



## National Pg 3 Bomb blast kills 3 at Chalinze



## National Pg 4 Buffaloes killed in road crash



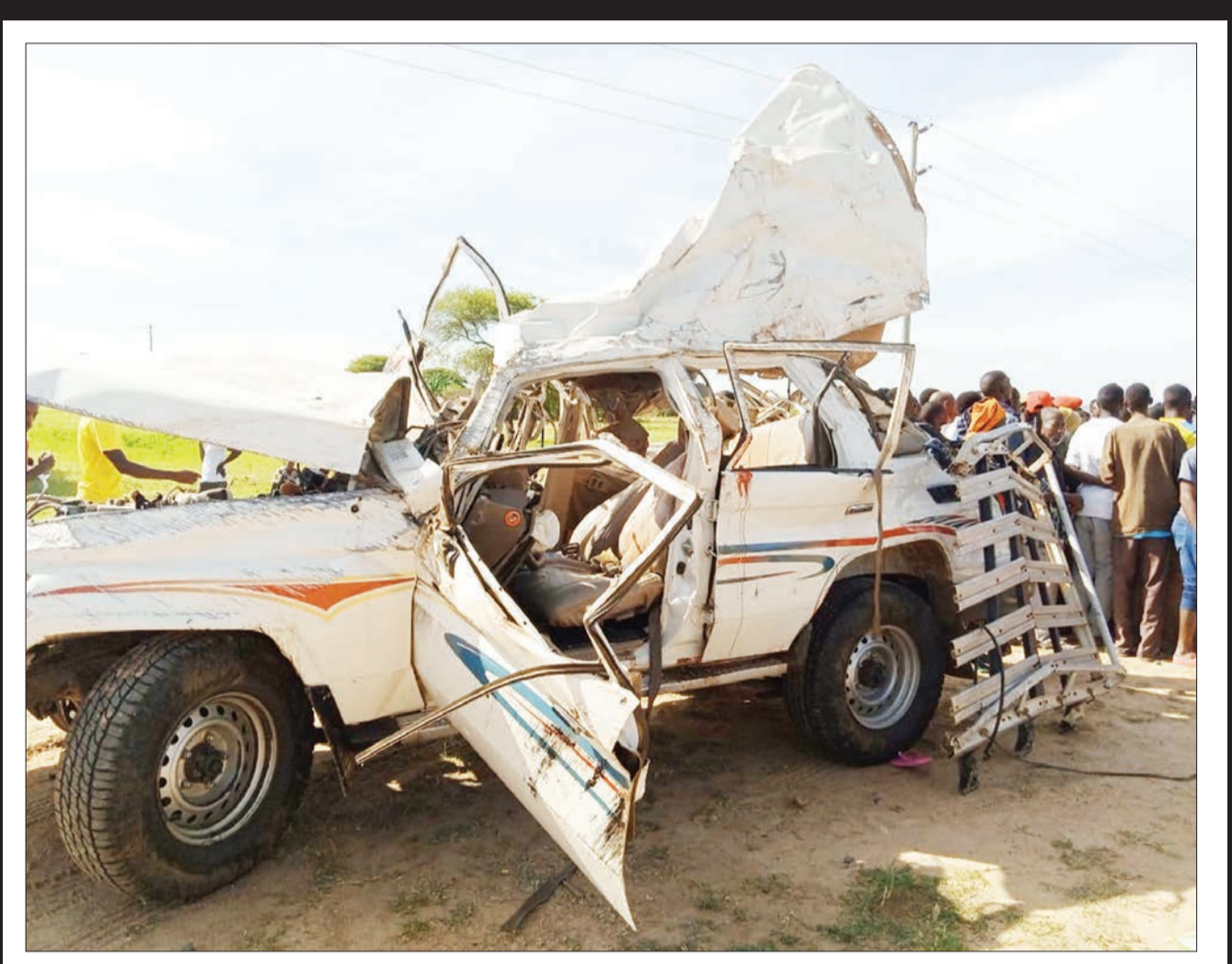
## National Pg 6 NEMC warns noise polluters



# Six journo among 14 dead in RC convoy hit

**By Guardian Reporters**  
THE government and media stakeholders are in grief over the death of six Mwanza-based journalists and eight other people in a road accident as they sped with a convoy of Mwanza regional commissioner Robert Gabriel.

condolences over the ghastly road accident. On her Twitter page, President Samia expressed great shock over the six journalists' deaths, their vehicle having been involved in a crash with a micro-bus. The president conveyed the condolences to the families of the deceased, praying for the speedy recovery of the injured.



This is the wreckage of the Government vehicle involved in a crash with a micro-bus at Kalemela village in Busega District, Simiyu Region, on the Musoma-Mwanza highway yesterday. Six media practitioners and eight other people were reported dead in the morning tragedy. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



## Rampaging Ruaha jumbos raid village

**By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali**  
STRAY elephants from Ruaha National Park early this week invaded human settlements in Igawa ward, Mbarali District in Mbeya Region where they smashed houses and consumed food stocks, with ward residents issuing a strident appeal for government assistance.

Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and TAWIRI, a research outfit. Kalaika Karashi, a resident, said the elephants are a major nuisance as now there are hardly any crops in the fields. As if that was not enough, they invade houses break into stores and consume food stocks there.



## Zanzibar leases 10 small islands

● Expects to get \$261.5m, says President Mwinyi

By Henry Mwangonde

AUTHORITIES in Zanzibar are finalizing the leasing out of ten small islands and the formulation of a governing policy and 149bn/- progressive strategy to facilitate the development of the blue economy. President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said in a televised speech yesterday to mark 58 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, that the strategy will facilitate stakeholders in the blue economy, especially fishermen and seaweed farmers.

**Investors were selected on the basis of provision of high end investments, financial capacity and payment of lease acquisition costs**

the government to purchase 577 fishing boats, 500 boats for seaweed farmers and authorities are now engaged in outreach work to spread skills on how to get bumper yields, he stated. The first phase of the strategy will benefit 26,000 residents and will involve 5,777 fishermen and 5,000 seaweed farmers, along with 400 fish gardeners, making a total of 130,000 people participating in the project, he said. Plenty of effort has been directed at the control of inflation, setting indicative prices for specific products where necessary, he asserted, highlighting that the rate of inflation from January to November 2021 registered an overall average of 1.7percent, from 3.4percent during the same period in 2020. The government collected 745.1bn/- revenues during the period, a 22-percent increase from 610bn/- collected during the same period in 2020, he stated, attributing the increase to harmonization of electronic revenue collection systems now linking public and private sector activities. Investments on outlying islands are a major theme in current policy, with the

## Cotton farmers will reap big, says Samia

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has assured cotton farmers that they will start reaping big from the crop with the price going up as many investors are now competing to purchase the crop for local processing. Opening Basra Textile Mills textile factory in Chumbuni on Unguja Island, as part of activities to mark 58 years of the Zanzibar Revolution, the president said that for many years Tanzania has been



exporting cotton as a raw material. Now the crop will be processed locally, producing a variety of products for local sale and even for export. "This is a good opportunity as first it will provide many job opportunities," she stated, declaring that in order for industrial investors to get enough cotton they should liaise with farmers' groups on the best price to benefit both sides. She described the industrial project as a saviour for cotton farmers and for young people to get jobs, urging the investor to expedite the project, finishing off the remaining steps to achieve their goals and the government to start obtaining revenues there. It is high time the country stopped importing clothes, fabrics and accessories as it has enough raw materials and factories



President Samia Suluhu Hassan unveils plaque pulls curtain in Zanzibar yesterday to launch Basra Textile Mills Ltd as part of the run-up to the today's climax of the 58th anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution. Photo: State House

## Cotton farmers will reap big, says Samia

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to produce the items, the president asserted, noting that the envisaged factory will cut imports of clothing, especially children's clothing. It also expects to export goods to nearby markets, she affirmed.

Experience shows that most Asian countries invested heavily in textile industries with women dominating the jobs because they are stable and focused, she told the gathering.

The factory's presence provides an excellent opportunity for many women, she said, urging them to improve their skills especially in sewing so as to access jobs in

factories, improve their incomes and help uplift the country's economy.

Industrialists should make sure that they produce quality products to perform well in national and international markets, she stated, appealing to young people hired in the factory to carry out their tasks effectively and faithfully, avoiding theft.

Dr Islam Seif Salum, the Zanzibar permanent secretary for Trade and Industrial Development, said in order to accelerate the growth of the manufacturing sector, the ministry was following the 2019 industrial development policy.

The policy focuses on agriculture and livestock product processing, the blue economy, light industries and new industries that would emerge from oil and natural gas, he stated.

The government has set special incentives for industrial projects, uplifting incentives for manufacturing sector investors and the blue economy, he stated, underlining that the textile factory is a strategic project costing 115.5bn/- at its completion.

The contribution of the manufacturing sector has increased to 8.1 percent in 2020 to 19.6 percent

last year, with expectations that given the government's commitment to increase industrial contribution, the sector will clock 22.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.

Omar Said Shabani, the minister, said the government has been investing in uplifting industries as the sector contributes immensely in the country's development and technology revolution.

Many years ago, the Zanzibar government established factories like the dairy factory, sugar, cigarettes, shoes, mattresses, palm oil and others, he added.

## Six journos among 14 dead in RC convoy hit

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aid he had received with great shock the news of the tragic incident. "I convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and may God rest their souls in peace," he said.

Salome Kitomari, the chairperson of Media Institute for Southern Africa, Tanzania Chapter (MISA-TAN), also conveyed her condolences to the families of the deceased. She expressed the sentiment that the media industry has been jolted by the loss of several of their members and breadwinners for their families.

Mwanza Press Club chairman Edwin Soko similarly said he received with great shock and disbelief "the news of the deaths of my fellow media professionals and other people who were in national building duties.

The Busega district commissioner said 14 people died, while six were injured and were receiving treatment at the Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza city.

Some of the injured received treatment at Nasa Health Centre in Busega District and were thereafter transferred to Bugando for more intensive treatment, he said.

"The bodies of the deceased journalists and the driver were handed to the Mwanza Regional Commissioner and were being transferred to Mwanza, while the rest, including the driver of the Hiace bus were still in the course of being identified by their relatives," the DC stated.

He added that authorities in the district were continuing were investigations on the cause of the accident.

Mwanza Regional Police Commander Blasius Chatanda confirmed the occurrence of the tragic accident, listing the

deceased as including government information officer Abel Ngapemba, Steven Msengi and Anthony Chuwa (freelance journalist).

Others are Husna Milanzi (ITV reporter), Johari Shani (Uhuru Digital) and Paul Siang, the driver of the vehicle that was carrying them.

Two other journalists, Ivan Charles (Icon Blog) and Tunu Herman (online reporter), were reported seriously injured and continuing undergoing treatment at Bugando, with the bodies of the deceased preserved at the zonal medical facility.

RPC Chatanda said the vehicle carrying the journalists, a Landcruiser with registration number STK 8149, was travelling "at high speed" from Mwanza to Ukerewe, via Bunda.

He said it avoided an incoming Batiko Bus that was travelling from Musoma to Mwanza and rammed into an incoming Hiace Bus that was also travelling from Musoma to Mwanza.

He added that he accident occurred at around 6:30 in the morning, with the cause given as the high speed of the Landcruiser that carried journalists.

Simiyu regional commissioner David Kafulila expressed sorrow following the accident, appealing to the public to remain calm.

He said the bodies of six people were being released for burial arrangements, with relatives continuing to identify the remaining eight bodies, noting also that among the dead were five women and nine men.

Both drivers were confirmed dead in the crash, with the RC noting that an investigation report would be issued after the region's security committee was done with the police on the matter.

## Zanzibar leases 10 small islands

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government renting 10 small islands to eight investors whose activities are likely to stimulate economic growth, he affirmed, seeing this initiative as part of the ongoing efforts to boost the blue economy, further widening investment opportunities in small islands.

A total of 53 local and foreign investors are lined up to operate investment projects, which promises to drive up skills and ability to conserve the environment, biodiversity, cultural heritage and ensure community development, he said.

Investors were selected on the basis of provision of high end investments, financial capacity and payment of lease acquisition costs, he further noted.

The islands include Changuu, Bawe, Chapwani, Pamunda A and B, Kwale and Chumbe, all in Unguja zone, while Matumbini A, Njao and Misali are located in Pemba zone.

The government is expecting to get \$261.5m from these investments, with two islands - Matumbini and Njao - yet to get investors but efforts are ongoing to make sure they are given to investors in the second phase of this investment drive, he added.

## Rampaging Ruaha jumbos raid village

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officer, said they had earlier issued instructions to nearby residents on how to ward off jumbos without causing harm.

Dorine Ulomi, a senior TAWA official, said they will continue explaining to people on how to protect themselves when jumbos invade. Villagers should immediately report any destruction, he added.

## Kongwa DC calls for food reserves

By Guardian Correspondent, Kongwa

KONGWA District Commissioner Remidius Emmanuel has called on district residents to keep food reserves due to the stalking drought in the current farming season.

DC Emmanuel made the remarks on Monday when speaking to this paper on the food situation in his district due to delayed rains.

"We were used to see that at this time people have begun harvesting some of their crops, but this year we do not know when the rains will start, a very worrying situation and we are required to store the food you have," he said.

He said in the past, rains used to start

in December but so far this year there are farmers who have not planted crops, let alone tilling their fields.

He also banned the use of sorghum and maize for brewing local beer as it reduces food reserves.

He also called on farmers to cultivate drought resisting crops, and added that the district was conducting a campaign to cultivate sunflower, millet and crops that can withstand little to evade famine stalking the area this year.

DC Emanuel also called on farmers to make use of extension officers in their areas to avoid growing crops that are not resistant to the climate in their areas.



Pakistan's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Muhammad Saleem, pictured yesterday presenting medicine to a Dar es Salaam resident at a free healthcare camp held aboard the Pakistani Navy ship docked at the Dar es Salaam Port. Photo: Correspondent James Kandoya

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MORE than 600 Dar es Salaam residents have undergone free screening offered by the Pakistan Navy ALAMGIRI as part of good goodwill visit.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Tanzania Muhammad Saleem said that yesterday after visiting the ongoing two day 'free medical camp' at the Diamond Jubilee, saying that the target was to give services to 3000 city residents.

"We are feeling very grateful to the Pakistan Navy ship for bringing medical doctors and other health experts to offer free medical services to their friends from Tanzania," he said.

"We hope the services offered by medical experts will help to strengthen our bilateral relation existed between people to people and nation to nation bond," he added

He said the two days free medical camp will end today (Wednesday) calling for

## Pakistan's Navy conducts free medical camp in Dar es Salaam

more people to utilize the opportunity.

The envoy noted that the medical camp conducted will be part of the collaboration between the two governments in the health sector

For her part, Zanzibar former president's wife Salma Salmin Amour, called on city residents to utilize the camp to undergo medical checkup.

She thanked the Pakistan government for considering the health of Tanzanians and decided to offer free medical services for the city residents.

"Most people have no insurance cover and therefore fail to meet healthcare services, therefore it is very important for them to use the opportunity to get free medical care," she said.

According to her, it was friendlier and free services to all people calling for more people to go and get health services.

It was recently this week that The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) ALAMGIRI was scheduled to hold a free medical camp as part of goodwill in Dar es Salaam, from January 11st to 12nd this year.

The statement further said that the ship has professionals including pediatrician dentist, pathologist, surgical specialist and an anesthetist

"The medical team of the Pakistan Navy is excited to invite and extend the free medical services to the friendly people of Tanzania as also the Pakistan diaspora members living in the country," said part of the statement.



Vice President Dr Philip Mpango (C) leads the Tanzanian delegation at a Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit in Lilongwe, Malawi, yesterday. He represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: VPO

# Bomb explosion kills 3 in Chalinze

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

THREE people have died at Msata - Chalinze after a bomb exploded.

Coast Regional Police Commander Wankyo Nyigesa told reporters that the incident took place on January 10 at around 8pm in Pongwe Msungura village, Msata Ward.

RPC Wankyo said the men picked up what is believed to be a bomb that exploded in their hands.

According to Commander Wankyo, the men picked up the item with the intention of selling it as scrap metal but it exploded shortly after picking it up.

He named the dead as Athumani Ramadhani (20), Maneno Hamis (23) and Abdallah Rajabu (21) all residents of Msata.

RPC Wankyo has warned citizens involved in the sale and purchase of metals to be careful when collecting metals and other items with the aim of going to sell them as scrap metal.

In another incident, the Coast Region Police Force has taken to court Mt 93652 Cpl Chibumba Lugola (35) of 121 KJ-FIR Sangasanga-Ngerengere Morogoro region on suspicion of murdering a 62-year-old man.

He explained that the incident took place yesterday evening at 4pm in Gumba village, Gwata ward-Mlandizi.

According to Wankyo, the suspect allegedly assaulted Bakari Rashid (62) accusing him of stealing his chickens.

# Three in police custody after allegedly killing their brother

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE have arrested three people allegedly for killing their brother Peter Mwakitalima (40) a resident of Mitete in Rungwe district, Mbeya region.

Acting Mbeya Regional Commander, Christina Musyani told reporters that those who were arrested include Musa Mwakitalima (39), a resident of Kibisi, Ipyana Kakina (36), and Helen Ithojo (34).

RPC Musyani said that the three suspects are in police custody for allegedly stabbing their brother to death on 9 January while at his home.

She said one of the three suspects involved in the murder was a relative of the late Mwakitalima. The source of the incident was a land dispute between the deceased and his younger siblings after their

father died and left property which is a house. "The deceased plotted to kill him in order to own the property which the late Mwakitalima was managing," RPC Musyani said.

In another development, the police officers in collaboration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) Kyela district are looking for a suspect by the name Benny, a resident of Kyela in Mbeya Region for allegedly importing two banned Ice Dry London Gin products and 30 cartons of sugar illegally.

The goods were seized on January 9 this year at around 12pm in the Kilambo area after the Police in collaboration with TRA obtained a tip off from Good Samaritans.

RPC Musyani said the goods were found stored in a store at the home of the suspect who escaped after seeing TRA officers and that a search was underway.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

# Bashungwa: Govt priority is to deal with challenges facing the people

ONE of the government's priorities is to make sure it deals with challenges facing the people from the village level.

The remarks were made by Innocent Bashungwa, the Minister of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) when addressing to the ministry's management soon after he was sworn in at Chamwino State House on Monday.

He said officials and other experts are required to look into existing challenges in the villages to get the actual picture of their problems and formulate strategic plans to find solutions thereof.

"I call upon on RALG officials and workers to concentrate more on challenges facing the people in

villages, making them as a national challenge, hence we are required to put in place strategies in providing better services to our people," he said.

He explained that RALG officials are required to learn from the village level so that challenges facing the people there, including shortages of classrooms, dispensaries and others are solved as soon as is possible.

Bashungwa said solving these challenges will help in providing better services to the people and having that in mind during annual Budget preparation of the concerned ministries.

He also called upon experts in local government authorities to make sure the make assessments and follow ups of development projects by looking into the actual funds committed and the value of the projects implemented, especially at village level.

Bashungwa also used the occasion to thank President Samia Suluhu Hassan for appointing him to the post and pledged to perform his duties by dealing with various challenges facing public workers and the people.

