create a new pathway for a crisis to escalate into war.

## TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

North Korea says its missiles are for self defence, and has accused South Korea and the United States of threatening its safety with joint military drills, arms purchases, and other hostile policies.

At January's ruling party congress, Kim announced that North Korea had accumulated technology to "miniaturise, lighten and standardize" nuclear weapons.

The South's spy agency concluded the latest missiles could carry nuclear warheads, though it was unclear whether they had ever been installed, a lawmaker briefed by intelligence officials said on Monday.

"Even short-range North Korean ballistic missiles should be considered nuclear-capable, based on North Korea's own words," said Markus Garlauskas, a senior



fellow with the Atlantic Council and former U.S. national intelligence officer for North Korea.

Once the technology is mastered, nuclear warheads can be lighter than conventional ones, said Markus Schiller, a missile expert based in Europe.

"A missile does not care the least if it carries a nuke, a load of TNT, or a piano - only the weight is important," he said.

North Korea's latest missiles have also demonstrated a capability for flying low and "pulling up" shortly before reaching their target, making them harder to detect and intercept, said Joseph Dempsey, a defence researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

"If fielded, these new type of SRBMs would allow North Korea to strike specific targets within South Korea with a much higher degree of accuracy (than older variants)," he said.

On Friday, 38 North, a U.S.-based think tank, reported that satellite imagery showed activity at a shipyard

suggesting the North's new ballistic missile submarine, under construction for several years, may be nearing completion.

## ROCKET RIVALRY

In a speech on Friday where he discussed North Korea's tests, South Korean President Moon Jae-in described his country's missile capability as "world class."

After last year's test of the Hyunmoo-4, South Korea announced it would also mass produce another type of ground-based missile designed to destroy underground artillery bases.

"These most recent (North Korean) tests do appear to be communicating to the South Koreans that they have capability on par or superseding that of the Hyunmoo-4," said Melissa Hanham, deputy director of the Open Nuclear Network.

As soon as this year, Seoul may conduct an underwater test of its first submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM), based on the 500 kilometre-range Hyunmoo-

2B, armed with a conventional warhead, and potentially carried by its new 3,000-ton KSS III submarines, South Korean media reported.

South Korea's defence ministry declined to confirm the status of specific weapons citing security concerns but said "our military has built the capability to counter North Korea's short range missiles by modernising our forces, and we plan to develop it even further."

Such missiles could bolster two key South Korean strategies: "Overwhelming Response", which aims to detect planned attacks by North Korea and preemptively destroy its nuclear facilities, missiles, and long-range artillery; and "Strategic Target Strike," a counterattack that includes eliminating North Korean leadership.

"Seoul seems committed to very large conventional warheads to target hardened sites," said Jeffrey Lewis, a missile researcher at CNS. "There is also simple envy - if North Korea has such a capability, it is normal for South Korea to follow suit." Agencies



# Western countries should respect China's decision on Hong Kong electoral system

BY ABBAS MWALIMU

**T**HE National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, on 11 March, adopted a decision to improve the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) during its fourth session of the 13th NPC. On 30 March, members of the NPC Standing Committee voted unanimously to adopt the amended Annex I and Annex II to the Basic Law of the HKSAR, thereby changing the method for the selection of the HKSAR Chief Executive and the method for the formation of the HKSAR Legislative Council and its voting procedures.

According to Chinese lawmakers, the said decision and amendments aim at ensuring that Hong Kong is governed by people who love the country and love Hong Kong, i.e. the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong".

A recent survey conducted by the think-tank Bauhinia Institute reveals that nearly 70 percent of Hong Kong residents support the aforementioned decision, and over 80 percent of local people in Hong Kong recognize the necessity of upholding the "patriots administering Hong Kong" principle.

On the other hand, major Western countries, notably the G7 members, alleged that China's decision on improving Hong Kong's electoral system will erode democracy in Hong Kong. However, according to the Joint Declaration between China and the United Kingdom, Hong Kong is part of China's territory and China resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1 July 1997.

The articles of the Sino-British Joint Declaration imply the following facts which are crucial for the correct understanding of the Hong Kong issue from a legal point of view.

First, China is a sovereign state, and it has supreme control over its own affairs as long as it does not contravene the international law.

Second, Hong Kong is part of China, and Western countries, including the UK, have no right to interfere in Hong Kong affairs.

Third, Article 2 of the Sino-British Joint Declaration obliges the UK to "return" the occupied territory (Hong Kong) to its real owner, the People's Republic of China. That is why the word "restore" was used in the Declaration. The responsibility of the UK over Hong Kong ended on 1 July 1997 when the British colonialists handed over

Hong Kong to China.

Fourth, there was a certain period of time given for preparations before handover, and this was the transition period from 27 May 1985, when the Joint Declaration came into force, to 1 July 1997, the date of handover. According to the Joint Declaration, the UK had liability over Hong Kong during the transition period and that accountability ended officially on 1 July 1997.

Specifically, such behaviors of the Western countries violate the principle of non-interference in sovereign states' internal affairs when they rebuked China's effort to improve the electoral system of the HKSAR following security concerns. The principle of non-interference, enshrined in Article 2.4 of the UN Charter, is a significant part of the international law.

According to Article 3 (12) of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the basic policies of China regarding Hong Kong will be stipulated in a Basic Law of the HKSAR by the NPC and they will remain unchanged for 50 years. This was based on the fact that the British capitalism has a historical impact on Hong Kong while the People's Republic of China is a socialist country governed by the Communist Party of China. Nevertheless, this article does not prevent China from adopting any decision which will have positive impacts on the political and social stability and economic prosperity of Hong Kong.

I think the allegations raised by Western countries against China seemingly aim at boosting their agents in Hong Kong to continue disrupting the normal operation of the legislative and executive organs in Hong Kong, trying to grab power



Citizens display China's national flag in support of implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" at Tamar Park in Hong Kong, March 6, 2021

and subvert Chinese and Hong Kong authorities. Such interference in China's domestic politics may pave way for unpatriotic persons to contend for Hong Kong Legislative Council (LegCo) seats so as to control the LegCo and block the execution of duties by the Chief Executive.

A good example in that regard is when the House Committee of the LegCo of the HKSAR was preparing for legislative work for full-council meetings in October 2019, it was brought to a standstill for over six months due to malicious filibusters

and violence by opposition lawmakers. The stalled legislative process led to an enormous backlog of bills that have directly affected the livelihood of the Hong Kong people.

In my opinion, it is healthier for the UK and other Western countries to wisely rethink their purpose of interfering in China's internal affairs and apart from that, concentrate on researching on the reasons and the ways in which China attained substantial progress in achieving its domestic and foreign policy objectives. Again, it is much healthier for the UK and other Western countries to observe the international law which actually regulates interactions between and among sovereign states for mutual benefit instead of condemning China which is trying to address security challenges in HKSAR.

The UK and the US in particular are subjected to adhering to the non-interference principle and interpret the Sino-British Joint Declaration in good faith. China's decision to improve Hong Kong's electoral system is legitimate and deserves respect from foreign countries as long as its decisions do not breach international law.

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## Britain-EU row over coronavirus vaccine likely to continue amid supply shortages

LONDON

**T**ENSIONS remain unabated between Britain and the European Union (EU) as a spat over COVID-19 vaccines is likely to go on due to continued shortage of supplies.

WAR OF WORDS

The European Commission recently unveiled a revised version of its export transparency mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines, highlighting reciprocity and proportionality for assessing whether these vaccines can be exported to non-EU countries. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, while accusing the British-based AstraZeneca of failing to honor its EU contract, has warned that the bloc might restrict vaccine exports to countries which have higher vaccination rates, clearly referring to Britain. In a more dramatic development, French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said in a recent interview with France Info television that Europe would not let itself be subjected to "a kind of blackmail" by Britain over supplies of COVID-19 vaccines.

Meanwhile, the British government has strongly opposed any blockade of vaccine exports from the EU. "I don't think that blockades, of either vaccines or medicines or ingredients for vaccines, are sensible and I think that the long-term damage done by blockades can be very big," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told lawmakers recently, implying that future investments might be stalled in "countries where arbitrary blockades are imposed." Asked directly if he would rule out taking retaliatory action should a blockade be imposed, Johnson said: "Our priority is to continue the vaccine rollout to vaccinate the British people. We'll do everything necessary that we can to ensure that happens." Only 12.3 percent of all adults in the EU have received the first dose of COVID vaccine, according to the latest figures published by the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

Meanwhile, in Britain, more than half of all adults have received the first dose. The government insisted the country is "on course" to meet its target of offering a first dose to the top nine priority groups, including the over-50s, by April 15 and all adults by the end of July. Sarah Schiffling, an expert on supply chain management at Liverpool John Moores University, told Xinhua that both sides could be harmed if a block of vaccine supply is implemented. "I don't think it is very helpful to have these sort of terms of a vaccine war, blackmail, selfishness ... we have to acknowledge that this has been a global issue," said Schiffling. "It's not really in anybody's interest to make this a battle of retaliation. You have these very complex international supply chains and there's just no way to disentangle those and to completely cut each other off. That will harm both parties very significantly," she said.

POST BREXIT TIES

The battle of the vaccine came just months after Britain officially abandoned its status as an EU member after the Brexit transition period ended at the end of last year. "This comes at a very crucial point in time after the UK has left the EU and now we've got disagreements about exports between the UK and the EU," Schiffling noted. "What we have to stress is the vaccine procure-

ment mechanism the UK has used was in principle open to all EU members as well. So it's not like the UK had a great opportunity because of Brexit to do their own vaccine procurement. That was open to EU member states just the same."

Britain, she added, went down a route of securing its own procurement of vaccines and was now seeing a much quicker vaccination program. "The EU was quite concerned with who is going to be a liability if something goes wrong, whereas in the UK there was a much higher risk strategy with committing vast amounts of money early on in the development of vaccine, and this route has paid off. So this is why we've got in the UK right now much higher availability of vaccines," she said. However, the expert noted that the COVID-19 vaccine is also a highly political issue. "In the end every country has an interest in vaccinating its citizens ... For the EU, the UK is now a 'third country,' it's a country outside the bloc. So it is competitor for these very important items," she said.

GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

Despite initial progress in its vaccine roll-out, Britain

is now facing major uncertainties in its vaccination program. The National Health Service (NHS) England has warned that Britain is going to face a "significant reduction" in vaccine supplies from this week onwards due to a need to retest 1.7 million vaccine doses as well as delays to doses arriving from India.

Meanwhile, a potential ban of vaccine exports from the EU could make the situation in Britain worse. Johnson has warned the effects of a third wave of coronavirus from Europe will "wash up on our shores." John Vella, visiting lecturer on economics at the University of Malta, told Xinhua that the global pandemic requires countries to work together to help solve it. "Everyone should get their heads together to make sure that more and more people get the vaccine to prevent hospitalization as a result of the coronavirus. This is a common health threat so cooperation at various levels - primarily, political and medical - is of utmost importance," Vella said.

In a recent joint statement, the British government and the European Commission pledged to work together and "create a win-win situation and expand vaccine supply for all our citizens." "In the end, openness and

global cooperation of all countries will be key to finally overcoming this pandemic and ensure better preparation for meeting future challenges," said the statement. European Council President Charles Michel has also said that immunization is a global public good.

"So we need to be able to develop, manufacture and deploy vaccines as quickly as possible," to ensure universal and equitable access to vaccines, medicines and tests, he said recently during a joint press conference with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

According to Schiffling, many countries still do not have access to sufficient vaccines, so the real issue was ramping up production on a global scale. Otherwise, the conflicts over vaccine supply, not only within the European borders but beyond, will continue. "For many countries ... they may not have access to vaccine for the rest of this year, maybe even longer than that," Schiffling said.

"Let's calm this down, let's not be so heated about this because in the end we are in this together," she added.

Xinhua



# Armada Capital says it has got environmental approval from NEMC for its graphite project

By Guardian Reporter

ARMADALE Capital Plc has reported that the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) of Tanzania has formally granted approval of the company's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the production of natural flake graphite at the Mahenge Graphite Project in south-east Tanzania.

The ESIA is the final necessary step in the mining licence application process. Now that it has been approved by the NEMC, it is now being submitted to the Department of Energy and Minerals to complete the mining licence application process.

Nick Johansen, Armadale Chairman, comments: "We are extremely pleased with the formal approval of the ESIA by the Tanzanian National Environment Management Council.

An important milestone for Armadale as a company as it is a final essential step prior to being able to be granted the full mining licence by the Department of Energy and Minerals."

"Armadale has made considerable progress over this past year continually making steps forward in de-risking Mahenge Liandu to advance through development towards production at a time where global demand for graphite products is set to rise exponentially especially in spherical graphite manufacturing for the EV market.

Our recent successful testwork in both Chinese and Australian labs have demonstrated encouraging results that high purity graphite concentrate from our project is suitable for the battery anode market."



# Global research partnerships 'obliterated' by UK aid cuts

By Ruth Douglas

DRAMATIC cuts to UK foreign aid budgets have left the future of hundreds of research projects in developing countries hanging in the balance and trusted partnerships severely undermined, say leading scientists.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) announced recently that its international development budget for 2021/22 had been reduced from £245 million to £125 million as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19, leaving a "£120 million gap between allocations and commitments".

It says more than 800 projects will be affected by the cuts, which will see grants such as those awarded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and Newton Fund significantly reduced or, in some cases, terminated.

Nick Talbot, executive director of the Sainsbury Laboratory, said it was a "massive breach of trust" to cut ongoing projects of real impact for developing countries. He said he faced a "major cut" to a GCRF project grant in Sub-Saharan Africa.

rica.

Talbot, a world-renowned expert in molecular plant pathology, leads a project on rice blast, a disease that can devastate rice yields, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where disease-resistant varieties are lacking and control strategies limited.

