



### National Pg 2 Crowding ban in public transport



### National Pg 3 Mining activities in Chunya



### National Pg 4 MUHAS scientific conference opens



# Mbowe hauled to Kisutu court

## City zonal commander says the Chadema leader isn't sick

By Guardian Reporter

CHADEMA national chairman Freeman Mbowe was yesterday arraigned before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court charged with terrorism.

John Mrema, the party's director for Protocol, Communications and Foreign Affairs, said in a statement that the party leader was sent to the court without having representation of lawyers from the party or from his family.

"We received information from family members who visited him in remand at the Oysterbay police station that Mbowe was sick, but the police force didn't send him to hospital," he said.

Mbowe was arrested in Mwanza a week ago, hours before the start of a conference to agitate for a new constitution, with police force spokesman David Misime saying Mbowe was facing terrorism charges that include an alleged plot to kill national leaders.

"We have instructed our advocates to immediately seek audience with Mbowe at the Oysterbay police station. We also want the police force to take him to hospital because he has the rights to proper medical care in accordance with the country's laws," the director affirmed.

When contacted, the Dar es Salaam special police zone commander Jumanne Muliro said as to Mbowe's illness that "one cannot sit there and say 'I am sick' then you want us to take you to the hospital. We have our own medical experts who attend to all detainees."

Oysterbay police station has a hospital which offers services to detainees and other people around, "so it is not a matter of who should be taken to the hospital, because if all the people in

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Dr Ernest Ibenzi, a senior medical officer with the Dodoma referral hospital, gives explanation on an oxygen production plant yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

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## Covid-19: Region raises alert as Treasury disburses 1.2bn/-

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AUTHORITIES in Dodoma region yesterday issued a new alert to help combat the spread of COVID-19 as the regional referral hospital launches oxygen making machinery to aid treatment of patients with respiratory complications.

Setting out the region's preparedness efforts to handle COVID-19 cases, regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka (pictured) directed that members of the public seeking

health services or visiting admitted relatives at district hospitals in must wear face masks. The number of people paying visit to their relatives admitted in hospitals is limited to three people at a time, he said

Addressing a press conference after visiting the regional referral hospital to witness preparedness to handle COVID-19 cases, the RC urged residents to heed advice from health experts and the government generally, underlining that the disease is fast spreading.

"Despite having facilities at the referral hospital that can accommodate more patients, it is vital to take measures against the disease," he emphasised, noting that taking preventive measures will greatly help to reduce new infections.

He has also placed emphasis on wearing a mask and washing hands with flowing water at business centres, marketplaces, auctions and bus stands.

People with symptoms similar to those of

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# VP: Use Mtwara port for southern regions' goods

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has directed the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure all farm products from the southern highland zone are transported through Mtwara port to boost trade and increase the number of users at the harbour.

The VP gave the directives yesterday when visiting Mtwara port as part of his five-day tour in the region.

He said the decisions would stimulate trade and development in the southern part of the country, with agricultural inputs and insecticides used in cashewnut

**Port officials have a huge responsibility to supervise and evaluate the quality of services provided as well as looking for users locally and abroad**

cultivation being transported through the port.

"Mtwara port is a strategic terminal where the government has invested a lot of funds to improve its infrastructure to ensure optimal use given its strategic geographical location," he stated.

The government wishes to enhance regional trade, stimulate economic growth and development using the port, thus the port must be used for the country to benefit from the huge investment, he further noted.

The Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) needs to work on customers' complaints especially on the safety of their goods and properties

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# Reduced contributions: 'WCF will remain stable for 30 years'

By Felister Peter

REDUCTIONS in contribution rates to the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF) social security scheme for the private sector from 1 per cent to 0.6 per cent of employees' gross monthly income are unlikely to affect the stability of the fund, its chief executive has stated.

WCF Director General Dr John Mduma (pictured) said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that amendments were adopted to



review the WCF contribution calculation formula by 40 per cent as part of measures to implement the blueprint for easing the business environment, adopted during the 2021/2022 budget session of the National Assembly.

Assessments conducted by the fund in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) showed that even with the changes in the contribution rate calculation formula, the fund would

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# Mbowe hauled to Kisutu court

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our custody would demand being taken to hospital then you would see them in beds around hospitals in Dar es Salaam saying they are sick," he asserted.

If confirmed sick, the opposition leader will be taken to hospital as it is the right of everyone, he stated, elaborating that if Mbowe was sick he would have been taken to hospital. "We have taken him to court, he is ok and charges have been read against him. Justice has directed us where to take him," he further stated.

Last Thursday, Mwanza RPC Ramadhani Ng'anzi told reporters that the party national chairman was taken to Dar es Salaam for interrogation in relation to a separate criminal investigation.

On Friday, two opposition parties NCCR-Mageuzi and ACT-Wazalendo demanded that the police unconditionally release the national chairman and 15 other

cadres then being held in custody in Mwanza.

In a joint statement signed by NCCR-Mageuzi national chairman James Mbatia and ACT-Wazalendo party leader Zitto Kabwe said the arrest of Chadema cadres was conducted in contravention of the mother law and legislation on political parties.

Freedom of assembly is guaranteed by article 20 (1) of the 1977 Constitution and section 11 of the Political Parties Act, they stated, asserting that the police force must "immediately and unconditionally release Chadema members and leaders including Mbowe."

The two leaders appealed to supporters of democracy to condemn the arrest of the leaders which they said "eroded efforts being made to achieve national cohesion," urging the government and top political leaders to sit with the opposition to discuss best ways of conducting politics without animosity.

# VP: Use Mtwara port for southern regions' goods

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by strengthening operational procedures and security.

"Port officials have a huge responsibility to supervise and evaluate the quality of services provided as well as looking for users locally and abroad. We want this port to attract more traders," he declared.

TPA officials must conduct tours in various countries to search for potential users of the port, and consulting with Tanzanian embassies to promote services offered by the country's ports, he stated.

The government spent 157.8bn/- for the strategic improvement of Mtwara port, increasing its cargo handling capacity to one million tonnes annually, he said, noting that port improvement also involved putting up additional equipment

for containerization traffic and general cargo.

Earlier, the Minister for Works and Transport, Dr Leonard Chamuriho said Mtwara port has the capacity to serve small and large ships carrying cargoes of up to 65,000 tonnes, vowing to continue improving services to attract more traders to use the port.

Recently TPA announced that in implementing the government's directive to ensure that cashew nuts are transported through Mtwara port, the agency has conducted major improvements at the port, including acquiring modern equipment to enhance efficiency, uplift staff competence and boost revenue collections.

TPA expects to make Mtwara port one of the busiest harbours serving traders and industrialists, while reviewing various levies to attract more transporters to use the port.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (L) unveils plaque at Mikindani in Mtwara Region yesterday to launch the construction of a referral hospital for the southern zone. Photo: VPO

# Reduced contributions: 'WCF will remain stable for 30 years'

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be stable for over 30 years, he said, elaborating that contributions paid by employers in the public sector would continue to be calculated at a rate of 0.5 per cent of staff monthly salaries.

"We are hopeful for these positive changes as they are going to lower employment costs while enhancing compliance, improve the business and investment environment, strengthening existing relations between WCF and employers," he affirmed.

Compensations will continue to be paid using the standing formula stipulated in the Compensation Fund Act of 2016, he said, noting that the review process involved

various stakeholders including the Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) and the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE).

Their views were mostly incorporated in the Workers Compensation (Payment of Tariff) Amendment Regulations embedded in the recent amendments, he stated.

Within its six years of operations, the fund has collected contributions of up to 437bn/-, with employers having until August 30th, 2021 to pay employee's contribution under the new calculations formula.

The fund's Director of Operations, Anselim Peter said they have so far been able to register a total of 24, 912 contributors, among them,

24, 249 (70 per cent) are from the private sector.

"With the new calculation formula, WCF is likely to increase the number of contributors as the amount is relatively low," said Peter, noting the current compliance trend stands at 82 per cent.

The WCF Director of Health Services, Dr Abdulsalaam Omary, said the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to some employers failing to make timely submission of their employee contributions.

"As we all know, the tourism sector was adversely affected by the global pandemic. Employers in the education sector were also affected due to closure of schools, which contributed to delayed contributions," he said.

WCF was established under the Workers' Compensation Act No 20 of 2008 which requires companies to register for and pay employee contributions, as the Act applies to employees from the private sector as well as in public institutions. It provides compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the workplace.

WCF provides various types of compensation including medical treatment to injured workers, maintenance services and counseling injured personnel afflicted with permanent disabilities. The fund also pays a certain amount of money to a person who is taking care of an injured worker upon approval from a medical facility.



Charles Chung, an overseas criminal investigation officer with the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, shows Swissport (Tanzania) security officer Catherine Hyera security features embedded in a US Visa. This was during training for airline staff on visa security and imposter detection held in Dar es Salaam. Photo: US Embassy

# Covid-19: Region raises alert as Treasury disburses 1.2bn/-

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Covid-19 infection not to guess about therapy but go to a dispensary, health centre or hospital to be tested so as to be sure, he urged.

Level seat arrangements in public transport systems must be observed, while hired motorcyclists must comply with the loading rule of one passenger to stem avoidable infections, he

declared.

RC Mtaka has acknowledged the presence of corona patients in the region, affirming that the region is self-sufficient to serve them and that no congestion exists.

Earlier, the doctor in charge at the referral hospital, Dr. Ibenzi Ernest, expressed gratitude to the government for providing equipment

worth 1.2bn/- for treating patients with breathing complications, along with those having other complications.

Currently, the hospital, with the help of the disbursement, has the ability to handle up to 200 infection cases per day but since its installation it has handled up to 29 patients in one day, he added.

# Covid-19: Dar RC bans crowding in public transport

By Guardian Reporter

Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Amos Makalla has banned people from crowding in public transport, urging all commuters to ensure they wear masks to protect themselves from the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also instructed the district security committees to oversee the implementation of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children's guidelines on taking precautions against the pandemic.

RC Makalla issued the order yesterday in Dar es Salaam, barely a day after the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children issued guidelines on how to deal with the pandemic.

Makalla instructed the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) to oversee its implementation of the directives.

The RC also banned people from unnecessary gathering at service delivery points and when necessary people should wear masks.

He said the government is committed to providing quality medical care to all patients who arrive at the hospital and urged citizens who will see the symptoms of Covid-19 to visit health facilities.

On Sunday, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children Prof Abel Makubi announced new Covid-19 control protocols restricting concerts,

festivals and other gatherings until further notice, saying all activities that bring people together including bars, social halls should adhere to the guidelines set by the government.

Prof Makubi urged all the ceremonies to be suspended indefinitely, noting: "This is a temporary measure and the government's aim is to reduce the Covid19 transmission."

"If it's a must ceremony should be held in open space or if they are held in the hall they should be for a short time, a number of invited guests should be limited to allow social distancing of one meter or more," said Prof Makubi.

He said if there are activities that cannot wait for the situation to stabilize then they should follow all preventive measures including checking a body temperature by a thermometer for everyone in the area.

According to him, owners or organizers of the meetings should install hand-washing equipment including running water and soap or use hand sanitisers.



**This is a temporary measure and the government's aim is to reduce the Covid-19 transmission**





Dodoma regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka has a word with Exim Bank officials and customers at a dinner the bank hosted in Dodoma city at the weekend. The others include Exim Bank head of retail services Andrew Lyimo (3rd-R) and board member Irene Mlola (2nd-R). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka has urged Exim Bank Tanzania to empower local contractors so that they carry out flagship projects in the country and outside Tanzania. Mtaka made the call during a dinner hosted by the bank for its customers in the country's capital—Dodoma, where he gave an example of Exim China which has been supporting Chinese contractors who carry out different mega development projects in the globe including Tanzania.

"I am delighted with the opening of the new branch of Exim Bank here in Dodoma, so in addition to increasing the network and service to your customers, I suggest it is also better to look at how to help our local contractors to implement major projects locally and outside the country based on the fact that you have already extended branches in different African

## RC pleads for Exim empowerment of local contractors and graduates

including Comoros, Djibouti, Uganda and Ethiopia," he noted.

The Dodoma RC further noted that major companies from across the world were being supported by their local financial institutions, something that could also be done by Exim Bank Tanzania.

At the opening ceremony of the new branch in Dodoma, Mtaka took time to offer his advice on how the bank should think on solving youth unemployment in the country, by establishing something similar to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He advised that Exim Bank Tanzania may decide to come up with a new service of Corporate Social Investment (CSI), which only targets graduates from different higher learning institutions either

individually or in groups where they can get loans to start up their lives instead of struggling for employment from different institutions.

Speaking at the occasion, the bank's board member, Irene Mlola, welcomed all ideas from the RC, insisting that having a branch in Dodoma was one of the strategies to help residents in the capital city to boost their income.

Speaking at the event, the bank's board member, Irene Mlola said the bank had welcomed Mtaka's ideas and promised to work on them, stressing that the bank's presence in Dodoma was the beginning of helping the city's residents grow their economy by bringing financial services closer to them in ensuring that the service reaches all citizens,

especially those on the margins.

She further said that Exim Bank Tanzania would equally support the country's development agenda in the implementation of flagship projects to realize the ambitious industrial economy.

Earlier speaking at the event, Exim Bank's Head of Retail Service, Andrew Lyimo, while thanking Dodoma residents for their warm welcome to the bank, promised that the bank is committed to providing banking services tailored to their needs in line with innovation due to investment in digital services.

"In addition to investing in digital services, we offer different services including issuance of different kinds of loans like mortgage loans which are being offered at an interest rate between 15 and 16 percent," he said.

## Govt set to provide 17bn/- towards Tunduma water project - minister

By Guardian Reporter, Tunduma

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has assured residents of Tunduma town in Momba District, Songwe Region that the government will provide 17bn/- for the town's water project from Pupigu river in Ileje District.

The minister made the pledge here at the weekend addressing hundreds of the Tanzania/Zambia border town's residents including traders.

"President Samia Suluhu Hassan has vowed to relieve women of water buckets off their heads by prioritizing the water sector, I received your complaints and we will implement her pledges," said Dr Nchemba.

He explained that his ministry will make sure it provides the pledged funds to enable Tunduma residents get water and that the overall government's aim is to see that by 2025 piped water availability in urban areas 95 per cent and in rural areas 85 per cent.

In regard to their complaints over high fertiliser prices he said the government was working on the issue and that experts from Finance and Agriculture ministries were reviewing various policy issues that would see the fertiliser prices go down.

"High fertiliser prices are not caused by taxes and levies that have been increased in the current Budget, but are caused by high prices of the farm input in foreign countries," stressed the minister.

In regard to Tanzania traders shifting their businesses to Zambia, Dr Nchemba appealed to them to return as their complaints over taxes will be addressed.

The call followed reports from some traders telling the minister that some of them had shifted their businesses to Nakonde

town, on the Zambia's side of the border on reason that it was a relief to them due to low taxes they pay as compared to Tanzania.

"You are Tanzanians, do not run away from your country, we shall rectify these problems, but if you've got opportunities to invest in zambia just do so.

"But do not run away from your country due to problems. Tanzania holds respect by assisting in the liberation of these countries we cannot fail to do justice to our people," he added.

The Finance and Planning minister also directed Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) officials to introduce the habit of meeting with traders from time to time to solve the challenges they face as well as educating them on the importance of issuing electronic receipts to buyers.

He cautioned traders against using two prices for their sales - selling goods without issuing receipts and/or issuing underpriced receipts saying that these acts were illegal and if nabbed, they would face legal action.

Submitting his report on TRA activities, Songwe Region's TRA manager John Micah said the authority managed to surpass collection targets.

He said in the FY 2020/21 they collected 92.9bn/-, equivalent to 115 per cent over the targeted amount of 80.3bn/-.

For their part, the traders called on the government to integrate tax issues so that they pay the taxes to one single authority instead of each government institution demanding own taxes and levies.

Dr Nchemba was in Songwe Region to inspect development activities related to his ministry including holding discussions with various traders.



Police officers on patrol around the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday following reports that Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe would appear there in connection with terrorism charges. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt bans small-scale gold mining activities in Chunya

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

MINERALS minister Dotto Biteko has banned small miners in Chalangwa, Chunya District to mine for gold at Mt Kaputa due to a conflict that exists between them and the investor holding a mining licence in the area.

In May 2019, Chalangwa villagers stopped late President John Magufuli's motorcade and allegedly lied to him that the investor was conducting mining activities in an area allocated for erecting of water reservoirs and that the area was a graveyard.

The statements prompted late President Magufuli to order the minister responsible to revoke the investor's licence on explanation that the villagers had told him the truth.

However, later, some village elders went to the District Commissioner telling him that what was told to late President were lies and now they wanted another investor to continue with mining activities at Mt Kaputa.

Biteko visited the conflict area at the weekend and saw that the said water reservoirs and grave yard were very far from the conflict area and satisfied himself that the villagers had lied to the late president.

Thereafter Biteko convened a public meeting with villagers during which they admitted to have lied before the late President, adding that they did so because they did not want the investor - one Joseph Mwazyele in their village.

"We did not want him because he used to arrest our youth and

## Mobile phone operators hail govt over new taxes review

By Guardian Reporter

MOBILE phone operators have lauded the government's recent move to review the proposed new digital taxes in the financial year 2021/22, saying the decision will create more confidence by investors and attract new projects in the telecom industry.

This was said in Dar es Salaam yesterday by the chairman of Tanzania mobile network operators association (TAMNOA), Hisham Hendi.

Hendi who is also the CEO of Vodacom Tanzania Plc said millions of customers had stopped using their services, especially those in rural areas, due to rising costs which threatened their businesses.

"For the past few days since the law became effective on July 15, consumer activity has decreased by more than 45 per cent which in turn has adversely crippled our revenues across the mobile phones business and overall drop in contribution in various government taxes related to revenue generation," he said, adding:

"We sincerely appreciate what the government has done so far and we particularly salute President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the entire government for responding to the public outcry".

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa convened a meeting of top government officials to deliberate on the hotly contested issue which has caused huge public outcry and come up with recommendations on the way forward.

The team is supposed to consult with telecommunications companies as well as the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) by looking at several scenarios related to the mobile money taxes before coming up with recommendations.

According to the Treasury Permanent Secretary, Emmanuel Tutuba, the team draws experts from the central bank, Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Communications Technology Ministry. The team is supposed to

submit its recommendations on July 29, this year.

Hendi was optimistic of the findings of the team to enable the government achieve its goal of raising more taxes to finance various development projects but also to ensure mobile network operators also survive in the tough market.

He said the country has of late experienced an economic boom in Africa, thanks to huge investments in the mobile phone sector which in turn has contributed in pushing forward the social and economic value.

According to the latest research findings by the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) released in March, affordable mobile sector-specific taxes could improve digital inclusion and boost agriculture and health.

The public have largely criticized the new taxes for being too high for ordinary citizens to afford.

In an effort to raise revenue by 1.254trillion/- budget for the 2021/2022 financial year, the government last month amended the Electronic and Postal Communication Act (CAP 306) by imposing a levy of between Sh10 and Sh10, 000 on mobile money transactions, depending on the amount sent or withdrawn.

A calculation of the charges indicates that sending 1m/- to someone and having the money withdrawn will cost a total of 31,000/- if all the current and new charges are added up.

Majority of Tanzanians are of the view that the amount being deducted was just too high for them to carry and that it was going against the country's financial inclusion agenda and also not seeing the role the mobile phone cash transfers has played on the economy.

This forced the government to act, with the President ordering the Prime Minister to form a team of experts to deliberate on the matter.

Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, said last week that the public outcry due to the levy had also caught the President's attention.

Minister for Finance, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba, said last week that the public outcry due to the levy had also caught the President's attention.



## Ndalichako calls for research-based solutions to tackle health challenges

By Getrude Mbago

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako yesterday called on researchers and scholars to come up with research-based solutions to address health-related challenges such as Covid-19.

She made the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the opening of the 9th Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) Scientific Conference.

She called on scholars to embrace trans-disciplinary collaboration spirit to spearhead innovative and high-impact research outcomes that will deliver permanent solutions to health-related challenges.

"As our country today faces emerging and re-emerging global health challenges such as COVID-19, climate change, non-communicable diseases and depletion of natural food resources, we need to strengthen collaborations, tap into knowledge both from academic and non-academic actors so as to come up with research-based solutions to address the challenges," she said.

She said Tanzania and the World have been facing COVID-19 challenge which is an emerging condition affecting each sector whereas the whole health sector has been specifically challenged. This calls for researchers to strengthen efforts and innovation and come up with more solutions to address the challenge.

Themed "Opportunities and challenges for tackling emerging and re-emerging health challenges", the conference has drawn over 400 scholars, scientists, academicians, development partners, policy makers and other stakeholders from in and outside Tanzania to discuss and share scientific knowledge that will eventually improve health status.

The minister said that discussion and recommendations from the scientific conference helps the government to improve guidelines for management of patients, developing preventive measures against diseases as well as put the country in the scientific world map, learn from others and adopt the best practices for improving health service provision.

"I have been informed that strengthening research and

teaching environment at MUHAS is going well, such efforts like establishing the Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Sciences at Mloganzila Campus will further strengthen your capacity and competencies in training, service provision, research and dissemination activities," Prof Ndalichako observed.

The minister said the government has always been in favour of supporting and creating a conducive environment for research in education and health sector and it is committed to continue supporting MUHAS in its research and health service delivery efforts.

Prof Andrea Pembe, MUHAS vice chancellor said the scientific conference is the premier conference that provides avenues for disseminating research findings among different stakeholders within Tanzania and internationally.

"We are among few international conferences in Africa to connect junior, seniors and future researchers and policymakers from around the continent to further their learning and discuss present and future challenges and opportunities in the healthcare sector," he said.

He commended the Swedish's International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for its continued support to the conference and the varsity's initiatives.

"MUHAS has continued to grow and expand its teaching and research environment while taking a leading role in providing consulting services and advice to our government and international community," he said.

Prof Pembe said the university will continue to be a reliable national hub for research output, supporting policies and guidelines development.

He further said the first phase construction of the Cardiovascular Centre of Excellence at Mloganzila Campus is at the final stages and is expected to be completed in December, this year.

Dr Harrison Mwakembe, MUHAS board chairman said that to date the varsity has 112 ongoing research projects and programs working with more than 90 international and local collaborating institutions producing between 450 to 500 scientific papers in reputable international journals annually.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (seated) signs a condolence book in Arusha city yesterday in respect of the recent death of former Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mghwira. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

## Govt pays 74.7m/- to farmers for crops ravaged by jumbos

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika, Liwale

A TOTAL of 74.7m/- has been paid as compensation to 279 farmers in Kibutuka Ward, Liwale District, Lindi District whose crops were destroyed by rampaging elephants.

This was revealed at the weekend by Liwale District Commissioner Judith Nguli, saying that the farmers were from Ngumbu, Mtawatawa, Mkutano and Lilombe villages in Kitubuka Ward.

"The Natural Resources and Tourism Ministry has given the

consolation money to the farmers following destruction of their cashew nuts and sesame farms," she said.

She mentioned other crops destroyed by the jumbos before they were chased away by game wardens as including millet, cowpeas and cassava.

She added that the beasts caused the destruction in May this year and the government made an assessment and after other legal procedures it decided to pay consolation money a week ago.

"Towards the end of this month the government will start educating villagers on how to avoid the beasts and stop the practice of cultivating inside elephant corridor areas," she said.

District natural resources officer, Damas Mumwi, said the area in which the jumbos invaded was their corridor for many years hence it should remain free of human activities.

"Normally, elephants never forget the routes, when they come from Rondo in Mtama through

Nachingwea, Liwale in the nearby forest bear the farms, they eat the crops and destroy others they find along their route," Mumwi added.

He said elephant corridor areas have been invaded by sesame farmers from Newala and Tandahimba in Mtwara Region and that efforts to make them remain open were continuing. For his part, Kitubuka Ward Councillor, Faraji Nyihura said it is normal for the farmers to build small huts in their farms to live in and added that it was not safe to do so.



Balimi beer brand manager Pamela Kikuli (2nd-L) presents Maclina Rugeiyamu (R) of Bukoba, one of the winners of a Balimi Beer promotion, a power tiller at a function held in Bukoba municipality at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Mbeya RPC refutes reports of 'raid' on Catholic church

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have refuted reports making rounds in the social media claiming that armed police officers invaded Mwanjelwa Roman Catholic Church in Mbeya City and arrested worshippers who had put on Chadema outfits.

On Sunday reports making rounds in the social media showed police vehicles inside the Church's compound claiming that they arrested Chadema followers who were allegedly praying for their party leader, Freeman Mbowe who was being held by the police in Dar es Salaam.

Addressing reporters yesterday, Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei said the reports were false and that those who posted the reports had ulterior motives.

RPC Matei said the police were conducting normal patrol in various areas but in regard to the Mwanjelwa church, no policemen went to arrest any worshipper, let alone Chadema followers.