For his part, Bashungwa's deputy in RALG dealing with the education

sector, David Silinde called on public officials to enhance cooperation while performing their duties.

For his part, RALG Deputy dealing with the health sector, Dr Festo Dugange assured Minister Bashungwa that they will accord him adequate cooperation in the implementation of his duties.

RALG Permanent Secretary, Prof Riziki Shemdoe said great cooperation displayed by officials has been displayed through the construction of 15,560 classrooms, 233 health centres while various other projects were still under implementation.



## REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FINANCE AND PLANNING

TENDER NO: SMZ/FOI/INT/2021-22/07  
For  
SUPPLY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: 11th January, 2022

TENDER NO: SMZ/FOI/INT/2021-22/07

1. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set aside funds for the operation of the President's Office Finance and Planning, Zanzibar during the financial year 2021/2022. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Supply of Motor Vehicles.
2. The President's Office Finance and Planning, Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible National & International suppliers for Supply of Motor Vehicles.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Tendering procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act No. 11 of 2016 and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Bid Data Sheet.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of the Tender Board Secretary, President's Office, Finance and Planning, P. O. Box 1154, Vuga Street, Tel No: +255 774807955/ +255 773 441884, Email pmumofp17@gmail.com from 8:00 am up to 3:00 pm on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English language and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 250,000/-. Tenderers may request for CONTROL NUMBER for payment at the Tender Board Secretary, President's Office, Finance and Planning from 8:00 am up to 3:00 pm on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
6. All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security of TZS 10,000,000 in acceptable form.
7. All Bids in one original plus two copies properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address Tender Board Secretary, President's Office Finance and Planning P.O. Box 1154, Vuga Street Zanzibar at or before 10:00 am on 15th February, 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the President's Office Finance and Planning P.O. Box 1154 Zanzibar, Conference Room at 10.00 am.
8. Late bids, portion of bids, electronic bids, and bids not received, bids not opened and not read out in public at the bids opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Aboud H. Mwinyi  
For; PRINCIPAL SECRETARY



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

## Shortlisted Bidders for the Proposed Academic Facilities Project in Kampala, Uganda



With reference to the Prequalification Notice for International Competitive Bidding Invitation to Prequalification of Contractors for the Proposed Academic Facilities Project in Kampala, Uganda published in media on Friday 12th November 2021,

Link to advert: <https://we.tl/t-fXg5fFeGG7>

The following applicants have been prequalified and shall be invited for bidding for the above works (alphabetical order):

1. Estim Construction Company Ltd, Tanzania
2. Laxmanbhai Construction Ltd, Kenya
3. Mota-Engil Engenharia E Construcao Africa, S.A, Uganda
4. The Arab Contractors Ltd (Osman Ahmed), Egypt



Energy minister January Makamba addresses a meeting held in Dodoma city on Monday to welcome the Energy ministry's senior management officials recently appointed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Chamwino District to install cameras along Dar-Dodoma road stretch to check speeding

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

CHAMWINO District authorities plan to install CCTV cameras at Buigiri along Dodoma-Dar es Salaam highway to detect speeding vehicles.

The remarks were made here at the weekend by the deputy chairman of Chamwino District Council, Kenneth Yindi when inaugurating classrooms built from COVID-19 FUNDS at Buigiri secondary school.

Yindi said Buigiri ward has six schools and the highway passes through three villages.

"Many students as well as ordinary

people get knocked down, some even lose their lives, vehicles travel at very high speed especially those belonging to the government," he added.

He said he visited various areas in the country through which highways pass to see how they can evade the accidents at Buigiri area.

"We have also sat together with the Regional Road Traffic Commander and in collaboration with our ICT experts, we submitted an official request for the installation of four CCTV cameras in the area," Yindi said.

For his part, Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka said the issue of installing cameras is the right one as it will assist in saving the lives of students of the schools as well as other road users.

"Install the cameras; they may be a solution to the frequent fatal road accidents in the area," said RC Mtaka.

He also called on Chamwino District Commissioner, Gift Msuya and his defence and security organs to see how the project can be implemented as soon as possible.

Earlier, while receiving report

on the classrooms construction, it was stated that Buigiri Secondary School received a total of 60m/- for the construction of three classrooms and a teachers' office.

Dodoma Regional Education Officer, Gift Kyando said the project has been completed and by January 17 all students are expected to report at the school.

Kyando said they will conduct a campaign to make sure students report to the school without any excuses including lack of uniforms, exercise books and other requisites so that classes start without delay.

## One person injured, 2 buffaloes killed in Mikumi road crash

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TWO buffalo died and one person sustained serious injuries following a car accident occurred at the Mikumi National Park-along Morogoro-Mbeya highway.

The incident occurred after Makambako resident Thobias Mbilinyi in Njombe region hit the buffalo while passing through the 50km-section of a Dar es Salaam-Mbeya highway road in the park.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander, SACP Fotunatus Muslim said the accident in which Mbilinyi was seriously injured occurred on January 10, around 7am.

He said the accident involved a Toyota Crown with registration number T995 DLF driven by Mbilinyi (causality) with initial report showing that the source was speeding.

"Traffic rules require drivers to drive 70km/hour during daytime and 50km/hour during night in the park, but some drivers have been disobeying the rules. Mbilinyi did the same by speeding thus causing the accident," SACP Muslim said.

He noted that the victim of the accident was taken to Mikumi health centre, later to the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital where he was referred to Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) due to serious injuries to his head and neck.

Commander Muslim, they expect to take to the victim to court to face his charges once he is discharged from hospital and his health is stabilized.

Doctor in charge at the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital Daniel Nkundu confirmed receiving the casualty at around 5am from Mikumi and had sustained serious injuries on his face and neck and after the first emergency service

which lasted about an hour before he was transported to Muhimbili.

Acting Conservator at the Mikumi National Park Herman Mtei said the two buffalo were valued at US\$1900 each and that the suspect would be given various punishments according to the incident.

"The penalties that the suspect will have to pay include an environment pollution fine in the park of 50,000/-, a speeding fine of 50,000/-, a fine for causing an accident in the park 200,000 as well as a fine for hitting the buffaloes which is ay US\$1900 each," Mtei said.


Mikumi National Park is south of Selous Game Reserve, the two areas forming a unique ecosystem and is bordered by the Udzungwa Mountains and Uluguru Mountain. It is passed by a 50km-section of a highway road used by vehicles going to or from neighbouring Zambia, Malawi and as far as Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo).

Reports show that over 200 animals are killed annually due to car accidents.


However, the government, in recognition of this, began the process of constructing a tarmac level at the Turiani-Magole-Dumila-Rudewa-Kilosa Road to Mikumi to, among other things; alleviate the current need for motorists to cross the park.

The road which was to be built in phases also includes its continuation from Turiani-Kilindi to Handeni in Tanga Region is not yet to be completed thus forcing road users to continue using the road that passes through the Mikumi National Park.


Reports show that over 200 animals are killed annually due to car accidents.



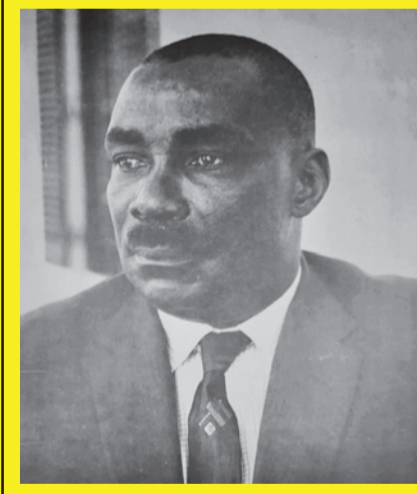
**STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR (SUZA)**



# 58th ANNIVERSARY OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION



**Hon. Dr. Husein Ali Mwinyi**  
President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council



**The Late Abeid Amani Karume**  
First President of Zanzibar

The Vice Chancellor, Management and staff of State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) join His Excellency President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and all Zanzibaris in commemorating 58 years of Zanzibar Revolution.

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## Ushetu district introduces cashew farming to spur economic growth

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

USHETU District Council in Kahama, Shinyanga region has introduced cashew nuts farming as part of its efforts to increase internal revenues, to spur economic growth and enable farmers to increase their incomes through the crop.

This was revealed here on Monday this week by the Council's Agriculture Officer, Paul Seni as he spoke to this paper by phone, outlining on the aims for the implementation of cashew nuts farming in the area.

He said cashew nuts is a new crop in the area and was first cultivate in the 2017/18 season in which 147 farmers planted 965 hectares and harvested a total of 1,300 kgs of cashew nuts.

In the following season, 2018/19 they distributed seedlings to 780 farmers who planted 1,020 hectares and in the third season 2019/20, 1,093 farmers who put 154 acres under the crop from two tonnes of the seeds distributed to them.

Seni said the crop has been cultivated in 112 villages in 20 wards by 7,346 farmers who planted 3,786 acres and who are now receiving education on cashew nut farming from extension officers in every ward, the task that is also being implemented by school teachers, all in making sure cashew nuts is given priority in the district.

He said the main aim is also to increase cash and food crops for more earnings to farmers, increase the council's revenues.

Seni further said they have been facing various challenges regarding the invasion of the farms by livestock, shortage of rains, plant diseases and destructive pests.

He also called on village government officials to continue mobilising the people in the implementation of by-laws governing the destruction of crops in the farms from the invasions of livestock.

He added that the Council continues preparing farmers days in demonstration farms located in 112 villages in 20 wards and has vowed to cultivate 100 acres of cashew nuts in each village.

He added said as for now they are engaged in distributing cashew nuts seedlings to farmers who need to cultivate the crop.



A roadside eatery in business - but just next to a pool of stagnant sewage - near Dar es Salaam's popular Mburahati mixed-foodstuff market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

# LATRA warns motorcycle riders carrying children under the age of 9 years without parental guidance

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has warned motorcycle drivers that it will take legal actions against anyone carrying children under the age of nine without parental guidance which is illegal.

LATRA director general, Gilliard Ngewe issued the warning yesterday after this newspaper questioned the legitimacy of motorcyclists carrying the children.

"It is illegal to carry a child to school or anywhere via a Bodaboda, as the child who is allowed to be carried on a motorbike, legally is a 10-year-old child," said Ngewe.

In addition, he said motorcyclists and Bajaj should have passenger waiting stations and not load passengers at every place they stop.

Also, the Director said for a long time the modes of transport have been used in vandalism and have been accused of crime including snatching women's wallets.

"People especially women end up crying, after being robbed of their handbags by unscrupulous motorcyclists.

As a result of the initiative, the Director, said the District Councils, are increasing their revenues via motorcyclists, but they are losing out by failing to manage their motorcycle parking lots.

"The license that is issued by LATRA, they would be regulators would share 50 per cent and the revenue would remain the council," Ngewe stressed.



National Environment Management Council director general Dr Samuel Gwamaka (R) pictured at Pugu Kazimzumbwi in Coast Region yesterday briefing Selemani Jafo (in T-shirt), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), on environmental challenges in the area. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Centre applauds Job Ndugai over his resignation

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

THE Centre for Good Governance and Development in Tanzania (CEGODETA) has congratulated the former Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai, on his resignation.

Despite congratulations, the institute said it was important for public officials to adhere to the procedure for resigning, rather than wait for public pressure.

CEGODETA executive chairman Thomas Ngawaiya, said that with Ndugai's resignation, the issue of resignation was not discussed. In the institution's New Year's greetings in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Ngawaiya said: "Even if the President had pardoned him, he had already polluted the air, the only way to protect his honour was to resign, so we CEGODETA congratulate him on that decision."

The chairman said Ndugai's resignation should be a lesson to other leaders who have been plagued by various allegations but continue to cling to power.

"But despite our congratulations to Ndugai, the time has come for leaders not to wait for pressure and then step down, when they realize they have made a mistake, the best way is to step down immediately," he said.

Ngawaiya called on the government to improve multi-party democracy as well as the existence of a new Constitution process with the Independent Electoral Commission.

He said the sixth term government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan has increased foreign investment in the manufacturing sector, boosted the economy, increased employment and improved trade relations between Tanzania and neighboring countries and strengthened cooperation between Tanzania and the international community.

"In addition, we, as stakeholders in good governance, call on the government to continue to improve multi-party democracy as well as the existence of a new constitutional process by the Independent Electoral Commission," he said.

The chairman added that his institute urges Tanzanians to inspire all the good deeds done by governments in the past and present governments, for the benefit of present and future generations.



**But despite our congratulations to Ndugai, the time has come for leaders not to wait for pressure and then step down, when they realize they have made a mistake, the best way is to step down immediately,**



# 58<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION

1963 - 2021



Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc, wishes to join His Excellency The President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, and all Tanzanians in Celebrating the 58th Anniversary of Zanzibar Revolution.

His Excellency The President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Aliy Mwinyi

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## Dr Mwinyi calls on Zanzibar politicians: Exercise caution over whatever you will say

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has reminded politicians to be careful of their statements to the people as well as to ensure the policies of their parties abide by the need to unify Tanzanians, instead of inciting them.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks here on Monday at the launching of a Task Force for processing arising issues from the democracy stakeholders meeting.

He said political issues touches people's feelings in various ways, and people assimilate politicians' statements in different contexts, hence, he added, it is the responsibility of politicians to be careful of what they say and do.

He added appointed Members of the Task Force have the responsibility in exercising diligence, wisdom, patriotism and experience in their analyses and avoid issues that will be found to be divisive and obstacles to development.

He also called upon task Force Members to put aside their political differences and work by the ethics and regulations that lead them for the wider national interests.

"Do not force issues merely to protect the interests of your own parties....democracy must reign when making important decisions on issues that have caused divisions in among your ranks," he said.

He said processing issues should aim to develop politics that unify Tanzanians and strengthen foundations of equality, unity and solidarity.

He pledged that both governments

(Union and Isles) to provide every kind of cooperation needed in the implementation and completion of the Task Force responsibilities.

He expressed his pleasure by the appointed Members, including experienced experts in leadership issues, conflict resolutions, good governance and human rights as well as other legal issues, and expressed his hope that the decisions reached will be a great contribution for spurring political, economic and social development.

He also called on Task Force Members to understand that the task entrusted to them has a wider interest of the nation; hence it would be better for them to perform their responsibilities with great diligence to arrive at intended goals.

For his part, Zanzibar's First Vice President, Othman Masoud Othman said the formation of the Task Force is a great investment for the country's destiny; hence he called on Tanzanians to assess the step being taken. Zanzibar's Minister of state in the second Vice President's Office (Policy and House of Representatives Coordination), Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed thanked Union President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Isles counterpart, Dr Mwinyi for leading the country diligently with the aim of building up unity and solidarity in the country.

The Task Force for processing issues that emerged during the democracy stakeholders meeting recently held in Dodoma is made up of 25 members under the chairmanship of Prof Rwekaza Mukandara and Vice Chairman Hamad Rashid Mohamed.



Mining officer Fabian Mshai has a word with tanzanite dealers at Mimerani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Satellite schools relieve 130 pupils in Longido from walking long distances

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

SATELITE schools built in Wasiwosi village, Geleirumbwa Ward, Longido district in Arusha region, have reduced the suffering of 130 students in the area, who were walking 75 kilometers daily to pursue education in neighbouring wards.

Wasiwosi village government chairperson Kinyilai Alaiseri made the remarks yesterday when briefing the Longido District Commissioner Nurdin Babu.

DC Babu and Longido District Council Executive Director of the Council, Stephen Europe, went to inspect the construction projects of the classrooms being built using funds from the national welfare

development campaign and the fight against Covid-19.

Alaiseri, said the construction of two classrooms at Wasiwosi Primary School was built at 40m / -, and the other two were built by the people.

"These classes have helped save 80 children from rushing to study in neighboring Kenya. They are traveling to Kajiado District, Kenya which is 31 km from our village.

"And another 50 children are going to Geleirumbwa, which is 75 kilometers from the village and they have been going through a difficult time, as there are wildlife including elephants." He said the construction of these classrooms, with the Covid-19 project and others at the hands of the public, has significantly

helped alleviate the suffering of students walking long distances.

"With the construction of these two Covid-19 project classrooms and other community-based classrooms have greatly helped save students from having to travel to neighboring Kenya to study and others to walk long distances," said Alaiseri.

Following the statement, Longido District Commissioner, Babu, commended the village leaders for constructing the classrooms using the funds, as there was a barrier to transport to carry construction materials from the county and district headquarters.

DC Babu said from Longido Town to Wasiwosi Village, there is a distance of more than 151 km, and

from the Ward headquarters to the village there, there is no reliable road infrastructure.

He said the action of the Council's Executive Director, Steven Europe, to provide a Toyota Land Cruiser type Pick Up, with registration number STL 6217 to carry construction materials from Kenya, has significantly contributed to the timely completion of classrooms.

The Member of the Village Government, Neema Arkaswai urged Longido MP and the District Commissioner, to ensure that the people of the village are remembered in development projects so that they can see themselves as Tanzanians who need to enjoy the fruits of the land.

## Uganda to conduct free Covid-19 test to ease Busia-Malaba road traffic snarl-ups

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDA has committed to conduct free Covid-19 rapid tests at the Kenya-Uganda border points of Busia and Malaba for seven days to clear the truck traffic snarl-up that has disrupted intra-EAC trade on the Northern Transit Corridor.

This follows a joint multi-sectoral virtual meeting of the Ministers/Cabinet Secretaries responsible for EAC Affairs, Health and Transport convened by the EAC Secretariat.

Currently, over 4,500 trucks have stalled at the two border posts due to the mandatory Covid-19 testing requirement introduced by Uganda on 20th December, 2021.

The meeting noted that this was a deviation from the 14 days Covid-19 testing period, previously agreed at the regional level and monitored through the Regional Electronic Cargo and Drivers Tracking System (RECDTS).

The multi-sectoral Ministerial meeting agreed that Partner States should always notify each other in case of any deviations from the agreed protocols relating to measures against Covid-19.

"This will mitigate the impact on movement of goods, persons, workers and services across the region," said Hon. Adan Mohamed, Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers and Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community and Regional Development, Kenya.

To mitigate future recurrence of the border traffic impasse, the joint multi-sectoral meeting further directed Partner States to recognize certificates from accredited/national recognized laboratories with a validity of 14 hours for fully vaccinated truck drivers and 72 hours for unvaccinated truck drivers moving goods across the region.

Further, they agreed that Partner States should implement the EACPass to fast-track verification of Covid-19 test results.

"The EACPass is a system that

integrates all EAC Partner States' negative test results for Covid-19 and those vaccinated, and can be easily accessed on mobile phone. It is set to ease the turnaround time at border points," said EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki.

The 21st Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Health held on 10th December, 2021 approved the EACPass as a regional platform to facilitate movement of all travelers in the region and beyond and also directed EAC Partner States to facilitate the implementation and use of the EACPass as a platform for quick verification of Covid-19 test certificates and vaccination status for travellers.

CS Mohamed said that a follow-up meeting to review the situation will be held on Friday, 14th January, 2022 to further deliberate on regional Covid-19 measures to ease movement of persons and flow of goods in the region.



