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Nurturing talent and vocational skills



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## Children's anti-polio vaccines next week

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is set to launch the second phase campaign for polio vaccination targeting under-five children in a week's time.

Health Ministry officials say the exercise will be implemented in Mbeya, Songwe, Lindi and Mtwara regions from May 18 to 21.

Catherine Sungura, the ministry's head of communications, told journalists in Dar es Salaam that the campaign follows the confirmation of polio in neighbouring Malawi, pushing the government to start taking precautions.

The campaign is directed at over 10m children, continuing an initial drive in regions bordering Malawi from March 24 to 27, she said, underlining that all under-five children must be vaccinated to prevent infection.

Lotalis Gadau, programme officer at the Immune Vaccine Development (IVD) in the ministry, said the vaccine is the only prevention against polio. At least twelve diseases that are potential epidemics are prevented by vaccines.

"Our door to door campaign focuses on reaching all children under five years, we will also visit public places such as markets and schools to educate people on the importance of vaccine," she said.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared Tanzania to be free of polio in 2015, 16 years after registering the last case of polio, due to a universal inoculation

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# Invest more in teachers' skills, motivation - MPs

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

FOR ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education in Tanzania to succeed, deliberate moves must be made to enhance teachers' capacities and incentives, a number of legislators have declared.

Debating the 2022/23 budget proposals for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in the National Assembly, the MPs said educators were trained in curricula tied to prevailing education policy now being extensively reviewed, they too must be exposed to new skills to adjust to changes, and be remunerated accordingly.

Margaret Sitta (Urambo) said the provision of quality education requires availability of students, teachers and infrastructure, noting that the country had done well so far in infrastructure and the students are there, and it's time to invest more in teachers.

Mussa Sima (Singida Urban) said the government has done a commendable job in education infrastructure that must now be complemented by human resource development.

"We should not invest in infrastructure for now; let's invest more in capacity building for teachers," he said. "The ministry recently introduced digital marking technology while teachers (markers) are not digital literate," he asserted.

The ministry prepares teaching and learning resources for approval by the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), lacking close understanding of challenges facing teachers, he stated.

The government went ahead and introduced competency based education but its implementation was promised on the knowledge basis approach, he affirmed, pointing at the likelihood of a further fall in the quality of our education "if these issues are not addressed."

Sitta, a teacher by profession who once served as Education minister, said there

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Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (L, foreground) exchanges greetings with NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma city on Tuesday shortly after having tabled his ministry's Budget estimates for financial year 2022/2023 in the House. He commended the bank for the support it has been extending to the education sector in the country. Looking on (C) is the ministry's permanent secretary, Prof Eliamani Sedoyeka. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Uganda to sell ARV drugs to Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA will soon start importing anti-retroviral (ARVs) drugs from Uganda in efforts

to strengthen the fight against HIV/Aids in the country, President Samia Suluhu Hassan has declared.

Host president Yoweri Museveni had

earlier informed the Tanzanian leader that Uganda was ready to supply Tanzania with the essential drugs, while an agreement for collaboration on the development of vaccines was signed during the two day state visit.

The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) says in a report that there were 1.7m people living with HIV in Tanzania as of 2019 listed on antiretroviral therapy (ART), a total of 850,485 being women and 426,527

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## Swiss company to buy coal from Kiwira for five years

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

MASSIVE coal extraction at the Kiwira coal mine in Mbeya Region is finally in the offing after the State Mining Corporation (STAMICO) signed a 250bn/- deal with Aarthus Beahring SA, a Swiss mining firm.

The agreement signed here on Tuesday is limited to five years, with the government projecting to obtain 50bn/- annually in levies and royalties.

Minerals deputy minister Dr Steven Kiruswa said at the signing ceremony that the firm will purchase 720,000 tonnes of coal each year, reaching 3.6m tonnes of coal, with the

government obtaining a total of 250bn/-.

The deal will create 600 direct jobs with 300 heavy trucks expected to transport the extracted produce to Mtwara port.

Drumlin Contractors Ltd, a local firm, will ferry the coal to port, he said, noting that signing the contract is part of strategies by the ministry to put to work the state mining firm.

From July 2021 to last March, STAMICO extracted 17,324 tonnes of coal, selling 12,792 tonnes where the Treasury obtained 174.1bn/- in royalties, he specified.

Georges Schmickrath, the Aarthus commodities division president, said that the firm could seek an extension of the contract after five years depending on the successes of the current agreement.

Dr Venance Mwasse, the STAMICO acting director general, said the agreement kick-starts its projection to embark on massive coal extraction.

All is set for implementation of the agreed terms, including preparing the infrastructure such as roads and storage facilities, he added.



Opposition Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe (L) introduces Ugandan opposition politician, singer, actor and businessman Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu (2nd-L), popularly known by his stage name 'Bobi' Wine, to Political Parties deputy Registrar Sisty Nyahoza (R). This was at the three-day Chadema General Assembly meeting which opened in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Second right is opposition NCCR-Mageuzi national Chairman James Mbatia. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala



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Deputy minister of Mines Dr Steven Kiruswa (C) witnesses the handover of coal mining contract between ABSSA communities from Switzerland representative Gerges Schmickrath (R) and the acting CEO of the mining company (STAMICO) Dr Venence Mwashe (L) in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

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programme that was being pursued for two decades.

Still, last February 17 a wild Polio case was identified in a three year old girl child in Lilongwe district of Malawi, whereupon Tanzania embarked on its current efforts.

Juma Haule, the regional

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immunisation coordinator for Dar es Salaam, said the region targets to vaccinate 778,000 children, urging parents to take their children to vaccination centres.

In May 2021 reports indicated that more than 900,000 children received

polio vaccines in Pakistan, after a case of wild polio occurred there, down from 54 such cases a year earlier.

Malawi health authorities confirmed outbreak of the disease, as wild poliovirus type 1 was diagnosed in the child. The country had last recorded a

case of wild poliovirus in 1992.

The polio eradication programme curbs importations from endemic countries to regions that have been certified wild poliovirus-free in the past, moving quickly to stop the virus being further transmitted.



Deputy minister of Agriculture, Anthony Mavunde (2nd R) inspects Kilida irrigation project which was damaged by heavy rains at Kavuu constituency in Katavi region yesterday. On his left is Kavuu constituency MP, Geophrey Pinda. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## EAC Secretary General praises continued relations between EU and partner states

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki, has hailed the continued cordial relations between the European Union (EU) and the region's partner states coupled with strong trade relations.

He said the relations between the two sides have remained strong since 1975 under the Lomé Convention and the Cotonou Partnership Agreements.

Dr Mathuki was speaking at the annual Europe Day celebrations that took place in Dar es Salaam. Europe Day that falls on May 9 every year commemorates the signing of the Schuman Declaration of 1950.

He said that the EU for a number of years has been supporting the EAC regional integration agenda through

the National Indicative Programmes (NIPs), the Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) and implementation of several East Africa Road Network/Transport Corridors, Energy projects, migration programmes and frameworks for democratic governance among other programmes.

"I recently engaged with the European Parliament on strengthening trade and investment relations between EAC, African and the EU. These discussions were further re-emphasized during the recent AU-EU Summit held last February in Brussels," said Dr Mathuki. He further hailed the EU for the generous support over the years to EAC projects and programmes that have benefited the citizens of the Community over the years.

He said that Europe Day is anchored

on an ambitious plan to secure long-term peace in post-war Europe that is considered the beginning of what is now the European Union.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Ambassador Liberata Mulamula said that as the EU celebrates Europe Day, the EAC region takes pride in the milestone achievements recorded over the past decades.

"We are grateful for the sectoral specific support in agriculture, improvement of transport and energy infrastructures, improving access to water, education, health, strengthening good governance, institutional capacity building, trade facilitation and the fight against piracy, to mention but a few," she said.

Mulamula hailed the EU Companies

for being active investors in Tanzania, with more than 100 companies, employing around 151,000 Tanzanians.

"We commend the EU for continuing to maintain the values of the Union and like the EU, we believe that in numbers there is strength hence we remain committed to enhance integration through the blocs namely: EAC, Southern African Development Community (SADC), African Union (AU), and Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)," she said.

She reiterated Tanzania's renewed and revitalized commitment to working closely with the European Union nurtured by shared values and interests at bilateral, regional and multilateral dimensions for the mutual benefits of the two parties and global prosperity.

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men. As of June 2020 a total of 28.2million people living with HIV (75 percent of the total) were accessing the medication globally, the report noted.

The Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) says that HIV prevalence in Tanzania varies with age, gender, social status and geographical location, it added.

There are variations in the risk of transmission of infection, it said, noting that HIV prevalence has steadily declined over the past decades from 7.1 percent in 2003 to 4.6 percent in 2018 in persons aged 15 to 49 years.

The HIV burden is higher in urban areas than in rural areas at 7.5 percent and 4.5 percent prevalence levels respectively, with Njombe Region showing the highest infection level (11.4 percent), with neighbouring Iringa (11.3 percent) and Mbeya (9.3 percent) following next.

Lindi Region registered least prevalence, less than 1 percent, the commission stated, asserting that Tanzania's goal is to reach HIV infections control by 2030, with 95 percent of people living with the disease aware of their HIV status, 95 percent of those testing positive placed on continuous HIV treatment, and 95 percent of those on treatment reaching

viral suppression.

A joint communiqué issued after the talks said Tanzania will resume buying sugar from Uganda, signaling a relaxation of a trade dispute lasting close to three years.

Uganda will supply 10,000 tonnes of sugar to fill a production gap in Tanzania, a move that ends a ban instituted in 2019, saying the imports originated from third-party countries.

Uganda cites several non-tariff barriers thwarting trade flows between the two countries, pointing at restrictions on sales of sugar, milk and movement of Ugandan trucks.

The two Heads of State directed their relevant ministers to meet in a regular manner to resolve trade disputes to smoothen the flow of trade between the two countries.

The two leaders agreed to cut charges that trucks are charged, from \$500 to \$10 per 100km from Mutukula border post to Dar es Salaam, starting from July 1. Truckers will pay about \$150, similar to what trucks from other countries are required to pay.

On Tuesday, President Samia arrived in Uganda and was received at Entebbe International Airport by Rukia Nakadema, a deputy prime minister, along with the State Minister for International Cooperation, Henry Okello Oryem.

## Invest more in teachers' skills, motivation - MPs

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are administrative issues that make teachers' lives difficult. Apart from lack of training and other incentives, teachers in the country work in a difficult environment, with multiple supervisory agencies.

The teachers' employer is the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) located in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) the commission has no power over most issues affecting educators.

"TSC hires but it can't fire, handling only disciplinary issues. It should be made an efficient one-stop centre for teachers," she said.

Sitta also recommended that school inspection duty should not be left to quality assurance department considering the fact that there thousands of primary, secondary schools as well as teachers' training colleges. "Inspection responsibility should be handled by an independent body with powers to inspect even private schools," she said.

Dr Charles Kimei (Vunjo) said that as Tanzania is set to adopt new ways of teaching and learning focusing on vocational skills, a major challenge meriting urgent attention is technology, whose rapid advance has left teachers' skills far behind.

Saashisha Mafuwe (Hai) said Tanzania was supposed to rewrite her post-independence history and affirm a national development vision before reviewing its education curriculum. As a curriculum review is already underway, it must focus on developing talents and problem-solving skills for learners, he stated.