He said following various acts of crime in church places in recent times, the police directed

all churches to have security committees which have been monitoring security inside and outside the churches.

"Those seen in the social media as arranging worshippers were not our personnel but were 'scouts' organised by the Church and those posting reports that the police had invaded church premises only wanted to create panic," said Matei.

He called upon the members of the public to continue cooperating with the police aimed at keeping the peace and report on any criminal activities so that the perpetrators are booked in time.

For his part, Mwanjelwa Church Assistant Padre, Leo Mnyema who had conducted prayers at the church said he did not witness any incident of any member of his congregation being arrested or bothered by anyone. However, he said according to the church's procedures anybody or group wanting to do anything in the church must apply to do so one day before the prayers.

"Our church does have special attire during prayers, hence it is hard to know party affiliation of worshippers," said Mnyema.

## Govt provides 10m/- assistance to fire disaster victims at JK sec school

By Guardian Correspondent, Muleba

Jakaya Kikwete Islamic secondary school in Muleba District, Kagera Region has received 10m/- assistance of various items following the fire that gutted down two dormitories for girls' students destroying their belongings and infrastructure.

After handing over 170 bags of cement, 43 mattresses, 87 bedsheets, 600 exercise books, school uniforms and suitcases Muleba District Commissioner, Toba Nguvula said the government reached the decision to enable students continue with their lessons. Nguvula called on the students

whose belongings were destroyed by the fire not to despair, instead they should study hard to enable them pass examinations and realise their life dreams, as the government was still seeking more assistance to them.

For his part, Muklena District secondary education officer, Jered

Muhile called on the students to be patient as the government was making efforts to control such disasters, adding that the fire can also cause deaths.

"We have already talked to teachers and have succeeded to calm them down psychologically as we know what the disaster had

caused to them and their students, and have pledged to continue working," said Muhile.

The school headmaster Yasin Mikidadi thanked the government for the assistance provided that aims to enable students continue with their lessons and appealed to students to remain calm during

the period when the school's management and the government were seeking more assistance for the,

Some students, including Husna Sulemen said they lost their personal belongings including clothing, books, the situation that could have some impact to their studies.





CHINA DASHENG BANK  
中華大盛銀行

# CHINA DASHENG BANK

## PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Regulation 7)

### Report of Condition of Bank Published Pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial Institutions (disclosures) Regulations, 2014

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021  
(Amounts in million shillings)

A. ASSETS	Current Quarter 30th June 2021	Previous Quarter 31st March 2021
1 Cash	432	203
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	736	1,967
3 Investments in Government securities	66,792	62,792
4 Balances with other banks and financial institutions	10,428	11,888
5 Cheques and items for clearing	0	0
6 Inter branch float items	0	0
7 Bills negotiated	0	0
8 Customers liabilities for acceptances	0	0
9 Interbank loans receivable	0	0
10 Investments in other Securities	0	0
11 Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	23,671	25,013
12 Other Assets	6,102	5,713
13 Equity Investments	0	0
14 Underwriting Accounts	0	0
15 Property and Equipment	2,785	2,996
<b>16 TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>110,945</b>	<b>110,873</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>		
17 Deposits from other banks and financial institutions	0	0
18 Customer deposits	974	2,680
19 Cash letters of Credit	0	0
20 Special Deposits	0	0
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	0	0
22 Bankers' cheques and drafts issued	0	0
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	566	361
24 Acceptances outstanding	0	0
25 Interbranch float items	0	0
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges	3,791	3,842
27 Other Liabilities	3,142	3,050
28 Borrowings	8,414	7,922
<b>29 TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>16,887</b>	<b>17,855</b>
<b>30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>94,058</b>	<b>92,718</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>		
31 Paid up Share Capital	89,040	89,040
32 Share premium	0	0
33 Retained Earnings	2,659	2,659
34 Profit (Loss) Account	2,360	1,019
35 Regulatory Reserve	0	0
36 Minority Interest	0	0
<b>37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>94,058</b>	<b>92,718</b>
38 Contingent Liabilities	3,436	3,600
39 Non performing Loans & Advances	0	24
40 Allowances for Probable Losses	48	74
41 Other non Performing Assets	0	0
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>		
(i) Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	85%	84%
(ii) Non performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	0%	0%
(iii) Gross Loans and Advances to Total Deposits	2435%	936%
(iv) Loans and Advances to Total Assets	21%	23%
(v) Earning Assets to Total Assets	91%	90%
(vi) Deposits Growth	-64%	-3%
(vii) Assets Growth	0%	-1%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2021  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 30th June 2021	Comparative Quarter 30th June 2020	Current Year Cumulative 30th June 2021	Comparative Year Cumulative 30th June 2020
1 Interest Income	3,449	3,067	6,737	5,917
2 Interest Expense	(123)	(172)	(260)	(326)
<b>3 Net Interest Income (1 + 2)</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>2,895</b>	<b>6,477</b>	<b>5,593</b>
4 Bad Debts Written-Off	0	0	0	0
5 Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances	(0)	11	5	(5)
<b>6 Non Interest Income:</b>				
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and translation Gain/(Loss)	0	29	9	67
6.2 Fees and Commissions	49	39	122	59
6.3 Dividend Income	0	0	0	0
6.4 Other Operating Income	0	0	0	0
<b>7 Non Interest Expenses:</b>				
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	(52)	(65)	(1,123)	(1,557)
7.2 Fees and Commission	(9)	0	0	0
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(939)	(997)	(2,119)	(2,032)
<b>8 Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>3,371</b>	<b>2,126</b>
9 Income Tax Provision	(575)	(389)	(1,011)	(638)
<b>10 Net Income/(Loss) After Income Tax</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>1,488</b>
11 Other Comprehensive Income (itemize)	0	0	0	0
<b>12 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>1,341</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>1,488</b>
13 Number of Employees	27	27	27	27
14 Basic Earnings per Share	34	23	59	37
15 Number of Branches	1	1	1	1
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>				
(i) Return on Average Total Assets	6.9%	4.8%	6.1%	3.9%
(ii) Return on Average Shareholder Funds	8.2%	5.8%	7.2%	4.8%
(iii) Net Interest Expenses to Gross Income	43.3%	56.7%	49.1%	62.7%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earnings Assets	1.7%	1.5%	3.2%	2.9%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2021  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Current Quarter 30th June 2021	Previous Quarter 31st March 2021	Current Year Cumulative 30th June 2021	Comparative Year Cumulative 30th June 2020
<b>I. Cash flow from operating activities</b>				
<b>(Amounts in million shillings)</b>				
<b>Operating Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>1,456</b>	<b>3,371</b>	<b>2,126</b>
Adjustments for:				
-Impairment/Amortization	896	439	1,334	821
-Net change in Loans and Advances	1,343	971	2,314	945
-Gain/loss on Sale of Assets	0	0	0	0
-Net change in Deposits	(1,706)	(71)	(1,777)	274
-Net change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	0	4,017	4,017	7,488
-Net change in Other Liabilities	737	(1,664)	(928)	829
-Net change in Other Assets	194	(1,193)	(999)	3,052
- Tax Paid	(315)	(315)	(630)	(7)
-Others (specify)	0	0	0	0
<b>Net cash provided (Used) by operating activities</b>	<b>3,064</b>	<b>3,641</b>	<b>6,705</b>	<b>15,527</b>
<b>II. Cash flow from investing activities:</b>				
Dividend Received	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Fixed Assets	(16)	(11)	(27)	(38)
Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	0	0	0	0
Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities	0	0	0	0
Others (specify) - Investments in Government bonds	(4,050)	(6,050)	(10,100)	(14,508)
<b>Net cash (Used in) /generated from investing activities</b>	<b>(4,067)</b>	<b>(6,061)</b>	<b>(10,127)</b>	<b>(14,546)</b>
<b>III. Cash flow from financing activities:</b>				
Repayment of Long-term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	0	0	0	0
Payment of Preference Dividends	0	0	0	0
Net Change in other Borrowings	0	0	0	0
Others (specify)	0	0	0	0
<b>Net Cash generated from Financing Activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents:</b>				
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(1,002)	(2,420)	(3,422)	981
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the Quarter	2,170	4,590	4,590	2,947
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the Year</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>1,168</b>	<b>3,028</b>

Guydon Chihwalo Rashid Ugulumu Zablou Stambuli  
Ag. Chief Executive Officer "Ag. Senior Finance Manager" Head of Internal Audit  
12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and, to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view

Name Date  
1. Ms. Poniwoa Mbisse (Director) 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
2. Jimmy Mrosso (Director) 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT JUNE 30, 2021  
(Amounts in million shillings)

	Share capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	Regulatory reserve	General provision Reserve	Others	Total
<b>Current Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	89,040	-	2,659	-	-	-	91,699
Profit for the year	-	-	2,360	-	-	-	2,360
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transaction with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the current period</b>	<b>89,040</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94,058</b>
<b>Previous Year</b>							
Balance as at the beginning of the year	89,040	-	(1,638)	-	-	-	87,402
Profit for the year	-	-	4,296	-	-	-	4,296
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transaction with owners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the previous period</b>	<b>89,040</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>91,699</b>

## CHINA DASHENG BANK MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF CHARGES AND FEES

ITEM/TRANSACTION	LCY Accounts	FCY Accounts
<b>Lending Rates</b>		
Base lending Rate	15%	7%
<b>Processing fees</b>		
Personal Loans	2.2% Flat	2.2% Flat
Overdrafts/Term Loans	1.65% Flat, Minimum Tshs. 100,000.00	1.65% Flat, Minimum USD 100.00
Asset Finance	2.2% Flat	2.2% Flat
Early Repayment	3.3% of Outstanding Balance	3.3% of Outstanding Balance
Valuation Fees	As per Valuation Report	As per Valuation Report
Unarranged Overdraft	Tshs. 110,000.00	Usd 110.00
Insurance Premium	As per Valuation Report	As per Valuation Report
<b>Deposits Rates</b>		
<b>Fixed Deposits</b>		
Required minimum opening balance	Tshs. 1,000,000.00	Usd 500.00
Fixed Deposits Rates	3%-10%	1.5%-4%
<b>Call Accounts</b>		
1. Any amount below Tshs. 500 million or USD 250,000.00	2%	1%
2. Any amount in excess of Tshs. 500 million or USD 500,000.00	3%	2%
Current Accounts	0%	0%
Savings Accounts	3%*	1%*
<b>Current Accounts</b>		
Required minimum opening balance		
Current-Personal	Tshs. 50,000.00	Usd 50.00
Current Account-Company (SME & Business)	Tshs. 100,000.00	Usd 100.00
Current Account-Community	Tshs. 100,000.00	Usd 100.00
<b>Monthly ledger fee</b>		
Current-Personal-Below Tshs. 100,000/= or 50	Tshs. 2,750	Usd 1.65
Current-Personal-Tshs. 100,000/= or USD 50.00 and above	FREE	FREE
Business Current-Below Tshs. 200,000/= \$100	Tshs. 3,300.00	Usd 2.200
Business Current-Tshs. 200,000/= or USD 100.00 and above	FREE	FREE
Current Account-Community	FREE	FREE
Statement (Ad-hoc)	1,100.00 per page	Usd 0.55 per page
E-Statement - Monthly	FREE	FREE
Closing account	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 11.00
<b>Cheques</b>		
New cheque book - Per Leaf	Tshs. 440.00	Usd 0.22
Unpaid Cheque - Outward	Tshs. 55,000.00	Usd 55.00
Unpaid Cheque - inward	Tshs. 22,000.00	Usd 22.00
Stop payment	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 5.50
<b>Savings Accounts</b>		
Required minimum opening balance		
Savings-Personal	Tshs. 20,000.00	Usd 20.00
Mtoto Savings	Tshs. 20,000.00	Usd 20.00
<b>Monthly ledger fee</b>		
Personal Savings Account		
Personal Saving-Below Tshs. 100,000/=	Tshs. 2,750	Usd 1.10
Personal Saving-Tshs. 100,000/= or USD 50.00 and above	FREE	FREE
Mtoto Savings Account	FREE: Withdrawals 4 Times a year. Additional withdrawals Tshs. 5,500.00 per withdrawal	FREE: Withdrawals 4 Times a year. Additional withdrawals Usd 2.20 per withdrawal
Closing account	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 5.50
Penalty for Operating below Minimum Balance	1.1% of the Minimum Balance	1.1% of the Minimum Balance

Fund Transfers			
EFT	Tshs. 3,300.00	N/A	
EFT Inward	Free	Free	
TESS Outward	Tsh 10,000.00	Usd 10	
TESS Inward	Free	Free	
Outgoing Foreign SWIFT Remittance (customer)	N/A	Usd 55.00	
<b>Guarantees</b>			
Issuance	2.2% per Quarter Min Tshs. 330,000.00	2.2% per Quarter Min Usd 220.00	
Amendments	Tshs. 220,000.00	Usd 165.00	
Extension	2.2% per Quarter Min Tshs. 220,000.00	2.2% per Quarter Min Usd 165.00	
Advising	Tshs. 110,000.00	Usd 55.00	
Cancellation	Free	Free	
Facility Processing Fee	2.2% Flat	2.2% Flat	
<b>Other Services</b>			
Salary processing fees per transaction	Tshs. 2,750.00	Usd 1.100	
Cash Deposit fees	Free: Bulk cash deposit small denominations (5 2,000) Notes above Tshs. 5 Million and coins above Tshs. 10,000.00 - 0.22%	2.2% of FCY below Usd 50 Notes, Otherwise FREE	
Cash withdrawal fees	Tshs. 1,650 for amounts up to Tshs. 25 million 0.11%, maximum Tshs. 110,000.00	Usd 2.20 for amounts up to 1,000; Above Usd 1,000 0.825% maximum Usd 330.	
Certificate of Balance	Tshs. 33,000.00	Usd 19.80	
Letter of Introduction	Tshs. 33,000.00	Usd 19.80	
Confirmation of Auditor List	Tshs. 55,000.00	Usd 27.50	
Balance Inquiry over the counter	FREE	FREE	
<b>Standing order fees</b>			
Inward Standing Orders	Free	Free	
Outward Standing orders to other banks	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 5.50	
Setup	FREE	FREE	
Amendment of Standing Order	Tshs. 4,400.00	Usd 2.20	
Unpaid Standing Order (penalty)	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 5.50	
Stop/Cancel Standing orders	Tshs. 11,000.00	Usd 5.50	
Overdrawn account interest charge	Base+12	Base+12	
<b>Other Charges</b>			
Inward Clearing	Tshs. 550.00	Usd 27.50	
Postage	Tshs. 1,650.00	Usd 11.00	
Registered Mail postage	Tshs. 5,500.00	Usd 2.20	
Retrieval of documents >than 1 month old	Tshs. 5,500.00	Usd 2.20	
Retrieval of documents > than 1 year	Tshs. 22,000.00	Usd 11.00	
<b>Uncleared Effects</b>			
Below Tshs. 150,000	Tshs. 4,400.00	Usd 2.20	
Above Tshs. 150,000	0%	0%	
Counter Cheque	Tshs. 5,500.00	Usd 3.30	
<b>Note:</b> The above charges are Value Added Tax (VAT) exclusive.			
Name	Designation	Signature	Date
Guydon Chihwalo	Ag. Chief Executive Officer		12 <sup>th</sup> , July 2021
Rashid Ugulumu	Ag. Senior Finance Manager		12 <sup>th</sup> , July 2021
Zablou Stambuli	Head of Internal Audit		12 <sup>th</sup> , July 2021



## Tanzanians called on to ensure social media are used meaningfully

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has implored on ethical use of social media platforms to ensure that cyber space remains safe and beneficial to all users.

Users of on-line content services have also been urged to observe proper use of services offered through online platforms to shape economic growth and avoid using the networks to violate the country's regulations, rules and ethics.

Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Pauline Gekul made the appeal during a visit to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) in Dar es Salaam yesterday saying proper use of social media will reduce cyber-crime offenses and optimize productivity.

During her working visit at TCRA, Gekul insisted that proper use of services offered by online networks will enable the achievement of development goals for individual users, government and increase productivity for the country's economic growth.

The Deputy Minister commended TCRA for a job well done in controlling the use of internet and ensuring the cyber space and content broadcasted by mainstream media remains safe for consumption.

She called on broadcasters to ensure they broadcast contents that are based on national values instead of those that undermine social values.

"We are working closely with TCRA to ensure that contents aired by the media are accurate and conform to the values of our nation. May I call upon the public to use social media in a constructive manner that isn't destructive to Tanzanian norms," she stressed.

Gekul received a presentation on TCRA duties and responsibilities and held a meeting with the

management on various issues that fell in her docket. She was also briefed on how the authority manages online and broadcast content together with postal, courier services and other services under the regulator.

Referring to the content committee which works in tandem with TCRA, the deputy minister noted that members of the committee will be appointed soon after expiry of work tenure of members who have been serving in the committee that has been authorized by law to oversee broadcasting content.

TCRA Director General, Dr Jabiri Bakari said the cyber space has multiple opportunities to users, with plenty development prospects in particular for the youths and called upon internet network users to harness the available cyber space opportunities for their economic development benefits instead of using the platform to violate the country laws.

"Proper and ethical use of the cyber space, on-line content services, has great opportunities including creation of jobs and rewarding business prospects, cautioning users not to upload, or circulate prohibited contents that are a setback," he stressed.

The deputy minister also visited the communication museum center, customer information center and the content monitoring facility office.



**May I call upon the public to use social media in a constructive manner that isn't destructive to Tanzanian norms**



Nida Textiles Mills general manager Imran Lohya (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday explaining to Selemani Jafo (next to him), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), how the factory treats affluent before it is released into the nearby River Ng'ombe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Gideon Mwakansoya,

Namtumbo

NAMTUMBO District Council in Ruvuma region has registered new Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) beneficiaries from 34 villages in the district for the Fund's Round Three, Phase Two for the period of February-April this year.

Addressing reporters here at the weekend in his office, Namtumbo District TASAF Coordinator Nyasinti Mbiro said for the period of February to June this year the district registered new beneficiaries

## Tasaf reports having new beneficiaries from 34 villages in Namtumbo District

from 34 villages.

Mbiro said that during the period 7,376 households were identified as very poor but 170 of them were not registered due to non-attendance during the registration exercise, hence they were struck off the register.

He said during the period the disbursed subsidy to 5,228 households in 42 earlier villages

qualified in the government's TASAF programme.

A total of 399.8m/- was received by Namtumbo district council out of which 200.2m/- was paid in January and February 2021 and 199.53m/- was paid in March and April this year.

Solomon Hyera, TASAF registration officer for the fund's Round Three Phase Two said

registration of poor households was being done via public meetings in villages by enlisting all households in the relative villages after which the registration officer visits every household to ascertain whether they were really poor.

TASAF registration exercise in Namtumbo district went well apart from the current challenge of payment delays after registration.



Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo addresses residents of Paris village in Zanzibar's Central District South Unguja yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

## Hawkers blame Covid for fall in number of customers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

SMALL traders and hawkers in Morogoro Municipality have said they face hardships while conducting business while others were being overburdened by loans they took because customers for their goods have diminished since the eruption of Covid-19 pandemic Phase Three.

Speaking at different times, the traders, including secondhand clothing seller Mustapha Chande said their businesses pick up during dry seasons stating June onwards but this year it has been different

and blame the pandemic.

Chande said he has been forced to conduct business without any meaningful profits because hence it has been difficult for him to repay loans he acquired from financial institutions.

Another hawker, selling coconut water, Juma Mpili said his business has become difficult because in the past he used to sell between 50 and 60 coconuts but now he only sells 15 to 25.

Food vendors, and vegetable hawkers, both men and women in the municipality said they face with hardships conducting business due

to the pandemic.

Yasinta Salumu, a food vendor at Chief Kingalu main market said he faces difficulties selling food as now he cooks five kilos of rice per day and still cannot sell all of it while in the past he used to cook up to 10 kilos and sold all of it.

Speaking on difficulties facing hawkers, the chairman of their association Faustine Francis urged the hawkers to abide by guidelines given from time to time to avoid unnecessary congestions aside from diminishing customers in many markets in the municipality.

For his part, Project

Coordinator from Tanganyika Christian Refugees Services (TCRS) in Morogoro Region, Rehema Samuel urged traders to increase efforts in their businesses and reminded them to make savings that they can use when the business is bad.

She said TCRS will continue to provide them with education on conducting business to enable them engage in profitable business and to withstand challenges to their businesses including drought and floods that cause eruption of infectious diseases that become obstacles to them.

## Tanzania for biological control unit meant to help in the war on effect of aflatoxins on crops

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE Tanzania Initiatives for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) is constructing a modern National Biological Control Unit (NBCU) at Kibaha district in Coast region.

Upon its completion, the 3.8bn/- worth facility, now at the good pace of construction is expected to play a decisive role in enabling the country to fuel a battle against effects of aflatoxins in crops.

Tanzania is a leading producer of maize and groundnuts in East African regions, accounting for two per cent of the world production, but the county's export rate of the two crops remain poor due to effects of aflatoxins.

The crops are highly susceptible to fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination which effects the health of consumers.

Aflatoxin is a known carcinogens and the leading cause of liver disease and liver cancer in Tanzania hence reduces the country's export earning potential.

In an interview to The Guardian yesterday, National Coordinator for TANIPAC, Clepin Josephat detailed that the facility will help to regulate production of aflasafe.

"The center, among others will involve a state-of-the-art research centre as well as a special laboratory ( a labatorial caranteen room) for undertaking aflasafe measurement," he explained.

Giving further details, he stated that the ministry of agriculture has contracted the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) to produce aflasafe (the key fungus in suppression aflatoxins).

He observed, IITA has licensed

the Arusha-based A to Z company to develop the fungus.

"Therefore, the Kibaha's centre will assist the government to make a professional regulation of the aflasafe," he noted.

Clepin said the aflasafe are marketed to the farmers at a reasonable price of at least 4000/- per kg, adding that one hectare was consuming about 4kg.

In similar move against effects of aflatoxins to crops, TANIPAC is also constructing the Central Agricultural Reference Laboratory in Dodoma.

The 12bn/- worth laboratory to be installed in the Ihumwa area at the fringe of the Dodoma Capital City will comprise 12 different laboratories.

The major laboratories will be majoring for professional undertaking of soil testing, analysis of varied agricultural inputs, pesticides, crop's diseases, DNA profiling, seed quality, molecular, mycotoxin and many other agro-production processes and stages with an eye to curb any possibility of contamination of aflatoxins in the country's agricultural production.

In an effort to fight against fungal infestation and aflatoxin contamination the ministry of Agriculture penned down three deals and two MoUs with different companies for the execution of the Tanzania Initiative for Preventing Aflatoxin Contamination (TANIPAC) project, worth US Dollars 35.3 million (about 81bn/-).

The major objective of (TANIPAC) project which is implemented by the government in collaboration with Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP) is to minimize aflatoxin occurrence in the food system through an integrated approach in the maize and groundnuts value chains.





Workers Compensation Fund director general Dr John Mduma (C) flanked by director of operations Anselim Peter (R) and director of assessment services Dr Abdulsalaam Omar at a press conference held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Among other issues, he announced that private sector employers will deduct 0.6 per cent from their employees' salaries in monthly contributions to the Fund with effect from this month - down from the previous 1 per cent. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Ten overseas universities looking for joint ventures with local 'counterparts'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TEN representatives of overseas universities are in the country to look for joint ventures with Tanzania universities on the provision of education in different professions.

Eight representatives are from Indian universities while two are from Ukraine. They are in the country under the umbrella of Global Education Link (GEL) whereas they are also attending the one-week universities exhibitions organized by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU).

The five days exhibition which started yesterday involving different universities, higher learning institutions and financial institutions is held at the Mnazi Mmoja grounds in Dar es Salaam.

GEL Director, Abdulmalik Mollel mentioned the foreign universities as Chandigarh, Lovely Professional University (LPU), CT, Maharish Makandeshwar, Pandee

Deendayal Energy, Sharda, Rayat Bahra as well as VN Karazan and Sum State from Ukraine.

Mollel said some overseas universities have pledged to open campuses in Tanzania and sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate with local universities.

"We can have our students studying two years in Tanzania and finish their courses in India, Ukraine or anywhere around the globe. Students from other countries can complete their studies in Tanzania," he said, calling upon local universities to grab the opportunities.

Representative of Maharish Makandeshwar university of India, Rashmi Garg told this paper that in a period of two decades, the university has grown into one of the most reputed education institutions in the country which takes pride with its state of the art infrastructures as well as experts faculty.

He said they have widened the horizons of growth and success for thousands of youth and equipped them with a culture of excellence, inclusiveness and social services.

Sharda University representative, Mudasir Naik said that Sharda Group of Institutions were the first in the self-financing sector in north India to receive accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for internationally competitive teaching-learning processes and infrastructure facilities.

Representative from CT University of India, Sourabh Chaudhary said his university with a well-established system and facilities for research and developments are generally receiving community recognition.

He said CT University has stepped to strengthen research activities of different disciplines through setting up a research division called research innovation center for excellence (RICE).