**The EACPass is a system that integrates all EAC Partner States' negative test results for Covid-19 and those vaccinated, and can be easily accessed on mobile phone. It is set to ease the turnaround time at border points**



Herders from the Maasai community at Kimbe in Kilindi District, Tanga Region, pictured last week brandishing placards to express various grievances during a tour of by Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

## NEMC orders bars and religious institutions to control noise pollution

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has vowed to take serious measures against bar, church and compact disc (CD) burning studio owners who violate laws through noise pollution which is nuisance to others.

NEMC zonal officer for the north Noel Kikware said yesterday that this year the council will take serious actions against noise pollution which is now the norm by owners of the mentioned structures.

"We have noticed that there are entertainment investors who play music at a loud volume which disturbs others," he said.

"Those who know are doing this should prepare themselves because we are coming for them and those who issue the permits should also try to understand the difference between friendly and unfriendly noises," he added.

He added that NEMC has been receiving complaints from people about the noise they are getting from such studios.

Kikware said some churches have been violating laws by playing huge music despite their churches being located in residential areas.

"There are churches that open huge sounds with no other programmes being in progress inside in which the noise continues to hurt others with those responsible taking no actions," he added.

He said that entertainment places are required to abide by laws to protect others from effects of noise pollution.

The environmental officer said

the council is ready to contain knowledge pollution by ensuring proper use of permissions that are issued to allow them to operate.

According to the law, noise pollution, also known as environmental noise or sound pollution, is the propagation of noise with ranging impacts on the activity of human or animal life, most of them harmful to a degree.

The source of outdoor noise worldwide is mainly caused by machines, transport, and propagation systems.



Habiba Mnguya (with shovel), Special Seats councillor for Kwekivu Division in Kilindi District, participates in construction work at Kilindi Asilia Secondary School yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Dege Masoli

## Shinyanga RC issue warning to all fond of destroying road signs

By Guardian Correspondent, Kishapu

SHINYANGA regional commissioner Sophia Mjema has warned against the behaviour by some people in the region fond of destroying road signposts.

RC Mjema made the remarks yesterday while inspecting the road and bridge construction infrastructure in Kishapu district.

She said road safety signs are very important in preventing accidents, but some people have been in the habit of removing those signs.

"I urge the people to take care of the infrastructure of these roads and bridges, so that they can last a long time to serve you, and carry out your economic activities without hindrance, and do not remove road safety signs for your safety," said RC Mjema.

In addition, she instructed the Tanzania Roads Agency (Tanroads) in the region, to control heavy vehicles not passing through roads and bridges, so as not to damage the infrastructure and incur losses to the government to allocate funds for regular repairs.

RC Mjema also urged the contractors

who are implementing the road and bridge infrastructure projects, to implement them to the required quality, and to serve the people for a long time.

For her part, the Acting Manager of Tanroads Shinyanga Region Eng. Jessica Manang said the vehicles allowed passing through the roads and bridges should not exceed 50 tonnes, while promising to implement the order to control heavy vehicles passing through the infrastructure.

Ukenyenge Ward Councillor, Anderson Mandia, said the construction of a large bridge in the area worth 1.5bn/-, will be a great help to the people, where they will avoid accidents, as well as use it to carry out their economic activities, because the mother bridge is narrow and has no security.

In separate interviews, some Kishapu residents said that the construction of the road infrastructure and the two main bridges of Ukenyenge and Itilima will help them a lot in their economic activities, especially when transporting crops, and promised to work with the Government to protect the infrastructure.

By Gertrude Chavez-Dreyfuss

## Decentralised exchange's foundation raises US\$100 million from institutional investors

THE Incentive Ecosystem Foundation (IEF) said on Friday it has raised US\$100 million for Serum, a decentralized exchange and platform, to help expand its network and position it as a core liquidity infrastructure provider.

As a decentralized exchange, Serum provides the underlying liquidity infrastructure for applications built on the Solana blockchain. IEF, meanwhile, supports development and applications on Serum.

A decentralized exchange, or DEX, is a peer-to-peer marketplace where transactions occur directly between crypto traders. Financial transactions on these exchanges are not supervised or managed by banks, brokers, or any intermediary. Instead it relies on self-executing smart contracts to facilitate trading and clearing.

Decentralized exchanges are part of the fast-growing decentralized finance sector, which facilitates crypto-denominated financial transactions outside of traditional banks. According to DeFi Pulse, the total value held at DeFi sites surged to \$94 billion on Friday, compared with just \$11 billion in October 2020.

In a statement, Serum's community-led foundation said it has received investments from 18 institutional investors including Commonwealth Asset Management LP, Tagus Capital, Tiger Global, and executives at GoldenTree Asset Management.

All four confirmed their investment

in Serum's foundation through communications and messages seen by Reuters.

"We want to grow the decentralized exchange by bringing in new developers to fill applications on top of it, and... bring users to trade on it so volume can increase over time," said a member of the Serum community who goes by the initials JHL in a phone interview with Reuters.

He declined to disclose his full name. "We want to be one of the largest decentralized exchanges," JHL added.

In exchange for the investment, investors get a variety of tokens, which are locked up for six years. For one

year, the tokens would be stationary and then, for the next five years, investors get a set number of tokens every day, JHL said.

About 15% of the \$100 million investment will be allocated to the Serum ecosystem fund, which supports projects utilizing the exchange's liquidity infrastructure and capabilities, JHL said. The remaining 85% will go to the Serum foundation itself to fund the exchange's operations.

Applications on Serum now account for more than \$2 billion of total net value of all assets held by various DeFi networks, according to the IEF statement.

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## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

**Hon. Dr. Husein Ali Mwinyi**  
President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council

**The Late Abeid Amani Karume**  
First President of Zanzibar

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications regulatory Authority (**TCRA**) join hands with the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and all Tanzanians to celebrate **58 years** of Revolution.

# 12

January 2022

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## 58<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ZANZIBAR REVOLUTION

**President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Excellency Dr Hussein Mwinyi**

The Board of Directors, Management and staff of Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) join His Excellency President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and all Zanzibaris in commemorating 58 years of Zanzibar Revolution.

PORT FOR BLUE ECONOMY FOR ZANZIBAR PROGRESS

WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2022

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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## Restructuring of Cabinet might see national economy gain momentum

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has greatly helped to clear out a foggy debate on the performance of cabinet ministers who do not feature in the new line up, with proposed top level duties for former Lands minister William Lukuvi and Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, a law reformer.

Those who were projecting some antipathy would have noticed the vibrant eulogy that the president gave with regard to the role Prof Kabudi played in rectifying the law relating to minerals sector licensing and operations. Now he is being tasked to oversee all negotiations.

Lukuvi was also astutely recognized for his unparalleled parliamentary and cabinet work over a few decades, and is being assigned to something that Vice President Dr Phillip Mpango would be familiar with in the Big Results Now initiative of the fourth phase government.

What is involved is supervising performance on what is now being implemented, as it was clear things were getting somewhat relaxed at the start of the sixth phase. Without the hands-on approach of the late President John Magufuli, bureaucrats were starting to take it easy.

The new tasks for the former minister will be located at the State House, which can be interpreted as an effort to stem competition or creating such an impression, had Lukuvi been reassigned differently. Again such a position makes one a component of leadership with public roles in a routine manner,

while a top level administrator at the State House can lift the phone and query details of any act or omission with any ministerial agency without notice.

It is an issue of working on intelligence that is gathered on mishaps in this or that area, where that special assistant isn't hampered by routine gatherings.

This restructuring initiative illustrates that the president is working on ways and means to get the work done, and that even where the variations of perspective on some strategic issues, there is plenty of agreement with competent and tested administrators on what needs to be done.

Both these cabinet ministers are familiar with public service generally and politics as a whole, that any task one is assigned can make a difference, and at times a country wins its battles because of people directly assisting the president on whatever it is, not just those administering specific sectors. It is not a letdown to be assigned such tasks, and when one takes into account the wider issue of serving the country, it is even clearer.

So we expect that these improvements will enhance performance of the various ministries on the one hand, and restore the focus on law reforms in strategic issues during negotiations. It would be absurd to say this is bad as they should have remained ministers; these supervisory and oversight roles need people with uncontested authority in those spheres. They will help the president to deliver.

## Drought early warning in agri-food systems crucial

A drought is an event of prolonged shortages in the water supply, whether atmospheric surface water or ground water. A drought can last for months or years, or may be declared after as few as 15 days. It can have a substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region and harm to the local economy. Annual dry seasons in the tropics significantly increase the chances of a drought developing and subsequent bush fires. Periods of heat can significantly worsen drought conditions by hastening evaporation of water vapour.

Drought is a recurring feature of the climate in most parts of the world. However, these regular droughts have become more extreme and more unpredictable due to climate change. In fact studies based on dendrochronology, or tree rings dating, confirm that drought affected by global warming goes back to 1900.

Prolonged droughts have caused mass migrations and humanitarian crisis. Most arid ecosystems have inherently low productivity. The most prolonged drought ever in the world in recorded history occurred in the Atacama Desert in Chile 400 years ago.

Throughout history, humans have usually viewed droughts as "disasters" due to the impact on food availability and the rest of society. Humans have often tried to explain droughts as either a natural disaster, caused by humans, or the result of supernatural forces. It is among the earliest documented climatic events, present in the Epic of Gilgamesh and tied to the Biblical story of Joseph's arrival in and the later Exodus from Ancient Egypt.

Hunter-gatherer migrations in 9,500 BC Chile have been linked to the phenomenon, as has the exodus of early humans out of Africa and into the rest of the

around 135,000 years ago. Rituals exist to prevent or avert drought, rainmaking could go from dances to scapegoating to human sacrifices. Nowadays, those ancient practices are for the most part relegated to folklore and replaced by more rational water management.

Droughts will increase in frequency, intensity, duration, and spread under climate change.

Drought affects numerous sectors in society and the natural environment, including short-term reduced crop production, social conflict over water allocation, severe outmigration, and eventual famine. Early action can prevent escalation of impacts, requiring drought early warning systems (DEWSs) that give current assessments and sufficient notice for active risk management. While most droughts are relatively slow in onset, often resulting in late responses, flash droughts are becoming more frequent, and their sudden onset poses challenging demands on DEWSs for timely communication. Many of these have been successful, such as some of the responses to 2015-2017 droughts in Africa and Latin America.

Successful examples show that early involvement of stakeholders, from DEWS development to implementation, is crucial. In addition, regional and global cooperation can cross-fertilize with new ideas, reduce reaction time, and raise efficiency.

Broadening partnerships also includes recruiting citizen science and including seemingly subjective indigenous knowledge that can improve monitoring, data collection, and uptake of response measures. More precise and more useful DEWSs in agri-food systems will prove even more cost-effective in averting the need for emergency responses, improving global food security.



By Special Correspondent

UNLESS Nigeria leaders take immediate steps to address hunger and malnutrition, especially in children and pregnant women, the poor indices on maternal and child mortality in our country will only further worsen. That is the recent message from the Food and Agriculture Organisation, (FAO) Country Representative in Nigeria, Fred Kafeero, who urged the authorities to recognise that "over four million people go hungry and suffer from malnutrition in this country," essentially "because of the challenges associated with conflict; pest and diseases, natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, habitat destruction; economic challenges (unemployment) and the devastating effects of COVID-19 still with us."

Sadly, even though malnutrition is the underlying cause for a third of child mortality in the world, it is yet to receive any serious campaign and investment necessary to address it effectively in Nigeria. Meanwhile, stunted growth implies a marked increase in the child's susceptibility to infections and contributes to child mortality. Invariably, pregnant women who are not adequately

## Government must do more to address the issue of poverty

nourished eventually give birth to babies with low weight thus putting their survival at risk. The costs of disregarding this issue in human and economic terms cannot be quantified.

According to experts, in low and middle-income countries like Nigeria, the age 3-24 months is a time when growth falters for too many children. An inadequate diet during this period increases the risk of stunting, micro-nutrient deficiencies, illnesses, and death. Some of the factors identified include poor infant feeding and attitude of mothers to exclusive breastfeeding. Political commitment at all levels is therefore necessary to ensure advocacy on the adverse implications of malnutrition and avoid its devastating consequences.

The FAO has called on the government to make targeted interventions on research in such a manner that will enhance technologically advanced farming. "In addition, our approach can only be effective if it is tooted in working together with governments, and

key partners, as they forge their own national pathways towards transformation in line with their specific conditions and needs," said Kafeero. "Functioning food systems will not only assure us of enough and quality food for each of us but also environmental sustainability, which is key for the development of the present and future generations."

However, tackling malnutrition is not what government can do alone, other critical stakeholders need to join the efforts. Partnership with civil society and academic institutions with focus on food and nutrition is also an imperative while there should be a commitment to establishing a road map and coordinated mechanisms for implementing activities for up-scaling nutrition in the public sphere. This road map should consist of clear roles and responsibilities for the various stakeholders, as well as implementable strategies, with milestones for mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture, fortifying basic foods with essential minerals or vitamins, mobilising communities

for action on the growing more beneficial foods, and the perils of malnutrition.

For effective health and social protection, mothers must also be encouraged to adopt exclusive breastfeeding habits for their babies for the first six months. Thereafter, complementary feeding can be introduced for 24 months, then the consumption of various nutrients such as Vitamin A, iodized salt, and zinc, amongst others. Nigerians, as a minimum, deserve a life free from hunger, in a country blessed with arable land and natural resources.

From all available reports, the antidote to malnutrition is for children to eat healthy, balanced diet that include plenty of fruit and vegetables and other nutrients. Under the prevailing circumstance, government, at practically all levels, must sit up to address the crushing indices and causes of malnutrition that have continued to deprive over half of our children (and mothers) of a healthy and productive life span.

Read the original article on This Day.

## The challenge of massive oil thefts

By Special Correspondent

AS damning as a recent report that Nigeria may have lost about 200 million barrels to organised theft in the first 11 months of 2021 would seem, it came as no surprise. Going by figures from the Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Petroleum Commission (NURPC) obtained by THISDAY, while Nigeria was expected to pump approximately 635 million barrels of oil by last November, only 441 million barrels were produced within the period. This aligns with a report from the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) released earlier last year that Nigeria loses 138,400 barrels of crude per day (about 7% of its total production) to theft, oil-spills, or shortage in production. The loss, according to the report, is "neither hypothetical nor episodic. It is real and endemic."

It is unfortunate that oil theft has for decades remained a huge

drain on the economy of Nigeria without concerted efforts to deal with the problem. No doubt, these illegal funds from stealing the crude could have been channelled to other sectors of the economy. Besides, because the criminal cartels involved need illicit arms and ammunition, they have contributed significantly to our national security challenge.

Sadly, the political will to enforce actions and measures that would curb these nefarious acts that benefits only a few is sorely lacking. In fact, many security operatives lobby to be posted to Niger Delta because of what they will benefit from illegal oil business.

The apparent lack of transparency in Nigeria's oil sector is reflected in the fact that government relies heavily on operators to provide data without any independent verification. In a report on the mismanagement of the oil and gas sector in Nigeria in 2016, for instance, The London Economist wrote: "...oil is also being stolen at a record rate

and traders' figures show output at well below the government's figures. Information about Africa's biggest oil industry is an opaque myriad of numbers. No one knows which ones are accurate; no one knows how much oil Nigeria produces. If there were an authoritative figure, the truly horrifying scope of corruption would be exposed."

There is no shortage of laws to deal with the problem assuming the federal government is serious. Some of the various laws that have been passed include a 1975 act sanctioning the death penalty for pipeline sabotage, although needs amendment to include lines carrying crude and not only products. But the federal government seems helpless despite the huge sum of money being thrown at the problem.

Among the strategies suggested by NEITI was calling for the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to put molecular markers into products. This would allow the authorities to trace where such supplies go. More drastic measures should include

that government officials involved in oil stealing be made to forfeit all benefits to them, whether in or out of service.

In August 2019, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) reported losing as much as 22 million barrels of oil at more than 120,000 barrels per day (bpd) to theft in the first half of the previous year. Despite that disclosure, Nigerian authorities appear helpless in dealing with the problem. Yet, at a very difficult period in a country almost wholly dependent on oil revenue, we cannot afford the luxury of allowing a few people to illegally corner to themselves our collective wealth. This menace persists in the oil and gas sector because of the existence of an assured off-taker market.

There is an urgent need to address this challenge if Nigeria is to derive the maximum benefit from its oil and gas resources. The federal government must ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are apprehended and brought to justice.



# Clean water, decent toilets and hygiene a challenge for SADC

By Charles Mpaka

THE toilets in the maternity wing of Namatapa Health Centre in the populous Bangwe Township in Blantyre, Malawi's commercial city, fell into disrepair a few years ago. So, pregnant women who come to deliver their babies and their guardians use two pit latrines.

The faulty facilities also serve as bathrooms. Visiting the bathrooms and toilets is an act of courage, says Thokozani Paulo, who spent four days at the centre in November 2021, during the birth of her first child.

"When you want to bath or relieve yourself, the image is dreadful because half the time, there is a mess, and the stench is terrible," she tells IPS.

At night, there is no light, and the rooms are swarming with mosquitoes.

In addition, there is not much dignity and privacy for users either. There are no doors, so women improvise using their wraps for privacy.

"So, you are bathing, and someone comes in looking to relieve themselves," says the 23-year-old in an interview with IPS at her home. Her month-old baby girl is sleeping peacefully on her lap.

Workers at the facility clean the two toilets - but without detergent and only once every day in the morning. One day, the women in the ward and their guardians pleaded with the workers to clean the toilets at least twice a day.

"They shouted at us saying we were not the ones paying their salaries and that we should just focus on what we had gone to the health centre for," Paulo says.

The only basin for handwashing in the ward was never supplied with soap in the four days she was at the health centre.

In November, this experience, and the experiences of many others like Paulo were top of the agenda at a meeting of health ministers from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe.

At that meeting, among other things, the ministers endorsed the SADC Hygiene Strategy (2021-2025).

According to the strategy developed by the SADC Secretariat, analysis of national blueprints in the region on health, water, sanitation, environmental health, and nutrition indicates there is "an enabling environment" for implementation of hygiene practices.

However, there are still considerable gaps in most of the 16 member states.

"There is still need to mainstream and integrate hygiene in most of the national policies in order to broaden the enabling environment base for effective and sustainable promotion of hygiene practices," it reads.

The framework, therefore, challenges SADC governments to increase hygiene coverage and behaviour change across all settings. These settings include health care facilities, schools and day-care centres, workplaces and commercial buildings, prisons, markets and food establishments, transport centres and places of worship.

The key hygiene behaviours include handwashing with soap, safe drinking water management, faecal disposal, food hygiene, menstrual hygiene, and waste management.

In the case of health care centres, these need to have a safe and accessible water supply, clean and safe sanitation conveniences, hand hygiene amenities at points of care and toilets, appropriate waste disposal systems



A waste collection bin awaiting the city council's collection. Markets are one of the places the SADC hygiene strategy is targeting. The picture was taken a stone's throw away from the health centre featured in the story. Credit: Charles Mpaka/IPS

and environmental cleaning.

According to the strategy, infrastructure that supports hygiene and healthcare waste management practices helps prevent the spread of diseases within the health service facilities and in the surrounding community.