"Our project has examined the rice blast pathogen population and provided information on the resistance genes that could defend rice varieties grown locally from infection," says Talbot. "We have used plant breeding to introduce multiple disease resistance into locally grown varieties favoured by farmers and consumers in Sub-Saharan Africa."

The UK team works with partners in Nairobi who house a disease repository and oversee local breeding work, said Talbot, as well as scientists in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Tanzania, and Madagascar.

"It is a highly complex project and we have trained many African scientists, including PhD students. We have rice varieties in field trials across 17 sites in Africa, and our next stage will be to bring some

of the varieties to registration and release to farmers. We need about three to four years' further funding to achieve this, but the cut we have received puts a lot of that in jeopardy."

Talbot said he was doing all he could to maintain partner budgets in Sub-Saharan Africa, but admitted he did not know how he would implement such a deep cut, adding that the exact amount remained under discussion. "It's heartbreaking for such a successful project to be affected like this," he said.

In an online briefing, the UKRI says it is working with stakeholders to discuss "the best way forward". "No one could have foreseen the economic impact of an extended global pandemic when we entered into these longer-term programmes," it says.

Scientists have mobilised in their thousands to sign petitions calling for the British government to revoke the cuts. "The decimation of this vital funding stream will have drastic impacts," says one letter signed by more than 5,000 people.

"As well as directly threatening the futures of the vulnerable and

marginalised that these funding targets, the resultant abrupt termination of research projects will obliterate the hard-won trust with international development partners and governments overseas," the letter warns.

Jenni Barclay, a professor of volcanology at the University of East Anglia who authored the letter, said her immediate response was one of "abject horror". "I cannot believe that the UK government understood what it was doing to 'global Britain' by this unprecedented action – to cancel competitively funded projects, or cut others so thoroughly, it's difficult to see how momentum and trust can be sustained."

Barclay said the second phase of a GCRF-funded project she worked on had been cancelled, while she was waiting to hear the fate of a project she leads in Quito, Ecuador, under the Urban Disaster Risk Hub, which works to integrate disaster risk management into urban planning. The hub is one of 12 flagship interdisciplinary hubs supported by the GCRF to tackle global challenges such as climate change.

The cuts were "hard to take" for UK scientists, added Barclay, but "the real concern has to be for our partners, who trusted in this process and the early career researchers who will lose their jobs, and the wasted progress on important development issues."

Asked to respond to the petitions, a spokeswoman for the UK's Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy said: "We are working with our delivery partners, including UK Research and Innovation, to implement a new research and development settlement for 2021/22 as part of our wider commitment to maintain the UK's world-class reputation for science, research and innovation."

Mara Lawniczak, an evolutionary geneticist at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, says she had her budget cut from about £180,000 to £60,000 for a project she leads in Mali, involving single cell RNA sequencing on malaria parasites. The study aims to improve understanding of malaria transmission.

The grant has already funded the building of an insectary next

to a clinic serving more than 20,000 people in Ntjiba county, says Lawniczak, as well as contributing to a £60,000 sequencing machine – the first of its kind in West Africa.

When patients go to the clinic for treatment – also partially funded through the project – they are invited to contribute to the study, with thousands of children expected to receive malaria treatment, regardless of whether they take part, said Lawniczak. All that is now at risk, she fears.

"When you are awarded a grant, you would never think that a cut could come after the award has been made, especially not such a dramatic one," added Lawniczak. She said her research partner in Mali, Abdoulaye Djimde, felt "helpless" about the situation. "If this was a new collaboration and the rug was pulled out from under it like this, why would partners in [low- and middle-income countries] ever want to work with us again? They have invested in this project – people, time, resources, brain power – built on a foundation of trust that the funding is there."

# Dubai doctors scale Mount Kilimanjaro to conquer fear and fatigue of COVID-19

By Special Correspondent

SENDING out a strong message of resilience and triumph of the human spirit, a group of UAE-based doctors who successfully scaled the highest peak of Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro, last month, were felicitated by the hospital for their brave spirit.

An adventure to triumph over fear and fatigue

The doctors, from Prime Hospital in Dubai, not only did the trip to defy the fear and fatigue of COVID-19, but also donated a decent sum of money to an orphanage in Tanzania at the Moshi village towards the annual school uniform expenses of 79 children at a local orphanage.

Led by DrAzam Bader Khan, specialist orthopaedic surgeon at the Prime HealthCare, DrTalakereUsha Kiran, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, DrPrabharanBalaji, specialist anaesthesiologist and Dr Mahesh Kumar, specialist orthopaedics, the quartet was accompanied by two other orthopaedic specialists, Dr Sunil Kulkarni, from NMC Specialist and Dr Saeed Al Thani, a private consultant. They flew into Tanzania on March 17. They reached Moshi village at the foothills of Kilimanjaro and after acclimating, themselves to the local weather started the trek via the Machame route with three guides on March 19. Undertaking 12-hour long treks each day from 7am to 9pm, the group was able to reach the summit after a gruelling 5-day journey on March 23.

COVID-19 could not stop their resolve. What was commendable was the fact that among the trekkers, Dr Kiran had recovered from COVID-19 only a fortnight before the trip and had left behind her husband,

DrMilind Thakur in Dubai, who had barely recovered from COVID-19 a few days before the trip.

"After my experience with COVID-19 and a very scary two weeks that my husband faced, I felt life was too fickle and I had to step out of my comfort zone. So although, I was not able to do any prior training or participate in practice treks that the group did in Fujairah and Ras Al Khaimah, I still decided to just sign up and be there," said Dr Kiran.

Recounting the decision to do this trip and the adventure therein, Dr Kiran also added, "before this trip I had not really met my colleague Dr Khan and only overheard him discussing the project near the lift. Since I have always been a very active person during the years I spent first in India and later in the UK before coming to Dubai, I wanted to get back to doing this."

**Trip to highlight importance of mental health**

Dr Khan, who has been taking up adventurous treks all throughout his career including to the Everest Base Camp and to Antarctica, told Gulf News: "My main purpose in undertaking the trek to Mt Kilimanjaro was to reestablish our faith and hope that was seriously eroded during the last one year owing to the pandemic. Staying indoors and being unable to meet friends or travel, most of us have to deal with mental health issues. I wanted to point out to the fact that a large part of our mental health issues is linked to our physical health. If we can go outdoors, exercise, breathe and be stress free, we



can actually address our mental health problems. Then I also wanted to reach out to the orphans of Tanzania. Most of these orphans belong to patients of HIV who perished or are offsprings of single parents who have abandoned them," explained Dr Khan.

**Mind over matter trip**

Owing to altitude sickness, one of the doctors was unable to climb to the peak but the other five made it with courage and resilience. "It was a mind over matter trip. One has to realise that it is possible to break the barriers or limits that we construct for ourselves. If you decide, you can achieve the impossible. I learnt this from our trip. The body has to fol-

low if the mind is made up, that is how I climbed this peak," said Dr Kiran.

In a felicitation ceremony held at Prime Hospital, DrTasneem Jamil, Deputy Managing Director of Prime Health Care group, commended the group for the inspiring and courageous mission they undertook in the midst of their tight duty hours and the pandemic.



# Should the 2021 climate summit in Glasgow still take place?

NEW YORK

**A**MONG the COVID-19 pandemic's many damaging impacts, could a halt to international progress on environmental issues be added to the list?

A year ago, the Glasgow Climate Summit—originally scheduled for late 2020—was postponed to 2021, along with its preparatory meetings. This wasn't the only critical inter-governmental process impacted. For instance, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the U.N. treaty on the high seas were also moved.

With uncertainty over travel and safety continuing into 2021, the postponement of meetings has continued, with the United Nations Environment Assembly and the Convention on Biological Diversity conference both being moved back many months.

Currently, the Climate Summit in Glasgow—COP26—is slated for 1-12 November 2021. But will even this later date work for many participants?

Even though there is increased optimism in the US and Europe that they may get their populations mostly vaccinated by July or August 2021, that will not be true for many other regions. The varied pace in vaccine distribution is another example, if we needed it, of the disparities faced by developed and developing countries.

In an opinion piece by IMF Chief Kristalina Georgieva for CNN Business Perspectives on 7 March, she said:

“Even in the best-case scenario, most developing economies are expected to reach widespread vaccine coverage only by the end of 2022 or beyond.”

## Why COP26 Needs to be In-Person and Inclusive

What does this mean for COP26? The idea that negotiations could be held virtually has been largely ruled out. While it has worked for some processes on a limited basis, most experts acknowledge climate negotiations are too complex, sensitive, and high-stakes to be conducted over Zoom or WhatsApp. They require face-to-face discussions to have any chance of meaningful success.

Furthermore, our experience in the past has told us that climate talks need to be inclusive and engage as many governments and



stakeholders as possible, both in the lead-up to the conference and at the “main event” itself.

For instance, previous conferences in Cancun (2010) and Paris (2015) are remembered for their inclusivity and painstaking preparations, while less successful meetings such as those in Copenhagen (2009) or The Hague (2000) were unable to achieve this. If virtual negotiations are not a realistic option, then, it's clear vaccines will need to be made available for government negotiators to attend and negotiate.

What about stakeholder groups who want to be there in person to lobby or put pressure on their governments? Will they be allowed to attend? If so, under what conditions? These are key questions that will need to be answered soon if COP26 is to have any chance of delivering what so many people want it to do.

## Timing is Everything: The Case for Postponement

Already rescheduled once, COP26 is now time-tabled for 1-12 November. Furthermore, the two preparatory meetings originally scheduled for 2020 were postponed to 2021, meaning there is still much to be done.

The first preparatory meeting is currently due to happen from 31 May to 10 June. This is now in doubt and a decision will be taken in the next few weeks on whether to proceed.

With such uncertainty, it could be argued that COP26 should be postponed again. Surely this would be better than trying to undertake preparatory meetings virtually, or holding a COP26

that is so diminished by travel restrictions that the meeting is but a shadow of its usual size and scope.

We hope those making these decisions take into consideration both arguments of inclusivity and the need for careful, thorough preparations as they continue to review this matter.

## A Roadmap for a November COP

Should COP26 be held in November as currently planned, there are, however, some ways to improve its chances of success.

First, concerted efforts should be made to coordinate and strengthen the outcomes from President Biden's planned Washington Climate Summit on 22 April, the G7 meeting in June (to be hosted by the UK) and the G20 Meetings in October (to be hosted by Italy).

Together, these could generate useful momentum and begin to refocus high-level political discussion on the climate crisis.

Secondly, the UNFCCC process could review its pre-COP26 scheduling to provide more time for in-person discussions in the lead-up to Glasgow. For instance, there is already agreement that a UNFCCC meeting will be held in Milan from 30 September to 2 October.

What if this already-scheduled event was to be expanded to at least 10 October? If this event continued through the month of October, it could have an even greater impact, allowing key negotiators ample time to prepare in person for Glasgow.

One challenge may be the timing of the Convention on Biological Diversity's conference, now rescheduled for 11-24 October. Decision-

makers will need to figure out whether the UNFCCC could meet concurrently with the CBD.

If it is not thought possible to run the two events at the same time, there are still some creative ways forward. For instance, the CBD could play an important role in accelerating discussions on nature-based solutions for climate change.

This is one of the key issues both the UK and Italy have identified for COP26. Informal negotiations could continue during the CBD meeting and the UNFCCC could reconvene formally on 25 October to see if agreement on any informal decisions could be progressed before the G20 on 30 and 31 October. In fact, the G20 meeting in Rome dovetails nicely into COP26, and could provide a welcome final impetus for it.

If preparatory meetings did take place through much of October in Italy or elsewhere, it would set up an almost continuous negotiating forum through to the start of November for national governments' experts, diplomats and political leaders—as well as concerned scientists, business leaders, labor groups and NGOs—to meet in-person.

If planned carefully, it would mean only two or three geographically-proximate locations in Italy and the UK would be involved, which should help greatly in terms of dealing with the complexities of travel involving vaccinations, Covid testing, and so on.

In effect, it could create a climate negotiating ‘bubble’ where safe pandemic protocols would be possible and the necessary actors would have time to interact extensively and negotiate both broad agreements and details.

The G20 would also be an excellent end-point

for intensifying pressure on countries to increase their National Determined Contributions as they head north for the Glasgow meeting just a short flight away.

## What Key Issues Need Resolving at COP26?

At the most recent UN Climate Summit—COP25 in Madrid in 2019—several controversial issues remained unresolved.

In some cases, the negotiating gaps are wide. Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International, told journalists, “in the 25 years that I have been at every COP, I have never seen the gap bigger between the inside and the outside.”

Some of these issues are quite technical. For instance, reporting guidelines on annual inventories for developed countries need to be reviewed. Governments will have to agree common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases and address the emissions from international aviation and maritime transport.

There are also outstanding issues relating to land use, land-use change and forestry, as well as market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention.

These aren't the issues you generally find in the mainstream media, which tends to focus on where we are on National Determined Contributions (country targets) and the contributions to Green Climate Funds, which should have reached US\$100 billion a year by 2020.

Of course, the question of NDC ambition and the Green Climate Funds are absolutely essential, and progress will be key at COP26. However, the more technical issues are also critical if we are to be sure we are measuring progress consistently and fairly.

The Green Climate Funds may prove politically sensitive at COP26. For instance, the host country last year indicated a shift from an ODA contribution of 0.7% to 0.5% of GNI.

The timing is problematic, to say the least, and has been challenged in a letter by over 3000 global health experts warning that the cut will hit “some of the world's most complex and challenging global health problems”. If you add to that the damage it will do to climate finance, are we moving to a perfect storm instead of a path to a more sustainable planet to live on?

IPS

# ‘Vaccine nationalism’ benefits no one

BY YAN YU

**I**T is an urgent task facing countries to promote COVID-19 vaccination as the epidemic is still spreading across the world and threatening the lives and health of people from all countries.