One stumbling block to talent and career development is the method of issuing loans to higher education students, as it compels some learners to change their preferred career choices. A student who is passionate about engineering changes to education in order to access the loan, he said in illustration.

Dr Pius Chaya (Manyoni East) pointed at minimum higher education entry qualification for foreign students as prohibitive as it locks out qualified foreign students.

"We have a problem caused by TCU (Tanzania Commission for Universities) guidelines. A Kenyan student who completed form four for instance, cannot be admitted for a degree programme in Tanzania," he observed.

"This lowers our universities' ratings internationally. While we are supposed to have a diversity of students with about three per cent being foreign student, we have less than per cent," he added.

## UK asylum seekers hide to avoid being sent to Rwanda

NAIROBI

Aid agencies in Britain say some asylum seekers have gone into hiding for fear of being sent to Rwanda, from where they will be resettled.

Under the partnership between the United Kingdom and Rwanda that was signed last month, people who cross into the UK illegally will be transferred to Rwanda, where their paperwork will be processed.

The British Red Cross and the Refugee Council have warned that the threat of transfer to Africa has seen some of the asylum seekers disappear from hotels, while others resort to self-harm, including attempted suicide.

The agencies accuse the UK government of a breach of the duty of care as some asylum seekers have declined to seek medical and mental healthcare for fear they would be enrolled in the programme.

Home Secretary Priti Patel proceeded to announce a £120 million

pilot scheme under which people deemed to have entered the UK unlawfully since January would be flown to Rwanda, where they would be allowed to apply for the right to settle.

The government said the first flights could begin within weeks, initially focusing on single men who crossed the English Channel from France illegally.

Deportees from the UK would stay in a hostel in Rwanda while their claims were processed, a process which would take about three months.

They would be subject to Rwandan immigration rules, but would be allowed to leave the property and move around freely.

Once people here realised the government was serious, there was an explosion of outrage, with more than 160 charities, campaign groups and individuals, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, denouncing the scheme and demanding that it be scrapped.

AGENCIES

# 'Curriculum should nurture talent and vocational skills'

By Songwa wa Songwa, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday called on the government to ensure that the ongoing review of Tanzania's education policy and curriculum shifts focus from cramming to nurturing talents and imparting vocational skills.

Contributing to 2022/23 budget estimates for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the lawmakers recommended that this approach should start at primary school level so as to avoid the situation whereby pupils complete fee-free basic education (form four) which is funded by taxpayers to the tune of 24bn/monthly but are not employable.

Rehema Migilla (Ulyankulu-CCM) said for any country to make strides in education, early career development must start at lower level namely primary school.

"Currently, we measure success of our child by how they cram and pass examinations but we don't care about their talents and gifts," she said.

By putting premium in cramming and passing final examinations, talents and skills are wasted as pupils come out of schools, colleges and later universities with mere theories but no problem-solving skills, she said.

Seif Gulamali (Manonga-CCM) said for this change to be effective, the number of theoretical subjects pupils are tested on in primary school should be further cut from the current six to between three and four.

"Primary school pupils study a lot of subjects which are not necessary. From standard four, pupils should start understanding and focusing on their talents or vocational skills," he recommended.

According to Katani Katani (Tandahimba-CCM), the government should revive or put up more polytechnic schools instead of producing more university graduates who end up walking from office to office with job application forms.

"We need more technicians than administrators. We must stop

producing more of these managers," he said.

"From standard three, pupils should start understanding their talents and possible career paths."

Judith Kapinga (Special Seats-CCM) argued that lack of focus on talent nurturing and skill development has faded even the formerly top-rated special secondary schools.

"Special schools do no longer qualify to be called so because we don't see anything special from them," she said.

"We praise pupils selected to join these schools after getting with flying Colours, but after completing their studies they come back to idle in the streets."

Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology, told the National Assembly here a fortnight ago that the government is finalizing review of Tanzania Education and Training Policy (2014) and curriculum to among others, introduce vocational education in primary and secondary schools.

He said the appraisal of the documents which is scheduled to complete by the end of this year, adding that the mechanism for sitting vocational education examinations in primary and secondary schools will be prepared in collaboration with National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).



**Primary school pupils study a lot of subjects which are not necessary. From standard four, pupils should start understanding and focusing on their talents or vocational skills**



Ambassador Hoyce Temu (R), Deputy Head of the Tanzania Mission in Geneva, presents Tanzanian coffee and cashewnuts to her Kenyan counterpart, Lucy Kiruthu, whom she paid a courtesy call earlier this week to introduce herself. They then exchanged views on representation in international organisations, cooperation in the carrying out of their diplomatic duties and the cordial relations between their two countries in place since the days of Mwalimu JK Nyerere and Jomo Kenyatta. Photo: Special Correspondent

# Mwinyi: Equal basic rights ensures the country's peace

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said that for the country to be peaceful, it must ensure every citizen gets equal basic rights.

President Mwinyi made the remarks at the event marking 25th Jubilee Anniversary of Bishop Augustine Shao of the Roman Catholic Church, Zanzibar Diocese held at Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar.

He said for that end he will work hard in finding solutions various challenges facing the Church.

He called upon leaders of various religious denominations to adopt ethics saying the step stands to build up trust among their followers.

Speaking about the blue economy policy and its implementation, Dr Mwinyi said the government has divided the concept into five main sectors - tourism, ports, trade and transport, fishing (including seaweed farming) and oil and gas.

He said tourism is the pillar of the national economy whereby 30 per cent of the national income, hence he said the aims of the government entails better use of sea resources for the development of the people.

He said seaweed farming and fishing is an area that involves two thirds of the people, hence the government has stressed in the strengthening of production and alleviates poverty.

He added that his government has embarked in building a big modern port at Mangapwani area that aims in increasing government revenues.

He said another area in the sector is oil and gas, adding that huge quantities of natural gas have already been discovered under the sea so far.

In regard to sea transport he said it is the area that has not seen significant activity and added that the government vows to strengthen sea transport to spur economic growth.

He said Zanzibar has a long history for its people living in harmony, regardless of religious affiliations, the issue that has brought great fame to

the Isles.

He also praised the decision of Zanzibar Catholic Church to work together with other religious leaders in the National Peace Committee that incorporates other religious denominations, saying the cooperation provides great opportunity for strengthening the country's unity for social and economic development.

He also praised various religious institutions in strengthening of social services, including establishment of schools, health centres that provide services without discrimination.

He also used the occasion to convey his thanks to the followers of the Zanzibar Diocese, and wished well Bishop Shao to carry out his religious duties.

For his part, the Minister of State in the Office of the Second Vice President (Policy, Coordination and House of Representatives) Hamza Hassan pledged to work on all challenges submitted by various religious leaders and promised continue cooperation without discrimination on religion lines.

Earlier, Bishop Augustino Mweleli Shao of the Zanzibar Roman Catholic Diocese, among others touched on various challenges facing the Church and its followers.

He said the Zanzibar Constitution gives the people the right to own land without discrimination, but in practice, he said this has not been the case.

He also said the Church is also facing the challenge in obtaining permits for service delivery, saying missionaries cannot implement social development projects without collaboration with the authorities.

Meanwhile, Zanzibar Deputy Mufti, Sheikh Mahmoud Mussa praised Bishop Shao for his kindness and wisdom that made him perform his religious duties proficiently.

*He said for that end he will work hard in finding solutions various challenges facing the Church*



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF: MEDICAL EVACUATION AND SERVICES TANZANIA REFERENCE NO : 10007711

East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their interest in providing Medical Evacuation Services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in the Hoima district in Uganda to the Chongoleani peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

#### Scope of work / methodology of program to provide for medical evacuation service

1. Assessment of health infrastructure along the Right of Way and transportation corridors - Service Provider will need to conduct a formal and thorough site health review, which shall assess the capability of the existing facilities.
2. Assessment of type of fixed wing medevac aircraft to be utilised in the event of medical evacuation. Review and assessment of logistical providers and timelines for domestic and international medevacs, including an assessment of domestic road planning and management, availability of air-evacuation capabilities along the entire Right of Way.
3. Development of a specific Medical Assistance solution that will enable the Service Provider to support coordination of Medical Evacuation Services according to a common operational procedure, including the development of a Project-wide medical evacuation plan (MEDEVAC).
4. Optional scope - Implementation and management of medical facilities on all project work sites:
  - Provision of Medical Supply Chain management
  - Management of Contractor's Medical facilities on Sites,
  - Staff and manage Contractor's site clinics
  - Provision of Medical quality management services
  - Provision of Occupational Health services
  - Prevention and Public Health services
  - Provision of Consultancy, audits and expertise abilities
  - Community health services
  - Provision of Telemedicine

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:
- Business License.
  - Proof of registration with the Tanzania Revenue Authority and Tax (TRA) Clearance Certificate for the latest year available.
  - Proof of registration with the EWJURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database or an approved application at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.
  - Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.
  - Experience in delivering Medical Evacuation Services to projects similar to EACOP . .
  - Competence and capacity in delivering the Medical Evacuation Services outlined above at a large scale, in compliance with national and international standards, and with at least 10 years' experience / performance of similar services.
  - Suitably qualified and experienced personnel in Medical Evacuation Services for oil and gas projects that comply with IFC requirements.
  - Financial capacity to deliver the services required including submission of financial accounts for the past three years
  - Evidence of organization QHSE policy, procedure, and process in compliance with applicable Local, International, and Industry standards for similar works.
  - Proof of Anti-corruption and compliance policies
  - Appropriate licensing if any from relevant in-country authorities for the provision of the services.

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email (max. email size 20Mb) to [procurement.tz@eacop.com](mailto:procurement.tz@eacop.com) , on or before 16:00 hours East African Time (EAT) on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Note:** The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process.



## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: MARKET SURVEY ON STEEL PIPE MANUFACTURING REFERENCE NO: 579212

East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) invites experienced and reputable organizations to express their capabilities in steel pipe supply for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

The EACOP project involves the construction and operation of a buried, cross-border pipeline to transport crude oil from the Lake Albert area in Uganda to the eastern coast of Tanzania for export to international markets. The pipeline will run from Kabaale in Hoima District, Uganda to Chongoleani, Tanga Region, in Tanzania. The length of the pipeline is 1,443 km, of which 1,147 km will be in Tanzania.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:

- Market survey for API 5L Line-pipe supply
- Compliant to API 5L, ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO 45000 certificates

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

Companies or organizations expressing their interest are required to submit documentation of their:

- Experience track list in the manufacture and supply of 18-meter length LSAW or HFW pipes API 5L X65 which shall include as a minimum project list, dates of project, pipe technical characteristics and steel suppliers
- Line-pipe manufacturing capacities above 30km per month
- Steel supplier and Anti-corrosion coater general information (plate or coil, location, capacities)
- Pipe mill planned workload up to end 2024
- Typical Quality plan and LSAW/HFW Inspection and Test Plan
- Typical HSE plan, HSE policy
- Financial statement of the last 3 years

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [eoi.market.linepipe.tz@eacop.com](mailto:eoi.market.linepipe.tz@eacop.com) (max. email size 20Mb) on or before 17:00 hours East African Time (EAT), on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

**Note:** All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.

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# ZEMA stresses need for alternatives to wood fuel in Isles

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA), Director General Sheha Mjaja Juma has said big efforts are needed to make sure safe energy for cooking is available in the Isles instead of the use of wood fuel in order to protect the environment including the forests.