The strategy was developed with the support of UNICEF and WaterAid Southern Africa.

Maureen Nkandu, Regional Communications Manager for WaterAid Southern Africa, says the policy underlines the need for leadership, commitment, and accountability "to create a culture of hygienic behaviour and practices across all levels of society and to enable hygiene services, behaviour change and promote basic sanitation".

"For these objectives to be effective, there will be a requirement for strong planning, financial resourcing, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation systems in each of the SADC countries," Nkandu tells IPS.

She says WaterAid has rallied key partners, including WASH-oriented civil society and development agencies, to demand adequate resources to implement the strategy effectively.

Further, achieving sustainable hygiene behaviour across generations needs innovative behaviour change programmes of scale. This can be realised through adequate financing, coordination of relevant sectors and political leadership, Nkandu says.

For Malawi, the strategy presents an opportunity for the country to push harder towards attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets related to hygiene, says Maziko Matemba, a community health ambassador appointed by the Ministry of Health.

Matemba corroborates Paulo's experience, observing that many healthcare facilities in Malawi are a source of infection for patients, guardians, and visitors because of poor hygiene.

"Sanitation and hygiene in most of our public health facilities is a serious concern. People go to hospitals to get treated, but we have cases where patients and guardians have returned home with new health conditions contracted due to poor hygiene," he says, citing washrooms as hotspots.

Matemba argues that healthcare facilities could promote good hygiene in Malawi and SADC.

"People gather in these facilities to seek services. That's a huge advantage to drive home awareness messages and demonstrate by own standards how people can promote good hygiene in their homes," says Matemba, who is also Executive Director for Health and Rights Education Programme (HREP), a local organisation.

But in all this, funding is a major factor, he observes.

"Hospital administrators tell us that if they have no money for a primary commodity like drugs, hence these perennial drug shortages we see, how can mops, handwashing materials and chemicals to clean toilets with become a priority?"

Matemba tells IPS that although civil society organisations have been campaigning for ages for the government to address the critical shortage of funding to hospitals, not much has changed.

"Development budget is always inadequate. Recurrent expenditures, already less than required, are further cut, and the little that remains hardly goes to the facilities in time. Treasury always says the resource envelope is limited," says Matemba.

He says the strategy challenges Malawi as SADC Chair to lead the way for member states to improve the hygiene situation in the region by fixing their own.

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, Adrian Chikumbe, tells IPS that the SADC strategy is an important approach in minimising transmission of infection in health facilities and communities.

According to Chikumbe, a recent assessment by the ministry reveals that almost a third of Malawi's health care facilities lack running water and 80 percent of patient latrines had no associated hand washing facility.

The assessment also found that environmental cleanliness was generally below average, characterised by poor waste management practices.

He says most of the lower-level facilities in the country lack resources to maintain functional WASH infrastructure.

"The Government recognises that it cannot do everything alone. It, therefore, has plans to mobilise partner support led by district authorities to plan and prioritise water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in all health facilities," he says.

## RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
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Radio One

# How place of birth shapes chances of going to university

By Rebecca Simson

**M**ANY newly independent African countries in the 1960s inherited regional and ethnic inequalities in formal educational attainment. These new states bound together sub-national regions of diverse ethnic and religious communities. The regions differed in their exposure to missionary activity - the main vector in the spread of formal western education in the colonial era.

Inequalities in educational access increased the higher up the educational ladder one climbed. Access to university education was both extremely limited and highly skewed.

As access to higher education determined which people would come to hold some of the most important positions in society, politicians cared a great deal about how higher education spread. Given this context, how did regional inequalities in university access evolve after independence?

While several recent papers have highlighted considerable social inequalities in access to higher education in African countries today, there's little work that looks at how and why such inequalities have changed over time.

In a recent paper I therefore traced the regional origins of university graduates since the 1960s in seven African countries: Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. I constructed a measure of regional inequality for each country and examined some of the factors that influenced this inequality trend.

The results show that regional inequality fell in the first two decades of independence. However, from the 1980s regional inequality remained stagnant or grew across this group of countries. Inequality grew primarily because the main urban metropolises have been pulling ahead, leading to a growing urban bias in university access.

I used recent census data which contains information about where people were born and what level of education they attained. I grouped these people by their district or province of birth, depending on the administrative structure of the country. In Ghana for instance, people were grouped into the country's ten regions, while in Kenya they were grouped into the country's 47 current counties.

By grouping people by age bracket, and assuming that most people who attend university do so around age 20, I could then trace how the regional distribution of university education changed over time.

## Slow start

University education was slow to develop across these former British colonies. The share of the population attending university in the late colonial era was extremely



Regions with higher than average university attainment in the 1960s continue to have higher university attainment rates today.

low.

Around the time of independence, Kenya had roughly 400 university students (1961), while Tanzania and Zambia had 300 students each (1963). The distribution of these scarce educational opportunities was regionally skewed. University attendance tended to be highest among those growing up in the main cities and in the regions with the most economic production (particularly cash crops and mining).

This historical legacy has been long lasting. On average, the regions with higher than average university attainment in the 1960s continue to have higher university attainment rates today.

## Trends in access

But the picture is not all bleak. In the first decades of independence there was some catching-up by some of the lower performing regions within each country. The regional inequality trend for each of the seven countries shows that inequality fell in most countries in the 1960s and 1970s. In this period the number of university students was growing quite rapidly. Bursaries for students were generous and governments made some efforts to ensure regional balance.

In the 1980s many African countries ran into financial difficulties. Governments struggled to finance their largely public university systems. During this period, the rate of university expansion reduced. University access became increasingly competitive. This ended the period of regional convergence in university enrolment. Regional inequalities in university access began to grow again.

My analysis found that those best placed to access the highly competitive university system were increasingly those students born in the main cities where incomes were higher

and parents more educated. Measures of regional inequality with the exclusion of the capital cities show there was no or very little growth in regional inequality since the 1980s. This shows that most of the inequality rise was driven by the capital city region.

In the 1990s many African countries reformed their university systems again by introducing or raising fees. They also allowed more private universities to establish themselves. This increased the number of students that could be educated and led to the rapid

rise in university enrolment. But from the available data it seems that regional inequalities in university access have remained high or risen further.

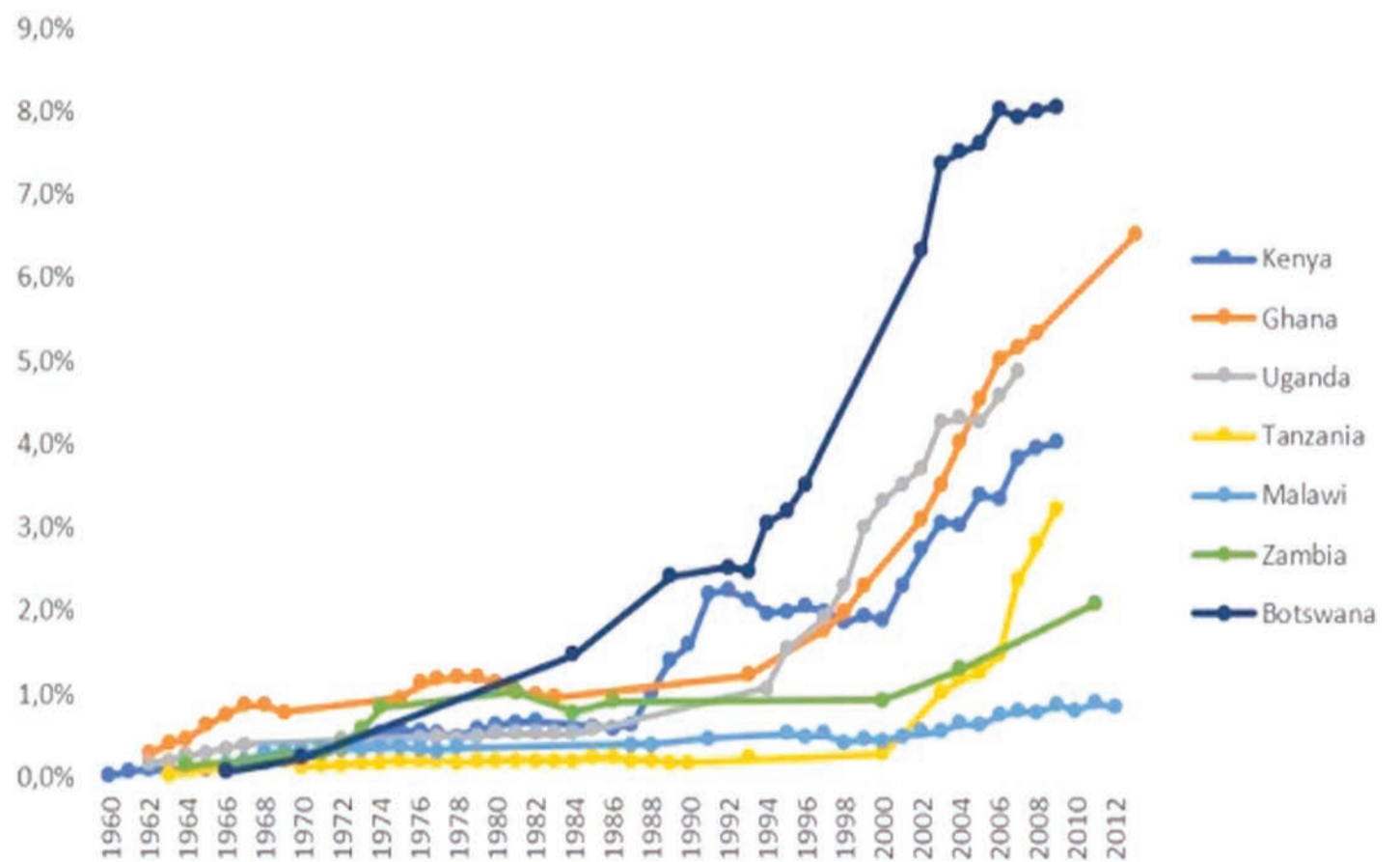
## Concentrated in cities

There are many reasons for this continued growth in inequality in access. The most important factor is one that's difficult for policymakers to address. The census data shows that the focus countries have a considerable rate of rural-urban migration. These migrants are a small share of the university educated. As a result, university graduates are increasingly concentrated in the cities. University students tend to be the children of the highly educated - they're in turn more likely to gain higher education. This perpetuates the concentration of the highly skilled.

The slightly better news is that because cities tend to be ethnically mixed, the growing urban bias does not seem to have resulted in a sharp increase in ethnic inequality in university education. In three countries (Ghana, Malawi and Uganda) the censuses also asked respondents to state their ethnicity. Using these self-reported ethnicities, I measured ethnic inequality by cohort. I found much less inequality growth on an ethnic compared to a regional basis.

Since migration is a major driver of this regional differentiation, this trend will probably continue unless there's more economic development and more job creation outside the main urban centres. This implies that the face of Africa's educational high-achievers is changing. From a slim educational elite of the 1970s, where most university-educated people had rural or small-town roots, the highest educated ranks are increasingly dominated by people born and raised in the main, multi-ethnic urban centres. *The Conversation*

**Rebecca Simson is a Research Fellow in Economic History, University of Oxford**



Gross university enrolment rates. Rebecca Simson

# 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
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Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

# 4,000 residents of Ulanga District benefit from 100m/- water project

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Ulanga

OVER 4,000 residents of Uponera village, Ulanga District in Morogoro Region, are set to benefit from a water project worth 100m/-, thanks to Rubab Jawad, a Swiss-based retired medical expert for extending her support to the needy community.

Rubab, who spent most of her time in Switzerland working in the health sector, also has some relatives in Uponera village. She will spend part of her pension funds to support the implementation of the water project.

Speaking over the weekend during the meeting with the villagers and the Rubab's delegation, Consolata Daudi, one of the villagers expressed gratitude to the team for extending support to the village which hasn't got clean water since independence.



Water project manager Joseph Nchimika assists Anastasia Daudi of Uponera village in Ulanga District to carry water as a sign of ending water woes after the completion of the project worth 100m/-. Photo: Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa.

She said once completed, the water project will provide relief to the villagers who have for a long time been suffering due to scarcity of water, which

forces women to travel long distances to get the precious liquid.

"We are struggling to get water, this is a very great challenge to us, we are

forced to wake up early in the morning to search for water in rocks, there are two hamlets that were connected to water in 1990 but the supply isn't re-

liable as they are also not getting water," she said.

Joseph Nchimika, the project manager said the family decided to give back to the community so as to honor their late father, a businessman named Jawad Aziz due to his spirit of supporting people in Morogoro.

The beneficiary hamlets include Isanga, Uponera, Kisiwani, Itandala, and Usalala in the Uponera village.

He said the project will fetch water from a district council source located 4km to supply it to the villagers through a special tank which will be constructed at Isanga hamlet in the village.

He said the project will commence soon after having reached a consensus with villagers on how to implement it.

"There is a saying that charity begins at home meaning that you should take care of your family and others before helping those who are living far away. This reflects Rubab, who has decided to share her pension to enable villagers in Uponera to get enough clean and safe water," he noted.

Festo Mnosi, an engineer with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Ulanga District, commended Rubab for the support saying that the pro-

ject will also help minimize water shortage to 25,619 residents in the wards of Nawenge, Mawasiliano, Vigoi, and Mahenge town.

"These wards access water services from RUWASA whose capacity of producing water per day estimated, 1,953,750 litres, so we commend this project which is going to support the government's efforts to address water challenges in the area, we will set a budget in 2023 for providing the remaining areas with reliable water services," he said.

Ramadhan Ngalupia, Uponera chairman meanwhile urged residents of the area to participate fully from canal construction to the final stage so as to enable the project to be completed on time.

"We should all effectively use this golden chance because hundred percent of residents do not access water and the population density is increasing daily due to mining activities taking place here in the district. We will supervise to ensure that the project is protected once completed," he said.

Rubab said, this is a continuation project to support her people as in 2021, she supplied water service worth 10m/- to Kisiwani suburb whose population reaches 1,295.

# Reunion Island plans to go green

By Special Correspondent

FRANCE'S overseas territory Reunion Island is aiming to produce all of its energy through renewables by the end of 2028. While activists agree on the target, they disagree on the method.

At first glance, Reunion Island seems like a paradise – with palm trees, lush green landscapes and a fresh sea breeze. But the French overseas territory in the Indian Ocean is less idyllic than it seems. Almost two-thirds of its electricity are produced through fossil energy sources.

The local government now aims to switch to 100% renewable energy production by the end of 2028 – some media had falsely reported a target date of 2023. Mainland France, meanwhile, is aiming for a renewable share of 32% by 2030.

But not everybody agrees with Reunion's method of achieving that goal.

The island's electricity currently stems mostly from French utility EDF's heavy oil factory in the city of Le Port in the northwest of the island, and from two power plants, owned by Albioma, running on coal roughly six months of the year.

EDF's factory is to function with colza and soja oil in the future, Albioma's plants exclusively with biomass.

The 'perfect cycle' One of the latter, called Bois-Rouge, is located about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) east of the capital Saint-Denis in the north of the island. Adjacent to it is a sugar cane factory, run by international group Tereos and also named Bois-Rouge.

On a recent Friday morning, the sugar cane factory's director, Vianney Tailamee, was leading a group of visitors across the site as rumbling trucks were discharging huge loads of sugar cane.

Albioma's Nelly Noel Nelly Noel is Albioma head of environmental matters and industrial risks

"Our production is already sustainable and functions as a perfect cycle," he said to the group that included Nelly Noel, Albioma head of environmental matters and industrial risks.

"This is where we press out the sugar cane's juice," he explained, pointing to a huge network of machines behind him.

"Residues such as sand and soil are scattered on adjacent farmers' fields. The molasses, the sugar sirup, is fed to animals or go to the

nearby distillery, which produces bioethanol or alcohol with it. And the bagasse, the crushed canes, go to Albioma's factory," he said while Noel nodded in agreement.

"In return, we get our electricity from the grid, in which Albioma feeds its produced energy," he added.

Most of the biomass will be imported

"That electricity will soon be produced to 100% with biomass and not just 40%," Noel explained to DW a bit later while guiding the team across the company's Bois-Rouge site. Each of Albioma's two factories on the island has a total capacity of roughly 110 megawatts.

Biomass is considered climate-neutral as it absorbs the same amount of CO2 during its growth that it emits while being burnt.

Next to Noel, construction works were ongoing for two huge hemispheric reservoirs, where wood pellets that'll replace the coal will be stored. The company is investing about €200 million (\$226 million) per site.

"We will import most of the wood pellets from the north of the US, later on potentially from Mozambique and South Africa," she explained.

800,000 tons will be imported, up to 100,000 tons sourced locally.

Acuo Energy's Xavier Ducret Acuo Energy's Xavier Ducret says Reunion Island will need to rely on combined uses of soil as land is a scarce resource

Environmentalists plead for energetic independence

But that's exactly what displeases activists like Jean-Claude Futhazar, secretary general at local environmental association Srepen.

"We should source all of our biomass locally; importing it only causes additional CO2 pollution. And we will be energetically dependent on other countries," he told DW.

"Plus, buying all the wood pellets on Reunion Island would create local jobs," he opined.

Reunion Island's government is indeed aiming to become energetically independent but only by the end of 2030. That's too late, says Futhazar.

The trained engineer thinks the government plans are also falling short in other areas such as transport.

"Almost all of our transport is based on fossil fuels and the number of inhabitants and cars keeps increasing," he explained.

Reunion Island currently has



The Les Cedres project on Reunion Island combines PV panels with organic farming

no functioning train line, public buses are little used.

Futhazar thinks the government should build an island-wide rail network to bring down exhaust pollution, but he knows that could take decades.

Could electric cars be the solution?

"That's why we should bank on electric cars and set up a well-functioning network of charging stations," Futhazar, himself owner of an electric car, said. So far though, the government does not have plans to massively boost the island's charging station network. It says electricity is still too expensive to make these cars worthwhile.

Futhazar's electric car is just one part of his sustainable lifestyle. Everything in his house, built 200 meters up in the mountains a few years back, is geared up for it.

He produces his electricity through photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof. Huge doors create ventilation and supersede air conditioning all of which lowers his energy consumption – from 9,000 kWh in his old house at the coast beforehand to now 3,200 kWh per year. Futhazar now even sells some electricity back to the grid.

Huge turtles in an enclosure A dozen are eating Jean-Claude Futhazar's leftover food

Solar energy is part of the plan His garden yields most of the fruits and vegetables he eats. A dozen huge turtles in an enclosure eat his leftover food.

"I wanted to construct a sustainable house – after all, we have to leave the Earth behind to our chil-

dren in an acceptable state," said Futhazar.

He thinks the government should incite more people to go down the same route, at least when it comes to the electricity production.

"At least 60% of the houses on Reunion are isolated houses. If all of them were equipped with PV panels, that could cover half of our island's electricity needs," he stated.

The government has indeed included solar energy in its transition plan, but in the form of large projects.

Paris-based Akuo Energy is already contributing to the solar plan. The energy producer has completed 11 photovoltaic projects on the island with a total capacity of 34 MW, at least another 30 MW are in the pipeline.

