



### CREDIT



MINISTER INSTRUCTS NDC TO REPAY 4.5BN/- NSSF LOAN PAGE 3

### ENERGY



EAC LEGISLATURE ROOTS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PAGE 4

### BANKING



TANZANIA TO BECOME HUB OF ISLAMIC BANKING PAGES

### ULTIMATUM



GOVT GIVES PS ONE MONTH TO PAY WATER PROJECT CONTRACTOR PAGE 7

## FROM DITF WITH JOY...:



A Dar es Salaam resident pictured yesterday carrying a carpet she had just bought at the ongoing 45th edition of the world-acclaimed Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (June 28 through July 13). Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# 'Stop bodily searches on women, put up scanners'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE way people, especially women, get frisked at the exit gate of Mirerani tanzanite mines in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, has always been a bone of contention and it may come to an end after it caught the attention of Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. When?

"It is really bad and unacceptable," summed up the premier when addressing hundreds of Mirerani residents, mostly small-scale miners and women traders in the area, upon receiving complaints of ladies being forced

to strip naked so as to be inspected before leaving the expansive walled compound.

"I am now directing the management here to come up with better ways of checking out people. I am sure it is possible to install large walk-through digital scanners instead of uncouth methods of frisking people manually, especially when the persons concerned happen to be elderly women, who merit being shown the respect they deserve," he declared.

Simanjiro MP Christopher ole Sendeka had previously expressed concern over

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Funds for 65 wagons ready, rides to start in December

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has allocated 11.3bn/- this financial year for procurement of 65 Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) wagons with rides and operations set for December.

Addressing reporters yesterday when launching the second meeting of the new board of directors of the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC), the Minister for Works and Transport, Dr Leonard Chamuriho said that the target was to ensure that operations start once construction works are completed.

"I direct the new board and management to get prepared for the long awaited rapid train which comes with new technology," he said.

"Ensure that your preparations involve training of drivers, technicians and other

cadres including signals to enable them to cope with new technology," he stated.

The new SGR wagons will arrive late November instead of next month due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he said, noting that the government had also set aside 29.4bn/- to remanufacture five locomotives for the main way and 7.9bn/- for five shunting locomotives. Around 7.5bn/- has been allocated for renovating 37 coaches and 600 cargo wagons, he elaborated.

The government also plans to procure 100 wagons worth over 18.8bn/- to be used in the old rail (meter gauge rail), with spare parts for three locomotives worth 3bn/-, wagons and machine worth about 6.5bn/- respectively, he said.

Construction of the SGR goes concurrently with renovating the meter gauge railway to

TURN TO PAGE 2

## Be transparent, Samia tells charity agencies

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday said religious and charitable institutions in the country are at times forced to pay taxes and incur charges when importing goods due to lack of transparency in their operations.

The Head of State made the remarks in Morogoro when opening the 31th conference of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), where she called upon the institutions to embrace transparency - which she said stood to boost competence

**The law stipulates that importers of products must write to relevant bodies indicating what exactly they are bringing into the country to benefit from exemption**

in the private sector.

"We need to work together by trusting each other so that the taxman knows that religious institutions are not business oriented," she stated.

The president said the government wants to facilitate serving the people in health and education spheres, among others, and therefore would continue to work alongside the private sector and religious institutions in that regard.

President Samia said that services offered by religious institutions are the

TURN TO PAGE 2

## TARI targets coconut to plug edible oil gap

By Guardian Reporter

WITH the largest plantations of coconuts in Africa at 265,000 hectares, Tanzania has now turned to the East African Tall (EAT) coconut tree to end perennial edible oil shortages.

The Tanzania Agriculture Research

Institute (TARI) says it has embarked on a project aimed at expanding coconut production to plug the gap of 365,000 metric tonnes of cooking oil that is annually filled by imports.

Annual demand for cooking oil stands at 570,000 metric tonnes, with local production capacity around 352,908 metric tonnes, thus traders procure the deficit elsewhere.

Speaking at the ongoing Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), the TARI Mikocheni Centre manager, Dr Zuberi Bira said Tanzania currently has an estimated 25m coconut trees, in which case TARI plans to increase quality coconut seedlings from 2,000 annually at present to 10m for distribution to various areas in the country.

Dr Bira said the production of coconut

TURN TO PAGE 2



CRDB Bank Plc CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela congratulates university students selected to participate in a special leadership training programme known as "Graduate Development". It is conducted by the bank. With him at the event - held in Dar es Salaam yesterday - is CRDB human resources director Siaphoro Kishimbo (L). Photo: Guardian Photographer





## Funds for 65 wagons ready, rides to start in December

FROM PAGE 1

improve its carriage capacity, he pointed out.

For his part, the TRC board chairman Prof John Kondoro appealed to the government to inject more funds for supervising, monitoring and evaluation exercises.

He said TRC experts were still renovating the Dar es Salaam/Moshi/Arusha route to improve the capacity of the track.

Managing Director Masanja Kadogosa said that already technicians are undergoing training to run the new trains when the construction of the SGR is over.

Three years ago, the government said that it would dispatch a team of 167 railway personnel to five countries abroad to undergo training in the operation of the rapid train to run on the standard

gauge railway (SGR).

The local experts, whose fields range from engineering to operators, were expected to be trained in South Korea, Ethiopia, China, Turkey and India, with the government signing agreements with the five countries.

"We have selected a team of experts in communication, logistics, technicians, civil engineers and electrical field plus locomotive operators," he said, with intent to ensure that local experts were fully equipped and trained to operate the rapid train.

The SGR project was launched by the late president John Magufuli early in his tenure, being undertaken by the Turkish firm Yapi Merkez, teaming up with Portuguese operators, Mota-Engil. It is expected to link the port of Dar es Salaam with Mwanza, Kigoma and neighbouring Rwanda and Burundi.



Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile (gesturing) pictured at a press briefing held at the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. He underlined the importance of mobile phone users across the country using their National ID registration numbers to verify their lines. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Be transparent, Samia tells charity agencies

FROM PAGE 1

same as those offered by the private sector, therefore exempting them from paying taxes would reduce competition within the private sector.

"If you look at payment rates in hospitals and schools owned by religious institutions and those of the private sector, you will see that they are almost the same," she said.

She also called upon religious leaders to do more in the provision of education on the Covid-19 threat, saying the government has put in place strategies for religious institutions to help them import

goods to facilitate development.

Earlier, CCT chairman Bishop Alinikisa Cheyo requested the government to scrap income tax on schools owned by religious institutions.

Recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa asked religious and charitable institutions to abide by government directives when importing goods, to avoid delays and charges incurred at border or other entry points.

The law stipulates that importers of products must write to relevant bodies indicating what exactly they are bringing into the country to benefit from exemption, the premier added.

## 'Stop bodily searches on women, put up scanners'

FROM PAGE 1

the handling of women at exit gates of Mirerani where for nearly four years the crude inspection procedures have been applied and widely detested.

"We support the initiative of ensuring that tanzanite gemstones are not smuggled out of the walls, but surely there must be better alternatives of securing the exit passage," the MP intoned, elaborating that local stakeholders want the minerals to be traded

within the precincts "to rescue Mirerani from abject poverty."

Speaking at different times, residents of Mirerani said the best way was to mount screening machines like those installed at airports and other sensitive areas. They also suggested that the number of inspection rooms be increased and existing ones enlarged to reduce long queues and congestion, while guaranteeing enhanced efficiency.

During his visit to Mirerani in January, Minerals minister Doto

Biteko also addressed the concerns from women mineral dealers who, through their representative, Nai Olemuso, complained of suffering relentless sexual while being searched at the Mirerani exit gates.

"Unfortunately, we have to maintain gate checks against minerals smuggling, so you have to bear with us as there are no other options," the minister responded.

Minerals ministry permanent secretary Prof Simon Msanjila said that 306 surveillance cameras have been installed to complement

the perimeter wall protecting the tanzanite quarries in the vicinity.

The CCTV cameras and related security systems are protected to withstand all weather shifts, work in foggy and dark situations, operate in extreme temperatures while being resilient enough against vandalism, he stated.

The works to build the 24.5 km-long and 3.2-meter high concrete wall around the mining quarries was completed in early 2018 after rapid work by the National Service Department.



Iringa regional commissioner Queen Sendiga (R) joins Grace Mbagala, a worker in Farm for the Future's commercial farm in Iringa, in sorting maize. This was a gesture of the government's support to the firm, which is planning to invest US\$1.1 million in the building of a dam and the implementation of irrigation systems for growing high-value crops including maize and macadamia. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TARI targets coconut to plug edible oil gap

FROM PAGE 1

seedlings aims to attain goals of the industrial economy by 2025 so that coconuts cover the country's edible oil shortage.

In order to expand coconut palm acreage countrywide, TARI has lined up four types of coconut tree seeds that can withstand pests, diseases and climate change, all from the East African Tall variety, namely EAT Vuo, EAT Mwambani, EAT Lbs and EAT Buza, with farmers in the country still using traditional seeds.

With the new quality seeds produced by TARI and distributed to farmers in various areas of the country, farmers can increase the country's edible oil production and thus help to cut the need for imports.

Seedlings are already being distributed to farmers in Coast, Morogoro, Rukwa and Mwanza

regions, he said.

For his part, TARI Director General Geoffrey Mkamilo said their strategy at present is that oil bearing crops including oil palm cultivated in Kigoma Region and sunflower in central regions of Dodoma, Singida and Simiyu be expanded to contribute to increasing edible oil production.

Hussein Bashe, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, told the National Assembly in May that in the new financial year 2021/2022, the government will inject 10.6bn/- into production of improved seeds, including oil seeds by improving and expanding infrastructure of the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA).

The private sector needs to venture into cultivation of edible oil-producing crops and processing to end the perennial shortage and on importation of the essential product, he stressed.

By Henry Mwangonde

## 'Release Covid-19 data, allocate testing centres'

FOR Tanzania to win the confidence of the international community in its fight against Covid-19 pandemic, the country must release comprehensive statistics on the same and allocate testing centres, it has been advised.

The National Convention for Construction and Reform (NCCR-Mageuzi) Chairman James Mbatia said at a press conference yesterday that there is need to provide education to the public for more precautions saying the situation in the country's hospitals was alarming.

According to Mbatia Tanzania has only one testing centre which is located at the country's main health laboratory saying it takes days for one to get the results.

"We need to be proactive as leaders, let us issue data on the pandemic so that we in turn get the trust from the public and the international community," he said.

Mbatia lined up a number of issues that the president should address

including the increase in fuel prices, Bank of Tanzania (BoT) audit report and the supremacy of the constitution especially on a ban on political rallies.

On supremacy of the constitution, Mbatia said democracy is a tool for economic development saying the ban on rallies does not only go against the country's laws but also denies politicians and Tanzanians their basic right of freedom of association.

On the BoT report, Mbatia said there is need to make it public so that Tanzanians may know what really happened for such irregularities to happen as reported.

"The president has on several times said she will be open on running the government, she should implement this by letting the report public so that it is easily seen by Tanzanians," he said.

On fuel crisis, Mbatia said the

government should handle the matter with care as it may scare away investors and port users.

On Wednesday this week, President Samia Suluhu Hassan said the third wave of Covid-19 pandemic is prevalent in Tanzanian major cities and reiterating her call for people to take precautions recommended by experts.

The president revealed that there already are patients in Arusha, Mwanza, Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

Bugando zonal referral hospital said earlier this week that it was appealing for oxygen donations after recording an unprecedented increase in cases of Covid-19.

The hospital was seeking 500 oxygen cylinders on a daily basis to help the increasing number of patients with breathing complications at the facility.

## Minister bars transfers from periphery stations

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Umyy Mwalimu has barred transfer of recently-employed officials in the education and health sectors from their work stations in the so-called periphery regions.

Speaking here on Wednesday, the minister said Kigoma, Katavi, Rukwa and Kagera regions recently had huge shortage of staff in the sectors but not because the government does not allocate workers, most of those assigned transfer to stations in major cities that have extra staff.

For decades before recent improvement of road infrastructure, even southern regions of Lindi, Mtwara and Ruvuma have been labelled as peripheries and shunned by workers.

"From now on I don't want to hear a person allocated to work in Kigoma being transferred, there has been a habit of officials refusing to work at stations they are allocated and plead with the ministry to be transferred," she said.

Meanwhile, Umyy said during the current Financial Year, the government will provide 1.3bn/- for completion of 26 dispensaries whose

construction was initiated by local residents in various villages in Kigoma Region.

She said every dispensary has been allocated 50m/- and that the funds aim to finalise the work so that they start serving the people.

In addition, she said in order to improve health services, the government will build 11 new health centres in Kigoma Region.

Earlier, in his statement, Kigoma Regional Commissioner, Thobias Andengenyeye said the region was short of 8,769 public workers out of the 20,649 needed. He said the sectors affected most include education, health, accounts, agriculture and motor drivers. He said shortage of public officials impacts in the provision of services to the people.

Last month, the government announced 9,675 new education and health cadres to be hired following the employment permit issued by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in April this year.

The new recruits were announced by the Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Prof Riziki Shemdoe where he said the number of teaching positions was 99,583 - out of which 37,437 were health experts, including 1,099 people with disabilities.



## 'Tanzania, Kenya trade to soon be without barriers'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TANZANIA and Kenya are close to operating trade without any barriers, the Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania has declared.

Dan Kazungu, the envoy, said yesterday that the remaining 30 non-tariff barriers after earlier talks in May will be solved before the end of August, urging traders to prepare to do business with ease as there would no longer be obstacles.

"Kenya and Tanzania are brothers and sisters; we don't want to see any barriers," he asserted.

He recalled that Kenyan and Tanzanian ministers met and managed to cut 34 non-tariff barriers in cross border trade, a meeting arising from the two-day state visit made by President Samia Suluhu Hassan two months ago.

He was addressing a delegation from the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and their counterparts, the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

He said President Samia's state visit was of great importance and it is the reason behind the decision by KAM Kenya to come in Tanzania to meet their counterparts to exchange ideas on the best way they can collaborate to nourish trade and investments.

"The first state visit by President Samia was a privilege and an honor to us Kenyans because there are many countries she could have chosen to visit but she opted to come to us. And soon after her visit you can see the fruits; ministers between two states meet regularly and discuss trade issues," the envoy explained.

He said ministers from Kenya and Tanzania met in Arusha recently where they discussed and managed to reduce 34 non-tariff barriers out of 64 that were tabled.

EAC countries have a large potential market because of the population so it is important for each country to remove all barriers to attract business with other

partner states, he said.

He told the business community that there is bright future for them because the two leaders, Samia and Uhuru Kenyatta have opened the door for them to nourish their businesses.

CTI Chairman Paul Makanza urged delegates from Kenya and Tanzania to uphold rule based trade relationships as the way to reduce imposition of non-tariff barriers in cross border trade.

He promised continued collaboration with their Kenyan counterparts, urging for similar engagements with other business communities within the region.

"The EAC is potentially an economic powerhouse with immense opportunities to significantly uplift the livelihoods of approximately 180m people in the EAC region and it is up to us manufacturers and the private sector in general to unleash this potential through collaboration with our respective governments," he elaborated.

The Chairman of Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM), Mucui Kunyihia said among trade issues that they are going to address is upper band rate of the EAC common external tariff. Others are harmonization of domestic taxes, production standards, review of the EAC rules of origin and activation of the dispute settlement mechanism, he stated.

"We recognize that trade devoid of both tariff and non-tariff barriers increases prosperity for all participating nations by allowing consumers to buy more and better quality products at low costs. Additionally it drives economic growth, enhances efficiency and increases innovations," said Kunyihia.

The trade mission from Kenya to Tanzania comprising 25 people followed upon commitments by presidents Uhuru and Samia, and in the recently concluded bilateral negotiations on trade between the two states, he added.



National Social Security Fund executives follow a speech by Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities) during yesterday's visit to the insecticide factory of the Malarial Biological Pesticide Plant at Kibaha in Coast Region. Those seated include public relations & members' education manager Lulu Mengele (R) and planning, investments & projects director Gabriel Silayo (2nd-L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Kibaha

THE National Development Corporation (NDC) has to make sure it repays the 4.5bn/- it owes the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the government has declared.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth and People with Disabilities), Jenista Mhagama issued this directive yesterday during an inspection tour at the insecticides factory at Kibaha in Coast Region.

She said that in 2016 NSSF loaned NDC the money but since then only a negligible sum has been repaid, with the principal loan and interest accumulated rising to nearly 87bn/-.

The Malarial Biological Pesticide Plant was built on money that belongs to NSSF members and the

## 'NDC has to repay 4.5bn/- NSSF loan'

main NSSF business is to enlist members from the private and public sectors to prepare their pensions and other benefits, hence NDC should pay back the money," the minister emphasised.

A panel has been formed to come up with recommendations to save the factory, with her office raising the matter with the Minister for Industry and Trade, Prof Kitila Mkumbo to ensure the panel starts its work at once, as well as to ensure that the NSSF loan is repaid, she stated.

The minister said she has instructed NSSF to see how the loan can be repaid to enable the fund pay retirees.

"We have been discussing with NSSF that they should not solely

invest or operate the factory by themselves, but see how they can enter into partnership with other people or firms, and in this factory the NSSF has partnered with NDC who we are now reminding to pay the loan as it is needed by the fund," she elaborated.

As to complaints by factory workers, the minister said they have agreed with the Industry and Trade ministry to intervene to find solutions to the challenges.

She said it is essential that ministries that are big stakeholders in the factory including Regional administration and Local Governments, the Ministry of Health, Livestock and Fisheries, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Tourism shall soon meet to discuss

the fate of the factory "as they should not let it die."

As for markets, SADC and East African countries have begun waking up to the insecticides manufactured by the factory, thus the NDC was under instructions to advertise the factory, the minister noted.

For his part, the NSSF Director of Investments, Gabriel Silayo said the fund invested nearly 4.5bn/- via a loan extended to NDC and received directives from the minister that they should sit with NDC to see how the loan can be repaid.

For his part, Kibaha MP Sylvester Koka said the time has come for the factory to operate, in tandem with the government vision of an industrial economy.



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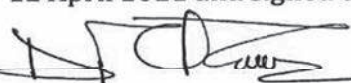
### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

This publication is made according to regulation 13(a) of the Non- Governmental Organization Act (Amendments), Regulation 2018, which requires Non-Governmental Organizations to Publish bi-annually the funds received and their expenditures.

MC - Tanzania is a locally registered Non- Government Organization (NGO) whose mission is to contribute towards improving oral health and dental care through existing promotion, prevention, curative and rehabilitation services. The organization aims to see communities throughout Tanzania live free from oral and dental diseases. MC- Tanzania is an affiliate of Miracles Corners of the World (MCW Global), a New York-based non for profit organization. Below is the statement showing Grants support and Income Received and Expenditures incurred for the year ended 31 December 2020 (Audited).

	As of 31 December 2020 TZS	As of 31 December 2019 TZS
<b>SUPPORT GRANTS</b>		
Restricted Funds	222,557,600	314,813,044
Unrestricted Funds	1,252,750	220,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>223,810,350</b>	<b>315,033,294</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Project Expenses	96,259,236	151,094,441
Administration Expenses	57,804,226	93,194,122
Operation Expenses	66,376,012	122,373,307
Depreciation Expense	6,073,320	4,991,120
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>226,512,795</b>	<b>371,652,991</b>
<b>The deficit for the year</b>	<b>(2,702,445)</b>	<b>(56,619,697)</b>

The above extracts are from the organization's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. The Financial Statements were audited by Enson Africa Certified Public Accountants and received a clean report. Financial statements for the year 2020 were approved by the Board of directors on 12 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Dr. Deodatus Mtasiwa  
Board Chairperson

  
Christina Mofgi  
Secretary

MC-TANZANIA

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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
TANZANIA FERTILIZER REGULATORY AUTHORITY



### THE GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGES TRADERS TO IMPORT MORE FERTILIZER

## PUBLIC NOTICE

July 08, 2021, Dar es Salaam

For the purpose of ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizer for the 2021/22 cropping season, the Minister of Agriculture Hon. Prof. Adolf Mkenda (MP.) through Regulation 7(4) of The Fertilizer (Bulk Procurement) Regulations of 2017, has exempted the application of BPS tenders to enable more fertilizer importation and increase number of participants in fertilizer trade for competitive farmgate prices.

Fertilizer dealers are encouraged to import quality fertilizers after fulfilling all procedures for issuance of import permits. The Government anticipate that this exemption is an enabling environment for more traders to participate in the fertilizer business which will ensure timely availability of quality fertilizer in the country, increase competition and enable farmers to access fertilizers at competitive prices.

TFRA upholds its commitment of partnering with all stakeholders in monitoring the quality of fertilizer and fertilizer supplements in the whole value chain.

Dr. Stephan E. Ngailo  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For more information

Visit our office located at Plot No. 15471, 1 Kilimo Street, Kilimo I complex, P.O. Box 46238, Dar es salaam, Tanzania, Email: [info@tfra.go.tz](mailto:info@tfra.go.tz), Website: [www.tfra.go.tz](http://www.tfra.go.tz) or call +255 222 86 19 39, +255 784 632 208 and +255 715 316 570.



## COVID-19 precautions a must, market traders told

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE government in Dodoma region has instructed traders in all populated markets within the capital to observe recommended health precautions against the recurring wave of COVID-19 transmissions, its third wave reportedly killing scores of people in various countries.

The traders have been challenged to be vigilant against the pandemic by wearing masks, washing their hands with clean water and soap or sanitizes, before and after offering services to customers.

The large numbers of people in market venues and the hand to hand transactions of money and commodities are among likely vehicles for transmission of the virus, fueled by negligence in taking up precautionary measures.

Dodoma DC Jabir Shekimwari issued this instruction during a visit at the Sabasaba market for hearing complaints on the City Council from small scale traders. There is an unfriendly working environment with unauthorized demolition of more than 20 structures of the hapless traders.

"The world continues to witness and experience increased deaths out of the third wave of COVID-19, and the pandemic is currently thumping at our doors. Make sure you place on the spot and apply all of the recommended preventive measures in order to plug loopholes for the recurrent and fast transmissions of the disease," he told the traders.

Intervening on administrative woes, the DC ordered an immediate suspension of the exercise to remove traders' kiosks, allowing the victimized traders to rebuild their demolished petty trade roofs.

"The sixth phase government realises the importance and thus respect contributions of small scale traders and hawkers in boosting the economy from the grassroots. I will not be passive seeing the manner in which you are being harassed without any sober reasons, from local authorities or

the government," he declared.

He expressed dismay over tendency by some public officials to take muscled actions and heavy decisions in solving matters that could have been solved amicably.

Dodoma MP Anthony Mavunde asked the traders to cooperate with the government to improve basic infrastructures at the market, especially for sanitation and security.

Since Dodoma became the administrative capital, the semi-arid region experienced an uptick in the population, in attracting hundreds of traders from different regions, and even from neighbouring countries, taxing its capacity in markets and other earmarked trading venues.

To that end, authorities have been striving to locate more venues for accommodating the rising number of petty traders, to no good avail.

The World Bank is set to provide a 15bn/- credit to facilitate a robust project for the renovation and expansion of eight markets within the capital.

The project is part of a series of initiatives on empowerment of communities in capital city development, under the Tanzanian Cities Transforming Infrastructure and Competitiveness (TACTIC) project.

Emmanuel Manyanga, the TACTIC project coordinator at the city council, said the beneficiary markets include Sabasaba market, Majengo, Ilazo, Nzuguni, Mkonze, Bonanza, Kizota and Mshikamano.

He informed The Guardian that the project was currently at preliminary stages as basic surveys have been completed and the markets master plan is being developed.

"The project will see the markets installed with all necessary infrastructures and social services facilities, environmental and human sanitation plus security systems," he said.

As per the project's design, construction of the markets will each go in tandem with installation of modern commuter bus terminals to help ease transportation, he added.



Dodoma deputy mayor Emmanuel Chibango addresses traders at the city's Saba market yesterday, chiefly on the need for them to pay kiosk levy promptly. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

## EAC legislature roots for renewable energy

MEMBERS of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) have advised EAC member countries to stimulate the use of renewable energy among their people so as to prevent environmental destruction from human activities.

Contributing yesterday to the debate on the EAC Budget, Mohamed Mnyaa from Tanzania said it was the right time for the EA countries to invest efforts and shift to alternative energy, after wanton destruction of forests including forest reserves.

"We must move away from using wood fuel and charcoal burning, considering the fact that Tanzania

is the only country in the EAC producing natural gas on a large scale.

"There is natural renewable energy used in various developed countries including solar energy, ocean waves, wind energy and geothermal energy as well as energy from solid waste," he stated.

He advised member countries to use natural gas produced in Tanzania as it was safe, and already

Kenya has shown interest in building a gas pipeline to transport gas to the port of Mombasa.

Tanzania has large volumes of gas that is still underutilized, with 230m cubic metres out of 309m cubic metres potential per annum, while it uses 109.5 cubic metres of natural gas, a small quantity, he said.

Tanzania is ranked 82nd in the world in the use of natural gas while the leader is the United States, he

pointed out.

EALA Speaker Martin Ngoga said starting big projects in EAC member countries can be helped by Tanzania's natural gas project to its benefit and other EAC countries.