Juma made the remarks here yesterday when addressing reporters at the sidelines of the energy sector meeting held at Madinatul Bahar.

The meeting that involved development partners and government officials from the energy sector aimed to enable Zanzibar have an alternative energy sources.

He said the firewood being used by many residents in the Isles come from forests and that in a year about 500 hectares of forests are destroyed, hence having alternative energy sources including solar energy will enable the rescuing of large swathes of forests.

"Emissions from wood fuel is hazardous to humans and women are the big victims as they are the main users, hence alternative energy sources will rescue them from toxic emissions," he added.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Water, Energy and Minerals, Dr Mgereza Miraji Mzee said the government is in the process of sourcing funds for the construction of power infrastructures because Zanzibar depends on electricity from the Mainland, hence the strategy is for the Isles to have its own energy sources including solar energy.

He further said the effects of climate change greatly impact Zanzibar electricity because Zanzibar uses submarine cables from the Mainland.

"The sea has many challenges

emanating from weather changes hence we do not wait for an incident to happen to start looking for solutions to the challenges, hence we have opted for solar and wind power," he said.

For his part, the Minister for Energy and Minerals, Shaibu Hassan Kaduware said development partners have assisted Zanzibar including the 80KW solar power project at Kokota Island in Pemba.

He named some of the development partners as including Norway that has assisted in the solar project to the Isles and the World Bank that is funding the 18KW solar power project at Makunduchi Village in South Unguja Region.

For his part, the executive director of Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), John Chikomo praised the Zanzibar government for its efforts in fighting environmental destruction including the establishment of solar power projects that are friendly to the environment.



**Emissions from wood fuel is hazardous to humans and women are the big victims as they are the main users, hence alternative energy sources will rescue them from toxic emissions**



Police Engagement Commissioner from the Police headquarters in Dar es Salaam Dr. Mussa Ali Mussa hands over to Biharamulo council director Innocent Mkandara, a handbook on participatory community policing. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## MNH receives 140m/- worth medical equipment from China

By Getrude Mbago

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has received an assortment of medical equipment worth 140m/- as donation from a team of doctors from Shandong province in China so as to strengthen health services in the facility.

Speaking during the handing over event yesterday in Dar es Salaam MNH Director General Prof Lawrence Maseru said that the new equipment will provide relief at the hospital as they will be installed in various

departments.

The equipment include two ventilators, oxygen machine, keratometer (a diagnostic instrument for measuring the curvature of the anterior surface of the cornea), desktop timed electric boiling sterilizer which is designed for the boiling sterilization of operating instruments, medical glassware and other equipment and centrifuge (a laboratory device that is used for the separation of fluids, gas or liquid).

Others include portable autoclaves, electric instrument table, electronic

AC voltage regulator, ultraviolet light sterilize, infrared treatment apparatus and complete sets of equipment sinus mirror among other things.

Prof Maseru pointed out that the equipment will be used to increase service capacities at the hospital especially in the areas of ICU, cardiac and other areas.

He also said the team of 10 doctors from China will also stay in the country for two years serving at MNH, at Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) and Mbeya Regional Referral Hospital.

He said China has for many years been cooperating in providing training to medical experts to equip Tanzanian's experts with essential skills and knowledge to enable them to provide quality services.

Chinese medical team leader Meng Yong said they will continue cementing the relations between them so as to strengthen health services at the facility and other areas in the country.

"It is a great honour to witness strong cooperation between China and Tanzania, we will continue to strengthen and sustain the collaborations in the areas of training and medical equipment. These tools we donated today will help serve various patients in the facilities," he said.

unite for children

unicef

The United Nations (UN) agencies in Tanzania are reviewing their supplier databases being used for invitation of bids/request for proposal for procurement of local hosting services required for implementation of their programmes in the Country. On behalf of all UN agencies in Tanzania, UNICEF would like to invite all interested and eligible suppliers and service providers who can locally host RapidPro in Tanzania.

UNICEF is seeking companies who can deliver the following services:

- Deployment of a RapidPro workspace environment, which will be used for building flows and integrations between RapidPro's instance and local mobile network operators
- Support the integration of RapidPro's instance with social messaging platforms including WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram and Instagram Messenger
- Provision of continuous support and maintenance on local server infrastructure
- Installation and configuration of SMPP connection to SMS and other channels aggregation/MNO SMSC services
- Regular deployment of RapidPro and related software updates, regular security updates to the operation system and infrastructure components, regular backups in offsite archive, hot backups for rapid failover
- Provision of technical support channels: Email, Skype call and instant message

Vendors, suppliers, consulting firms, academic institutions and other consulting firms to submit their Expression of Interest if they wish to do business with UN agencies based on Tanzania. The interested vendors/suppliers/consulting firms should meet the following requirements:

- Complete and sign a Supplier Profile Form. The link to download the form is given below.
- Submit certificate of incorporation as business concern duly registered to conduct business in Tanzania
- Demonstrate that the company has a minimum of two years' experience in the concerned business area and holds valid VAT registration certificate
- Provide audited financial company accounts for last two years (2019 and 2020). This is mandatory for the companies who do business with UN for the value exceeding US\$ 100,000.
- Prepared to accept United Nation's General Terms and Conditions
- Provide at least two references from their reputable clients with their PO/Contract references.
- Fill in the questionnaire at the following website:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpOLB82ujpuDYX17LDbltkjgRTnTIEeKu0-fv8ammh9KaXw/viewform>

For interested bidders please go through UNGM link : <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/173863>

## Police tasked to constrain increasing crime incidences in Muleba District

By Guardian Correspondent, Muleba

RESIDENTS in Kyebitembe ward, Muleba District in Kagera Region have called upon the police force to investigate and arrest people who set on fire a Toyota Harrier-T 170 DFA, property of Emmanuel Jonathan, Senior Resident Magistrate at the Nyamiranda primary court.

Addressing the villagers, Muleba District Commissioner, Toba Nguvula expressed worries over increasing crime incidences

at the area, insisting to take stringent legal measures against the culprits.

"There are some residents who are ready to collaborate with the police force; I have already given some of their mobile phone numbers to the district chairman. It is my hope that all the culprits will be arrested and punished accordingly," said DC Nguvula.

He said the government is determined to control all the crime incidences at the ward, adding, if the situation is left uncontrolled it will result in more damages. He called upon

the residents to respect the rule of law.

Meanwhile, Senior Resident Magistrate at the Nyamiranda primary court, Emmanuel Jonathan informed the DC that there might be some few people who were not happy with ruling of their cases, thus deciding to burn the vehicle.

"We heard some of our workers screaming; we came out of the house but we couldn't manage to put off the fire; my car has been completely burnt," he said.

One of the residents, Ashura Balthazar urged the government to come up with strategies to end crime incidences at the Kyebitembe ward, saying villagers are now living in fears.

"We are all living in fears; we can't go outside of our houses during night over fears of being attacked," said Ashura.



**We heard some of our workers screaming; we came out of the house but we couldn't manage to put off the fire; my car has been completely burnt**

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**



**IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM**

**APPEAL NO. 10 OF 2022**

**BETWEEN**

**SCANCEM INTERNATIONAL DA ..... APPELLANT**

**AND**

**FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION ..... RESPONDENT**

**(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against part of the decision of the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) dated 6th April, 2022 in the matter of Merger Application No. CBD.127/359/136 notifying the Appellant's intention to acquire 68.33 percent shares in Tanga Cement Public Limited Company. FCC approved the merger application with conditions.

The appeal is based on the grounds that, among others, FCC erred in law and fact by subjecting merger approval to certain conditions which make the merger unviable and render it impossible to implement in ordinary course. Thus, the Appellant prays for orders allowing the appeal and removal of all conditions attached to the merger approval.

**BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE** any person who considers that he has sufficient interest may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of the first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology Building, Jamhuri Street, Dar Es Salaam.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.**

REGISTRAR



# Absa Bank Tanzania 2022 Q1 Financial Performance

## Absa Bank Tanzania profit after tax soars 155% in the first Quarter of 2022



**Abdi Mohamed**  
Managing Director

Absa Bank Tanzania has started the year 2022 positively by recording profit after tax (PAT) of TZS 5.2 billion which is 155% higher than the amount recorded in the same period 2021. The improved performance was driven by good performance in transaction banking, FX Income and net interest income following the improving economy from the pandemic effects together with launching of mobile lending which has positively impacted interest income, the bank's Managing Director Abdi Mohamed has revealed.

"The profit before tax (PBT) also grew significantly by 150% year on year from 2.96 billion in the first quarter of 2021 to TZS 7.38 billion this year. This was mainly contributed by the 33% growth in NII driven by the mobile lending and the notable improvement on the income from the government securities on the back of the increased volumes", said Abdi Mohamed yesterday

He also commented that the Fees and commission and FX Income improved by 31% and 40% respectively year on year. The impressive improvement by organic growth following improving economic activities that has seen growing volumes of transactions. The bank continues to be competitive in pricing its products and services and the ensure the customers get the best quality of services.

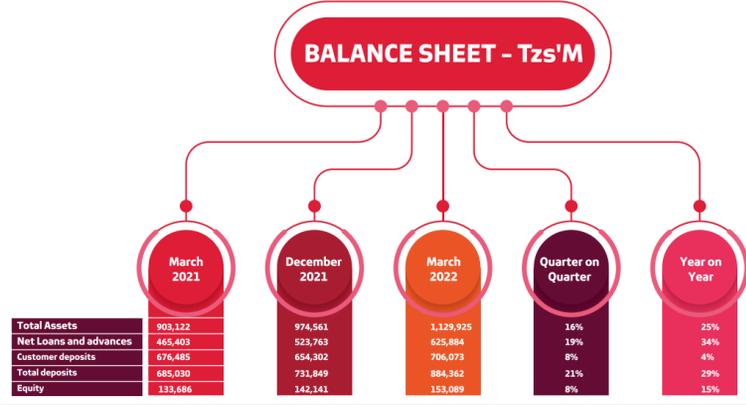
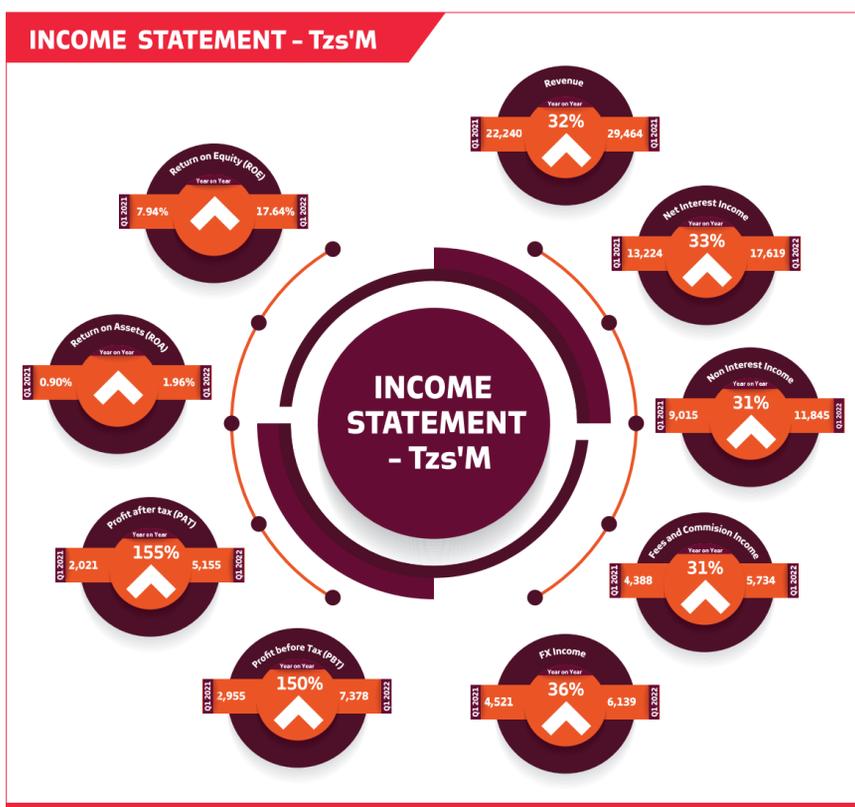
Absa Finance Director (CFO) Obedi Laiser said, "the net customers loans improved by 34% year on year and 20% from the previous quarter thanks to the impressive impact of the mobile lending drive. The bank continued to sell and grow its mobile lending product in partnership with Tigo Tanzania that has reached thousands of customers and assist them to access financial services more conveniently and improve their lives and wellbeing. The growth in customers' loans was also boosted by the increased utilization in overdraft facilities as customers continued to finance their growing business needs".