## Operation Makakala 2021 to help control illegal issuance of resident, work permits

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

SENIOR immigration and labour officers from public and private institutions have been trained on various issues related to immigration services, as part of efforts to control illegal issuance of resident and work permits.

The migration management training - 'Operation Makakala 2021' was conducted by the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) in Moshi, Kilimanjaro Region.

Opening the training yesterday, Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Dr Stephen Kigaigai said the training would enhance the official's skills and knowledge in dealing with immigration issues.

"We wanted the immigration and labour officers to interact and share

experience on implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol provisions on free movement of persons and labour and to improve their understanding on the operationalization of EAC One Stop Borders Posts Act, 2016 and enhance their knowledge of EAC peace and security initiatives in combating transnational crimes," he explained.

The training also sought to enhance the officers' appreciation of the role of border management agencies in facilitating the growth of the private sector and investment promotion in addition to acquiring knowledge on detecting fraud in travel documents, and security of documents and investigations.

"The training is vital because currently there are increased incidences of human trafficking,

illegal immigration, as well as migration scams. The skills would enable the officers to enhance the country's security in collaboration with security organs," the RC said.

Acting Commandant for TRITA, Ignatious Mgana said the institute had since 2019 trained a total of 255 high rank officials from both public and private institutions.

Mgana further added that, during the last training dubbed: 'Operation Kazi Iendelee' participants were taught how to manage migration matters, documentation and fraud detection.

Father Martin Mandi from the Catholic Diocese in Mbulu, Manyara Region said: "We receive many foreigners at our offices including missionaries from different nations; the skills are vital in avoiding immigration scams."



World Health Organization

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT - TO ASSIST TANZANIA WITH PREPARATIONS FOR nOPV2 READINESS AND ENSURE STRENGTHENING OF SURVEILLANCE POST INTRODUCTION OF nOPV2

##### Background:

Tanzania was certified as Polio-Free country by ARCC in November 2015 with the last Polio cases traced back to July 1996. The country has achieved and maintained standard AFP surveillance performance indicators and ensured key performance indicators. Surveillance performance varies slightly between regions (1st administrative level) but varies significantly among councils (2nd Administrative level).

Despite the remarkable achievement, there are councils with persistently low performance during 2019-2020. These Councils with low sensitivity for surveillance, poses a risk for undetected transmission in the community. Lack of proper succession plan, high turnover of experienced health care workers on surveillance due to retirement and transfer creating a knowledge gap on AFP surveillance.

WHO SAGE endorsed the use of nOPV2 Under the Emergency Use Listing, authorized for cVDPV2 outbreak response only (like mOPV2) and countries urged to consider for preparing for use of nOPV2 under EUL to stop transmissions of cVDPV. Guidance for deployment has been provided through updated GPEI Standard Operating Procedures. Since Tanzania is surrounded with countries experiencing outbreaks of cVDPV2, the need to intensify routine immunization and AFP surveillance is of paramount importance.

Consequently, this ToR is put together for the consultant to support intensification of surveillance and preparations for imminent use of nOPV2 in case of imported case.

##### 1. Purpose of the Position

Consultants with vast experience in country support to assist countries at risk of cVDPV2 seeding from mOPV2 use in neighboring countries and to assist with preparations for nOPV2 readiness. The consultants with experience in environmental surveillance, strengthening AFP surveillance and conducting of mOPV2, IPV, fractional dose IPV, bOPV and integrated campaigns. To ensure strengthening of surveillance post introduction of nOPV2 (critical for licensing the vaccine).

The consultant will assist with improving quality of immunization campaigns and surveillance for poliovirus for eradication of poliomyelitis due to wild or vaccine related poliovirus in case it happens in Tanzania and to more rapidly detect and interrupt any new outbreaks due to wild or vaccine-derived polioviruses.

##### 2. Objectives of the Programme and of the immediate Strategic Objective

To eradicate poliomyelitis due to wild or vaccine related poliovirus. Complete the interruption of wild poliovirus transmission globally, and more rapidly detect and interrupt any new outbreaks due to wild or vaccine-derived polioviruses.

##### 3. Organizational context

Under the direct supervision of the WHO Polio Team Leader, the incumbent will perform the required duties within the framework of WHO program and policy documents.

##### Summary of Assigned Duties

1. Provide technical guidance for coordination and planning of Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIA) planning in endemic and outbreak-affected countries as well as SIA activities to reduce vulnerability in countries at high risk of outbreaks.
2. Provide effective response to any importation of wild poliovirus or outbreak of circulating vaccine derived poliovirus in previously polio-free areas through planning, implementation, and coordination with GPEI partners for response to outbreaks in accordance with global guidelines.
3. Monitor progress and identify risks in regions and districts assigned.
4. Promote activities to enhance Acute Flaccid

Paralysis (AFP) surveillance, including rapid surveillance assessments, development of action plans to improve surveillance, evaluation of the impact of these plans, and training/orientation of national and sub-national staff.

5. Identify training needs, evaluate and document outbreak response activities to ensure that all lessons learned are effectively incorporated into current best practices.
6. Develop and manage approaches in assigned countries that can achieve polio eradication while contributing to strengthening routine immunization systems.
7. To ensure strengthening of surveillance post introduction of nOPV2.
8. Assist with preparations for nOPV2 readiness.
9. Submit monthly report.
10. Perform other duties, as may be requested by supervisor.

##### Major output from consultant:

- Produce a summary report with all surveillance indicators monthly and provide feedback to regions and districts.
- Produce mission reports after each field surveillance visit and submit to IVD Team leader.
- Provide a list of surveillance priority sites and matrix for supportive supervision.
- Produce report of regional review meetings and comprehensive report of performance quarterly to IVD Team leader.
- Produce report of status of preparations for nOPV2 use/introduction.

##### Consultancy Requirements:

##### Education:

The consultant should normally have the following qualifications:

- Advanced degree in Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Services Management or related field.

##### Experience:

- At least 5 years working in health sector in Tanzania.
- Good understanding of the Tanzania health system;
- Good understanding of immunization services ;
- Experience in working as National STOP Polio team
- Considerable experience in Vaccine preventable diseases surveillance especially AFP and measles casebased surveillance.
- Experience in working with multiple health sector stakeholders;
- Excellent writing and presentation skills;
- Indepeth understanding of the Expanded Program on Immunisation is a distinct advantage;
- Demonstrated ability to motivate people of diverse background to resolving problems while promoting effective team work.

##### Duration of Support:

The duration of work for a consultant will be 4-5 months from signing of contract with monthly report submitted to IVD Team leader.

##### Fees and payment schedule:

The consultant will be paid as per NOC scale per month and allowances for travel will be provided including transport.

##### 1. HOW TO APPLY

Interested individual should send cover letter and comprehensive resume outlining similar work/assignments to the following link:  
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobdetail.ftl?job=2103480&tz=GMT%2B03%3A00&tzname=Africa%2FNairobi>, by 13th August 2021, 13:00pm.

## Over 2000 farmers in three regions drilled on agriculture and livestock keeping skills

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 2000 farmers in Morogoro, Iringa and Njombe Regions have benefited from technical training on agriculture and livestock keeping provided under a special project aimed to equip them with skills and tools to increase farming productivity and income.

Dubbed 'Building Skills for Job Programme-Tajirika na Kilimo', the three-year project is implemented by the Vocational Educational Training Authority (VETA), Care International and Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and reached a total of 1,294 women and 882 men.

Speaking during the evaluation meeting held in Dodoma during the weekend, project coordinator Percy Ugula said that the farmers have been well equipped on smart livestock keeping including dairy and poultry farming, veggies and fruits growing.

According to Ugula, other achievements in the project include the preparation of two curricula for the agricultural sector, namely the Vegetable and Fruit Agricultural Curriculum, the Crop Agricultural Curriculum and the improvement of the Health and Livestock Curriculum.

"In implementation of the project which is expected to be completed in December this year, farmers were being trained on modern farming and livestock keeping, which has enabled them to change their mindsets and thus benefiting heavily from the activities," Ugula said.

Edwin Sallu, Care International monitoring and evaluation Officer said through the implementation of the project, it has been found that there is a great need to increase skills training so as to improve agricultural activities for smallholder farmers in rural areas.

He asked VETA to expand more training scope through visiting needy people in their areas and thus capacitate more small scale farmers with essential skills.

Sallu said the project has enabled formation of 141 production groups in the mixed, vegetable and fruit farming and commercial farming sectors, where they are currently conducting agriculture together thus increasing productivity, quality and market access.

"We have actually witnessed great benefits of the training provided through this project to rural farmers, especially considering that 67 percent of the beneficiaries are women and girls whom we believe

will bring positive change to their communities," he said.

In November 2018, VETA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Care International and SAGCOT for the implementation of a project geared towards development of skills in the agricultural field, particularly to the marginalised groups of people in Iringa, Njombe and Morogoro regions.

Speaking during the signing of the agreement, VETA director general Dr Pancras Bujulu said that the collaboration is aimed at strengthening the quality of vocational training and enterprise development opportunities that address agriculture needs for Tanzania's rural communities.

"We have recognised the need for vocational skills development in the agricultural sector as many youth have been participating in agricultural activities without proper skills, thus inefficiency farming and low productivity," he said.

He said the authority is currently putting strategies and making different initiatives to enhance training delivery in agriculture therefore the collaboration with the two partners is part of the efforts being made.



## Horticultural sector freeze: Were any answers given?

A KIND of stock taking was lately being made on the spot, which is a bit startling as to its timing, namely a horticultural sub-sector stakeholders' forum, either for Arusha Region alone or indeed meant to be a countrywide stock taking moment. But undeniably Arusha is the overall base of that industry, or at least what used to be the budding horticultural subsector up to mid-2017. The meeting made substantial observations on the shortcomings and severe policy drawbacks in that regard but it is unclear what the stakeholders thought was the way forward, as the idea of an enabling environment often needs precisions.

It wasn't in that sense surprising that emphasis was laid on what the country has been losing since the industry was by and large closed down in 2017, and at the same time stakeholders took account of the situation, but didn't seem to be in a rush to explain it. Leading officials said around 56bn/- was being lost in potential earnings had the business continued, but it wasn't clear why the subsector nearly all of it shut down. It is possible the matter was touched upon by meeting insiders in their conversations, but the public discussion wasn't focused in that direction, as definitely media reports would have caught wind of it. Just.

Dr Jacqueline Mkindi, executive director for the Tanzania Horticultural Association (TAHA), the apex private sector institution that oversees horticultural activities countrywide, made this observation in a statement drawn up for industry stakeholders' meeting late last week. She said that about 14 horticultural entities folded up business in the region, with nine establishments that were producing fresh cut flowers and five firms growing vegetables,

with packaging and exporting. She cited the example of Kiliflora, then employing over 1500 people, that it closed down operations and sent many people home without sources of earnings, underlining why it is high time the government works with the firms to restore the lost glory.

As it is often the case in current appraisals of policy needs or drawbacks of the recent past outcomes in various spheres, there is a broad view being shared across the board that the fifth phase government wasn't keen to work with the private sector. Yet when it comes to this specific sphere, it needs to be realized that horticulture collapsed as it has superficial capitalization and depended on ready money - what can be called leveraging - to obtain loans, complete growing, packaging and exporting - and repay the cash. The trouble is that banks were not using deep investment deposits but safe money deposited by parastatal organizations, and from which they earned fat dividends and disbursed them as they pleased.

When the fifth phase moved to close these unwarranted sources of earnings for board members and top executives of public organizations with term or fixed deposits in commercial banks, the lenders narrowed their lending field to merchants, who often have also fat deposits with the banks. Those who depended on cheap surplus credits because they have a sure market in Europe or elsewhere but have no deposits to show they are creditworthy fell by the wayside, and since the government's attention was to curb illegal earnings and draining of public funds, this 'collateral damage' was ignored. That is where we are now. TAHA has to talk to donors for term deposits in commercial banks, used for periodic leveraging capital.

## World Hepatitis Day: WHO urges countries to invest in elimination

HEPATITIS is inflammation of the liver tissue. Some people with hepatitis have no symptoms, whereas others develop yellow discoloration of the skin and whites of the eyes (jaundice), poor appetite, vomiting, tiredness, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea. Hepatitis is acute if it resolves within six months, and chronic if it lasts longer than six months. Acute hepatitis can resolve on its own, progress to chronic hepatitis, or (rarely) result in acute liver failure. Chronic hepatitis may progress to scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), liver failure, and liver cancer.

Hepatitis is most commonly caused by the viruses hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E. Other causes include heavy alcohol use, certain medications, toxins, other infections, autoimmune diseases, and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH). Hepatitis A and E are mainly spread by contaminated food and water.

Hepatitis B is mainly sexually transmitted, but may also be passed from mother to baby during pregnancy or childbirth and spread through infected blood. Hepatitis C is commonly spread through infected blood such as may occur during needle sharing by intravenous drug users. Hepatitis D can only infect people already infected with hepatitis B.

Worldwide in 2015, hepatitis A occurred in about 114 million people, chronic hepatitis B affected about 343 million people and chronic hepatitis C about 142 million people. In the United States, NASH affects about 11 million people and alcoholic hepatitis affects about 5 million people. Hepatitis results in more than a million deaths a year, most of which occur indirectly from liver scarring or liver cancer.

World Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis - a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E - and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Hepatitis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.34 million people every year. Hepatitis causes liver diseases and can also kill a person. In some countries hepatitis B is commonest cause of cirrhosis and may also cause liver cancer (HCC).

World Hepatitis Day is one of 11 official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Chagas Disease Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Malaria Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Patient Safety Day, World Antimicrobial Awareness Week and World AIDS Day.

Hepatitis groups, patients and advocates worldwide take part in events on 28 July. Notably in 2012, a Guinness World Record was created when 12,588 people from 20 countries did the Three Wise Monkeys actions on World Hepatitis Day to signify the willful ignorance of the disease. [citation needed]

The inaugural International Hepatitis C Awareness day, coordinated by various European and Middle Eastern Patient Groups and Baby Muriel, took place on October 1, 2004.[3] However, many patient groups continued to mark 'hepatitis day' on disparate dates.[4] For this reason in 2008, the World Hepatitis Alliance in collaboration with patient groups declared May 19 the first global World Hepatitis Day.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

### Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Special Correspondent

ANY person or organization accusing Morocco must provide evidence, or assume their slanderous denunciation in court, said on Thursday Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita in connection with the persistent media campaign on an alleged infiltration of the phones of several national and foreign public figures through a spyware.

"Justice is there precisely to verify the accusations in the light of material and tangible evidence. Some people have chosen this path. They will put forward the evidence that they have, or do not have," said the minister in an interview with the pan-African magazine Jeune Afrique.

Morocco has also chosen to trust justice, at home and internationally, added Bourita, who denounced a "smokescreen", and a "fabricated bluff (...) without any proof", calling for "shedding light on the facts, far from controversy and slander."

However, "this is what neither Forbidden Stories nor Amnesty International do. They base their stories solely on pure speculation", Bourita said, noting that certain papers that are under the banner of Forbidden Stories "serve agendas that are well known for their primary hostility towards Morocco" and are ulcerated by the Kingdom's successes under the leadership of King Mohammed VI.

This is mere hostility. This is not journalism. It is large-scale sabotage, he said.

Asked whether Morocco maintains its position already asserted in 2019, according to which the Kingdom has not acquired the Pegasus software, the minister said: "we maintain it and

By Michael le Cordeur

OFTEN the focus in our schools is so much on exams that few opportunities are created for learners of different sexual orientations and cultural backgrounds to cultivate an appreciation for each other's differences. Why are schools, for instance, allowed to close on Ascension Day, while the same allowance is not made for special days observed by Muslim learners?

A school principal phoned me one Friday when I was still circuit manager. He was very upset and wanted to know what he should do about a boy who refused to write a test after school. On hearing the name of the child, I informed the principal that the boy was Muslim, and that, like all Muslim men, he had to go to mosque on Friday afternoons.

I also remember the day the matrics had to write the maths paper on Eid. Imagine if, as a Christian, your child had to write mathematics

## Pegasus case: Any person or organisation accusing Morocco must provide evidence

we assume it with all responsibility".

Morocco challenges all those who disseminate these allegations, including Amnesty International and the Forbidden Stories consortium, as well as their supporters and intermediaries, to provide any tangible and material evidence in support of their stories, the top diplomat said, noting that "some in this cartel of media and NGOs do not bear the reality of Morocco which succeeds, strengthens itself and consolidates its sovereignty at all levels".

They "think they can get Morocco under control. Much to their dismay, this is not possible and never will be. The national community will face, united as it has always been, these insidious attacks," he insisted.

With all due respect to these same parties, the minister went on, Morocco has succeeded in establishing itself as a "reliable" ally to its partners, thanks to the globally recognized effectiveness of its security services, mainly in the international fight against terrorism, which made it possible to thwart the plots fomented against the national stability of the Kingdom, and to foil terrorist attacks in particular in the United States, as well as in several countries of Europe, Asia and Africa.

According to Bourita, the timing of this campaign "is certainly not trivial", recalling that in recent years, Morocco "noted peaks of media hostility in some countries, ahead of the celebration by the Moroccan people of the Throne Day".

"This year again is no exception. This highly symbolic timing for

## Diversity is the backbone of South Africa's Constitution: It must be cultivated in schools

on Christmas Day! Although the problem was addressed thereafter, the question remains: How could a school principal and an education department make such an error in these times? The answer is simple: diversity is prominent in our Constitution, schools' and universities' codes of conduct, and the mission statements of companies and organisations. But we don't live it. We neither model it to our children, nor do we teach this in our schools - although it is required.

Let us consider the policy document. In the Caps (Curriculum Assessment and Policy Statement) the following aspects are mentioned as some of the principles on which our education system is based: social transformation and justice, appreciation for indigenous knowledge systems and sensitivity to diversity issues such as gender, religion and disabilities.

Morocco and Moroccans has always been knowingly chosen by hostile circles, known to the Kingdom, which strive to damage the image of Morocco and its institutions, sometimes by publishing books or articles and interviews, and sometimes through the dissemination of pernicious reports", he noted.

Bourita denounced a "relentless focus" on Morocco in particular; a "considerable mobilized media strike force", including in the public service of a particular country; the seasonality of the campaign; the thinly veiled desire to affect confidence in the Moroccan state, both domestically and abroad; and the choice of a highly symbolic date for Morocco and Moroccans.

"Is this a campaign? Yes! Is it denigration? Certainly! Is it orchestrated? It could not be otherwise! By whom? Time will tell," he said.

"Morocco will continue its march, serenely, solidly, to consolidate its economic development, its social development and its regional and international influence", noted the minister, noting that "the true" friends of Morocco support it, because it is in their interest as well. The others disappoint and will themselves be disappointed. They underestimate the determination of Morocco, which is no longer what they think it is.

Morocco today is an "influential and key" regional actor, whose voice is heard within major international and continental institutions such as the UN and the AU, Bourita said, adding that the Morocco of today is

a "provider of peace and security" in its regional environment and "a reliable security partner" with several countries in the international fight against terrorism, which it has helped to thwart terrorist attacks, in particular in the United States, in several countries of Europe, Asia and Africa.

"Who has an interest in ostracizing Morocco? Who has an interest in preventing it from playing this constructive role internationally? These are, for me, the real questions to be asked," insisted the minister.

Bourita recalled that on July 19, the Biden Administration through the Department of State reiterated that under the leadership of the King, Morocco and the United States have a strong and long-standing relationship on counterterrorism cooperation, welcoming that the two nations are working closely together for the protection of the two countries, adding that Morocco is a reliable partner, provider of security and stability in its regional environment and its circle of partnerships.

The Kingdom is a leading player in the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the global coalition against Daesh, said the minister, stressing that Morocco "has helped save lives, foil plans for attacks and to bring many terrorists and criminals to justice."

"With the satisfaction of an accomplished duty and the recognition of friends and partners, we therefore can gladly do without the recognition of Amnesty International and Forbidden Stories," he said.

Nevertheless, conflict has occurred in schools countrywide, mostly due to a lack of sensitivity to the abovementioned diversity issues. At a Cape Town school, learners protested to create awareness for the LGBTIQ+ community. A school in Witbank had to close its doors after parents came to blows over alleged racism. And at two private schools, one in the Cape and one in Johannesburg, the governing body had to apologise to learners because the school had not done enough to acknowledge the diversity of its learners. One placard especially caught my eye: "Teachers, please learn to pronounce my name." This is an appeal from a child in search of acknowledgement.

Some schools emphasise academic achievement to such an extent that they forget that learners have unique needs. Sometimes learners feel like strangers in their own

school. Often the focus is so much on exams that few opportunities are created for learners of different sexual orientations and cultural backgrounds to cultivate an appreciation of each other's differences. Why are schools, for instance, allowed to close on Ascension Day, while the same allowance is not made for special days observed by Muslim learners?

Tuition of a relevant curriculum and preparation for exams is important. No one denies that. That is why Caps also emphasises active critical learning, skills, knowledge, progression and quality tuition. This must, however, never occur at the cost of learners' human dignity. Governing bodies must initiate change, instead of waiting for the government to enforce new measures, as the Gauteng MEC for education Panyaza Lesufi has warned already.



SPECIAL INTERVIEW - III

What if 'anti-vaxxers' are proved right?

**J**AN Jekielek, executive producer, senior editor and host of New York's Epoch Times' American Thought Leaders Programme on NTDTV Television, interviews mRNA vaccine pioneer/inventor Dr Robert Malone on what would happen to the vaccine enterprise - meaning paediatric vaccines, the fundamental bedrocks of public health - if criticisms by those labelled anti-vaxxers were validated.

[Narration: After Dr Malone's LinkedIn account was restricted, he submitted an appeal and received a response saying several of his posts about vaccine safety had violated LinkedIn's policies: "Sharing content that contains misleading or inaccurate information." His account has since been reinstated. But given the censorship, he says he'll be migrating most of his discussions to Twitter and to his personal blog.]

**JAN JEKIELEK: Robert, on top of everything else, you're actually a trained bioethicist. You've already started addressing some of the ethical questions and conundrums around what's happening or what you see happening. Give me the scope of this as we start finishing up.**

**DR ROBERT MALONE:** Thank you for that, and for that lead-in. I personally think this is one of the most important topics, the bioethics of the use of an experimental medicine and experimental vaccine.

The genesis of this whole thought thread was a two-hour conversation with a Canadian physician a number of weeks ago, where he just poured his heart out about what he was seeing with his patients and what was going on in Canada. I was left saying: "Well, thanks for sharing this, but I can't help you. I don't have anything."

I woke up that Sunday morning with an aha moment. I said: "I know what I can do for this guy. I can write a piece about bioethics, the bioethics of vaccination under emergency use authorisation." [aha moment: a moment of sudden realisation, inspiration, insight, recognition, or comprehension. For instance, the moment you experience when you've been trying to remember the name of a song and three hours later it hits you ... So, I dug into the rich literature that exists, as well as federal law that goes back to The Helsinki Accords, and The Belmont report, and looked at the fundamental principles of bioethics as they relate to use of an experimental product. So point number one, just to summarise, you can find it in The Code of Federal Regulations. It's referred to as the Common Rule. So this is actually Federal Law. It's not just words that academicians agree to. The first thing is that an emergency-use authorisation product, which is what all these vaccines are, as well as many of the drugs, is an experimental product. It's not yet licensed. So that's point number one. They're all experimental products.

Point number two; if you're going to be administering experimental products to patients, that falls under clinical research, and medical research. And so you have to follow the guidance for medical research. As I've mentioned, the Common Rules codified in the Code of Federal Regulations. The first clause, importantly, in the Common Rule, is that there has to be complete disclosure of risk. Intuitively, what that means is that when you buy a bottle of aspirin, you pull out this little piece of paper. You look at that, and you go: "Holy Moly, this aspirin is going to kill me." If you read all the way through, it says it could cause heart attacks or gastric erosions. You look at that and you say: "Oh, I don't know if I want to take that aspirin."

But the truth is that the ones that are common are up at the top. We all take aspirin or Tylenol or some version of that. That's the level of disclosure of adverse event risk that must be provided to patients participating in clinical research. That level of information, as we've just been discussing, is censored. It's not available. So we are not meeting the criteria for full disclosure of risk.

Second key principle is that that full disclosure has to be comprehensible and comprehended. Earlier on, I referred to Thrombocytopenia, and you said: "What the heck was that?" And I said: "Low platelets." That's a great example. The first one was scientific jargon that was incomprehensible to you. So these risks have to be conveyed using language that people can comprehend.

Third key principle is that you cannot coerce. You cannot entice. The patients or the subjects have to freely accept the



experimental medicine of their own volition. All this messaging about: "You must take the vaccine. You must take the vaccine because otherwise Aunt Mary could get infected..." All of this messaging that the vaccine is safe, and all the peer pressure that's happening around the vaccine is coercion.