At such a critical moment, however, “vaccine nationalism” creeps in. While certain high-income countries are hoarding COVID-19 vaccines, many low-income economies are denied access to vaccines.

To make matters worse, some Western media outlets have tried to defend “vaccine nationalism” and hinder global anti-pandemic cooperation.

“Vaccine nationalism” mainly refers to the fact that the governments of some high-income countries have signed agreements with pharmaceutical manufacturers to ensure that these companies will first supply vaccines to their populations before providing vaccines for other countries.

The seemingly justifiable move is in fact selfish and narrow-minded, and is very likely to impose the law of the jungle upon the global fight against the virus.

The truth is that these high-income countries have ordered vaccines much more than needed by their populations, which has not only resulted in a relative surplus of vaccines in these countries, but put many poor countries into a predicament of not being able to obtain the COVID-19 vaccines in time.

“More than 39 million doses of vaccine have now been administered in at least 49 higher-income countries. Just 25 doses have been given in one lowest-income country.

Not 25 million; not 25 thousand; just 25,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), in January at the opening meeting of the 148th session of the WHO Executive Board.

He expressed concern that the world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

As a matter of fact, “vaccine nationalism”, which is pursued by those with the “me first” mindset, will benefit no one.

The pandemic that has lasted for more than a year has taught the world that the lives and health of people



Pakistani President Arif Alvi receives a shot of COVID-19 vaccine produced by the China National Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. (Sinopharm) in Islamabad on March 15, 2021. (File photo)

in all countries have never been so closely connected as they are today.

Virus is the common enemy of mankind, and the only way to defeat it is to pull together with solidarity and cooperation.

If some high-income countries blindly hog COVID-19 vaccines, and make poor countries unable to access or afford the vaccines, the vi-

rus will continue to rage across the globe, and it will be more difficult for countries, including high-income countries, to defeat the epidemic.

“Vaccine nationalism” would slow progress in ending the COVID-19 pandemic and could erode economic growth for all countries—rich and poor, warned Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of

the World Trade Organization (WTO).

“Vaccines are a powerful weapon against the virus and bring hope for saving lives. They should serve the entire world and benefit all humanity,” Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi told a press conference in March.

At the opening of the 73rd session of the World Health Assembly held in May, 2020, Chinese President Xi Jinping solemnly pledged that COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good, and this will be Chi-

na's contribution to ensuring vaccine accessibility and affordability in developing countries.

China is a firm believer in making COVID-19 vaccines a public good as well as a committed front-runner in promoting international vaccine cooperation.

As a steadfast advocate for equitable vaccine distribution, the country has taken concrete actions to oppose “vaccine nationalism”.

China has joined the COVAX of the WHO, under which it has undertaken to provide an initial 10 million doses for emergency use in developing countries.

So far, China has donated or is donating COVID-19 vaccines to 69 developing countries in urgent need, and is exporting vaccines to 43 countries.

Responding to an appeal of the United Nations (UN), the country has donated vaccines to peacekeepers from various countries.

Only when countries work together to reject “vaccine nationalism”, promote fair and reasonable distribution, especially in developing countries, can they secure a final victory in the global fight against the virus.

Human beings live in a global village, and countries are increasingly interdependent and share a common future.

Only by abandoning “vaccine nationalism” and erasing “immunity gap” can humankind jointly defeat the virus and build a beautiful home.

People's Daily





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# US energy expert talks of need to invest in power-stabilising equipment

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

INVESTMENT in quality power stability equipment to check against fluctuations is important to assure investors in manufacturing industries of security of factories.

Founder and President of Energy Control Systems, Jeff Edwards who was on a visit to the country last week, said that power fluctuations increase pressure on investors whose expensive equipment may be destroyed.

"It is very important to have stable electricity supply that will minimize operational costs in industries. We as a company has already brought in Sine Tamer electrical protection system that will help Tanzanian industries to have reliable electricity," Edwards said.

He said as Tanzania strives to become a semi-industrialized economy by 2025, needs to reliable power supply that will not cause damage to equipment for small, medium and large industries.

"The country needs sufficient power voltage that is clean and free from transient and unnecessary upsurge at all levels," he noted adding that Energy Control System has the necessary expertise to solve the challenge.

Edwards further noted that his company will work in partnership with Sine Tamer East Africa Company to improve efficiency of electricity usage within the facility thus increasing the overall profitability of clients



Energy Control Systems president Jeff Edwards (L) and Sine Tamer Tanzania marketing officer Samson Odera show journalists some power surge protection equipment the company supplies. This was at a briefing held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Sabato Kasika.

and provide power quality solutions which lower overhead costs.

"We have already brought in new Sine Tamer electrical protection solutions in Tanzania that provide proper electrical environment for small, medium and large industries to control electrical transient and upsurge electricity," he stated.

The company has already installed Sine Tamer protection equipment at Chief Government Chemist, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development and Muhumbili National Hospital.

The power control equipment has also been deployed at CRDB Bank Plc, NMB Bank Plc, Equity Bank Tanzania, Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Tanzania Cigarette Company Limited (TCC), Tanzania Breweries Limited

and Mloganzila Hospital. "I'm very happy to have a presence in Tanzania to supply quality branded equipment from the US," he noted while promising customers of reliable services once the equipment is purchased.

The company was founded and incorporated in 1987, as Energy Control System International Inc in Texas and trades globally under the SineTamer brand name.

The company's Marketing Officer, Simon Odera said Energy Control Systems is Dar es Salaam and has a factory which is ISO-9001:2008 certified with zero non conformities.

"With the installation of Sine Tamer systems, there is reduction of costs in electronic maintenance by 80 percent which enables companies to be more profitable," Odera said.

# African Mobile Money accounts grew to 1.2bn in 2020 globally

KIGALI

MOBILE Money has become the most dominant financial service across the African continent with the latest GSMA study, 'State of the Industry Report on Mobile Money', showing that accounts grew by 13 per cent globally in 2020 to more than 1.2 billion - double the forecast. The growth is largely a result of dramatic acceleration in mobile transactions during the Covid-19 pandemic as lockdown restrictions limited access to cash and financial institutions.

The fastest growth was in markets where governments provided significant pandemic relief to their citizens. John Giusti, the GSMA's Chief Regulatory Officer said that Mobile Money had emerged as a powerful tool for expanding the financial inclusion of women in low- and middle-income countries.

"This year's report, however, found that across markets women are still 33 per cent less likely than men to have a mobile money account. The GSMA and its members are committed to closing this gen-

der gap by addressing the barriers that prevent women from accessing and using mobile financial services," he said.

For the first time, more than \$1 billion was sent and received in the form of remittances globally every month via mobile money. Despite early fears that transactions would decline as people worldwide suffered job losses and income cuts during the pandemic, it remains clear that Diasporas continue to support family and friends back home.

As a result, the total value of transactions increased by 65 per cent to an annual total of \$12.7 billion in 2020. As the Covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted people's lives and weakened economies, regulators responded with a variety of measures aimed at reducing the impact.

The research found that the pandemic gave fresh urgency to the need for regulatory change to facilitate greater digitalisation. In many markets, transaction limits were increased to allow more funds to flow through mobile money.

Additionally, as demand rose for non-physical payments, some regulators classified mobile money agents and their supply chains as essential services. Over 50 per cent of mobile money agents were continuously active throughout the pandemic, which was crucial for service continuity and maintaining liquidity.

While some of the regulatory reforms made in response to the pandemic have been positive for customers and providers, the implementation and extension of fee waivers has had a negative impact on mobile money providers' core revenue stream.

Mobile Money providers depend mainly on transactional revenues to sustain their business. Regulators are strongly encouraged to work closely with the industry to ensure sustainability going forward.

However, others fear that while there is ample benefit to be gained from mobile money, fraud and cyber security challenges are likely to grow as threat actors are constantly coming up with more innovative tactics to compromise people's wallets whether these pertain to traditional bank ac-



MTN mobile money agents wait for the clients in Kigali.

counts or mobile wallets.

Bethwel Opil, Enterprise Sales Manager at Kaspersky in Africa said that going forward, it is therefore imperative that consumers remain vigilant and apply common sense to their transactions and engagements with mobile money services.

"Considering the significant

growth and potential for mobile money and e-wallets, these payment platforms must maintain a high level of security and keep improving on it. Given the financial and reputational risk, no provider can afford to have its systems compromised."

"However, security is only as strong as the weakest link in the

chain. And like all other digital solutions, this is often the end user. Education is therefore the most critical component of mitigating the risk of social engineering compromises from people opening malicious links, sharing sensitive information, or falling foul of fraudulent schemes," added Opil.

# African and Middle Eastern airlines may need more state aid in 2021

ABU DHABI

AIRLINES in Africa and the Middle East received \$6.84 billion in state aid last year but may require additional government support to soften Covid-19's blow on the sector, according to the International Air Transport Association.

Despite African airlines securing \$2.04bn in government aid last year, eight operators on the continent filed for bankruptcy or entered into administration in the past 12 months, said Kamil Al-Awadhi, Iata's new vice president for Africa and the Middle East.

Middle Eastern airlines received \$4.8bn in state support last year, mostly through direct cash injections, Mr Al-Awadhi said on Wednesday. African and Middle Eastern airlines "would need a little bit more this year than they did last year," he said.

Regional airlines require funds to pay for aircraft deliveries that were postponed to this year and to cope with the coronavirus pandemic's fallout, he said. "We hope that by the last quarter of this year, aviation will pick up substantially and that would generate enough revenue to get some of the airlines out of trouble," said Mr Al-Awadhi. Governments around the world have provided



Kamil Al-Awadhi, Iata's vice president for Africa and the Middle East, at the Arab Aviation Summit 2021 in Ras Al Khaimah.

vital cash and other relief measures to keep their airlines afloat amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit air travel demand. Total state aid provided by governments stands at more than \$225bn.

Of this, "only a small part" was provided to airlines in the region, said Mr Al-Awadhi. The Dubai government pledged to inject additional capital into Emirates, which has helped to transform the city into a global travel centre. However, it did not disclose the amount of financial support.

Sharjah-based Air Arabia, the UAE's only listed airline, said in March that it was holding discussions with the federal government for support should the need arise. The airline said it did not currently need state aid as it was doing well.

Iata urged governments to increase their collaboration and recommended the use of digital travel apps to ensure a safe resumption of travel. The Iata Travel Pass, a health

app that is currently being tested, will be released on Apple's iOS platform by April 15 while the Android version will "take a little longer", said Mr Al-Awadhi.

The digital passport for Covid-19 test results and vaccine certificates was originally scheduled for release at the end of March. "But the application will only achieve its success once airlines, countries, airports also accept it," Mr Al-Awadhi said.

"This is why we are doing the trials with a large number of airlines in different regions." Virgin Atlantic is one of the latest airlines to trial digital health passports, with plans to test the Iata Travel Pass on its London to Barbados route from April 16.

The first group of travellers using the Iata Travel Pass landed at London's Heathrow Airport on a Singapore Airlines flight after a successful trial of the app, the airline body said on March 17. Emirates and Etihad Airways earlier announced that they will also run Iata Travel Pass trials.



## Donations by NMB Bank reach Chunya, Kyela public hospitals

By Smart Money Reporter

**T**WO district hospitals in Chunya and Kyela have received construction and medical materials worth 15m/- by NMB Bank Plc as part of the bank's corporate social responsibility.

The items which included 204 iron sheets worth 6m/- donated to Kyela District Hospital for repairs after being gutted by fire recently and beds, sheets and mattresses for Chunya's Mtande Health Center valued at 7m/- were handed over the weekend.

Speaking after receiving the donations, Kyela District Commissioner, Claudia Kitta commended NMB's leadership for being in the forefront of assisting the public through investment in basic social services.

"These donations are very important to complement government efforts to improve health service delivery to the public," she said while promising the bank continued state support of its business activities. She said NMB has also donated desks and iron sheets to public schools in the district which has greatly improved the learning environment.

Meanwhile Chunya's District Administrative Secretary Anacleth Michombero said NMB has been a trusted development partner to the state because of the regular investments made in social service delivery. "These beds, mattresses and bed sheets will go a long way in improving the environment at Mtande Health Center which caters for the majority of the people," Michombero said.

Seconding Michombero's observation, Chunya District Council Chairman, John Mwanginde said NMB deserves public support because it has remained a true development partner to the state. "We call upon other banks and corporations to emulate NMB's example by investing in community projects," Mwanginde said.

Speaking after presenting the items, NMB's Southern Highlands Zone Manager, Straton Chilongola said the bank's donations are part of its corporate social responsibility to



NMB's Southern Highlands Zone manager, Straton Chilongola.

give back part of profits made in its business activities.

"As a good corporate citizen, the bank allocates funds annually to sup-

port projects in education, health and relief aid when disaster strikes," Chilongola said while promising the public of more support in future.



## South Korea's LG Electronics Inc becomes first major smartphone brand to withdraw from market

SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's LG Electronics Inc will wind down its loss-making mobile division after failing to find a buyer, a move that is set to make it the first major smartphone brand to completely withdraw from the market.

Its decision to pull out will leave its 10% share in North America, where it is the No. 3 brand, to be gobbled up by Samsung Electronics and Apple Inc with its domestic rival expected to have the edge.

"In the United States, LG has targeted mid-priced - if not ultra-low - models and that means Samsung, which has more mid-priced product lines than Apple, will be better able to attract LG users," said Ko Eui-young, an analyst at Hi Investment & Securities.

LG's smartphone division has logged nearly six years of losses totalling some \$4.5 billion. Dropping out of the fiercely competitive sector would allow LG to focus on growth areas such as electric vehicle components, connected devices and smart homes, it said in a statement.

In better times, LG was early to market with a number of cell phone innovations including ultra-wide angle cameras and at its peak in 2013, it was the world's third-largest smartphone manufacturer behind Samsung and Apple.