The customers' deposits improved 4% year on year and 8% from the previous quarter with growth obtained in all segments. The bank has a network of delivery channels and talented customers' service team that provide our esteemed customers with best value proposition. Our prices on the deposits continue to remain competitive, according to Laiser.

**"the net customers loans improved by 34% year on year and 20% from the previous quarter thanks to the impressive impact of the mobile lending drive..."**

Total capital position of the bank grew by a decent 14.52% year on year to TZS 153 billion largely contributed by the retained profit which was reinvested into the capital of the bank. Total Capital of the bank increased by TZS 5.15 billion during the year adding more capital resources which are deployed in expanding Bank's lending capabilities to serve our customers better. The bank continues to have a strong capital position and operates well above the regulatory and internal capital requirements, said CFO Obedi Laiser.

## ABT 2022 Q1 Performance Highlights



## Travel digital market space launched to boost tourism

By Francis Kajubi

THE new travel digital marketplace to enable low and middle income earners to pay in installments for their trips and vacation has been launched to enable the social groups enjoy local and intra-Africa tourism experience.

Dubbed: 'Safari Wallet' by Safari Wallet Tanzania the digital marketplace does not only offer stress-free vacations to local and foreign tourists but also a platform to be used by tour guide operators, hotel owners and travel agents to extend their services to final consumers.

Speaking at the launching event of the digital space held yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Safari Wallet Tanzania Co-Founder Iddy John, said that it guarantees booking for travel by lay back payments.

"We call upon the general public, especially low income earners, to use the digital platform to schedule their trips by clearing their payments in installments. Let's say that one who plans to leave for a vacation in Serengeti National Park in December, can start doing their payments today," said Iddy.

The digital platform which is meant to promote tourism is being launched ahead of the Innovation Week 2022 which is scheduled to commence on May 16 next week.

"We hope that the platform will enable at least eight million Tanzanians from the lower and middle class who have a potential to travel to pay for their future trips. However, the platform will enable at least 26 million intra-Africa tourists to plan and pay in installments for their vacations," said Iddy.

According to him, the tourism services provider company has already created a good network with 16 local tour guide companies and another 58 are on the line of entering collaboration agreements. On the other hand, about 19 companies from the region and worldwide are looking into collaborating with the company in

offering its services.

The platform has been established and put in place by the support of the people from the Netherlands.

Netherlands Deputy Head of Mission to Tanzania, Job Runhaar said that the power of innovation is bringing solutions to challenges facing the general public.

"The Netherlands is ready to work with the private sector in Tanzania and the government in promoting and financing innovative technologies in the Start-up and FinTech sectors," said Runhaar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Director of Government Communications Unit, Ambassador Mindi Kasiga, who graced the launch of the digital market space, said that the ministry is eager at coordinating young FinTech and Start-up innovators in exploring opportunities in the regional and global digital market.

"The ministry has been canvassing large companies and firms around the world so that they come to invest and delegate other duties to local small and growing companies including FinTechs and Start-ups. We are also closely working with the private sector to make sure that all is well with start-up innovators," said Kasiga.



**The Netherlands is ready to work with the private sector in Tanzania and the government in promoting and financing innovative technologies in the Start-up and FinTech sectors**



Fred Paulo of Mwinamila Street in Shinyanga looks at the remaining house belongings that were left behind from their house which was gutted by fire yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

FOUR people from one family escaped death after their house was engulfed in a blaze in Ishinga area, Iganjo Ward in Mbeya City while their entire belongings were destroyed in the blaze.

Those who escaped death are Suzy Mwakasege and her three children who according to her were at her place of business when the house caught fire.

Speaking on Tuesday when receiving various items of assistance from well-wishers, Suzy said she was at her place of business with the children but after some time she sent her children home. She added that later neighbours

## Family of four cheats death in fire incident

phoned her that her house was on fire and that is when she decided to close the shop to go home.

She said fortunately the children had not yet arrived, they were still on the way and on reaching home she found neighbours trying to extinguish the blaze.

"I am so thankful to my neighbours for their efforts even though all my

belongings were destroyed," she added.

Various people emerged to console the family by providing them with various items including food, clothing and other building materials.

Mbeya City Member of Parliament, Dr Tulia Ackson, who is also Speaker of Parliament, handed out 32 iron sheets valued at 800,000/- to the family.

Handing out the assistance, the MP's Secretary, Joseph Chambenenge consoled the family as well the neighbours for the disaster.

The manager of Tulia Trust, Jacqueline Boaz advised women to be careful when cooking saying the cause of the fire to the house was a charcoal stove that was left burning with a pot of beans.

## Exim Bank pledges commitment to work with govt, stakeholders in environmental conservation

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

EXIM Bank Tanzania has pledged to work more closely with various environmental stakeholders while supporting the Government's efforts in combating climate change by actively participating in supporting environmental conservation efforts, especially tree planting.

Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications Stanley Kafu made the pledge at the culmination of the International Red Cross Day celebrations which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) adorned with a planting of trees exercise at the Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital recently.

Speaking during the colored by the Minister of State in the Vice President Office responsible for Union and Environment, Selemán Jafo, Kafu said through the bank's programmes known as 'Exim Go Green Initiative' and 'Exim Cares' it has been participating in various social endeavours such as blood donation as well as environmental conservation.

"This is the second time for us to participate in a programme like this in Dodoma within these two years. Last year in May we joined other stakeholders led by the Retired Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda and we were able to plant about 10,000 trees in Zuzu ward," Kafu said.

In addition to actively participating in the tree planting exercise, the bank also donated 15m/- to the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) in a move to support the preparations for the event.

He said the financial institutions in the country have also been affected by the climate change effects due to disturbances in many economic sectors, especially agriculture.

"That has been one of the main reasons for Exim Bank Tanzania to take the lead in addressing the challenge through supporting tree planting initiatives," he added.

Minister Jafo commended the

bank and other stakeholders for supporting the country's environment conservation efforts and urged Tanzanians to work together in dealing with various emergencies happening to the country while increasing their participation in environmental conservation through tree planting.

TRCS President David Kihenzile called on the government and various stakeholders in the country to continue to support the TRCS's efforts as they aim to directly manage disasters and various emergencies that face the community.

"That is why we are so touched by the support we have received from various stakeholders including Exim Bank as their support has enabled us to achieve this important initiative that is tree planting exercise," said Kihenzile.



**This is the second time for us to participate in a programme like this in Dodoma within these two years. Last year in May we joined other stakeholders led by the Retired Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda and we were able to plant about 10,000 trees in Zuzu ward**



Exim Bank Dodoma branch manager Jalala Kizigo participating in tree planting campaign during the culmination of the International Red Cross Day celebrations which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) held in Dodoma recently. The bank was one of the main sponsors of the event adorned with planting trees at Dodoma regional referral hospital. Looking on includes Minister of State in the Vice President Office responsible for Union and Environment, Selemán Jafo (C). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

AUTHORITIES in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have called small miners in the district to prepare themselves to participate in the Nation's Population and Housing Census slated for August 23 this year.

Chunya District Commissioner, Mayeka Simon Mayeka made the remarks when launching the education exercise to the people regarding the census, calling every person to prepare for enumeration.

He said a big percentage of small miners in the district have the habit of shifting from place to place and that the habit might prevent them to be

## Small miners in Chunya told to prepare themselves for census

counted.

He said in the period to the census all the people are supposed to stop shifting to enable enumerators reach them.

He added that the census is important in helping the government make its plans to serve the people via social services.

"Even our herders are required to stay at one place during this period

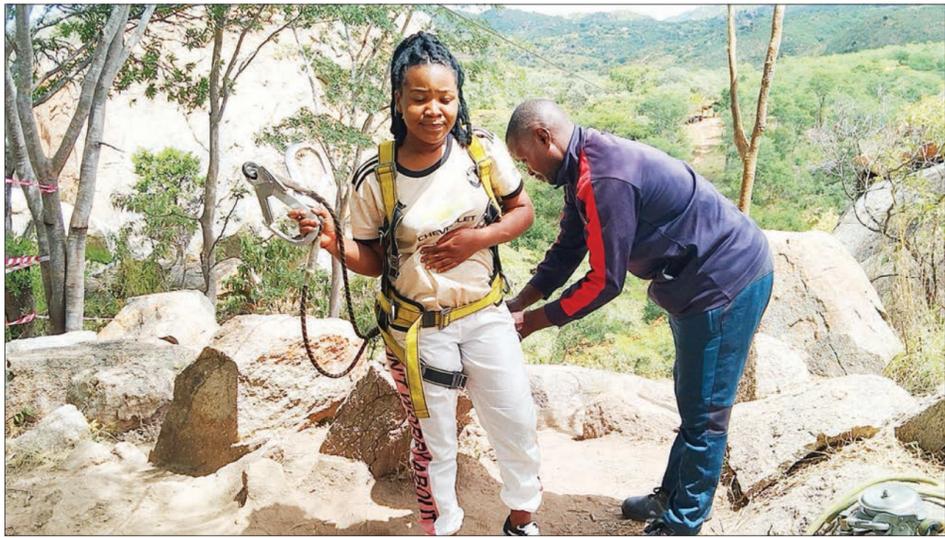
as you can affect the exercise, every one of you must be located in his/her area to be enumerated in order to get the correct census statistics," said DC Mayeka.

Chunya District Council Executive Director, Tamim Kambona said as for now they are continuing with preparations for the exercise including providing education to ward and village officials before going to the

public.

He said they are incorporating all government officials at the lower levels, religious and traditional leaders to mobilise people in their areas for the event.

Some of the people in the District thanked the government for providing them with education early claiming that it will help them to know the importance of the exercise.