Now, it gets even more florid with other nations. I don't think we've done it here in the US, but Canada has. "We are going to give out ice cream cones to get the children to come and take the jab." That's been done. That's coercion and enticement. Then there's the last little codicil in all this. [A codicil is a testamentary/supplementary document similar but not necessarily identical to a will. In some jurisdictions, it may serve to amend, rather than replace, a previously executed will. In others, it may serve as an alternative to a will.] We call it the age of consent. So we here in the US generally agree that the age of consent is 18. If you are at or below the age of consent, you need to have approval or consent from your parent or guardian to take an experimental medicine. They act as your agent because you're not able to provide consent by definition.

We cannot, by law, have infants, children and adolescents receiving experimental products without authorisation of their parents or guardians.

Now, listening to this, one might say: "Well, we have this special case of an epidemic, and we all have to get the vaccine." Why do we all have to get the vaccine? What's the logic behind that? What we're told is: "We all have to get vaccinated so we will reach herd immunity." That's the logic.

The problem is that this is a fallacy. We have not even gathered the data to be able to calculate in these clinical trials what would give us herd immunity. What would herd immunity mean? It would mean that we have what's called sterilising immunity, or in some way, if we get infected, that we don't spread it to somebody else. That means that we're not producing virus and shedding virus.

The World Health Organisation has made an announcement clearly and unequivocally that we've got to start using masks because none of these vaccines is preventing infection. They're preventing disease. They're not preventing transmission. They may be reducing transmission, but we don't know by how much. So we can't calculate what per cent uptake is required to reach herd immunity, and if we could reach herd immunity with these vaccines.

There's an underlying logic that's been pushed out globally about why we have to take vaccine and how many of us have to take vaccine. It's not actually supported by data. To my mind, that's a problem. It's gone all the way through this outbreak where key public health officials have felt comfortable substituting their opinion for evidence-based medicine. That always has to happen at the start of an outbreak because there are no data. Somebody's got to have expert opinion. We're past that point. We have a lot of data, and it's high time we started relying on evidence to make public health decisions. We're not doing it. To my eye, from bioethics, we appear to be failing to meet the Code of Federal Regulations and Federal Law, let alone fundamental precepts that go back to the end of World War II. We're not providing full disclosure of risk. We're not doing so in a way that's readily comprehended by the public. And we are enticing, compelling, coercing, and otherwise not respecting the rights of the individual to choose what happens to their body.

In my mind, the bedrock we all have in Western society is the right to choose. The State does not own our body, particularly for an experimental product.

I argue that we've crossed a line. It's a bioethical line. It may actually be Federal Law that we've crossed, inadvertently, I'm sure for all the best reasons. But if you go back, read the Nuremberg Code. What we're doing is not aligned with fundamental principles. And as you

know, this happens from time to time during war and crisis.

Cultures decide that it's okay to bend the rules on some fundamentals of ethics, whether it's torture or internment of populations. I believe they almost universally end up regretting it. So, I'm trying to responsibly, ethically, and with the credibility that I have in my CV, and because of my role in inventing this technology, to alert people that I believe that we're pushing and crossing some key lines here that we really should be respecting.

**Q: Robert, we're going to have to finish up shortly. I probably have about a few hours more worth of questions for you at this point. We'll have to invite you back. Any final thoughts before we finish up for today?**

**A:** Yes. If I can speak to your audience, like I said, it's your body. My general recommendation is, in my opinion, these vaccines are saving lives. They're saving many lives, particularly in the elderly. I get asked the question all the time, "Should I take this vaccine or that vaccine because I have this preexisting condition or an autoimmune disease?" My recommendation is that you know your body best, you and your medical care provider. You have the right to accept or not accept a vaccine product, particularly an experimental one. You make your own decision. I can't advise you, in the end, neither can your physician completely advise you. It's up to you. It's your body. It's your choice. I strongly suggest that you take the time to get informed, do the best you can, and then make the decision that you think is right for you.

**Q: Robert, just before we finish up, is there a resource that you would recommend to be able to see the broader totality of the picture?**

**A:** Unfortunately, there isn't. I'm involved with a couple of different coalitions that are starting to build websites, particularly for helping inform university students that are returning to class, so that university administrators or others can use these as resources and point people to them, so that they can become informed themselves.

In the interim, there's the WHO site website for vaccines. For COVID, there's one that the CDC maintains. There's the NIH recommendations for drugs, but all of these are lagging. They're not right out at the front edge of the latest information. Understandably, they have to pass through a bureaucratic filter. And they often don't link to the primary data, and people are just crazy hungry for information right now. So hopefully, that'll come to pass over time.

**Q: And some people may be concerned that some of these very, very official sites might be following the approach that you've been describing in this episode. So they may be wondering, where can I look?**

**A:** That's exactly right. Many people were coming to my LinkedIn and Twitter feeds seeking that level of information and seemed to have been trusting me as a neutral arbiter of that information. Unfortunately, that is getting shut down. I was trying to do it through that vehicle, but I no longer have that channel. I really grateful to you at the Epoch Times for making it possible to reach people through this video medium, which many find more useful than reading a dry peer-reviewed academic paper. I don't know what the answer is right now in a time when people are increasingly distrusting official public health.

**Q: On that note, we'll definitely have you back again soon. Dr Robert Malone, such a pleasure to have you on.**

**A:** Thank you very much.  
**This interview, which is a three-part piece, has been edited for clarity and brevity. This is the third and last part. We ran the first part in the July 23 issue and the second the very next day - Editor.**



Tanzania Health Promotion Support

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Tanzania Health Promotion Support (THPS) is an indigenous NGO established under non-governmental organization act No 24 of 2002 in 2011. THPS works in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC) and Regional Administration and Local Government (PORALG), The Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Health (MoH) in Zanzibar with a goal of ensuring accessible high-quality health care services to Tanzanians; through strengthening of health and community systems for comprehensive quality health services including HIV/AIDS; Tuberculosis; prevention of GBV; reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services; laboratory and health management information systems (HIMS).

THPS is currently seeking highly experienced, committed and motivated Tanzanians to fill in its vacant positions for AFYA KWANZA HIV Care and Treatment Program.

**Position Title:** Cervical Cancer Prevention Field Officer (CCPFO)  
**Reports to:** Regional Manager  
**Location:** Pwani

**Purpose and Scope of Job:**  
The Cervical Cancer Prevention Field Officer will assist the THPS Cervical Cancer Prevention unit in overseeing the planning, implementation and monitoring the MoHCDGEC and CDC cervical cancer prevention program in Pwani region and ensure that the program achieves its goals in all THPS supported health facilities. The Cervical Cancer Prevention Field Officer will work with the THPS program teams to ensure that the program follows national protocols and standards. S/he is expected to cover extensive travel to all THPS supported facilities within the region.

- Duties and responsibilities**
- Liaise closely with the Regional and District health authorities in implementation of the cervical cancer screening program in the region.
  - Build working relationship and provide technical support to Pwani Regional and Council Health Management Teams (RHMT and CHMTs) in planning, coordination and supervision of cervical cancer screening activities in the region.
  - Build capacity of the health facility staff to ensure the necessary equipment and supplies including CO2 and 5% vinegar are available.
  - Orient PEs and auxiliary staff on cervical cancer screening in order to mobilize women.
  - Work with available community support structures/authorities to mobilize and sensitize the communities in the region to participate in the program.
  - Organize and facilitate training of health care providers on cervical cancer screening and cryotherapy.
  - Organize stake holder's meetings/joint supportive supervision biannually.
  - Organize and coordinate outreach services to needy communities to reach the desired prevention goal of cervical cancer
  - Explore the integration of cervical cancer screening in postpartum care.
  - Family planning, PMTCT, HT, CTC STI services and outreach services.
  - Work with other programs within THPS such as PMTCT, HTS/EID, CTC and APSC to mobilize and sensitize clients and integrate the cervical screening and treatment services within the existing programs.
  - Supervise and mentor health care workers at sites in implementing the program.
  - Track and document lessons learnt and best practices during the implementation of the program.
  - Build the capacity of service providers in documentation, data collection and analysis
  - Provide reports to regional team leader/coordinator, regularly at required intervals
  - Ensure DHIS data of all supported sites and outreach sites reports monthly timely in collaboration with DRCHCOs and DHIS focal persons within the districts and RRCHCo and RHIMS
  - Carry out other relevant tasks as assigned by supervisor
  - To prepare weekly, monthly progress reports, budgets, and work plans, particularly those pertaining to CCP
  - Provide data and a summary report on a timely basis for preparation of quarterly reports.
  - Travel to the sites to oversee program implementation
  - Performs other related duties as assigned

- Qualifications & Experience**
- Medical Officer, Assistant Medical Officer, or Nursing at graduate or Advanced diploma level.
  - At least two years' experience in cervical cancer screening.
  - Experience in LEEP services, VIA TOT, CCS, HTS and PMTCT-EID program is added advantage
  - Experience in community sensitization and mobilization
  - Experience in data management, monitoring and supervision
  - Strong communication and team building skills
  - Ability to work independently with strong problem-solving skills
  - A good understanding of public functions and operations in government and/or NGO services.
  - Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Kiswahili
  - Good intellectual and human skill capacity to engage and work with individuals with different characters

**Job Title:** - PMTCT Field Officer  
**Direct Reports to:** - District Manager.  
**Location:** - Pwani and Kigoma

**Purpose and Scope of Job:**  
The Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Field Officer will serve as THPS focal point for activities relating to the implementation of a quality PMTCT program in the allocated Districts in the Region. This will include capacity building of health facility staff, establishment and monitoring of support groups for the pregnant/postpartum women, HIV positive women and their families, coordination of care and treatment within facilities providing PMTCT services including standalone PMTCT

sites, ensuring drugs and supplies for PMTCT services are available, support strategies to foster adherence and retention among pregnant and lactating women enrolled in all supported sites. Development of linkages to other services including psychosocial support groups the laboratory services as well as community support services. This position is part of a multidisciplinary, cohesive team and requires excellent communication skills and extensive travel.

- Duties and responsibilities:**
- Work closely with the District Managers and Regional teams to jointly implement the PMTCT work plan.
  - Jointly with CHMT members conduct focused supportive supervision to the sites to oversee program implementation (travel up to 80 % of the time in the field) i.e. Visit every site to strengthen the program at the site through identifying gaps and collaborating with the THPS staffs and district and facility team to find solutions.
  - Provide direct, onsite support to nurses and clinical officers working at RCH units in THPS supported districts to establish and strengthen services and provide ongoing mentoring and support to implement the current National PMTCT guideline
  - Coordinates and monitors early infant diagnosis (EID) services for all identified HIV exposed infants and ensures results timely communicated.
  - Ensures HIV viral load monitoring among HIV pregnant women in the PMTCT program
  - Develop linkages between various HIV programs and community-based organizations within the region.
  - Work with health facility staff and HIV positive pregnant/postpartum women to support the establishment and monitor the Psychosocial Support Groups (PSGs) for PMTCT at the facilities.
  - Ensure M&E & IEC materials and job aids are available at every PMTCT site.
  - Reviews and maintains a resource binder (resource mapping) of current PMTCT information for Health care worker education purposes and referral resources.
  - Help facility staff own the data through improving preparation and make use of PMTCT monthly summary reports. Assist in data collection from the health facility if needed Reporting to specified levels.
  - Establish and maintain a strong relationship with health facility staff delivering PMTCT services in districts.
  - Working closely with CHMT ensure timely ordering, stocking and supply of PMTCT and Family planning supplies to PMTCT sites.
  - Prepare and timely submit site visit reports, ensuring observed issues which need immediate intervention are communicated immediately upon return from the field.
  - Conduct supportive supervision, mentorship and on the job training to all HTC & PMTCT staff in partner organizations and health facilities including identification capacity gaps and address them.
  - Ensure the optimal standard of counselling is achieved by ensuring the use of national guidelines and protocols. Ensure proper documentation of activities using appropriate national HTS, PMTCT/EID data collection tools for accurate record keeping and timely reporting.
  - Review partners' reports and develop quarterly reports and submit to regional office for further proceedings.
  - Work with RHMT/CHMT and Hospital Management Teams (HMT) to design and implement innovative strategies for improving the quality of HTC, PMTCT and EID services
  - Assist in the development of community linkages and support groups for HIV positive mothers and their families to ensure a network of quality care.
  - Work closely with THPS M&E team to ensure monthly reporting of HTS, PMTCT and EID indicators.
  - Write regular program reports as required by THPS regional office.
  - Travel to the sites to oversee program implementation (expected to travel to the field up to 75% of the time)
  - Collaborate with other THPS staff and other stakeholders to develop strategies for strengthening referrals and linkages to Care and treatment clinics and ensure the continuum of care for clients.
  - Facilitate establishment/strengthening adequate outreaches or mobile HTC service whenever needed.
  - In collaboration with Pharmacy and laboratory teams facilitate monitoring and supportive supervision on logistics management
  - Support Health Care Providers (HCPs), Peer Educators (PE) and other relevant actors in the region to implement protocols on adherence support for pregnant and lactating women on PMTCT Program
  - Take part in design, training and distribution of relevant job aids and materials related to PMTCT, HTC.
  - Perform other related duties as assigned by the supervisor

- Qualifications & Experience**
- Degree in Nursing or Adv Diploma; Degree in Medicine/Diploma in Medicine
  - At least three years' experience working in PMTCT/CCS
  - Experience in LEEP services, VIA TOT, CCS, HTS and PMTCT-EID program is added advantage
  - Experience in community sensitization and mobilization
  - Strong communication and team building skills
  - Ability to work independently with strong problem-solving skills
  - A good understanding of public functions and operations in government and/or NGO services.
  - Good verbal and written communication skills in English and Kiswahili
  - Good intellectual and human skill capacity to engage and work with individuals with different characters

**How to apply:**  
Interested applicants should send an email [recruitment@thps.or.tz](mailto:recruitment@thps.or.tz) attaching their application cover letter one page maximum and CV four pages maximum by August 10th 2021 with a position title as a subject line, for example: 'PMTCT Field Officer'. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted. Please do not attach any certificates when submitting online.

THPS is an equal opportunity employer; women, people living with HIV/AIDS and people living with disability are encouraged to apply.



## SPECIAL REPORT - PART 1

## Why Kilwa communities say investment not transparent

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

WHEN Kufuruni Juma Kufuruni (53) heard about the much marketed foreign investment in his village, he celebrated and said to his fellow villagers a unique fortune and better life has finally come.

Kufuruni, a peasant and resident of Migeregere village, Kikole ward in Kilwa district, Lindi region has been earning income through subsistence economy for nearly three decades now.

But the much touted agro investment completely changed his thinking. As the district council officials visited one village after another campaigning for the investor, Kufuruni trusted that he would shift from

subsistence to commercial and become rich within few years.

Shukrani was not the only villager beckoned by the foreign investment but also an image of wealth clocked minds of Mavuji, Nainokwe, Migeregere and Liviti villagers where the investor had acquired huge land to conduct agriculture particularly for growing cassava for export. They all commended the district council and the investor for the planned investment.

As time passed on, the villagers started realizing that the much touted investment was not a genuine one but ghost. In an interview with this paper at Nainokwe village, Halifa Likamba said during the land acquisition of 35,000ha of land from the four villages, process and procedures were violated. The former

Nainokwe village Chairman said the investor and Kilwa district council took advantage of villagers' limited knowledge on land based investments to pursue and conclude their ill-deal.

"Even when the land was reduced to 27,000 ha the villagers did not know anything about the new size of their land. They didn't know exactly the meaning of the investment and what exactly investment would provide the community, instead, the villagers were motivated by the way the district council officials were campaigning about the investor, he said. Foreexample, during an interview, the district council said that the land for investment has been reduced from 35,000 ha to 27,000 ha. Also information from the reports of land use plans for 2019/2020 indi-



Migeregere village chairman Selemán Kiandangila, Kikole ward in Kilwa District, Lindi Region leads a discussion with the villagers on the investment. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

cate to have increases in some villages and in Migeregere and Mavuji villages, the land reduced has been set for forest conservations managed by the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) and therefore not village land. In Nainokwe for example, the land for investment increased from 4789.82 ha to 6372 ha

The first investor promised to grow Jatropha but it was not clear on what jatropha would provide and benefit the villagers. When the project refused to take off the villagers started to demand their land back.

The villagers said they were not educated on the benefits and challenges of investment to make them decide on whether they need it or not. They were only asked at one meeting if they wanted the investment or not.

An investigation conducted by this paper revealed that different investors had been introduced into the villages to invest in Agribusiness. Some of the investors such as Bioshap were introduced since 2016. Others include Somanga Property Ltd, Pan Tanzania Agricultural, Development limited, AfricaOrama and Great Tanzania Ltd (Thailand Company). All these companies had shown interest to invest in the four villages.

The villagers indicated that there was no unclear emphasis by the district council for all these investments. The district council did not clear information on the status of the land before the discussion on land acquisition.

**Contradicting information:**

Another thing noted by this paper, there was contradicting information where it was not clear to the villagers on whether the land under investment was village land or general land. In March 2019 for example, the former Zonal Assistant commissioner for lands Gasper Luanda visited the villages and told them that, the land was still village land since transfer process were underway. At the same time, the district council through the land office later told villages that the land was under the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and therefore they had no power over it than accepting investment for their benefit.

The villagers had also been confused by unclear information which they received from their leaders that land transfer was denied by the commissioner, but this was not officially shared rather, they received information from the district council that there were directives from the office of the commissioner for lands to rectify minutes of village assembly for the transfer of land to be effected.

Further investigation revealed that the villages signed contracts between village councils and Pan Tanzania Agriculture Company Limited without enough consultations at the village level. Kikole Ward councillor Musa Kinjokwile said it is possible that some villagers had no enough information on the project. Foreexample, at Migeregere villagers said that they had been told by Kilwa district officials that demanding back their land is like

demanding a married daughter back home from her husband.

The villagers have already given their land so they should not expect it back. These statements and others influenced villagers to accept the planned investments against their will.

Speaking on behalf of the investors, both the former Kilwa district commissioner Christopher Ngubiagai and the district executive director Renatus Mchau commended the investment saying it was genuine one. They said land acquisition process and procedures were followed. They named some of the benefits as employment.

"Unlike other investments, this one investing in cassava is genuine. He has good plans to benefit the villagers in the project area, said Ngubiagai.

The district executive director Renatus Mchau said the land acquisition process and procedures were followed. The district council said the investor will acquire land through the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) and not through the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC). This is the genuine investor. He is coming to change lives of the villagers through the investment," said district commissioner Ngubiagai

However, Land rights advocates and land experts have different comments. Advocate Masalu Luhula from Landesa and Benard Baha from Tanzania Land Alliance said that this raises questions on the transfer process which for a responsible investment, community consultation and effective engagement is key to ensure community generational benefits from investment and avoid future conflicts between communities and investors which in most cases affect sustainability of investments.

He also added that, the reasons to pursue land transfer not through the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) and opt going through EPZA need to be scrutinized. The information from Pan Tanzania Agriculture Company limited foreexample indicates that, the company for part of the three companies consortium where the other three include Epoch Agriculture Development Limited (Epoch) and Tanzania Agriculture Export and Processing Zone limited (TAEPZ). "therefore it is important for the government authorities to undertake in-depth due diligence as companies are not unitary factors he said.

He said the whole process of land acquisition process and procedures leaves a lot to be desired. Foreexample he said the Land use planning Act, 2007 and the revised (2013 and 2020) guidelines require effective participation of communities in their land use planning process. The law also gives planning powers to the village authorities on village land. The district planning team support as technical advisers in the process and decisions are made by the villagers through village council and village Assembly. The law and its guidelines require the land use planning reports be owned by the community and implemented by the village council.



**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

### Fiber Network Materials

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following Fiber Network Materials:

Item	Description	Quantity
(1)	Fiber Pivot Panel SC S/LC D-48 Port	25
(2)	Fiber Accessories - Pigtailed SM SC 1m (48) - Splice Protectors (48) - Patch Leads SM LC-LC 1m (12)	25
(3)	IP 55 Ventilated Outdoor Cabinet - 20U - Height 1071mm Powder Coated 3CR12	25
(4)	5Way 19" Power Rail	25

**Submission of Quotes**

Please submit your quotes via email to [nm.proposal@barrick.com](mailto:nm.proposal@barrick.com). The reference "NM Fiber Network Materials" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement.

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit quotes July 30, 2021

North Mara Gold Mine Limited

**CAPITAL  
RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI  
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# Leveraging the power of energy to light up Africa

ABOMEY-CALAVI, Benini

IN a corn mill in Zoundja, a district in Abomey-Calavi, a northern suburb of Cotonou, Benin, about twenty pots and pans compete for space amidst a deafening noise that can be heard all over the neighborhood. At the control of his machine, Antoine K has the privilege of serving the households of the district by grinding their corn into flour. The only problem is that not everyone can afford his services in this urbanized area where rich and poor live side by side. "I grind a kilo of corn for CFAF 75 (1.5 cents), which is too expensive for some women, but I have no choice if I want to be able to pay the electricity bill and keep the mill running," says the miller.

In 25 years of service, Antoine, now in his 50s, has seen a lot of improvement in access to electricity. Neighborhoods have been progressively electrified and today power outages are less and less frequent.

But he has also seen the cost of services rise as electricity rates in Benin have increased. The last bill he received from the Beninese power company was for more than CFAF 100,000 (about \$180), including taxes—too much for his CFAF 200,000 (\$365) monthly income. The increase in electricity rates has a domino effect on the cost of his services.

In Benin, as is the case everywhere in West and Central Africa, the mill occupies a central place in the life of households that consume corn or other grain-based foods on a daily basis. But the price of electricity represents an exorbitant cost for these small businesses, whose clientele is made up essentially of poor households.

## Still a long way to go despite significant progress

With an electrification rate of 53% in 2019 against only 34% in 2000, West Africa has made significant progress, but challenges remain, and nearly half the population still lacks electricity.

The story of the electrification of Rosalie Zongo's village in Burkina Faso illustrates this progress and also shows the need to address persistent challenges, develop the potential of diverse energy resources, and strengthen interconnections.

## Toward an efficient regional power market in West Africa

A regional solution that goes beyond the efforts made at the national level is imperative to ensure a sustainable energy future in Africa. "Our region has immense electrical energy resources, which are capable of meeting demand for many years. But they are concentrated in a few countries that sometimes lack the means to develop them. Through interconnection, we are making power available to countries," says Apollinaire Siengui Ki, Secretary General of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP). "Connectivity makes it possible to supply the amount of energy needed at a lower cost."

Created in 1999, WAPP brings together 14 countries. Its mission is to promote and develop infrastructure for the production and transmission of electrical energy and to ensure the coordination of power exchanges between the member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

With the support of its partners, including the World Bank, WAPP has mobilized approximately \$5 billion to complete nine cross border interconnections and aims to interconnect all 14 countries by 2024. This has



At Antoine K's corn mill, higher electricity rates mean higher prices for services, which is a problem for poor households. Zoundja, Abomey-Calavi, Benin.

improved access in several countries of the region, some of which, such as Côte d'Ivoire, are now able to sell excess electricity to other countries that need it.

## Trust: an essential component of any successful commercial venture

For such a regional market to work, significant reforms are required at the country level to enable market stakeholders to effectively and efficiently play their roles as reliable buyers and reliable suppliers of electricity.

To help Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone implement the sectoral reforms needed to successfully create this regional electricity market, the World Bank provided \$300 million in financing approved in July 2020. The goal: to support the implementation of the December 2018 ECOWAS directive on securing cross border trade in electricity, which is based on three main pillars: increasing confidence in the application of electricity trade agreements by supporting mechanisms to improve payments and the supply of electricity; implementing least-cost supply decisions for electricity that take into account regional options and promote competition; and promoting transparency by addressing the issue of the solvency of national electricity companies and

keeping the market informed of key investment decisions that may impact supply and demand.

"The World Bank has consistently prioritized the development of interconnections and regional electricity trade in order to reduce the costs of electricity and therefore to limit the sector's fiscal burden and to lower costs for businesses and consumers," says Ousmane Diagana, World Bank Vice President for West and Central Africa. "Pooling the region's diverse green resources, such as hydropower in Guinea and Liberia and solar energy in the Sahel, will help build a more resilient system that will be better able to adapt in the long run to the various shocks that the region faces."

## Banking on green energy and powering the digital revolution

By 2030, regional electricity consumption is expected to increase by 100%. Meeting this exponential growth in demand by expanding the existing electricity mix would increase carbon emissions by an estimated 102%. But closer regional cooperation will make it possible to adopt cleaner technologies and reduce the carbon intensity in power generation by 32%. Regional trade will thus enable the development of renewable energy projects that are too

large to be accommodated by a single country's power system. Also noteworthy is the approval of \$465 million of new financing in June 2021, which will help increase renewable energy integration and improve the operation of the regional power grid through battery energy storage—an innovative initiative that will boost investment in renewable energy.