He said recommendations to use renewable energy in member states were still being discussed by the EALA after which they will be forwarded to the EA Council of Ministers for decisions.

## UK assures EAC access to COVID-19 vaccines

By Guardian Reporter

THE UK High Commissioner to Tanzania and East African Community (EAC) David Concar has assured the EC Secretary General, Peter Mathuki that his country will make sure that sub-Saharan Africa is not side-lined when it comes to accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

During his courtesy call on EAC SG on Tuesday, Concar urged the EAC and partner states to build back better after the pandemic by using the crisis to accelerate reforms and progress to ensure that the health sector and other systems were much better than they were before the onset of COVID.

"A post-COVID world will certainly be different from what we have now. We can't go back to business as usual," said the envoy adding that the onus was on countries with COVID-19 vaccines manufacturing capacity to increase production purposely to avail the commodity at low or zero cost to poor countries in Africa and the third world.

Concar informed the SG that the UK was one of the biggest contributors to COVID-19 vaccine initiatives as part of measures to mitigate the devastating impact of the pandemic.

He said that population testing and surveillance in all countries would be key to the success of global vaccination initiatives against COVID.

The UK envoy acknowledged that there were currently travelling difficulties between the UK and EAC Partner States, adding that population testing, public health measures and data on COVID were key to unlocking the impasse.

EAC Secretary General Dr Mathuki said that information and awareness creation would be

important in the uptake of vaccines in the region and elsewhere, noting that there was currently a lot of misinformation surrounding vaccination initiatives.

Dr Mathuki informed the envoy that there was pressure from the private sector and EAC citizens on Partner States to harmonise testing and the costs of testing for COVID in addition to acceptance of COVID-19 tests across national borders.

The SG told the High Commissioner that there was a new enthusiasm for intra-regional trade and integration in the region with the EAC Heads of State focused on creation of jobs for the youth, poverty alleviation, industrialization and economic growth, adding that the private sector would be key to fulfilling these objectives.

Dr Mathuki said that the region was open for business and investment and greater foreign direct investment inflows were therefore expected.

On potential trade rivalry within the EAC, Dr Mathuki said that partner states should focus more on complementing rather than competing with one another in as far as intra-regional trade was concerned.

He said the focus was on the law of comparative advantages where each Partner State would specialize in selected areas where they had huge potential to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Dr Mathuki said increasing intra-regional trade was crucial as intra-EAC trade currently stands at less than 15% as compared to the EU where it was almost 70 percent and the Association of South East Asian Nations where it ranges at over 60 percent.



Caroline Mutembei (R), Kinondoni regional secretary of the Union of Industrial and Commercial Workers (Tuico), pictured presenting a certificate to Saleh Minangu, Tanzania Steel Pipe's Best Worker for this year, at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

## Trust lacks in locally made products - DIT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) has called on Tanzanians to trust products manufactured by experts in the country as they are of quality standard and do not differ from imported products.

The DIT Principal, Prof Preksedia Ndomba at the DIT Pavilion in the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at Mwalimu Nyerere Grounds along Kilwa Road.

Prof Ndomba said products made at DIT have little difference with

imported ones and that in addition there is still the attitude among Tanzanians to favour imported items than local ones.

He said a big percentage of products needed by Tanzanians are made by local experts including those educated at DIT and that there was no need for the people to incur expenses to buy foreign products.

For his part, the DIT Head of Industrial Relations, Dr John Msamba said they have been struggling to make sure that at each DITF exhibition they come with new products and for this year

they have come up with a plastic processing plant and spare parts manufacturing.

He said processing plastics will help to reduce environmental damage.

Regina Kumba, Public Relations Officer at the DIT subsidiary, DIT Co. Ltd, said the company has become of great help for innovative youth seeking practical training and exposure to develop their innovations.

"The company promotes the development and use of appropriate technology that meets national, regional and

international needs and standards through skills and practical-oriented training, research and consultancy. In order to address local, regional and global challenges, it is vital to invest in innovative ideas," she said.

The National Science and Technology Policy of 1996 outlines the framework for regulating the flow of technology to reduce excessive dependence on imported technologies and guide the development of the national scientific and technological capability and capacity, the official added.





Kidawa Masoud (L), NMB Bank Plc's branch manager for Temeke in Dar Salaam, briefs Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (R) yesterday on the bank's housing loans. This was at the bank's pavilion at the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Officers found double-allocating land plots will be dealt with, Lukuvi warns

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi has said workers in the lands sector who will be involved in one way or another in double allocation of a land plot will be severely dealt with.

Speaking at the Lands Ministry Pavilion at 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds on Wednesday, Lukuvi said if it is found that a plot of land has been double allocated occasioned by lands officers, all those involved will face disciplinary and/or legal

action.

He said earlier the lands sector had many land conflicts but beginning 2015 these have significantly diminished.

"I stress that if the land plot is double allocated, all those involved, beginning with surveyors and planning will be dealt with severely," Lukuvi said.

He also called on Regional Lands Commissioners and their assistants to make sure no new land conflicts emerge in their areas.

Meanwhile, the minister said as of now the ministry has started switching its operations in regard to issuance of title deeds from the

analogue to digital system, saying that was a great transformation.

He further said the ongoing exercise to formalise unplanned human settlements only focuses on the buildings that have been already built but the new ones have to be constructed as per the country's laws.

The minister said that the government's formalisation process is aimed at making land assets an important warranty that can pull out many poor families from abject poverty.

He wanted land experts to continue educating the public in town and cities to build in designated

and surveyed plots which include obtaining building permit before embarking on construction.

Lukuvi, who also participated in the exercise of the on the spot issuing of title deeds at the pavilion, said the new system was mooted by indigenous Tanzanians with the aim of preventing human errors and believed that conflicts stemming from personal interests will be reduced.

He also visited the National Housing Corporation (NHC) Pavilion and praised NHC's creativity in constructing houses for both sale and renting in Dodoma Region in Iyumbu and Chamwino.

## Nchemba expresses govt's determination to make Tanzania hub for Islamic banking

By Guardian Reporter

FINANCE and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba has expressed the government's determination and commitment to making Tanzania the hub of Islamic banking and finance so as to stimulate financial development and inclusion.

He made the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday while addressing the 7th African Islamic Finance Summit.

Dr Mwigulu (pictured) recognised the importance of Islamic Finance in poverty alleviation and attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in the country and Muslim economies globally.

He mentioned the government's keenness in the development of Islamic Finance and is prepared to make reforms for the Takaful industry to provide them an open license like its conventional counterparts. He stressed the need for logical and clear dealings with Finance and related personnel to eradicate misconceptions and promote development.

Dr Mwigulu who represented the Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi showed support to the industry and welcomed all of the industry professionals to meet him at his office.

He thanked AlHuda CIBE and sponsors for organizing an apex event in such troubling times when Covid-19 has hit the African countries are hard.

Zubair Mughal Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda Centre of Islamic Banking and Economics (CIBE) said the event saw physical and virtual participation from speakers, regulators, experts, and participants joining together for learning and experiencing the avenues of Islamic Finance.

The event featured East Africa as emerging for Islamic finance and a new destination for Islamic financial institutions. He urged the ministry to support the Islamic finance industry and particularly the Takaful industry in Tanzania for the smoother and stronger development of this country. He also gave a detailed and insightful overview of the current African and Global Islamic Finance market.

Aymen Sejny, Chief Executive Officer-ICD appreciated AlHuda CIBE's efforts for Eastern and Sub-Saharan Africa and pledged full support to the organization for years to come.

He expressed his belief that



efficient mobilization of all available resources will ensure the economic success of African Countries. Islamic Finance is demonstrating viability for multiple Muslim and non-Muslim economies, demonstrating its ability as an engine of growth, he said.

He mentioned the support that the ICD has shown to Africa in 20+ African countries is a testament to this belief. He also drew attention to the human aspect of the economy, stating the need for up skilling and educating individuals with Islamic finance knowledge.

High Commissioner for Pakistan in Tanzania, Muhammad Saleem, expressed his delight to see such collaboration between the two countries and these organizations that have been serving the Islamic finance industry with such passion.

Aref Nahdi, Chairman for CIFCA and Islamic Foundation, Guest of Honor, stressed the importance of regulatory frameworks and bodies that have to be created and supported by the Ministry of Finance for development of Islamic finance. Islamic finance may seem expensive, but it is critical to clear misconceptions and develop the industry.

Dr Ally Hussein Laay, board chairman of CRDB Bank Plc Tanzania also thanked AlHuda CIBE for this event and expressed hope that Islamic finance will be recognised by Muslims and Non-Muslims alike.

More than 20 International speakers gave their valuable contribution in the topics of discussion today. Among the speakers included Ayman Sejny, CEO for ICD, Prof Mussa Assad, Former Controller and Auditor General Tanzania, Dr Ally Hussain Laay, Board Chairman CRDB Bank PLC, Prof Mohammad Akram Laldin, Executive Director ISPR Malaysia, Araf Nahdi, Chairman The Islamic Foundation and Centre for Islamic Finance, Compliance and Advice Tanzania, Dr Huda Ahmed Yussuf, Chairperson Board of Directors Zanzibar Social Security Fund and Dr Mohammad Kabir Hussain, University of New Orleans USA.

By Guardian Reporter

PETROLEUM Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) says it is all set to connect Tanzanians in oil and gas drilling activities that incorporates Tanzanians in order to add value to products and service delivery in the country.

PURA, in collaboration with Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) says already it has prepared a database that will begin on July 15, this year in order to get indigenous service providers to connect them to foreigners.

Addressing reporters this week at the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade fair (DITF) at Mwalimu Nyerere Fair Grounds, PURA Acting Director General Charles Sangweni said the responsibility stems from the importance in preparing Tanzanians to engage themselves more in oil and natural gas drilling than they do now.

He said that the database for common qualification system will be launched on July 15, this year.

The database will include suppliers and service providers' experts in the petroleum upstream sector to enable domestic and foreign investors to access qualified experts for business partnership.

He said they will make sure they empower them by giving them the right data in the value chain for both their products and services and grab opportunities in projects implemented by big firms under PURA provision.

Sangweni said Tanzanians have opportunities in transportation, food supplies and their participations should be in the joint venture basis.

He further said the authority will also invest heavily in research and marketing so as to attract more potential investors to invest in the country's oil and gas sector.

"Since PURA started its activities in 2015, 11 contracts have been signed but in the past we had more than 27. One among the firms - Swala Oil and Gas is 100 per cent Tanzanian," he added.

Head of local content and stakeholders' engagement at PURA, Charles Nyangi said the database will start on July 15 and will connect local service providers and foreigners.

He said in a bid to ensure that locals benefit well in the upstream oil and gas projects, PURA has been also supervising to ensure that the investors also engage local experts in the projects.

He said that local content is an aspect of paramount importance for our country's economy and prosperity.

"This is due to the fact that employing locals and buying local goods and services create employment, technology transfer, skills/

## We will connect Tanzanians to oil, gas drilling activities, PURA states

knowledge acquisition and value addition in the country. It also brings collaboration among investors and local communities, in particular it makes the locals feel the ownership of their natural resources through their participation in providing goods and services, which they sell as well as labor they offer," he said.

Nyangi said to ensure the optimum participation of locals in Petroleum value chain, the Petroleum Act, 2015 section 219 and 220 are provisions which narrates on consideration of goods and services supplied by Tanzanian entrepreneurs as well as Training and employment of Tanzanians.




**United Republic of Tanzania**  
Ministry of Water

**Belgian Development Agency**

### CALL FOR BIDS

#### Purchase of material for water storage tank

The Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) is inviting bids from suitably qualified suppliers to supply construction material for water storage tanks in Kigoma region. WASKIRP is a project jointly funded by the Kingdom of Belgium through Enabel and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water. This is a 5-year project which aims at providing sustainable water supply solutions in Kigoma region. Under one of its result areas, Enabel is now looking for suppliers to supply construction material for water storage tanks.

**Supply contracts**

There are three lots to this public supply contract as follows:

- Lot 1: Purchase of material for water storage tank for Kakonko
- Lot 2: Purchase of material for water storage tank for Mkongoro
- Lot 3: Purchase of material for water storage tank for Kiziguzigu

Interested companies can access more information and bid documents of these contracts at: <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>.

The same notice is also published on the Enabel website, [www.enabel.be](http://www.enabel.be), in the Belgian Public Tender bulletin (BDA). For any additional information contact the Intervention Manager of Enabel – Belgian Development Agency on 0743 736 554 during working hours only.

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## Rotary club installs netted windows and doors for 30 households in Ukonga ward

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 30 households at Mwembemadafu Street in Ukonga ward, Ilala District, have benefited from a special project that involved installing netted windows and doors in their houses so as to protect them from Malaria.

Implemented collaboratively by the Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oysterbay with the Ukonga Rotary Club, GT Bank and several other stakeholders, the project's objective is to support the government's efforts on Malaria eradication and other diseases.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the weekend, Aisha Skyes President of the Rotary club of Oyster Bay said the club's core zeal is to support the government's efforts towards enabling provision of quality health services and reduce burden of Malaria in the country.

"The support is one prime example of how Rotarians serve their communities: hands-on projects in the areas where help is most needed," she said.

Aisha said that putting nets in windows and doors helps to protect the entire domestic spaces from malaria mosquitoes.

According to her, several studies have proved that window screening, the covering of windows or roof space with a material which can allow air flow but prevent entry of insects into houses, extends protection from mosquitoes to entire domestic spaces, in contrast to bed nets which only protect the sleeping area.

Malaria, which is transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, claimed an estimated 435, 000 lives in 2017, with an estimated 219 million cases worldwide.

"If we start talking about house screening/installing netted windows and doors in houses as the way we talk about bed nets, the country and its residents may actually benefit," she said.

She noted that experts have found that increasing coverage of

complete window screening was associated with a reduction in malaria cases declining.

The president further said before installing the nets, the club through various health experts organised a special medical camp early this focusing on malaria prevention, education and treatment whereas each patient received a general health check-up to identify other common ailments and risk factors and counselling was provided on lifestyle factors such as nutrition and the role of exercise.

"Participants were screened for malaria and those who tested positive received medication at the camp. Camp organisers discussed malaria symptoms, prevention and treatment with participants and distributed educational brochures and nets. The project was led by Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam Oysterbay, the Rotary Club of Ukonga and the medical students in the Rotary Club of Kairuki," she explained.

Jackton ochieng' from Rotary club of Ukonga said the project is aimed on providing the Ukonga community with practical education and training on preventive measures against Malaria whilst giving free health checks, and free treated mosquito nets among other items to empower them against Malaria.

"Considering that the government is working to reduce the mortality rates of patients admitted due to malaria to 1 percent, more efforts towards preventing and treating malaria are vital," he said.

Bendera Ramadhan, Ukonga ward councillor, commended then stakeholders for implementing the project benefiting majority of poor households in the ward.

"We are happy that they have pledged that they will look on possibilities to continue conducting malaria prevention educational awareness activities in the communities and available tools to prevent malaria in other streets in the ward," he said.



Arusha regional commissioner John Mongella (C) and Yara Tanzania managing director Winstone Odhiambo in jovial mood shortly after the RC launched the company's digital farming knowledge programme dubbed 'yaraConnect App' in Arusha city yesterday. Right is Yara senior agronomist Maulidi Mkima. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Arusha District Council puts up over 70 laboratories in secondary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA District Council has performed well among northern zone regions after constructing 78 laboratories for science subjects in secondary schools.

The labs are among the 99 deeded in 33 secondary schools in Arumeru District.

The council's planning officer Anna Urio said up to now they have received 210m/- to finalise construction of labs for ward secondary schools.

"In finalising development projects in the year 2020/21,

construction has reached 80 percent," she said.

He however said the projects to construct the laboratories will be completed by end of this month.

She said the government was finalizing a programme to improve education infrastructure by ensuring that every secondary school was having at least three laboratories.

The acting education officer at the district council Safi Mturi said the completion of the laboratories will make students love science subjects especially girls.

The officer said in ward and

district secondary schools the number of students who develop interest in science subjects has been increasing day by day.

"Science laboratories are doing a great job because the number of students who develop interests in science are increasing time by time compared to those who study arts due to the coming of laboratories," he said.

Education stakeholders in the district have led to the increase in the number of students who develop interests in science subjects.

The headmaster for Mussa

Secondary School Gilbert Kafunafu said the availability of the laboratories will help facilitate teaching and increase enrollment in science subjects.

The head teacher said his school has received 30m/- for completion of the laboratory projects which includes a laboratory for biology, physics and chemistry.

Earlier, Arusha DC received 210m/- from the central government to implement laboratories project at Bangata, Einoti, Losinoni, Musa, Oljoro and Olturumet secondary schools.



Vocational Educational and Training Authority (Veta) instructor Kintu Kilanga (2nd-L) shows a device commonly used in teaching vocational centre trainees. This was at the Veta pavilion at the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

## NDC launches special tractor trailer to reduce agro-inputs transportation cost

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE National Development Corporation (NDC) has launched a special tractor trailer in a move which apart from facilitating transportation of commodities and agro-inputs is expected to reduce operation cost.

Speaking at the launching event during the on-going 45th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at the Julius Nyerere grounds along Kilwa road, Industry and Trade Minister, Prof Kitila Mkumbo said the trailer has been manufactured by a local company—Kilimanjaro Machine Tools Company (KTMC) under the umbrella of NDC.

He said that introduction of the trailer is part of government efforts to revive some of the dead local manufacturing industries.

Prof Mkumbo said the initiatives are incorporated in the government's five years strategic development plan 2021/2022 to 2025/2026 which aims at improving value chain in the agricultural sector as well as enabling farmers to reap more.

"May I recommend the NDC management for the new innovative idea of manufacturing local tractor trailers; we are hopeful that more innovative agricultural machines would be introduced in the near future," he said.

"As the government, our target is to ensure that all local manufacturing industries grow and become productive. This would meet

farmer's demand and reduce operation cost associated with importation cost such as importation costs," he said.

According to the minister, NDC has a total of 50 trailers in stock calling for farmers to buy and use them in transporting agricultural commodities to market places.

Meanwhile, NDC Acting Director General, Rhoi Satima said the trailers were designed to reduce operation cost to farmers because most of them were spending too much money to transport their products to market places.

Rhoi added that since the tractors are multi-purpose, farmers can also use them in other agricultural activities throughout the season.

"Due to its quality, farmers can use the trailers for years without incurring maintenance cost," he noted adding the invention is one of its kind and a great revolution in the agriculture sector.



**This would meet farmer's demand and reduce operation cost associated with importation cost such as importation costs**

## TAWA to boost number of wildlife in Ruhila Zoo to hook more tourists

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) plans to increase the number of animals in the Ruhila Game Reserve located 8 km from Songea Municipality in a new drive as its to attract and increase the number of tourists visiting the conservancy.

TAWA's Board Chairman, Major General (retired) Hamis Semfuko revealed this recently during a

visit by Tawa Board members to the Ruhila Zoo which is managed by the authority to improve and use existing attractions as part of government revenue.

Major General Semfuko said, in the strategy, Tawa has allocated 100m/- for the construction of a wildlife sanctuary for lions and leopards which are among the key attractions for local and foreign tourists.

According to Semfuko, other

animals that will be added to the zoo are giraffes and zebra and the exercise to take the animals to the conservancy has already begun.

"We want to see this area become one of the tourist attractions in our southern region of Tanzania, we will make sure we bring a variety of animals that will be able to attract people to come to this area," he said.

He also said that in order to make

the plan a success, he has instructed the head of the Southern Highlands Regions' Anti-Poaching Squad, to look at how to work with other stakeholders to come and invest in order to attract more people to come and do tourism.

"I call on Tanzanians to be aware that Songea is a good place to come and visit and invest instead of going to other parts of the country along with asking for information to ensure they advertise Ruhila zoo so

that it can be understood by more people," he said.

Commander of the Southern Highlands Regions' Anti-Poaching Squad, Keneth Sanga, said that the number of people visiting the park is between 30 to 40 per month and 200 to 300 a year.

He said, currently the work being done in Ruhila Zoo is to add more wildlife to attract more visitors to visit the area who are mostly Tanzanians and a few from

abroad.

He said the Ruhila Zoo was established in 1973 and fenced in 1974 under the supervision of Ruvuma Region in 1992 where the entire buildings and area were handed over under the supervision of the wildlife department.

Sanga said that by 1916 the area had been handed over to the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA).



## Small-scale farmers receive support to raise food supply in face of Covid-19 pandemic

By Guardian Reporter

THE International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will provide funding to assist 6,240 vulnerable small-scale farmers in rural Tanzania impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IFAD grant will help farmers access inputs, provide market linkages and access agricultural and market information to improve their productivity and increase their resilience.

Through its Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF), IFAD will provide US\$ 882,841 as part of its COVID-19 response in Tanzania.

At this time when the COVID-19 crisis threatens to push another 500,000 Tanzanians into poverty, the grant aims to minimize the impact on livelihoods, resilience and food security.

The funds will target farmers - half of whom will be women and 30 per cent youth, as well as agro-dealers, off-takers and extension officers in Dodoma, Njombe, Simiyu, Singida and Unga regions.

IFAD Country Director for Tanzania, Francesco Rispoli said: "The Covid-19 pandemic has brought to light the vulnerability of our food systems. To ensure we build a sustainable and resilient food system, we need to recognize the role small-scale farmers play and empower them to access inputs, information and markets for their produce."

Growth in Tanzania's agricultural sector was projected to decline from 5 per cent in 2019 to 2 per cent in 2020 due to the recent locust infestation and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The decline in growth has resulted in a number of negative impacts including high cost of inputs and limited access to markets with small-scale farmers bearing the brunt.

Despite the myriad of challenges they encounter, including low yields, crop cultivation remains the main economic activity for most small-scale farmers in Tanzania.

To help boost their productivity,

the grant will distribute 23,650 kilograms of bio-fortified maize seeds, 14,460 kilograms of sunflower seeds and 971,000 seedlings of fruits and vegetables.

The grant will also help safeguard the gains made under the Marketing Infrastructure, Value Addition and Rural Finance Support Programme (MIVARF) - an IFAD supported project that closed in 2020 - by using its existing agro-input distribution system to reach the targeted farmers.

Border closures and strict Covid-19 protocols have limited access to agricultural markets for many small-scale farmers. To improve this, the grant will support the National Food Reserve Agency purchase maize grain from the farmers, under its current plan to boost its reserve.

The grant will also leverage existing MIVARF platforms to link farmers to additional markets.

Extension services can play a key role in increasing small-scale farmers' productivity. Unfortunately, due to the limited number of extension officers, most farmers are not reached in time.

To help bridge this gap, the grant will support the scaling up of the M-Kilimo platform, a mobile based agriculture application that helps farmers' access extension and advisory services and market related information at the palm of their hands.



**To ensure we build a sustainable and resilient food system, we need to recognize the role small-scale farmers play and empower them to access inputs, information and markets for their produce**



Dangote Cement Tanzania CEO Abdallahi Baba (L) briefs journalists at the ongoing 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday on the firm's participation in the world-acclaimed exhibition. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Tanzania Mining Commission gets a shot in the arm with GGML committing 50m/-

By Guardian Reporter

AS the 45th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) gains momentum at Sabasaba grounds, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has committed 50m/- to cover the costs of partitioning, decorating and renovating the pavilion allocated to the Mining Commission by the Board of External Trade.

The event this year has attracted over 3,000 local and foreign companies from 28th June to 13th July 2021.

GGML's Managing Director, Richard Jordinson said that the company decided to commit this

amount to the event in continuity of its support to Mining Commission over the years.

He added that this year's theme 'industrial economy for sustainable employment' comes at the opportune time as the country aspires to maintain its middle-income economy status.