One of those already built is the 9-MW project Les Cedres in the south of the island.

"Our park combines PV panels with organic farming. Plus, a battery system stores the electricity during the day to feed it into the grid in the evening at peak times," Akuo Energy's general director for the Indian Ocean, Xavier Ducret, told DW while walking along the lines of solar panels on a recent Thursday morning.

A team of farmers was busy attending the site's various types of fruits and vegetables growing beneath the panels.

"I think we'll need to rely on such combined uses of soil – our island doesn't have much space, as huge stretches are UNESCO World Heritage sites and under protection and farming also needs space," Ducret said.

# China helps bolster global food security

By Zhao Yimeng

CHINA'S accumulated experience in reducing food loss and waste is being shared with the world and can help developing countries improve their ability to reduce food loss and ensure food security, experts and officials said.

About 14 percent of the world's food is lost during the processes from production to retail, and reducing that loss by 1 percentage point would be equal to a 28 million metric ton increase in grain output, which could feed 70 million people for a year, according to the State of Food and Agriculture 2019 report released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

According to the FAO, over 155 million people experienced acute food insecurity in 2020, the highest number in the past five years, because of conflict, extreme weather events and economic shocks related to COVID-19.

Wu Laping, a professor at China Agricultural University's College of Economics and Management, said food loss and waste is largely affected by economic development, with developing countries losing food mainly before it is retailed and developed countries after retail.

For instance, food loss and waste mostly occurs in harvesting and storage in Africa and South Asia. Up to 30 percent of food loss was found during farmers' storage in some areas in Africa, and 21 percent of food in the United States was wasted during daily consumption, Wu told Economic Daily.

Compared with the world average, the food loss and waste situation in China is comparatively better. China loses 35 million tons of grain before retail each year, an amount roughly equal to the overall grain output of Sichuan province last year 35.8 million tons.

China's experience shows that increasing grain output while reducing food loss and waste is a significant way to ensure national food security. In November, the country issued an action plan on saving food in multiple procedures to add "invisible" high-quality farmland.

Meanwhile, the reduction in loss and waste saves land, water, fertilizer and pesticides, and thus protects the environment and reduces carbon dioxide emissions, helping sustainable development.

"Because different countries face food loss and waste in different procedures, each country should find measures based on its situation," Wu said.

Lesser developed economies should focus on saving food during harvest and storage, which can be achieved by promoting varieties that can resist unfavorable conditions, such as weather and pests, and by improving modern agricultural machinery, high-quality storage and transportation equipment, he added.

China has made progress in saving food by promoting laws against food waste and action plans on saving food and reducing

loss in the whole process from harvest to retail, Zhou Guanhua, of the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, said last month.

"We have built 5,400 postproduction service centers, covering 1,000 major grain-producing counties in the country, to provide services including cleaning, drying, storing, processing and retailing," Zhou said, adding that the daily drying capacity can reach 1.1 million tons.

The centers can greatly reduce food loss that occurs through poor storage facilities and limited drying ability after harvest, as some farmers in Northeast China still dry grain on the ground or pile it in their yards.

Innovation, technologies and infrastructure are critical to increasing the efficiency of food systems and to reducing food loss and waste.

Zhou said new technologies to better store grain have been applied in warehouses. "Large grain depots in the country can reduce the rate of grain loss during storage to less than 1 percent."

The special vehicles for bulk grain, devices for unloading grain trucks, and automatic scales have proved effective, he said.

## 'Healthy eating'

People's growing awareness of "healthy eating" instead of seeking out refined staple foods has gradually prompted processing companies to transition from over processing to moderate processing.

"China is developing key technologies and equipment for moderate processing to help solve the problem of nutrition loss and impaired protein function due to over processing."

In September, China hosted the International Conference on Food Loss and Waste in Shandong province. The recent food action plan proposes to make the conference a regular event.

Ma Youxiang, vice-minister of agriculture and rural affairs, said China would take the conference as an opportunity to promote establishing an international cooperation mechanism for reducing food loss and working together to boost world food security.

As the largest developing country, China has actively participated in global food and agriculture management, launching cooperative procedures in saving food with other countries.

Under the projects of the FAO, the World Food Programme and other international organizations, China shared information, techniques and talent with other countries, especially developing ones, to improve their ability to reduce food loss, Ma said.

Sui Pengfei, director of the ministry's department of international cooperation, said the country will strengthen its collaborative research and development of techniques and equipment applied to key procedures for saving food.



## BUSINESS



Bolt CEO, Markus Villig.

## EXPANSION

## Bolt raises \$711 million in fresh funding round at \$8.4 billion valuation

TALLINN

Uber's fierce rival Bolt has raised 628 million euros (\$711.40 million) in funding led by Sequoia Capital and Fidelity Management and Research Co, taking its valuation to 7.4 billion euros (\$8.38 billion).

Founded in 2013, Bolt is an Estonian mobility company that offers vehicle for hire, micromobility, car-sharing, and food delivery services headquartered in Tallinn and operating in over 300 cities in 45 countries in Europe, Africa, Western Asia, and Latin America. Bolt last secured funding in August 2021 at a valuation of over 4 billion euros.

The company has said it will deploy the funding into expanding its transportation and food delivery super app which has more than 100 million users in Europe and Africa. It will also consider venturing into new businesses expanding its range of services.

Speaking on the funding, Chief Executive Markus Villig said, "We are expanding all the five product lines extremely quickly, developing product R&D and rolling out in new cities. Over the past eight years, we have developed products that offer better and more affordable alternatives for almost

every purpose a private car serves.

"We're partnering with cities to help people make the switch towards light vehicles such as scooters and e-bikes and shared mobility options like ride-hailing and car-sharing to transform urban areas back into sustainable, people-friendly spaces.

"That's why we're pleased to announce this new round of funding - the biggest in our history - which will help us build a future in which cities have less congestion, less pollution, and more green spaces where people can easily move around in a safe and sustainable way."

In a statement provided to Techcrunch, Andrew Reed, a partner at Sequoia, said, "We're excited to deepen our partnership with Markus and Bolt to further their mission to make urban travel affordable, sustainable, and safe.

"At Sequoia, we believe in the global potential for technology and entrepreneurship and have been inspired by Bolt's growth from Tallinn, Estonia to over 400 cities and 100 million customers across Europe and Africa. We're eager to help them expand their footprint, increase their product offering and improve the quality of life in cities for the long term."

## DIVESTITURE

## Australian investor seeking to detach from Tancoal Ltd



Intra Energy Corporation's non-executive chairman, Graeme Robertson.

By Guardian Reporter

AUSTRALIA'S Intra Energy Corporation Limited which jointly owns Tancoal Limited, with National Development Corporation, is seeking to sell its 70 percent stake in the company.

The company said in its prospectus submitted to Australian Stock Exchange in December 2021 that it has already entered into agreement with Mirambo Mining Limited which will acquire the stake at an undisclosed amount of money.

"As announced by the company on 25 November 2021, the company has entered into a binding

agreement with Mirambo Mining Limited for the sale of its 70 percent interest in Tancoal. As detailed in the announcement, the proposed disposal is subject to a number of conditions precedent including receiving approval from the Fair Competition Commission of Tanzania," the prospectus said.

Signed by its beard Chairman, Graeme Robertson, the IEC said it will also obtain necessary shareholder approvals prior to the disposal. "There is therefore a risk that some or all of these conditions precedent are not satisfied and completion under the agreement does not occur which may have a material impact on the val-

ue of the company's securities," the report stated.

IEC further noted that it sought confirmation from ASX as to whether it is required to seek shareholder approval under Listing Rules 11.1.2, 11.1.3 and / or 11.2 in order to complete the proposed disposal.

"Entities that are required to seek shareholder approval under Listing Rule 11.1.3 are required to complete a re-compliance prospectus and re-comply with Chapters 1 and 2 of the ASX Listing Rules as if the entity were applying to the ASX Official List for the first time (re-comply)," the IEC stated.

The company explained that while ASX has confirmed that Listing Rule 11.1.3 does not apply to the proposed disposal, ASX considers the proposed disposal to be a disposal of the company's main undertaking and will assess any future acquisitions for the purposes of Listing Rule 11.1.3.

Tancoal is currently facing a US\$10 million (over 22.9bn/-) bill being loyalty for coal transportation costs from its Ngaka Mine in Ruvuma to clients according to Minister for Minerals, Dr Dotto Biteko. The company which has disputed the payment, has also a tax backlog.

## DIPLOMACY

## Kenya awaits Kampala talks to settle milk trade standoff

NAIROBI

Kenya is awaiting confirmation from Kampala on when to visit Uganda for a verification mission on milk to resolve a two-year trade row on dairy imports between the two countries.

In a bilateral meeting held in Nairobi last December, Uganda and Kenya agreed on other trade issues except for milk. Kampala was to issue a date this month on the Kenya delegation's trade mission.

Kenya wants to visit Uganda to ascertain that all the milk that comes from there is produced by local farmers, following allegations that the commodity is imported from third-party countries as powder and reconstituted before it is exported to Kenya as fresh.

"We are ready to visit Uganda for this trade mission, we are just waiting for them to communicate on the date and share the itinerary of activities," said Livestock ministry PS Harry Kintai. He said once they authenticate that Uganda can produce surplus milk, which is supplied to Kenya, then the matter would be resolved once and for all.

The meeting by the Kenya delegation to Uganda has been postponed three times in the past year, delaying the resumption of normal trade on dairy products between the two countries. The bilateral talks in December discussed and resolved trade issues touching on poultry, eggs, sugar and fish.

The two countries also agreed to resolve the circumstances surrounding the interception of fish in transit from Kenya to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The two countries have had trade disputes running for years now af-



Kenya Livestock ministry PS Harry Kintai.

ter Kenya confiscated milk from Uganda and banned the imports of the commodity.

Kenya averted the ban on the export of its agricultural produce to Uganda after Nairobi agreed to lift the restrictions on imports of poultry products from the neighbouring country at the tail end of last year as Kampala planned to retaliate.

The Ugandan Cabinet had in mid-December

directed the Agriculture ministry to identify and list Kenyan products that would be banned by Kampala "in a short time," forcing Nairobi to move with speed in addressing the impasse to safeguard the Ugandan exports. Key agricultural exports to Uganda from Kenya include palm oil at Sh7.2 billion last year, sorghum (Sh1.4 billion), vegetables (Sh311 million) and legumes (Sh200 million).

## EXPECTATIONS

## Samsung's next Galaxy unpacked event will hold in February

SEOUL

As far as we can tell, Samsung says that its next Galaxy Unpacked event will be on Feb. 8. Expect Samsung to show off its Galaxy S22 line-up during the event, which was supposed to happen in Q1, 2022.

More and more information regarding the Samsung Galaxy S22 series smartphones has been leaked in

recent weeks, including what appears to be a significant number of their key hardware components, software features and aesthetic characteristics. Rumours say there will be at least three phones in the line-up: the Galaxy S22, the S22 Plus, and the S22 Ultra, as well as the Galaxy S22. An S Pen-equipped model to replace the Note line-up is said to be the last on

the list.

A South Korean publication says that the Smartphone manufacturer will hold its next Galaxy Unpacked event on Feb. 8. A Samsung official, who has not been named in the report, is cited as stating that the company is now discussing when to send out invitations for the event, which the outlet claims to have cited.

The story goes on to say that the devices will be available for pre-order on February 9 and that shipping will begin on February 9. Rumours and leaks about the upcoming Samsung Galaxy S22 have begun to surface.

There are no new details about the phones in this report. It doesn't even say that the Galaxy S22 lineup will be released on that day. Based on prior

years' experience with Galaxy Unpacked, the next-generation Samsung flagship will almost certainly make a formal appearance. Several rumours have revealed a lot about the future smartphones in recent weeks. They are said to come with high-end hardware and show off the best that Samsung has to offer.

Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Gen 1

SoC, which the company is reportedly making, is said to be in the Galaxy S22 line. These phones may come with Samsung's own Exynos 2200 chip, which will be a successor to the Exynos 2100. This chip will be made in-house by Samsung. AMD's RDNA 2 architecture is said to be the basis for the next Exynos chip's GPU, which is expected to offer ray tracing.

## PESSIMISM

# DSE starts new year bullish but brokers warn of future

By Correspondent Geoffrey Nangai

STOCK trading at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange started on a high note after end of year festive season with sales totalling 2.5bn/- during the first week of trading this year.

But analysts have painted a rosy picture for the stock market betting on the country's steady economic recovery. According to an outlook report by Zan Securities, the market remains bullish with forecast on domestic listed stocks index (TSI) to gain a few basis points during this period and thus reflecting a 'glass half full' outlook based on strong corporate sales and profit.

"The growth projection will result from acute economic growth, measured inflation and low interest rates which suggest a favourable backdrop for stocks, with the potential for more subdued gains when we enter the second quarter of 2022 as companies prepare to release their 2021 audited financials," the Zan Securities report said.

In a related development, Orbit Securities said the TSI closed at 3,611.32 points which was growth of 1.2 percent from the previous trading week while the market capitalization increased by 130.6bn/- "At the close of trading last Friday, the stock exchange market's valuation stood at 15.9trn/- from 15.8trn/- recorded in the previous," Orbit Securities said in the report.

Last week's top mover was TBL which accounted for 78.8 percent of the turnover which was largely contributed by its 2bn/- sales, followed by NMB with 284m/-, CRDB with 143m/-, TCCL had 69m/-, TPCC with 25.9m/- while others had 17.8m/-.

The all share index (DSEI) gained 15.68



Stock brokers at DSE trading floor recently.

points as KCB's share prices rose by 1.09 percent. The TSI gained 46.14 points as CRDB and NMB share prices rallied throughout the week with an increase of 9 and 5.36 percent respectively.

"Foreign Investors accounted for the

majority of transactions on both the buying and selling sides as they accounted for 80.4 percent of the buying and 78.9 percent of the selling activities," the report said.

Local investors on the other hand ac-

counted for 19.6 percent of the buying and 21.1 percent of the selling throughout the week. The domestic stock index (TSI) closed at 3,611.32 points, to reflect a growth of 1.29 percent.

## COMPETITION

## KFC takes aim at rivals with new branch amid potato import furore

NAIROBI

US-based fast-food chain Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has opened a new branch in Nairobi amid a potato importation controversy in Kenya.

The expansion is set to increase competition with rival brands Subway, Java and ArtCaffé. KFC, which operates locally through franchisee Kuku Foods East Africa, opened the new branch last week at TotalEnergies Clay City on Kasarani-Mwiki road in Nairobi.

The expansion comes at a time Kenya has seen increased interest from global fast-food outlets fuelled by growing demand. Increased activity in this market segment has also coincided with the rise in the construction of new malls, offering retailers a concentration of well-heeled shoppers.

The new outlet will raise KFC's national branch count to 26 and comes nine months after it opened its Mombasa one in March. The fast-food chain also plans to open a new branch at Maiyan Mall, whose anchor tenant is Nivas Supermarket.

The branch expansion is coming at a time KFC is has suffered a shortage of potatoes at its outlets in Kenya following delays in delivery from its overseas suppliers, forcing it to offer customers alternative food items in place of French fries.

Chief executive for East Africa Jacques Theunissen told the Business Daily last week that the shortage of chips, as they are commonly known, was due to a hitch in the global supply of potatoes. KFC had initially said it does not source potatoes locally on global quality standards. It did not also specify the global quality and safety standards a potential supplier in Kenya must meet to supply the firm with potatoes for chips.

## ASSURANCE

## Barrick Gold says Mali mines unaffected by ECOWAS sanctions

BAMAKO

Barrick Gold, which owns Mali's biggest gold mine complex Loulo-Gounkoto, said on Monday its mines in the country have "thus far not been affected" by sanctions imposed by the Economic Community of West African States.

The 15-state regional bloc imposed tough economic sanctions, and said it would also shut borders and sever diplomatic ties, in response to Mali's delay in holding elections following a 2020 military coup.

Barrick said its mines had sufficient stocks and stores to continue operating normally, adding however that the situation was "very fluid" and it was monitoring it closely. Mali is one of Africa's biggest gold producers, with mining contributing around 10% of its gross domestic product (GDP).

Companies like Barrick, B2Gold and Resolute Mining operate large mines in the country while many smaller companies are exploring for gold there. Hummingbird Resources, which owns the Yanfolila gold mine, said it was evaluating the risks to its supply chain from economic sanctions.

## IMPRESSIVE

# Mozambique's tax authority reaches 278 billion meticaais in tax revenue

MAPUTO

The Mozambican Tax Authority (AT) collected more than 278 billion meticaais (about 4.3 billion US dollars, at the current exchange rate), over 2021, which was considerably more than expected - it is 105 per cent of the target figure of 265 billion meticaais.

Addressing on Monday in Maputo the opening session of a meeting of the AT Board of Directors, the AT Chairperson, Amelia Muendane, said that domestic taxes had contributed 204 billion meticaais, amounting to 77 per cent of the total tax revenue, while taxes on foreign trade had raised 74 billion, or 23 per cent.

"We assess positively our performance in 2021, in spite of restrictions and constraints, especially if we take into account the capacity to collect taxes demonstrated by AT staff at several levels, which resulted in strengthening our capacity to fight smuggling, corruption and



AT Board of chairperson, Amelia Muendane.

other tax crimes," Muendane declared.

Muendane stated that taxes on incomes (both the profit tax and personal income tax) reached 104.74 per cent of the target, while Value Added Tax (VAT) collected was 101 per cent of the target. The tax on petroleum activities brought in 124.46 per cent of the target. This, Muendane said, was influenced by growing demand for energy, following the resumption of economic activity.

On the other hand, the strengthening of internal control systems and the fight against corruption led to disciplinary proceedings against 57 officials. 13 of these were sacked or expelled, 19 were demoted, 14 were fined, four were given public reprimands and seven were acquitted. As for this year, Muendane declared that the AT plans to reach the annual target of 293 billion meticaais in tax revenue, which would be a growth of about six per cent.

## GROWTH

# Prepaid card transaction value to exceed \$4.1tn globally by 2026

JOHANNESBURG

A new study from Juniper Research has found that the value of transactions made over prepaid cards will exceed \$4.1tn globally in 2026; up from \$2.3 tn in 2021 - a substantial growth of 75%.

By 2026, prepaid card transaction value will be just over 50% higher than that forecast for contactless payment transactions; illustrating the importance of this market. The growth in prepaid cards will be driven by the ongoing replacement of cash, as economies move increasingly towards digital payments.

The research identified prepaid cards as being critical to ensuring that the unbanked are included in the rush for digital payments. The research recommends that vendors focus on building robust distribution platforms that can cope with issuing cards at scale and at low cost, or they will lose out to better equipped vendors.

Driving significant fee revenue

The new research, Prepaid Cards: Trends, Vendor Strategies & Market Forecasts 2022-2026, found that the growth of the prepaid market will



NMB Bank Plc's prepaid cards.

present a significant revenue opportunity for prepaid card platforms, with fee revenue reaching over \$32 bn globally in 2026, from \$22 billion in 2021. The report recommends that focusing on critical capabilities, such as restricted authorisation, which enables issuers to specify where funds can be spent, will pay dividends in the longer term.