Iringa Zipline director, Eben Madembwe fastens a belt to Elizabeth Festo's waist for aerial flying at Kihesa Kilolo tourism site in Iringa yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## Jafo closes down Dar-based skin processing factory over pollution

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE government has shut down the operations of the Dar es Salaam-based factory—Sintakwame Investment after people complained about air pollution.

The factory is located Kurasini in suburb of Dar es Salaam city, the factory deals with livestock skins processing and exportation and has been in conflict with people who live nearby for air pollution which comes from bad smell.

Minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Selemán Jafo closed the factory yesterday after he visited the area to respond to the people's complaints about the industry operations.

Jafo said management of the industry must stop immediately its operations until they take measures to ensure that there is no air pollution around the area and then get clean certification from National Environment Management

Council (NEMC).

"My office has received complaints about air pollution around this area regarding bad smells that come from your industry here. I have also witnessed how you have been polluting the area considering that this is a residential area so what you are doing is not acceptable," said Jafo

He further stated that due to the fact that the area is residential, the industry could have done any other business which doesn't pollute the environment like cement manufacturing, steel, wood, and other business which cannot cause disturbance to the community around the area.

He said sometimes the skins are brought to the industry while they are fresh; a situation which he said brings a bad smell to the area and rise complaints from the surrounding community.

"I thank Temeke Municipality and NEMC officials because you have been

working on this complaint for a while so today I declare that everything here must stop until you control the situation. It is better if you bring here processed skins but this fresh one I say no," he said.

"For the skins which have already been processed for export you can proceed with exportation but don't bring here fresh skins until you get Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), from NEMC," said Jafo.

The Minister said Tanzania has abundant areas for investment which are not residential so they can shift and conduct their business without conflict with their neighbors like what is happening at Kurasini.

"I urge the industry management to make sure you implement directives that you are given by the government experts and ensure that all skins that you bring here are not fresh because I don't want to hear complaints anymore," he said.

## Govt set aside special area for Arusha innovative youth - RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner, John Mongella has said the government has set aside a special area that will bring together innovative youth from the region to enable them have a single strong voice, for them to be identified and qualify for loans for their own and the country's development.

Mongella made the remarks here yesterday to over 100 youth as he was launching "Innovative Week" organised by various institutions in collaboration with UNDP through a special programme in promoting innovation identified as "Funguo Innovation Programme."

He said he is personally touched by the display of various products from innovation and therefore decided to set aside a big area (did not mention its location) for bringing together all

innovators from the region to conduct their activities.

Programme Director of MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MSTCDC), Sara Teri said her institution has participated in the innovation week with the aim of displaying international experience in issues of innovation and good governance in order to solve unemployment challenges facing the youth.

Collins Kimaro, Manager of Westwelle Startup Haus, one of the event's organisers said "Innovation for sustainable Development" aims to bring together the private sector, the government and other stakeholders to discuss issues on innovation and inventions for the national development.

Institutions that joined hands in organising the event in Arusha Region include Women Innovators for Women

Entrepreneurs, Silver leaf Academy, Anza, Chanya Change, Ndoto Hub and YouLead Africa.

Others are MSTCDC Youth Hub Arusha, IAA Startup Business Centre, Twende Social Innovation Centre, DOT Tanzania and Westwelle Startup Haus Arusha.

Arusha 2022 Innovation Week is part of Tanzania Innovation Week. The event is expected to be held in 16 regions of the country.

At the national level the organisers include UNDP through its Funguo Innovation Programme and COSTECH under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

At the national week the event is expected to be officiated by Prof Adolf Mkenda, the Minister for Education, Science and Technology on May 15 this year and later closed by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Dodoma.



Mabogini ward residents in Moshi district, Kilimanjaro region chant before Regional Administration and Local government minister Innocent Bashungwa where he directed Moshi council to build a hospital in Chekereni village, Mabogini ward. Photo: Correspondent Mary Masha

## PURA experts eyeing to educate Tanzanians on opportunities in oil and natural gas sub-sector

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS from the Petroleum Upstream Regulatory Authority (PURA) are set to utilize the Fourth Exhibitions of Funds and Economic Empowerment Programmes in Morogoro Region by educating Tanzanians on the opportunities in the oil and natural gas sub-sector.

During the event which commenced on May 9, the experts are working to raise awareness of the sector in order to increase the participation of Tanzanians in various projects implemented in the sector.

The exhibitions were opened by Morogoro Regional Commissioner Martin Shigella at the Republic Stadium in the region and will continue until

May 14, 2022 where it is expected to conclude with President Samia Suluhu Hassan.

Some of the issues to be discussed at the PURA pavilion include the oil and natural gas value chain, the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) value chain and the ongoing oil and natural gas exploration activities in the country.

Other areas include locals' participation in the implementation of various petroleum upstream activities and opportunities available in the implementation of such projects.

In his opening remarks, Shigella said the exhibition is an opportunity for businessmen and entrepreneurs to learn and share work experience with other participants about opportunities and challenges they face and how to

deal with them.

"These exhibitions are significant in educating the public on the best way to participate more and better in various development activities," he said.

Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Beng'i Issa said this year's exhibition is themed "a strong economy for sustainable development".

She said the aim of the exhibition is to raise public awareness about the existence of funds and empowerment programmes, saving culture and best ways to invest in development projects.

"The exhibition also aims to create a network of entrepreneurs who will participate and promote entrepreneurial markets to bring development," she noted.



P. O. Box 147, Tel. 026-2772165, Fax 026-2772075, Mafinga, Tanzania. E-Mail: mucoba@mucobatz.com

### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

MUCOBA Bank PLC, formerly known as Mufindi Community Bank LTD (MuCoBa) is the oldest community bank in Tanzania that was incorporated in December 1998 and licensed by Bank of Tanzania (BOT) in May 1999 to offer banking services to the communities of Mufindi and neighbouring districts. It opened its doors to the public in June 1999. The Bank, with its Head Office in Mafinga, offers banking services to the community of Iringa region and its neighbouring region of Mbeya at Mbalali District.

Mucoba Bank Plc is now inviting applications from suitable candidates for the under mentioned positions:

#### 1.0 BANK OPERATIONS OFFICER/ TELLER (2 Posts)

The following will be the main duties and responsibilities to be accomplished by a successful candidate on a day to day:

##### Customer Service

- Responsible to the Branch Manager and Supervisor for those who shall be allocated to the Service Delivery Center
- Answers telephone calls from clients and other parties during working hours and addresses the concern of the caller or forwards the call to the proper person;
- Explains to the clients how to fill out application forms and other forms related to deposit and withdraw services
- Encodes client's data into the IT system
- Assists clients who come to the branch/center for disbursement of their loans, performing the prescribed procedures for disbursing loans;
- Supplies the clients with basic information concerning the products and services of MUCOBA BANK
- Secures adequate and good presentation of information materials;

##### Administration

- Maintains the desired appearance of the reception area of the branch;
- Coordinates with branch and other department's personnel to ensure adequacy of office supplies and accountable forms, as well as pantry, grocery, and cleaning supplies

##### Bank Operations/ Teller

- Interview of new clients
- Opens client accounts in the system and ensures that the information entered is complete and accurate
- Attracts potential customers by answering product and service questions.
- Process orders, prepare correspondences and fulfil customer needs to ensure customer satisfactions
- Marketing and promoting bank products
- Issuing of bank statements and balance enquires to customers
- Providing information to clients on banking services and cross selling of bank products.
- To make sure that all source documents used are properly filed.
- Reconcile customers' savings passbook against banker's realm records
- Ensure that the source documents to be used by customers on daily operations are available before start of the day business.
- Co-operate with other operations department staff, risk officers and internal auditor in order to improve banking operations.
- Perform Teller suspense, M- Pesa, Western Union reconciliation
- Generates required reports daily, weekly, monthly.
- Perform Telling duties
- Perform any other duties as may be assigned by higher authority.

##### 1.1 Qualification

- Diploma/ Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, Education, Community Development, Finance or equivalent from recognized institutions
- Computer literacy and data entry knowledge and to be updated with new technology
- Customer care skills and fluent in English and Kiswahili both written and spoken

##### 1.2 Attributes

- Decisive
- Confidentiality
- Hard worker and Team player
- Must demonstrate honesty, integrity and transparency
- Effective in time management
- Creative and ability to take initiatives

##### 1.3 Remuneration

A competitive remuneration package will be offered to qualified candidates depending on qualifications and experience.

#### 2.0 ASSISTANT CREDIT OFFICERS (3 posts)

The following shall be the main duties and responsibilities to be accomplished by a successful candidate on day to day:

- Reporting to Credit supervisors or Credit manager
- To mobilize deposits and loans from clients
- To conduct training to clients for group loans

- To disburse loans to well-trained groups and individuals
- To ensure loan repayment is done timely by close monitoring of the portfolio
- To conduct loan recoveries to non-performing loans
- To prepare and analyze loan documents
- To conduct K.Y.C before disbursing loans
- To ensure there is proper record keeping and documentation
- To prepare daily collection and disbursement reports and be submitted to supervisor and credit manager
- To manage Non-Performing Loans so as to be within regulatory minimum requirement
- To perform any other duties as may be assigned by higher authority

##### 2.1 Qualifications

- Diploma/ Bachelor Degree in General Agriculture, Business Administration, Education, Community Development, Finance or equivalent from recognized Institutions
- Computer literacy and data entry knowledge and to be updated with new technology
- Customer care skills and fluent in English and Kiswahili both written and spoken
- Experience in microfinance lending will be an added advantage

##### 2.2 Attributes

- Decisive
- Confidentiality
- Hard worker and Team player
- Must demonstrate honesty, integrity and transparency
- Effective in time management
- Creative and ability to take initiatives

#### 3.0 INSURANCE OFFICERS (1 posts)

The following shall be the main duties and responsibilities to be accomplished by a successful candidate on day to day:

##### 2.1 Qualifications

- Advanced Diploma/ Bachelor Degree in any of the numerate business-related subjects from a reputable university or college
- Minimum 3 years overall relevant working experience,
- Training in a bank, lending or financial company.

##### 2.2 Attributes

- Decisive
- Confidentiality
- Hard worker and Team player
- Must demonstrate honesty, integrity and transparency
- Effective in time management
- Extensive experience and knowledge of all aspects of insurance management
- Knowledge of insurance regulations or directives.
- Intermediate skills in personal computer operation, word processing and spreadsheet software
- Creative and ability to take initiatives

##### 2.3 Remuneration

A competitive remuneration package will be offered to qualified candidates depending on qualifications and experience

##### 2.4 Commitment

The selected candidate should be committed and ready to work in rural areas

##### MODE OF APPLICATION

Application letters with CV, copies of relevant certificates and contacts of at least three referees should be sent to the undersigned, by not later than one week from the date of advertisement, to the following address:

THE GENERAL MANAGER  
MUCOBA BANK PLC  
P.O. BOX 147  
MAFINGA

OR via the email below:

Email: mucoba@mucobatz.com

Applications sent through email should be in PDF format.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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## There is verily no free lunch in fuel price hikes fiscal measures

A LOUD sigh of relief could be heard across the board in the government's move to check the rapid and unsettling fuel price hikes, about which the public was demanding a solution. Cohesiveness and purpose was at risk as it appeared the government was vulnerable to criticism that it was doing nothing, especially as calls by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and other leaders on the issue went unheeded. There was an effort to find out rises in prices of locally produced goods unaffected by global market fuel supplies, but it appeared to be in vain; prices were rising everywhere, listing a few culprits was simply inconsequential.