"As a corporate citizen, GGML has always aspired to be part of government initiatives to benefit its citizens by paying corporate tax, service levies and royalties. Not only this year, but over the years, GGML has illustrated exemplary partnership with the Mining Commission by abiding to mining laws and regulations," Jordinson

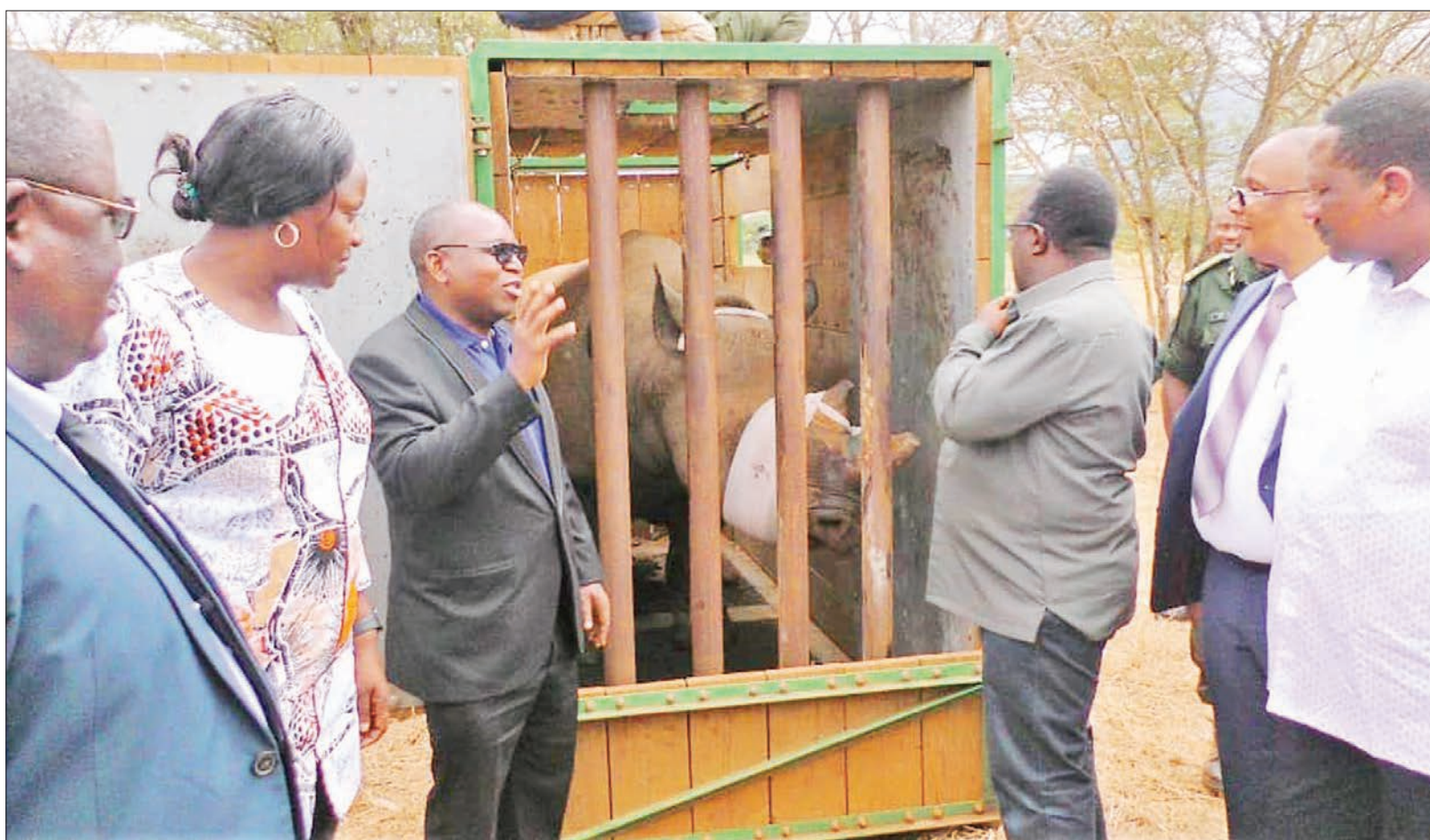
said, referencing GGML as the first Mining Company in the country to implement the Corporate Social Responsibility in line with the Mining Act, 2010 as amended in 2017.

The Managing Director also affirmed that GGML would continue to work with the government and other stakeholders to attain and hopefully surpass the target for the mining sector to contribute 10 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.

In line with its business values GGML strives to support the government of Tanzania's aspirations of sustainable social and economic development of

its people. The company further endeavors to collaborate with the local authorities as well as communities in the identification and management of key projects that will support a sustainable socio-economic future for the district.

In February this year, GGML emerged as the overall best performing company in the Mining Sector in Tanzania for the financial year 2019/2020 after scooping accolades in Corporate Social Responsibility, Environment and Safety, Government Revenue Collection (Taxes) and Local Business Content.



Natural Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (3rd-L) launches Mkomazi National Park rhino tourism at Mbura in Same District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Govt gives PS one month to pay water project contractor

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

WATER Deputy Minister Marryprisca Mahundi has given one month to her Permanent Secretary to pay the contractor of the big water project at Makongolosi town in Chunya District.

Mahundi gave the directive on Tuesday when she made an inspection visit in company of various officials of Rural and Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) including those from Mbeya Urban Water and sanitation Authority (MUWASA).

She said the project will cost 2.8bn/- till completion and so far the contractor owes the government 270m/-. "I'm pleased with the construction work of the project which is 90 per cent complete, as sometimes you had to use own funds to ensure the project is completed and we like contractors with such good heart and I promise you will get your money and pledge to work together with you in other projects," she told the contractor.

The director of the contracting firm of the water project, Make Engineering Co. Eng Tanda John

said the project will be completed in the agreed time according to the contract agreement.

He said he will make sure the project is completed as soon as possible to enable Makongolosi and Matundasi residents start benefiting from piped water service. He thanked the government for pledging to pay him 270m/- and promised the project will be the one to be emulated in the country.

Mbeya Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MUWASA) Director, Gilbert Kayange said they will continue to work together with

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) to strengthen water infrastructures.

He stressed the need for the people to continue paying water bills to enable the Authority to build other water projects in various areas of Mbeya Region.

Chunya District Commissioner appealed to the residents to stop vandalising water infrastructures and whoever will be nabbed doing so stern action will be taken.

He said as for now, the people may begin connecting water to their homes.

## Use funds from Covid-19 testing to improve health sector, directs Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Health, Community Development, Elders, Gender and Children Ministry has been instructed to establish a special fund for money collected from people testing for Covid-19 to be channelled towards better health services in both urban and rural areas.

This has been expressed by Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi during his visit to Bumbwini in Unga North 'B' District to inspect development projects.

He said health services provided in the region were not satisfactory hence he would like the ministry to make special arrangements for the money collected from Covid-19 testing to be used to strengthen health services, including purchase of medical equipment, refurbishment of health centres and quarters for medical staff.

He said such fund will provide no excuse for the money to be embezzled but used to improve health services.

He said there was the need to look into how to put in place an appropriate procedure in providing health services including improvement to infrastructures, provision of drugs, medical devices and increase of health workers.

In regard to the education sector, Dr Mwinyi said during his visit he has witnessed congestion of students in classrooms and called on the education ministry to make sure that one class should not hold more than 45 students.

He said there was an acute shortage of science and mathematics teachers, including

poor remunerations, as some teachers are forced have to pay their own fares and that some teachers do not cater for the subjects at the schools.

For his part, The Education and Vocational Training minister Simai Mohamed called for the need for joint efforts between his ministry and the region in having a better and secure environment at schools.

The ministry permanent secretary Ali Khamis said Chaani Primary School was established in 1964 and has 33 teachers and 22 classrooms.

The constituency's Member of Parliament, Juma Usonge Hamad appealed to the government to assist in finding teachers for science and mathematics subjects, and added that lack of such teachers was contributing to poor performance by students in examinations.



**He said there was an acute shortage of science and mathematics teachers, including poor remunerations, as some teachers are forced have to pay their own fares and that some teachers do not cater for the subjects at the schools**



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## Yes, CAG's reports important, but debating time matters little

ARE reports by the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) of any consequence? Definitely.

Should legislators be allowed much longer to debate the reports than has obtained till now? Well, it's the quality of the deliberations that should dictate.

Now, CAG Charles Kichere has recently urged the National Assembly to review its work schedule so that the reports are subjected to longer - and therefore more exhaustive - debate.

Speaker Job Ndugai was very much there as the proposition was made, so the idea will have been properly noted.

One reason for the recommendation is that the National Audit Office of Tanzania (NAOT) is set to start using an improved audit system that promises more detailed reports which, if tabled only once towards the end of a parliamentary sitting, will not get enough time for debate in the House.

The CAG made the appeal at an event to mark 60 years of NAOT, on Wednesday, insisting that delaying to debate the reports in the House led to slow implementation of the recommendations.

Thus, it is vital that the legislature considers tabling the CAG's reports for debate early enough and not after one financial year.

The key reason for audits and their presentation for discussion in the House isn't that the debate leads to imposition by the legislature.

In the final analysis those reports are advisory, and that is what Speaker Ndugai underlined to former CAG Prof Mussa Assad,

who once sought parliamentary accountability over the reports. It appears that the same line is shooting up again.

For the CAG to underscore the importance of open debate as what follows the presentation of audit reports and is seen to have been exhaustively done misses the point in parliamentary procedure.

It would be more helpful for the CAG to allocate specific books, volumes or chapters of the findings to the relevant parliamentary standing committees on the defined aspects.

That should advisedly be on instructions from the Speaker, who is all the same part of a parliamentary leadership committee headed by the prime minister that would present recommendations on what is contained in the reports.

At the same time there are all sorts of reports and bills that are presented to the legislature for debate and amendments as appropriate. Therefore, it isn't feasible that NAOT reports be given precedence over others.

The only document thus far given accorded special debating time is the president's inaugural speech to the new legislature, as it sets the tone and content of the work of the government - and hence the legislature - for the rest of its legislative life.

The CAG's reports advise the government on what is not right here or there and can't be a primary document. Accordingly, the CAG's Office should continue to find comfort in playing an advisory role rather than seeking to run as a new chamber of the legislature for fear of appearing irrelevant.

## Though admirable, doing all trade in tanzanite at Mirerani a tall order

CONFLICTING reports are being heard on how the tanzanite trade is doing globally, with some recent headlines suggesting that there is a decline in world market prices by up to a half, largely due to low demand in the wake of Covid-19 restrictions to entertainment and social gatherings generally.

That can be understood but there are strong indications that, despite the stringent measures taken, the Tanzania-only gemstones continue being smuggled outside. It appears the problem is much bigger and wider than earlier appreciated.

The current idea is that no trade and any other transactions related to tanzanite should take place outside Mirerani mines in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, as there are now appropriate facilities enabling traders to operate in the township instead of Arusha city.

It appears that one problem is that local stakeholders say that Mirerani has remained deep in poverty while the trade is benefiting Arusha and other places, a most complicated issue to sort out.

Simanjiro legislator Christopher ole Sendeka is reported to have lamented the poverty the people in the mining hills are languishing in.

He is said to be surprised that, while Mirerani is the only place on earth where the valuable and extremely rare gemstones are mined, it remains poor while the tanzanite yield is high.

It is an off-recurring problem in welfare matters relating to extractive industries as to how things ought to be organized to ensure a win-win scenario for all concerned.

It appears that arrangements like those reached with gold mining firms haven't applied to the area

under what is usually known as corporate social responsibility, and the legislator didn't focus his remarks there.

It is thus not easy to say if the government has responded satisfactorily to the issue of the said poverty in Mirerani or to the wider problem of smuggling and loss of government revenues.

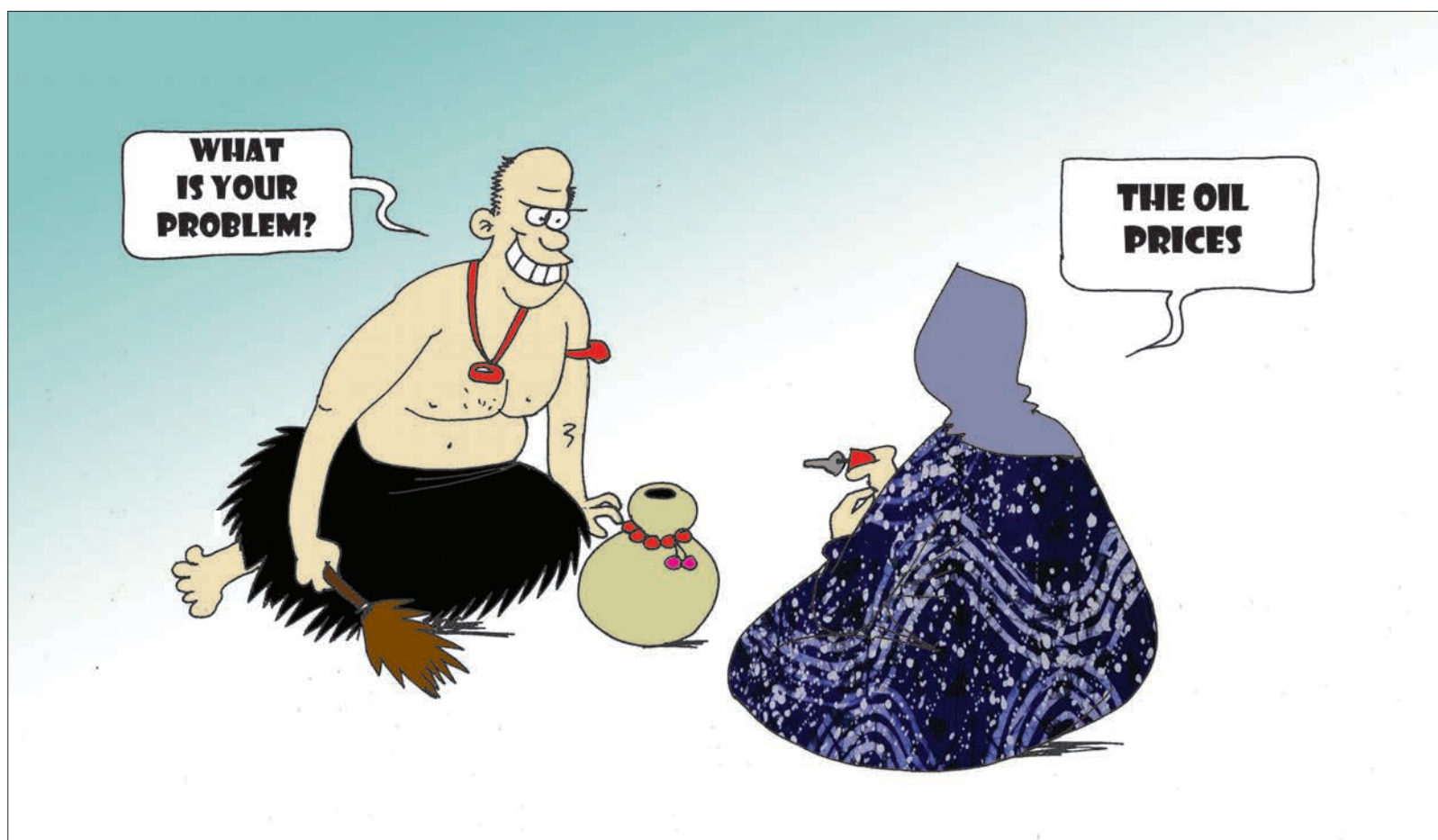
Here the issue remains as to whether the contention between Mirerani and Arusha city is worth the government's full force of intervention, which is unlikely. In that case, is locating all trading in Mirerani necessarily trigger a rise in government revenues? Suppose big buyers send a few middlemen to undercut the price, what would we do?

If the government were assured of rising prices in international markets, it would do most of the purchasing itself as in the case of the 'billionaire Laizer' findings.

It meanwhile appears that an astronomical rise in revenues has been registered since a concrete wall was built around the tanzanite mining site, in which case it only needs some 'fine-tuning' to make the system work to satisfaction.

Having security organs equipped well enough to detect underground tunnels that reach outside the perimeters by undercutting the wall would be hugely beneficial. Of course, field intelligence is hugely relevant there, though market incentives would likely work better.

The wall was completed in April 2018 and in September state authorities announced that tanzanite revenues had risen to 1.28bn/- from a lowly 166m/- in January 2015. More recently, we heard that annual collections had shot up to 5.2bn/-. It is no mean feat.



By Special Correspondents

ONE in two women has suffered sexual harassment in the workplace in Africa. One in two. Allow that to sink in - and then consider that only 30 per cent of these cases are reported.

New research from Women in News (WIN) on sexual harassment in African media organisations highlights the scale of the problem - and the numbers make for worrying reading.

Conducted in eight African countries and with 584 respondents, the research found that women stay silent because of a fear of retaliation and a lack of faith that their organisations will do anything about their reports.

And the numbers support this thinking. The research found that of the cases reported, organisations took action only 42 per cent of the time.

And even then, the most common response was to warn the perpetrator, followed by emotional support for the victim, dismissal of cases after review and providing training for staff on sexual harassment.

Stamping out the vice is further complicated by the fact that two out of five times, the perpetrator is a person in authority.

And to illustrate just how pervasive sexual harassment is, 46.12 per cent of respondents said that they had witnessed at least one incident, while nearly one in five (16 per cent) said they had witnessed five or more incidents.

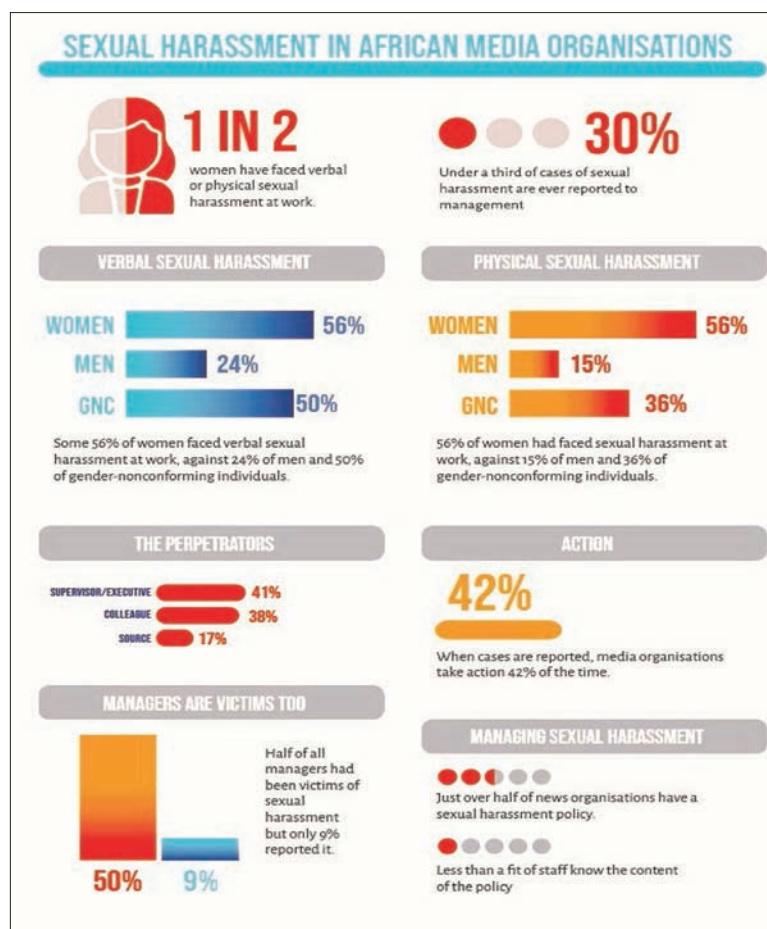
Nelly, who works in a newsroom in Zimbabwe - one of the countries surveyed alongside Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia - termed the sexual harassment situation "disheartening as it remains unresolved almost 20 years since I joined the media industry".

"Universities and colleges are churning out graduates who are talented and conversant with the technology the media needs to survive, but six months after their being hired, they leave their organisations. They are leaving because the 'boys' club' that rules the media has refused to change," she said.

Nelly, who asked that her full name not be used as she was not authorised to speak on the matter, said the stories of how toxic the newsroom can be has led to young graduates shunning journalism.

She recalled: "There was a graduate trainee who was at an evening assignment that ended at about 10 pm. When she called the office for transport home, she was told that all the company drivers had left. Her boss, however, offered to pick her up and since she didn't have any other options, she agreed.

## Study shows extent of sexual harassment in African media



"When the boss came to pick her up, he arrived with his girlfriend. The trainee sat in the back seat and was subjected to her boss and his girlfriend kissing each other the entire 30 minutes it took to get to her house.

"Days later, her boss brought up the incident, telling her that he could treat her in a similar fashion and give her even more so she would never have to worry about transport. Three months later, the trainee quit."

It is, unfortunately, an all-too-common narrative across the region's newsrooms - and it does not affect only women. The research found that 43 per cent of gender non-conforming individuals and 19.5 per cent of men had faced unwanted sexual attention.

Further, 56 per cent of women said that they had been verbally harassed, with 38 per cent reporting physical harassment. For gender non-conforming individuals, one in two had been verbally harassed and 36 per cent physically harassed.

Among men, one in five had experienced verbal sexual harassment and about one in ten had faced physical harassment.

"We have a long way to go before staff are convinced and comfortable that if there are incidents of harassment, they can report them and action will be taken without their further victimisation," said WIN Africa director Jane Godia.

Respondents said fear of losing

their jobs, of being negatively labelled and of facing some form of retaliation from the perpetrators and their peers stops them from filing formal complaints.

The research, which is the first phase of a multi-region study, found that nearly half of those surveyed (46.7 per cent) worked for organisations with no sexual harassment policy in place.

Yet, in supplementary interviews, 46 per cent of 32 media managers said that the industry no longer has a sexual harassment problem - but this was despite the fact that more than half of them reported that they had been victims of the vice.

While change may be slow in coming, however, there are small wins being recorded across the region. For instance, WIN - through its advisory partnerships in Africa - is working with 30 member organisations across eight countries to institute sexual harassment policies that provide clear reporting mechanisms to make newsrooms safer.

"Newsrooms need as much information and support as possible to ameliorate the challenges posed by sexual harassment within the workplace by colleagues and in the field by sources," said WIN advisory manager Susan Makore.

The research provides evidence of the need for media organisations to recognize how widespread sexual harassment is and to put in place plans and policies that create

a safer working environment that allows for talent retention and industry growth.

WIN executive director Melanie Walker said: "It all starts with a conversation on what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour in your media organisation - being explicit about sexual harassment - sharing definitions, what behaviours are unacceptable and communicating the right of every employee to be treated equally.

"It is far better to be proactive and prepared than pushed into a crisis management position when a case emerges."

WAN-IFRA Women in News partners with media organisations and individuals in efforts to close the gender gap in the news media. It does so in the belief that balanced newsrooms, boardrooms and content are key to the building of resilient news organisations.

The agency's programmes empower people and organisations to work together in support of a healthier, lasting and inclusive news industry.

Its vision is a media industry in which women and men are equal. Equal in the way they are portrayed in news content and equal in their professional roles and treatment in newsrooms within stable media organisations.

The agency is determined to increase women's leadership and voices in the news. It does so by equipping women journalists and editors with the skills, strategies and support networks to help them take on greater leadership positions within their organisations.

In parallel, WIN partners with media organisations to identify industry-led solutions to create environments that embrace equality and help navigate the digital transition and, in so doing, build towards greater financial and operational stability.

WIN is working with more than 80 news organisations from 15 countries, in three regions, including Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe (WIN Africa); Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine (WIN Arab Region); and Myanmar, Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia (WIN Southeast Asia).

WAN-IFRA - the Frankfurt-based World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers - is meanwhile a global non-profit NGO made up of 76 national newspaper associations, 12 news agencies, ten regional press organisations, and many individual newspaper executives in 100 countries.



# Going for gold in western Mali leaves a toxic trail while fuelling criminal economies

By Fahiraman Rodrigue Koné

**M**ALI'S artisanal gold mining sector regularly uses chemicals and dredges rivers, despite these practices being prohibited. The consequences for human health, environmental sustainability and local stability are dire.

The western region of Kayes is among the most severely affected. It produced an estimated 73% of the country's 26 tons of artisanal gold in 2019 and generated \$1.23-billion.

Artisanal gold miners mostly use mercury and cyanide to separate gold from other minerals. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) research shows that these chemicals are smuggled into Mali from Benin, Togo, Burkina Faso and Senegal through illicit trafficking routes.

Mali's government estimates that 33.3 tons of mercury enter the country illegally every year, most of which (28 tons) is used in Kayes. The chemical is readily available throughout the region, with 10 grams priced between \$2.5 and \$3.4.

Little official data exists on the quantity of cyanide used. However, cyanidation ponds have multiplied near villages and mining sites in the region's Sadiola and Kéniéba localities in the past five years. This has occurred as artisanal miners renowned for having mastered the chemical have moved into the area from Burkina Faso.

Intensive, improper use of these chemicals presents massive risks for agriculture, fishing and herding due to groundwater contamination that can lead to animal and human poisoning. Cyanide is lethal and when ingested, causes rapid paralysis. Milder cases of poisoning lead to headaches, nausea, vertigo, anxiety, altered mental states, rapid breathing and high blood pressure.

Chronic exposure to mercury gas can cause renal failure, tremors, movement disorders and various psychoses and memory impairment. The damage is particularly severe for pregnant women because of the dangerous neurotoxic effects on the development of the foetus. In Kayes, women represented 33% of the 298 307 artisanal miners identified in 2019, and many more live close to mining sites.

Yet there is little awareness among artisanal miners about the health cost of their activities. No caution is



Artisanal gold miners typically use mercury and cyanide to separate gold from other minerals – a process that has devastating effects on the environment, farming and human health. (Photo: EPA/MARC HOFER) **Less**

taken in the transport, storage and handling of toxic chemicals. They are often hidden and transported in food trucks, directly in contact with food products. They're also stored in warehouses without temperature control and handled without appropriate protective gear.

Besides harming human health, using these chemicals and the creation of new mines damages vegetation and wildlife. Vegetation must be cleared for most artisanal sites, leading to soil erosion and an easy flow of chemically-poisoned water into rivers and groundwater. Former sites are routinely abandoned without restoration, making them unsuitable for agriculture and herding. Villagers and cattle regularly fall into abandoned pits – just one of the lasting safety risks.

Dredging rivers to destruction is a damaging practice that encourages artisanal gold mining in Kayes. Once the heart of local agriculture, the Falémé River on the border with Senegal, is drying up due to chaotic dredging. Mali's armed forces sporadically evict illegal miners from the river bed, but the soldiers can't be everywhere, and the miners soon return.