Research author, Nick Maynard explained: "Tools such as restricted authorisation and digital issuance will enable prepaid cards to benefit from the evolution of traditional gift cards into full-blown prepaid



Research author, Nick Maynard explained: "Tools such as restricted authorisation and digital issuance will enable prepaid cards to benefit from the evolution of traditional gift cards into full-blown prepaid cards, driving significant revenue."

paid cards, driving significant revenue."

US is largest prepaid market

The research found that while the US will account for over 43% of global transaction values in 2026, there are other significant opportunities emerging. China is seeing increasing prepaid use, and as international tourism recovers, prepaid cards for travel money can benefit. The report also highlighted emerging markets as a key area of interest and recommended that platforms form partnerships now in order to best exploit future opportunities.



## WORLD

## Afghan baby returned to family after airlift chaos

KABUL

A baby lost during the chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans at Kabul airport has been reunited with his relatives after five months, said his elated grandfather.

The boy's father handed then 2-month-old Sohail Ahmadi to a foreign soldier among jostling crowds desperate to flee after the Taliban seized the capital in mid-August.

The pair separated and what happened next is unclear, but taxi driver Hamid Safi said he found the baby crying and alone on the floor of the airport the same day.

"I took him to some women to breast-feed him, but they would not... I kept looking for his family," said Safi, who had gone to the airport to help his

brother with evacuation.

"I then called my wife and she said to bring the baby home."

The couple said they kept searching for the boy's parents but on failing to find them, gave him the name Mohammad Abed and began to care for him.

"If we had not found his family, we would have then protected and raised him as our own child," Safi, 29, told Agence France-Presse.

Sohail's father Mirza Ali Ahmadi searched for his missing son for three days at the airport, before finally choosing to board a flight to the United States with his wife and four other children.

Kabul evacuation

Kabul's only airport was trashed in August when tens of thousands of people scrambled to evacuate on any avail-



Hamid Safi, a taxi driver who found Sohail Ahmadi on the ground at Kabul airport and tracked down the family, kisses Sohail, who was separated from his parents at the airport in the chaos of the US evacuation of Afghanistan in August 2021, at Sohail's grandfather's house in Kabul on Sunday. AFP

able flight as the US wrapped up their withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war.

It was only days ago that Sohail's relatives were tracked down in Kabul with the help of social media and police, and the boy was handed to his grandfather in a heart-wrenching goodbye for the couple and their three daughters.

"I felt responsible for him like a mother," said Safi's wife Farimah.

On Sunday, Sohail's grandfather Mirza Mohammad Qasemi invited the Safi family to his home to spend time with the boy, who was showered with affection. "They looked after him for five months and were very attached to him," he said.

Qasemi, who said he too had been searching for his grandson, is excited that Sohail will now be able to join his parents in the US.

Agencies via Xinhua

## US grads sue Yale, Columbia, other schools over financial aid

NEW YORK

FIVE US college graduates have sued 16 major US universities including Yale, Columbia and the University of Chicago, accusing them of colluding to limit financial aid to undergraduate students in violation of antitrust laws.

The plaintiffs are seeking class-action status, saying the collusion has limited price competition and caused 170,000 financial aid recipients to be overcharged hundreds of millions of dollars over two decades.

The 16 schools are members of the 568 Presidents Group, a consortium of colleges that discuss common financial aid principles.

"Elite, private universities like defendants are gatekeepers to the American Dream," the plaintiffs wrote. "Defendants' misconduct is therefore

particularly egregious because it has narrowed a critical pathway to upward mobility."

Yale and Columbia did not respond to requests for comment on Monday. A University of Chicago spokesperson declined to comment. A message sent to a website for the 568 Presidents' Group was not immediately acknowledged.

Tuition increases at private US universities have outpaced inflation in recent decades, according to the College Board.

Undergraduate tuition at Yale and Columbia for the current academic year is \$59,950 and \$60,514, respectively, excluding room and board, according to the schools' websites. The lawsuit filed in Chicago federal court seeks unspecified triple damages for financial aid recipients who have attended the schools since 2003, as well as for their

parents. Many schools offer financial aid based on family income, known as need-based

aid. Universities in the 568 Presidents Group say they are

need-blind, meaning they do not consider financial aid in admissions decisions.



A woman walks by a Yale sign reflected in the rainwater in the street on the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut, Aug 22, 2021. AP

## Studies: Omicron has higher 'asymptomatic carriage'

MEXICO CITY / SANTIAGO / HAVANA / JOHANNESBURG

PRELIMINARY findings from two South African clinical trials suggest the Omicron coronavirus variant has a much higher rate of "asymptomatic carriage" than earlier variants, which could explain why it has spread so rapidly across the globe.

The studies - one of which was carried out when Omicron infections were surging in South Africa last month and another which resampled participants around the same time - found a far greater number of people tested positive for the coronavirus but were not showing symptoms compared to previous trials.

In the Ubuntu study evaluating the efficacy of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine in people living with HIV, 31 percent of 230 participants undergoing screening tested positive, with all 56 samples available for sequencing

analysis verified to be Omicron.

"This is in stark contrast to the positivity rate pre-Omicron, which ranged from less than 1 percent to 2.4 percent," the researchers said in a statement.

In a subgroup of the Sisonke trial evaluating the efficacy of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, the mean asymptomatic carriage rate rose to 16 percent during the Omicron period from 2.6 percent during the Beta and Delta outbreaks.

"The Sisonke study included 577 subjects previously vaccinated, ... with results suggesting a high carriage rate even in those known to be vaccinated," the researchers said.

They added that the "higher asymptomatic carriage rate is likely a major factor in the rapid and widespread dissemination of the variant, even among populations with high prior rates of coronavirus infection".

South Africa experienced a surge in COVID-19 infections from late November, around the time its scientists alerted the world to Omicron. But new cases have since fallen back and early indications are that the wave has been marked by less serious disease than earlier ones.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria's prime minister, president and several senior ministers have gone into precautionary self-isolation after a participant at a security meeting they attended tested positive for the coronavirus, a health official said on Tuesday.

Chief health inspector Angel Kunchev said all of the participants of the consultative National Security Council on Monday were in good health but they would stay in self-isolation after Parliament Speaker Nikola Minchev tested positive for the virus.

Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Monday the government has secured enough COVID-19 vaccine doses for all eligible Canadians to receive a booster as well as a fourth dose, according to a statement from Trudeau's office.

Trudeau made the comments in a call with Canada's provincial and territorial premiers, as the country grapples with rising infection and hospitalization rates due to the highly infectious Omicron variant.

Trudeau said the government also plans to deliver 140 million rapid COVID tests to

provinces and territories in January, according to the statement.

Chile

Chile on Monday said it had detected over 1,000 cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, reporting a total of 1,046 cases, including cases of community transmission. At a press conference, Undersecretary of Public Health Maria Teresa Valenzuela said the recent rise in the number of infections could be traced to the Omicron variant.

Of the 1,046 infections registered, 944 appeared to have caught the variant while traveling, 18 from close contacts, and 84 through community transmission, said Valenzuela.

Cuba

Cuba on Monday registered 2,519 new daily cases of COVID-19 and one related death in 24 hours, pushing the national tally to 979,929 cases and 8,329 deaths, the Public Health Ministry said.

It was the third day in a row that new daily cases topped 2,000, the ministry said, adding there were 9,993 active COVID-19 cases in Cuba, including 35 patients in intensive care units.

Agencies

## Aung San Suu Kyi sentenced to four more years in prison

YANGON

AUNG San Suu Kyi was sentenced to four more years in prison on Monday, the Information Team of Myanmar's State Administration Council confirmed to the media.

The information team said Aung San Suu Kyi will concurrently serve for two years under the Export and Import Law and the Communications Law.

Aung San Suu Kyi was also convicted of a two-year charge for breaching the Natural Disaster Management Law, it said.

U Win Myint and Aung San Suu Kyi were sentenced to four years in prison under Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code and with breaching the Natural Disaster Management Law in December 2021, which were later remitted to two years under Section 401 (I) of The Code of Criminal Procedure.

After they were detained on Feb 1, 2021 along with other officials from the National League for Democracy, the state power of Myanmar was transferred to Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Sen-Gen Min Aung Hlaing after the declaration of a state of emergency.

Since her detainment, Aung San Suu Kyi had been accused of 11 offenses, such as violating the Official Secrets Act, among others, while U Win Myint was charged with incitement and breaching the Natural Disaster Management Law.

Trials over more charges against Aung San Suu Kyi were to follow.

The military has alleged massive voting fraud in the country's November 2020 general elections, which saw the NLD win a majority of seats in both houses of parliament.

The NLD party won an absolute majority of parliamentary seats in the general elections on Nov 8, 2015 and had been running the government since 2016. The five-year term of the NLD government was expected to end in March 2021.

## Next round of Russia-US talks to be on the table after Vienna, Brussels - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE question regarding an agreement for the next round of negotiations with the US on security guarantees will be relevant after the meetings in Vienna and Brussels, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists yesterday.

The spokesman pointed to the yesterday's round of Russia-US consultations in Geneva, saying that it "has provided the main cross-section of the picture, but it is not full yet."

"It will be complemented just in a few days, and, after that, it would be possible to somehow understand, in which way to go and whether there would be any sense [in doing that]," Peskov said.

When asked about the perspectives of the next round of Russia-US talks, he underscored that "everything will become clear once the next two rounds [in Vienna and Brussels] are over."

According to the spokesman, there are no "specific deadlines" in the dialogue with Washington.

"There is only the Russia's position that an endless delaying of this process will be completely unacceptable for us," he concluded.

On January 10, Russia and the US held talks on security guarantees in Geneva. On January 12, Russia will discuss its security concerns and projects on security guarantees at the Russia-NATO Council in Brussels. On January 13, a similar meeting will take place at the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna.

## Zimbabwe's chief justice urges adequate funding for judiciary

HARARE

CHIEF Justice of Zimbabwe Luke Malaba on Monday urged the government to adequately fund the judiciary and offer attractive conditions to stem high staff turnover.

Officially opening the 2022 legal year, Malaba commended judicial officers for their performance in 2021 under difficult conditions.

Malaba said it is incumbent on the government to ensure that the wheels of justice keep turning. "In view of the economic environment that is prevailing in the country at the moment, workers in the public sector including workers in the judicial service continue to experience financial hardships due to low remuneration levels," he said.

The Judicial Service Commission witnessed a high staff turnover in 2021 due to low salaries, with 88 staff members resigning, of whom 18 were magistrates, he said. Due to inadequate funding, the commission had to cut down on its operations or rely on support from development partners, which compromised its independence, Malaba said.

FOR a long time, export controls, as an important practice for maintaining international security and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, have played a crucial role in safeguarding world peace, stability and development.

In recent years, however, certain Western countries have misused export controls as a political tool for their own ends, and even engaged in unilateral export controls under the guise of multilateralism, seriously infringing on the rights of other countries to the peaceful use of controlled items, and to the participation in normal international science and technology exchanges and cooperation.

A recently-released white paper titled "China's Export Controls" ex-

## International governance of export controls should return to true multilateralism

pounded on the country's position on export controls as well as its system and practice in improving export control governance, calling on countries to actively promote the implementation of fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory international export controls and make international co-ordination on export controls better reflect the wishes and interests of the majority of countries in the world in a more balanced manner.

It is of great significance for enhancing the role of international export controls as an international tool serving world peace and development and benefiting all mankind.

As the COVID-19 epidemic runs riot

across the globe, profound changes unseen in a century quicken their pace, and the world has entered a period of turbulence and transformation. At the same time, international export controls have run into severe challenges.

The unilateral export control measures adopted by a handful of countries are gradually eroding the current international order based on the international law and increasingly deviating from the original intention of international export controls to serve common security and development.

For certain countries represented by the U.S., abusing export control measures has become their tool for

achieving political goals in recent years.

The U.S. has generalized the concept of national security, and employed its military strength, financial hegemony and advantages in high technology to exert extreme pressure on its so-called "enemies" and "adversaries", and even impose long-arm jurisdiction on third parties, seriously blocking the sustainable development of other countries.

By creating a wide variety of export control blacklists, the U.S. has arbitrarily suppressed high-tech companies in other countries, undermining the security and stability of global industrial chain, supply chain, and value

chain.

It has tried to propagate unilateralism in the name of multilateralism by seeking allies to form cliques and alliances, obstructing normal international scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation.

The country has even imposed unilateral controls and sanctions on other countries and blatantly interfered in the internal affairs of others on the pretexts of "human rights" and "democracy".

International governance of export controls has always been oriented toward promoting common security and development in the world, and preventing the proliferation of weap-

ons of mass destruction and their means of delivery remains a major issue concerning mankind's survival.

Fulfilling international nonproliferation obligations is the bottom line of the international governance of export controls. Countries should continuously assume their international responsibilities strictly and stay true to their relevant commitments in sensitive areas such as nuclear, biological, chemical weapons, and missiles, and jointly crack down on illegal activities.

International governance of export controls also needs to keep a balance between global security and development. It should be noted that development is the right of all countries in the world, not a privilege of certain countries and cliques. *People's Daily*



## Precise CSTO actions in Kazakhstan cause understandable irritation in the West – diplomat

MOSCOW

THE legitimate and professional actions of the CSTO forces in Kazakhstan cause an understandable irritation in the West, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in an interview yesterday.

"Of course, [CSTO actions in Kazakhstan] are causing annoyance [in the West]. I can very much understand that, because all Western operations have led to the opposite, to failure.

I can very much understand the anger and the hatred of the people in the West currently criticizing of expressing their bewilderment regarding the CSTO actions and the Kazakhstan's request, considering what they've done with Afghanistan," the diplomat said, commenting on the criticism of the CSTO peacekeeping operation in Kazakhstan.

According to Zakharova (pictured), the West keeps calling Russia and "aggressor state," despite the fact that the joint CSTO efforts made it possible to "stop the bloodshed" in



Kazakhstan.

"Do you want [the West] to be happy about how well-coordinated, precise and legitimate were the actions of the states that are not part of their blocs?"

Of course they won't do that, they will go out of their way to pretend that this whole story is illegitimate, illegal, that Russia was an aggressor once more," Zakharova said.

"[It was] an operation that led to stabilization of the situation [in Kazakhstan], in particular - made it possible to stop the bloodshed, which, regrettably, led to a huge number of casualties".

Agencies

## Lured by high returns, global investors snap up Chinese bonds

BEIJING

OVERSEAS holdings of bonds traded in China's interbank market reached a new high at the end of December, as global investors were lured by relatively high yields and stability, certainty and growth of the world's second-largest economy in the pandemic era.

Outstanding overseas institutional holdings of interbank bonds rose to a total of 4 trillion yuan (about 628.1 billion U.S. dollars) at the end of last year, according to data from the People's Bank of China.

"China is leading the world in the fight against COVID-19, and its early recovery has brought stronger fundamental resilience," said Gao Ting, head of research and chief strategist at Nomura Orient International Securities.

The solid performance of the Chinese economy and the smooth progress of production activities have reinforced the certainty of Chinese enterprises' business prospects, Gao said.

China's economy showed strong resilience and strength despite the COVID-19 pandemic, emerging as the only major economy to report growth in 2020 and expanding 9.8 percent in the first three quarters of last year.

"Buying Chinese assets is like buying growth," said Zhou Hao, a senior economist at Commerzbank Asia. "China's economy has long been an important growth engine for the world.

Buying Chinese assets reflects foreign investors' pursuit of returns and growth." The confidence of foreign investors has been given a further boost by the government's economic policies and reform measures.

A series of cross-cycle adjustments introduced in 2021 were conducive to improving the stability of economic growth, and new measures in science and technology could raise total factor productivity, said Zhu Chaoping, a

global market strategist with J.P. Morgan Asset Management, adding that China is expected to maintain a higher long-term potential growth rate than other economies.

Foreign investment has also been fueled by China's continued opening-up of the financial market. The three major global index providers - Bloomberg, JPMorgan and FTSE Russell - have added Chinese government bonds to their flagship indexes, which helped drive a significant influx of capital to the country's bond market.

China is currently the world's second-largest bond market, with a market size of above 120 trillion yuan, data showed. Analysts at some international financial institutions forecast overseas demand for Chinese bonds will remain strong in 2022.

At the tone-setting Central Economic Work Conference held last month, Chinese leaders stressed "stability" as the top priority for the nation's economic policies, which boosted foreign investors' confidence in investing in the Chinese market.

The conference helped investors see the stability and predictability of Chinese economic policies and to a large extent soothed their concerns, said Song Yu, chief China economist of BlackRock. "Treasury bonds will continue to be the most mainstream option for foreign investors, who will also favor industries with high growth and those conforming to green development," said Zhou Hao.

China's economy is expected to maintain steady growth due to sound epidemic prevention and control measures, a large domestic market and precise and timely cross-cycle adjustment policies, said Jiang Xianwei, an analyst at the China International Fund Management Co.

"The country will remain an indispensable investment destination for foreign institutions," he noted. *Xinhua*

## UN urges Somali parties to ease tension in central town

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations humanitarian agency Monday called on Somali parties to the conflict to de-escalate tension after armed clashes broke out in the central town of Guriel on Sunday.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) urged the parties to ensure that civilians are protected following fighting between government forces - the police and the special elite, Gorgor - that resulted in civilian casualties. "Parties must urgently de-escalate

the tension and ensure civilians are protected," the UNOCHA said in a Twitter post. Local reports say the armed clashes erupted due to misunderstanding between government forces that saw some of the Gorgor officers arrested by the police in Guriel town on suspension of insecurity.

At least 70 people were killed and more than 250 others wounded on October 23, 2021, in Guriel town after fierce clashes broke out between Galmudug forces backed by Somali National Army (SNA) and a paramilitary group. The

## Sanctions put Middle East women in greater harm

Hong Kong

UNILATERAL sanctions imposed on some countries in the Middle East have inadvertently placed women in greater harm, ultimately derailing the region's progress in upholding women's rights and welfare, experts say.

"We need to take into account that women become very vulnerable when we speak about everything, which (includes) family planning, delivery of babies, and the raising of babies," said Alena Douhan, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights.

These entail situations "when social planning programs like the provision of contraceptives, the availability of tests and medical assistance disappear in the country", Douhan said.

She added that the impact of unilateral sanctions prevents governments from guaranteeing the basic needs of their populations and "make the people dependent on national or foreign humanitarian aid", as well as force states to beg for such aid "all the time".

Sanctions often include fuel embargoes, which affect crucial trade and in turn deprive targeted countries from maintaining basic necessities including food, water, medicine, medical care and electricity supply.

On Dec 7, the United States Department of the Treasury updated its sanctions list on Syria, Iran and Uganda, designating 15 actors across three countries in connection with serious human rights abuse and repressive acts". Iran, for instance, has billions of assets frozen in other countries like Japan.

On Dec 8, the UN appealed anew to gov-



A sign of wearing a mask is set up during the New Year celebrations at Times Square in New York, the United States, Dec. 31, 2021. File photo

ernments and countries that are imposing sanctions to reconsider their stand, saying it is "harming women, children and the vulnerable groups" despite existing exemptions.