"We want to move out of the hydrocarbon era and into green energy," says Gesler Murray, Liberia's Minister of Mines and Energy. "Liberia is in a region that is rich in solar energy, and we also have many rivers on which various types of hydroelectric systems could be installed."

The COVID-19 pandemic has prompted rapid growth in the use of digital platforms and applications in all sectors and at all levels. But digital transformation cannot be achieved in the region without better access to electricity.

The time has come to optimize the management of energy resources in West Africa in order to improve the daily lives of the region's inhabitants and enhance the productivity of its economies. From Antoine's mill in Benin, to Rosalie's family in Burkina Faso, to the major industries of the subregion, Africa is being transformed by the driving power of energy.

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

# Chinese energy products boon for Kenyan traders

FOUR shops of energy items line up the main road in Kitenjela, a fast-growing residential and commercial hub, on the south of Nairobi, Kenya's capital.

The shops are in close proximity to each other but this does not seem to bother the owners, as none is eating into the market of the other.

They have co-existed for the last three years and others have come up in the vicinity as the market for energy items that include those powered by solar and those recharged using electricity grows in the suburb and in others across Nairobi and the east African nation.

Among the popular energy

products Kenyan traders sell are outdoor and indoor lights, lamps, torches, chargers, batteries, bulbs, water heaters and solar panels.

All the energy items are sourced from China in a booming business that is rising as prices fall, encouraging Kenyans to embrace micro energy systems.

"Business is there, that is why you are seeing many shops coming up. People are buying solar items and rechargeable gadgets in particular," Anthony Kuria, who runs one of the energy items shops in Kitenjela, said recently.

Chinese made solar security lights are among the fastest moving products in the market, ac-

ording to Kuria.

Just as many other Chinese-made energy products, prices of the gadgets have declined significantly in the last two years.

From a high of 8,000 shillings for 50 watts of light, one now buys 100 watts of light for the same amount, said Kuria.

Similarly, prices of other energy items have fallen in a similar fashion thus appealing to the bottom segment of the Kenyan market, some who have no access to electricity.

These include poor households in slums and rural areas that mainly relied on kerosene for lighting, small traders and shopkeepers.

"Thanks to my rechargeable light, I am able to sell for longer hours at night," said Caroline Musya, who runs a roadside vegetable stall in Nairobi.

Musya normally opens her stall from 5:00 p.m., targeting people returning home from work.

Without the light, she would only work until 7:30 p.m., but with the source of light, she goes until 9:00 p.m.

Thousands of other small traders like Musya have the Chinese rechargeable electric and solar lights to thank for extended business hours.

It is a similar case for millions of

households in Kenya who would switch to using kerosene lights or candles in times of blackouts.

While some traders import the gadgets directly from China, others source them locally from importers.

River Road and Luthuli Avenue, business streets in downtown Nairobi, host dozens of Chinese-made energy items wholesale shops from where small traders source.

Kwame Owino, the chief executive of Institute of Economic Affairs, a Kenyan think tank, during a recent webinar said search for alternative energy sources in Kenya boils down to economics.

According to him, Kenya's power system is one of the most expensive in the world when compared to incomes, thus, many are looking for alternatives and Chinese energy items are offering them.

Ernest Manuyo, a business lecturer in Nairobi, noted that Chinese energy items have replaced those from western countries and they are popular because they appeal to all economic segments of the society creating business for traders.

Nationally, Kenya has also embraced solar energy, with the east African nation in 2019 launching a solar plant in Garissa town constructed by a Chinese company.

# Dr Mollel urges private health service providers to invest more in modern health facilities, technologies

By Guardian Reporter

PRIVATE health service providers have been urged to invest more in modern health infrastructure and health technologies to facilitate the implementation of national health strategies which aimed at making health services accessible to all Tanzanians.

Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, deputy minister for Health, Dr Godwin Mollel made the call yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at the official of TMJ hospital's state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which is part of its strategic and long-term resolve to complement government efforts aimed at improving provision of health services in the country.

The facility, which is used in radiology to generate images of body organs, was launched at TMJ's super specialised polyclinic in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam.

Dr Mollel said although the government had made great strides in the construction of hospitals, health centres and dispensaries and in the provision of health services not every part of the country had so far been reached.

"There are still many Tanzanians who need better health services, especially those living in rural areas. The government alone cannot cover them all...we need cooperation with private health providers," he said.

The deputy minister explained that private health providers' investment in modern health technologies was crucial as they would help the sixth phase government solve many health problems which faced many Tanzanians.

"Today we are witnessing the launch of this modern MRI, which uses high-tech...I urge other health stakeholders to invest in similar medical equipment to help Tanzanians, especially the poor," Dr Mollel noted.

He said the government would continue cooperating with private health providers and provide them with needed assistance to ensure Tan-



TMJ hospital radiographer, Gorakh Borade, describing something (on the operations of the machine) to Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) executive director, Prof. Mohamed Janabi, at the official launch of the hospital's magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) at the hospital super specialised polyclinic in Temeke District, Dar es Salaam Region. On the left MRI engineer, Altaf Karim and radiologist Dr. Tawfeeq Sangey. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

zanians accessed better health services.

"I have been told private health providers are facing several challenges related to tax and others...all these are noted and we will address them so that those facing these challenges may get a breathing space," he added.

TMJ hospital managing director, Dr Tayabali Jafferji, said the launch of MRI was part of TMJ Hospital's long

time strategy to support the sixth phase government efforts, which aimed at providing better health services in the country.

"The government cannot do everything alone...we as health stakeholders must contribute to the health sector so that the government may achieve its objectives, especially the provision of better health services," he said. He commended the government's plan

to provide universal health coverage to all citizens, describing it as "an inflection point in the healthcare journey of our nation which will enable healthcare access to millions of under-served families across the country."

"We look forward to working with the government for this programme, helping to ensure that the highest quality care reaches the citizens on a sustained basis, marks a pivotal shift towards preventive healthcare and reaffirms what we at TMJ have always been saying - keeping a nation's citizens healthy, helps the country realize their full potential."

TMJ chief executive officer, Parul Chahya said: "As a nation, let us be committed to the health and well-being of our people. 'Health for All' demands that we ensure universal health insurance coverage, put in place comprehensive programs for preventive health, and continue building world-class infrastructure. We should also implement technology-enabled access and build strong health care skills."

"Above all, we need to focus on empowering the individual to take charge of his own health, and be responsible for his well-being. The right combination of all of the above is the perfect prescription for a healthy Tanzania."



# How the Delta variant upends assumptions about the coronavirus

**T**HE Delta variant is the fastest, fittest and most formidable version of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 the world has encountered, and it is upending assumptions about the disease even as nations loosen restrictions and open their economies, according to virologists and epidemiologists.

Vaccine protection remains very strong against severe infections and hospitalizations caused by any version of the coronavirus, and those most at risk are still the unvaccinated, according to interviews with 10 leading COVID-19 experts.

The major worry about the Delta variant, first identified in India, is not that it makes people sicker, but that it spreads far more easily from person to person, increasing infections and hospitalizations among the unvaccinated.

Evidence is also mounting that it is capable of infecting fully vaccinated people at a greater rate than previous versions, and concerns have been raised that they may even spread the virus, these experts said.

"The biggest risk to the world at the moment is simply Delta," said microbiologist Sharon Peacock, who runs Britain's efforts to sequence the genomes of coronavirus variants, calling it the "fittest and fastest variant yet."

Viruses constantly evolve through mutation, with new variants arising. Sometimes these are more dangerous than the original.

Until there is more data on Delta variant transmission, disease experts say that masks, social distancing and other measures set aside in countries with broad vaccination campaigns may again be needed.

Public Health England said on Friday that out of a total of 3,692 people hospitalized in Britain with the Delta variant, 58.3 percent were unvaccinated and 22.8 percent were fully vaccinated.



An elderly man gets inoculated with a dose of the Covishield vaccine against the COVID-19 at a drive-in vaccination facility in Mumbai on June 26, 2021. AFP

In Singapore, where Delta is the most common variant, government officials reported on Friday that three quarters of its coronavirus cases occurred among vaccinated individuals, though none were severely ill.

Israeli health officials have said 60 percent of current hospitalized COVID cases are in vaccinated people. Most of them are age 60 or older and often have underlying health problems.

In the United States, which has experienced more COVID-19 cases and

deaths than any other country, the Delta variant represents about 83 percent of new infections. So far, unvaccinated people represent nearly 97 percent of severe cases.

"There is always the illusion that there is a magic bullet that will solve all our problems. The coronavirus is teaching us a lesson," said Nadav Davidovitch, director of Ben Gurion University's school of public health in Israel.

### Teaching US a lesson

The Pfizer Inc/BioNTech vaccine, one of the most effective against COVID-19 so far, appeared only 41 percent effective at halting symptomatic infections in Israel over the past month as the Delta variant spread, according to Israeli government data. Israeli experts said this information requires more analysis before conclusions can be drawn.

"Protection for the individual is very strong; protection for infecting others is significantly lower," Davidovitch said.

"You may actually excrete more virus and that's why it's more transmissible. That's still being investigated," Peacock said.

Virologist Shane Crotty of the La Jolla Institute for Immunology in San Diego noted that Delta is 50 percent more infectious than the Alpha variant first detected in the UK.

"It's outcompeting all other viruses because it just spreads so much more efficiently," Crotty added.

Genomics expert Eric Topol, director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in La Jolla, California, noted that Delta infections have a shorter incubation period and a far higher amount of viral particles.

"That's why the vaccines are going to be challenged. The people who are vaccinated have got to be especially careful. This is a tough one," Topol said.

In the United States, the Delta variant has arrived as many Americans - vaccinated and not - have stopped wearing masks indoors.

"The last thing you want is to loosen restrictions when you're confronting the most formidable version of the virus yet."

The development of highly effective vaccines may have led many people to believe that once vaccinated, COVID-19 posed little threat to them.

"When the vaccines were first developed, nobody was thinking that they were going to prevent infection," said Carlos del Rio, a professor of medicine and infectious disease epidemiology at Emory University in Atlanta. The aim was always to prevent severe disease and death, del Rio added.

The vaccines were so effective, however, that there were signs the vaccines also prevented transmission against prior coronavirus variants.

"We got spoiled," del Rio said.

Dr. Monica Gandhi, an infectious diseases doctor at the University of California, San Francisco, said, "People are so disappointed right now that they're not 100 percent protected from mild breakthroughs" - getting infected despite having been vaccinated.

But, Gandhi added, the fact that nearly all Americans hospitalized with COVID-19 right now are unvaccinated "is pretty astounding effectiveness."

# African Union faces a peace and security dilemma coupled with potential battle for relevance

By Paul Simon Handy and Felicie Djilo

**S**EVERAL incidents highlight the challenges facing the African Union (AU) Commission as its recently reformed structures are put to work. These difficulties test the AU's capacity to keep up with the changing nature of security and governance in Africa.

The first is the Peace and Security Council's (PSC) endorsement of what was dubbed an unconstitutional change of government in Chad following the death of its former president Idriss Deby. Arguing that Chad's security threats required a special response, the PSC refrained from suspending the country from the AU. While the PSC's decision came with several conditions for the ruling Transitional Military Council, it's still unclear what guarantees were provided in exchange for this leniency.

The second incident was the recent rejection by Somali authorities of former Ghanaian president John Mahama's selection as AU High Representative in Somalia. The PSC requested this appointment by the AU Commission chairperson in June. A similar rejection happened in Chad regarding High Representative Ibrahim Fall, who had to be replaced.

The third development is the 23 June decision by Southern African heads of state to deploy a Southern African Development Community (SADC) Mission to support Mozambique's fight against violent extremists in Cabo Delgado. While SADC's decision is based on scenario 6 of the African Standby Force, it will be the first intervention force sent by an AU-recognised regional economic community (REC) to combat violent extremism. Mean-

while, Rwanda has sent 1,000 troops at Mozambique's request.

Most striking here is the AU's glaring absence. Despite its gravity, the situation in Mozambique has never been considered by the PSC. That SADC would deploy such a force without securing a PSC decision shows an approach to subsidiarity that circumvents the AU. SADC has historically been less open to 'external involvement' in what it considers Southern African internal matters.

These three incidents show some of the problems facing the AU in supporting peace and security. One is a lack of consistency in applying AU norms and principles. A second is the uneven implementation of PSC decisions by member states. A third problem is the growing reluctance of member states and RECs to accept external intervention in internal crises - including from the AU. Without a clear definition of subsidiarity, this is often seen as the RECs bypassing the AU.

These developments are particularly relevant as the AU prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2022. Some analysts wonder whether this reflects an eroding consensus on the organisation's key principles. Regardless, the question needs to be asked: are all member states still committed to the AU's norms-based conflict prevention and crisis management approach?

As mentioned in the 2017 Kagame Report on AU institutional reform and several PSC communiqués, most violent crises, including popular uprisings in North Africa, can be traced back to governance deficits. But the AU hasn't been able to move decisively to address these issues for various reasons.



Djibouti soldiers serving in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) patrol the south central town of Beledweyne in Somalia.

The first is the lukewarm support of PSC member states for embedding democratic values. The second involves the African Governance Architecture. As a dialogue platform aimed to promote good governance practices, it's difficult to assess the system's record beyond organising high-level dialogues. Individual countries or personalities have often championed successful AU projects. This was the case for the AU's institutional reforms, the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, counterterrorism efforts and even the New Partnership for Africa's Development. But there hasn't been a country willing to champion

democracy, good governance and human rights. PSC members' inconsistent decision making on issues of governance has eroded the AU's authority. Governance crises in countries such as Egypt (2013), Zimbabwe (2017), Sudan (2018), Algeria (2019), Chad (2021) and Mali (2021) show these inconsistencies.

The AU Commission is struggling to ramp up its ability to address protracted conflicts. The only crisis where the AU is the major player is Somalia. So it is surprising that the special envoy's appointment has been rejected due to the absence of a clear AU political strategy.

The AU's focus has traditionally been on funding peace support operations. It has consequently developed limited capacity - or will - for civilian crisis management with the notable exception of election observer missions, whose impact remains questionable. The Panel of the Wise has become discreet, and the AU Liaison Offices remain under-resourced.

Paradoxically, member states have historically seen the AU Commission as expensive and wasteful, despite both the previous Peace and Security Department and Department of Political Affairs functioning below their set capacities. **IPS**

RATIBA YA VIPINDI  
JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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## Deputy Health minister commends strategic reforms at Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre

By Smart Money Reporter, Arusha

The North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania has said it is undertaking major structural reforms in the management and investment of Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre in order to enable the facility to offer world class health services in the next five years.

The head of the diocese, Bishop Dr Solomon Masangwa told visiting Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Godwin Mollel that they have developed a five year plan to make ALMC an icon in healthcare delivery to complement government efforts in saving the lives of Tanzanians.

"All reforms that are undertaken at the ALMC are meant to bring about the revolution in healthcare services. The grand idea behind the changes is to make the hospital an internationally recognized facility in a bid to attract patients from across the World," Dr Masangwa boasted.

He was seconded by ELCT North Central Diocese Secretary General, John Tanaki thanked the government for understanding that faith based organizations are not its competitors in the delivery of health services but rather its partners.

The ALMC which was opened in 2009, is the largest and modern hospital based in Arusha and has already been bestowed by authorities as a zonal referral hospital hence serving more than five regional hospitals in northern Tanzania with a capacity to attend 150,000 patients annually.

The ALMC CEO, Elisha Twisa said that the hospital has state-of-the-art equipment, qualified and experienced staff who are offering world class healthcare services. "Our medical staff members include 21 medical specialists," said



Dr Godwin Mollel (seated, 3rd R), Deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, in a souvenir photo with Bishop Dr Solomon Masangwa (4th L) and management team members of the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre last weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Twisa.

Being a zonal referral hospital it also serves as a teaching institution and mostly offers healthcare services to outpatients and those who are admitted. "The hospital runs an advanced emergency medicine department, performing laparoscopic surgeries, nephrology and dialysis, neurosurgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and a well-equipped neonatal intensive care unit," Twisa said while briefing Dr Mollel.

In fulfilling its corporate social responsibility, ALMC since its commencement treated a total of

4,066 poor patients who would otherwise have died freely, costing the hospital 752m/-, the CEO said.

"As if that is not enough, ALMC spends about 99m/- annually to offer free of charge premature neonates service," the ALMC's CEO noted.

ELCT's North Central Diocese recently undertook a comprehensive restructuring at ALMC, key among them, was appointment of a pioneer non-medical CEO, Elisha Twisa, to spearhead the mission of making the hospital a full-fledged center of excellence in health care provision in the next five

years. The changes also brought in the new director of clinical services, Dr Frank Madinda, to oversee the range of services offered, their quality and how efficiently they are provided as well as defining the parameters of performance which are most important to guide and monitor hospital management.

In remarks during the visit Dr Mollel said the government was not only supporting, but also proud of the reforms as they intend to shape the future of healthcare service provision at ALMC.

"Ministry of Health has been proudly keeping a tight eye on ALMC spirited transformations. We fully support the move because we believe the reforms will usher in the new dawn in health care service delivery and it is where the public sector will replicate the best practices," he said amidst applause from staff and management of ALMC.

He pleaded with the ALMC staff to work diligently, support the reforms, and accord the new CEO and his team earnest cooperation, if their hospital is to attain the center of excellence status to pull regional and international patients in the near future.

"I would also like to urge the ALMC new management to ensure the staff's welfare is a priority. Make sure their social security remittances are submitted in time to guarantee their hassle-free pension just like their counterparts in the public sector," the Deputy Minister stressed.

ALMC has been offering palliative care to terminal ill patients, easing pain and suffering so they can die with dignity in an environment with family and friends, a unique service which many health facilities don't have in the country.

## Kenyan firms on the spot for sharing customer data

NIROBI

MORE than a fifth of Kenyan companies shared customers' financial and personal information without the client's consent in breach of data protection laws enacted two years ago.

A survey by consultancy Ernst & Young shows that 41 percent of firms transferred their clients' data to third-party service providers. More than half or 53 percent of these companies did not seek the approval of their customers before sharing the data.

This violates the law that restricts the handling and sharing

of personal data firms and government entities obtain. Individuals in breach risk a maximum fine of Sh3 million or 10 years in jail, while firms risk a fine of up to Sh5 million or one percent of annual turnover.

"The problem is some of the organisations have not started internalising the requirements provided by the Act. So up to now organisations have been sharing information freely and this is a violation of the Act," said Robert Nyamu, digital, analytics and cybersecurity solutions partner at Ernst & Young.

EY surveyed several organisa-

tions, including top banks, asset managers, insurance companies, telcos, retailers and manufacturing firms. The survey discovered a large number of the companies passed on data to third parties. The personal information was mainly passed for analysis, processing transactions, sending SMS alerts or to advertisers.

Some firms passed client data to partners in business, while others gave information to law enforcement officers for investigations. Mr Nyamu said there were also instances of selling the data to vendors. However, he said, it was hard to quantify its value.



From left: Equity Group head of data governance Patrick Kariuki, Absa Kenya chief data officer Hartnell Ndungi, Data Protection commissioner Immaculate Kassaot, KCB head, information risk Wycliffe Momanyi and EY associate director, cybersecurity, privacy and trusted technology, Anthony Muiyuro during the launch of the EY Data Protection and Privacy Report yesterday.

## Carbon Offset Regulations amendments now gazetted

JOHANNESBURG

NATIONAL Treasury has published the gazetted amendments to the Carbon Offset Regulations of the Carbon Tax Act.

The regulations set out the eligibility criteria for carbon offset projects, a procedure for taxpayers claiming the carbon offset allowance and administration of the carbon offset system, Treasury said in a statement on Tuesday, 20 July.

The Carbon Tax Act became effective from 1 June 2019. Section 19 (c) of the Carbon Tax Act makes provision for the minister to issue regulations for the carbon offset tax-free allowance in terms of section 13.

The carbon offset tax-free allowance assists firms to cost-effectively reduce their emissions and carbon tax liability by up to 10% of their total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by investing in low carbon mitigation projects. The first set of the Carbon Offset Regulations was gazetted in November 2019.

The gazetting of the Amendments to the Carbon Offset Regulations follows the publication of the draft amendments to the Carbon Offset Regulations on 31 March 2021. Taxpayers and stakeholders were given until 30 April to submit written comments to the department.

Changes as a result of comments received

"From this, 12 written submissions were received from companies, industry associations, international and national carbon market consultants, project developers and carbon market traders. The main comments and changes made to the regulations are as a result of received comments," Treasury said.

These included proposals to include new definitions of national registries, the Verra registry and certificate of voluntary cancellation. "The regulations were amended to clarify that carbon credits from approved Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects, issued under national registries, will be eligible for listing as eligible South African carbon offsets," said the department.

The definition of the Verra registry was aligned with the official Verra documentation, and a new definition for a certificate of voluntary cancellation was included. In their comments, Treasury said stakeholders were of the view that the crediting periods for non-agriculture, forestry and land use (AFOLU) verified carbon standard projects should be specified in the regulations.

"This proposal was accepted under sub-regulation 3(1)(c), where the crediting period for non-AFOLU projects was



Industrial emissions like these are a target of SA's carbon tax.

added to the regulation," Treasury said.

Clarification on utilisation period

There were requests for clarification of the utilisation period for offsets generated up to and including 31 May 2019 on project activities that are now taxable activities. Taking into account

that the carbon tax payment for the 2022 tax period has to be made by July 2023, the regulation has been amended to stipulate the date of 28 July 2023 by when the carbon offsets from activities that are included in the carbon tax net can be used by taxpayers.

Treasury said this was aligned with the due date for carbon tax accounts for the 2022 tax period, the penultimate working day of July. Stakeholders also expressed the view that the current wording in the Carbon Offset regulations could be interpreted to mean that a taxpayer claiming any Section 12L energy efficiency savings allowance for any project will be prohibited from claiming any carbon tax offset allowance, despite the project being completely unrelated.

"Accessing deductions under Section 12L of the Income Tax Act and the carbon offset allowance under the carbon tax is viewed as a double benefit for the same investments and emission savings. "The regulation was amended to clarify that a taxpayer may not receive the allowance in respect of an offset of a project for which an allowance has been received in terms of section 12L."

**Draft framework for local standards**

Treasury said general comments for requests for government to finalise the framework for local carbon offset standards that can be used to determine whether a project qualifies as a carbon offset project, and expansion of the geographic scope of offset projects beyond South Africa, were also made.

To this effect, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy had commenced a process to publish the draft framework for local standards, which was developed under the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness project for public consultation.

"The options for expanding the geographical scope of eligible offset projects, including within the African region, will be considered as part of the review and phase 2 design of the carbon tax," said the department.

The gazetted amendments to the Carbon Offset Regulations and a detailed summary of the stakeholder comments on the draft regulations and responses are available on the National Treasury website.



# SBL invests 1.5 billion/- in water supply projects targeting rural folks since 2010

By Smart Money Guardian Reporter

**I**N a bid to give back to the community in which it does its business in the country, Serengeti Breweries Limited has invested over 1.5bn/- since 2010 drilling boreholes in rural areas powered by solar energy sources.

SBL Corporate Affairs Director, John Wanyancha said recently when commissioning Machowe Water Project in Serengeti district in which the brewer has invested over 200m/-, that as a corporate responsible citizen, SBL allocates money out of its profits made to invest in various projects in the community including water supply.

"As a responsible corporate citizens we are obliged to support government efforts to investment in improvement of social services for the community," said Wanyancha noting that through Water of Life (WOL) program, the brewer has partnered with other organizations in most of these projects to ensure that Tanzanians get safe and clean water in some of the neediest areas.

The brewer has financed 20 clean and safe water projects in Iringa, Mwanza, Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Coastal region, Dodoma and Mara regions. Wanyancha said that SBL's efforts align with its parent company London based Diageo Plc whose strategic plan targets several goals, focusing on preserving water, particularly in water-stressed areas.

Machochwe ward project in Serengeti district of Mara region which SBL implemented in collaboration with UK based not for profit organization, WaterAid, will benefit more than 12,000 villagers. The borehole has capacity of 7,500 litres of water per hour.

Before the project was commissioned, residents especially women and girls had to walk long distances often lasting half a day to fetch water at natural springs and perennial rivers where they faced risks of being attacked by wild animals.

One of Machochwe ward's residents, BhokeNyamisi said the commissioning of the SBL funded project was a big relief to women and girls in the area. "We had to travel over six kilometres to fetch unclean water and often came face to face with hostile wild animals such as hyenas and elephants," Nyamisi said.

"We were usually terrified even to send our children because sometimes they went to school late or did not go at all,



Former Serengeti district commissioner Nurdin Babu turns on a tap when commissioning a water supply project funded by SBL at Machochwe earlier this year. Photo courtesy of SBL

but now that the borehole is completed, we believe that now we will live happily," she said while extending a smile.

The then Serengeti District Commissioner, Nurdin Babu commended management of SBL for the investment saying it has saved lives and marriages which were threatened by water shortage.