The intensive use of chemicals feeds a large-scale, lucrative transnational criminal economy. Financial gains for traffickers are huge. In 2019, the sale of 18 tons of mercury generated over \$100-million.

Kayes is the main market for illicit trading in mercury in Mali due to its location. The region borders Guinea, Senegal and Mauritania, connecting Mali to coastal West Africa,

where multiple clandestine supply chains of mercury and cyanide originate. Corruption among some security forces makes borders more porous, facilitating crime.

This profitable trafficking network also serves as a potential financing source for violent extremist groups in this part of West Africa. Environmental damage also drives local conflicts, with river dredging causing disputes among communities. Interviewees told the ISS that some traditional leaders and local administration officials are complicit.

In exchange for cash or infrastructure including electricity supply, water drilling and housing, local authorities give land access to illegal miners and turn a blind eye to the environmental implications of their

activities. This causes resentment among environmentalists and communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture, fishing and herding. It has often led to protests.

The destruction of farmlands and agricultural economies around the Falémé River antagonises farmers. In some instances, the ISS was told that dredge owners and farmers are now arming themselves in response to the spiralling hostility.

The government's repressive approach to addressing the problem has been ineffective. Collaborative responses that take into account artisanal miners' interests are required. First, the Mali government needs to align its laws with the technical evolution of artisanal gold mining. Effective regulation should

replace unrealistic prohibition. This could include training miners in the safe use of chemicals and protection of the environment.

Second, the government should support dialogue between communities and their traditional and administrative authorities. Awareness needs to be raised about the risks of inter-communal violence over the environmental damage caused by chemicals used for mining.

Third, the government should work with existing associations to set up committees that can oversee the environmental impact of artisanal mining. Finally, Mali's environment ministry needs to expand and reinforce the technical capacity of local and not just centrally-based state officials tasked with limiting pollution and health damage. DM

## China will remain committed to promoting peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit

By He Yin

“ON the journey ahead, we will remain committed to promoting peace, development, cooperation, and mutual benefit, to an independent foreign policy of peace, and to the path of peaceful development,” said Chinese President Xi Jinping at a ceremony marking the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on July 1.

“We will work to build a new type of international relations and a human community with a shared future, promote high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative through joint efforts, and use China's new achievements in development to provide the world with new opportunities,” continued Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, showing the selfless aspiration and sense of responsibility of the CPC.

The CPC is a political party that strives for both the wellbeing of the Chinese people and the advancement of humankind.

“Safeguarding world peace and promoting common development” has been written into the Constitution of Communist Party of China and listed as one of the three historic tasks of China.

Meanwhile, the General Program of the CPC Constitution specifies that the political party shall uphold an independent foreign policy of peace, follow a path of peaceful development, and continue with the win-win strategy of opening-up, and that it shall defend world peace, promote human progress, work to build a community with a shared future for mankind, and advance the building of a harmonious world of lasting peace and common prosperity

These facts have demonstrated that the CPC cares about the future of humanity, and wishes to move forward in tandem with all progressive forces around the world.

China has always worked to safeguard world peace under the leadership of the CPC. No matter how the international circumstances change and no matter to what extent China develops, the country has remained committed never to seek hegemony, territorial expansion or spheres of influence, and has achieved development by upholding world peace and promoted world peace through its own development.

The country has proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and advocated a new vision of



Peacekeepers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon line up to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at a medical unit of the Chinese peacekeeping forces to Lebanon, June 28, 2021. (File Photo)

security featuring common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. It has participated in nearly 30 UN peacekeeping operations and sent over 50,000 peacekeepers.

China's ideas and practice of safeguarding world peace have fully proven that peace is a spiritual pursuit and conscious act of the Chinese Communists.

China has always worked to contribute to global development under the leadership of the CPC.

While sending good wishes to the CPC for its 100th

anniversary, many political party chiefs and politicians from other countries expressed high recognition for the CPC's idea of promoting common development of all countries.

The CPC has adhered to the win-win strategy of opening-up, called for cooperation and mutual benefit rather than confrontation and

zero-sum games, and provided the world with new opportunities through its new development program.

A total of 140 countries and 32 international organizations have joined in the Belt and Road cooperation, and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has seen the number of its members

exceed 100, which proves that win-win cooperation and common development meet the expectations of all parties.

China has always worked to preserve international order under the leadership of the CPC. The CPC has stuck to equity and justice, underscored that all countries are equal, regardless of their size, strength and wealth, and stood against imposing one's own will on others, interfering in other countries' internal affairs, and the practice of the strong bullying the weak.

Many foreign personages speak highly of China's role in promoting multilateralism and improving global governance, and believe that the CPC has provided the world with a more just and reasonable paradigm of international relations.

As the world is undergoing major changes unseen in a century, unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise and global challenges are increasing day by day. China has firmly upheld and practiced multilateralism, and steadfastly safeguarded the international system with the UN at its core and the international order based on international law, becoming a stabilizer of the changing world.

Faced with ever-changing global landscape and development patterns, the CPC has been committed to promoting the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and will continuously contribute to world peace and stability, the common development of all countries, mutual learning between different civilizations, as well as humankind's progress.

**People's Daily**



# Vaccine acceptance is increasing in SA, survey suggests

By Marcus Low

“ALMOST half (47%) of those who ‘disagreed strongly or somewhat or did not know’ in February or March 2021 subsequently changed their minds over the following two months and either had been vaccinated or agreed to be vaccinated when asked again in April or May,” wrote Stellenbosch University’s Professor Ronelle Burger and colleagues in a paper published with the new data. The paper has not been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The National Income Dynamics Study Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-CRAM), released on Thursday, is a collaboration between more than 30 researchers from several universities and research organisations. It involves a nationally representative panel of about 7,000 people being surveyed by phone in five waves. The latest data are from the fifth wave in which just under 5,000 people were surveyed.

The researchers found that two-thirds of respondents strongly agreed in April/May 2021 with the statement: “If a vaccine for Covid-19 were available, I would get it.” This is just more than a 10-percentage point increase from the 55% recorded in February/March 2021.

When asked what may be behind the increase, Burger told Spotlight: “It most likely is a variety of factors. Our data does not

tell us what is driving this, but many countries have seen the same gradual uptick in vaccine acceptance alongside the vaccine roll-out. Much of this may be driven by hearing of others being vaccinated without major fiascos or notable side-effects. For most people, news from neighbours and ordinary people trump social media fearmongering.”

A quarter of people surveyed in April/May strongly or somewhat disagreed that they would get a vaccination if one became available to them, or did not know. A further 10% only somewhat agreed with the statement.

“Campaigns to increase vaccine registration and uptake should promote the fact that vaccine acceptance is the norm. Spreading the message that most people say they will accept a vaccine has proven to increase Covid-19 vaccination rates worldwide. Conversely, while it is clearly important to address myths and rumours, frequently discussing vaccine scepticism can perversely give credence to myths by creating the impression that these beliefs are widespread and that there is a valid reason to be concerned about getting vaccinated,” wrote Burger and colleagues.

Willing but not registered?

The researchers also underlined the difference between a willingness to get jabbed and taking the steps to register on the Electronic



Vaccination Data System (EVDS) and being vaccinated.

“After more than two months, the proportion of the elderly who have registered for vaccination is much lower than their willingness to be vaccinated asserted in surveys, which provides a signal that we need to consider the time, costs and burden associated with registration,” wrote Burger and colleagues. “Getting people motivated is not enough; we need to make the process as easy as possible for people to translate their intentions into action. Providing hassle-free access and removing

impediments are likely to be even more important among the rest of the population, given that the survey shows that vaccination demand in the <60-year group is significantly lower.”

The researchers also found that vaccine acceptance is higher among respondents living in traditional settlements, among isiZulu, isiTsonga and Setswana speakers, and among black respondents. On the other hand, vaccine acceptance was found to be significantly lower among respondents living in urban formal residential housing, Afrikaans speakers and white and coloured respondents. Users of social media and young people were found to be more likely to show low vaccine acceptance.

As previously pointed out by Professor Kate Alexander and Bongani Xezwi of the University of Johannesburg, writing on Daily Maverick, a higher percentage of insured than uninsured people have been vaccinated. They quoted

a presentation dated 21 June which showed the proportion of insured people over 60 who had been vaccinated was 48% and the proportion of uninsured people in that age group who had been vaccinated was 26%. In other words, vaccination rates at that point were higher in the groups where willingness appears to be lower. Alexander and Xezwi argued that the challenge is principally one of delivery by the government rather than demand from the people.

Reasons for hesitancy

Conspiracy theories do not seem to be a major impediment to South Africa’s vaccination programme. Only 1% of respondents in NIDS-CRAM wave five said they “worry about vaccine safety due to national or global plots” and “fewer than 1% are concerned about vaccine safety because they fear it may alter their DNA or that it is a fraudulent corporate attempt to extract profits”.

Instead, vaccine hesitancy appears to be driven mainly by safety concerns. “The most widespread reason for believing that vaccines are unsafe is that vaccines had not been adequately tested,” wrote Burger and colleagues. “A third of individuals who thought vaccines are unsafe said they believed this because vaccine testing was rushed.” The two vaccines currently being used in South Africa (from Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer/BioNTech) have been tested in large trials and have been used by many millions of people in other countries. (Spotlight previously reported on how to report vaccine-related adverse events.)

The researchers also found that one in five of those who believed vaccines were unsafe or could harm them reported that this was because of side-effects. While side-effects are common with the Covid-19 vaccines being used in South Africa, they are generally mild and pass within a day or two. **DM/MC**

# Scientists : Evidence indicates coronavirus evolved in nature

By Zhao Huanxin in Washington and Zhou Jin in Beijing

THE virus that led to the COVID-19 pandemic evolved in nature, and suggestions of a laboratory-leak source “remain without scientifically validated evidence”, a group of international scientists wrote in The Lancet medical journal.

In a letter published on Monday, 24 physicians, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, biologists, ecologists and public health experts from around the world dismissed the lab-leak notion, as recent, peer-reviewed studies strongly suggest that COVID-19 has a natural origin.

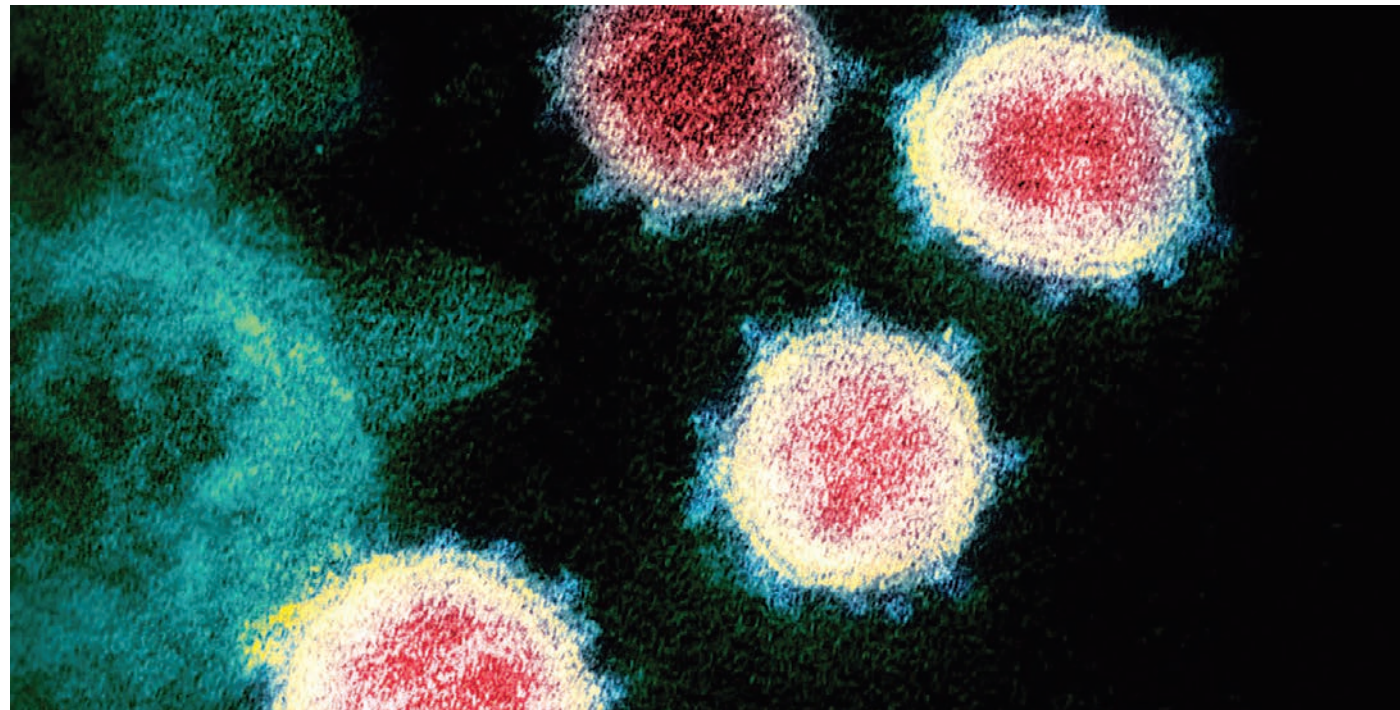
In February last year, the same team of scientists wrote in a letter, also published in The Lancet, saying: “We stand together to strongly condemn conspiracy theories suggesting that COVID-19 does not have a natural origin.”

In the new letter, which ran under the headline “Science, not speculation, is essential to determine how SARS-CoV-2 reached humans”, the group writes, “Recently, many of us have individually received inquiries asking whether we still support what we said in early 2020.

“The answer is clear: We reaffirm our expression of solidarity with those in China who confronted the outbreak then, and the many health professionals around the world who have since worked to exhaustion, and at personal risk, in the relentless and continuing battle against this virus. Our respect and gratitude have only grown with time.”

The authors said their original letter was also intended to express their working view that SARS-CoV-2 “most likely” originated in nature and not in a laboratory.

This view was based on early genetic analysis of the new virus and “well-established evidence” from previous emerging infectious diseases, including the coronaviruses that cause the common cold as well as the original SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV, they wrote.



SARS-CoV-2 stands for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, the virus that causes COVID-19, while MERS is short for Middle East respiratory syndrome, another viral respiratory illness.

As of Tuesday, the world has reported more than 183.9 million confirmed coronavirus cases, with COVID-19 deaths nearing 4 million, according to the World Health Organization.

“We believe the strongest clue from new, credible and

peer-reviewed evidence in the scientific literature is that the virus evolved in nature, while suggestions of a laboratory-leak source of the pandemic remain without scientifically validated evidence that directly supports it in peer-reviewed scientific journals,” the new letter says.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a news briefing on Wednesday that the report of the China-WHO joint mission, released in March, made it clear that a

lab leak is extremely unlikely as the origin.

Regrettably, some in the United States have blatantly engaged in political maneuvering on the issue of origin, and their only purpose is to shift to China the responsibility for their own failure, Wang said.

Such political tricks won’t change the fact that over 600,000 lives were lost in the US due to politicians who have ignored science and politicized the anti-pandemic response,

he added.

The authentic conclusion reached by the WHO joint mission will not change, Wang said, adding that origin tracing of the virus will not be limited to a single region and should be carried out in many countries and regions.

In late May, US President Joe Biden called for a US-based probe into the origins of COVID-19. The administration gave US intelligence agencies 90 days to report on whether the virus originated from an

animal source or from a laboratory accident.

Almost a month later, Biden administration officials cautioned that the 90-day review may not produce a “definitive” explanation, The Wall Street Journal reported on June 27.

Beijing has strongly opposed the politicization of COVID-19 origin tracing, saying that it is a scientific issue on which China has always maintained an open and transparent attitude.

The Lancet letter’s authors also said allegations and conjecture do not help, as they do not facilitate access to information or an objective assessment of the virus’ pathway that might help to prevent a future pandemic.

“Recrimination has not, and will not, encourage international cooperation and collaboration,” they said.

“It is time to turn down the heat of the rhetoric and turn up the light of scientific inquiry if we are to be better prepared to stem the next pandemic, whenever it comes and wherever it begins,” they wrote.

The authors are scientists from universities and institutes in countries including the US, the United Kingdom, Germany, Spain, Italy, Australia, Malaysia and China’s Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Agencies

# 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



# African Guarantee Fund, TADB sign 46bn/- protocol to lend to agri-SMEs

By Guardian Correspondent

THE African Guarantee Fund, a non-bank financial institution that pledges to promote economic development, increase employment and reduce poverty in Africa by providing financial institutions with guarantee products and capacity development assistance specifically intended to support SMEs in Africa, has shown firm interest in supporting development of Tanzanian agri-SMEs.

In that vein, on July 1, in Dar es Salaam, the fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) that will allow the bank to disburse up to US\$20 million (46,180,000,000/-) in loans to agri-businesses in Tanzania.

Just for intellectual stimulation, the word 'African' in the name of African Guarantee Fund is deceptive especially if one thinks the institution is owned wholly by African governments or institutions because of its devotion to African development.

The truth is that the fund was founded by the government of Denmark through the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other shareholders include French Development Agency (AFD), Nordic Development Fund (NDF), Investment Fund for Developing Countries (IFU) and KfW Development Bank (KfW).

In the finest grain, the partnership should make farmers very happy and especially women who own agri-small and medium enterprises (SMEs) because the money pledged in the MoU is meant to support them develop their businesses. To use the words of AGF Group CEO, Jules Ngankam the partnership between the two institutions is a golden opportunity for enterprising women. "...it is a trail-blazing opportunity for women-led or owned businesses."

The CEO sees the partnership as being of great importance to SMEs owners and prospects in Tanzania. The CEO says their institution "views TADB as a very strategic partner in achieving significant impact within the SME sector in Tanzania."

TADB, as a government owned DFI, has the required capacity to lend to SMEs and particularly in the critical agricultural sector. Through the MoU, AGF will consider providing individual guarantee relating to loans granted to Tanzanian agri-SMEs on a case-by-case basis. With the backing of such guarantees, TADB is proposing to disburse USD 20 million of loans to Tanzania agri-SMEs."

The CEO also adds that: "through the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) partnership that we have with the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), AGF will also be able to extend the AFAWA Guarantee Facility to TADB to increase financing of Tanzanian women-owned agri-business. Women businesses in different agricultural value-chains will be able to access loans from TADB on much better terms."

According to a press statement issued by the TADB after the MoU was signed, highlights some of the criteria to be used to assess funds by a female agri-business. The conditions may include, but not limited to, "situations where the board of the business, the shares, business founder is a woman. Also, whenever the workforce or the produce directly benefits more women that, too, will be a consideration for the business to access a more advanced



Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) Managing Director, Japhet Justine (L), in a handshake with the Group CEO of African Guarantee Fund for SMEs (AGF), Jules Ngankam (R), after signing a MoU between the two parties that will allow TADB to disburse loans up-to \$20 million to agri-SMEs in the country. Witnessing the exchange is the Commissioner for Financials Sector Development, Dr Charles Mwamwaja (C), representing the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Mwigulu Nchemba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

teous interest rate to the finances they require."

The memorandum was also hailed by Tanzanian officials. They see it as a good move in support of the government's current third five-year development plan (FYDP III).

The Commissioner for Financials Sector Development in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Dr Charles Mwamwaja, welcomed the partnership saying it has come at the right time while TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine sees the partnership bringing to Tanzania, especially the agri-sector, a great opportunity that creates "room for lower interest rates and lending conditions that are affordable and friendly (to the farming community)."

Dr Mwamwaja explained that the partnership is in line with the FYDP III that was launched recently by the government. The plan aims to increase Tanzania's capacity for production; to build a competitive

economy that will stimulate Tanzania's participation in trade and investment; and stimulate human development, he explained.

"SMEs constitute 95 per cent of businesses in Tanzania, and 35 up-to 50 per cent of the country's GDP. They are the backbone of growth in production, employment and innovation, it is therefore crucial to us as we are moving at realizing Vision 2025 to provide an enabling environment for agricultural SMEs in Tanzania," he said.

"Most traditional banks and financial institutions require collateral worth 125 up to 150 per cent of the total loan amount an applicant is requesting. We would, therefore, like to congratulate TADB and AGF for this meaningful partnership that will see more agri-SMEs access more and affordable financial support, and ultimately contribute to the transfor-

mation of agriculture, the economy and lives of Tanzanians," the commissioner noted.

The commissioner explained that access to credit remains one of the major constraints to SMEs. Therefore, most SME owners prefer run away from borrowing due to high interest rates, lack of collateral, absence of institutions to lend their businesses "and more often than not, they do not know how to go about it. Hence, the importance of this MoU," he said.

Justine said that the TADB is proud to be one of the first institutions to spearhead implementation of the FYDP III. "This deal helps us perform one of our roles as a Development Finance Institution in mobilizing low-cost sustainable financial resources for affordable agricultural financing and enhancing financial inclusion," he said.

"In the new FYDP III, the government has reiterated its com-

mitment to promoting the private sector and non-state actor's participation in economic development.

Interventions to further deepen industrialisation, driven by Science Technology and Innovation (STI) capabilities for value addition in manufacturing and productive sectors including agriculture, fishing, and livestock are mentioned as its top priorities," he explained.

"Our Integrated Value-Chain Finance (ICVF) model that we have adopted also ensures that a wide-range of agri-SMEs are compatible with this loan product, as our bank aims to empower SMEs involved in the different stages of the agri-value chain; for instance, inputs, infrastructure, production, storage, processing, transportation, and markets. Overall, by enabling the SMEs in the agri-sector, we foresee more markets created for a wide range of our farming produce," he said.

## AGRF stakeholders stress need for strong leadership

By Guardian Correspondent

A line up of 500 guests, including governments, private sector, youth, women leaders and farmer organization will convene in Nairobi, Kenya on September 6-10 for the Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021 Summit under the leadership of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

They are expected to be joined virtually by over 10,000 delegates from more than 150 countries for the summit, which will focus on accelerating progress towards the development of resilient food systems on the continent.

Under the theme of Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems, this year's AGRF Summit will put a spotlight on new commitments to the future of African food systems and showcase how resilience will be built out of leadership at all levels.

The summit will have a special focus on the role of women and youth in transforming Africa's food systems with various issues faced by these groups expected to dominate the discussions at the First Ladies Forum and the Youth Hall respectively.

The former Prime Minister of Ethiopia and AGRF Board Chair, Hailemariam Dessalegn, said that he was inspired to see Africans leaders make agriculture as priority but noted that a lot more needed to be done.

"Now more than ever we must prioritise inclusive agricultural transformation. We must work collaboratively to ensure that policy, technology and finances respond to the needs of our farmers. This is critical to achieve zero hunger

across the continent and around the globe," Dessalegn added.

Co-organized with the government of Kenya, with the support of 26 partner institutions, this year's Summit comes at a pivotal time when global voices convene under the Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) to shift the conversation on how food is produced and consumed and the role it plays to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As part of its contribution to the UNFSS, the AGRF 2021 Summit aims to elevate the single, coordinated African voice, by identifying immediate actions and steps to be taken to accelerate progress towards the development of resilient food systems.

Representing the host government, Kenya's Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives, Peter Munya, said the conversation at the AGRF needs to extend beyond agriculture and consider the food system from farm to fork.

"We must change the way we approach and prioritize food systems on the continent. We can no longer limit food systems to the farm. Our approach must reflect the complexity and importance of food systems and value of collaboration, as governments, the private sector, development partners and consumers, to deliver more inclusive and resilient food systems on the continent," he said.

Covid-19 highlighted the fragility of the continent's food systems. Lockdowns, curfews and illnesses revealed threats in supply throughout Africa, and the pandemic was another example of the need to



build more resilient food systems on the continent. Since 2014, droughts have cost the region US\$372 billion. While the worst locust outbreak in a generation in Ethiopia and Somalia during 2019/20 destroyed over 356,000MT of cereals and almost 1.5 million hectares of crop and pasture in Ethiopia.

The AGRF 2021 Summit will provide a platform for all stakeholders to align on the actions and commitments needed to build resilient food systems which end hunger and support the delivery of the sustainable development goals.

Jennifer Baarn, Acting Managing Director AGRF said, the AGRF 2021 Summit is a defining moment for Africa's food systems. "This is our time to create our own vision for Africa's food systems," she said. It is our time to listen, innovate, plan and invest for Africa. What we invest in African agriculture today will determine the future of food in Africa and the world tomorrow," she added.

Some of the key highlights at this year's AGRF 2021 Summit will include the Agribusiness Deal Room, a platform connecting entrepreneurs and governments with investors. This year the deal room is aiming to showcase a pipeline of USD 5 billion of investment opportunities across Africa. The Summit will also feature the Africa Food Prize, a Presidential Summit, and a Ministerial Roundtable.

This year's launch attracted among other dignitaries, Hon. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, Rwanda, and Hon. Salifou Ouedraogo, Minister of Agriculture, Bukina Faso. It was also graced by David Nabarro, Special Envoy on Covid-19 for the World Health Organisation; Godfrey Bahigwa, Director of Rural Economy and Agriculture at African Union Commission, among other guests.