Dina Yulianti Sulaeman, director of the Indonesia Center for Middle East Studies, said women in the Middle East have the same rights and capacities for advancement in education and careers "as any woman in the world".

### At disadvantage

Abdulghani Al-Iryani, senior researcher at the Sanaa Center for Strategic Studies in Yemen, said women in the country are at a disadvantage when getting their share of humanitarian assistance as they are considered "less influential" than men.

"The end result of sanctions is that it weakens the negotiating position of

women vis-a-vis people who control humanitarian assistance who happen to be men. Therefore, it makes them more vulnerable to various types of abuses," Al-Iryani said.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, there have been more than 20,000 civilian deaths and injuries while more than 4 million people have been forced to flee since civil war in Yemen broke out in 2015. Three-quarters of internally displaced Yemenis are women and children, while 1 in 4 displaced families are headed by women.

When asked whether sanctions could be considered a form of gender-based violence for inflicting economic suffering on women, Douhan said the sanctions should not be interpreted as something

that is exclusively gender-based or gender focused.

But Sulaeman said women and children are always "the most prominent victims" in such situations and that they have suffered greatly from these sanctions.

Amina Khan, director of the Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad in Pakistan, said that wherever there is conflict, humanitarian crisis follows automatically. The first victims of conflict or sanctions are "always the women of the house", the children and the elderly. *Agencies*

## China to make progress along general trend of times

THE long river of time is always flowing tirelessly, and the wheel of history keeps rolling forward no matter what happens.

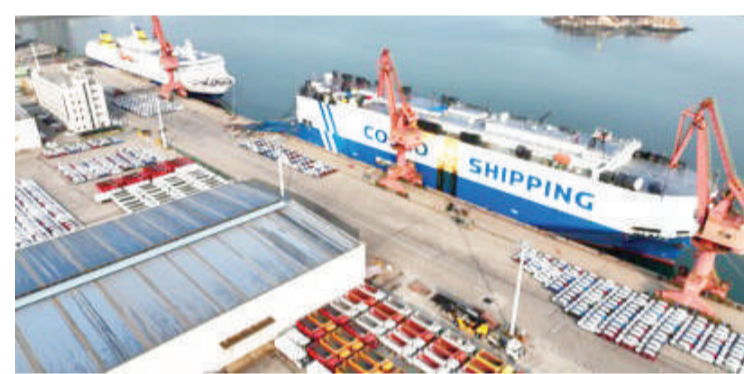
The year 2021 is of milestone and historic significance for China. It witnessed the holding of the grand gathering celebrating the centenary of the Communist Party of China (CPC), where CPC general secretary Xi Jinping solemnly announced the completion of the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

His firm statement, summarizing past experience and aiming to make new progress, demonstrated the responsibility of the CPC to seek happiness for the people, rejuvenation for the nation, progress for humanity, and harmony for the world.

In the past year, the world experienced a persistent and unchecked pandemic and accelerating changes unseen in a century. These have once again put the world in another crossroads of history.

Whether should we act out of the common good of humanity to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, advocate openness and win-win results, and promote equality and respect, or revert to a Cold War mentality, provoke division and antagonism, and stoke confrontation between blocs? The trial of strength between these two trends has a profound impact on the future of mankind.

One's competence is shown in trials and tribulations. Over the past year, under the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping at its core, major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, focusing on the main tasks of serving national rejuvenation and promoting human progress, has drawn wisdom from the hundred-year history of the CPC, and proceeded from an insight-



China-made vehicles are being loaded onto an oceangoing roll-on-roll-off ship for exportation, Jan. 3, 2022. File photo

ful grasp of the general trend of human development, the grand scheme of things amid global changes, and the entire course of Chinese history.

Upholding the banner of building a community with a shared future for mankind, China has broken new ground in its diplomatic endeavors amid profound global changes and turned crises into opportunities amid complex situations on the international stage. The country has steadfastly forged ahead through struggle as well as cooperation.

"China has embarked on a new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country. As China enters a new development stage, we will follow a new development philosophy and foster a new development paradigm. We will build a new system of open economy of higher standards, create a more attractive business environment, and advance high-quality Belt and Road cooperation. We hope to work with countries in the Asia-Pacific and beyond to achieve higher-standard mutual benefit and win-win cooperation."

"The CPC has a grand and simple goal, which is essentially about delivering a better life to all Chinese people."

"The Chinese people's aspiration for a better life is the biggest internal driver for China's

development and an inevitable trend of history, and any attempt to stop this trend will be rejected by the Chinese people and will by no means succeed."

These stories and philosophy of the CPC and China told by Xi, also the President of China, demonstrated to the world that no matter what changes are taking place on the international stage, China will continue to place its own development in the coordinate system of human development, seeing that the interests of the Chinese people are integrated with the common interests of the peoples of other countries, and the Chinese dream connected with the dreams of the people in the rest of the world, so as to bring new hopes and opportunities to the world and make newer and greater contributions to building a community with a shared future for mankind. At the same time, China will also make unswerving efforts to safeguard its national sovereignty, security and development interests.

On the new journey, China will follow a path of peaceful development. For any country or nation to achieve rejuvenation, it must follow the logic of history and the trend of the times in their pursuit of progress and development. China will stay committed to peace, development, cooperation and mutual ben-

efit and follow an independent foreign policy of peace, so as to achieve development by upholding world peace and promote world peace through its own development.

China's commitment to peace doesn't mean that China is a weak country subject to the bullying by others. The Chinese are a people who uphold justice and are not intimidated by threats of force. As a nation, they have a strong sense of pride and confidence. They have never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated the people of any other country, and they never will. By the same token, they will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress, or subjugate them.

On the new journey, China will follow a path of reform and opening up. Just as President Xi promised at the fourth China International Import Expo, China will not change its resolve to open wider at a high standard; it will not change its determination to share development opportunities with the rest of the world; and it will not change its commitment to an economic globalization that is more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all.

To expand opening up doesn't necessarily mean that China will lose itself. Throughout human history, no nation or country has ever become strong and prosperous by relying on external forces, indiscriminately copying the models of other countries, or blindly following in others' footsteps. China learns whatever lessons it can learn from the achievements of other cultures, and adheres to independent development, stressing reliance on its own efforts to drive the nation's development, and maintaining that China's affairs must be decided and run by the Chinese people themselves.

*People's Daily*

WASHINGTON

## Omicron surge drives health staff shortages across US

THE latest COVID-19 surge in the United States driven by the highly infectious Omicron variant is leading to critical staffing shortages across the nation.

About 24 percent of the 5,000 U.S. hospitals reporting their staff status to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have a "critical staffing shortage," according to data of the HHS.

More than 100 other hospitals said they are anticipating shortages within the next week.

This is the largest share of hospital shortages since the HHS began releasing the data in November 2020.

These staff shortages keep growing as frontline health care workers are either infected or forced to quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19. At least ten U.S. states deployed National Guard to help overwhelmed hospitals, according to CNN reports. Virginia governor issued state of emergency on Monday

for hospitals. The 30-day state of emergency aims to allow hospitals to increase staffing and bed capacity as hospitalizations hit record levels due to the surge in coronavirus cases and the rise in flu cases.

Child hospitalizations also soared to the highest level of the pandemic.

At Los Angeles Children's Hospital, the positivity rate of children tested for COVID-19 increased from 17.5 percent in

December to the current 45 percent in January, according to the hospital's medical director Michael Smit.

Los Angeles Unified School District, the second-largest school district in the country, is requiring all students and employees to test negative before returning to the classroom.

The recent record-high new COVID-19 infections in the United States have put addi-

tional pressure on the overwhelmed health care system.

"While early data suggest Omicron infections might be less severe than those of other variants, the increases in cases and hospitalizations are expected to stress the healthcare system in the coming weeks," according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nearly 5 million new COVID-19 cases were reported

across the country last week from Jan. 2 to 8, a record high weekly increase since the onset of the pandemic in the country, according to data of Johns Hopkins University.

Up to 11,000 new deaths were reported this past week. The country set a new daily COVID-19 cases record again last Monday as over 1.17 million daily COVID-19 cases were recorded nationwide.

Currently the country is averaging nearly 700,000 cases each day, the most significant COVID-19 infection surge to date, CDC data showed.

The CDC projected that the Omicron variant may account for approximately 95 percent of new COVID-19 cases in the country.

Health experts have been urging the unvaccinated and those eligible for boost shots to get vaccination as soon as possible. At least 65.5 million eligible Americans remain unvaccinated.

*Xinhua*

The  
**Guardian**

# SPORT



Visitors stop to take a photo of a billboard featuring defending champion Serbia's Novak Djokovic ahead of the Australian Open at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022. The prime ministers of Australia and Serbia have discussed Novak Djokovic's precarious visa after the top-ranked Serbian tennis star won a court battle to compete in the Australian Open but still faces the threat of deportation because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19. (AP Photo)

## Djokovic back into swing in Australia despite visa concerns

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

TENNIS star Novak Djokovic held a practice session at Melbourne Park yesterday, his second day out of detention, focusing on his Australian Open title defense while still facing the prospect of deportation because he's not vaccinated for COVID-19.

The top-ranked Djokovic hit the show courts within hours of winning a legal battle Monday against the cancellation of his visa, based on procedural grounds. He returned Tuesday afternoon for a closed practice, with doors locked and only his support team allowed into Rod Laver Arena.

Aerial images taken by Australian TV networks from a helicopter showed the nine-time Australian Open winner back at work, less than a week before the first Grand Slam tournament of the year is due to start.

Video showed Djokovic hitting shots from behind the baseline, taking feedback from his coach, and stretching beside the court with a trainer on a sunny but mild summer afternoon.

Soon after, organizers released the seedings for the Australian Open tournament, and Djokovic was listed at No. 1 for the men's singles draw.

While he's trying to make up time after spending four days confined to an immigration detention hotel, Djokovic is conscious he could again have his visa revoked.

Immigration Minister Alex Hawke is considering exercising his power to deport the 34-year-old Serbian under separate legislation, assessing a medical exemption that the unvaccinated Djokovic relied on to fly into Melbourne and the information supplied in the visa application.

The Australian Associated Press reported the decision was not expected Tuesday, after Hawke's office issued a statement saying the matter was still under consideration "in line with due process."

The prime ministers of Australia and Serbia discussed Djokovic's precarious visa earlier Tuesday.

The deportation drama has polarized opinions and elicited strong support for the 20-time Grand Slam winner in his native Serbia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Serbian counterpart, Ana Brnabi, agreed in their telephone conversation to keep in touch over the disputed visa, Morrison's office said.

"The PM explained our non-discriminatory border policy and its role in protecting Australia during the COVID-19 pandemic," Morrison's office said in a statement.

Brnabi asked Morrison to ensure Djokovic was treated with dignity, public broadcaster Radio Television of Serbia reported.

"The (Serbian) prime minister especially emphasized the importance of the conditions for training and physical preparation for the upcoming competition, considering that Novak Djokovic was not allowed to train in the previous days," RTS reported.

Djokovic posted an image of himself and three members of his team at Melbourne Park in the very early hours of Tuesday on social media.

"I'm pleased and grateful that the Judge overturned my visa cancellation. Despite all that has happened, I want to stay and try to compete @AustralianOpen. I remain focused on that," Djokovic tweeted. "I flew here to play at one of the most important events we have in front of the amazing fans."

A border official canceled Djokovic's visa at Melbourne's airport last Thursday, hours after he arrived in Australia from Marbella, Spain to compete in the tournament.

A judge restored his visa and ordered Djokovic be released from detention on Monday, citing procedural errors by the border officials at the airport.

Djokovic had been given a medical exemption by the Victoria state government and Tennis Australia, the tournament organizer, from its vaccination rules to compete because he was infected with COVID-19 last month.

But the Australian Border Force declined to allow him an exemption from national vaccination rules for incoming non-citizens.

It said an infection in the previous six months was only a ground for a vaccine exemption in cases in which the coronavirus caused severe illness.

There were also new questions over Djokovic's application to enter the country after documents released by the Federal Circuit Court revealed he told authorities he had not traveled in the 14 days before his flight to Australia.

Monte Carlo-based Djokovic touched down in Melbourne just before midnight Wednesday, answering "no" to the question about previous travel on his Australian Travel Declaration form.

But the reigning Australian Open champion was filmed playing tennis in the streets of the Serbian capital, Belgrade, on Dec. 25, and training in Spain on Dec. 31 – both dates within the 14-day window.

The declaration notes that giving false or misleading information is a serious offense, and civil penalties are also available.

Djokovic told border officers that Tennis Australia completed the declaration on his behalf, but it was noted by the officer who canceled his visa that the sporting body would have facilitated that "based on information the visa holder provided."

Since Djokovic's visa was canceled, Czech tennis player Renata Voráová and an unnamed European tennis official have been deported for similar reasons.

Morrison's conservative government has blamed the debacle on Tennis Australia, which ministers accuse of misleading players about Australia's vaccine requirements. But newspapers have reported that Tennis Australia had pleaded with the Department of Home Affairs to check the visa paperwork of Djokovic and other players before their in-bound flights.

The opposition home affairs spokesperson, Kristina Keneally, blamed the confusion on a lack of planning by the government and said the saga made Australia "look like a bit of a joke" on the world stage.

"It does incredible damage to Australia" if Djokovic gets deported, Keneally told the Seven Network television, but "if he gets to stay it does incredible damage to our tough border laws and is a real insult to the Australians who did the hard work of lockdowns and vaccination."

Daniel Andrews, premier of Victoria state which is hosting the Australian Open, said the federal government had changed its border rules in recent months.

"When we talked about exemptions previously, you would recall that Minister Hawke had said that it was his expectation that if you weren't double vaxxed, you wouldn't get into the country whether you're playing tennis or doing anything else," said Andrews, who like Keneally is a member of the center-left Labor Party.

"Turned out that wasn't the Commonwealth government's position and that they have been letting people in who haven't been double vaxxed," Andrews added.

AP

## Yanga leaders ought to know that trespassing into politics is pointless

BY CORRESPONDENT JOHN KIMBUTE

A quiet revolution is passing in the soft underbelly of arch-rival contests in the city of Dar es Salaam, and the now enthroned 'people's club' dared to state to congratulate those who earned the trust of Union President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, and appointed to various top-level positions at the weekend.

It was a statement without precedent and a bad example for other community organizations, as it is not a habit, actually it is taboo, to interpret an appointment that narrowly.

This taboo has lasted for the 60 years of independence, and it isn't altogether surprising it is Yanga breaking it.

There is a legend that after the Union, Zanzibar President, Sheikh Amani Abeid Karume, was showing open affinities with the Jangwani Street club, and when things were at a certain high, President Julius Nyerere saw it fit to dot the i's and cross the t's as they say.

From then on top political leaders would use influence behind the scenes for this or that facility, or in the case of President Karume, contribute tangible sums of money for club projects like building their Jangwani headquarters, etc.

But public identification with a club, or entertaining a situation where the club feels it is opportune to issue a statement, is wrong.

At a certain moment, prominent corporate advocate and top government official Samuel Sitta, when he was Speaker of Parliament, told MPs that he wrote the Simba SC constitution - implicitly, as the club changed from Sunderland FC to Simba SC in the early 1970s.

From the time he wrote the constitution to the moment he made a public observation about it was slightly over 30 years or at least not below, nearly a generation.

He was like an elder recounting his life's exploits to grandchildren, not taking sides in political or community terms, where being on that side would mean this or that as for political loyalties.

'Utani' undertones as relating to loyalties to the two clubs is something quite familiar in the legislature, and has tended to be overly noticeable during the past half-decade, and it is partly due to this change of tone and compo-

sure that Jangwani Street club's leaders thought it opportune to make their pleasure public and visible.

In a fairly recent exchange in the debating chamber, outgoing Speaker Job Ndugai was pulling the leg of Finance and Planning Minister, Mwigulu Nchemba, on some budget item, or rather when overall gestures of recognition were being sprayed around after the budget was read. They were the camp leaders.

Yet there is a difference between jokes exchanged between elected officials playing their due roles in the hemicycle, and saluting this or that individual for being recognized as fit for this or that position.

In a rather superficial sense, it looks like a formality but on closer observation, one finds that it isn't; it comes down to saying that the President is right about this fellow as we also like him or her, which is improper.

It is to carve out a stakeholder's position regarding that appointment as if your views had been

heard or taken account of in that appointment, a non-starter proposition - of being a stakeholder.

Still, another problem lurks in what the club statement said, congratulating all those who earned the trust of the President, without saying anything substantive tied to that plaudit.

The club did not attempt to suggest what sort of situation it expects on account of the good appointments it was praising, or indeed why appointments had to be there in the first place.

Left in that mode it is a scalar quantity in elementary physics, that is, a one-legged quotient that needs another aspect to propel it into motion like another leg.

The club could appreciably not do that as this would lead to a direct appraisal of either those appointed or, differently, the president, and this could inconvenience even the target of their uncalled for plebiscite on those appointments, and even have it revoked.

Crowding behind an individual and praising the president for his

appointment isn't to show loyalty to the president but to that individual, giving him a solid aura of having been appointed as a matter of right, as an unavoidable individual. That could easily backfire, not?

So the Yanga statement infringing on the taboos a community organization has to observe but it didn't cross any red lines of loyalty, as then that would have unavoidable consequences.

Still, it isn't an example to be emulated as it is narrow in its outlook, issuing a public statement for happiness on one of their own being appointed to higher positions in the government, instead of calling a private party and congratulating him.

A series of such congratulations on WhatsApp would largely have sufficed, instead of issuing a blank statement that says nothing of appointments or cabinet changes other than praising them.

Hence it breached a taboo but in a cowardly fashion, had it gone further the club would earn a vibrant tongue slash.



Yanga's Chairman, Mshindo Msolla.

## Muumin to feature female singers in new songs

BY CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

TANZANIAN dance music artist, Mwinjuma Muumin, says he is looking for new generation music and Taarab's female singers that will feature in his new songs.

Muumin (pictured) disclosed the artists he is looking for are Faustina Charles 'Nandy', Helen George 'Rubby', Judith Wambura 'Lady Jay Dee', Zuhura Othman Soud 'Zuchu', and Isha Ramadhani 'Isha Mashauzi'.

According to Muumin, if he will manage to have one of the mentioned musicians in his new tracks, he will see to it the project comes to fruition.

The musician disclosed: "I want to record two new tracks, titled 'Usiniache', and 'Njoo Kwangu', before the end of this month, I want to have one female singer featuring in one of the tracks."

The musician, who owns Special Band, said that he targets to get a variety of creativity showcased by new generation music singers to improve his works.

"New generation music artists have their significance, given that they have a lot of fans, so involving them in my songs can add flavour to dance music," he said.

The veteran dance musician's band has already completed a new album made up of seven songs.

The songs are 'Fenesi', 'Mwanangu', 'Yatima Mzee', 'Kwa Mpalange', 'Suluhu ya Ndoa', 'Mtumbue', and 'Mkongwa wa Tembo'.

He said he looks forward to staging shows next month given, according to him, January is



a difficult time for various businesses, including dance music.

"But if someone needs our service, we are

ready to offer good entertainment because our troupe is well-prepared squad is there and complete," he noted.