"Now that we have this vital investment, I urge you as beneficiaries to protect the borehole from any damage so that it can last longer," Babu said while warning thieves and vandals from sabotaging the water supply facility.

In Manyara region, residents from Galangal and Gidagamowd villagers were also relieved of water supply challenges in 2020, when SBL's Water of Life project was commissioned. According to Gidagamowd Village Executive Officer, Jeremiah Mathiya said after commissioning of the projects that the brewer's investment had changed people's lives completely. "Lives of our residents have now changed for good because our people will be healthier due to reliable supply of clean and safe water," said Mathiya who noted that most of women and girls' time was spent fetching water.

Mariam Desiri who is a resident of Gidagamowd village, seconded Mathiya's observations by saying

that the project was life saving. "Before this project, I have had to walk for more than 15 kilometres to Vindadi Ward to collect water," Desiri said saying alternatively, they fetched water from natural springs and perennial rivers.

The SBL project has also improved crop production in the area where the brewer also buys over 15,000 tonnes of cereals including sorghum, maize and barley for use as raw materials in beer manufacturing.

According to the Ministry of Water, water demand in Tanzania has risen remarkably with 60 billion litres consumed in 2020. The Ministry's report also projects that demand for the commodity will increase to 90 billion by the year 2035. In rural areas, water supply rose to 72.3 percent from 70.1 percent in 2020 following completion of 355 projects mostly with Treasury funding.

Such demands have convinced management at SBL to support such efforts by the state. SBL is at the frontlines to supply millions of rural residents with clean and safe water by 2030.

"So far, our Water of Life projects are estimated to support over one million lives in Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza, Tanga, Ruvuma, Dar es Salaam, Coast and Dodoma regions," he said with many more benefitting in Mara and Manyara regions.

# Ethiopia quick to integrate mobile money alongside banking platforms

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA is speeding up the integration of banks and mobile wallets to tap into the local payments and international remittance markets, long flagged by the World Bank as key to TeleBirr, the country's first mobile money platform.

TeleBirr is run by telecom operator, Ethio Telecom and has soared to more than 4 million registered users in its first month of operation. Apart from sending and receiving money and airtime purchases, TeleBirr this month connected its wallet to the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia as well as Bank of Abyssinia.

"Now, you can easily transfer money from your bank accounts to your TeleBirr accounts," it said this month. With digital payments now flourishing under the auspices of mobile money connectivity to finance institutions, another Ethiopian bank, Dashen has linked up with international cross border payments network, Thunes.

The new arrangement will enable receipt of remittances straight into the bank's mobile wallet platform. Thunes has a diverse network of remittance partners in various countries around the world who will now enable Diaspora Ethiopians to send money back home into the Amole wallet linked to bank accounts held with Dashen Bank of Ethiopia.

This "cross-border payment solution will boost financial participation in Ethiopia as more people are expected to open bank and Amole wallet accounts" to

receive easy overseas payments, the Thunes and Dashen Bank said in a joint statement on Thursday. Funds received from abroad are a vital source of income for many of the country's populace.

Asfaw Alemu, CEO of Dashen Bank, described the new Fintech arrangement as "another positive step towards our goal of transforming Ethiopia's financial services sector and delivering innovations" in the banking sector. The World Bank said in May that it expected "to see a wider range of digital financial services, such as online savings accounts, loans, insurance services" in the Ethiopian market after the launch of TeleBirr.

"This will open up opportunities for partnership with banks and other financial services companies. This would also facilitate the use of mobile phones to receive remittances from abroad," said a spokesperson for the World Bank. Ethiopia is keen to reform its telecommunications industry and the licensing of new players is expected to deepen digital financial inclusion.

After selling a mobile licence in May for US\$850-million to a consortium led by Kenyan operator, Safaricom, the government has now launched a tender process to sell a 40% stake in the state-owned Ethio Telecom. "These steps to open up the telecoms sector are much delayed, but point to the potential for credit-positive economic reform if political challenges can be contained," said Fitch ratings agency on Thursday.



Asfaw Alemu, CEO of Dashen Bank.

# Sh300m maize declared 'unfit' sold to consumers

NAIROBI

THE government sold a quarter of maize stocks worth Sh342.3 million that had been condemned as unfit for human consumption, exposing consumers to cancer.

Parliament heard that the State released 51,640 bags worth Sh100.48 million or 30.3 percent of the total unfit stock of 176,225 bags. The maize was sold despite the Ministry of Public Health establishing that the 90-kilogramme packaged bags "contained high levels of aflatoxin and therefore unfit for human consumption."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), large doses of aflatoxin leads to acute poisoning (aflatoxicosis) that can be life-threatening, usually through damage to the liver. Long-term or chronic exposure to aflatoxins has several health consequences and may affect all organ systems, especially the liver and kidneys. It can also cause liver cancer.

"The maize in Kitale has since been cleared after joint sampling and quality analysis by a joint team comprising NCPB and Public Health and was released for human consumption on May 3, 2019 leaving a balance of 124,625 of 90kg bags," said Hamadi Boga, the Crops Development Principal Secretary said.

He told the Opiyo Wandayi led PAC that the initial analysis condemning the maize was conducted by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (Kebs). Prof Boga contradicted findings by Auditor-General Nancy Gathungu who said Ministry of Public Works had ascertained that out of 6 million bags of maize in stock as at June 3, 2019, maize in 176,265 bags was found to contain high levels of aflatoxin.

Prof Boga said the SFR board decided to offload the balance of 124,625 bags of condemned maize into the market at Sh780 per bag which appeared to be competitive. The maize was grade 4 and was to be used for animal feeds.

"You are telling committee that maize of high aflatoxin levels was later found to be fit and released to the market for human consumption?" Mr Wandayi asked.

The National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB), which stores the strategic food reserves (SFR), held the 176,225 bags of maize contaminated with aflatoxin as at end of June 2019. An earlier report, tabled before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, shows that about half of the maize with harmful aflatoxin levels was being held in Machakos and Nakuru depots.



Zantel brand manager David Maisori speaks at a special seminar for artists in the Isles on the 'Zuchu' Home Coming Concert to be held at Amani Stadium next month with tge mobile phone service provider's sponsorship. Photo courtesy of Zantel

# LG aims for 100pc renewable energy use by 2050

SEOUL

LG Electronics has pledged to transition completely to renewable energy by 2050 as a key component of its sustainability strategy.

The announcement formed part of the new LG Electronics Sustainability Report and comes on top of the company's earlier promise to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 through the Zero Carbon 2030 initiative, in which LG pledged to reduce carbon emissions in the production stage to 50% of 2017 standards by 2030.

The transformation will be implemented region by region starting in North America where every office and manufacturing site will be powered by renewable energy within the year. LG manufacturing facilities outside of Korea are on target to convert 50% of their electricity needs to renewable energy in the next four years.

LG said that achieving this objective globally will require "a diverse strategy", including installing high-efficiency LG solar panels on its buildings, utilising power purchase agreements that allow companies to purchase electricity directly

from suppliers, using Renewable Energy Credit certificates and participating in the Green Premium programme in Korea, LG's home market, to purchase clean energy directly from the Korea Electric Power Corporation (Kepeco).

Currently, LG is installing solar modules with a capacity of 3.2MW on a manufacturing site in Noida, India, generating electricity to power LG's administrative office as well. This project will be expanded as a part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), allowing LG to secure carbon reduction certificates from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"Our commitment to creating a better life for all can best be actualised by LG transition to renewable energy and achieving carbon neutrality," said Park Pyung-gu, senior vice president at LG Electronics safety and environment division.

"In today's world, innovation doesn't just happen in the lab, they must also happen in our factories and plants. Today's manufacturers have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to give the next generation a world worth inheriting and at LG, we take this responsibility very seriously," Pyung-gu concluded.



# Investing in healthy lifestyle for a meaningful retirement

By Kilo Mgaya

"If you were told that staying upright could lengthen your life, would you really care?" asked Norrie. "I would definitely do. We all want to live longer," I replied. Norrie's question was a continuation of a lengthy discussion that we've always had about how lifestyle affects people's health in the long run.

Norman Williamson, who is fondly known as "Norrie," is a structural engineer, a journalist and an athletic specialist who works with the World Athletics and Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AMIS). I met him when he came to Tanzania in early July 2021 for the international certification of the CRDB Bank Marathon.

The debate began when Norrie walked into the office and found me leaning back as I sat on my chair. "Hi Kilo... that's not the right posture. If you continue to sit that way throughout your career, you will get serious health problems when you retire," he said.

"I've never thought of its effects in the long term," I replied while pulling my chair to correct the posture. Prior to that, I knew little regarding the subject of paying close attention to posture as a prerequisite for securing good health ahead of retirement age.

Unbeknownst to most of us, our sitting postures pose a health threat that could have some far-reaching ramifications when we reach retirement age. The way we walk is also important for our health. Unfortunately, this happens to be yet another area that most of us do not pay enough attention to. Bad walking posture could also be hazardous.

After the Second World War in 1945, the world's population declined dramatically as many men died during the war. In an attempt to revitalize the global population, a number of countries developed a strategy to ensure that people live longer. The plan involved establishing a new lifestyle that would allow more people to live for more than 90 years while still in good health.

"People were taught the importance of eating healthy food, exercising, good walking and sitting posture and other techniques to keep them healthy and hence live longer," said Norrie, noting that this was the reason behind a rise in the number of elderly people in the 1970s to 1990s.

Norrie's arguments made me start thinking that perhaps, most of us have set our retirement plans lopsidedly. We think it's about accumulating enough to reach a "magic number" on a balance sheet, or proper asset allocation for investments which will enable us to earn an income that will help us enjoy life after retirement and afford basic necessities including medical bills.

The big question to ask is: do most



retirees who have saved enough and invested, to enjoy life? Taking an example of my mother, who retired a few years ago, the quick answer is no.

Due to age and past lifestyle, many retirees have found themselves with ballooned medical expenses due to the many health complications which are a result of lifestyles lived during their working ages.

Many of the health problems that come with age can be prevented by improving the quality of life, including posture during working age. My mother currently suffers from foot problems caused by wearing high heels for many years.

There is a Kiswahili adage that says, "Ningeljuu huja baadaya safari!" If most retirees knew the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, they wouldn't have been in the situation that they find themselves in. They would also have been able to enjoy the savings and investments they accumulated before retirement.

A conversation with Norrie also made me think about how technological advancement has been changing the way we live. Most people who work in offices these days barely walk. They are often in cars/buses. Sitting has taken up a large part of their lives which is probably why many are becoming obese.

Even at home, a typical city dweller will find it difficult to move within the same house and instead prefer to call a child or a house help to pick him/her something from the fridge. This is a socially constrained habit that causes many people to become lazy.

A recent study conducted by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) shows that obesity is rising in Tanzania, hence increasing the risk of non-communicable diseases.

Apart from the ever rising death toll from the

NCDs, individual patients incur medical and non-medical costs totalling \$1,211.78 annually, on average, as well as indirect costs such as loss of income, the report said. The cost to the government of caring for NCD patients nearly doubled from \$142.7 million in 2015/16 to \$280.6 million in 2019/20.

Obesity and NCDs are a global concern. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 39 percent of the global adult population or 1.9 billion people were overweight in 2016 while 13 percent (650 million people) were obese. Some 41 million children under five years were also diagnosed with overweight or obese.

According to ESRF, five percent of Tanzania's adult population had excessive weight in 2008, but this rose to 8.4 percent in 2016 whereas deaths from NCDs accounted for a third of all deaths. Obesity was reported to be higher among females (12.7 percent) than men (4.1 percent) and it affects the age group 45-54 years most.

Now put that aside and think instead of the effects of prolonged phone use. Most of the time, you bend your back and neck, exposing your eyes to the blue light.

Candidly, I learned a lot from my discussion with Norrie. I thought it is good to share this knowledge with colleagues because I believe we all need to immediately start living healthy lifestyles to lead a happy and ultimately, enjoy our retirement.

**Kilo Mgaya (pictured) is a public relations manager at CRDB Bank Plc in Dar es Salaam and can be reached through: Kilo Mgaya HYPERLINK "mailto:kilo.mgaya@gmail.com" kilo.mgaya@gmail.com. The views expressed in this article are his own and have no relationship with the bank.**

## Tunisian garment workers fight for unpaid wages in shadow of COVID

TUNIS

RACKING up debts and running out of options, Tunisian seamstress Najeh is pinning her hopes on her employer's promise to pay four months of overdue wages in August.

The 44-year-old, who declined to give her last name for fear of reprisals, is the main breadwinner in her household and has been commuting every day to her garment factory job of 22 years despite receiving no wages since March.

Tunisian garment factories, which mainly supply European fashion brands, have been hard-hit by the Covid-19 pandemic - with thousands of job losses and a rise in complaints about labour rights violations in the sector, union leaders said.

"How is there no money? We are working. The exports are going out as they always do," Najeh, who sews cuffs onto shirts at the Fada factory in the northeastern town of Menzel Temime, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation during her lunch break.

Exports have recovered from a drop in shipments to key European markets, but some 4,500 textile and garment workers lost their jobs in the year ending February 2021, according to the Tunisian Federation for Textiles and Garments (FTTH).

Others, like Najeh, have gone months without pay during the pandemic. Despite the Fada factory owner's pledge to pay overdue salaries next month, Najeh said she did not feel reassured about receiving the money she is owed from her monthly wage of 530 Tunisian dinars (\$192), and worries about the plant's future. Fada's lawyer declined to comment.

Najeh said the factory makes shirts for Italian brands including the Renato Balestra group, Lancetti and Il Granchio - none of which immediately replied to a request for comment. In the meantime, Najeh is juggling debts to her local shop, her son's tutor and the bus driver who takes her to work each day. Three other Fada workers said they had been evicted from their homes, unable to pay the rent, because of the wage freeze.

Structural problems

The garment and textile industry is the North African country's no. 2 export earner, official data shows, and contributed €2.1bn to the economy in 2020, according to the FTTH industry group.

More than 150,000 Tunisians work in the industry, mostly women, and the pandemic has shone a light on widespread labour abuses, said Mounir Hassine, regional director of the Tunisian Forum for Social and Economic Rights (FTDES), an NGO. "Covid has accelerated things, but all of this is related to structural problems in the sector," he said.

Only about one in 10 workers belong to a trade union, and while four years of work earns an employee a permanent contract guaranteeing improved conditions such as severance pay, workers said employers often find ways to skirt the rule.

Hassine said employees are rarely compensated if factories close down because companies seek to off-load any property that could be requisitioned after they declare bankruptcy. During the pandemic, he said there had been a rise in complaints over non-payment of severance pay and regular wages.

Withholding payment without reason or notice from workers is illegal under article 21 of the Tunisian Labour Code, said Mounir Jendoubi, a representative from the Tunisian labour union UGTT in Nabeul.

About 80% of Tunisia's textile and clothing plants produce exclusively for Europe, meaning they were badly affected when exports to the European Union plunged 15% in 2020 from a year earlier. In Italy, a leading buyer, fashion stores closed for four-and-a-half months last year due to lockdowns and sales dropped by more than a third, according to the Italian fashion industry federation Confcommercio.

"The companies have been suffering for more than a year, look at the average level of consumption in Europe - businesses are not developing, they are just trying to survive," said Hosni Boufaden, president of the FTTH.

He said manufacturers had continued to pay workers during the first lockdown last year despite the export slump and factory closures, compensating by reducing annual paid leave allowances. Such efforts were acknowledged by Ahmed Chahloul, national coordinator for the International Labour Organization's "Score Tunisia" project, which works with the Tunisian government.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

# Small traders suffering as a result of Cape Town taxi violence

CAPE TOWN

FOR yet another day on Thursday, small traders at the Bellville taxi rank sat without customers. The taxi violence in Cape Town has seen people too afraid to use taxis or buses.

Tafadzwa Chakachaka, who sells cheese and yoghurt, said, "No one buys our wares when the two modes of transport are not working." The handful of people who are using buses do not loiter but "rush past our stands without buying," she said.

She said she is also scared, but "we have no other source of income." "When the taxi drivers shoot at each other, we lie on the ground next to our stock. Our stock will be stolen and we will get caught in the ensuing stampede if we run."

The violence has also affected the vendors trying to transport their goods for selling. "I can't load all my wares in a bus when I travel back home in the evenings, but I can do so in a taxi," she said. The taxis would drop her near her home. But now, she says, "I have to hire youngsters to take my wares with a trolley to my place after I get off the bus."

She supports two children and pays R3,500 to rent a RDP house in Khayelitsha. She is feeling the pinch. "I used to eat nice takeaways, but now I have to cook at home and bring my food

here to eat as I can no longer afford them."

Madiba Kanana, who sells sweets, peanuts, chips and cook drinks, said, "I'm starving because I can't make money anymore." He said he was doing a roaring trade before the taxi violence. "My cool drink stock used to run out several times in one day ... but now I get stuck with my stock the whole day," he said. "I can't send money to my parents under the present circumstances. Now I sell just so that I can buy food."

Kanana said he and other small traders set out at 5am from Wallacedene, where he rents a backyard shack, to walk two hours to the Bellville rank. There were no customers at Ali Dop's leather bag and clothing stall. "I have been sitting here for two hours, but not a single person has even asked how much," he said.

There were no customers at Ali Dop's leather bag and clothing stall. "I have been sitting here for two hours, but not a single person has even asked how much," he said. Ali Dop, who sells leather bags, masks and clothes near the Shoprite, said he used to make about R400 per day, but some days he can't make even R100 now.

"I must pay the trolley man R10 to bring my wares to my stand and another R10 to take them back to the storeroom. Now, I don't even have money to pay them ... I continue to wait for customers in the hope that I may get R20 or R50 to buy sugar and milk," he said. A leader of the Bellville African Traders Organisation who did not



Madiba Kanana sells sweets, snacks and cool drinks. Business is so bad he can't even give his customers change for R20.

want to be named, said, "Traders are really crying. They are scared of being shot, but a few continue to sell their goods because of their financial needs."

Rosheda Muller, president of South African Traders Alliance, said violence has "caused havoc among the small traders." "As we are talking, our people

are suffering as they cannot earn a living," she said. "We call upon the taxi drivers to settle their differences in the interest of the vulnerable informal traders."



## WORLD

## Tunisian democracy in crisis after president ousts government

TUNIS

TUNISIA faced its worst crisis in a decade of democracy yesterday after President Kais Saied ousted the government and froze parliament with help from the army in a move denounced as a coup by the main parties including Islamists.

It follows months of deadlock and disputes pitting Saied, a political independent, against Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and a fragmented parliament as Tunisia has descended deeper into an economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parliament Speaker Rached Ghannouchi, the head of the moderate Islamist Ennahda party which has played a role in successive coalitions, decried it as an assault on democracy and called on Tunisians to take to the streets in opposition.

Supporters and opponents of the president threw stones at each other outside parliament on Monday morning leading to injuries with one man sitting on the pavement bleeding from the head. Tunisia's hard-currency bonds tumbled.

The army, which has yet to comment on Saied's moves, deployed to the government palace in the Kasbah and stopped workers from entering the building on Monday. Troops also surrounded parliament and stopped Ghannouchi from going in.

Al-Jazeera television said police had stormed its Tunis bureau and expelled staff. In a statement late on Sunday, Saied invoked the constitution to dismiss Mechichi and decree a freeze of parliament for 30 days, saying he would govern alongside a new premier.

Mechichi -- also an independent -- is at his home and not under arrest, one source close to him and two Tunisian security sources said. Saied has yet to say when the new premier will be appointed.

His actions follow a day of protests against the government and Ennahda, the biggest party in parliament, following a spike in COVID-19 cases and growing an-



President Kais Saied

ger over chronic political dysfunction and economic malaise.

It poses the greatest risk to Tunisia's stability since the 2011 revolution that triggered the "Arab spring" and ousted an autocracy in favour of democratic rule, but has failed to deliver sound governance or prosperity.

Hours after Saied's announcement, huge crowds gathered to back him in Tunis and other cities, cheering, dancing and ululating while the military blocked off parliament and state television station.

## NEW SIST

Supporters of Saied and Ennahda gathered outside parliament early on Monday morning, some of them exchanging insults and throwing bottles.

"We are here to protect Tunisia. We have seen all the tragedies under the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood," said a young man who gave his name as Ayman.

He was referring to the Islamist movement founded in Egypt in 1928 which has inspired Sunni Islamists across the Arab world, including Ennahda.

In recent years, Ennahda has sought to distance itself from the Brotherhood,

saying it has nothing to do with the movement which was driven from power in Egypt in 2013 by the military, encouraged by mass protests against its rule.

Imed Ayadi, an Ennahda member, likened Saied to Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, who deposed the Brotherhood's Mohamed Mursi in 2013.

"Saied is a new Sisi who wants to collect all authority for himself...We will stand up to the coup against the revolution", he said.

Ghannouchi arrived at the parliament building early on Monday morning and said he would call a session in defiance of Saied, but the army stationed outside stopped the 80-year-old former political exile from entering.

"I am against gathering all powers in the hands of one person," he said, standing in front of the locked gates.

Saied, who swept to office in 2019 after campaigning as the scourge of a corrupt, incompetent elite, rejected accusations that he had conducted a coup.

Agencies

## Huawei to invest \$150 million in digital talent development

SHENZHEN

HUAWEI plans to invest US\$150 million in digital talent development over the next five years. This program is expected to benefit another 3 million youth.

"Today we are announcing Huawei's Seeds for the Future Program 2.0. As part of our commitment to continuously developing talent, we will invest US\$150 million in this program over the next five years and help college students and young people improve their digital skills. This program is expected to benefit another 3 million people," said Huawei's Chairman Dr. Liang Hua (pictured).

In 2008, Huawei began to expand its talent development programs, through scholarships, technology competitions, and digital skills training, and has invested more than US\$150 million in these programs. Huawei has since benefited more than 1.54 million people from over 150 countries.

Seeds for the Future is a program that aims to help cultivate young talent around the world, providing them with training from global ICT experts on the latest technology to help them develop the skills and mindsets needed to be competitive in the workplaces of the future.

Huawei introduced this program to Africa in 2014. Over the past years, the program has benefited nearly 2,000 students in more than 25 African countries. The program and Huawei's efforts in ICT talent development has been recognized by many African governments.

From the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary Dr. Leonard Akwilapo had high praise for the "Seeds for the Future" program and its role in enabling employability skills.

"The program stabilizes the partnership between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Huawei Tanzania in nurturing a healthy and sustainable ecosystem of human resources in ICT. The program initiatives are acting as a bridge that fills the gap between theoretical learning and practical requirements in the job market." He said

Yang Chen, Vice President of Huawei Southern Africa Region, said Huawei is committed to Africa's human resource development.

"Africa has the youngest population in the world. These youth are the continent's greatest resource which will power the economy in the future. Huawei partners with African governments, education institutes and industry to equip the future leaders with the latest knowledge at the very highest global levels and provide them opportunities to apply it to achieve a better future for the continent."

Agencies

## China has every right to reject WHO's embrace of lab-leak theory - US journalist

BEIJING

CHINA has every right to be suspicious of the undue focus the West placed on the Wuhan Institute of Virology, a U.S. journalist has said, noting that biased investigations into and politicization of COVID-19 origins would only lead to more questions than answers.

"The lab leak theory is a highly politicized framework for pursuing answers into the origins of COVID-19. That China would exercise caution in supporting an investigation that possesses far-from-impartial motives should come as no surprise," wrote Danny Haiphong, an independent U.S. journalist and researcher, in an opinion article published Friday in the China Global Television Network.

The article came after Vice Director of China's National Health Commission Zeng Yixin on Thursday rejected a second-phase plan proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO) with a focus on the lab-leak theory.

Zeng reiterated that WHO experts agreed after visiting the Wuhan institution that it was "extremely unlikely" that the virus escaped from a lab.

Haiphong noted that the lab-leak hypothesis emerged from far-right political forces in the United States last year, while the current administration still continued the narrative.

U.S. President Joe Biden ordered an intelligence investigation into COVID-19's possible origins in Wuhan, after the Wall Street Journal claimed workers at the Wuhan institute had fallen ill, he said.

Likewise, in 2002, Michael Gordon, a security correspondent with the Wall Street Journal, co-authored a report claiming that Saddam Hussein was harboring weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, which was influential in the U.S. decision to invade Iraq. The eight-year war only caused the death of nearly 1 million people and massive instability in the region, according to the writer. "COVID-19 is an extremely complex phenomenon. It will likely take years for scientific experts to fully understand a virus that has facilitated such a historic public health crisis in every part of the world," he said.

Unlike Washington's and the West's claims that China is not being transparent in the rejection of a lab-leak probe, "China has been a model of transparency throughout the duration of the COVID-19 crisis."

Xinhua

## Egypt hosts training to boost space cooperation among African countries

CAIRO

THE Egyptian Space Agency (EgSA) started on Sunday a space technology training course for 17 engineers and specialists from five African countries to boost their cooperation and exchange of expertise in the space field.