## WHO warns against easing Covid-19 restrictions too soon

By Special Correspondent

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned governments around the world against easing Covid-19 restrictions too soon, saying countries that did so risked paying a heavy price for rushing back to normality.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, the UN health agency's top emergency expert Mike Ryan said a new wave of infections could be round the corner and noted that for much of the world, the pandemic was just getting started.

"All of the countries of the Americas, we still have nearly one million cases a week," he said. "And the same in Europe...with half a million cases a week. It's not like this thing has gone away," Ryan added. "It isn't over."

Last week, the WHO's Africa director had warned that "the speed and scale" of the continent's third wave "is like nothing we've seen before".

"Covid-19 cases are doubling every three weeks, compared to every four weeks at the start of the second wave," Dr Matshidiso Moeti told a briefing on Thursday.

In Russia, meanwhile, coronavirus deaths hit another daily record on Tuesday, with authorities reporting 737 more fatalities. The daily tally of confirmed infections has more than doubled in the past month, soaring from about 9,000 in early June to more than 23,000 this week.

The warnings come amid renewed concerns over the new coronavirus Delta variant, first detected in India in October 2020. The variant, which is considered to be the most transmissible variant yet, has now spread to nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Experts say more than 80 per cent of a country's population would need to be inoculated in order to contain it - a challenging target even for nations with advanced vaccination programmes. The variant is now responsible for more than 90 per cent of all new infections in the United Kingdom and about 30 per cent in the United States.

Lab tests have shown it is more resistant to vaccines compared with other forms of coronavirus. However, there is evidence that available jabs retain important effectiveness against it after two doses.

On the same day the WHO issued its warning, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that most Covid-19 restrictions in the country will be lifted in two weeks.

"If we can't reopen our society in the next few weeks when we will be helped by the arrival of summer and by school holidays, then we should ask ourselves, when will we be able to return to normal," Johnson told reporters on Monday.

The prime minister acknowledged there will be more infections, but people need to learn to live with the virus.

However, the British Medical Association (BMA) has expressed concerns about removing all coronavirus-related curbs on July 19 given the surge in the Delta variant and a 74 per cent increase in infections in the last week alone.

Chaand Nagpaul, BMA chair, told Sunrise Radio on Sunday the government should continue with "sensible targeted coronavirus measures" and act on "data not dates" when making their decisions in order to protect people's lives.



# Calls to halt construction of massive oilfield in one of Africa's last wildernesses

BRATISLAVA

**W**ILDLIFE and environmental campaigners have called for international action as concerns grow over a project to create a massive oilfield in one of Africa's last wildernesses.

ReconAfrica, a Canadian oil and gas company, has licensed drilling areas in over 34,000sq km of land in parts of northern Namibia and Botswana that overlap with Africa's Kavango-Zambezi Trans-frontier Conservation Area (KAZA), which includes land in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

A large part of the exploration areas in both Botswana and Namibia falls within the Okavango River Basin which flows into the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which supports the world's largest remaining population of endangered savanna elephants, as well as dozens of other endangered or vulnerable species such as rhinos, wild dogs, and pangolins. It is also home to 200,000 people.

Campaigners fear the project could do untold damage to the delta's ecosystem, threatening already endangered wildlife, the environment, and the livelihoods of the hundreds of thousands of people who live on the land.

But as international media attention on the project has also grown, some foreign politicians are raising concerns too.

Last month US Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry urged senior officials to launch a government investigation of the project under the Defending Economic Livelihoods and Threatened Animals (DELTA) Act, which is designed to protect areas like the Okavango Delta.

And groups working to raise awareness of the project and its potential effects say international co-operation is needed and pressure from outside Africa must be brought to bear to stop the project going ahead for the good of not just the Delta, but the entire globe.

Ina-Maria Shikongo, an activist from Fridays for Future - Windhoek, which has led a public campaign against the project, told IPS: "We have no choice but to get this stopped. Local and international co-operation is needed because this does not affect just us here, but everyone, everywhere."

"ReconAfrica says there is the potential to extract 120 billion barrels of oil from this field. Can you imagine what all the build-up of toxins, from that, the emissions, everything, is going to do to already rising global temperatures?"

"Even though we in the global south are feeling the effects of projects like these most, the global north is feeling them now too, with heatwaves. Everything is connected, all over the world. There is only one global carbon budget, and this project will use up a lot of it."

ReconAfrica began drilling test wells in Namibia at the end of last year and if the tests are successful, hundreds of wells are expected to be drilled in the area.

The company's own reports have suggested that the oilfield could potentially generate up to 120 billion barrels of oil, making it one of the largest oil finds for decades.

Although the licences were granted in 2015, criticism of the project has grown sharply over the last 18 months as details of it have emerged, especially suggestions in company promotions to investors that fracking, which involves blasting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks to extract oil and gas, could be used.

Fracking is banned in some countries and



A large part of the oil exploration areas in both Botswana and Namibia falls within the Okavango River Basin which flows into the Okavango Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fracking is banned in some countries and has been blamed for serious water pollution, among others, and threats to the regional water supply are among environmentalists' biggest concerns.

has been blamed for serious water pollution, among others, and threats to the regional water supply are among environmentalists' biggest concerns.

Shikongo explained: "The big problem is our water. We have a very fragile ecosystem, we rely on the water that is underground. If that water gets poisoned, what is going to happen?"

"Wildlife, local people, they all rely completely on our water, and if it is poisoned then you could destroy the local food system."

Rosemary Alles, co-founder of the Global March for Elephants and Rhinos conservation campaign group, told IPS: "ReconAfrica has continued to deny that fracking is in the works; however, there is no inevitability that the company will not frack, despite its rhetoric du jour. The concern is legitimate. If fracking takes place, the immediate potential impacts in the context of waterways and air pollution will be devastating."

Meanwhile, there are serious concerns about the impact operations could have on local wild animals, especially some of the 130,000 elephants which the Okavango Delta

supports. Conservationists point out that vibrations used in the exploratory work for the field, including in seismic surveys, can disturb elephants, while the inevitable rise in construction, road-building, and accompanying traffic in the area could push the animals away from established migratory routes and closer to villages and agricultural areas, creating easier access to hitherto inaccessible elephant habitat for poaching and a potential exacerbation of already growing human-elephant conflict.

One expert at a conservation group in the area, who asked not to be named, told IPS: "If this company is allowed to start drilling for oil in the Delta it will be a major environmental crime with inevitably devastating impacts on the natural world. In terms of what it will mean for elephants: until we know the scale of the operation it's hard to estimate exactly, but history shows that oil extraction always means environmental disaster and this is right in the middle of the last wilderness in the elephants' last stronghold: the KAZA."

The project will also impact local communities and farmers, and there are concerns that these groups have not

been engaged properly in consultations over the project.

UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) has pointed out that there are hundreds of working farms within ReconAfrica's drilling area. But in a recent press release, the group said that it was "far from transparent how, or indeed if, these communities are being consulted".

It pointed out that the public consultations on the oilfield project have been either online or in person, and the vast majority of those living in ReconAfrica's license area have limited or no access to the internet and the COVID-19 pandemic has severely restricted travel and public meetings. The meetings are also regularly conducted in English, which is not the first language for many locals.

"It is unclear whether their voices are being heard," EIA said.

ReconAfrica has sought to allay all these fears. It has said it has currently been granted licences for exploratory work which do not allow fracking, and its officials have repeatedly said they are only interested in conventional extraction.

It has also issued official statements saying it believes the regional energy industry can be "developed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner that is accountable and supports the development and delivery of much-needed economic and social benefits..." and has pledged to take measures to address potential issues with noise and vibration affecting local wildlife when doing work.

Critics have questioned the validity and integrity of the Environmental Impact Assessments conducted for the project, but the company has rejected this criticism and any suggestions it is not meeting full legal requirements for the project.

In official statements it has stressed that it is "committed to continuing to work closely with, and under the direct oversight of, the governments in both countries, as well as their regional and traditional authorities, to ensure we continue to comply with relevant laws and regulations throughout all the stages of our operation".

And it has claimed that its public consultations have been well-attended and welcomed by locals - although this is strongly disputed by many who went to them.

ReconAfrica has also highlighted the local economic benefits of the project, saying it will bring jobs and growth to the region - something government officials have also stressed.

Tom Alweendo, Namibia's Minister of Mines and Energy, said in an interview with international media earlier this year: "Any volume of oil that is commercially viable will mean a lot to our economy. Not only in terms of employment, but income that would come into the treasury."

However, environmentalists have questioned both the scale of the claimed local economic benefits and the thinking behind such a project given that only weeks ago the International Energy

Agency said no new oil and gas fields must be exploited from this year on to ensure global energy-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions were brought down to net zero by 2050 and keep global heating within safe limits.

Shikongo, whose Fridays For Future - Windhoek has dubbed the oilfield a "carbon gigabomb", said: "This project will only generate an income for a very few, but it will take away the livelihoods of millions of people. The oil needs to be kept in the ground."

She reiterated calls for global co-operation to stop this, and similar projects, and said there needs to be a move away from the "neo-colonialism" behind such projects.

"We need to stamp out this neo-colonialist system - Africa cannot continue to be treated simply as a resource for the global north. The global south and global north need to work together on this, because it affects us all. We're all humans," she said.

Allen added: "All western governments must apply pressure, particularly the USA and Canada. The DELTA Act could prove to be a means to an end. The possibility of bailing out the Namibian government must be on the front burner - it must be a point of conversation."

IPS

**RADIO One** **RATIBA YA VIPINDI** **JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

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**Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One** **Radio One**



# CRDB DUE TO BROADEN REGIONAL REACH WITH DR CONGO SUBSIDIARY

By Property Watch Reporter

**C**RDB Bank Plc which has presence in Burundi is planning further regional expansion with DR Congo as its next destination before the end this year.

CRDB's CEO and Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela said in Dar es Salaam mid this week while welcoming a batch of fresh graduates who joined the banking conglomerate, 'Graduate development program' that such expansion needs competent personnel to manage.

"Our bank is growing rapidly in terms of physical network of branches in the country but also has presence in Burundi and is heading to DR Congo before the end of the year," Nsekela said adding that the graduate programme is aimed at equipment fresh university graduate with banking skills and experience.

He said the expansion process also means that experienced and highly skilled young men and women should take up managerial roles in a highly competitive banking market both at home and in the region.

"Today we are launching this year's program with 32 young graduates three of which are from Burundi. These graduate will receive highly specialised training on banking business and will be go through all the sections of the bank from branches and after three years they will be employed by CRDB," he noted.



New CRDB Bank Plc's headquarters in Dar es Salaam which is set to become operation by this December.

He challenged the candidates to give their best during the three year period so that they become experts in the banking industry a move that will open a myriad of opportunities including being appointed manager at different levels.

The bank's Director of Human Resources, Siaphoro Kishimbo backed Nsekela by urging the candidates to work hard and perform well. Kishimbo said last year, the bank in partnership with Nijiri Company announced that fresh graduates seeking to join CRDB should apply for the program of which the 32 emerged successful after a vetting process.

"This is now five months since these graduates joined the program which as a bank are happy because we are creating employment," Kishimbo noted saying current market trends makes it impossible to recruit fresh graduates directly.

CRDB Board's Vice Chair, Professor Neema Mori praised the graduates for emerging successful and urged them to work hard because the process demands seriousness and commitment. "I am told that so far so good, keep going so that after three years you should be able to be appointed at managers at different positions within the bank," Prof Mori said.

In a vote of thanks, one of the trainees, Aurelia Haule paid tribute to CRDB's management and board for coming up with the program which gives young graduates an opportunity to get employment directly.

"I am hopeful that after this program we will be experts in the industry and will help grow our bank even further," Haule promised adding that for the past five months, things have started off at high note with more confidence from the trainees.

## European investors to establish €20m factory for organic fertiliser

KIGALI

INVESTORS from Slovakia, owners of ROKOSAN Company, are set to construct a factory in the industrial park of Bugesera District that will produce 'organic fertilizers' from poultry feathers, cattle hooves and horns.

Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe with \$21,529 GDP per capita. Recently, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Béata Habyarimana received a delegation composed of members of ROKOVIA, ROKOSAN RWANDA, Slovak Agency for Development, Investment and Trade (SARIO) and economic diplomats from Slovak embassy in Nairobi.

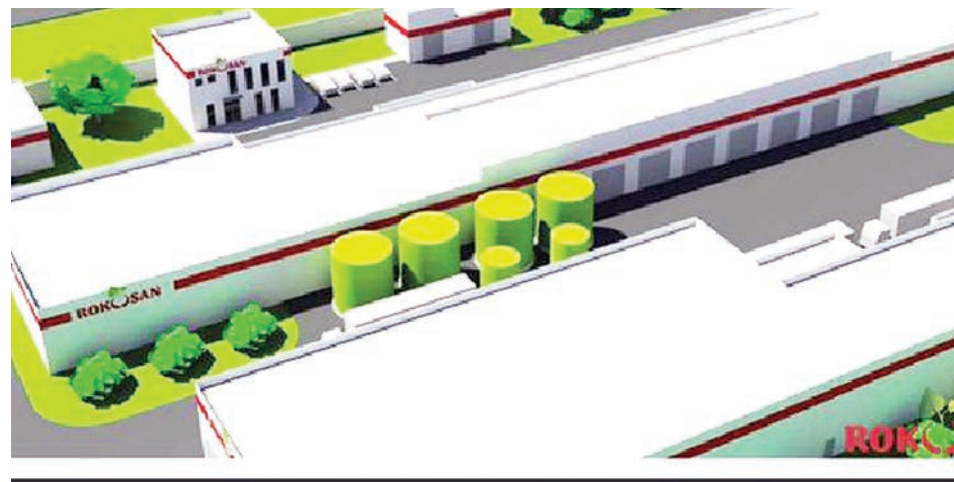
SlovakAid, an official Development Assistance of the Slovak Republic is an intrinsic instrument of the Slovak foreign policy, which to a large extent shapes Slovakia's relation with aid recipients and relevant international organizations. Slovakia shares the responsibility for global development and poverty reduction endeavors in developing countries, aiming to promote their

sustainable development.

The purpose of the delegation was to install the foundation stone at the site in Bugesera District for construction of an organic fertilizer factory along with presentation of cooperation opportunities between Slovak and Rwandan businesses.

Adam Szöke, who works with Rokosan International that established a branch in Rwanda last year, told Doing Business that the €20m investment aims to bring the revolution in the production of animal waste into organic fertilizer by setting up processing plants and collection points across the country.

"We came to set up an organic fertilizer plant that produces fertilizers from local resources. We are going to use animal waste specifically hooves and horns of cattle animals as well as poultry feathers from the chicken farmers. This will give opportunity to Rwandan farmers," he said. Feasibility studies, he said, show that raw materials (animal waste) are sufficient in the country. Overall, statistics show that the number of cows rose steadily from 813,417 in 1992 to 1,449,888 in



An illustration of the fertiliser factory due for construction in Bugesera District.

2020.

Rwanda's poultry population with feathers as raw material increased from 3.5 million in 2010 to 7.6 million in 2018. In November 2020, Rwanda launched an Rwf15 billion project to increase poultry yields.

With expected availability of raw materials, he said that organic fertilizers plant is expected to produce 20 million litres of organic fertilizers from hooves, horns and poultry feathers per year. However, he said, this will be achieved in phases.

"Apart from Slovakia where we have a plant, the second plant will be located in Rwanda. We are planning to start production of organic fertilizers by the second quarter of 2022," he said. He added the investment will also set up a laboratory to conduct soil analysis and analysis of the crops suitable for the fertilizers.

"The organic products enhance the environmental quality of soil and ground water. We also want to invest in food processing, animal food production and many agro-commodities," he said.

He noted that organic fertilizers create a huge demand for organic crops on the global market as organic farming increases both yields and quality while protecting the environment.

Organic farming is an agricultural system that uses ecologically based pest controls and biological fertilizers derived largely from

animal and plant wastes and nitrogen-fixing cover crops.

Modern organic farming was developed as a response to the environmental harm caused by the use of chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers.

### Fertilizer demand

He said that the new technology aims to satisfy the fertilizers demand on the Rwandan market. Currently, there is still low uptake of fertilizers use in Rwanda which avails investment opportunities. The use of fertilizers in the season A increased from 29,917 tonnes to 43,757 tonnes, a 46 per cent increase compared to the same previous period last year.

However, the ministry of agriculture says the uptake is still very low considering the needed quantity per hectare to increase productivity. Government seeks to increase fertilizers use to 75 Kilogrammes per hectare.

## DP World buys SA's Imperial Logistics for R12.8bn

JOHANNESBURG

DP World plans to buy South Africa's Imperial Logistics for \$890 million (R12.8 billion), in what the port operator said would be its most significant acquisition in Africa so far.

"Imperial's business strongly complements DP World existing footprint in Africa and Europe," the Dubai-based company said, adding that the deal demonstrates long-term confidence in the South African economy and the wider regional market despite recent challenges.

The privately-held company offered R66 (\$4.60) per share, a 40% premium to Imperial's last close. The shares surged as much as 36% on Thursday, trading just below the offer price. Even with the rally, the stock still trades below a January 2018 high. DP World is one of the world's largest operators of marine ports and inland cargo terminals, stretching from gateways in London and Antwerp to hubs in Africa, Russia, India and the Americas.

It has been on an acquisition spree as it attempts to become a more diversified, integrated logistics company. The company bought supply chain solutions provider Syncreon Holdings last week for an enterprise value of \$1.2 billion.

DP World also continues to look for ways to cut debt and is considering offering international investors a chance to buy into the Jebel Ali Free Zone, a prized



DP World's container depot at the port of Durban.

asset that helped transform Dubai into a hub of global trade, people familiar with the matter have said.

Imperial, meanwhile, started as a small motor dealership in 1940s Johannesburg and now employs more than 25

000 people around the world. Under chief executive officer Mohammed Akoojee, the firm has been looking to dispose of non-core assets and position itself as the gateway to Africa for transporting goods.

The company has also been

awarded contracts by South Africa to import an unspecified quantity of coronavirus vaccine doses as the country battles one of the worst outbreaks on the continent. The deal is expected to close by the first quarter of 2022.

## Enhancing bamboo-based economic activities in Kenya

NAIROBI

INBAR recent training sessions in Kenya focused on bamboo restoration and sustainable management, value chain development, and clean energy.

INBAR has conducted three training sessions in Kenya. The sessions have benefited more than 150 participants from youth groups, local communities, government departments and the private sector.

The training session conducted on 15 to 19 March 2021 and in collaboration with the Kenyan Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) focused on imparting skills on bamboo furniture weaving and handicrafts, bamboo treatment, storing, grading, scrubbing, polishing, and marketing of final products. The training was facilitated by Mr. Charles Gitau and Ann Wanja of KEFRI and brought together a total of 20 participants from different youth groups, cognizant of the fact that bamboo can play a significant role in tapping youth creativity and translating that into employment creation and income generation.

The training session conducted on 25 and 26 March 2021 in Kibiro Koyo, Nandi County and attended by 70 participants focused on four topics: raising awareness of the potential of bamboo at the local, national, and international level; considerations and techniques for bamboo plantations establishment and intercropping; methods for sustainable harvesting and management of bamboo; and general principles and tools for disease and pest management in bamboo plantations.



# GLOBAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN TRADE PEAKS WITH CHINA IN THE LEAD

By Property Watch Reporter

**G**LOBAL trade in bamboo and rattan products peaked over US\$46 billion in 2019 with China accounting for over a half of the value while Africa remains almost docile despite its huge potential.

The latest report by Beijing based International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) said much of China's remains domestic hence doesn't clearly reflect the volume of the global trade.

"Of this, the international trade value of bamboo products was US\$2.9 billion; the international trade value for rattan products was US\$ 350 million. These figures do not account for the total value of bamboo and rattan trade, which is primarily domestic, as the case of China shows. China's bamboo and rattan sector was worth an estimated US\$ 46 billion in 2019, of which just five percent is international trade," the report said.

Beijing based INBAR which is headed by Ambassador Ali Mchumo as Director General, further unveiled that in 2018, international trade in bamboo and rattan commodities reached US\$ 3.25 billion.

"According to the China Bamboo Industry Association, the total output value of the bamboo industry in 2019 was as high as CNY 300 billion (US\$ 46 billion). National customs statistics show the country's total international trade of bamboo and rattan products



A bamboo built structure in rural Tanzania.

was US\$2.26 billion, of which bamboo products accounted for US\$2.14 billion, and rattan products US\$120 million," the report added.

The INBAR report however indicated that data from 2018 is more accurate than ever before because in its 2017 report, INBAR estimated the overall value of international

bamboo and rattan trade at US\$ 1.7 billion.

"The apparent 'bump' is due to the newly expanded range of Harmonized System (HS) codes for bamboo and rattan products, introduced in 2018. HS codes provide a way for countries to classify imports and exports.

Historically, bamboo and rattan products have often been mis-classified as 'timber,' due to a lack of more accurate codes: something which INBAR has been working to solve with the World Customs Organization and Chinese Customs," the report added.

The 2018 HS codes, which include options

for new types of woven products, building materials and more, allow countries to report more accurately on bamboo and rattan trade. It is likely that in future years, the figures for bamboo and rattan trade will grow further, INBAR's report stated.

"In 2018, Asia remained by far the most significant exporter of bamboo products (comprising 80 percent total exports). North America (comprising Canada and the USA) and Europe (countries of the European Union) are also becoming increasingly important trade regions," the report stated.

INBAR said in 2018, Europe exported US\$ 340 million worth of bamboo products, or 12 percent of total exports, while North America exported US\$ 210 million, or seven percent. Together, these three regions make up the bulk of international trade.

Bamboo and rattan are two of the most valuable non-timber forest products in the world. Fast-growing, renewable and versatile, these plants have been used for thousands of years as a source of fibre, fuel and food. Bamboo and rattan are already an important part of poverty alleviation and income generation efforts across INBAR Member States.

The International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) is an intergovernmental development organisation that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan.

It has 48 members. In addition to its secretariat headquarters in Beijing, INBAR has regional offices in Cameroon, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana and India.

## Raxio Group continues its pan-African expansion with data centre investment in Mozambique

MAPUTO

THE Raxio Group, a premier pan-African data centre developer and operator, today announced that it is establishing and investing in 'Raxio Mozambique', with a first state-of-the-art, carrier neutral, data centre in Mozambique.

Set to be commissioned during 2022, Raxio Mozambique's first facility will be located approximately 20 KM from downtown Maputo at the Beluluane Industrial Park, ideally situated to meet both primary and disaster recovery needs of a wide range of customers. The park benefits from ideal power and connectivity infrastructure ensuring a stable and highly-connected operating environment for the facility. Raxio expects all power used by the facility to come from renewable sources, with a combination of hydro-generated grid power and a local solar supply.



Beluluane Industrial Park in Maputo where Raxio plans to locate its data centre.

In line with Raxio's other facilities across the continent, Raxio Mozambique's first facility will be fully equipped with industry best in cooling technology, security, caging, AC/DC power compatibility and redundancy in a 99.982% uptime environment. Customers will be able to cross connect with local and international carriers and other customers in specially designed meet-me rooms. By co-locating in Raxio's facility, customers

will benefit from a "shared infrastructure" model, and substantially reduce their operational and capital costs while improving application performance and flexibility.

In addition to providing an ideal environment for the leading industries across Mozambique, Raxio Mozambique will be a critical feature to the country's digital backbone. Through Raxio's cross connect service, mobile network

operators, ISPs and carriers will be able to interconnect to each other and their customers, reducing the cost of access across the country while stabilising connectivity at improved speeds, at a time when new submarine cables will also be providing Mozambique with enhanced international connectivity.

Raxio has teamed up with Africa Century Real Estate for this project, an experienced local investor and developer

of residential, office and commercial properties in Mozambique. As digital transformation grows across both the private and public sectors and significant investment expected in the coming years, Raxio has plans to build additional facilities in the country to support this growth.

Robert Mullins, CEO of Raxio Group said: "Over the past year, the number of internet users in the country increased by 25% - and we expect this to keep growing over the coming years, across all industries. To support this growth, we are seeing new investment from carriers and subsea cables. We are excited to be able to support the country's digital growth with affordable, high quality, co-location environments. Our data centre in Maputo will be a flagship facility focused on energy efficiency and use of renewable power, that will facilitate internet traffic amongst content providers locally and internationally and make the internet experience faster, more resilient, and more affordable for all digital users."

Raxio Mozambique's facility in Maputo is the fourth data centre in the Raxio Group portfolio, which includes Raxio Uganda, Raxio Ethiopia, and Raxio Kinshasa, in the DRC. Raxio Group is actively pursuing its development efforts, including the establishment of additional facilities in its existing markets and building facilities in new geographies. The Group expects to complete up to 10-12 data centres investments across Africa to meet the increased demand for high quality local storage and data hosting in the region.

## Kenya tops growth in new connections of electricity

NAIROBI

KENYA has been ranked as the top country in the world in reducing the population with no access to electricity, pointing to the impact of the State's focus on rural areas for nearly a decade.

The Energy Progress Report for 2021, a product of a partnership between the World Bank and bodies such as the International Energy Agency, says Kenya's electrification pace is now ahead of population growth. Kenya's annualised increase in electricity access between 2010 and 2019 was at 5.6 percent — the largest among the top 20 countries in the world with the biggest electricity access gap.