## Former Saints Mane and Boufal give Senegal, Morocco winning starts

YAOUNDE

FORMER Southampton duo Sadio Mane and Sofiane Boufal both scored to give Africa Cup of Nations title contenders Senegal and Morocco winning starts to their campaigns in Cameroon on Monday.

Mane, who switched to Liverpool in 2016 after two years with the Saints, netted a penalty seven minutes into added time to deliver a fortunate 1-0 Group B victory over Zimbabwe in Ba-foussam.

A few hours later it was the turn of Boufal, now at French Ligue 1 Angers after four years with Southampton, to score and earn Morocco a 1-0 Group C win over Ghana in Yaounde.

Gabon overcame the absence of captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to beat debutants Comoros 1-0 in the other game in the section.

With Arsenal star Aubameyang sidelined after testing positive for Covid-19, Aaron Boupendza slammed in from an acute angle on the quarter-hour to snap a five-game winless run at the tournament.

Guinea edged Malawi 1-0 through a 35th-minute goal from Issiaga Sylla and they share first place in Group B with Senegal.

The results maintained a run of one-goal victories in a tournament that finally kicked off on Sunday after being postponed by a year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Cameroon came from behind in the tournament opener to beat Burkina Faso 2-1 and Cape Verde struggled to a 1-0 win over 10-man Ethiopia in the other Group A clash.

On Tuesday, record seven-time champions Egypt confront three-time winners Nigeria in the northwestern city of Garoua in what promises to be a highlight of the 36-match first round.

Disaster struck gallant underdogs Zimbabwe when a shot hit the right arm of Kelvin Madzongwe and Mane sent Petros Mhari the wrong way with the penalty on 97 minutes to settle a lacklustre affair.

While Senegal, seeking a first title after twice finishing runners-up, dominated possession, they rarely threatened to break down a well-organised Zimbabwe defence.

"It was difficult playing in such hot conditions, and not having an opportunity to play any warm-up matches affected us," said Mane.

"We left it very late to score, but the most important issue was to secure maximum points and we achieved that. Now we must try to perform better against Guinea."

Mane foiled - After a quiet start, Mane burst between two defenders on 24 minutes only to see his low shot, aimed at the far corner of the net, blocked by Mhari.

As half-time approached in the Cameroonian highlands, Mane turned provider, setting up unmarked Idrissa Gueye, who was let down by his first touch as he prepared to shoot.

Senegal survived a scare as full-time loomed with a Zimbabwe free-kick creating a half chance before the ball was grasped by goalkeeper Seny Dieng, deputising for Edouard Mendy, who is recovering from Covid-19.

With a cagey affair between Morocco and Ghana seemingly heading for a goalless stalemate, Boufal turned in the goalmouth and fired a loose ball past goalkeeper Joseph Wollacott on 83 minutes.

"It's a very good victory," said Morocco boss Vahid Halilhodzic.

"I told the players I was proud of them. We had a lot of problems. We were missing four or five players in attack and I was forced to use some boys who were playing in the Cup of Nations for the first time."

After a cagey, foul-riddled start at a 42,500-seat stadium named after former Cameroon president Ahmadou Ahidjo, Thomas Partey came close on 32 minutes for Ghana with his free-kick going just over the crossbar.

That was a signal for both teams to show more urgency and Morocco captain Romain Saiss got his head to a free-kick in a crowded goalmouth only to see it fly over.

Just before half-time when a solo run by Joseph Paintsil offered Ghana hope of a goal, but his finish was embarrassing, sending his shot well wide.

Paintsil threatened again early in the second half with a lengthy dribble only to pass poorly on the edge of the box.

Paintsil fired goalwards with 18 minutes remaining only to be denied by a brilliant one-hand save from Yassine Bounou.

"It was a tough game against one of the best teams in CAN. I think Morocco were a bit lucky," said Ghana coach Milovan Rajevac.

AFP

# How FIFA's new World Cup plan would squash the women's game

BY CAITLIN MURRAY

FIFA and its president, Gianni Infantino, insist that their brewing plan for a biennial World Cup will be a good thing for soccer. The problem is that when they say that, they seem to be talking about the men's side of the sport. As usual with FIFA, the women's game has been an afterthought, even though the biennial World Cup plan might impact it the most.

First, let's be clear about what a biennial World Cup actually means: It's a World Cup every single year, either a men's or a women's one, if FIFA gets its way. The result will be unprecedented schedule congestion, and there will always be a men's World Cup or qualification for a men's World Cup on the schedule.

When, then, does women's soccer take center stage? Will women's soccer ever again enjoy the visibility of being the single biggest competition at a given moment?

FIFA has campaigned hard to convince everyone that a biennial World Cup is a good idea, even asking former Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and former USWNT manager (and now president of NWSL side, San Diego Wave FC) Jill Ellis to push the idea.

The organization released economic studies projecting that the more frequent World Cups would generate an extra \$4.4 billion in just the first four-year cycle, which would trickle down as \$16 million in extra solidarity payments per FIFA member country over that span.

FIFA also released a survey that it says shows most fans around the world are in favor of more frequent men's World Cups (63.7% of those surveyed) and women's World Cups (52.4%).

But what FIFA crucially has not seemed very interested in discussing, at least not publicly, is how the biennial World Cup plan would squeeze the women's game out of the mainstream sports landscape and dilute the Women's World Cup itself.

More World Cups means fewer windows for anything else.

UEFA, which has vocally opposed the idea since its inception, put together its own study, which projected that both World Cups would lose viewers if they became a more regular, less-special occurrence -- but the Women's World Cup would lose three times as many viewers as the men's tournament.

After all, the Women's World Cup would always be up against a major, well-established men's tournament under this proposed schedule -- tough competition for the women seeking to attract attention.

Infantino now says the men would switch their Euros from every four years to every two under his plan, which means the Women's World Cup will always compete with the men's Euros in a calendar year instead. But that would come on top of men's World Cup qualifying, which has taken 10 months in UEFA and more than two years for CONCACAF in the past.

It would also be programmed on top of CONMEBOL's Copa America, which might need to switch to a two-year cycle, too, and events that are already biennial, including the CONCACAF Gold Cup and the Africa Cup of Nations.

Meanwhile, the Women's Euros -- which reached its highest-ever TV audience and set an attendance record last time out, in 2017 -- would probably be forced to share its spotlight with a men's World Cup.

As a result, the UEFA study projects that the Women's Euros could see its revenues cut by more than half as media rights and sponsorships would significantly lose value. The growth of a high-level women's tournament with huge potential would be abruptly stifled.

This wouldn't be unique to Europe, either. Other regional competitions around the world will struggle just to find an open window to stage a tournament, let alone a window when attention won't be diverted away for a high-level men's tournament. As the supporter culture around women's soccer is still growing, men's competitions in a crowded calendar will siphon exposure that otherwise could have gone to women's competitions.

FIFA will naturally point to the extra revenue the new World Cups will gen-



erate and promise that money will go to help the development of women's soccer around the world.

Here's the problem: FIFA already generates a ton of revenue -- its last reported cash reserves were \$2.74 billion -- and it has already failed to deliver with its first-ever "Women's Football Strategy," which set lofty goals for increased female participation in the sport but offered little by way of concrete metrics, budgets or action plans.

FIFA, as rich as it is, does a poor job of distributing money where it's needed -- large countries and tiny ones get the same cuts, regardless of need -- and an even worse job of accounting for how that money actually gets spent.

"Just mandate it... FIFA mandates all kinds of things"

If FIFA cared about the development and growth of the women's game, there is one World Cup the governing body could add: a Women's Club World Cup. After all, domestic leagues for women around the world are still developing, a byproduct of a sporting landscape that saw women's soccer effectively banned in countries like England, Germany and Brazil until as recently as the 1980s.

These leagues are how the game grows and professionalizes. The club game builds grassroots fan support, and it's how a career in soccer can become a viable path for women around the world. It's perhaps no coincidence that as countries invest in their domestic leagues, greater success on the international stage often follows, as we've seen with the Netherlands, England and Australia.

The Women's World Cup itself is only still growing, too. It will go from 24 teams to 32 in 2023, when Australia and New Zealand host, and we will probably see a lot more scores like the infamous 13-0 drubbing from the U.S. on Thailand in 2019. These lopsided results, which are not unusual in the group stage of the Women's World Cup, are the result of the massive gulf in investment from these different countries in their women's programs.

U.S. star Megan Rapinoe was heavily criticized for celebrating the goals she scored in that 13-0 result, but in

the mixed zone afterward speaking to reporters, she hit the nail on the head: "There are some teams here that have only played a handful of games since the last World Cup or only in the qualifiers. It's embarrassing not only for the federations but for FIFA. Just mandate it. They mandate all kinds of things."

Rapinoe was right. FIFA could take steps to ensure member associations care about and invest in women's programs. It could require federations to operate active national teams that actually play games, or even invest in domestic leagues for women. It could require that money and resources are spent on specific measures to boost the women's game, and then actually check to make sure it has happened. FIFA has the power to prioritize the women's game, instead of treating it as an afterthought.

Instead, FIFA just wants to increase the burden of resources that countries will have to spend on trying to qualify for and compete in a Women's World Cup without any additional incentive to do so. Some might not even bother. If federations can get away with caring only about their men's team, that's often what they will do.

The Nigerian women's national team held a sit-in over unpaid bonuses owed by its federation in 2019. Some women on Brazil's team quit in 2019 to protest the lack of support from their federation after years of complaints. The Australian women's team went on strike in 2015 to demand higher wages from their federation. Players from Trinidad & Tobago begged for donations on social media in 2018, so they could compete in their own World Cup qualifiers. And so on.

Consider Jamaica qualifying for its first Women's World Cup in 2019 -- it came only after Bob Marley's daughter, Cedella, spent her own money to resurrect the team after the federation stopped funding it. It was framed as a story of triumph for the Reggae Girlz, to be sure, but it was also a story of failure for a system that allows federations to ignore women's programming.

FIFA could incentivize federations to care more about the Women's World

Cup by significantly increasing its prize money for all participants, but they've so far refused to do so, despite no obvious rationale for it.

For the previous World Cup cycle, FIFA offered 13 times more prize money for the men's tournament than the women's event, but if you ask FIFA why 13 times specifically, it can't explain it. The men's World Cup doesn't bring in 13 times more revenue -- media rights and sponsorships for the men's and women's tournament have always been sold together as a bundle, and FIFA never attempted to figure out how much the women's event was worth as it allocated prize money.

The men's World Cup doesn't attract 13 times more television viewers -- last time around it was only about 4 times. The men's World Cup doesn't sell 13 times more tickets -- last time around, it was about 3 times.

In fact, when FIFA doubled its prize money for the Women's World Cup from the 2015 tournament to 2019, it also increased the men's prize money so much at the same time that the gap between the men's and women's tournament got bigger, not smaller. Given the recent record-setting growth of the women's tournament, it seems like the gap should be shrinking.

It's hard to see FIFA's logic in making the gap bigger, unless you consider the possibility that FIFA doesn't care as much as about women's soccer as it says it does. Indeed, it's hard to give FIFA the benefit of the doubt after its years of treating the women's game as a secondary concern.

From artificial turf at a World Cup, to comments from the former FIFA president that tighter shorts for women might grow the sport, to a glaring lack of investment, women's soccer has had to put up with treatment from FIFA that the men's game has not. Unfortunately, this plan for a biennial World Cup, which glosses past the potentially negative impact on the women's game, is just the latest example.

ESPN

## Japan's golden oldie 'King Kazu' joins new team at 54

TOKYO

JAPANESE football star Kazuyoshi Miura extended his decades-long playing career at the age of 54 on Tuesday with a move to a fourth-tier club managed by his older brother.

Miura, known as "King Kazu", said he would "strive to help the team win on the pitch" after joining Suzuka Point Getters.

The move was announced at 11:11am on January 11 -- with the former international forward set to wear the number 11 shirt next season.

Miura, who turns 55 in February, said last month that he had offers from several clubs in Japan and overseas, after turning out for Yokohama FC last season in the J-League's top flight.

He managed just one minute of league action as his team finished bottom of the table.

He is hoping to make more of an impact for his new side, who are managed by brother Yasutoshi.

Miura has been at more than a dozen clubs spanning Brazil, Japan, Italy, Croatia and Australia.

lia.

"I'm thankful that I've been given the chance to play here," he said in a statement released by his new club.

Miura said last month that he had been offered a new deal by Yokohama but wanted more playing time.

Miura has said he wants to keep playing until he turns 60.

One of Asia's best-known footballers in the 1990s, he helped put the game in Japan on the map when the professional J-League was launched in 1993.

Miura left Japan for Brazil in 1982 and signed a contract with Santos FC in 1986 to make his professional debut.

He made his Japan debut in 1990 and was famously left out of his country's squad for their first World Cup finals appearance in 1998, despite scoring 55 goals in 89 games for the national side.

Suzuka made headlines in 2019 when they became the first Japanese club to appoint a female manager in Spain's Mila Martinez.

Gwiji by David Chikoko

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# SPORT

How FIFA's new World Cup plan would squash the women's game

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Paralympic Committee to host meeting in Dar es Salaam

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) has stated that all is set for its executive committee meeting, scheduled for today in Dar es Salaam.

Ramadhan Namkoveka, TPC secretary-general, said the executive committee meeting will come up with resolutions and recommendations which will be discussed at the TPC general meeting scheduled for the end of this month.

"All is set for our executive committee meeting, the meeting will come up with resolutions and recommendations which will be discussed at our annual general meeting which will be held at end of this month," he said.

Namkoveka revealed recently TPC has arranged several activities which include seeing to it that Tanzania performs well at next year's Commonwealth Games, All Africa Games, and the 2024 France Paralympics.

TPC set the bronze medal as domestic para athletes' target at the coming France 2024 Paralympics.

He disclosed the information after Tanzania's Paralympic squad's head coach, Bahati Mgunda, presented a report on the side's stint in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics to the TPC.

The TPC official said the report was prepared by the coach, South Africa-based consultant, Michael Louwrens, and experts from Nippon University.

Namkoveka disclosed: "It included recommendations and suggestions on the team's current and future performance at international events."

He said the meeting was very crucial as it has provided TPC and the coach an opportunity to make recommendations on the way forward based on the performance of the team in recent games.

He said the report has recommended that TPC should maintain the current team, arrange team and individual training, athletes should attend the gym regularly and improve fitness.

Namkoveka also said the report suggested that TPC should organize more events that will be used to tap new talents.

The TPC official revealed: "The committee, Tanzania Para Athletes Association (TPAA) and other stakeholders met on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam, among other issues, the national team coach, Mgunda, presented his report."

"He explained that lack of resources is hindering the growth of Paralympic sports in the country, suggested a lot of issues including the one recommending that TPC ought to set bronze as domestic Para athletes' target at the 2024 France Paralympics."

He said following the recommendations, TPC will start athletes' preparations for the 2024 Paralympics soon.

He asked stakeholders, the private sector, and others to help them to realize the Para athletes' dream of winning a bronze medal in the 2024 Paralympic Games.

At the just ended Tokyo Paralympics, Tanzania was represented by two athletes, Sauda Njopeka and Ignatius Mtweve.

The TPC official said the athletes' performance was encouraging.

"The Paralympics is the biggest event, the performances of the two are very encouraging, they posted season-best in their respective categories."

"It must be known that Mtweve was the only African in his group," he said.

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"All is set for our executive committee meeting, the meeting will come up with resolutions and recommendations which will be discussed at our annual general meeting which will be held at end of this month," he said.

## Azam FC ready for Simba SC in 2022 Mapinduzi Cup final



Azam FC striker, Idriss Mbombo (R), blocks Yanga's center back, Bakari Mwamnyeto, during this year's Mapinduzi Cup semi-final which took place in Zanzibar on Tuesday. Azam FC emerged victorious in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's NBC Premier League giant, Azam FC, says it is ready for the 2022 Mapinduzi Cup final encounter against Simba SC which will take place in Zanzibar tomorrow.

Azam FC reached the final after beating fellow Premier League outfit, Yanga, 9-8 in post-match penalties of the semi-final that took place on Tuesday.

The showdown, which takes place in the Isles annually has seen Azam FC

lift the silverware on five occasions, a feat which no other team has done.

Azam FC Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Nurdin, said his side is ready for the match and he is confident of seeing the club gets good results.

"Simba SC is a good side but it's now our time to win this trophy. I'm sure that we will do well in the game, the players are in good spirits," he said.

Azam FC's assistant coach, Mohamed Badru, also disclosed that he is confident they will do well in the game.

He said the team is in good shape and it is looking for positive results.

"We are hoping for good results, everyone in the team is looking forward to the final and hopefully, we will do well," he said.

Simba SC booked a place in the final after beating Namungo FC 2-0 in another all-Premier League semi-final held on Tuesday.

Simba SC's CEO, Barbara Gonzalez, said they are ready for the final. She said the squad is ready for any tournament.

"We want to win every trophy this

year, we will start with Mapinduzi Cup. We want our supporters to walk with their shoulders held high as the club is doing well, everyone has seen how the team is playing," she said.

Meanwhile, Barbara has assured all Simba SC supporters that the club will unveil its new players soon.

"Our supporters must be assured that the club is busy on the market, we will introduce our new signings soon."

"They are all good players, they are players who will help Simba SC reach its target this year," she said.

## Yanga coach Kaze happy with players' attitude

By correspondents Joseph Mchekadona & Ismail Tano

YANGA's assistant coach, Cedrick Kaze, says the team is close to meeting the standard of play it is looking for ahead of the NBC Premier League, which is set to get back to action this weekend.

The club was, on Tuesday, knocked out of 2022 Mapinduzi Cup's semi-final by fellow NBC Premier League side, Azam FC, with 9-8 defeat in post-match penalties.

Kaze, who is heading Yanga in the absence of head coach Nasreddine Nabi, said although the team lost to Azam FC he has seen some positives in the squad.

"Frankly I made some mistakes in substitution, but, all in all, the team is playing well... it is heading to what we want," he said.

Kaze said during the Mapinduzi Cup he was demanding the players to adapt to his philosophy of fast-flowing football and they all adapted to the approach.

He said he asked the players to think fast, act fast and move fast with the ball.

The tactician revealed: "All players are hard-working and are willing to learn philosophy, they have talent."

"We have players with height, speed, and determi-



Yanga's assistant coach, Cedrick Kaze.

nation."

"I am happy that we have players that are willing to work extremely hard and are proud of their team," he said.

Meanwhile, Yanga fullback, Kibwana Shomari, says he has yet to improve and that makes him seek to work hard.

Kibwana joined Yanga in the 2020/21 season from Mtibwa Sugar and has been the first choice fullback since his current side was under the tutelage of Zlatko Krmpotic.

The fullback noted: "I still feel that I have not reached the level of performance I'm looking to showcase, I still have a lot

to do to improve."

"I think in the beginning there were people who did not have confidence in me but I believe that working hard and putting God first are important issues in football."

The footballer is currently out of action as he picked an injury in a league match against Simba SC, and is expected to be flown to Tunisia for treatment.

Shomari has played a total of 11 matches for Yanga in the 2021/22 season, posting 587 minutes.

The overlapping fullback has executed one assist in the 20 goals Yanga has netted.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