Running from July 25 to Aug. 5, the 12-day program provides theoretical and practical training for the trainees who are from Nigeria, Sudan, Ghana, Uganda and Kenya. During the opening ceremony, EgSA CEO Mohamed El-Koosy told the attendees that developing space technology is not easy, for it needs a longstanding experience and a considerable

budget. "But it is not impossible. It can be achieved by the cooperation of African countries in space projects that have a positive influence on their economy and sustainable development," El-Koosy said.

Following the opening ceremony, the trainees and guests were taken on a tour inside EgSA's unfinished Satellite Assembly, Integration and Test Center (AITC), which is being built with help from China.

The 5,000-square-meter center is expected to be finished in March or April 2022, a year later than scheduled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

El-Koosy praised China's assistance to Egypt in the space

field and its grants to establish the AITC as well as MirSat II remote sensing satellite, noting that Chinese experts will provide training to EgSA staff before they deliver the center to the Egyptian agency.

"The Chinese experts need six months to train our people, on-the-job training. Once our people are trained, the Chinese experts will deliver the center to the Egyptian side," the head of EgSA told Xinhua during the tour.

Since Egypt and many other African countries participate in China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), we welcome using this center under the umbrella of the BRI to serve African states that participate in the

BRI," he added.

Egypt offered in late November 2019 to hold this training course on satellite and space technology, after it signed here in EgSA with Nigeria, Sudan, Ghana, Uganda and Kenya a declaration of the project of the African Development Satellite Initiative.

The opening ceremony of the training course was attended by a number of Egyptian and African officials and diplomats, academics, representatives from the African Union and other African organizations, as well as space agency chiefs of some African countries. "It is apparent that we have to speak together and work together to take Africa to

where we want it to be. It is our responsibility to develop this science and technology.

The Egyptian Space Agency has taken the lead and we're glad and excited," said Halilu Ahmed Shaba, director-general of Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).

The NASRDA chief also hoped that this training program will lead to future collaborations between participating African countries in the field. For his part, Samuel Donkor, president of All Nations University (ANU) in Ghana, expressed his appreciation of what Egypt is doing "for the development of space activities in Africa."

Xinhua

## Support for Japan's Suga slides as COVID-19 shadows Olympics

TOKYO

MILLIONS of Japanese watched the Olympics opening ceremony and many are cheering on their athletes, but the shadow of COVID-19 is so far preventing Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga from getting a boost in his soggy support ahead of an election this year.

Voter support for Suga slid nine points to 34 percent, its lowest since he took office last September, a July 23-25 Nikkei business daily survey showed on Monday. The Games, postponed last year by the pandemic, opened on Friday.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents said the country's rollout of coronavirus vaccinations was not going well.

The program has been hampered by a slow start and supply snarls, and less than a quarter are fully vaccinated.

Suga's dream scenario had been to contain the virus outbreak, preside over a successful Games and call a general election. That was upended after a surge in COVID-19 infections led to a fourth state of emergency in Tokyo and forced Olympic organizers to ban spectators from almost all venues.

Tokyo reported 1,429 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, almost double the number on the same day a week earlier.

Japan has had some cheering news from the Games, winning six gold medals - including a historic two in judo by Uta Abe and her brother Hifumi on Sunday.

Yuto Horigome won the men's street skateboarding on Sunday, the first Olympic gold medal for the sport. Further success came from 13-year-old Momiji Nishiya, who won



gold in the women's street skateboarding on Monday to become Japan's youngest-ever gold medal winner.

Nishiya's win along with a bronze for compatriot Funa Nakayama, 16, caused Twitter to light up with congratulations.

Yiannis Exarchos, CEO of Olympic Broadcasting Services, said the opening ceremony was watched by more than 70 million people in Japan, making it the most watched event in the last decade.

Organizers were keeping

a wary eye on tropical storm Nepartak, which was heading toward Japan's east coast and forecast to pass to the north of Tokyo.

They said there was currently no plan to reschedule further events. Tuesday's rowing program was disrupted, with races rescheduled for later in the week. Monday's rowing events were moved to Sunday in anticipation of the storm.

## Worries about contagion

Many Japanese fear the influx of athletes and officials for the global sporting event will add to the surge in infections, and 31 percent in the Nikkei survey said the Games should be cancelled or postponed again.

Some 56 percent said Japan's border steps for incoming Olympics athletes and officials were "inappropriate",

the Nikkei survey showed. The Games are being held under tight quarantine rules to prevent the spread of infections, but a number of cases have emerged involving athletes and others.

Olympics organizers reported 16 new Games-related COVID-19 cases on Monday, including three athletes, bringing the total since July 1 to 148.

The Dutch rowing team's performance director said the team had agreed to separate itself from other competitors after one of its athletes, a coach and a staff member all tested positive for COVID-19.

A strict "playbook" setting out rules to avoid contagion mandates frequent testing for the virus, restricted movements and wearing masks by athletes and others in most situations.

Agencies

## China unveils world's first 600 km/h high-speed maglev train

A HIGH-SPEED maglev system with a maximum speed of 600 km/h rolled off the assembly line in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province on Tuesday.

The train, independently developed and manufactured by China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation (CRRC), a Chinese supplier of rail transit equipment, is the world's first 600 km/h maglev train, as well as the speediest ground vehicle globally.

High-speed maglev technology is at the frontier of global rail transit development. The 600 km/h maglev system marks that China has mas-

tered a complete set of high-speed maglev train engineering technologies.

The 600 km/h maglev train adopts mature and reliable normal conducting technology that repels and pushes the train up off the track. It is fast, efficient, safe, and reliable, offering high-capacity, flexible, punctual and green services.

The maglev train project started five years ago, witnessing a number of technological breakthroughs and advances. The project independently developed and manufactured a five-carriage engineering prototype with a designed top speed of 600

km/h, and systematically tackled technological barriers in acceleration, adaptability to complicated environment, and localization of core systems.

It also made huge strides in the development of complete-set high-speed maglev train engineering technologies, including system integration, vehicle production, traction power supply, rail trails, and transport control and communication.

At present, the maximum operational speed of high-speed rail services stands at 350 km/h, while the typical cruising airspeed of passenger aircraft is 800 to 900 km/h. As a

new form of high-speed transit, the maglev train is able to fill the market vacancy. Besides, it can travel with two to 10 carriages, with each carrying as many as over 100 passengers. The levitated train is free from wheel-track friction, so it needs little maintenance and lasts longer between each overhaul.

As the fastest ground vehicle available, the train provides the best solution for trips within a range of 1,500 km. For instance, it takes approximately 4.5 and 5.5 hours to travel door-to-door from Beijing to Shanghai by air and by high-speed rail, respectively, while the time is cut to

around 2.5 hours by a high-speed maglev train.

It is reported that engineers have completed the integration of the maglev transportation system, and a train with five carriages has been running well on a test line within the factory. China will further trial runs of the system and advance semi-industry experiments to promote continuous innovation and industrialization of relevant technologies, and drive its high-end manufacturing upgrade and development of emerging sectors of strategic importance.

People's Daily

As the fastest ground vehicle available, the train provides the best solution for trips within a range of 1,500 km



## Russian diplomat urges Germany to publish video of OPCW taking samples from Navalny

MOSCOW

GERMANY should publish a video showing how samples were taken from Russian blogger Alexey Navalny by specialists of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokeswoman, Maria Zakharova, said in a statement on Friday.

"This provocation, apparently concocted in haste by the Euro-Atlantic 'community' is so thinly veiled, that, upon a closer view, any reasonable person will have numerous questions about what really happened to Alexey Navalny.

In the current situation, we would suggest that our German colleagues, for example, show to the international community a video footage, which was supposed to be taken by OPCW specialists when they were taking biological samples from Alexey Navalny in the Charite hospital, when they subsequently separated samples and sealed them for being sent to two laboratories, appointed by the OPCW technical secretariat to carry out the research," Zakharova said.

"Exactly this format of procedures is envisaged by the Chemical Weapons Convention and its annex on verification, which must be fully observed. Without this evidence, it would be very hard to believe that the 'poisoning' of Alexey Navalny has really taken place," she said.

Inconsistencies in the report of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the incident with Russian blogger Alexey Navalny confirm that the incident was an orchestrated provocation, Zakharova said on Thursday.

The report mentioned that the OPCW Technical Secretariat had deployed a technical assistance mission related to the suspected "poisoning of a Russian citizen" at Germany's request on August 20, 2020 - the day of the Navalny incident.

The diplomat emphasized that the drafting of Germany's request to the OPCW had to take a considerable amount of time, as that could not have happened immediately.

German Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Rainer Breul said that time discrepancies in the OPCW draft report in the part related to the alleged poisoning of blogger Alexey Navalny were due to a mistake in the date, which was corrected in the second version.

Alexey Navalny was rushed to a local hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk on August 20, 2020, after collapsing on a Moscow-bound flight from Tomsk.

He fell into a coma and was put on a ventilator in an intensive care unit. On August 22, he was airlifted to Berlin and admitted to the Charite hospital.

On September 2, the German government claimed that the blogger had been affected by a toxic agent belonging to the Novichok family. Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov pointed out that no poisonous substances had been detected in Navalny's system prior to his transfer to Berlin.

Agencies

## Landmark Vatican fraud trial of 10 including a cardinal set to start

VATICAN CITY

A LANDMARK fraud trial of 10 people including a cardinal begins in the Vatican today in what officials hope will be a turning point in its financial credibility and show that no-one is above the law.



The headliner at the trial is Cardinal Angelo Becciu (pictured), 73, formerly a senior official in the Vatican administration, who becomes the most senior Vatican official to be tried for financial crimes.

Pope Francis, who lifted Becciu's immunity so he could be indicted, fired him from his last Vatican post in 2020 for alleged nepotism. Becciu has always maintained his innocence.

Another formerly prominent defendant at the trial, which mostly revolves around the purchase of a building in one of London's smartest districts, is Swiss lawyer Rene Bruehlhart, once head of Vatican's Financial Intelligence Unit. He denies all wrongdoing.

The key outsiders are two Italian investment brokers, Gianluigi Torzi and Raffaele Mincione, both of whom have denied wrongdoing.

Hearings today and tomorrow are expected to deal with preliminary matters and then the trial is expected to be adjourned until October, when two hearings a week will be held.

It is taking place in a makeshift courtroom in the Vatican Museums because Covid restrictions and the number of defendants, lawyers and journalists make the Vatican's normal courtroom too small.

"I think this trial marks a turning point that can bring about greater credibility of the Holy See in financial areas," said Father Juan Antonio Father Juan Antonio Guerrero, head of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Economy (SPE).

"The fact that this trial is taking place at all means that internal controls worked. The accusations came from inside the Vatican," he told the official Vatican News website.

### 'Deception, Extortion'

In 2014, the Secretariat of State invested more than 200 million euros, much of it from contributions from the faithful, in a fund run by Mincione, securing about 45 percent of a commercial and residential building at 60 Sloane Avenue in London's South Kensington district. The indictment handed down on July 3 said Mincione had tried to deceive the Vatican, which in 2018 tried to end the relationship.

It turned to Torzi for help in buying up the rest of the building, but later accused him of extortion.

At the time, Becciu was in the last year of his post as deputy secretary of state for general affairs, a powerful administrative position that handles hundreds of millions of euros.

Agencies

## Cultural sites in China, India, Iran, Spain inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage

PARIS

FOUR sites in China, India, Iran and Spain have been inscribed on the World Heritage List, announced the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) on Sunday.

Those sites include "Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan China", "Ramappa Temple" in India, "Trans-Iranian Railway" in Iran, and "Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro", a landscape of arts and sciences in Spain, the UNESCO said in a press release.

The east China's port city of Quanzhou, once hailed as "the very great and noble city" by the Italian explorer Marco Polo, won the prestigious status and brought the total number of China's UNESCO World Heritage sites to 56.

Located on narrow plains along the coastline of Fujian province, Quanzhou was one of the world's largest ports along the historic Maritime Silk Road, particularly in ancient China's Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

The serial properties in Quanzhou include 22 sites of administrative buildings and structures, religious buildings, and statues across the city.

The properties encompassed multi-cultural communities, cultural memorial sites and monuments, the production of ceramics and iron, and a transportation network formed of bridges, docks and pagodas that guided voyagers.

The committee, during its 44th session held online and chaired from Fuzhou, China, also added some other sites, including Kakatiya Rudreshwara in the State of Telanganam in India, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, to the list.

The construction of the sandstone Shiva temple began in 1213 and is believed to have continued for over



Aerial photo taken on July 5, 2021 shows Wanshou Pagoda in Shishi City, Quanzhou, southeast China's Fujian Province. Quanzhou, a coastal city in China's Fujian Province, was a global maritime trade center back in the Song and Yuan dynasties. Xinhua

some 40 years.

The temple's sculptures of high artistic quality illustrate regional dance customs and Kakatiyan culture and the choice of setting for the edifice followed the ideology and practice sanctioned in dharmic texts that temples are to be constructed to form an integral part of a natural setting, according to the committee.

The 1,394-kilometer-long trans-Irani-

an Railway connects the Caspian Sea in the northeast with the Persian Gulf in the southwest, crossing two mountain ranges as well as rivers, highlands, forests and plains, and four different climatic areas.

Started in 1927 and completed in 1938, the railway is notable for its scale and the engineering works it required to overcome steep routes and other difficulties.

Paseo del Prado and Buen Retiro, the 200-hectare cultural landscape is located at the urban heart of Madrid.

Evolved since the 16th century, the avenue and buildings in the site "illustrate the aspiration for a utopian society during the height of the Spanish

## Women bullied, harassed in British military - report

LONDON

ABOUT 64 percent of British female veterans and 58 percent of currently-serving women reported experiencing bullying, harassment and discrimination during their careers, a parliamentary report revealed Sunday.

Published by the House of Commons (lower house of the British Parliament) Defense

Sub-Committee on Women in the Armed Forces, the report said there is "truly shocking" evidence of bullying, sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape experienced by servicewomen.

At the same time, most of the women who responded to a major survey by the committee said they did not believe the military did enough to address the problems, as six in 10 wom-

en did not report the bullying, harassment and discrimination they experienced.

"Of those who did complain, one-third rated the experience 'extremely poor,'" the report added.

"Unfortunately, the stories we heard paint a difficult picture for women in the military. Accounts of bullying, harassment, discrimination, 'laddish' behavior, and sometimes seri-

ous sexual assault and rape. The complaints system, as it stands, is woefully inadequate and leaves most feeling unable to come forward," said military veteran Sarah Atherton who chairs the sub-committee.

She said the committee heard accusations of senior officers sweeping complaints under the rug to protect their own reputations and careers.

"It is clear from this report

that more can, and should, be done to protect and provide for servicewomen and female veterans, who have, far too often, been let down by the Ministry of Defence. Where there has been injustice, rectifications must be made. The issue of sexual assault and rape in the military is pressing," said Tobias Ellwood, chair of the House of Commons Defense Committee.

Agencies

## 'Scientific evidence already refutes 'lab leak' conspiracy theory'

IT has become a general consensus among scientists and scholars that the novel coronavirus originated naturally, and scientific evidence has already disproven the "lab leak" theory, stressed a professor of the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, where it has been claimed that the virus might have escaped from.

Yuan Zhiming, also director of the National Biosafety Laboratory (NBL) at the WIV, made the remarks at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office of China on July 22, in response to a question on the COVID-19 origins asked by a reporter who cited an article published by some scientists on the peer-reviewed academic journal Science in May, in which they pointed out that it is necessary to consider the possibilities that the virus either arose naturally or escaped from a lab.

On July 5 this year, 24 world-renowned experts once again published a paper in The Lancet, a weekly peer-reviewed general medical journal, in which they stressed that there is no scientific evidence to support the theory that the novel coronavirus leaked from a Chinese lab, Yuan noted.

Later on July 7, experts from the U.S., the U.K, and Australia published a preprint of their findings on Zenodo, a European platform for scientific data sharing, pointing out that there is no evidence that the virus came from a Wuhan lab, the early cases were connected to the WIV in any way, or that the WIV had or studied ancestors of the COVID-19 before the outbreak of the pandemic.

Just a few days ago, 22 Chinese and foreign scientists published an article in a Chinese academic journal Science China, in which they demonstrated convincingly why the virus could only have evolved naturally and couldn't be man-made with classical evolutionary theory and methods and refuted the "lab leak" conspiracy theory with scientific evidence.

The NBL, a P4 or biosafety level-4 (the highest level) lab, is as good as any other P4 labs in operation in the world in terms of hardware facilities, management, team composition and working protocols, Yuan said.

Since it was officially put into operation in 2018, the NBL has not had any incident of leakage or staff infection, according to Yuan.

Designed, constructed and operated according to international require-



Yuan Zhiming, professor with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV)

ments and the national standards of China, the NBL has not only been equipped with stable and reliable biosafety protection facilities, but established a complete biosafety management system and a professional team to support, manage and maintain its operation.

Before Dec. 30, 2019, the WIV hadn't come into contact, stored, or researched the COVID-19 virus; and it has never designed, made or leaked the virus, Yuan stressed.

After the sudden attack of the virus, the WIV promptly identified it, isolated the virus strain, and determined its whole genome sequence by making use of its platform, technology, and talent advantages accumulated over the years. Besides, it reported the whole genome sequence of the virus to the World Health Organization (WHO) in time on Jan. 12, 2020.

"After isolating and obtaining strain of the virus, we began the screening of antiviral drugs, vaccine research and the establishment of animal models, providing effective support for the fight against the pandemic with scientific and technological means," Yuan said.

When asked about a WIV virus database at the press conference, Yuan pointed out that the database is actually a preliminary framework established by research teams of the WIV, and its structure and content have been continuously improved.

Considering that the website of the WIV and the work and private mailboxes of many employ-

ees have suffered from plenty of malicious attacks, the database is only shared within the WIV at present.

It is a tradition in the scientific circle that a research team publishes its findings in the form of papers after analysis and systematic organization of some primary data in the database, and then makes its papers available for viewing and retrieving in databases, Yuan noted, adding that the WIV will display and share its database while strictly conforming to the rule in the scientific circle.

Yuan also contradicted some doubts about the WIV with solid facts. Having always upheld the idea of sharing scientific research information in time, the WIV reported the whole genome sequence of the virus to the WHO promptly after it acquired preliminary results of pathogen identification.

Back on Feb. 3, 2020, the research team of Shi Zhengli, a WIV researcher, published a paper in Nature, a leading multidisciplinary science journal, pointing out that the COVID-19 came from nature. One day later, researchers at the WIV published in an international magazine their research results of the antiviral activity of several drugs at the cellular level.

The WIV has also actively participated in international video and audio academic conferences held by the WHO, National Academy of Sciences of the U.S., French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, Russian Academy of Sciences and other organizations, and shared with its international counterparts in a timely manner its results in the establishment of animal models, antiviral drug screening, and development of inactivated COVID-19 vaccines.

No country can survive the raging pandemic all by itself, said Yuan, who believes only through cooperation and coordinated actions can countries contain the spread of the virus effectively and bring people around the world back to a prosperous and harmonious life.

People's Daily

## Russia considers Kuril Islands issue closed, says senator

MOSCOW



JAPAN must understand that Russia considers the issue of the Kuril Islands closed and come to grips that Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin is visiting Russian territory, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation Council's (upper house of parliament) Committee on Foreign Affairs Vladimir Dzhubarov (pictured) told TASS yesterday.

Earlier, the Japanese Foreign Ministry summoned Russian Ambassador to Japan Mikhail Galuzin to express protest over Mishustin's visit to the Iturup Island.

"Our Prime Minister is traveling across Russian territory that is inalienable from Russia in accordance with the Constitution. He did everything in accordance with the Constitution, and we do not need another country's permission or notice to visit our territory.

I think the Japanese should have a calmer view on this. They must understand that Russia considers the matter with the islands closed," Dzhubarov emphasized.

He pointed out that Russia had repeatedly called on the Japanese for economic cooperation on the island, and Moscow is interested in that.

"This would benefit both Japan and Russia. This would be better than trying to make the islands part of Japan so that American bases might appear there the next day.

The Japanese have never hidden that. They are under the US 'missile umbrella,' and these islands would have been handed over for the deployment of US bases. "This matter is not under discussion for Russia," he reiterated.

Yesterday, Mishustin began a working visit to Russia's Far East and Siberia. His trip started with a visit to Iturup, which forms part of the Kuril Islands.

### Peace treaty

For decades, Moscow and Tokyo have been holding consultations in order to clinch a peace treaty as a follow-up in the wake of World War II.

The southern Kuril Islands issue remains the key sticking point. In 1945, the whole archipelago was handed over to the Soviet Union. Tokyo laid claims to Iturup, Kunashir, Shikotan, and a group of uninhabited islands.

Tokyo often lodges protests over Russia's activity in the southern Kurils, which Moscow steadily rejects. The Russian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly stated that Moscow's sovereignty over the islands is enshrined in international law and cannot be called into question.

Mishustin's predecessor Dmitry Medvedev visited the Kuril Islands several times while serving as prime minister and president. Medvedev visited the Kuril Islands for the first time in 2010. Before that, top Russian officials had never visited the islands.

Agencies



# SPORT



Tanzania's national U-23 football squad's fullback, Israel Patrick (L), challenges Uganda's U-23 side's attacker as the two teams faced off in this season's Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-23 Challenge Cup's match, which took place in Ethiopia on Saturday.

## Tanzania to take on South Sudan in CECAFA U-23 Challenge Cup semis

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA's national U-23 football side will be out to inch closer to clinching this season's Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-23 Challenge Cup, as the squad is set to confront South Sudan in the semi-final in Ethiopia tomorrow.

The Tanzania U-23 side had advanced to the last four's stage with a 1-1 draw with Uganda's U-23 team in the last round-robin match, played at the Bahir Dar Stadium last weekend.

Tomorrow's last four stage's tie between South Sudan's U-23 team and Tanzania's U-23 team will as well take place at the venue.

In the round-robin clash against Uganda's U-23 squad, Tanzania's U-23 squad netted the opener on the 32nd minute from the penalty spot, which was converted by right-back Israel Patrick.

Uganda managed to level matters through striker Steven Mukwala in the 40th minute.

Tanzania's U-23 team's keeper, Metacha Mnata, emerged as the side's hero in the match, given he put solid displays between the posts.

In one of his key plays, the keeper, who as well features for Yanga, had saved a spot-kick by one of Uganda's U-23 squad's players in the first half of the Group A match.

Tanzania's U-23 squad has advanced to the semi-finals after collecting a total of four points in the two matches played.

They had edged Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 1-0 in their opening fixture, held on Tuesday last week.

Forward Reliants Lusajo, who as well features for Namungo FC, netted the all-important goal for Tanzania's U-23 squad.

This year's regional tournament had brought together U-23 players but each of the participating teams was allowed to

field up to three players aged over 23.

The showdown kicked off on July 17 and will climax on July 30.

Uganda's national team is the showdown's defending champions, having won the title in 2019.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's U-23 team is an invited team in the competition.

The 2021 CECAFA U-23 Challenge Cup is the 41st edition of the annual regional tournament.

It is an international football competition bringing together national teams of member nations of the CECAFA.

The annual CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup is considered the oldest football tournament in Africa.

The tournament is collaborative between the larger Eastern African countries and part of Central Africa and is run by CECAFA.

The CECAFA is made up of 11 members, 10 of whom are federations recognized by the world soccer governing body, FIFA.

They are Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Kenya.

The 11th member- Zanzibar-is still chasing the association status with FIFA.

The tournament began way back in 1926 under the name 'Gossage Cup', which then was mainly a Kenya-Uganda affair.

But it grew to include Tanganyika, the present-day Tanzania, from 1945 and later the showdown became a four-nation event when Zanzibar joined in 1949.

Gossage Cup, sponsored by Soap manufacturer William Gossage, gave way to the East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup in 1967.

Under this banner, the tournament ran for only five years till 1971 before giving way to the present day CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup, which effectively kicked off in 1973.

The first-ever CECAFA Senior Challenge Cup was held in Uganda in 1973 and hosts Uganda emerged winners, beating Tanzania 2-1 in the final.

## Mgendera accepts rematch with Nassib

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN professional boxer, Ibrahim Mgendera, has accepted a request for a rematch with compatriot, Nassib Ramadhan, in the upcoming fight only if they get a promoter, who will organize the bout.

The boxers last met in a fight which took place at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam in August last year and Mgendera won.

Mgendera has now won 27 fights since he started his professional boxing career on June 26, 2010, of which 11 have been won by Knockout (KO), with only six career losses.

Ramadhan recently said that he wants to have a rematch with Mgendera because he believes the latter did not win fairly in their previous fight.

The Mabibo-based pugilist stated he, for that matter, wants to reassure his fans that he is a better boxer.

Commenting on Ramadhan's statement, Mgendera said he is ready for the rematch with the former, as he is confident that he is better than his opponent.

"I'm confident, he will look for a promoter to organize the fight and I'm ready to beat him again, I'm a well-drilled boxer," he said.