With the 100bn/- intervention to cushion increases in the fuel price, a number of difficulties arise in how the move is interpreted and in expectations arising from it. The first order of expectation which wasn't quite stipulated by Energy minister January Makamba is to restore prices of diesel, petrol and kerosene to ordinary levels, that is, not more than 2,500/- at most, though the proper price up to say end of February was slightly lower than that. There were few explicit explanations as to regulatory measures to bring the price of fuel in far off regions in line with standard pricing in Dar es Salaam, and that is the critical issue.

The more tantalizing aspect as to public expectations on the intervention was visible not just in the public reception but even in the terms being used by the minister, on the basis of press reports in the least. He was

quoted to have affirmed that firstly the 100bn/- fuel cost subsidy will not affect ongoing and planned development projects.

The measure is applicable June 1 and "in the new financial year the government expects that World Bank and IMF loans will be available to further cushion fuel prices and cut related high costs of living." But unless global market prices recede, a country can't absorb such costs from World Bank loans for long. The 100bn/- is interim while global market instability could last for years.

Additionally, the government chose the 100bn/- subsidy intervention instead of removing fuel levies as they have already been significantly slashed, on the basis of the minister's remarks. That ought to be carried into the next fiscal plan, and given the salary or wage increases, new employment and intention to ensure that development projects are unscathed, the government may face challenges making ends meet. Strategically, the fiscal intrusion into fuel pricing is limited to this starting point, in anticipation of a better fuel market environment, to reach price expectations. If not, prolonging the price cushion will be hard.

What is also observable is that psychologically there is widespread impatience about fuel price hikes and costs of living generally, and ardent wishes that containing these pressures becomes a matter of principle. If instability in the world market persists, meeting this element of public expectations will be a hard nut to crack.

## World Lupus Day: How to face a threat with few clues on prevention, treatment

A NUMBER of health institutions around the country on Tuesday marked World Lupus Day 2022, after global networks issued an appeal to get ready to help spread awareness about lupus by sharing messages on social media channels. That would help to educate family members and friends about the impact lupus infections have on millions of people around the world, in many cases wrecking their hopes if not for life but for happiness, or yearning for sufficient social appreciation. Lupus is a sting, waiting in the darkness.

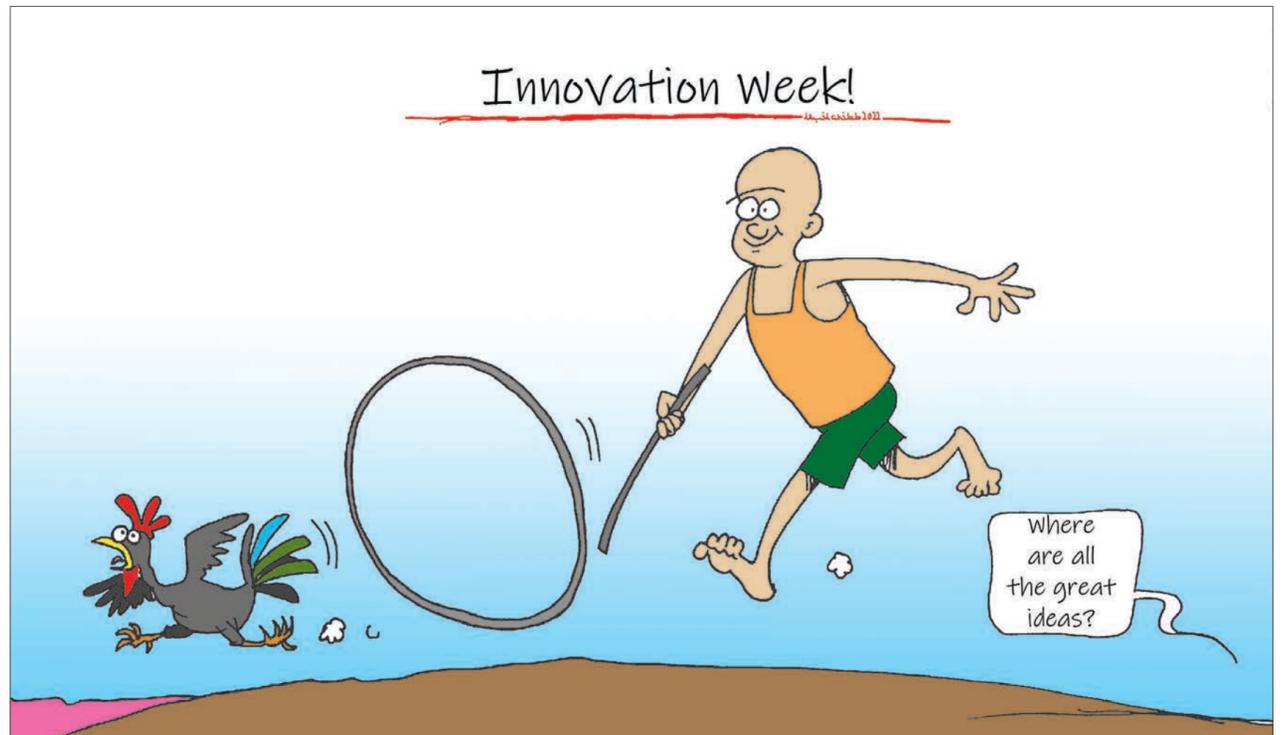
An online medical advisory says that a typical sign of lupus is a red, butterfly-shaped rash over the cheeks and nose, often following exposure to sunlight, remarking that no two cases of lupus are exactly alike. It says that signs and symptoms may come on suddenly or develop slowly, may be mild or severe, and may be temporary or permanent, just a case of someone losing their usual look, through a bizarre skin disease that just attacks from nowhere. Experts say it is a long-term autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system becomes hyperactive, attacking healthy tissues. It is thus similar to allergy, unpredictable.

This is the difficult point about the skin disease, that one's immune system attacks healthy cells and tissues by mistake, which another expert says it occurs when an unknown trigger causes a person's own immune system to attack their tissues, damaging the tissues and producing widespread

rashes, etc. There isn't much that chroniclers suggest other than advising risky individuals to avoid sun exposure, along with avoiding certain medical drugs implicated in drug-induced infection or cigarette smoking. Some vitamins may help, though this needs medical advice and perhaps extensive tests to find the weak links.

One rapid 'to do list' on the lupus disease sums up its recommendations as limiting time in direct sunlight if sun exposure causes a rash, avoiding medications that make a person more sensitive to sunlight, the trouble with this aspect being that it may take time to make the connection, unless an attack is intense. There is also an allusion about the need to develop stress management techniques, which implies that stress is also a factor in weakening immunity systems such that they turn against a person, igniting disease. The sun rays or direct sunlight becomes 'photosynthesis' for what is already unsettled in the body - while, as with the sun, it isn't always possible to stay away from people who are sick with colds or suchlike. It is another matter if getting enough sleep is good medication, as that at least is within reach.

The UN chronicler says that since 2004, lupus organizations around the world have conducted activities on May 10 to raise awareness and educate the public about the symptoms and health effects of lupus. These efforts have helped to raise the world profile of the disease, into an international health priority. Many have been diagnosed and treated effectively.



## Examining Nigeria's preparedness to avert, manage disaster

By Omolabake Fasogbon

OMOLABAKE Fasogbon writes about how gaps in Nigerian safety policy and efforts have deepened Nigeria's vulnerability to crisis and disaster

From building collapse to fire incidence, road, sea, rail and air mishap, tanker explosion, insecurity challenge, flood and workplace accident, Nigeria has been hugely impacted by varying degrees of natural and man-induced disaster that have rubbed off negatively on human lives and national economy. For instance, a recent report by Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) revealed that Nigeria lost about \$188 billion investment opportunities between 2017-2020, representing more than 92 per cent investment opportunities in four years. But according to a former Director General of Lagos Chamber of Commerce of Industry (LCCI), Muda Yusuf, this is not unconnected to low level of investors' confidence, fuelled by structural problems of infrastructure and worsening security situation, amid other uncertainties in the country. Lives lost to disaster and emergency in the country are immeasurable even as reports described Nigeria as the third most dangerous place to live in the world with regards to safety and security, after South Africa and Brazil. According to media report, between 2019 and 2021, Nigeria recorded no fewer than 68 fire outbreak resulting in 79 deaths which the Federal Fire Service (FFS) identified electrical spark as the major cause of most outbreaks. Reports by Brookings also put Nigeria as number one in the frequency and intensity of building collapse in Africa. The report further identify that no fewer than 6000 households were displaced by building collapse with property worth of \$3.2 trillion forfeited. Unfortunately, these are just a tip of numerous havocs that have wrecked families, livelihood and the country at large due to what experts describe as weak safety management systems, policy failure as well as negligence on the part of safety regulators.

To safety experts, quite a number of these disasters, especially man-induced ones can be averted and if not averted, effects can be mitigated should the horse be put before the cart with regards to operational risk management. According to Managing Director of Safety Consultants and Solutions Provider (SCSP), Anthonia Beri, in spite of the frequency of disaster and accompanying loss, Nigeria has not really shown genuine commitment in addressing menace.

She noted that technical and process safety, which focuses on the prevention of fire, explosions, and accidental discharge at process facilities was still at a low ebb in Nigeria.

Beri stated that the implementation of process safety was necessary in all sectors of the economy, particularly in work place where occupational hazards has it reached its apex.

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), one worker dies every 15 seconds worldwide, 6,000 die daily and more than two million die annually from work-related accidents and diseases.

Nigeria's safety policy In 2006, Nigeria developed a national policy on Occupational Safety and Health. This was not until after agitations by stakeholders became intense. The policy aimed to facilitate the enhancement of occupational safety and health performance in all sectors of the economy and ensure that employees' rights protection is consistent with regional and international standards. The policy also led to the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Department, whose primary objective is to ensure the safety and health of workers in Nigeria.

Some of its functions include monitoring compliance with the national occupational safety and health policies, inspection of workplaces, provision of safety and health training, creating awareness of occupational safety and health through campaigns.

In 2020, the national safety policy was reviewed to align with present realities.

Between 2006 when the safety policy was developed and now, Nigeria has been a victim of a number of high profile disasters, many of which it is believed could be averted if proactive measures were prioritised. This imbalance has continued to generate concerns from stakeholders as to the effectiveness and strengths of the policy.

The Executive Director, Strategy, Safety Advocacy and Empowerment Foundation, Jamiu Badmos feels Nigeria policy on safety were more of reactive than proactive.

Corroborating Badmos submission, Beri who is also a safety expert affirmed that Nigeria was rather good at reacting to occurrences, adding that it has failed to learn from past mistakes.

She noted that a general assessment of Nigeria's performance in the area of life, environmental, security and fire safety revealed that the country has greatly retrogressed.

Referring to the warning by Building Collapse Prevention Guild, BCPG, that there are more 36,000 houses waiting to collapse in the country, Beri feared that there were ill preparations on the part of concerned authorities to avert the looming tragedy.

She stressed that investment in safety must be prioritised, adding that in addition to deficient safety policy, breach in standards were most responsible for major and recurring disaster.