The increased pace of electrification, also supported by off-grid solutions such as solar, points to the fruits of the State's last-mile connectivity programme, which was launched in 2014 mainly targeting rural areas.

Kenya's growth dwarfed the world's average growth of 0.8 percent, with the closest countries being Bangladesh (4.1 percent), Uganda (3.2 percent), Tanzania (2.5 percent), India (2.4 percent), Myanmar and the Democratic People's



Kenya Power workers connecting new homes in rural Naivasha.

Republic of Korea with 2.2 percent each.

"Among the 20 countries with the largest deficits, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Uganda have made the most progress in electrification, as they achieved annual growth in access of more than three percentage points between 2010 and

2019," says the report.

The report, however, says Kenya is yet to start drawing maximum socio-economic benefits from the increased electrification.

The improving electricity access, the report says, should be complemented by promoting productive uses of the power.

"Kenya's recent efforts at last-mile electrification have not resulted in any real increase in consumption of electricity beyond basic services, putting into question the viability of costly grid connections," says the report.

"To date, Kenya's electrification programmes, like most, have encouraged supply while overlooking the need to stimulate demand, especially demand for productive uses of electricity." Kenya Power recently admitted to this problem, saying most of its rural customers consume about six units a month — an equivalent of Sh100.45 — leaving it with idle electricity.

The report notes that unscheduled electricity interruptions are among the main challenges facing firms connected to the grid.

## SA listed property rally continues despite Level 4 lockdown

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's real estate investment trust (Reit) or listed property sector is continuing its 2021 rally and is now around 23% up since the start of the year.

This is despite the tougher Level 4 lockdown restrictions that were announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on June 28 and are in place for a two-week period until July 11 to try to curb the Covid-19 third wave surge.

Restrictions in place include a 9pm to 4am curfew, ban on all alcohol sales, no sit-in dining at restaurants and a ban on events and gatherings, amongst other rules. The harsher restrictions are having an impact on eateries and entertainment venues (including those community and super-regional malls), liquor retailers, hotels, cinemas and airlines.

But major mall owners like Hyprop, Liberty Two Degrees, Growthpoint, Redefine and Resilient have not seen stock prices plummet like last year. The listed property sector plunged some 35% in 2020 (from a total return perspective) due to the lockdowns and financial fallout of the

pandemic. But the sector has made a pretty strong recovery this year.

In this episode of The Property Pod, I speak to Craig Smith, head of research at Anchor Stockbrokers, about the performance of JSE-listed Reits, especially as uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic continues.

"I think one could, in hindsight, maybe make the comment that there was an initial overreaction to share price [falls] at the early onset of lockdowns [last year]. "With the [current] Level 4 lockdown, it's clearly nowhere nearly as restrictive as the hard lockdown that we experienced between, say, April and June in 2020, where many industries were not able to operate or continue to operate."

"The big impact, as you highlight, is obviously on the entertainment sector - being cinemas, restaurants, and then the leisure sector - which has come under significant pressure again as a consequence of the Level 4 restrictions."

"I think also the difference, looking forward now, is that while the vaccine rollout in SA may not be at an optimal level yet, the point is that there is actually a vaccine available, and there is also a very probable path to exiting the pandemic."



## TECHNOLOGY

## ERDOGAN'S LUXURIOUS SUMMER PALACE PICTURES INFURIATE TURKS LEFT HUNGRY

ANKARA

**T**HE first pictures of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's luxurious new summer residence on the Aegean coast have sparked outrage at a time when ordinary Turks are struggling to feed their families.

The architect this week released details of the sprawling complex north of Marmaris, which is valued at \$74 million. The images show the airy, high-ceilinged interiors of the buildings as well as a swimming pool and private beach. The president has always said he represents ordinary people, and he came from humble roots himself.

Although completed two years ago, it is the first time the public has seen images of the lavish complex, which were released as the Covid-19 pandemic compounded long-standing economic problems, leading to heightened poverty.

Inflation hit a two-year high of 17.5 per cent last month. Food inflation rose by a fifth compared with last year - one of the biggest issues facing households. Electricity prices were recently bumped 15 per cent and natural gas by 12 per cent.

Perhaps more embarrassing for Mr Erdogan, the images of his summer retreat were released shortly after his wife, Emine Erdogan, advised people to cut their meal portions to stop waste. Her comments led to fiery rebukes, with many highlighting Mrs Erdogan's taste for luxury brands.

"They tell us to cut down on our food but they have money to spend on handbags and to build luxury palaces in Marmaris," said Hasan Ozbilek, 71, a pensioner who sells tissues on the streets of Istanbul. "The president has always said he represents ordinary people, and he came from humble roots himself, but now we see that he lives like a sultan while everyone else struggles."

Mr Erdogan's core base is Turkey's conservative poor and in the early days of his 18-year rule he built support by providing them with services and jobs. But recent polls show this vital support ebbing as pandemic restrictions affect the economy.

A survey by respected polling company MetroPOLL last month showed 69 per cent of respondents thought the government's Covid-19 relief was insufficient. Among voters for Mr Erdogan's



President Erdogan's summer house on the Aegean coast is valued at \$74 million.

Justice and Development Party (AKP), 45 per cent said it was not enough. "People are sick and tired of this," said Burak Erbay, an opposition MP for Mugla, the province where the new presidential palace is located.

"It's not only about the [palace] here, there's the one in Ankara, the one in Van. It's about all these private aeroplanes, jets. While people are struggling to put bread on the table, they see all this luxury and extravagance and of course, they get angry."

Mr Erdogan's residences have been dogged by controversy in recent years, particularly the 1,000-room complex constructed on the Ataturk Forest Farm, an area in Ankara bequeathed to the state by Turkey's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

As one of the most protected parcels of land in Turkey, no buildings should have been erected on the site. But the complex was completed in 2014 despite legal orders for the work to be halted. In typically blunt style, Mr Erdogan responded with a challenge: "Let them tear it down if they can. They ordered suspension yet they can't stop this building."

Such is his association with such projects that "The Palace" has become a phrase synonymous with Mr Erdogan's presidency. Orhan Sarialtun led the

urban planning division of the national union of engineers and architects when the summer palace was under construction.

"Our organisation has always opposed these grand projects, which we see harm the country economically and environmentally," he said. "In every case, we went to court but unfortunately the rule of law in Turkey, or rather lack of it, means we were always unsuccessful."

Mr Sarialtun described methods whereby environmental protections for a proposed site are downgraded, building work is begun ahead of legal permission being granted and legal objections are stonewalled. If a court eventually rules against the construction, the project is already completed, leaving opponents with a fait accompli.

"In cases where the decision has gone our way, no construction was ever put on hold or any building ever demolished," he said. The Marmaris residence was originally built by Turgut Ozal, prime minister and the president in the 1980s and early 1990s.

One local businessman, who asked not to be identified, remembered Mr Ozal strolling to a nearby restaurant in his beach shorts accompanied by a lone bodyguard. Now, the area is heavily guarded and has been enlarged. Locals

say they were forced to sell their property at below market value.

"They gave us a few pennies, much lower than its real value," the businessman said. "All the property and the buildings on it were all counted as farmland and we were paid according to that. "The area around the palace was cleared and everything and everyone was wiped out."

A senior official at Mugla Metropolitan Municipality, who also asked to remain anonymous, said: "The coast and forest have been redesigned against local characteristics and rules. A special regulation was put in place to allow this. "In order to achieve all this, they didn't obey the law, they used every loophole and even created new loopholes to go ahead with the project, including lowering the legal protection level of the area."

## Investcorp looking to double assets to \$75bn in seven years

BAHRAIN

**INVESTCORP**, which counts Mubadala Investment Company as its biggest shareholder, could increase its assets under management to about \$75 billion over the next five to seven years with Asia accounting up to 20 per cent of its total portfolio, according to its co-chief executive.

Private markets and alternative assets are currently experiencing a compounded annual growth in the "low-teens", which means the Bahrain-based asset manager could more than double its current \$35.4bn of assets under management to hit the \$75bn mark, Rishi Kapoor told The National in an interview on Wednesday.

"It's not a question of by when, it's about what is the appropriate ambition for Investcorp to have in the medium-term," Mr Kapoor said. "We should certainly be at par with, or hopefully ahead of that pace, given our history, pedigree and performance track record."

Established more than four decades ago, Investcorp has grown to become one of the leading alternative asset management companies in the region, investing across assets classes and geographies. The company has been on an acquisition spree during the pandemic to capitalise on lower asset valuations and is bullish on the prospects of growth for its portfolio, particularly its investments in Asia.

Mr Kapoor expects Investcorp's US portfolio to account for about 45 to 50 per cent of its AUMs over the five-to-seven year time horizon, Europe to make up about 35 to 40 per cent and Asia's aggregate to reach at least 15 per cent, or as much as 20 per cent.

If the company is to achieve a doubling of assets over the medium term, about \$15bn or more should be contributed by its broader Asian investments, which also includes the company's portfolio in the Gulf, he said.

"That's our aspiration, that's our ambition and that's the capacity of the market in terms of absorption," he added. Investcorp expects China, the world's second largest economy, and India to lead AUM growth in Asia, with contributions from some Asian states.

"We have to recognise that Investcorp has been a permanent fixture of US,

European and Gulf markets for 40 years [but] in Asia, relatively speaking, we are still in our infancy," he said. "We learned how to walk a year ago and now we are beginning to jog a little and we will breakout into a run hopefully soon."

Alternative asset managers invest in asset classes outside public markets, such as private equity, private credit, venture capital, hedge funds, commodities, real estate and infrastructure. Investcorp's investment activity of \$1.4bn during the first half of its financial year to the end of December 2020 was driven by two new private equity investments in the US and Europe and two add-on acquisitions. It also made eight investments in businesses across Asia.

Investcorp has already invested \$500 million in India and a similar amount in China and South-East Asian markets. It launched a platform dedicated to investing in Chinese healthcare companies last year and in June the asset manager said it is investing in Linkedcare, a Chinese software and supply chain management services start-up.

A fund run by Investcorp recently bought a stake in Heritage Foods, a Hong Kong-based maker of condiments and sauces as part of its Asian expansion.

Over the next three months, Investcorp plans to exit four Chinese companies in the healthcare and technology sectors through initial public offerings, Hazem Ben-Gacem, co-chief executive of Investcorp told The National last month. It's not a question of by when, it's about what is the appropriate ambition for Investcorp to have in the medium-term

The company, which reported a 33 per cent jump in first-half net profit to \$63m on a more than three-fold rise on asset-based income, is also looking to launch a Saudi Arabia private equity pre-IPO fund, which will focus on investing in privately-owned local businesses and preparing them for a listing on the kingdom's Tadawul exchange.

"That [vehicle] is really the natural extension of key fact [that] over the last decade ... we have undoubtedly been the most prolific financial sponsor in terms of taking companies public successfully," Mr Kapoor said. "This puts us in pole position for that Saudi-pre-IPO [investment] vehicle."

## Gold retreats to below \$1 800 as dollar advances after Fed minutes

NEW YORK

**GOLD** trimmed gains made during a six-day winning streak as investors mulled Federal Reserve minutes that showed policy makers wanted a more solid economic recovery before setting a timeline for trimming bond purchases.

Notes from the Fed's June meeting indicated officials weren't ready to schedule the withdrawal of the bank's massive bond-buying program, given uncertainties around the economic outlook. But they also acknowledged the need to plan for stimulus tapering.

While the report helped gold notch a close above \$1 800 an ounce on Wednesday, the precious metal again retreated below that level on Thursday as the dollar strengthened. The minutes reiterated the possibility for stimulus to be pared back sooner than anticipated.

There was "no big surprise" in the Fed minutes and gold's upward move wasn't particularly strong. Huatai Futures wrote in a website note. Precious metals were going to stay volatile in the short term as investors weigh the path for US monetary policy and inflation, the brokerage said.

Bullion has enjoyed a decent start to July after fears of a more hawkish Fed helped fuel the metal's worst monthly performance since 2016 in June. But it's still lower than where it started 2021 as investors bet an end to pandemic-era stimulus measures draws closer. Spot gold was down 0.4% at \$1 797.29 an ounce at 7:43 a.m. London time. Platinum dropped 0.9%, while silver and palladium also fell.

While lower US treasury yields and worries over the rise in new virus cases due to the more virulent Delta variant are keeping gold prices steady near \$1 800, a strong dollar and optimistic global economic sentiment continue to dampen its safe haven appeal, said Hareesh V., research head for commodities at Geojit Financial Services.

## UK housing boom loses steam as tax break winds down

LONDON

**BRITISH** house prices dipped 0.5 per cent in June, falling in monthly terms for the first time since January as the government began scaling back the stamp duty holiday.

Despite the housing boom appearing to cool, prices were still 8.8 per cent higher than in the same month a year earlier, with the average home now worth £260,358 (\$360,270), according to the latest Halifax House Price Index.

Russell Galley, managing director of Halifax, said it was important to put such a moderate decrease in context, with average prices still more than £21,000 higher than this time last year, following a broadly unprecedented period of gains.

"With the stamp duty holiday now being phased out, it was predicted the market might start to lose some steam entering the latter half of the year, and it's unlikely that those with mortgages approved in the early months of summer expected to benefit from the maximum tax break, given the time needed to complete transactions", Mr Galley said on Wednesday.

Britain's housing market has been spurred on by Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak's pandemic-induced, emergency tax break for buyers. The tax exemption on the first £500,000 of a property-related purchase in England or Northern Ireland offered buyers a saving of up to £15,000.

The move came at a time when



A steam train from the Great Central Railway passes between new housing developments in Loughborough, UK.

many were already seeking bigger properties as many worked from during the Covid-19 crisis. Detached homes now cost more than £500,000 on average, according to Halifax - £200,000 more expensive than the average semi-detached property.

A £250,000 pound tax-free allowance will run until the end of September, before the tax incentive is scrapped altogether. Mr Galley predicted that demand from people looking for bigger homes would not fade entirely as the economy recovers, and that the shortage of properties on the market would also support prices.

"However, we would still expect annual growth to have slowed

somewhat more by the end of the year, with unemployment expected to edge higher as job support measures unwind, and the peak of buyer demand now likely to have passed", he said.

Tom Bill, head of UK Residential Research at global property consultancy Knight Frank, said the figures from Halifax indicate that the second half of the year is unlikely to bear much resemblance to the first half for the UK housing market. "We expect house price growth to narrow to mid-single digits as tax breaks wind down and supply picks up," he said.

Mr Bill said as well as the tax break, house prices were driven higher by a supply squeeze as the

UK came out of the pandemic. "If you add in a stamp duty holiday and the fact pent-up demand had been building for five years against the uncertain backdrop of Brexit, the result was a burst of house price inflation", he said.

Prices in London rose by a below-average 2.9 per cent in annual terms in June, slowing from May, while all other regions, except for the Midlands, recorded double-digit gains, with house prices in Wales up 12 per cent. The Halifax report contrasts with the findings of Nationwide Building Society, which recorded 13.4% annual price growth last month, the strongest since November 2004. Mortgage approvals rose in May.



## WORLD

## Ex-South African President Jacob Zuma taken into police custody

SARASOTA

FORMER South African President Jacob Zuma, who was convicted on contempt-of-court charges last week, was taken into police custody to begin serving his 15-month jail sentence after he failed in a last-ditch bid to delay his incarceration.

The confirmation that Zuma has been detained came shortly after the expiry of a Constitutional Court deadline that he be jailed by midnight on Wednesday. "I can confirm he is in police custody," police spokesman Vish Naidoo said by phone from Pretoria, the capital. "I cannot say which prison he will go to because the Department of Correctional Services will do that."

Earlier Zuma's foundation said Zuma had decided to hand himself in to the authorities. "President Zuma has decided to comply with the incarceration order," it said on Twitter.

"He is on his way to hand himself into

a correctional services facility" in the eastern KwaZulu-Natal province.

The Constitutional Court on June 29 found Zuma guilty of violating its order to testify before a judicial panel that's probing graft during his rule.

It agreed to consider the ex-president's application to review that judgment, with a hearing scheduled for July 12, but that concession doesn't suspend his sanction.

The ex-president's lawyer wrote to acting Chief Justice Raymond Zondo on Wednesday requesting that his arrest be postponed, but he never responded.

The High Court is considering a separate application aimed at ensuring he remains free pending his case review, but it is only due to deliver judgment on July 9, and it's unclear whether it has jurisdiction.

Zuma remains an influential political figure in South Africa, and his case has been a key test for the country's democracy and its resolve to uphold the rule



Former South African President Jacob Zuma

of law.

A former intelligence operative, he led South Africa for almost nine scandal-marred years until the ruling African National Congress forced him to step down in 2018 to stem a loss of electoral support.

The government estimates that more than 500 billion rand (US\$35 billion) was stolen from state coffers during his rule. He denies wrongdoing.

Throngs of Zuma's backers gathered

outside his home prior to the July 4 deadline for him to hand himself in and vowed to block his arrest, though their numbers have since dwindled.

The ANC on Tuesday distanced itself from Zuma's attempt to discredit the Constitutional Court, and slated his supporters' threats to resort to violence to prevent the authorities from taking him into custody. **Agencies**

## Scientists denounce coronavirus Wuhan lab leak theory

NEW YORK

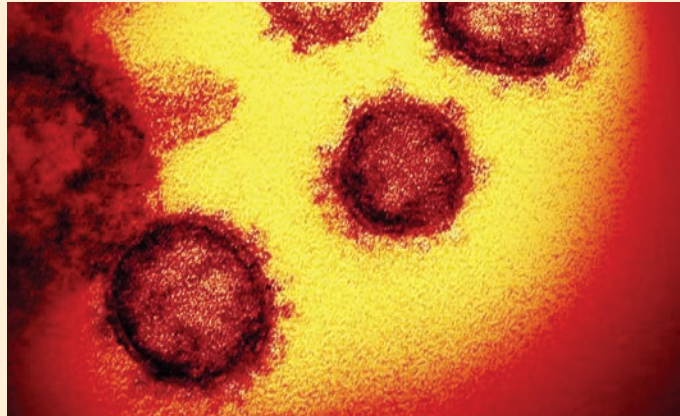
A GROUP of Western researchers have said recent studies only bolstered their belief that the coronavirus evolved naturally rather than originated in a laboratory in Wuhan, China.

Though the lab leak theory has been widely discussed in some countries, this eminent group of scientists wrote in *The Lancet*, a weekly peer-reviewed general medical journal, that there's still no evidence for it.

In February 2020, they dis-

missed the lab leak origin as a "conspiracy theory," and cited a string of academic papers to back up their belief that the coronavirus "originated in wildlife" before infecting millions.

"We believe the strongest clue from new, credible, and peer-reviewed evidence in the scientific literature is that the virus evolved in nature, while suggestions of a laboratory-leak source of the pandemic remain without scientifically validated evidence that directly supports it in peer-reviewed scientific journals," they wrote



on Monday.

"Allegations and conjecture are of no help, as they do not facilitate access to information

and objective assessment of the pathway from a bat virus to a human pathogen that might help to prevent a future pan-

dem. Recrimination has not, and will not, encourage international cooperation and collaboration," the experts wrote.

In the face of increased speculation, the scientists urged commentators and officials to take a step back and provide evidence if they want to push the lab leak theory, saying "It is time to turn down the heat of the rhetoric and turn up the light of scientific inquiry if we are to be better prepared to stem the next pandemic, whenever it comes and wherever it begins." **Xinhua**

## Haiti police battle killers of president, amid fears of chaos

PORT-AU-PRINCE

HAITI'S security forces were locked in a fierce gun battle on Wednesday with assailants who assassinated President Jovenel Moïse at his home overnight, plunging the already impoverished, violence-wracked nation deeper into chaos.

The police had killed four of the "mercenaries" and captured two more, Police General Director Leon Charles said in televised comments late on Wednesday, adding that security forces would not rest until they had all been dealt with.

"We blocked them en route as they left the scene of the crime," he said. "Since then, we have been battling with them."

"They will be killed or apprehended."

Moïse (pictured), a 53-year-old former businessman who took office in 2017, was shot dead and his wife, Martine Moïse, was seriously wounded

when heavily armed assassins stormed the couple's home in the hills above Port-au-Prince at around 1 am local time (0500 GMT).

Haiti's ambassador to the United States, Bocchit Edmond, told Reuters in an interview the gunmen were masquerading as US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents as they entered Moïse's guarded residence under cover of nightfall - a move that would likely have helped them gain entry.

The brazen assassination, which drew condemnation from Washington and neighboring Latin American countries, came amid political unrest, a surge in gang violence, and a growing humanitarian crisis in the poorest nation in the Americas.

The government declared a two-week state of emergency to help it hunt down the assassins, whom Edmond described as a group of "foreign mercenaries" and well-trained



killers.

The gunmen spoke English and Spanish, said interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who assumed the leadership of the country, where the majority speak French or Haitian Creole.

"I am calling for calm. Everything is under control," Joseph said on television alongside Police General Director Charles. "This barbaric act will not remain unpunished."

The first lady had been airlifted to Florida for treatment where she was in a stable con-

dition, Joseph said.

Haiti, a country of about 11 million people, has struggled to achieve stability since the fall of the Duvalier dynastic dictatorship in 1986, and has grappled with a series of coups and foreign interventions.

US President Joe Biden denounced the killing as "heinous" and called the situation in Haiti - which lies some 1,125 km off the Florida coast - worrisome.

"We stand ready to assist as we continue to work for a safe and secure Haiti," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a call with Joseph, expressed Washington's commitment to work with Haiti's government to support "democratic governance, peace, and security," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

Many people in Haiti had wanted Moïse to leave office. Ever since he took over in 2017, he faced calls to resign

and mass protests - first over corruption allegations and his management of the economy, then over his increasing grip on power.

Lately, he presided over a worsening state of gang violence that rights activists say is linked to politics and business leaders using armed groups for their own ends.

In recent months, many districts of the capital Port-au-Prince had become no-go zones and one of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders warned he was launching a revolution against the country's business and political elites - although rights activists said he was more linked to Moïse than the opposition.

Moïse himself had talked of dark forces at play behind the unrest: fellow politicians and corrupt oligarchs unhappy with his attempts to clean up government contracts and to reform Haitian politics. He provided no proof of this. **Agencies**

## Hamas warns of new tensions if Israeli blockade on Gaza continues

GAZA

HAMAS, ruler of the Gaza Strip, warned on Wednesday that the Israeli blockade on the Palestinian enclave, if continued, will lead to a renewal of tension in the region.

"Israeli restrictions on the crossings and the delay in the entry of goods, reconstruction, and in allowing the Qatari grant will increase the tension that already exists in Gaza," said Hamas spokesman Abdulatif al-Qanoua.

On May 21, Egypt brokered a cease-fire between Israel and militant groups led by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, ending 11 days of their fighting that killed more than 250 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

"All options are open to breaking the siege, and the occupier (Israel) must respond to the demands of the Palestinian people," al-Qanoua said, adding the Palestinians have the right to use all means and tools to resist the occupation.

Al-Qanoua also called on the mediators to increase their pressure on Israel to lift restrictions imposed on Gaza.

Meanwhile, he said Hamas refuses to link reconstruction in the Gaza Strip with a prisoners' exchange deal with Israel.

"Hamas is ready to go through two separate tracks. The first is to stabilize the cease-fire, and the second is to reach a prisoners' exchange deal with Israel," al-Qanoua explained.

Hamas is ready to hold "indirect" negotiations with Israel to finalize a prisoners' exchange deal, but "until now there is nothing new on this issue," he said.

In 2017, Hamas' armed wing al-Qassam Brigades announced that it was holding in captivity four Israeli soldiers, without clarifying whether they were dead or alive.

In 2011, Egypt brokered a prisoners' exchange deal between Israel and Hamas, where Hamas freed the Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit while Israel released more than 1,000 Palestinians from its prisons.



Motorists and pedestrians move past a building destroyed by an air-strike prior to a cease-fire that halted the 11-day war between Gaza's Hamas rulers and Israel, May 25, 2021, in Gaza City, the Gaza Strip. (File photo)

## Russia, US in contact on cybersecurity issues following Putin-Biden meeting - Kremlin

MOSCOW

MOSCOW and Washington are in contact on cybersecurity issues following the June summit between Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Joe Biden of the United States, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Wednesday.

"Certain contacts have taken place based on the agreements reached in Geneva," he said. Peskov pointed out that "the launch of a mechanism for cybersecurity consultations was announced" after the Putin-Biden summit.

The Kremlin spokesman noted earlier that Moscow and Washington highlighted the need to maintain contact on cybersecurity issues at the June 16 talks in Geneva.

He also said that a mechanism for expert dialogue on cybersecurity issues would be launched soon, with the aim of discussing attacks, the overall level of cyber threats and issues related to critical infrastructure.

Putin stressed at a press conference following talks with Biden that Moscow and Washington were capable of hammering out an agreement on the rules of behavior in the fields of strategic stability, cybersecurity and regional conflicts. Biden, in turn, said that he had proposed a list of 16 infrastructure entities that should be off-limits to attacks.