But later, its flagship models suffered from both software and hardware mishaps which combined with slower software updates saw the brand steadily slip in favour. Analysts have also criticised the company for lack of expertise in marketing compared to Chinese rivals.

While other well-known mobile brands such as Nokia, HTC and BlackBerry have also fallen from lofty heights,

they have yet to disappear completely.

LG's current global share is only about 2%. It shipped 23 million phones last year which compares with 256 million for Samsung, according to research provider Counterpoint.

In addition to North America, it does have a sizeable presence in Latin America, where it ranks as the No. 5 brand.

While rival Chinese brands such as Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi do not have much of a presence in the United States, in part due to frosty bilateral relations, their and Samsung's low to mid-range product offerings are set to benefit from LG's absence in Latin America, analysts said.

LG's smartphone division, the smallest of its five divisions accounting for about 7% of revenue, is expected to be wound down by July 31.

In South Korea, the division's employees will be moved to other LG Electronics businesses and affiliates, while elsewhere decisions on employment will be made at the local level.

Analysts said they were told in a conference call that LG plans to retain its 4G and 5G core technology patents as well as core R&D personnel, and will continue to develop communication technologies for 6G. It has yet to decide whether to license out such intellectual property in the future, they added.

LG will provide service support and software updates for customers of existing mobile products for a period of time which will vary by region, it added.

Talks to sell part of the business to Vietnam's Vingroup fell through due to differences about terms, sources with knowledge of the matter have said.

LG Elec shares have risen about 7% since a January announcement that it was considering all options for the business.

## Morocco, Jordan kings pledge good bilateral trade, movement of people

RABAT

IN a telephone conversation on Sunday, King Mohamed VI of Morocco and his Jordanian counterpart, King Abdullah II pledged to strengthen bilateral trade and diplomatic relations between their two nations.

King Abdullah II reassure his Moroccan peer of the situation on the basis of the data that he shared that his government fully supports all the decisions Rabat in regional affairs to foster growth and stability. King Mohamed VI backed King Abdullah II to consolidate security and stability in his country.

"The telephone conversation comes as a concrete expression of the strong historical and family ties uniting the two nations and royal families," a statement from Moroccan Royal palace stated saying bilateral ties between the two countries and the peoples remain solid. It is worth recalling that the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI, had received another telephone call from King Abdullah II in November last year.

The two countries relations fall within the framework of the strong bonds and the sincere affection which between the two nations and mirrors the tradition of continuous consultation and permanent coordination between the two leaders and the people who also engage in trade and business activities.

During the first phone conversation in November 2020, King Abdullah II welcomed the decisions taken by the Moroccan Sovereign to secure the movement of people and goods in the region of El Guergerat in the Moroccan Sahara.

He also congratulated the King of Morocco on the success of this operation and the re-opening of the crossing to the secure movement of people and goods from the Kingdom of Morocco to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. "King Abdullah II also expressed his government's wish to open a consulate general in the Moroccan city of Laayoun," the Royal Palace statement in Rabat added.



King Mohamed VI of Morocco (R) and his Jordanian counterpart, King Abdullah II, during a meeting in Rabat last year.

## NSE sheds Sh89bn in the first week of fresh Covid curbs

NAIROBI

NAIROBI Securities Exchange (NSE) stocks posted the largest weekly loss since the start of the year as investors reacted to fresh lockdown and longer curfew hours introduced to stem the spread of Covid-19 infections.

The market capitalisation reduced by Sh89.38 billion, closing Thursday trading at Sh2.468 trillion as Safaricom, East Africa Breweries Limited (EABL) and the big banks led in shedding value. Safaricom, Equity, EABL and Cooperative Bank shares—which account for 77.6 percent of total NSE wealth—fell by between 4.4 percent and 12.1 percent, collectively losing by Sh92.86 billion.

The fall in share prices was in line with analyst's expectation that investors were going to price in the implications of stiff Covid-19 control measures on the outlook of sectors such as banking, manufacturing, hospitality, transport and communication. NSE was on an upward, having hit a 15-month high of Sh2.598 trillion on March 23 but the roll-out of State restrictions hurt prospects of various sectors, dimming attractiveness of stocks.

Head of research at Genghis Capital Churchill Ogutu last week said the return of strict Covid-19 control measures in absence of any stimulus package such as tax cuts to soften the hit on businesses will see large stocks take a hit as foreign investors exit.

"The open-ended nature of these restrictions raised the layer of uncertainty for investors. We also haven't seen any fiscal measures accompanying these resections to help absorb the shock and this makes the outlook bleaker," said Mr Ogutu. The market was basking in the excitement of dividend payouts as firms upped their optimism level in the economy.

Safaricom, KCB, Co-op, Stanbic and Stanchart had all announced a combined Sh32.53 billion dividends, with that of banks coming in six trading sessions to the day the State rolled out the tough measures.

President Uhuru Kenyatta last Thursday ruled out tax reliefs for all workers and businesses despite enforcing fresh Covid-19 restrictions that are set to lead to job losses and depressed earnings for Kenyans. The Head of State said that tax reliefs, if any, will only be given to specific sectors and the five counties—Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, Kajiado and Nakuru—that are under travel bans.

President Kenyatta on March 26 ordered the closure of all bars and liquor selling joints, banned social gatherings, closed churches and banned travel into and out of the five counties. The curfew hours in the five counties were also increased to start from 8pm and end at 4am in moves expected to hurt revenues for businesses that have reduced operating hours. Domestic flights were also suspended, among other stringent measures for hotels.



**The open-ended nature of these restrictions raised the layer of uncertainty for investors. We also haven't seen any fiscal measures accompanying these resections to help absorb the shock and this makes the outlook bleaker**



# Message by President Samia to TRA should win private sector confidence



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (L) and vice president, Dr Philip Isidor Mpango.

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan's message to the private sector is clear, "Do clean business, make profit but pay taxes." Ever since taking over as head of state and government over a fortnight ago, President Samia has continued to undertake major appointments to stamp her authority on the executive arm of government.

Her first appointment was of former Finance Minister and World Bank Senior Economist, Dr Philip Isidor Mpango as Vice President, a move which has already won accolades both at home and abroad because of the record of achievements of the decorated economist.

The President who has continued to make major appointments since her coronation, is already darling of the social media and the public because many see in her new hope, predictable life and assurance that policies and regulations won't change overnight.

Her strongest message yet borders on reconciliation and consensus building on matters pertaining to people lives, freedoms and a better environment for businesses and investors to operate. "TRA should not harass the private sector but instead work hard to broaden the tax base so that targets should be realised," she said after swearing in

a group of cabinet ministers who included new Finance Minister, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba last week.

She has maintained a consistent message by clearly stating that her government needs money to finance a myriad of mega projects initiated by the late President John Pombe Magufuli whose performance in five year and five months, remains outstanding.

Revenue collection remains an important aspect in as far as mobilising resources to finance the three mega projects currently underway countrywide which include: Dar es Salaam to Isaka standard gauge railway, Nyerere Hydro Power Project along River Rufiji, construction of new government offices in Dodoma such as Chamwino State House and several other small infrastructure projects.

The mega projects which are largely financed by domestic resources, need billions of shillings to accomplish which is why President Samia's job portion is already defined. Following her short to the point public speeches made so far, President Samia clearly knows that the public expects the mega projects to complete on schedule and that TRA needs to boost revenue collection by becoming innovative and professional.

"If you block business people's accounts or confiscate their cash arbitrarily, they will close shop and as such lose potential taxpayers who may decide to relocate to another country," she charged while tasking Dr Nchemba to ensure TRA is friendly to businesses to ensure they prosper and continue paying taxes.

In making sure that she sends a clear message to the private sector that her government is ready to do fair business, madam president has followed suit with necessary appointments of Dr Mpango as Vice President, Dr Nchemba as Finance Minister and Alphayo Kidata as TRA Commissioner General.

In backing his boss' position on the matter, Dr Mpango has also been echoing the same message, "I urge TRA to work with the private sector by following rules

and regulations and not resort to arbitrary actions," Dr Mpango said during an Easter Mass address in Dodoma this week.

Dr Mpango who was behind the success in TRA sustained revenue collection from less than 800bn/- in 2015 to over 1.4trn/- in December last year, a record collection in a single month, knows too well that using threats and muscles to force businesses pay taxes, is counterproductive.

The former Finance Minister who also had a stint at TRA in 2015 before the late Dr Magufuli appointed him as Finance Minister for the entire five years to October 2015, is conversant with revenue collection issues.

Dr Mpango and immediate former Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation Minister, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi, were the first names to be appointed as ministers soon after President Magufuli won re-election in November last year, thanks to their performance.

His naming by President Samia as VP has only restored confidence and trust in the sixth phase government led by the first woman to do so in the country ever, and Africa's only third female head of state and government to take the top most public office constitutionally.

## 33-year-old fuelling crypto boom worries regulators across Thailand

BANGKOK

ATICHANAN Pulges first became interested in cryptocurrencies a decade ago when he was an engineering student in Los Angeles. Mining Bitcoin was a way for the Bangkok native to learn about markets and pay his rent.

Now back in Thailand after a stint at Goldman Sachs Group, Atichanan is a co-founder of the nation's largest licensed cryptocurrency exchange. He's also on the front lines of an intensifying debate over who should be allowed to buy digital assets in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy.

Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission, alarmed by a sixfold surge in domestic crypto trading since November, said on April 1 that it would soon require traders to have experience, or take courses or pass an exam. The regulator didn't finalise a date and opted not to ban local exchanges from accepting clients who didn't meet minimum-income levels, which had been mullied. Digital-asset proponents including Atichanan argue that too many restrictions will merely drive Thais to unregulated platforms overseas.

"The regulator realises any curbs can't reverse the tide toward digital," said Atichanan, 33, who co-founded Bitkub in 2018. He said the exchange accounts for about 90% of domestic crypto trading and serves 300 000 customers, figures that Bloomberg has been unable to independently verify.

While volumes on Thai crypto exchanges are still small relative to counterparts in countries like the US and South Korea, they've been surging in recent months as digital assets including Bitcoin have jumped to all-time highs.

Total trading turnover on all local licensed crypto exchanges jumped to 124 billion baht (\$3.96 billion) in February from 18 billion baht in November, according to data from the Thai SEC, which only date back to November. Bitkub's daily turnover of 4.2 billion baht in February reflects an increase of nearly 40% from a month earlier, according to the company's statistics. A 24-hour turnover figure on March 30 ranked it 124th among more than 300 exchanges worldwide tracked by CoinMarketCap.

As in other markets that have experienced a spike in retail trading during the pandemic, crypto activity in Thailand has soared in large part thanks to demand from younger investors. The boom has also been marked by hiccups at local exchange operators, including Bitkub.

Both developments have attracted scrutiny from the Thai SEC. In January, the regulator asked Bitkub to submit a plan to address investor complaints about "problematic work systems" that have caused trading outages. A month later, the regulator said it was considering eligibility restrictions for clients of crypto exchanges that include a minimum income of more than 1 million baht. The SEC at its April 1 meeting decided not to impose the income requirement, opting for an education or knowledge program.

"Crypto participants, including platform operators and investors, are mostly young and passionate about new technology and decentralisation," Ruenvadee Suwanmongkol, the SEC's secretary general, said in an interview. "They must realize any financial innovation also has the potential to cause collateral damage to the general public and financial system."

### Crypto boom

The SEC abandoned its income requirement after gathering feedback from market participants. The borderless and decentralized nature of crypto trading makes such controls difficult to implement, said Poomsiri Dumrongvute, who teaches a financial technology course at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Bitkub has made a similar argument in its feedback to regulators, also noting that stricter curbs could hamper the development of local blockchain technology.

Despite the regulatory risk, Bitkub is gearing up for a major expansion.

The company plans to double staff to 500 by year-end, introduce its own debit card and open a physical crypto trading outlet in Bangkok to lure new entrants and serve as a meeting place for existing ones, according to Atichanan.

Over the longer term, Bitkub has ambitions to gain "unicorn" status, or a private valuation of more than \$1 billion. Atichanan said the exchange raised the equivalent of \$11 million from investors in three rounds since its establishment, though he declined to comment on the company's current valuation.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# Cosmetics firms rethink wrapping as focus shifts to saving Earth's beauty

NAIROBI

KENYA'S beauty and cosmetics industry has attracted major investments pulling new lines of businesses and products into the market.

The industry involving the making and packaging products such as soaps, shampoo, lotions, petroleum jelly, wet wipes, hair and skincare oils has been valued over Sh100 billion as both men and women fret about their looks and grooming. But the sector may not be as glamorous when it comes to its effects on the environment. Data show that food and beauty industries contribute about 50 percent of plastic waste.

But some local businesses are trying to change this scenario adopting reward programmes for glass containers, using refillable jars and organic materials. "We use glass jars for our butters and kraft bags made from recycled material to package all orders that go out to customers," Miriam Ndambuki, founder of Shea Organics says.

The business has been specialising in handcraft natural skin and hair products using raw Ivory shea butter and pure oils from local manufacturers in Africa - for three years. Products range from organic body butters, body scrubs, hair butters, shampoos, conditioners and natural

eczema.

Customers get a Sh50 discount on refills on each jar. "I think customers are happy because they enjoy the small discount while feeling they are taking an active role in preserving the environment," Ms Ndambuki says.

"Many repeat customers usually take the initiative themselves and call us to pick up their empty jars once they have accumulated them. We double sterilise and sanitise all our jars in line with Covid-19 compliant protocols." "We get a lot of jars that end up in our store. There was a time there was shortage with the supplier and these came in handy."

Apart from returns, customers are encouraged to re-use the jars in creative ways including storing cooking spices, homemade jams, chutney, food leftovers, nuts, seeds and dry food stuff like green grams, beans and rice. Containers can be used as flower vases, children projects in art and crafts, making piggy banks, candles or alternatives for serving cocktails.