She identified other gaps such as communication imbalance among safety experts, dearth of safety experts, human error and poor funding as factors fuelling disaster in the country.

She said, "Safety is not the responsibility of one. It is the differences in communication and understanding sometimes that opens with a detrimental impact on general organisational safety and operations. Clear stipulations of roles and assignments within stakeholders without a defined consensus can be a limiting factor in technical process safety attainment as regulations vary greatly between jurisdictions."

"Besides, it is anticipated that by 2022, there will be a deficit of safety professionals by 10%. This has started manifesting already, which is as a result of retiring boom of the experienced old workforce and the shortage of the undesiring upcoming ones. This generational gap is creating a workforce imbalance in the safety sector."

"The core requirement for operational excellence is proactive risk mitigation for continuity and profitability. Safety is everyone's business, while it is exclusive preserve of regulators like the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) and National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (NCOSH), to ensure safety standards are met. I must say that not being prepared to confront accidental occurrence are largely responsible for the country's underperformance, as we keep reinvesting in disaster, thereby, shifting away from focus."

Again, affirming Beri's stance is a research report by CMC Connect BCW, which exposed organisations' poor preparations against crisis.

The study carried out on over 200 business owners and employees revealed that between the second and third quarters of 2020, 27 per cent of businesses suffered major impact from COVID-19 with only 9.9 per cent of respondents having a crisis management plan in place, while 59 per cent never had a crisis management plan before the COVID-19 pandemic."

Reacting to the report, Group Managing Director of CMC Connect (Perception Managers), Mr. Yomi-Badejo-Okusanya said, "crisis preparedness presents an opportunity to rebuild trust and gain customer loyalty. Many organisations have bounced back from major crisis to dominate the industry. Meaning that, crisis by itself is not an end but could be taken advantage of if planned for. This is where your crisis preparedness comes in, requiring skill and expertise in managing and maintaining propriety in the middle a storm."

Deregulating safety industry for effectiveness

Amid scary figure and depth of

damage due to emergency occurrences in spite of existing safety plans, there have been continuous stakeholders' moves for a changed narratives.

ILO estimates that occupational accidents and diseases result in annual four percent loss in global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) or about \$2.8 trillion in direct and indirect cost of injuries and diseases.

Beri said, "There have been many tragic incidents, which have resulted in fatalities as well as asset, environmental, and reputational damage. While standards have improved since then and much works been done, particularly in inherently safer design and management systems, catastrophic incidents are still happening and will continue to do so until efforts are improved on tackle them head on."

She added that in recent times, a rapid evolution in the complexity of processes and facilities has triggered high profile risks within the safety industry.

She noted that unlike several developed and industrialised countries that observe strict application of regulations and standards to process safety, more prominent today is risk-based approach.

Beri opined for a deregulation of the safety industry for an all-round impactful safety efforts.

She explained, "This is where the private sector and wealthy individuals come to play. A deregulation of the safety industry to woo investors through sound and economic viable policies that are affordable and effective will boost investment confidence into the sector."

According to her, deregulating safety activities would equally take care of every other challenge limiting safety efforts such as, breach of standards, funding and human errors.

Beri also identified the need for continuous training of not just safety experts but every individual.

She posited, "There is an urgent need for frequent training and updating on technical process safety activities to keep abreast of changing practices and develop a technically sound workforce that will minimize human errors and promote safety. Safety experts must deliberately pull up younger professionals and mould them as future assets. Also, schools should include reformed safety curriculum in their programmes to attract students that will be thought with practical modern tools."

"We need to enlighten stakeholders and teach them what we call Lessons Learnt from Incidents (LFI). A layman should be educated on how to avoid accidents. For instance, in situations with market fires, teach the market traders what to do to protect themselves. If a building collapses, we should educate people on what to do to protect themselves"

WASHINGTON DC

# Sri Lanka: Debt crisis, neocolonialism and geopolitical rivalry

Sri Lanka is in the throes of an unprecedented economic crisis. Faced with a shortage of foreign exchange and defaulting on its foreign debt repayment, the country is unable to pay for its food, fuel, medicine, and other basic necessities. Notwithstanding the austerities that would be entailed, a bail out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been accepted as the only way out of the dire economic situation.

Opposition political parties and citizens across the country blame the Rajapaksa government's widespread corruption and mismanagement for the crisis, and demand that the President and the Parliament resign.

The Prime Minister, Mahinda Rajapaksa did so on May 9th, 2022. However, the protesters at Galle Face Green and elsewhere have not been able to put forward an alternative leadership or a viable road map for the future. The country remains mired in confusion, chaos and a highly volatile political impasse.

To understand the complexity of the current crisis, and to prevent us falling back into the same paralyzing debt-cycle, it is necessary to move beyond domestic politics and the relentless news cycles of corporate media and explore some of the commonly overlooked yet basic global economic and geopolitical dimensions.

## Debt Crises and Global Inequality

The transfer of financial and resource wealth from poor countries in the global South to the rich countries in the North is not a new phenomenon. It has been an enduring feature throughout centuries of both classical and neo-colonialism.

At the start of 1989, developing nations owed foreign creditors \$1.3 trillion US dollars. That is, "just over half their combined gross national products and two thirds more than their export earnings."

Recently, the effects of the war in the Ukraine and the Covid-19 crisis have worsened the high debt burdens of developing countries. These countries were already struggling to pay accumulated debts stemming from the expansion of capital flows from the high-income countries to lower income countries after the 2008 global financial crisis. Financial liberalization was fostered by powerful global interests, including the IMF, when interest rates dropped in the richer countries.

This facilitated borrowing by developing countries from private international capital markets through International Sovereign Bonds (ISBs), which come with high interest rates and short maturation periods.

Financial liberalization facilitated by the IMF and the developed coun-



World Bank, Washington DC. The multilateral Asian Development Bank and the World Bank owns 13% and 9% of Sri Lanka's foreign debt, respectively.

tries working with the domestic elites of poor countries has created a "hierarchical and asymmetrical international financial architecture."

As a December 2021 Report published by the Bretton Woods Project points out, this unequal framework creates "macroeconomic imbalances, financial fragilities, and exchange rate instability that can trigger debt and/or currency crises and curb the economic policy autonomy of affected countries to pursue domestic goals."

The international NGO Debt Jubilee Campaign (soon to be called Debt Justice) has pointed out that 54 countries are now experiencing a debt crisis. According to the World Bank, Sri Lanka owes \$15 billion in bonds, mostly dollar-

denominated, out of a total of \$45 to 50 billion in long-term debt.

The country needs \$7 to \$8.6 billion to service its debt load in 2022, whereas it had just \$1.6 billion in reserves at the end of March 2022. The downgrading of Sri Lanka by rating agencies such as Moody's added to the difficulty of further borrowing to pay off the debt.

The devaluation of the Sri Lankan rupee by 32% since the beginning of the year has made it the 'world's worst performing currency,' exacerbating the plight of the Sri Lankan people.

The multilateral Asian Development Bank and the World Bank owns 13% and 9% of Sri Lanka's foreign debt, respectively. Currently, China

will include the familiar privatization, cutbacks of social safety nets and alignment of local economic policy with U.S. and western interests, to the further detriment of local working people's standard of living and inevitably leading to more wealth disparity and repeat debt crises.

## Debt Crisis and Geopolitical Rivalry

Economic crises create opportunities for external powers to expand economic exploitation and geopolitical control. In Sri Lanka's context, this means India, the US and China.

Sri Lanka's big neighbor India has extended a \$1 billion credit line to provide essential food and medicine. The Sri Lankan government has stated that there are no conditions attached to the Indian loans. However, Sri Lankan analysts believe that agreements have been made giving Indian companies exclusive access to investments on the island.

Sri Lanka is strategically located in the sea lanes of the Indian Ocean. Over 80% of the global seaborne oil trade is estimated to pass through the choke points of the Indian Ocean. Although bizarrely overlooked by the global media, a Cold War is already in place between China and the Quadrilateral Alliance (United States, Japan, Australia and India) over the control of Sri Lanka and the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka is part of China's \$1 trillion Belt and Road Initiative, which includes the island's Hambantota Port and Port City. The United States, on the other hand, signed an open-ended Acquisition and Cross Services Agreement (ACSA) with Sri Lanka on August 4, 2017, facilitating military logistic support.

The US is also seeking to sign a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which would

effectively turn Sri Lanka into a US military base. While the proposed United States Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact has not been signed due to local protests, the pact's objective - US control over the land, transportation and communication infrastructure in Sri Lanka - continues unabated.

In this context of Sri Lanka as a tense theater of geopolitical rivalry, the Sri Lankan debt crisis cannot be understood simply as an economic crisis. Could it, in fact, be a 'staged default' designed to push Sri Lanka into an IMF bailout which would complete the island's subservience to the US dominated economic and political agenda?

## Alternative Sustainable Approaches

The young 'Gotta Go Home' protesters who demand President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation seem to be unaware of the global dynamics of the Sri Lankan crisis. Perhaps local and foreign interests guiding the protests may want to keep it that way.

They are certainly not encouraging the protestors to join global calls for much-needed debt cancellation, debt swaps and regulation of capital market borrowing to prevent debt crises occurring in the first place.

However, at least a few Sri Lankan professionals concerned about the implications of an IMF bailout have put forward alternative short and long-term solutions. They recognize that while exploitative colonial and neocolonial policies have turned Sri Lanka into a poor and desperate country, the island is rich with abundant natural resources and human capital.

If the land and ocean and the graphite, ilmenite and the other mineral resources are sustainably utilized, Sri Lanka can be economically self-sufficient and prosperous. There is also much to be learned from Sri Lanka's pre-colonial history in this regard, not least its hydraulic civilization.

The Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) has revealed that there are enough fuel and natural gas deposits in the Mannar Basin to meet the entire country's needs for 60 years. If the abundant sustainable solar and wind power are also utilized, Sri Lanka can become not only energy self-sufficient, but an exporter of energy as well.

Bioregionalism, economic democracy, and food and energy sovereignty are the only route to a sustainable future for Sri Lanka and other debt-trapped countries, and indeed the world at large. To overcome the dominant forces seeking to monopolize control over the natural environment and humanity, people - especially the young - need to awaken and work in partnership with each other to fight the destructive greed that ensnares and threatens to destroy us.

*Asoka Bandarage is Distinguished (Adjunct) Professor at the California, Institute for Integral Studies. She is the author of Colonialism in Sri Lanka (Mouton), The Separatist Conflict in Sri Lanka (Routledge), Women, Population and Global Crisis (Zed), Sustainability and Well-Being (Palgrave MacMillan) and many other publications on global political-economy and South Asia.*

ACCRA

# Ghana's Human Trafficking Scourge

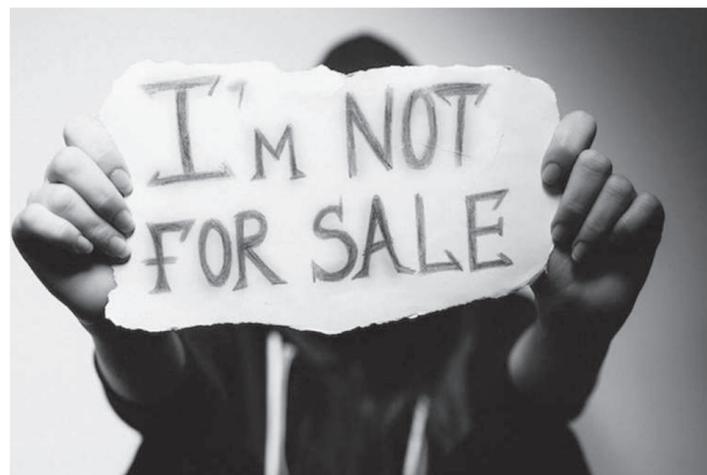
"It feels like yesterday when I was deceived by one man who claimed to be a travelling agent. He promised me a work opportunity and a good salary," says 25-year-old Cissy, as she prefers to be called. "As a young lady coming from an average family who really needed help, I fell for his lies."