## AU warns punitive measures against armed groups in African Great Lakes region

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has warned that it will impose necessary punitive measures against armed groups and their supporters over recurrent criminal activities in the African Great Lakes Region.

The urgent call was made by the AU's Peace and Security Council in a statement issued on Wednesday that followed its latest meeting that dwelt upon the situation in the Great Lakes Region.

The council "strongly condemns the heinous crimes, including illegal exploitation and trade of natural resources of the region, being committed by the armed groups and negative forces actively operating in the region," an AU statement read.

NOWADAYS, Chinese consumers can "excavate items" from archaeological blind boxes with an exquisite imitation of Luoyang shovels; traditional Chinese culture shows and videos are all over social platforms; more and more Chinese people visit museums on holidays; and major archaeological discoveries frequently become hot topics online.

Creative transformation and innovative development have made fine traditional Chinese culture increasingly integrated with the daily lives of people, and continuously brought surprises to people.

The fact is more and more people have shown an interest in the ingenious and innovative interpretation of excellent traditional Chinese cul-

## Innovation gives renewed vigor to traditional Chinese culture

ture.

Recently, a gorgeous underwater traditional Chinese dance has attracted wide attention. It reproduced a character from the famous ancient Chinese painting *Ode to the Goddess in Luo*, the daughter of a heavenly sovereign character Fu Xi in Chinese mythology who drowned and then became a goddess.

With stunning stage design and graceful movements, the performance, which lasted for less than two minutes, has won unanimous high praise from Internet users. The shooting of the performance wasn't easy, though. To carry out the artful design of the choreographer, the

performer spent 26 hours underwater for the shooting, and had to swim into and out of the water 200 times and carry a few kilograms of counterweight.

It is because of the combination of creativity and technologies that the ancient painting in museum has burst with vitality and new ideas and won the respect and affection of more people.

The Chinese people have gradually developed a great enthusiasm for traditional Chinese culture and continuously improved their aesthetic qualities.

From cultural relic memes and cultural relic-shaped ice creams to

the heated discussions on new discoveries at the Sanxingdui Ruins and the rising sales of cultural and creative products, traditional Chinese culture has enjoyed increasing popularity in recent years, mirroring the active participation of the public in related activities.

Out of enthusiasm for museums, some people decided to become a cultural relic photographer and travel back in time with cameras; to immerse themselves in traditional architecture, some began to reproduce classical designs with tenon and mortise technique; and some have learned about intangible cultural heritage from masters to feel the charm

of ancient skills. The Chinese people now have more accesses to appreciating the beauty of traditional Chinese culture.

Inheriting and innovation have vitalized traditional culture in history, while interaction and resonance have enabled it to shine brightly in the modern era.

In recent years, many innovation endeavors have won cheers and applause from young people by tapping into traditional Chinese culture.

The show *China in Classics* allows viewers to learn about Chinese classics in an immersive way; the TV program *National Treasure* tells stories behind cultural relics; and the

classical dance program *Palace Banquet* in Tang Dynasty brought young girls in ancient painting scrolls "back to life".

By watching these shows, giving likes, and leaving comments, viewers have become appreciators and promoters of traditional Chinese culture. While viewers wander around in a cultural treasury, ancient culture has weathered the time and shown renewed vigor.

By making classic works that embody the wisdom of sages and cultural relics popular and come alive, viewers are able to "travel back in time" to "communicate" with ancient figures, and the nation can achieve continuous cultural development. **People's Daily**



## Russia vows to carry on heated debates with West over its schemes to twist history

VLADIVOSTOK

MOSCOW will continue to engage in fierce debates with its Western partners who twist historical facts in order to exploit them for its present-day agenda, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pledged at Far Eastern Federal University yesterday.



According to him, "attempts to rewrite history" will continue in the West. "We must remember everything but we should not turn it into present-day problems like our Western opponents are unfortunately trying to do. It's not our choice but we will continue debates with them in a tough manner," the Russian top diplomat warned.

In particular, he pointed to Moscow's frank dialogue with Japan in terms of historical truth.

"Their historiographical literature and schoolbooks describe the situation that led to the start of the world war in the Pacific Ocean and the developments that ensured the end of World War II here in a way - I will put it mildly - that is not fully correct from a historical perspective," Lavrov went on to say.

"This is why we defend the truth about how the Soviet Union fulfilled its obligations, completing the defeat of Japanese militarism. Our position is completely clear and honest. We have nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to hide," he emphasized.

Lavrov was confident that Russia would mark its Day of Military Honor (on September 3) "this year as well." "Certainly, with a focus on the fact that we are a peaceful people and want peace with all of our neighbors," Lavrov stressed.

## US considers visas for vulnerable Afghan women after military exit

WASHINGTON

THE Biden administration is considering offering an expedited visa path for vulnerable Afghans including women politicians, journalists, and activists who may become targets of the Taliban, US officials say.

Rights groups have been asking the State Department and White House to add up to 2,000 visas specifically for vulnerable women and women's advocates to a developing policy plan to evacuate thousands of Afghans after the US military pullout this month. The current plan includes translators who worked with foreign forces.

One of the officials said the administration is looking not only at women who are under threat, but also men and minorities in high-risk professions.

Women who made gains during the two-decade US occupation, and their supporters and advocates, should be part of any expedited list, rights groups have argued to the White House and State Department.

"Lives are at risk," said Teresa Casale, advocacy director for Mina's List, which advocates for women's representation in governments around the world. "Women leaders are being actively targeted and killed by Taliban forces. They receive threats against their lives and safety every day."

The group and others are recommending these visas be added to an expedited activation process for Afghan people most at risk, by creating a fast track program in State Department, and that US officials actively pursue diplomacy to other countries as well to secure them.

The White House declined to comment on the push to secure more visas for Afghan women's rights advocates. President Joe Biden will speak Thursday afternoon about the US military's withdrawal, and is expected to mention women's rights.

Women police officers, media workers, judges and medical workers have been assassinated in Afghanistan as foreign military left the country.

Women who appear on television and radio faced particular threats, Human Rights Watch wrote in April. "Female reporters may be targeted not only for issues they cover but also for challenging perceived social norms prohibiting women from being in a public role and working outside the home."

Under the Taliban, women were barred from education or work, required to fully cover their bodies, and could not leave home without a male relative. "Moral offenses" were punished by flogging and stoning.

## AU mission trains Somali police officers to combat extremism

MOGADISHU

THE African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) said it has completed training of 26 police officers from HirShabelle State on preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization through enhanced community policing.

The AU mission said the police officers drawn across Jowhar and surrounding towns attended the training exercise aimed to equip and enhance the skills of the local police to counter terrorists and stem radicalization, especially of young people.

"With the community policing approach, if the Somali Police Force (SPF) collaborates with the members of the public like we emphasized during the training, it will help to identify problems and sit together to find solutions. This will help bring peace and order in Somali," AMISOM community policing adviser Daniel Chuks said in a statement released Tuesday evening.

Chuks said participants of the workshop were taken through relevant topics to enhance collaboration with the community since local communities are the target of extremists.

Ibrahim Sini, the Communication Information Technology Services (CITS) advisor to the AMISOM Police, said the training would help the police officers to foil the recruitment, training and radicalization of the youth.

Xinhua

# West should learn to value Hong Kong as it is under national security law

BEIJING

MORE than a year after the National Security Law for Hong Kong came into force, the city has emerged from the shadows of social unrest to embrace long-term peace and prosperity.

Such good news would normally be welcomed, unless of course you're the West.

A brand-new chapter of good governance has been opened in Hong Kong: The city has regained stability, with international capital continuously flowing in and foreign companies showing more confidence in its business environment. Furthermore, the city's residents are more confident in the implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy.

The facts speak for themselves. In the first quarter, crime in Hong Kong was down roughly 10 percent compared to the same period last year, and the economy got off to a good start with year-on-year GDP growth of 7.9 percent. Finance performed even better than the economy, with about 50 billion U.S. dollars flowing to the banking system by the end of last year.

A recent report by the International Monetary Fund reaffirmed Hong Kong's status as an international financial center and cast a vote of confidence in its development prospects. The latest survey by local think-tank Bauhinia Institute found that 82.6 percent of residents believe the city has been more peaceful since the law took effect.

Such positive changes are hard for the West to stomach as it continues to lob unfounded accusations against China's policies in the city and spread pessimism about Hong Kong's outlook.

Western countries like the United States have enacted the world's most thorough national security laws at



home, yet are quick to demonize China's parallel efforts in Hong Kong. Some countries have even imposed coercive and unilateral sanctions against the city and China at large.

The West has taken every opportunity to sow discord in Hong Kong in order to stifle the city's and China's development. Instead, the West stands confounded before a flourishing and stable Hong Kong.

The violent protests in Hong Kong, which caused tremendous damage to public facilities and seriously undermined social stability, were once called "a beautiful sight to behold." Today, the West slanders a law that has closed the loopholes in safeguarding national secu-

city and brought the city back from the brink.

The West's so-called support for the people of Hong Kong has turned out to be nothing but a lie that exposes its own double standards, prejudice and hegemony.

Arguments against the national security law are baseless. For example, the number of overseas media outlets and their corresponding personnel in Hong Kong have increased since the law's enforcement, disproving the claim that the law is "suppressing freedoms of speech and press."

The national security law was born to foil the attempts of China bashers

to disrupt Hong Kong's governance, challenge the central government's authority, and threaten the "one country, two systems" policy.

The law was also established to provide a more solid guarantee of achieving good governance in Hong Kong and upholding the city's interests, prosperity and stability in the long run.

Nobody cares more about the future of Hong Kong than the central government in Beijing and people of China. After all, Hong Kong is a part of China. In order to secure a better future for Hong Kong, a full and accurate implementation of the national security law is both crucial and necessary.

The West should quit interfering in China's internal affairs and disregarding the basic facts of the national security law. It should appreciate how far Hong Kong has come and look forward to its bright future.

Xinhua

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations has welcomed the Ethiopian government's approval of humanitarian flights into the restive Tigray region and said it will catch up as soon as possible.

"We are aware and of course welcome the government of Ethiopia's announcement that it has granted flight permission for all interested parties to pro-

## UN welcomes Ethiopia's approval of aid flights into Tigray

vide humanitarian services in Tigray region," Stephane Dujarric, the chief spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, no flights have yet been able to travel directly from Addis Ababa to Mekelle or Shire (in Tigray) this week. However, we are follow-

ing up with all relevant actors to ensure that direct flights are able to operate as soon as possible, in light of the announcement," said the spokesman.

The World Food Programme (WFP) reports no secure air or road access into Tigray, Dujarric said. It prevents them and other emergency responders

from scaling up to reach hungry and vulnerable communities, especially in rural areas.

The WFP on Friday resumed emergency response operations in Tigray after a 48-hour suspension because of fighting, he said.

However, the WFP is getting to only a fraction of the num-

ber it should reach due to the challenges threatening the entire humanitarian response in the region, said the spokesman. "We, of course, urge all the parties to agree to a cease-fire so that those routes can be used to reach those in need."

The WFP is calling for 176 million U.S. dollars to continue to scale up its response in Tigray from July through December.

Xinhua

## Law on traditional Chinese medicine facilitates sound development of TCM

THE Law on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), China's first special law on TCM, has provided strong legal protection for the healthy development of TCM since it went into effect in July 2017.

Thanks to the law, various TCM-related undertakings and industries in China have made significant progress, while TCM's unique role in maintaining and promoting people's health and advancing the country's Healthy China initiative has grown increasingly distinct in the past four years.

China sees constant improvement in its TCM service system and capacity. By 2019, the country had 66,000 TCM medical institutions of various kinds, 67.4 percent more than that in 2012. Meanwhile, the annual number of TCM visits reached 1.16 billion and that of patients discharged from TCM hospitals and institutions across the country exceeded 39.5 million.

"My daughter has an upset stomach. Dr. Guo has been helping her," said a resident in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region, referring to a TCM doctor at the health service center in the community he lives in.

"We had been to big hospitals. But they have too many patients there, and the procedures for consultation are troublesome. So we prefer the clinic near our home," the resident added.

The health service center was opened to help residents access TCM services near their homes, said Ye Haiyan, director of the center.

As a matter of fact, there are many such grassroots health service centers in China. According to statistics, 98.3 percent of the community-based health service centers, 97.1 percent of the public health centers in townships, 85.9 percent of the health service stations in communities, and 71.3 percent of the village clinics in China can provide TCM services for patients.

All these figures have risen significantly than before, signaling an evident increase in the accessibility to TCM services, which means that more Chinese residents can now see TCM doctors and get TCM prescriptions near their homes.

The quality of TCM materials has been a matter of concern to a lot of people, as it not only affects the reputation of TCM, but its inheriting and development.



A veteran traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor teaches knowledge about TCM to children in an activity room of a community in Zhangjiakou economic development zone in Zhangjiakou, north China's Hebei province, June 7, 2021. (File photo)

The disqualification rate of TCM materials in China has declined with each passing year, according to an engineer at a TCM material testing center in Longxi county, northwest China's Gansu province.

With the implementation of the law on TCM, quality supervision mechanisms of TCM materials in China have been improved gradually. From 2018 to 2020, relevant authorities carried out random checks on an average of about 50,000 batches of TCM materials and decoction pieces every year, with the qualification rates being 88 percent, 91 percent, and 98 percent respectively.

Although it was Sunday on May 9, Gansu Provincial Hospital of TCM in Gansu was still crowded with patients. Wang Zili, an 86-year-old renowned TCM doctor of the hospital, was imparting experience to his son and students while seeing patients in a TCM workroom named after him on that day.

By continuously intensifying efforts to foster TCM talents, exploring and innovating TCM talent training model and deepening coordination between TCM education and practice, China has gradually formed a TCM talent training system featuring organic links between education in col-

leges and universities, education after graduation, and continuing education, as well as a master-apprentice relationship throughout the learning process.

As of the end of 2020, the country's number of TCM personnel reached 767,000, and 0.45 TCM practitioners (or assistants) could be ensured for every 1,000 persons.

"One of our TCM preparations prepared with traditional techniques has been widely used in clinical practice in the front line of the battle against the COVID-19 in the virus-hit Wuhan in central China's Hubei province," said an executive of a pharmaceutical company in Gansu.

As facts have shown, since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, TCM has been used in every step of COVID-19 treatment and control and played an important role in the prevention and control of the pandemic.

The country has dispatched TCM teams with 773 members in five batches to Wuhan, and nearly 5,000 TCM medics fought the battle against the virus in the front line in Hubei, according to reports, which suggest that nearly 100 TCM institutions across the country have joined the treatment of COVID-19 patients as designated hospitals.

People's Daily

## Series of attacks target US personnel in Iraq and Syria

BAGHDAD / AMMAN

US diplomats and troops in Iraq and Syria were targeted in three rocket and drone attacks in the past 24 hours, US and Iraq officials said on Wednesday, including at least 14 rockets hitting an Iraqi air base hosting US forces, wounding two American service members.

While there were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks - part of a wave targeting US troops or areas where they are based in Iraq and Syria - analysts believed they were part of a campaign by Iranian-backed militias.

Iraqi militia groups aligned with Iran vowed to retaliate after US strikes on the Iraqi-Syrian border killed four of their members last month.

Two people were slightly wounded in the rocket attack on the Ain al-Asad air base in western Iraq, said coalition spokesman US Army Colonel Wayne Marotto. The rockets landed on the base and its perimeter. He said earlier that three people were wounded.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two personnel injured were US service members. One suffered a concussion and the other had minor cuts, one of the officials added.

Two rockets were fired at the US Embassy inside Baghdad's Green Zone early yesterday, Iraqi security sources told Reuters.

The embassy's anti-rocket system diverted one of the rockets, said one of the sources - a security official whose office is inside the Green Zone. The second rocket fell near the zone's perimeter, security officials said.

Sirens blared from the embassy compound inside the zone, which houses government buildings and foreign missions, the sources said.

In Syria, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces said no damage was done by a drone attack on the Al Omar oil field in an eastern area bordering Iraq where US forces came under rocket fire but escaped injury on June 28.

The Pentagon said a drone had been brought down in eastern Syria and that no US service members had been injured and there had not been any damage.

Iraqi army officials said the pace of recent attacks against bases hosting US forces with rockets and explosive-laden drones was unprecedented.

Iraqi military sources said a rocket launcher fixed on the back of a truck was used in Wednesday's attack and was found on nearby farmland set on fire.

On Tuesday, a drone attacked Erbil airport in northern Iraq, targeting a US base on the airport grounds, Kurdish security sources said.

Three rockets also landed on Ain al-Asad on Monday without causing casualties.

Escalation

The United States has been holding indirect talks with Iran aimed at bringing both nations back into compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which was abandoned by then-President Donald Trump. No date has been set for a next round of the talks, which adjourned on June 20.

Agencies



# SPORT



Confederation of African Football's president, Patrice Motsepe.

## Can African Super League achieve success?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ON April 18 this year the global sporting world was united against the proposed European Super League which targeted to involve a select few teams participating in the showpiece every year.

European soccer governing body, UEFA was against the idea and world soccer governing body (FIFA)'s president Gianni Infantino was also against the idea.

Within a couple of hours, the majority of the clubs involved in the proposed league backtracked and the competition died an untimely death.

Football followers breathed a sigh of relief not knowing that this same idea had been proposed to African football by Infantino.

Infantino raised the idea first in 2019 saying the tournament would comprise 20 permanent member clubs plus others that would qualify via regional competitions.

He predicted the Super League, which will see the tournament's sides pay \$20m every year over five years, would have the potential to generate a revenue of \$3 billion over a five-year cycle.

Infantino did not issue details on how the Super League might work and whether it would complement or replace the current marquee club competition, the CAF Champions League.

He did suggest, however, that each permanent member should contribute \$20 million annually- a target even the richest African clubs would find hard to meet.

The prize money for CAF Champions League and second-tier showdown CAF Confederation Cup was supposed to increase for the 2021/2024 cycle, but CAF president, Patrice Motsepe, made no mention of increases.

The CAF Champions League's champions currently pocket \$2.5 million (2.1 million euros) and CAF Confederation Cup winners rake in \$1.25 million and even clubs, which will go all the way to lift the competition's title, have complained that they do not break even, with travel turning out to be a huge expense.

Motsepe said TV rights are receiving 'serious attention' with Johannesburg-based Pan-African station SuperSport not screening CAF national teams'

tournaments or club games since mid-2019 because of a cancelled contract.

The CAF had ditched a \$1 billion TV and marketing deal with France-based company Lagardere Sports two years ago after two courts ruled that it was improperly awarded.

Many African soccer officials were angered that CAF got \$1bn for a 12-year deal while Asia received \$4bn for an eight-year contract that did not involve Lagardere.

Motsepe reiterated that improving some of the stadiums in Africa is another priority with CAF recently telling nine nations that proposed venues for 2022 World Cup qualifiers were not up to international standards.

The creation of an African Super League could make the competition one of the top 10 football competitions in the world, changing the financial reality of football on the continent, according to the FIFA president.

"We have had some serious problems in Africa and it has to change. It has to change the way of how to do business, it has to take on board the basic elements of good governance," he said.

The CAF president Motsepe is of the idea that this new competition was needed to improve the game on the continent and make it financially viable.

"We are assessing and in preliminary discussions to start an inclusive and broadly supported and beneficial CAF African Super League," he said in a statement. "We have been following the attempts by some top European clubs to form a Euro Super League and will learn from their experience and pitfalls."

Motsepe said CAF, which is African football's controlling body, must consider new competitions to generate additional income for itself and its member associations and contribute to African football becoming globally competitive and self-sustaining.

The world seems to be silent on this idea being proposed by FIFA president on the African continent.

The voices, which were against the European Super League, have seemingly forgotten about that being proposed to Africa.

What this accurately conveys is that, for all that the proposed profit margins are heady and exciting; the demand for an African Super League is pretty much nil. It is an idea that, in its current guise, benefits no other body's agenda but FIFA's.

## Spectators to face Olympic ban as Tokyo declares coronavirus emergency-report

TOKYO

OLYMPIC organisers are set to ban all spectators from the Games, the Asahi daily said on Thursday, as Japan declared a coronavirus state of emergency for Tokyo that will run through its hosting of the event to curb a new wave of infections.

Organisers were set to formally reach the decision on spectators during five-way talks between main parties on Thursday, the newspaper said, citing people involved in the Games.

If confirmed, the ban on spectators would mark the latest blow to the troubled Olympics, delayed by a year because of the pandemic and plagued by a series of setbacks, including massive budget overruns.

Medical experts have said for weeks that having no spectators at the Games would be the least risky option amid widespread public fears that an influx of thousands of athletes and officials will fuel a fresh wave of infections.

"I, of course, support 'no spectators' but concerns will never disappear as long as we have a big event like the Games, along with holidays and the vacation season," said Yuki Furuse, a Kyoto University professor working with the government's coronavirus experts group.

Furuse recently projected that new daily cases in Tokyo could increase to 1,000 in July and 2,000 in August, raising the risk of hospitals in the capital region running out of beds.

Anyone wanting to support athletes has been told clap rather than cheer or sing. Sponsors are cancelling or scaling back booths and events tied to the Games, frustrated by the "very last-minute" decisions by organisers, sources told Reuters.

The talks, scheduled for 8 p.m. (1100 GMT) will be chaired by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach, who arrived in Tokyo on Thursday. Other participants include the Tokyo and national governments and Paralympic officials.

"Taking into consideration the effect of coronavirus variants and not to let the infections spread again to the rest of the nation, we need to strengthen our countermeasures," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said.

"Given the situation, we will issue a state of emergency for Tokyo."

### TOKYO INFECTIONS RISE

Japan has not suffered the kind of explosive COVID-19 outbreaks seen in many other countries but has had more than 810,000 cases and 14,900 deaths.

## SPORTS

# Federation Cup tournament promotes Simba SC, Yanga

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Spanish Premier League, La Liga, continues with its ambitious project, aiming at spreading the country's football and culture around the world.

The strategy, known as 'La Liga World Tour', aims at expanding the scope of their league in the world by giving fans opportunity to witness the league's matches.

The league's organizers are seeking to see to it some of the tournament's big matches are taking place outside Spain.

Soccer fans should remember the last year's saga which saw La Liga official seek to have Real Madrid facing Barcelona in the USA.

Of course, by doing so, the places where the matches are taking place can witness the growth of their football to some degree as the approach builds the youths' passion for the game.

But the main goal for La Liga is to expand the scope of their fans and that demands they expand their market and thus get lucrative television rights deals.

Spain's clubs, in the process, benefit a lot from the sale of their products such as jerseys, T-shirts, scarves, office equipment and home equipment, which all bear the outfits' logos.

In Africa, La Liga currently has a strong project with the Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) via running various programs that will ultimately continue to build the competition's positive image and expand the scope of their market.

This means sending either big teams' matches or finals of big tournaments can have a positive impact.

As for such a country like Tanzania, where football fanaticism mostly centers on Yanga and Simba, such a drive can end up with different goals being achieved.

A plan by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to host this season's Federation Cup's semi-finals, and final, in different regions is seen as the federation's efforts to emulate La Liga's initiative.

The TFF, though, is ironically promoting Simba and Yanga via the drive, abandoning the plan to seek to promote soccer to every corner of the country.

Hosting Federation Cup's semi-finals in Ruvuma and Tabora, for instance, promoted Simba SC and Yanga by moving them closer to their fans that could have ended watching them on television.

The TFF has this year sought to hold the Federation Cup semi-finals upcountry after last year's success, which saw the federation host the tournament's final in Rukwa.

Azam FC locked horns with Simba SC

## Sports stakeholders applaud CRDB's support in 2021 Umisseta, Umitashumta games

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Mtwara

PICHA groom

THE National Sports Council (NSC) and educational sector's stakeholders have hailed Cooperative Rural Development Bank (CRDB) Plc for backing 2021 Inter-Primary Schools sports tournaments (Umitashumta) and Inter-Secondary Schools (Umisseta) games that took place in Mtwara.

The sports events brought together over 7,400 young sportsmen and women from all over the country.

The tournaments, whose slogan supported promotion of pupils and students' talents, were graced by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, and Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa.

The minister had, over the weekend, presided over the official closing of the Umisseta, which ended with Dar es Salaam garnering the overall winners' trophy, while Pemba lifted the boys' soccer event's trophy.

Yusuph Singo, Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, noted after the Umisseta games conclusion the CRDB played an important part in successful organization of the event.

The institution, Singo noted, offered sports kits, which include jerseys and trackuits, to schools which took part in the tournaments.

He said the jerseys motivated the students to excel in the events due to the equipment's quality.

The institution's support, he added, motivated other students who did not make the teams which took part in the competitions, to work hard so as to participate in the 2022 competitions.

Singo disclosed: "I congratulate CRDB for its support. I promise the next year's



A section of Simba SC fans cheers their outfit when it locked horns with age-old rivals, Yanga, in this season's Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

in this season's Federation Cup's second semi-final in Ruvuma, where Simba won 1-0.

The tournament's first semi-final between Yanga and Mara's Biashara United took place in Tabora and Yanga won 1-0.

This means that Simba SC and Yanga will lock horns in the Federation Cup final in Kigoma on July 25.