According to Boxrec, Mgendera is the number one boxer in Tanzania in Super Featherweight, whereas Ramadhan is positioned fourth in Super Bantamweight in the country. Mgendera last took part in a fight in Dar es Salaam in May this year, coming up against South African boxer, Sibusiso Zingange, in a seven-round non-title fight, which had Mgendera winning by points.

The bout divided boxing fans in the country, given a section of them claimed Mgendera had not won fairly, while he was adamant he won legally and his opponent was at some point tired and that led to points deduction on the South African's part.

The fight's referee, Tanzanian Chaurembo Palasa, who is also a former professional pugilist, said although Mgendera fought below standard, he won.

Palasa noted: "He didn't have strong punches, of course, it's due to not exercising more power, but he won and what helped him win was his ability to win more rounds than his opponent."

"Although there were some rounds, which had Mgendera beaten, they were few compared to the ones he won and collected points," he said.

## SPORTS

# Government praises Mr UK Dar Marathon

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE government has hailed Mr UK Dar Marathon for reaching out to sick children in Tanzania.

Kinondoni District Commissioner, Godwin Gondwe, issued the praise at Leaders Club in Dar es Salaam last Saturday, when the maiden MR UK Dar Marathon was held.

The race attracted many people, including government officials led by Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Pauline Gekul, Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, and Gondwe.

Gondwe said he is happy that local companies are at the forefront of efforts to reach out to needy people.

The money raised at last Saturday's event was donated to Muhimbili Orthopedic Center (MOI) for meeting costs for operating children suffering from hydrocephalus and spine bitide at the hospital.

"We are happy that local companies are at the forefront of efforts to help the sick children in the country. We are asking others to emulate this good gesture," Makalla, who represented former President Jakaya Kikwete at the event, noted.

During the event, athlete Emmanuel Giniki was the winner in the men's 21km race, clocking 1.02.37 while Joseph Gisemo and Shingada Giniki finished second and third respectively.

Gisemo clocked 1.02.46 to end second, Giniki settled for the third spot



The maiden Mr UK Dar Marathon's organizing committee member, Nelson Mrashani.

with 1.03.33.

The race's women category saw Grace Jackson beat the rest to the top honour after clocking 1.17.33, Jackline Sakilu ended second with 1.19.34.

The third place went to Tunu Andrea as the runner clocked 1.19.36.

In the men's 10km event, Francis Dami-an was the winner by clocking 30.04.12, the second spot was won by Yohana Sulle who posted 30.21.8.

Emmanuel Dinday took the third spot, clocking 30.23.11.

Valentine Michael emerged as the winner in the women's 10km race, recording 37.27.02.

The race's second spot was won by Anastanzia Dolomongo, who registered 37.27.08, followed by Fatuma Malengo that came third with 38.06.14.

The event was held under the theme 'Run Towards Investment' and it also involved Fun Run (5km race).

Recently, MOI neurosurgeon, Juma Mzimhiri, thanked MR UK Dar Marathon for helping needy children in the country.

Mzimhiri pointed out the money which will be raised will help 100 children suffering from the mentioned disease to be operated on and get back to normal condition.

## Pamba SC coach hails players' work ethic in playoffs

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER failing to lead promotion to 2021/22 Mainland Premier League, Mwanza's Pamba SC head coach, Ulimboka Mwakingwe, has congratulated his players for showing fighting spirit in the top-flight's promotion/relegation playoffs.

Pamba SC, a First Division League team, on Saturday, lost 3-1 to Premier League outfit, Coastal Union, in one of the playoffs' return leg, which was held at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

The outcome has for that matter left Coastal Union clinging on to their spot in the top flight next season.

In the playoffs' first leg, which took place in Mwanza last Wednesday, Coastal Union notched a 2-2 draw with Pamba SC.

Mwakingwe, a former Simba SC winger, noted: "Although we have not had the opportunity to play in the Premier Leagues, I congratulate my players very much for their dedication and following the instructions we issued. Football is an open game."

"I do not criticize my players in any way, they have worked hard to protect my honour, as well as Pamba SC's and Mwanza people's," the tactician noted.

Pamba SC failed to win promotion to Premier League after conceding 5-3 aggregate defeat.

The side had, in the playoffs which took place in Mwanza, failed to fully exploit several good chances, one of the outfit's players also could not net a spot-kick in the tie.

The Premier League's promotion/relegation playoffs have been completed, with Morogoro-based Mtibwa Sugar as well clinging on to its place in the Premier League.

Mtibwa Sugar saw off Dar es Salaam's Transit Camp FC in the fixtures, trouncing the army team 4-2 on aggregate.

The Morogoro side cruised to a convincing 4-1 win over Transit Camp FC in the first leg, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

The second leg, which took place in Morogoro, saw Transit Camp FC notch a 1-0 win over their opponents.

Coastal Union goals remaining in the Premier League were scored by striker Abdul Hamis (Sopu) who scored two goals while the third goal was scored by the Cotton FC goalkeeper in the final minutes of the game.

As a result, the two teams have joined Simba SC, Yanga, Azam FC, Biashara United, KMC FC, Polisi Tanzania, Prisons, Dodoma Jiji FC, Namungo FC, Mbeya City FC, Ruvi



Pamba SC head coach, Ulimboka Mwakingwe.

Shooting FC, and Kagera Sugar in the top flight next season.

First Division League sides, Mbeya Kwanza FC and Geita Gold FC are the new entrants to the next season's top flight.

The clubs had earlier garnered automatic promotion to the top flight, given they had booked a place in this season's First Division League final.



## How the Russians caught the US in gymnastics

TOKYO

TOM Forster's words were jarring. Not because they were controversial or insincere, but because they simply hadn't been uttered by someone in charge of the USA Gymnastics women's program for a long, long time.

"I want to say congratulations to Russia for the amazing competition they did today, for the transformation they've made since 2019," Forster said after the team representing the Russian Olympic Committee finished ahead of the Americans during Olympic qualifying on Sunday.

The strides made by the U.S.'s longtime rival were lost amid the immediate shock of having the U.S. team led by reigning Olympic champion Simone Biles find itself looking up at the scoreboard to someone above them for the first time since the 2010 world championships.

Three of the four Americans who went to work at the Ariake Gymnastics Centre on Sunday – Biles, Sunisa Lee and Grace McCallum – were part of the squad that rolled to victory in Stuttgart in October 2019.

There, the U.S. topped qualifying and the finals by more than five points, a massive margin in a sport where mere tenths can often be the difference between the gold and going home empty-handed. The Russians finished a distant second, just like every team trying to catch the Americans over the last decade.

In Japan, the gap has closed considerably. Maybe completely. Competing in the subdivision ahead of the U.S., Angelina Melnikova and her teammates put on a dazzling display of artistry and execution. Their 171.629 total was their highest in a major team competition since the Code of Points was updated in 2017.

It's not that the Americans were bad. They weren't. They just weren't great. The Russians were, which should offer Tuesday night's team final something it has lacked for a decade: actual drama.

So how did we get here, and how does it work? Let's take a look.

### WHAT'S WITH THIS SCORING SYSTEM?

The days of Nadia Comaneci and the perfect 10 are long gone. The International Gymnastics Federation switched to a new system following a judging controversy at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Starting in 2006, scores were broken down into two parts. The difficulty (D) score is based on what a gymnast does during their routine. The harder the elements the athlete successfully strings together, the higher the total.

In theory, the D-score can be open-ended. Most elite routines carry a D-score between 5.4 and 6.0. Exceptional routines – like what Biles does on floor or what Lee does on uneven bars – score 6.5 or higher.

The second score is the execution (E) score. It is based on a 10.0 scale, but the perfectly executed routine does not exist. Not even Biles has managed to hit that plateau during her rise from prodigy to the unquestioned greatest gymnast of all-time.

Any execution score over 8.00 is good. Anything over 8.5 – particularly on bars, beam and floor, where deductions quickly pile up – is extraordinary.

On Sunday, Biles received a 6.7 D score for a floor routine that includes two elements named after her. Judges dinged her for sloppy – again, by her standards – performance, giving her a 7.733, for a 14.133 total, second-best of the day behind Italy's Vanessa Ferrari.

Upshot: a 14.0 is good. A 14.5 is really good. Anything over 15.000 and you're likely to head home with some serious hardware in your carry-on.

### WHY HAVE THE AMERICANS BEEN DOMINANT FOR SO LONG?

The scoring system forces coaches and athletes to do their own version of risk vs. reward. Do you pack routines with really hard elements at the risk of execution? Or do you opt for an easier set you could potentially do more cleanly?

For years, the Americans – Biles in particular – haven't had to choose. Not only have they done the hardest gymnastics out there, they've done them better than anyone else.

That's still the case in Tokyo. The combined difficulty scores the Americans used on all four events during qualifying was 71.9. The ROC's total was 69.7.

So why did ROC finish ahead of the U.S.? Execution. Where the Americans were messy, the Russians were precise. It made all the difference.

### HOW MUCH BETTER HAVE THE RUSSIANS GOTTEN?

The Russians were so good Sunday that reigning European champion Viktoria Listunova will watch the all-around finals from the stands after teammates Melnikova and Vladislava Urazova finished ahead of her in qualifying.

For the Americans, Biles put up the top score as usual and will compete in all five finals. But she was not at her unparalleled best. The 24-year-old bounded well off the mat at the end of a tumbling pass on floor and her block on her Cheng vault was so crooked it's amazing she managed to land anywhere inside the arena.

Lee, McCallum and Chiles all had significant form breaks at some point. McCallum stepped out on floor. Chiles fell off the beam. Lee's execution on her double-twisting Yurchenko vault lacked the crispness of the ones done by Chiles and McCallum.

Yet despite those miscues, the U.S. total of 170.562 would still have been good enough to finish atop the table in both qualifying and the team finals at the 2018 and 2019 world championships.

### HOW DO THINGS CHANGE FOR THE FINALS?

During qualifying, each member of the four-person team competes on each event, with teams being able to drop their lowest score. That will change during Tuesday's finals, when the competition moves to three-up/three-count.

It's a format the Americans have thrived in for more than a decade. The higher the pressure, the better they've done.

That hasn't been the case for the Russians. Falls on beam in the team final at 2019 world championships cost them. The Americans beat them by 2.5 points on the mentally taxing event where every wobble costs valuable tenths and a fall is basically a white flag.

### SO WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN?

If the Americans can simply match the execution scores of the Russians, they should be fine. Their built-in advantage on difficulty gives them a head start before they even salute the judges.

Biles tends to respond to the occasional "off" day by summoning her singular greatness. Chiles has been so consistent in 2021 that she was bound to have a misstep at some point. Maybe qualifying was the sport's way of evening the score.

AP

## Pandemic Olympics endured heat, and now a typhoon's en route

TOKYO

FIRST, the sun. Now: the wind and the rain. The Tokyo Olympics, delayed by the pandemic and opened under oppressive heat, is due for another hit of nature's power: a typhoon arriving Tuesday morning that is forecast to disrupt at least some parts of the Games.

"Feels like we're trying to prepare for bloody everything," said New Zealand rugby sevens player Andrew Knewstubb.

Don't worry, Japanese hosts say: In U.S. terms, the incoming weather is just a mid-grade tropical storm. And the surfers at Tsurigasaki beach say Tropical Storm Nepar-tak could actually improve the competition so long as it doesn't hit the beach directly.

But archery, rowing and sailing have already adjusted their Tuesday schedules. Tokyo Games spokesman Masa Takaya said there were no other changes expected.

"It is a tropical storm of three grade out of five, so you shouldn't be too much worried about that, but it is a typhoon in Japan interpretation," Takaya said. "This is the weakest category, but this is still a typhoon so we should not be too optimistic about the impact of the course."

On the beach about 90 miles east of Tokyo, the competitors want the change in weather so long as the rain and wind don't make total landfall. The surfing competition was delayed Monday because of low tide. But if the storm hits as expected, it could deliver waves twice as high as expected.

"As a homeowner I say, 'Oh no, stay away!'" said Kurt Korte, the official Olympic surfing forecaster. "But as a surfer, 'OK, you can form if you stay out there.' Everybody can agree a storm out in the distance is the best."

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Nepar-tak was headed northwest over the Pacific Ocean east of Japan on Monday with landfall expected Tuesday afternoon. The storm could bring strong winds, up to 5.9 inches (150 millimeters) of rainfall and high waves as it cuts across Japan's northeastern region.

In advance, organizers made the first major alterations to the Olympic archery schedule because of weather: There was an hour delay at the Beijing Games in 2008. Here, the Tuesday afternoon sessions have been postponed until Wednesday and Thursday. "We've heard that storm could be anything from rain or 80-mph wind," said American archer Jack Williams.

Added Brady Ellison, his teammate: "Unless there's lightning, right here, we'll shoot it. We'll deal with whatever it's going to be. Rain just starts to suck in general."

Beach volleyball plays in everything but lightning. Both the women's final at the Beijing Games and men's final at the Rio Games were held in heavy rain.

At Ariake Tennis Park, center court has a retractable roof that can be closed for inclement weather, but play on outer courts would have to be suspended. "They can move every match, I think, if there is really going to be a typhoon with rain," said Daniil Medvedev, the No. 2 player



Dorian Coninx of France takes water as a volunteer holds out a bag of ice, during the run portion of the men's individual triathlon at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Monday, July 26, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo)

er in the world. "We never know. I guess they will maybe try to move six matches, but it depends how long the matches will be."

Any sort of rain – typhoon, tropical storm, or even light sprinkling – will be a wild swing from the first three days of the Games.

Svetlana Gomboeva collapsed from heatstroke on the first day of archery but recovered to win a silver medal. Top-seeded Novak Djokovic and Medvedev, who who complained his first round match was "some of the worst" heat he'd ever played in, successfully leaned on the International Tennis Federation to give Olympics players extra time during breaks to offset the high temperatures.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova had resorted to shoving bags of ice up her skirt, and fiddled with a tube blowing cold air next to her seat. At skateboarding, the intense sun turned the park into a furnace, radiating off the light concrete with such blinding effect that skaters complained the heat was softening the rubber joints on their wheel axles and making the boards harder to control.

July and August in Japan are notoriously hot and humid. Japan has faced criticism for not accurately describing the severity and instead, during the bidding process, calling it mild and ideal.

Daytime highs regularly hit 95 degrees (35 Celsius) but have exceeded 104 degrees (40 Celsius) in some places in recent years. The Environment Ministry began issuing heatstroke alerts in July 2020 for the Tokyo areas and in April for the entire nation.

Japan reported 112 deaths from June to September last year, as well as 64,869 people taken to hospitals by ambulance for heat-related issues. Tokyo logged the largest number of heat stroke sufferers at 5,836 during the three-month period. Australian canoeist Jessica Fox, the gold medal favorite in the kayak slalom, said the wild weather swings have been a disruption to the Olympic event. "It is like a bath," she said. "It is like paddling in bathwater."

And the impending typhoon disruption? "I am a bit concerned about that," Fox said. "I saw the surfers and they were all excited about the weather, which isn't ideal for us."

If Tuesday's bronze medal softball game is postponed, the Canada team worries it could get stuck in Japan because members had flights the following day.

"We very much hope that the game goes (Tuesday) so that we can get on a plane and go home," coach Mark Smith said. "As you probably know, with the pandemic, that flights are very hard to come by."

The weather extremes are just another obstacle Olympic organizers have faced during these beleaguered Games, already delayed a year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Asked on Monday if Tokyo officials feel they can't catch a break, Takaya said they've had to be flexible.

"I mean, you know, we're supposed to react to any situation, that's one of our jobs," he said. "This is absolutely a regular exercise we have to face."

AP

## Gymnastics team, tired of 'sexualization,' wears unitards

TOKYO

THE team's outfits looked similar to the others in the room as the arena lights gleamed off crystals crisscrossing their chests and down their crimson and white sleeves.

But the German gymnastics team's new Olympic suits didn't stop at their hips.

For decades, female gymnasts have worn bikini-cut leotards. In qualifying on Sunday, however, the German team instead wore unitards that stretched to their ankles, intending to push back against sexualization of women in gymnastics.

The Tokyo Olympics are the first Summer Games since Larry Nassar, a former USA Gymnastics national team doctor, was sent to prison for 176 years for sexually abusing hundreds of gymnasts, including some of the sport's greatest stars. At his sentencing, athletes – some of them Olympians – described how the sport's culture allowed for abuse and objectification of young women and girls.

Male gymnasts wear comparatively body-covering clothes: singlets, with loose shorts for their floor exercise and vault, and long pants on bar and pommel horse routines.

The German team first wore unitards at the European Artistic Gymnastics Championships in April.

Sarah Voss, a 21-year-old German, said they weren't sure they would decide to wear them again during Olympic competition until they got together

before the meet.

"We sat together today and said, OK, we want to have a big competition," Voss said. "We want to feel amazing, we want to show everyone that we look amazing."

Their wardrobe revolution, while widely championed, has not so far started a trend. Leotards that leave the legs bare were worn by every other female gymnast during qualifying at the Tokyo Games.

At 4-foot-8, American superstar Simone Biles said in June that she prefers leotards because they lengthen the leg and make her appear taller.

"But I stand with their decision to wear whatever they please and whatever makes them feel comfortable," Biles said. "So if anyone out there wants to wear a unitard or leotard, it's totally up to you."

Matt Cowan, the chief commercial

officer for GK Elite, the U.S.' premier leotard manufacturer, said most requests for unitards now come from countries that require modesty for cultural and religious reasons. They have otherwise seen no rush toward catsuits.

"Would we do it? Absolutely. We have the capabilities of designing it and doing it, and we have done it," Cowan said. "But from a consumer demand perspective, we are not there yet."

Gymnastics is often viewed as a sport best performed by very young women and girls. Biles, at 24, often jokes about being old; she recently called herself a grandma on social media.

But other nations have defied that emphasis on youth, including the Germans: Elisabeth Seitz is 27, Kim Bui is 32, Pauline Schafer is 24, and Voss is 21. Their average age of 26. Voss said that gymnastics customs should leave

room for female bodies as they age and change.

Their outfits comply with the wardrobe rules of the International Gymnastics Federation. But that doesn't mean female athletes are generally free to cover their bodies as they choose.

Just days before the Games began, the Norwegian women's beach handball team refused to play in bikini bottoms during European tournaments, opting instead for skin-tight shorts. For that, they received a fine for violating a wardrobe requirement.

But at gymnastics qualifying Sunday, the announcer over the loudspeaker called the outfits "very nice indeed." The German team did not qualify for finals, but the announcer pondered if their team debut on the Olympic stage might increase unitards' popularity.

AP

# 66

There, the U.S. topped qualifying and the finals by more than five points, a massive margin in a sport where mere tenths can often be the difference between the gold and going home empty-handed. The Russians finished a distant second, just like every team trying to catch the Americans over the last decade.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Pandemic Olympics endured heat,  
and now a typhoon's en route**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



The KCB Bank Tanzania's Marketing Manager Shose Kombe (R) hands over a dummy cheque of 1,000,000/- to Simba SC midfielder Thadeo Lwanga who was announced as this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final's man of the match after the clash between Simba SC and Yanga, which took place at Lake Tanganyika Stadium, Kigoma last Sunday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Azam FC learned valuable lessons in 2020/21 VPL, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC assistant coach, Vivier Bahati, says that the 2020/21 season was very competitive and it gave them a lesson to prepare well for the future.

The outfit had three major goals, winning the Premier League title and the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC), or at least finishing in one of the top two spots in the top flight.

Azam FC however, could not reach the goals, as they were knocked out of this season's ASFC semi-final by Simba SC.

The outfit also came third in the domestic top flight, as Yanga ended second, while Simba SC was the champion.

Bahati said: "It was not a good season for us but the players did all they could to fulfil their responsibilities. For us, it is a priority and we are proud of it."

"In the future, our belief is to see that we do better and achieve the goals we will set so the fans can support us," he said.

Azam FC is in the process of signing new players to strengthen the side.

The team is preparing for various competitions next season including the Mainland Premier League and continental showdown, as the squad will take part in CAF Confederation Cup.

The ongoing registration by Azam FC officials is, according to them, performed as per the side's technical bench's report.

The process is however seemingly out to weaken chances for the club's domestic players to regularly feature for the side.

Azam FC in the past two weeks roped in two Zambian midfielders, and a Kenyan midfielder.

It has recently sealed contracts with Zambian midfielders, Paul Katema and Charles Zulu, as well as Kenneth Muguna from Kenya's Gor Mahia FC.

The new foreign players' recruitment has brought in a challenge for local players who have been competing for the first choice squad's places for years.

The midfielders are, Frank Domayo, Mudathir Yahya, Bryson Raphael, and Salum Abubakar.

The arrival of these foreign players will increase the competition for a place in the first team.

The approach will moreover compel local players to step up their performance, seeking to protect the respect they have built within the team.



Azam FC assistant coach, Vivier Bahati. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

## Simba SC official delighted by 2021 Federation Cup triumph



Simba SC midfielder, Luis Miguissone (C), dribbles past Yanga players, defender Bakari Mwamnyeto (R), and midfielder Zawadi Mauya, when the teams met in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez has issued a detailed explanation of their victory in this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final against Yanga at Lake Tanganyika Stadium, Kigoma last weekend.

Ugandan international, Taddeo Lwanga, scored the winner as Simba SC beat traditional rivals Yanga 1-0 in the well-attended final.

The 1-0 win meant the Msimbazi Street side, which also emerged as this season's Premier League winners a few weeks ago, has clinched two major tournaments' trophies in Tanzania.

The closely contested ASFC final, which was watched by a mammoth crowd in Kigoma, appeared to be ending as a goalless stalemate in 90 minutes but Lwanga then net-

ted for Simba.

Former Uganda's SC Villa and Vipers SC captain broke the hearts of Yanga fans with a goal the player netted in the last 10 minutes of the game, the player's team then held on to the lead up to the final whistle.

"Simba SC's leadership has had the side achieving all goals we have set, we congratulate everyone, players, technical bench and the team's investor, without the investor we would not be here," Barbara disclosed.

With the 2020/2021 season coming to an end, she did not want to disclose their next season's plans.

Barbara briefly noted: "Let us wait until the pre-season begins when the team will be coming from a rest."

The Simba CEO further jokes

her club is pleased to lift top honour by beating Yanga that had beat the rivals in a top-flight duel.

The official noted: "Today we have shown our outfit's virtuosity by coming out victorious, and if you ask us to choose either garnering a three-point league victory or winning a Federation Cup I will tell you I will choose to clinch the Federation Cup."

Simba SC lost 1-0 to Yanga in their last Premier League tie which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on July 3 this year.

The Premier League winners were, therefore, keen on getting revenge against Yanga.

Yanga was as well seeking to settle scores with Simba for a 4-1 loss the former suffered to the latter in the previous season's Federation Cup last four's stage.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

READING: BOOKS,  
WHAT-SO-EVER IS  
THE NATURAL WAY  
TO INSTALL NEW  
APPS INTO THE BRAIN



## Prisons now recruit Dodoma Jiji FC goalie

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MAINLAND Premier League club, Prisons, is out to reinforce its side as it has recruited Dodoma Jiji FC goalkeeper, Aaron Kalambo.

Kalambo, who had a few years back also donned senior national football squad's kits, turned out for Prisons in the past.

After announcing Ally Mrisho as Prisons' new Secretary General, the Rukwa-based club has made its first signing in keeper Kalambo.

The club has moreover promised to bring many other new players to start shaping up for the next top-flight season.

Mrisho was announced as the team's official last Saturday, replacing Ajabu Kifukwe, who has been re-assigned to another position at the club.

Mrisho comes from Dar es Salaam's Prisons, an outfit he had also served as Secretary General.

The new Prisons official, on Sunday, confirmed the signing of Kalambo on a one-year contract to serve the team next season.

The leader added that after bringing in the shot-stopper, who had played for the side in the past, other new players were expected to be introduced from yesterday.

The exercise, the official revealed, was to be given green light after a meeting bringing together the side's officials and the technical bench.

"We started with Kalambo who is more of making his way back home, but we don't stop there because from tomorrow (yesterday) we will know who is either coming in or is on his way out after a meeting of officials and the technical bench," the official revealed.

The leader further insisted that despite their goalkeeper, Jeremiah Kisubi, having ended his contract with the outfit, they still regard him as their player and may consider retaining the shot-stopper.

There has recently been rumours Kisubi, an experienced shot-stopper, is set to be signed by one of the prominent domestic outfits.

Kisubi was one of Prisons' key players in the just ended domestic top flight, he moreover helped the club make it to this season's Federation Cup's last eight's stage.

Mrisho added: "He is still on our radar, let us wait for the time to decide... to know how many players we will either register or leave, it will all be known tomorrow."

He disclosed: "We must provide information in advance so that everyone can be sure of the details."

In the just-ended Vodacom Premier League, Prisons finished seventh with 42 points and has now started rebuilding the squad to shape up for next season.

**EATV**

**TUESDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**



**Nirvana** explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

**east africa  
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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