Running an eco-friendly and sustainable business has not only been tied to non-toxic and biodegradable packaging, or refillable products but also use of organic ingredients in production and cutting out pollution in manufacturing. For Ms Ndambuki, Shea



Miriam Ndambuki (L), founder of Shea Organics.

Organics sticks to using organic ingredients, raw butter and cold pressed natural oils to make the products with no chemical additives.

"The reception has been amazing and has shown us that more people are making a conscious choice to use more natural eco-

friendly products for their skin and hair. A large portion of these were referred by other customers," she adds. Bu.ke, a hair and skincare brand, makes products such as Shampoo bar doing away with bottles. Founder, Ms Lucy King'ori, says the bar was previously wrapped in plastic film and then

packaged in a box.

"We have recently removed this film, and we have managed to reduce a lot of plastic with the use of those boxes," Ms King'ori said. She is also running a reward programme that gives customers up to 10 percent discount for return of empty plastic containers for use in packaging hair and skin products.

"We are working on changing our entire line of product packaging to glass packaging. It's expensive, that's why it has taken time but we are working towards it," Ms King'ori says. The Kenyan brand formulates the hair and skincare products using raw materials such as Baobab oil from Taita hills, shea butter from South Sudan and most recently Purple Tea from Kenyan highlands.

"We are very keen on the process of growing the ingredients we use in our products. For instance, other than the amazing benefits of Purple tea on both hair and skincare, we chose to work with it as an ingredient because there is no use of pesticides on it and it is sustainably farmed." With this time of pandemic, more people are for the idea of organically formulated products because they understand that what goes on your skin, somehow winds up in your kidneys," Ms King'ori adds.



## WORLD

# Half of Republicans believe false accounts of deadly US Capitol riot - Reuters poll

WASHINGTON

SINCE the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, former President Donald Trump and his Republican allies have pushed false and misleading accounts to downplay the event that left five dead and scores of others wounded. His supporters appear to have listened.

Three months after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol to try to overturn his November election loss, about half of Republicans believe the siege was largely a non-violent protest or was the handiwork of left-wing activists "trying to make Trump look bad," a new Reuters/Ipsos poll has found.

Six in 10 Republicans also believe the false claim put out by Trump that November's presidential election "was stolen" from him due to widespread voter fraud, and the same proportion of Republicans think he should run again in 2024, the March 30-31 poll showed.

Since the Capitol attack, Trump, many of

his allies within the Republican Party and right-wing media personalities have publicly painted a picture of the day's events jarringly at odds with reality.

Hundreds of Trump's supporters, mobilized by the former president's false claims of a stolen election, climbed walls of the Capitol building and smashed windows to gain entry while lawmakers were inside voting to certify President Joe Biden's election victory. The rioters - many of them sporting Trump campaign gear and waving flags - also included known white supremacist groups such as the Proud Boys.

In a recent interview with Fox News, Trump said the rioters posed "zero threat." Other prominent Republicans, such as Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, have publicly doubted whether Trump supporters were behind the riot.

Last month, 12 Republicans in the House of Representatives voted against a resolution honoring Capitol Police officers who defended the grounds during the rampage, with one lawmaker saying that he objected



using the word "insurrection" to describe the incident.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll shows a large number of rank-and-file Republicans have embraced the myth. While 59% of all Americans say Trump bears some responsibility for the attack, only three in 10 Republicans agree. Eight in 10 Democrats and six in 10 independents reject the false claims that the Capitol siege was "mostly peaceful" or it was staged by left-wing protestors.

"Republicans have their own version of reality," said John Geer, an expert on public opinion at Vanderbilt University. "It is a huge problem. Democracy requires accountability and accountability requires evidence."

The refusal of Trump and prominent Republicans to repudiate the events of Jan. 6 increases the likelihood of a similar incident happening again, said Susan Corke, director of the Intelligence Project at the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups.

"That is the biggest danger - normalizing this behavior," Corke said. "I do think we are going to see more violence."

In a fresh reminder of the security threats the U.S. Capitol faces since Jan. 6, a motorist rammed a car into U.S. Capitol police on Friday and brandished a knife, killing one officer and injuring another and forcing the Capitol complex to lock down. Officers shot and killed the suspect.

Allie Carroll, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, said its members condemned the Capitol attack and referred to a Jan. 13 statement from Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel.

"Violence has no place in our politics ... Those who partook in the assault on our nation's Capitol and those who continue to threaten violence should be found, held accountable, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," McDaniel said.

Agencies

## Kosovo picks female president to replace indicted war veteran

By Bloomberg

KOSOVO lawmakers approved US-educated jurist Vjosa Osmani as president, filling the post previously held by an ex-guerrilla who stepped down last year to face charges on war crimes.

Osmani, 38, was elected Sunday with the backing of Premier Albin Kurti, whose anti-establishment Self-Determination Movement won Feb 14 elections. Both represent a new generation of leaders in the landlocked Balkan state of 1.8 million people, where politics used to be dominated by wartime leaders of the 1998-99 fight by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority for independence from Serbia.

Hashim Thaci, of the now-disbanded Kosovo Liberation Army, resigned as head of state in November to surrender to a special war crimes court in the Netherlands.

"We have now completed the establishment of our institutions and enter a new area of sustainability and prosperity," Kurti tweeted after the vote in parliament.

One of Europe's poorest countries, Kosovo declared independence unilaterally in 2008 and still seeks full international recognition, fighting Serbia's refusal to accept the secession and efforts to prevent it from joining world bodies. Both countries need to resolve their disputes to qualify for membership in the European Union.

Osmani previously served as the head of parliament, and as acting president after Thaci stepped down. She is Kosovo's second female president, after Atifete Jahjaga, who completed her five-year term in 2016.

Agencies



## Turkey may sign space cooperation agreement with Russia soon

ANKARA

TURKEY may sign an agreement with Russia soon on cooperation in space, the chief of Turkey's space agency Serdar Huseyn Yildirim told TASS in an interview ahead of the 60th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's space flight.

"We are building bilateral relations with countries and with international organizations, which we have identified in accordance with our national goals.

We keep working on common conditions of cooperation with different countries, including Russia. We have plans for signing an agreement in the near future," Yildirim said.

"Space exploration is a very complex and costly work. It requires high technologies, and for this reason international cooperation is very important in this field. Our goal at the international level is to establish firm relations of partnership with regional partners and with our neighbors.

As far as Russia is concerned, we have vast opportunities in many fields of cooperation. We believe that we will be able to make much faster progress, if we manage to build firm relations of partnership based on mutually beneficial cooperation," he said.

He recalled Turkey's space program, which President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced in February.

"As you may know, Turkey on February 9 unveiled its own space program to set goals for ten years ahead. This program reflects Turkey's main aims, which the country set in the space sphere, and also the steps being taken for achieving them.

We have ten main goals and many subtasks. We fully support and have faith in the implementation of the strategies for achieving the goals set," Yildirim said.

On February 10, Roscosmos told TASS that Russia and Turkey were in talks on a bilateral inter-government agreement for developing cooperation in space. Roscosmos expects Turkey to present specific space cooperation proposals, including a Turkish astronaut's space mission.

Agencies



## Wang urges US to truly respect China's core interests

BEIJING

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday urged the United States to truly respect China's core interests and take a correct view of China's development.

Wang made the remarks in response to media query about China-US relations after meetings with his counterparts of Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea in China's Fujian province.

Citing that the foreign ministers have regarded China's development and growth as a historical necessity, Wang said it is believed that China's development conforms to the common expectations and long-term interests of all countries in

the region, which should not be blocked.

He said the foreign ministers believed that facing the challenges of globalization and the post-epidemic era, China and the US should have more dialogue and cooperation in this region, instead of game and confrontation, fulfill the obligations of major powers, and demonstrate the responsibility of major powers.

"China is willing to respond to the expectations of all parties and continue to make its own efforts to this end," Wang said.

Regarding the arguments of competition, cooperation and confrontation repeatedly put forward by the US on its relations with China, Wang said China's position is consistent and clear.



China welcomes dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual respect, Wang said, adding that China does not approve of one-upmanship in the world, and does not accept that one country has the final say in world affairs.

"China welcomes coopera-

tion if there is the need, but cooperation needs to take into account each other's concerns and mutual benefit. It cannot go in the fashion of one side unilaterally raising conditions and making lists," Wang said.

China will not evade competition if it is needed, but competition should be fair and just and abide by market rules, and refrain from setting obstacles, abusing power, and depriving others of their legitimate right to development, Wang said, adding that if there is still confrontation, China will deal with it calmly and face it fearlessly.

"We resolutely resist gross interference in China's internal affairs, and more resolutely oppose unlawful unilateral sanctions imposed on the basis of lies and false information,"

Wang said.

He said China will not compromise or retreat, as it sticks to the basic norms of international relations and stands for the interests of many developing, small and medium-sized countries. China definitely has the right to fight back since it must defend national sovereignty and national dignity.

"Dialogue is better than confrontation, and cooperation is better than confrontation," Wang said, urging the US to actively respond to the expectations of regional countries and the international community, work with China to show what a major power should be like, and jointly maintain regional and world peace, stability and development.

Xinhua

## Johnson launches mass testing programme as economy reopens

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday everyone in England will be able to take a COVID-19 test twice a week in a new drive to track the pandemic as society reopens and the vaccine rollout continues at its rapid rate.

Johnson, who is expected to confirm plans to relaunch international travel and open sections of the economy later on Monday, said the new mass testing programme would break the chain of transmissions and spot cases without symptoms.

As much of Europe enters new lockdowns to tackle surg-

ing cases, Johnson has set out a staggered plan to ease restrictions in the coming months, a huge boost for one of the worst-hit countries during the pandemic.

"As we continue to make good progress on our vaccine programme and with our roadmap to cautiously easing restrictions underway, regular rapid testing is even more important to make sure those efforts are not wasted," Johnson said in a statement.

Junior health minister Edward Argar said the tests would be sent to homes or businesses, or picked up from pharmacies or test centres. He said he was confident people



would isolate.

Another 2,297 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 4,359,388, according to official figures released Sunday.

The country also reported another 10 coronavirus-related

deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 126,836. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

GOVAX

Coronavirus shots should be rolled out to over 100 countries in the next couple of weeks, from 84 at present, with a shortage of supplies the limiting factor, said one of the leaders of the World Health Organization's vaccine initiative.

"If we had more doses, we could make these available," Seth Berkley, chief executive officer of Gavi Alliance, a pub-

lic-private partnership that works to provide vaccines for developing countries, told CBS News' "Face the Nation."

"What we're talking about now is ultimately getting access to the large manufacturing facilities," Berkley said from Geneva. Once US needs are met later this year, for example, those plants "really could be used to come online for the rest of the world."

Countries like the US, the UK and Israel, and the developed world in general, have marched ahead with their vaccination programs since the first shots were approved in late 2020.

Agencies

## China enhances efforts to build fairer education environment

EDUCATION is a fundamental solution to the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and higher education remains a vital part of the solution.

According to China's Ministry of Education, a total of 5.14 million registered impoverished students have received higher education since November 2012, and the number is growing annually.

"All of my three children are studying in universities, which was totally unimaginable in the past," said a villager surnamed Molhar in Huangniba village, Liziping Township, Muli Tibetan Autonomous County of southwest China's Sichuan Province. This is a result of China's poli-

cy to reduce poverty with education, he added.

All the income of Molhar's family comes from a 0.4-hectare walnut field and stock farming. Therefore, Molhar and his wife once worried about the tuition and living expenses of their children. "Thanks to the student-origin-based loans, our children were enrolled," Molhar said.

They also applied for special grants for registered impoverished students and other types of relief funds, which covered most of their living expenses and significantly relived the economic burden of the family, Molhar added.

So far, China has established a com-

prehensive financial aid policy system for higher education which offers state scholarships and grants-in-aid, student loans, work-study programs, school-level scholarships and grants, subsidies and tuition exemption, so as to ensure that no student is deprived of education because of poverty.

In recent years, China has also worked to widen the accessibility to quality higher education in poor areas.

Based on the actual development of rural and impoverished regions, China implements a special program that provides poor rural students with the chance to access top universities, and has built the

program into a long-term mechanism. According to statistics, 117,000 students were involved in the program last year, up from 10,000 in 2012.

A total of over 700,000 students from rural and poor areas have entered key universities through the program.

Meanwhile, China has also expanded the enrollment of higher vocational schools for better employment and poverty reduction. Vocational college enrollment had grown by 1.16 million in 2019, and by 1.57 million in 2020.

By offering preferential policies in poor areas, more and more impoverished students are seeing the opportunity to re-

ceive higher vocational education.

People's Daily



In recent years, China has also worked to widen the accessibility to quality higher education in poor areas. It has been difficult to imagine. This cycle, we're likely to see two



## Migrants pour over US southern border, sparking political flash point

WASHINGTON

A LARGE increase in migrants pouring over the U.S. southern border has sparked yet another political fight in Washington between Republicans and Democrats.

In February, over 100,000 migrants entered the country from the Mexican border, an increase of 28 percent from January, according to U.S. government figures.

Republicans are seizing the chance to pounce on U.S. President Joe Biden, labeling him soft on illegal immigration and naive about what the GOP says is a crisis of Biden's own creation.

Republican Senator Ted Cruz, a former candidate for president, has blasted the administration in recent days, and on Wednesday told "Fox and Friends" that he and other GOP lawmakers witnessed a "humanitarian disaster" on a recent trip to the border.

"Its capacity with COVID constraints is 250 people. There are over 4,000 people crammed into Donna. They are not six feet apart or three feet apart, they're not even six inches apart."

Cruz said, describing a facility housing migrants in Donna, in the state of Texas. "You had children side-by-side

lying on the floor, no beds, cots, lying on the floor ... Ten percent of the population there is testing positive for COVID. Joe Biden caused this with political decisions made in the opening weeks of this administration," Cruz said, reflecting the criticisms of other GOP lawmakers.