The move has been praised by many as it has helped to promote football and develop it, considering three knockout matches, including the final, will each year be played in different regions.

From this point of view, a soccer fan will see it is true that playing the final outside Dar es Salaam will somewhat help to promote this game.

Youngsters that are currently attending the games will in future develop fanaticism for the two prominent teams.

Hosting the Federation Cup's semi-finals and final will not solely play part in developing the sport that has already garnered a lot of followers.

And neither will renovation of venues will improve the game in those areas, the requirements for developing football are completely different.

This initiative helps Simba SC and Yanga strengthen their markets in the regions without spending much efforts to accomplish the task.

If one looks at these outfits over the past four years, he or she will find that it is very rare for the duo to crash out of the Federation Cup in the early stages of the knockout stage.

The teams can perhaps crash out of the competition early on if they have not had good preparations.

With Simba and Yanga having what it takes to qualify for the showpiece's semi-finals and finals each year, we will continue to witness the fanaticism for the two outfits flourish.

When either Simba or Yanga is knocked out early then one of the outfits' opponents in the knockout stages will be relying on the fans of the team which has been knocked out.

We must look at how we should run the Federation Cup. One would expect that shot stopper Ramadhan

Kabwili of Yanga, midfielder Yahya Zayd of Azam FC and midfielder Said Ndemla of Simba SC will be part of the trio's starting squads in the tournament's matches but that is not the case.

Each team fielded first team squad mostly consisting of foreign professionals thus youthful local players did not get a chance to take part in games.

That is why it is not surprising for the clubs' officials to keep seeking to rope in foreign professionals during transfer windows, overlooking local players who were groomed by the sides.

European clubs use young players for a large part of their domestic knockout competitions voluntarily.

Tanzania has to put in place rules demanding implementation of a similar approach in domestic competitions, aiming at seeing to it youthful local players gain experience.

Kigoma, Ruvuma, Tabora were required to have their own district and regional leagues, such an initiative will have the areas' football fanatics develop passion for the regions' teams.

schools in the country, Dar es Salaam's victory was a must because of availability of sports infrastructure in the city," Maulid noted.

"A good teamwork overseen by the Regional Administrative Secretary, who spent days visiting our squad in Mtwara, also played part in our triumph," he revealed.

Maulid mentioned Dar es Salaam's achievements, which came about because of the institution's support, noting the region lifted five trophies.

The official stated Dar es Salaam ended as winners in boys' basketball event, apart from clinching boys' volleyball event's title and settling for second position in girls' volleyball event.

The CRDB's Southern Zone Manager, Denis Mwoleka, said backing the Umisseta tournaments was a sustainable program formed by his institution.

Mwoleka stated the games target to bring people together and deal with non-communicable diseases, which can easily be controlled through doing exercises.

"CRDB is committed to supporting efforts to have a healthier generation through supporting sports activities and assisting people to open serving accounts, aiming at overcoming schools' fees challenges and improving life standard," he said.

Morogoro's regional education officer, Joyce Baravuga, as well expressed her sincere regards to CRDB for valuing students with special needs, saying the institution's support not biased, a move.

Joyce added the institution's move, in the process, alleviates inferiority complex students with special needs experience.

"I appreciate CRDB because students with disability have seen Morogoro achieve success in these tournaments for two years, the students won goalball tournament, which is played by players with visual impairment, in 2019 and 2021," she said.



Cooperative Rural Development Bank (CRDB) Plc's Southern Zone Manager, Denis Mwoleka (R), hands over goalkeeper's jersey to Director of Sports Development in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuph Singo, winners of 2021 Inter-Secondary Schools (Umisseta) games' soccer tournament, few days before the event's final held in Mtwara recently. Looking on is the ministry's official, Leonard Thadeo. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

games will be known as schedule logo in next tourney, which will be titled CRDB Umisseta tournaments, hopefully this move will encourage other financial institutions to emulate your gesture because government needs more support."

Pemba soccer team's coach, Mzee Ali, whose squad clinched the boys' soccer competition's top honour, congratulated CRDB, saying he particularly appreciates the keepers' kits which were attractive.

He noted: "Lack of support for sports equipment was among the shortcomings in previous games, but after the institution's support, we stepped up our efforts and lifted soccer event's title, we promise to motivate Pemba residents to appreciate CRDB."

Dar es Salaam's education official, Abdul Maulid, called on other financial institutions to support sports activities bringing together students, with the aim of fulfilling the youths' dreams.

"Our region's team's success is connected to the CRDB's backing, I call for such spirit to be channeled to public



## Denmark coach rips penalty call: 'It annoys me'

LONDON

DENMARK coach Kasper Hjulmand was unable to hide his frustration at the penalty decision that eliminated his side from Euro 2020 in a 2-1 semifinal loss to England.

An own goal from Simon Kjaer cancelled out Mikkel Damsgaard's opener for Denmark, and after the game had finished 1-1 in normal time, England were awarded a penalty in extra time. Harry Kane's spot-kick was saved by Kasper Schmeichel, but the England striker scored from the rebound.

"We're very, very disappointed, and it's hard for me to talk about," Hjulmand said after Wednesday's loss at Wembley. "Maybe it will [be] easier for me to say how I feel in a few days."

Raheem Sterling drew the penalty when the Manchester City forward wriggled into the area down the right, cut inside and fell under the challenge of Mathias Jensen. The contact looked minimal, and a video review was needed. After a brief wait that must have felt longer to England's fans, the decision stood.

"We're just very disappointed that we were so close to the final," Hjulmand said. "We're disappointed it was decided that way. ... It was a penalty that shouldn't have been a penalty, and that annoys me right now. We're disappointed, we're very disappointed."

"It's one thing to lose a game, that happens, but losing this way is just a disappointment, because these guys have fought a lot. It's bitter; I think we have to digest this before we can describe these feelings, but it's a bitter way to leave a tournament."

The build-up to the penalty decision also saw an extra ball make its way onto the pitch near the touchline. Play continued despite the extra ball, with Sterling drawing the foul seconds later.

Asked about the foul, Sterling said he felt the referee made the right call.

"I went into the box, he stuck his right leg out and he touched my leg so it was a penalty," Sterling added.

On the extra ball and the penalty decision, England manager Gareth Southgate said: "I saw the [extra] ball on the pitch so I wasn't sure how that would be dealt with. But, I saw a game in England where that happened and the goal wasn't disallowed. I haven't really seen the penalty situation, but a lot of people have asked me the same question [if it was harsh on Denmark]."

On seeing his initial attempt from the spot blocked, Kane reacted quickly to put it into the net from 6 yards out.

"I was fortunate to have it bounce back," Kane said. "That's football – sometimes it falls your way."

Despite the own goal and the loss, Denmark captain Kjaer left the pitch with his head held high after an extraordinary campaign by Denmark. It has been an emotional roller-coaster for the Danes, which started when midfielder Christian Eriksen suffered a heart attack in their group-stage match against Finland.

"It's been a great journey, and I'm sorry it's over now," Kjaer told broadcaster DR. "I think when we get some distance, there are things that will come up. It has been hard to take in, but a great journey. I'm sorry we did not make it all the way to the final."

Hjulmand thanked the people of Denmark once again for their support.

"I'm grateful for Denmark, the entire nation," he said. "We needed the support, the empathy when that happened with Christian. We've been receiving a lot of love, a lot of support and that was amazing to feel."

"Our future is full of hope and belief, these guys are outstanding and the whole nation can be proud. Keep giving them the love and the respect they deserve. ... We can be incredibly proud."

(Agencies)

## Finally: England's media hail Southgate's 'history-making' team

LONDON

ENGLAND ended a 55-year wait to reach a major final after they overcame Denmark at Euro 2020 and the result dominated the front and back pages of the country's newspapers on Thursday with most going on a similar theme to Daily Mirror's splash: "Finally".

England beat the Danes 2-1 in extra time to reach a first final since they won the World Cup in 1966, prompting the Daily Star to ask on its front page: "Is this the greatest dream ever?", while the Independent led with, "The history-makers".

"England are in a final – a final! – and these are the strangest, rarest, and most beautiful of words to write, read or even imagine," Henry Winter wrote in The Times.

"For the first time since July 30, 1966, England will engage in a duel for a major honour. A final! Can 55 years of hurt really be about to end?"

There was plenty of praise for manager Gareth Southgate, who has carried the pain of his penalty shoot-out miss at the semi-finals of Euro 96 and often been criticised for his tactics.

"(He has) the bravery to be unpopular, to be the scapegoat if it goes wrong," wrote Martin Samuel in the Daily Mail.

"England won. England are in the final. The end justified the means."

"Every decision to here can be de-

fended on this simple outcome. That's football and, at last, England are actually quite good at it. Pinch yourself and believe, because it is what this team and its manager deserves."

There were also plaudits for England captain Harry Kane, who became his country's joint-highest goalscorer in major tournaments, moving level with Gary Lineker on 10 goals, when he converted the winning penalty at the second attempt.

"Through this Kane was the player England needed him to be, a quietly assertive leader," wrote Barney Ronay in the Guardian.

"It has been a show of deep character to rouse himself from those early days when he seemed to be staggering around Wembley with a Chesterfield sofa strapped to his back."

Matt Dickinson in The Times reflected on the euphoria at the final whistle and wondered what emotional outpouring might be triggered if England beat Italy in the final.

"A mighty roar bellowed around Wembley stadium. It cascaded out of pubs and bars, and along streets across the nation," he wrote.

"If this could feel so wonderful once it had stopped feeling so agonising, imagine the delirium if England actually go on to win Euro 2020 on Sunday."

REUTERS



# Finally! England exorcise demons to reach first major final since 1966

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SUNDAY'S Euro 2020 final will determine if football really is coming home, but England have never looked more primed to receive their long-awaited visitor.

Gareth Southgate has always said this young side is different to their predecessors: Rather than being burdened by history, they sense an opportunity to create their own. And here it is: England have reached their first ever Euros final and first tournament showpiece since winning the 1966 World Cup.

Just as some misconstrue the sentiment behind "Three Lions," the biannual summer anthem afforded extra poignancy this time around as it comes 25 years after its debut at Euro 96, the euphoric scenes after England on Wednesday secured a 2-1 extra-time win over Denmark here at Wembley could be interpreted as premature.

The entire squad and backroom staff assembled along the touchline to join in an abridged version of Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline," a more recent addition to the team's soundtrack, dancing in front of their family and friends, with whom they have had no direct contact for weeks as a result of having to remain in their coronavirus-secure bubble.

"I've not heard this new Wembley like that ever, and to be able to share that with everybody and everybody at home is very special," Southgate said.

Cynics might argue this was too much, too soon – there is no trophy for a semifinal victory, after all – but this was not a display of arrogance. It is a team utterly embracing the challenge of tournament football, unified in that cause with a fan base finally given something tangible to believe in.

"Three Lions" is about hope against the odds. That past failings are not insurmountable barriers to future successes. That cycles of disappointment can be broken.

Southgate understands this more acutely than most, occupying an unwanted place in those decades of distress that are etched into the national psyche. Yet the 50-year-old manager is redefining his own place in history, no longer just the player who missed the penalty on the night England came closest to Euros success (1996) but now also the manager who has led them further in this tournament than anyone before



England were level when Denmark captain Simon Kjaer turned Bukayo Saka's cross into his own net in the 39th minute.

him.

And Southgate talked on Tuesday about his team needing to break down barriers throughout these finals, and they have done so at every turn. Winning their opening game at a Euros for the first time, beating Germany in a knockout game for the first time since 1966, earning their biggest tournament knockout win, 4-0 over Ukraine, in Saturday's quarterfinal and now this. There were 66,000 fans here on Wednesday; perhaps that was an omen in itself.

Those fans witnessed a team and manager learning from previous mistakes. England reached the semifinals of the 2018 World Cup, beaten in extra time by a Croatia side who lasted the pace better.

"I think we would acknowledge we could have made changes during that game to improve the situation," Southgate said. "But equally, we weren't as brave with the ball once we'd gone ahead ... fatigue became a factor definitely in the second half."

But England were brave here, a point made more significant given they went behind for the first time in the tournament.

After England made a bright start, Denmark began to enjoy a sustained period of pressure, which culminated in Mikkel Damsgaard's superb 30th-minute free kick. Goalkeeper Jordan Pickford, who a few moments earlier had surpassed Gordon Banks' all-time national record of 721 minutes without conceding a goal, will be disappointed to have been beaten toward the middle of his goal, but Damsgaard's effort was nonetheless brilliantly struck.

This then became a test of nerve, one past England teams have consistently failed. Too often they stop playing, paralysed by fear or technical deficiencies exposed under pressure. But not this time. Here, they kept playing out from the back, stuck to their patterns of play.

Harry Kane had already begun to resemble his Tottenham self with improving displays as the tournament progressed, and here he was dropping deep to link up with Bukayo Saka and Raheem Sterling.

Nine minutes after falling behind, Kane played in Saka, who squared for Sterling. The Manchester City winger would surely have scored, but Denmark defender Simon Kjaer did the job for him, turning the ball into his own

net.

Denmark began to tire as the second period wore on. Their coach, Kasper Hjulmand, made five changes to inject fresh legs before the end of 90 minutes, while Southgate opted just to swap in Jack Grealish for Saka.

Thoughts began to turn to 2018 again and Southgate's own admission of conservatism in regard to using his bench; but Phil Foden and Jordan Henderson came on five minutes into extra time, with Kieran Trippier replacing Grealish after England had forged ahead.

And they did so by remaining positive. Sterling was excellent throughout, as he has been all tournament. He completed 10 dribbles in the game; only four players have registered a higher number in the entire tournament. One of those ended with a drive into the box and a challenge by Joakim Maehle, which Dutch referee Danny Makkelie adjudged was a foul. The Danes protested furiously. Replays also showed a second ball on the pitch, which if noticed would have stopped play before the decision was made.

But luck is seemingly with England, at present, so much so Kane could afford to miss the resulting spot kick – surely one of the worst he has ever struck – and still convert the rebound. It was harsh on Kasper Schmeichel, who had defied England admirably, but it was no less than England deserved.

They did not wilt physically, either. Southgate has used 21 players in this tournament to help share the physical and mental load. Even their game management was better, keeping the ball expertly late on in the second period of extra time – particularly between minutes 116 and 119 – to ease the tension of a watching public expecting this glorious summer to somehow end in the agonising manner of the ones before.

They sang "it's coming home" before full-time almost as a mantra for self-belief, as if repetition would somehow make it true. They sang it afterward, bursting with hope stemming from what is before their eyes but equally laced with fear at from what has gone before.

This is the eternal struggle of an England supporter. Only Italy now stand in the way of that being redefined for a generation.

## Denmark's Euro 2020 story offers hope for us all

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IN the immediate aftermath of Denmark's Euro 2020 elimination on Wednesday at the hands of England, Kasper Hjulmand doesn't strike you as an angry man. Rather, the vibe that permeates through the laptop screen during his remote news conference is one of a guy who is disappointed and confused.

"You can't go out like this; certain things shouldn't happen," he said. "I feel bitterness."

Hjulmand is referring to the penalty awarded to England at the end of the first period of extra time. The one where Raheem Sterling skipped past Joakim Maehle and went down. The one that was given despite the fact that seconds earlier there were two balls on the pitch and play wasn't stopped, as it ordinarily is in these circumstances. The one that was checked by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) but not referred to referee Danny Makkelie for an on-field review.

"That penalty decided the game," Hjulmand said. "Without it's 1-1 and penalties and who knows what would have happened. So, I am annoyed."

Moments like these postgame are not the time to point out that England created more chances and on balance of play are more than worthy finalists. Or that the second ball on the pitch might not have influenced play. Or that

VAR is only supposed to intervene in the presence of "clear and obvious" errors and, perhaps, if Makkelie did in fact make an error; it wasn't necessarily clear and obvious.

Rather, it felt more like a time to note just what Denmark had been through in this tournament. And how what this group of players and staff achieved will live on.

They watched their teammate and best player Christian Eriksen collapse on the pitch and, in the words of their own medical staff, "leave us," before some combination of the divine and the scientific "brought him back." And then they found themselves back on the pitch, doing something that must have felt entirely irrelevant: playing a football match against Finland.

They lost that game, as well as the next one, against Belgium, before en-

joying the sort of fairy-tale turnaround that would seem improbable even in the world of fan fiction. And in advancing to the semifinal, they became the neutrals' pick, the darlings of everyone with no skin in the game. Part of it was the Eriksen tale, part of it was the fresh-faced, next-man-up quality of Mikkel Damsgaard, part of it was the leadership of Simon Kjaer, the snarl of Kasper Schmeichel, the drive of Maehle. All of it was Denmark coming together and believing in the impossible.

And they had reason to believe at Wembley too. Outgunned, outmanned, out-supported, they nevertheless took the lead in the first half, through a blend of quality (Damsgaard's honey sweet strike) and ingenuity (the Danish players lining up to screen England keeper Jordan Pickford). England equalized before the break, but still, Hjulmand was

convinced the game was there for the taking.

He kept believing even as, one by one, his players started dropping. He would make five substitutions in the final 23 minutes of regular time, and all of them were enforced.

"None of the first five substitutions were tactical; I had to make changes because players were struggling or injured," he said. "I had no choice."

Denmark were running on fumes. And still they hung in there. Right up until that moment when the second ball materialized on the pitch and Sterling went down. Because this game can be particularly cruel, there was even the illusion of another miracle when Schmeichel parried Harry Kane's shot. That one lasted a sliver of a millisecond, until Kane followed up by poking the ball home.

### Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Finally! England exorcise demons  
to reach first major final since 1966**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aces Cricket Club's Ankit Baghel (R) receives man of the match prize from senior national team's cricketer, Zamoyoni Ramadhan, shortly after the side faced Upanga Sports Club in a recent Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50-over tie, which took place in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF DC

## Aces cricketers edge Upanga SC in DC Kazim Nasser Division A 50 overs tourney

By Guardian Reporter

ACES Cricket Club trounced Upanga Sports Club by three wickets in the 2021 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division A 50 overs' game played recently.

Ankit Baghel put man of the match at the crease as Aces Cricket Club efficiently waded off Upanga Sports Club's onslaught in the clash, which took place at Leaders Club ground.

Upanga Sports Club won the toss, elected to bat and scored a commendable 231 runs all-out in 47.4 overs.

Their skipper, Riken Patel, notched 45 runs, consisting of five fours and a six, and assistant skipper, Kishen Kamania, registered 64 runs, cracking six fours.

The key performers combined to put a commendable batting performance during the side's turn with the bat.

The duo was well supported by Sanjay Bom, as the cricketer posted 24 runs, and veteran Virendra Kamania's 17 runs.

Upanga Sports Club's batting unit was going at a good rate and scoring runs, which meant they were expected to score nothing less than 300 runs.

Top order batsmen, Prem Thakkar, Augustin Mwamele and Suraj Pala, as well chipped in.

Thakkar scored 10 runs, as was the case for Mwamele, Pala posted 11 runs.

Their finishing though was not done quite well, a situation which led to the outfit scoring runs below par although 231 runs was still a decent score.

With the amount and variety of spinners that Aces Cricket Club has, all of the squad's bowlers played well, particularly Baghel and medium pacer Salum Jumbe.

Jumbe was the bowler with most wickets, ending with three wickets in 9.4 overs, Baghel and Mohammed Ali took two wickets apiece.

Aces Cricket Club later batted with plenty of zeal, reaching the target for the loss of seven wickets in 41.1 overs.

Baghel, deployed as an opener, terrorized and neutralized all of Upanga Sports Club's bowlers with his powerful and smart hitting, scoring 121 runs consisting of nine boundaries.

Aces Cricket Club had a new opening batsman, with Ali replacing Jumanne Mohamed.

The tactic did not work that well but it did give them a good start as, once Ali was out with 30 runs, Mohamed, who came on at number three, did not have a good change of number.

The youthful cricketer was out in the same over, as he was clean bowled by Upanga Sports Club's Pala.

Then veteran cricketer, Azim Thakur, took the crease with the same play of absorbing the opponents' pressure, as it was the case for the squad last year.

The player did struggle but, with much experience up his sleeves, he stood there along with Baghel, the duo neutralized Pala, who was bowling very well.

Thakur along with Baghel put up a stand of 50 runs in 10 overs and, the former was later dismissed through leg before wicket (lbw) by Upanga Sports Club's Mwamele whilst notching 11 runs.

## Simba SC was better than KMC FC, admits coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League side, Kinondoni Municipal Council FC, has said the squad's Wednesday night's opponents in the top flight clash, Simba SC, deserve victory in the match which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Habib Kondo, KMC FC assistant coach in a monitored interview said although his charges played well, Simba was at its best especially in the first half.

"We played well in both halves, but our opponents were at their best especially in the first half when they used their experience to score the two goals, in the second half it was a balanced affair," he said.

The KMC FC has 42 points from 32 outings and Kondo maintained his side is still keen on finishing as one of top four teams in the league and earning Confederation of African Football (CAF) Confederation Cup qualification.

"We have lost, but our desire of qualifying for CAF Confederation Cup is still there and hopefully we will achieve it," he said.

On Wednesday, despite playing well at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, KMC FC lost 2-0 to a classy Simba SC courtesy of goals scored by Chris Mugalulu in the second and 45th minutes of the first half.

The win has taken Simba to 76 points and they are now sure of lifting the fourth Premier League title in a row, as they need a draw from their remaining three games.

In case Simba SC fails to get a draw, they will still be crowned champions due to a superior goal difference with second-placed Yanga. Simba SC has yet to take on Coastal Union, Namungo FC and Azam FC. The league leaders have scored 71 goals, conceded 13 while Yanga, who have two games left against Ifhefu SC and Dodoma Jiji FC, have netted 50 goals and conceded 21.

Simba SC last Saturday missed an opportunity to be crowned this season's champions when they lost 1-0 to Yanga.

The loss was a bitter pill to swallow for Simba SC's head coach Didier Gomes, who said that the players should put it behind them and focus on the coming games.

"We need to be positive in whatever we are doing. We lost against Yanga in a match in which we would have been crowned champions and made history. We created a lot of chances but failed to score, that is water under the bridge, we must now focus on other coming games," he said.

Speaking on Wednesday after the win, Gomes hailed his players for playing according to instructions.

"We told the players to open and play short passes which worked for us, credit should go to them for putting behind last Saturday's loss in the hands of Yanga," he said.

The French tactician said his focus now is on the three remaining Premier League games and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) final against rivals Yanga at Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma on July 25.

## Yanga now signs 41bn/- media partnership with Azam Media



Yanga's Chairman, Mshindo Msolla (2nd R), and Azam Media Limited's Chief Executive Officer, Tido Mhando (2nd L), holds contracts the two parties sealed in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Yanga entered into a 10-year media partnership with Azam Media Group worth 41.8bn/- . Others are (L-R), Azam Media Limited's official, Yahya Mohamed, and Yanga's Acting Secretary General, Haji Mfikirwa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA football giants, Yanga, yesterday signed a 10-year deal with Azam Media Limited worth 41.8bn/-, with taxes included, on media partnership with the company.

The agreement includes broadcasting all Yanga events, exclusive interviews, friendly matches, and team training sessions.

The agreement is for 10 years which will be productive for both parties as Yanga will receive 34.8bn/- after tax whereby the government will receive around 6.2bn/- of the paid tax.

Yanga's Acting Secretary General, Haji Mfikirwa, said the agreement is one of a kind as it will be more beneficial to them and Azam Media Limited as well.

He said starting yesterday after signing the agreement they will start getting 2.4bn/-.

Mfikirwa said the contract is huge enough to match the status of their club so it will continue to make Yanga prosperous.

"This sponsorship should not

be underestimated, it is one of a kind and it is historic here," he said.

Mfikirwa said the sponsorship will have a mandatory review after five years with additional bonus added to each month of the season.

"This is not a new thing, previously we had a contract like this but it wasn't quite big, this has got bigger, I want to thank all who made this deal possible to this very day," Mfikirwa noted.

Azam Media Limited's Chief Executive Officer, Tido Mhando, said their goal is to ensure football continues to grow and move forward.

In addition, Mhando said his company is now the one with the rights to air all issues concerning Yanga.

"This partnership gives us the opportunity for us to air everything related to Yanga through Azam media outlets, be it team training, exclusive interviews, friendly matches and all Yanga events," Mhando said.

Mhando moreover said the

10-year agreement will be worth 41bn/- plus taxes. He said the payments would be made on a seasonal basis and would be paid on a monthly basis.

Yanga will this season receive 200m/- every month up to the season's climax, in 2022/2023 season, the payment will increase to 220m/- per month.

In 2023/2024 season Yanga will receive 240m/-, followed by 260m/- for 2024/2025 season, then in 2025/2026, the outfit will receive 260m/-.

Then in 2026/2027 league season, Yanga will receive 300m/- with all these payments set to be paid monthly in a season.

Yanga will be presented with 320m/- in 2027/2028 Season.

Yanga will later receive total of 340m/- in 2028/2029 season, followed by 360m/- monthly in 2029/2030 season and the final season of the contract 2030/2031 will see the club receive 380m/-.

In addition, Mhando said they hope to hold talks with other clubs that are as commercially attractive as Yanga.

**5 EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

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16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
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18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
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## Flexibles by David Chikoko