Vice President Kamala Harris recently told CBS This Morning that the issue at the border is a "big problem" but fell short of calling it a full-on crisis, amid criticisms that she has not yet held a press conference on the problem. Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua that Republicans are "slamming Biden for opening the borders ..."

The GOP wants to make hay in terms of how the administration is handling border issues," but added that the United States is running ads in Central America asking people not to come.

"The border is a challenge for Biden because immigration is controversial within the United States. Republicans are taking pot shots at the president and liberal Democrats worry about young, unaccompanied children who are coming across the border. It likely will take awhile before the issue gets resolved," West said.



US President Joe Biden

Immigration over the U.S. southern border has long been a point of contention between Democrats and Republicans, as well as liberals and conservatives in the United States.

Conservatives take a law and order approach, and argue, among other things, that migrants illegally crossing into the United States push wages down in certain industries. Democrats also espouse a number of arguments, such as that migrants are needed to keep certain industries humming. A press pool was allowed into the temporary facility center in Donna, after U.S. media have complained for weeks of a news blackout.

CNN's Pamela Brown recently blasted the Biden administration, saying "as the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border gets worse, the media is being kept from it."

Republican strategist and TV news personality Ford O'Connell told Xinhua that the media blackout is "appalling." "There hasn't been a president since Clinton that didn't allow media in," he said, referring to former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who left office in 2001. Jessica Bolter, a policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, told

Xinhua the rise in border crossings is caused by multiple factors, including the perception of the new administration's policies, violence, and natural disasters, among other factors.

Biden has made some changes to policies at the U.S.-Mexico border, such as permitting unaccompanied children and some families to ask for asylum, that smugglers are eager to promote and exaggerate to try to convince people to migrate.

Bolter said. But this is not the only reason that people are deciding to migrate. Conditions on the ground in the main countries of origin of these migrants have deteriorated over the past year, Bolter said.

Two hurricanes ruined people's crops and displaced them from their homes in Guatemala and Honduras in November 2020.

And the economic effects of COVID-19 have included spiking unemployment and economic contraction in the region, Bolter said. Additionally, there are long-standing push and pull factors that have not gone away.

The push factors include violence and insecurity. **Xinhua**

Russia's media watchdog extends measures to slow down Twitter until May 15

MOSCOW

THE Russian Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor) has decided to extend measures to slow down Twitter until May 15, the service reported yesterday.

"Taking into account the decision made by Twitter for the first time to change the principles and speed of its own moderation service in Russia and to remove a significant part of the prohibited content, Roskomnadzor decided not to proceed to the next measure - to completely block activities of the social network on the territory of the country, extending a measure to limit Twitter traffic until May 15," the statement said.

The service also noted that on April 1, Twitter's Vice President for public policy and communications for the Europe, Middle East and Africa region Sinead McSweeney, informed Roskomnadzor of the company's efforts to improve the moderation of prohibited content.

The service noted that compliance with Russian legislation would remove measures to slow down traffic and avoid blocking the social network in Russia.

On March 10, the watchdog announced the beginning of a "primary slowdown" in the speed of Twitter in Russia due to the fact that the service does not remove content prohibited in the country. The department promised to continue measures against the social network up to its blocking.

## Afghan leader 'to propose peace road map in 3 phases'

KABUL

AFGHAN President Ashraf Ghani will put forward a three-phase peace roadmap for Afghanistan during a proposed meeting in Turkey, seeking an agreement with the Taliban and a ceasefire before elections, a document seen by Reuters shows.

Washington is pushing for a conference to be hosted by Turkey, with UN involvement, this month to finalize a peace deal between the government and the Taliban as a May 1 deadline looms for the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

Ghani's plan will be presented as a counter to proposals put forward by Washington, rejected by the Afghan government, that envisage immediately drawing up a new legal system for an interim administration to include Taliban representatives.

The document shows Ghani's "Reaching an Endstate" proposal will include, in the first phase, a consensus on a political settlement and an internationally monitored ceasefire.

The second phase will be holding a presidential election and the establishment of a "government of peace" and implementation arrangements



for moving towards the new political system.

The third phase will involve building a "constitutional framework, reintegration of refugees and development" for Afghanistan moving forward.

A senior government official said Ghani has already shared his road

map with foreign capitals.

A date for the Turkey meeting is yet to be decided, but multiple sources told Reuters it could take place in two weeks' time.

The Afghan government and a number of politicians said they would have to agree on an agenda with the Taliban before the meeting.

In a statement last month, the Taliban threatened to resume hostilities against foreign troops in Afghanistan if they did not meet the May 1 deadline envisaged in an agreement between the insurgents and the Trump administration last year.

US President Joe Biden said this month it would be "hard" to withdraw the last US troops from Afghanistan by May 1 "just in terms of tactical reasons", but he said he did not think they still would be there next year.

A senior government official said the Taliban was willing to extend the May 1 deadline and would not resume attacks against foreign forces in exchange for the release of thousands of their prisoners held by the Kabul authorities.

Mohammad Naeem, a Taliban spokesman in Qatar, said no such offer had been made.

## Intellectual property protection continuously strengthened in China

IN 2020, Chinese courts handled and closed about 466,000 first-instance intellectual property rights (IPR) cases, up 11.7 percent year on year, and the amount of compensation for IPR-related offenses rose by 79.3 percent from the previous year, according to a work report of the Supreme People's Court (SPC) of China delivered on March 8.

The growing consensus on protecting the results of innovation in China and the country's increasing efforts to enhance judicial protection of IPR have not only effectively driven the high-quality development of China's economy and society, but shown the world the country's resolve to protect IPR while pursuing higher-level opening-up.

A country can only stimulate people's imagination and creativity to the greatest extent when it guarantees IPR protection to safeguard the due interests of inventors and creators.

As a prevailing international rule, IPR protection is an important part in China's endeavor to develop new systems for a higher-level open economy and an inevitable requirement for effective protection of China's self-



Photo taken on Feb. 3, 2021, shows law enforcement personnel of the market supervision office of Qianjin township, Nanxun district, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, investigating into counterfeit marking of patents and non-standard patent marking at a drug store.

developed core technologies in key fields.

As China aims to realize self-reliance and self-improvement in science and technology and shift to high-quality development during its 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), the country needs to stimulate innovation through IPR protection and create a sound business environment and improve competitiveness more than ever.

In recent years, China has made a good number of decisions and plans to further improve its IPR protection system, such as enhancing top-level design, improving relevant laws and regulations,

reforming IPR protection systems and mechanisms, and strengthening administrative law enforcement and judicial protection for IPR.

The country has issued important documents on IPR protection including the action plan for further implementation of the national intellectual property strategy (2014-2020), set up the State Administration for Market Regulation and reorganized the China National Intellectual Property Administration to step up law enforcement, established specialized intellectual property courts in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, and created an intellec-

tual property court under the SPC.

While witnessing constant progress in IPR protection, China has found a path to IPR protection with Chinese characteristics. China's continuous efforts to improve its IPR laws and regulations as well as IPR protection system have led to historic achievements in IPR protection.

At the same time, such concepts of copyright, brand, and patent have taken root among the Chinese people and represented important consensus and values pursued by the entire society, while more and more enterprises in the country attach great importance to IPR protection and become more devoted to making innovations than before.

China has been the largest source of international patent applications filed with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) via its Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system for four consecutive years.

The constant emergence of high-value patents and continuous improvement in the IPR protection system in China are arousing people's enthusiasm for innovation across the country.

**People's Daily**

## Former Moroccan party leader says notable achievements made since CPC's founding

RABAT

IN all of his visits to China since 2006, Ilyas El Omari, former general secretary of the Authenticity and Modernity Party of Morocco, could feel that China had made tangible progress in agriculture, industry, commerce, urban construction, culture and politics.

These achievements cannot be accomplished without the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Omari (pictured) told Xinhua recently.

The CPC analyzes the gains and losses in the past and makes correct plans for the future, said Omari, adding that it is this ruling philosophy of keeping pace with the times that has constantly enhanced China's influence in the economic, political and diplomatic fields.

Noting that the CPC has achieved its goal of eradicating absolute poverty before the party's 100th founding anniversary this year, Omari said that was in the interests of the Chinese people and the people of the world, and was a major achievement made by the CPC and the Chinese people.

Since its founding, Omari



said, the CPC has paid attention to the interests of farmers and rural areas, and has never forgotten to support agricultural development when promoting economic development.

The CPC has established close ties with the people and under its leadership, China has the ability to continue to promote the development of rural areas, he said.

Omari was invited to participate in the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting in Beijing in 2017. He said he was deeply impressed by the remarks on jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind made at the meeting by Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

"People across the world should be guided by the vision that all the people under the heaven are of one family, embrace each other with open

arms, enhance mutual understanding, and seek common ground while setting aside differences. Together, we should endeavor to build a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said then.

The way China has managed the COVID-19 epidemic is smart and successful, Omari said, adding that he saw the Chinese method as an example of crisis management.

On the Morocco-China relationship, he said that the friendship between the two countries boasts a long history, noting that Moroccan traveler Ibn Battuta visited China in as early as the 14th century.

Morocco has an important strategic position connecting Africa and Europe, while China is the second largest economy in the world, he said, adding that cooperation between the two countries is complementary and mutually beneficial.

In the interview, Omari proposed that the two sides should further strengthen economic and cultural exchanges, enhance mutual understanding, and use this as a basis to consolidate further cooperation between the two countries in the political and diplomatic fields. **Xinhua**

## George Floyd case underscores thorny issue of US police reform

WASHINGTON

THE ongoing murder trial of former police officer Derek Chauvin who last year killed unarmed black man George Floyd underscores the issue of police reform, which U.S. President Joe Biden has said he wants to address.

The full video of Floyd's arrest played by prosecutors in opening statements in the trial shows that Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck for about 9 minutes and 30 seconds, instead of the widely reported 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd could be heard pleading with Chauvin multiple times, saying that he couldn't breathe.

Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder, third-degree

murder and second-degree manslaughter. The incident sparked nationwide protests and led to even some calls to de-fund the police.

"Biden wants the police to work closely with the communities they serve and avoid the aggressive tactics that have been used in certain places," Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

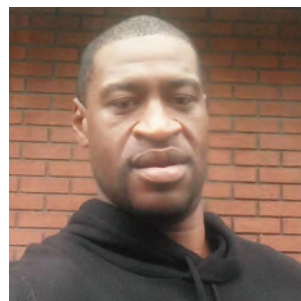
"This includes a ban on chokeholds and greater accountability when law enforcement actions lead to death or bodily harm," West said.

During Biden's six terms as a senator, he had strong

backing from cops' organizations. He pledged to address police reform during his campaign, as well as the broader issue of racial inequality in the United States.

But the issue is not an easy one to tackle, as police have a tough job, and are often confronted with situations in which their lives are at stake and they must make split-second decisions, experts say.

Republicans take a pro-law enforcement stance, and fear that any of Biden's potential reforms could mean inhibiting officers' ability to control violent crime, or that they could



put officers' lives in danger.

West said Republicans will condemn the Democratic moves as making it harder for police officers to enforce the law.

Clay Ramsay, a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, told Xinhua that Biden

could take a number of steps toward police reform.

One is to legislate a grant program for municipalities to build up community policing in their police departments. The vague phrase covers many activities that those who support de-funding the police favor, especially using social workers and paramedics to help handle many police calls where the threat of violence is low.

Another is to pass legislation that would wind down mass incarceration, as the extraordinary size of the aging U.S. prison population is more and more expensive.

This subject has bipartisan legs in Congress, and it has many different aspects, some of which would pass with little difficulty, Ramsay said.

Moreover, Attorney General Merrick Garland's Department of Justice (DOJ) can resume federal investigations of abuse in local police departments and sue them, Ramsay said.

If a police department doesn't want to face DOJ lawyers in court, it can sign a consent decree which commits it to change its behavior with DOJ supervision -- this tool was abandoned by the DOJ under former

U.S. President Donald Trump, Ramsay said.

"We are about to see whether Garland brings it back and how forcefully he uses it," Ramsay said.

But critics said some Republicans claim the DOJ is shackling the police out of political correctness.

"Police reform is not going to be police reform. Who knows what they'll put" into an executive order or bill to reform police, GOP strategist and TV news personality Ford O'Connell told Xinhua.

He was referring to criticisms that over half of Biden's recent COVID-19 rescue package was what many called a progressive wish list that had nothing to do with COVID-19.

**Xinhua**



# SPORT



Simba SC's Zambian midfielder, Larry Bwalya (2nd R), jubilates with compatriot, Clatous Chama, after the former had netted a goal when the club faced AS Vita Club of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the CAF Champions League's Group A clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## Zambian midfielder opens up on move to Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC midfielder Larry Bwalya has explained how he turned down an offer to sign for the outfit's age-old rivals Yanga.

The Zambian player was signed by Simba SC before the start of the 2020/21 Vodacom Premier League season on a two-year deal from Zambian Premier League side Power Dynamos.

The left-footed midfielder has revealed how he landed at the Msimbazi Street-based giants despite their Jangwani Street-based rivals, Yanga, tabling an offer for his services.

He disclosed the two teams battled for his services, how he sought sufficient information about the two giants and, in the end, Simba got the most votes from him.

"I had to agree with Simba and sign a contract with them, at that time Yanga were in the process of following me to Zambia to sign me as they had also tabled an offer," Bwalya noted.

He stated: "I told Yanga the truth there is one team I have agreed with and I am going to sign a contract, but they did not want to understand and instead followed me to Zambia, but it happened I was also on my way to Tanzania to sign for Simba."

"We crossed each other on the way, as they arrived in Zambia to talk to me, I and Chris [Mugalu] had already landed in Tanzania and imagine I was in the same plane with Mugalu but he didn't notice me until we arrived and were received at the airport, I later realised I was with Mugalu in the same plane."

He noted: "I set aside time to follow Simba based on the information I received from my various sources, but I spoke to midfielder [Clatous] Chama who assured me that they are the right team to play for."

He disclosed: "I knew [Chama] very well, I have known him for many years because we have played together in Zambia and we are also together in the national team, so I had to listen to him, and then I agreed to land Simba."

He stated: "I am proud of that decision as Simba are one of the teams with the biggest goals that can always lift any player."

The midfielder moreover issued his views on Vodacom Premier League, stating: "The league is growing fast every year and is very competitive regardless of whether the smaller teams meet or others outnumber each other."

"Every time you look at any match the team that wins must fight hard as everyone has a goal to win but the one that gets the best on that day is the one that wins," he noted.

"If you look at the size of Simba and the quality of our squad, we have had some difficult matches in which we have drawn and we have lost two more at home and away," he said.

On his best match so far in the Vodacom Premier League, Bwalya stated: "The JKT Tanzania match played in Dodoma was a good start for me to do well in the league as I played top-class football as well as helping my team win 4-0."

He stated: "I remember the match despite playing well I played an assist to Meddie [Kagere], who also used it well by scoring one of the four goals."

Bwalya scored the third goal in Simba SC's 4-1 victory over AS Vita Club of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in this season's CAF Champions League's Group A game, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Simba have now booked their place in the quarterfinals of the CAF Champions League, topping Group A with 13 Points.

They have one game left away to Egypt's Al Ahly, which will take place in Cairo on April 9.

## Manara hurt by TFF's ban on Yanga official

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's information officer, Haji Manara, has taken to social media to express his disappointment over the banning of Yanga's vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela, by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The top Yanga official had been accused of inciting the club's supporters and members against the TFF and its affiliate bodies.

After a hearing, the federation's relevant committee found Mwakalebela guilty and consequently banned him for five years.

The Simba official has now expressed his feelings after last Thursday's decision by the federation.

"Those who don't understand and know me well might think I am celebrating the decision taken against my brother just because he is a Yanga official," Manara posted.

He noted: "Despite initial calls by Mwakalebela to arrest me and initiate proceedings against me in court, [I have no grudge against him]. As a human being, I am deeply hurt by the decision taken and I am sorry for him."

He stated: "I have never reported anyone anywhere; usually I sympathise with them... and it is the reason why I have been hurt by the punishment."

Manara went on to advise Mwakalebela on what to do to stand a chance of getting back into the game.

"He should appeal against the decision made and ask for forgiveness for what he has been found guilty of," he stated.

He noted: "The TFF we know will forgive you, and then in future avoid being used on some issues because you will be the one in trouble."

Mwakalebela's ban comes after Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli was banned for three years.

"Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli has been banned from engaging in football matters either in the country or outside the country for the next three years," the committee's statement, obtained by The Guardian, read at the time.

"The judgment has been made based on Article 78(8)(a) of the 2013 regulations. The defendant (Hassan Bumbuli), was accused of failing to obey an initial order that had been issued by the disciplinary committee."

"On September 28, 2020, the committee ordered Bumbuli to pay 5m/- and further ordered him not to commit another disciplinary issue within a period of two years. He never obeyed the order and did not appeal against the judgement."

## SPORTS

## With strong hopes for business uplift, sports sponsorship will be rejuvenated

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

STRONG hopes for business revival and thus its greater participation in sporting activities was evident in the final stage of the recomposition of the cabinet of ministers following the death of fifth phase President John Pombe Magufuli.

After swearing in newly appointed ministers and those who changed portfolios, incoming national leader Samia Suluhu Hassan - who said of her presidency as sixth phase rather than second President of the fifth phase - urged behavior change in tax collection. Business sighed hugely.

It is not clear yet if there is a new phase in official posture or thinking on tax collection, in which case the fallout for business and in what direction, and then the further spread of such impact in sports sponsorship is still a long shot.

But hypothetically it is within range, as the President urged something like methodical change of approach in the matter, seeking to cultivate confidence with business rather than the familiar sentiment of seeing the business classes as prone to tax evasion is a whip isn't held closely.

It means that business will have breathing space while paying taxes; that means significant foreseeable surpluses soon.

A number of top businessmen who fell foul of the fifth phase were already in the country on the basis of the grapevine, things which can't be rapidly checked as media precautions are still in place.

Still the going may prove to be rough for some of them as they may have been mixing good and bad business, and chances of bad business being returned to normal are minimal or absent, as the spirit of dedication to public welfare remains strong.

Depending on how far bad business was contributing to sports sponsorship it is possible the fallout of breathing space could be limited or bring in new players rather than older ones.

There is another sphere of economic change which may also count for good tidings in sports sponsorship, namely substantial reform in the ease of doing business environment - where tax collection attitudes is but an aspect of the matter.

So far there is little indication that this is going to be the case, for instance how far it is possible to soften the country's



Morning Star Football Club's players take part in a recent training in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

stand on regional agreements we have signed but as yet being ratified, especially the East African Common Market and the Continental African Free Trade Area, the latter coming into force back in January (this year).

Ratifying these pacts would provide an insurance cover for businesses, as they would stand a good chance of avoiding erratic changes in the regulatory environment.

That means the soccer sponsorship environment clearly sees good tidings ahead, but no chicken are coming home to roost as yet, since there is still an unknown factor in how far pushing for taxes may change behaviourally.

President Samia made two related remarks in that regard, one that tax collectors ought to change tactics and rope in more businesses instead of closing them or pushing them to the margin, but also underlined that the level of total collections ought to rise from 1.8 trillion shillings to two trillion shillings monthly.

What this means for what the collectors must do is a moot point, admittedly.

On account of club capacity in sponsorship terms, it must be admitted that Tanzania isn't on the brink though it can do with better tidings, so that optimal capacity to sign foreign players is more equitably distributed.

In addition, there is also an issue of signing up a good technical bench, which perhaps is what is making the difference with Simba SC, as it has attained a higher playing level, visibly, with pundits explaining that the technical bench is being assigned more diversely, for instance travelling to study and report on tactics of opponents.

There is also a professional trainer for goalkeepers, not just routine diving.

As a matter of fact signing foreign players is more or less stable, and what is at issue is opening up the ceiling a bit further.

Still that won't come up as a big issue as Simba

have shown that the seven players ceiling isn't discomfiture in club plans to rise higher in African football, as their recent results with top level sides have been impressive.

That means conservatives won't have to argue too strongly on the issue.

This situation also sends a signal to other sides in the local premier league on the need to strengthen their technical benches in order to make a difference, whereas the focus has too often been on signing players from outside.

Even when it comes to professionalizing the technical bench, the focus is onerously on the head coach, and most clubs are comfortable with the idea that assisting staff can be recruited locally.

Simba have now shown that even these other assisting roles need to be professionalized for consistency in playing level and results, this is a lesson that will definitely not go unnoticed especially with city rivals.

## KMC FC takes aim at Yanga in VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

DAR ES SALAAM'S Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC's management has said that the squad has started training for this season's Vodacom Premier League game against the top flight leaders, Yanga, slated for April 10.

The Vodacom Premier League is expected to continue dusting off on April 8 after a temporary suspension due to the mourning of former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, John Pombe Magufuli, who passed away on March 17.

Already the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) has issued a revised schedule, with the two fixtures to be held after the resumption set for April 8.

Christina Mwangala, KMC FC Information Officer, said: "Our players have already started preparing for the Vodacom Premier League match against Yanga, slated for April 10 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam."

Yanga's coach, Juma Mwambusi, said that his team are in great condition.

Mwambusi noted he is hopeful that Yanga's players who went to serve their respective countries' national teams, will return for the coming top flight clash.

They include Burundian Said Ntibazonkiza, Rwandan Haruna Niyonzima and DR Congo's Mukoko Tonombe.

The coach believes that if the players return early they will help Yanga post good results in the next league games and the Federation Cup assignment.

He noted: "Our players are in good condition, they are showing giving their all in training, they are ready to



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

prepare for our next fixture in Federation Cup and the Premier League."

"For those players who went to serve their countries' national teams, we want to see them return safely as they will help us a lot in our next games, you know there was a time when the team had several key players nursing injuries so we do not want to see it happen again," he stated.

In this season's Vodacom Premier League's first round match between Yanga and KMC FC held at CCM Krumba Stadium in Mwanza, the former won 2-1.

Congolese midfielder, Tuisila Kisinda, and forward, Waziri Junior, scored for Yanga, forward Hassan Kabunda notched KMC FC's goal.

The April 10 encounter is, in this case, set to be competitive, given KMC FC will not only seek to revenge for the first round loss but also post three

points and scale up the table.

Yanga are set to seek yet another three points and widen their gap with closest challengers, Simba.

This season's Vodacom Premier League has Yanga leading the rest of the pack, notching 50 points after featuring in 23 matches.

Fifth-placed KMC FC has posted 35 points after taking part in 24 matches.



## Valencia 'threatened with punishment' for walking off in racism protest

MADRID

VALENCIA'S players walked off during their La Liga game with Cadiz on Sunday in protest against racist abuse, with coach Javi Gracia later claiming they were told they would be punished if they refused to resume the match.

The fixture was stopped in the 37th minute after Valencia said their player Mouctar Diakhaby was the victim of a racial insult.

Diakhaby had been involved in a heated exchange with Cadiz's Juan Cala before indicating to the referee David Medie Jimenez that he was leaving the field.

The Frenchman's team-mates followed him off and Cadiz also went down the tunnel soon after.

Around 15 minutes later, the Valencia team returned and a further five minutes afterwards, the game restarted, this time without Diakhaby.

Diakhaby was replaced by Hugo Guillamon and watched the second half sitting in the stands.

"In the changing rooms we were told if we didn't return, we would be sanctioned," said Gracia, who would not specify who had made the threat.

"In that moment, we spoke with Diakha, about how he was, and he told us that he wouldn't play but he understood perfectly we had to continue playing to avoid a possible sanction, so we returned."

Valencia defender Jose Gaya also told Spanish television after the game: "He (Diakhaby) told us he was insulted in a racist way. We went back out to play because they told us they could penalise us with three points and something more. He asked us to go back, he's gutted, it was a very ugly insult."

Valencia had earlier indicated it was Diakhaby's decision that the team return to the pitch.

"I believe in my player" - The club wrote on social media shortly after the game resumed: "The team have held a meeting and decided to continue the game, in order to fight for the honour of the club, but denounce racism of any kind."

"We offer our complete backing to @Diakhaby\_5. The player, who had received a racial insult, requested that his teammates return to the pitch. We support you Mouctar."

Cadiz coach Alvaro Cervera said Cala insisted he had not ra-

cially insulted Diakhaby.

"We returned to the changing room, we talked," Cervera said.

"Cala said that at no time did he insult the player. I believe in my player."

La Liga would not comment on the incident after the match.

An official complaint from Valencia or mention of the incident in the referee's report could lead to further investigation and sanctions against Cadiz.

President of the Valencian regional government Ximo Puig wrote on Twitter: "Equality and rejection of racism. That is the most important match. A hug to Diakhaby. This is his house, his land."

The exchange occurred after a tussle between Diakhaby and Cala in Valencia's penalty area.

As Cala ran back to his own half, the pair continued to argue, with Diakhaby suddenly sprinting towards Cala, who was standing close to the halfway line.

Several players rushed over to separate them, with Gabriel Paulista among those shouting at the referee.

Diakhaby was visibly distressed and his reaction earned him a yellow card.

After being escorted away, Diakhaby spoke individually with the referee before walking off, together with Gabriel.

The Cadiz players waited a few minutes longer before also leaving the pitch.

The referee was not close to the argument between Diakhaby and Cala, and Gracia said "there was no record from the referee that this had happened."

Cala was then also substituted at half-time, having earlier scored the opening goal for Cadiz, with Kevin Gameiro equalising for Valencia.

Cala's replacement Marcos Lopez scored a late winner to secure a 2-1 victory for Cadiz.

Last month, Athletic Bilbao's Inaki Williams gave evidence in court as part of an investigation into Espanyol fans racially insulting him during a match in January last year.

In December 2019, a second tier game between Rayo Vallecano and Albacete was suspended after Albacete refused to come out for the second half following chants from Rayo fans calling their striker Roman Zozulya a Nazi.

AFP

## Mourinho on draw: 'Same coach, different players'

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho said they were the architects of their own downfall after failing to hold on to the lead in a 2-2 Premier League draw at Newcastle United on Sunday.

Spurs led 2-1 at the break thanks to a quick-fire double from Harry Kane but an 85th-minute equaliser from Joe Willock prevented Mourinho's side from provisionally moving up to fourth in the table.

Spurs have now dropped 11 points this season due to goals conceded in the final 10 minutes.

"The Premier League is hard and is high-level football. And when in some actions you don't show that you belong to that high level of football, it's difficult," Mourinho told the BBC.

"We made... defensive mistakes that lead to instability. In the first half we were always in control, even in the second half when we had the ball we didn't have any problems. We could have scored a couple more."

"Instability brings hope to our opponent and our opponent didn't give up. I had the same feeling and I'm on the bench. It's difficult to have the feeling of absolute control because I know that what happened can happen."

When Mourinho was reminded that his teams were famous for holding on to leads in the past, he said: "Same coach, different players."

The Portuguese manager was also concerned with how Spurs were un-

able to handle Newcastle's constant pressure after scoring twice.

"You cannot score three, four, five goals every match. You come away from home and score two goals... we cannot ask for lots of goals every match, many times it's not possible," Mourinho added.

"It's not just about the defensive mistakes that lead to goals, we have situations where we have the ball and I know already the ball is going to end with Hugo Lloris."

"That's the way we sometimes create instability to ourselves. We gave the chance to the opponents to push up."

Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur said they were disgusted by online racist abuse received by Colombia defender Davinson Sanchez after the 2-2 Premier League draw at Newcastle United on Sunday.

"We are disgusted by the racist messages received by Davinson Sanchez today and are calling on social media platforms to take action," the London club said on Twitter.

"We stand with you, @dao-sanchez26 and all those continuing to suffer abuse online."

Sanchez shared a screenshot of an Instagram account which posted a string of monkey emojis on his page.

He is the latest in a long list of players targeted by online abuse including Manchester United trio Anthony Martial, Axel Tuanzebe and Marcus Rashford plus Chelsea's Reece James.

(Agencies)

# Fallen giants seek revival as Real Madrid, Liverpool battle again

LONDON

LIVERPOOL'S last dance with Real Madrid ended in painful defeat, with Mohamed Salah's shoulder dislocated by Sergio Ramos dragging him to the ground and goalkeeper Loris Karius left apologising to his fans.

Yet Karius's two errors, which handed Madrid a 14th European triumph in the 2018 Champions League final, were also the start of a journey for Liverpool.

Karius was ruthlessly cast aside and Alisson Becker signed for a then world record fee for a goalkeeper.

A year later Liverpool were the ones hoisting the Champions League trophy after beating Tottenham Hotspur in Madrid, before an even heavier burden was lifted when they were crowned English champions for the first time in 30 years.

But those highs have been followed by a fall from grace as Liverpool prepare to face Real again in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final in Madrid on Tuesday.

Fortress Anfield has turned into a visitors' dream with fans absent because of the coronavirus pandemic.

After nearly four years without a home league defeat, Liverpool have lost six in a row for the first time in the club's history.

Jurgen Klopp's men are in a scrap just to make it into next season's Champions League via a top-four finish in the Premier League.

Injuries have taken their toll. Captain Jordan Henderson and centre-backs Virgil Van Dijk, Joe Gomez, Joel Matip will all miss both legs of the Real tie and are unlikely to play again this season.

The signings of Thiago Alcantara and Diogo Jota last summer



Sergio Ramos tangled with Mo Salah in the Champions League final before the Liverpool ace was forced off through injury. (Agencies)

were designed to build from a position of strength, but both have also missed a large part of the campaign through injury.

However, there could yet be a happy ending to a difficult season. Saturday's comprehensive 3-0 win at Arsenal was Liverpool's most complete performance of 2021.

Jota is back fit and firing, scoring six times in his last four games for club and country. Thiago is also starting to find his rhythm, helped by the return of Fabinho to midfield after months of deputising as a makeshift centre-back.

- Ramos reunion denied - Real Madrid might have taken more comfort from Liverpool's problems were they not confronting their own period of introspection.

Since winning a third consecutive Champions League three years ago, the team has stalled, a failure to update and refresh seeing them tumble down the European pecking order.

When Madrid and Liverpool

were matched last month with Chelsea and Porto in the semi-finals, many thought Chelsea had a kind draw for the quarters, and the semis too.

Madrid have been unfortunate to see their one statement signing since 2018, Eden Hazard, succumb to injury. Hazard could have been the successor to Cristiano Ronaldo and the catalyst for renewal but instead he has become an irrelevance.

If Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane was too loyal to an ageing core, the club were also prevented from forcing change, the coronavirus pandemic slashing revenues and making significant signings impossible.

The rise of Kylian Mbappe and Erling Braut Haaland means Madrid could still make up for lost time in the transfer market this summer.

For now, Zidane will turn again to his tried and trusted for the first leg at Valdebebas, with Luka Modric, Casemiro, Toni Kroos and

Karim Benzema all three years older than the last time they played Liverpool, and arguably even more important.

Ramos will be denied a reunion with Salah because of a calf injury.

Madrid will also be buoyed by an upturn in form, the kind of late surge that has seen them deliver when it matters in the Champions League in many years gone by.

But Liverpool are showing signs of a resurgence too, their victory over Arsenal their third in a row and most convincing performance this year.

Crucially, both will believe winning this quarter-final puts them in sight of another European success, that from there they could defy recent trajectories by beating even the loftiest opponents in the competition.

In 2018, Real Madrid and Liverpool knew victory would secure them the trophy. This time they will hope it sparks a resurgence.

AFP

## Limping Man United turn to Greenwood to get them over the finish line

MANCHESTER, England

MASON Greenwood has found scoring goals a little harder this season, but he popped up with a big one in a 2-1 win at Old Trafford on Sunday night.

Heading for a 1-1 draw against relegation-threatened Brighton with seven minutes to go, the teenager was in the right place at the right time to score a vital winner.

For much of the evening it felt like United would be consigned to a result that could drag them back into the race for the top four. Instead, with eight games to go, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team are second, four points clear of Leicester in third. After scoring 10 Premier League goals last season, it was only Greenwood's second in the league this term, but with United's campaign still hanging in the balance, it was an important one.

"It's always difficult to play Brighton," said Solskjaer.

"We have had good results and we've had to earn them the hard way. We managed to find a way in the second half."

"I thought we started well but when they scored, after that we couldn't find our rhythm again and we needed half-time to compose ourselves and go again. Second half we played some good stuff. More runs in behind, more movement, better movement."

"Sometimes after international breaks it takes time, and then maybe the fireworks have to be lit at half-time."

Solskjaer, who picked Dean Henderson in goal ahead of David De Gea, has usually tried to ease the pressure on Greenwood since the 19-year-old broke into the senior squad, but the forward is now central to United's hopes for the rest of the season.

There are doubts about whether Anthony Martial will play again this season after suffering a knee ligament strain while on duty with France. Marcus Rashford, meanwhile, was forced off here midway



Mason Greenwood has found goals hard to come from this season, but United will need him to finish strong if they are to end this season with their goals completed. (Agencies)

through the second half after scoring to make it 1-1. Rashford previously pulled out of the England squad with a knee problem and didn't look comfortable as he walked straight down

the tunnel after being replaced by Dan James.

With Edinson Cavani struggling for form and fitness -- he's not scored for nearly two months -- it leaves the responsibility in front of goal squarely on Greenwood's young shoulders. And maybe he's finding his feet just when Solskjaer needs him most -- it's now two in two games after scoring in the 3-1 defeat to Leicester before the international break.

Greenwood started the season making headlines for the wrong reasons after being sent home by England, but there are signs he's ready to end it in the same fine form he enjoyed in his debut campaign.

"Mason Greenwood needs to add those goals to his tally because we know how wonderful a talent he is, and when he can add those goals we know he'll be a good one," said Solskjaer.

"Today he was one of our brightest players. He was clean, he was tidy and he got the goal. It's a header inside the 6-yard box and that's what we need more from Mason."

United are limping towards the finish line of a long, arduous season which could yet end in boom or bust. Finish second and win the Europa League and Solskjaer will have no problem arguing progress but it is not yet a given. Tiring and with injuries mounting, they haven't won three games in a row since December. There have been impressive performances at Manchester City

and Milan but there have also been significant setbacks, few bigger than the FA Cup exit at the King Power Stadium.

When Danny Welbeck scored his fourth goal against United to give Brighton the lead here, it looked like there might be another. Even after Rashford had equalised, Brighton had a strong penalty shout turned down when Harry Maguire bundled over Welbeck in the 6-yard box.

United struggled to make many clear chances but when Paul Pogba skewed a shot across goal, Greenwood stooped to head in. Even during a dire first half, he looked most likely to score and was unlucky to hit the post with a fierce drive from the right-hand side of the penalty area.

"It was a hard night," said Greenwood. "When they scored the first goal we knew we had to react and put in a better performance. Everyone was excellent in the second half."

"I don't think we started very well but we knew we had to switch on and be focused. We should have started that from the moment we came out, but it's a good three points. There was a lot of men behind the ball and we had to have that creative spark."

"It's a confidence booster. I've not scored as many in the Premier League."

Solskjaer will need a few more from him if United are going to end their season on a high.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Fallen giants seek revival as  
Real Madrid, Liverpool battle again**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Polisi Tanzania's midfielder, Pius Buswita.

## Polisi Tanzania suspend six players for misconduct

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League club, Polisi Tanzania, has suspended six players for misconduct.

An official statement from the side's management, released yesterday, made it clear that the players have been suspended due to repeated misconduct.

The club pointed out the players were, on several occasions, presented before the outfit's disciplinary committee but they repeated the offense.

The suspended players are Pius Buswita, Rashid Juma, Abdulaziz Makame, Tariq Seif, George Mpole and Abdulmalick Adam.

The statement issued by Polisi Tanzania's information officer, Hassan Juma, clarified Juma had been suspended for failure to arrive at the team's camp since February 29.

The former Simba SC winger, according to the official, was supposed to return to his club after requesting permission to attend his cousin's wedding in Dar es Salaam.

Juma noted the outfit granted the winger a three-day leave on February 26 and the latter had to make his way back to the side once the leave ended.

The winger, however, has yet to report to his outfit.

Mpole, Juma pointed out, was not in the list of players, who headed to Misungwi District, Mwanza, to play Gwambina FC in a Premier League fixture, thus, he was bound to remain at the side's camp in Kilimanjaro.

He however left the camp and had yet to make his way back when the squad began training.

The Polisi Tanzania's official said the duo were earlier found guilty of the same misconduct and the outfit's leadership issued warning to them.

He disclosed the players have consequently influenced other players to commit the offense whilst knowing they are acting contrary to the regulations.

He noted Polisi Tanzania's leadership sought it wise to reach the decision in an effort to see to it their players are disciplined.

Meanwhile, Polisi Tanzania will today travel to Mara for a Premier League encounter with Biashara United to be played in Musoma on Friday.

The Kilimanjaro outfit, made up of 20 players and six officials, makes the trip.

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*The former Simba SC winger, according to the official, was supposed to return to his club after requesting permission to attend his cousin's wedding in Dar es Salaam.*

## Tanzanian striker moves to Zambia's Nkana FC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER completing registration to join Zambia's Nkana FC on a one-year contract, Tanzanian forward Eliud Ambokile has stated that he has high hopes of doing well in Zambia.

Since joining Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) football big guns, TP Mazembe, in June, 2019, Ambokile has had a difficult time finding a place in the first team.

In this season alone, the muscular attacker has not played a single game for TP Mazembe in the DRC Premier League.

Commenting on his plans after completing the registration, Ambokile said: "I truly thank God for completing my registration to join Nkana FC from TP Mazembe."

He enthused: "Nkana have signed me as a free agent and I have already signed a one-year contract."

The forward, who had in the past played for Tanzania's Mbeya City FC, has joined Nkana, based in Kitwe, after a difficult time within the TP Mazembe.

Ambokile had joined TP Mazembe in June 2019 after having featured for South Africa's Black Leopards in 2018/19 season.

He had joined the Premier Soccer League team from Tanzania's Mbeya City FC, thanks to his scintillating displays for the side in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

Since then Ambokile had a limited amount of time to play at TP Mazembe and, for some time now, he has been training with Nkana FC before signing the contract yesterday.

In Nkana FC's Zambia Super League's fixture against Green Buffaloes which took place at Nkana Stadium the two clubs were locked to a 2-2 draw.

Nkana FC is positioned 16th in the Zambia Super League, having taken part in 18 matches, whereas other outfits have taken part in 20 to 21 matches.

Zesco United are the Super League leaders with 40 points.



Eliud Ambokile

## Tanzania may field only two athletes in Tokyo Olympics



Tanzania Olympic Committee(TOC)'s Secretary General, Filbert Bayi.

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA could end up sending the smallest squad to the Summer Olympic Games scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan, from July 23 to August 8 this year.

The Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, Filbert Bayi, issued the comments.

Bayi said that so far only two runners have secured qualification marks for the Tokyo Olympics.

A number of qualifying events have moreover been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

So far, only runners, Alphonse Simbu and Failuna Abdi, have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.

Bayi noted that the country's athletes required to seek qualification for Tokyo Olympics are judokas, boxers and swimmers.

He said boxing's qualifying event slated to be held in Paris, France, has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The domestic boxers will, therefore, secure qualification via their ranking records.

But, the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s Boxing Task Force (BTF) will give priority to box-

ers, who qualify as per rules and regulations followed by their ranking records.

The TOC official noted: "We hope that our boxers who did well in Dakar, Senegal, will be selected - although they did not reach the semifinal stage of the event."

Two domestic swimmers, Collins Saliboko and Hilal Hemed, are required to compete in South Africa's Olympic Games qualifying competition scheduled for April 7-12 in Port Elizabeth.

Also in April this year, domestic judokas are expected to travel to Casablanca, Morocco, to compete in qualifying events.

"Swimmers do not face such restrictions, and Saliboko is already in South Africa training ahead of the tournament," Bayi revealed.

He noted: "The judokas, who are required to compete in Morocco's qualifying events, up to now, do not know their fate," he noted.

Tanzania started to compete in the Olympics in 1964, which also took place in Tokyo, with four athletes representing the country.

Again, four athletes represented Tanzania in the 1968 Olympics held in Mexico City.

In the 1972 Munich Olympics in Germany, Tanzania was represented by 15 sportsmen.

The country missed out on the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Canada. However, it sent 41 sportsmen to the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

The country then sent 18 sportsmen to the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, USA.

Tanzania further sent 10 sportsmen to the 1988 Olympics in South Korea, nine sportsmen in the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

Other Olympic Games, in which Tanzania participated in (with the number of the country's participating sportsmen shown in brackets) were Atlanta-1996 (seven sportsmen), Sydney 2000 (four), Greece-2004 (eight), 2008 Beijing-2008 (eight); London-2012 (six), 2016 Rio de Janeiro-2016 (seven sportsmen).

However, not all the athletes met the set qualifying marks, as most of them competed on the 'universality places' basis.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV TUESDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**NIRVANA**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msoji Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kall Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

*Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.*

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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