Cissy says although she was a bit sceptical about the offer and afraid of her destination country, the so-called travel agent convinced her that she had nothing to worry about.

"He said I had a host mom who would receive me at the airport. In fact, she was the one sponsoring my trip, and I am supposed to work for her, and he claimed the work was legitimate," Cissy adds.

However, the story changed when she arrived at the airport of her destination country.

"A man came to pick me up and collected my passport. I was taken to a house where I saw other young African women kept in the room, some having price tags. It was at that time I realised what I had gotten my-



Caught in a web of deceit, a human trafficking survivor from Ghana tells her story. Credit: Getty Images

self into," she narrates.

She and the other women were later smuggled illegally into Iraq to work as domestic workers.

"I saw how my own African sisters were physically and mentally abused. Some were sexually harassed and subjected to forced labour on an empty stomach," Cissy says.

She wanted to return to Ghana but was unable to until several months later.

After countless failed escape attempts, which left her fighting for

her life, she finally had a breakthrough and was able to return home with the help of a good Samaritan and the authorities.

Since she returned last November, Cissy has devoted her time to irregular migration advocacy activities.

"I am happy to be alive today to tell you my story but not all the young ladies who travel out get the chance I got to return home to their families," she says.

Assistant Superintendent of Police William Ayaregah says human

trafficking is multifaceted and covers several situations from debt bondage, exploitation, and organised crimes.

Issues of human trafficking continue to be a human rights violation and cancer in Ghanaian society because it is a country of origin, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking, Ayaregah, who is the Deputy Director of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit in the Criminal Investigation Department, says.

Likewise, the Gulf of Guinea is characterised by cross-border and irregular migration, human trafficking, and child exploitation.

Ayaregah says recently, the unit, with a non-governmental organisation, End Modern Slavery (EMS), and the Social Welfare Department, rescued four children, two boys and two girls, from a trafficker and reunited them with their families.

He reveals that the two boys, aged 10 and 13, were trafficked by a family friend identified as Rose, a trader from Berekum-Senase in the Bono East Region of Ghana.

She said the children would attend school while staying with her in Accra.

Instead of sending the children to school, as she promised, she sent the boys onto the streets to hawk.

Ayaregah says the suspect, upon her arrest and investigation, claimed that she has been sending Ghc30 (about 4 US dollars) to the boys' parents in Berekum every month.

In the other case, two girls, aged 13 and 17, were brought from Akim-Aboabo in the Birim Central Municipality and Aedeiso to engage in 'gari', a dried cassava business at Amanase in the Ayensuano District in the Eastern part of the country.

The Director of Operations of End Modern Slavery, Afasi Komla, explains that "many victims of human trafficking have had traumatic post-rescue experiences during interviews and legal proceedings.

"In their attempts to get help, they have experienced ignorance, misunderstanding, victimisation, and punishment from offences their traffickers had them com-

"On the 1st of February 2019, the adults' shelter was opened, and 178 adult female victims of trafficking have been cared for, and we are still receiving and caring for victims at the shelter now," she says. "The Children's Shelter was also fully operationalised in August 2020 and has cared for 98 child victims."

She adds that the department received and investigated 108 cases, 42 being sex trafficking, 60 labour trafficking and six related cases that started as human trafficking offences.

"Thirty-four cases were sent to court for prosecution. Out of those, 22 cases were prosecuted involving 37 defendants, and we have gained 17 convictions for the country," she adds.

Abudu says that even though a lot has been achieved, it is still not enough and calls for stronger partnerships to reduce human trafficking incidences, strengthen government institutions, and increase public knowledge.

This article is part of a series of features from across the globe on human trafficking. IPS coverage is supported by the Airways Aviation Group.

# Most maternal deaths are preventable: How to improve outcomes in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG

The past 20 years have seen a significant decline in maternal mortality rates from 342 deaths to 211 per 100,000 globally. But every day, more than 800 women around the world die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, up to 42 days after delivery. Most of these deaths are preventable.

For every maternal death, another 20 women suffer serious injuries, infections and disabilities related to pregnancy. Professors Salome Maswime and Lawrence Chauke explain the state of maternal health in South Africa and how it can be improved.

## How South Africa compares to other countries

In low-income countries the maternal mortality rate in 2017 was 462/100,000 compared to 11/100,000 in high-income countries. In Western Europe rates are as low as five deaths per 100,000 births. Sub-Saharan Africa has 533 deaths per 100,000 births.

The risk of a woman dying from pregnancy-related complications was one in 5,400 in high-income countries, compared to one in 45 in low-income countries.

In West and Central Africa the maternal mortality rate is 674 per 100,000. In South Sudan it is 1,150 and 1,140 in Chad.

South Africa has one of the lowest rates in Africa (113/100,000) but far higher than the UK (7/100,000). The rate in South Africa has declined from 150 deaths per 100,000 births in 1998 to 113 per 100,000 in 2019, according to the South African Demographic and Health Survey and the National Confidential Enquiries for Maternal Deaths.

## Drivers of maternal mortality in South Africa

The three leading causes of maternal deaths in South Africa are HIV-related infections, obstetric haemorrhage and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

Pre-existing medical conditions also account for a high proportion of pregnancy related complications in South Africa. Most deaths are still deemed as preventable.

A significant number of South African women attend at least four antenatal clinics (76%) and deliver in healthcare facilities (96%) under the care of a skilled birth attendant (97%). Ideally these figures should translate into a much lower mater-



The risk of a woman dying from pregnancy-related complications is one in 5,400 in high-income countries, compared to one in 45 in low-income countries.. Credit: Travis Lupick/IPS

nal mortality rate. This means that there are still gaps and more work still needs to be done.

The biggest challenge is still late booking. Only 47% of women booked during the first trimester in 2016. Between 2017-2019, 72% of the women who died had attended antenatal care. But only half had booked before 20 weeks.

Delays in seeking antenatal care have been associated with a higher likelihood of having adverse pregnancy outcomes.

A very high percentage (90%) of South Africans live within 7km of a health facility and 67% live within

2km of a healthcare facility. Despite this proximity women struggle to get timely transport to healthcare facilities. The situation is even worse for rural women due to poor road infrastructure and poor emergency referral systems.

Healthcare facilities offer different levels of care. Most deaths occur in district hospitals in South Africa, where specialist, critical care or efficient emergency medical services may not be readily available. Patients with complications don't reach higher levels of care in good time.

Even when they have access to

higher levels of care women face possible shortage of specialist, medical and nursing personnel in addition to overcrowding.

A report done covering 2017 to 2019 found that 80% of women who died, received substandard care at district hospitals. The figure was 60% for community healthcare centres and regional hospitals. Poor quality of care is therefore a major problem within the country's healthcare system. The same report identified overcrowding, lack of resources, including shortage of nursing and medical personnel among the key drivers for the

poor quality care.

Disrespectful maternal care is an issue too. The abuse in South African maternity services was described as "one of the world's greatest disgraces" in 2015. It included verbal and physical abuse, non-consensual care, non-confidential care, neglect and abandonment. In some facilities women said they expect to be shouted at, beaten and neglected.

Maternal mortality is an indicator of access to care and quality of care. It is also indirectly linked to socioeconomic factors. Women who have access to education,

proper housing and job opportunities are more likely to have good health outcomes compared to those who are not.

Socio-demographic variables such as "race" have also been linked to how women are treated.

The attitudes of the health-care workers towards patients has an impact on women's health-seeking behaviour and delivery of care by the health-care workers (to the extent of delaying and withholding care).

## What can be done to improve outcomes?

The first step is to meet the need for contraception to avoid unwanted and unplanned pregnancies. In 2012, 215 million women globally were estimated to have an unmet need for contraception.

Health education and promotion at community level would encourage women to attend antenatal clinics and give birth in a health facility in the care of a skilled attendant.

## Maternal care should be respectful and dignified.

Efficient transport and emergency medical services are needed so that women receive timely and appropriate care.

Stronger health systems would improve access to high quality obstetric care. Women survive complications of pregnancy and childbirth in functional health systems, with efficient referral systems. There is an urgent need for a responsive healthcare system that takes into consideration population and disease trends.

There is also an urgent need to address the imbalance between demand and supply of healthcare services; improve the social and economic status of women in society as well as the quality of maternal and reproductive healthcare services, to win the battle against maternal deaths.

*Salome Maswime, Professor of Global Surgery, University of Cape Town and Lawrence Chauke, Adjunct Professor, University of the Witwatersrand*

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# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

By Beatrice Philemon

# Kilosa DC in tree planting campaign to curtail environmental degradation

**T**HE Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (MJUMITA) has launched a new project dubbed 'Forest and Farm Facility Project' in Ulaya Mbuyuni village, Kilosa District, Morogoro Region.

The move came after realizing that Ulaya Mbuyuni villagers are now more active in conserving forests in their areas and was well informed on the effect of deforestation.

Launching the FFF's tree planting project at Ulaya Mbuyuni Primary School recently, Kilosa District Commissioner, Majid Mwanga said: "This is a one-year pilot project that will be implemented in your localities, if the project will perform well, FAO will inject more funds to support more people because right now the demand is very high in other villages."

According to him, the main goal of the project is to improve natural vegetation, combat climate change, reduce pressure on the dependence on forest resources within their village land forest reserve, and improve their livelihoods, and health status. It also distributes tree seedlings in schools, local communities, and government and private institutions for environmental conservation, timber, and fruit farming.

"You are among the first beneficiaries, we want to see trees in your areas, don't plant them without monitoring and watering them, let's make our trees safe for our future generation, environmental conservation, and even assist us to earn cash to implement village development projects," he said.

He called on the Ulaya Mbuyuni primary school head teacher to build a fence so as to prevent goats and other animals that have been destroying tree seedlings.

He said the district will continue to work in partnership with village and hamlet leaders to make sure villagers are benefiting from this project.

"If you decide to invest in forest conservation, make sure the forest resources you have within your village are sustainably used to bring positive outcomes to

people," the DC said.

DC Mwanga also called on primary and secondary school students to plant trees around the school boundary to prevent invaders as well as asking school management to distribute tree seedlings to each student to plant at their homes.

"Tree planting will help schools and communities to improve their health status, conserve the environment and combat climate change, which has very serious implications for humans, animals, peace, and security around the world," he noted.

The district will continue to work in partnership with MJUMITA to create awareness in local communities on how to establish tree nurseries and tree planting.

"I am happy to see MJUMITA has come up with a new project aimed at distributing tree seedlings for fruit farming in schools that will provide better nutrition for students, raise income and improve their academic performance," he said.

FFF's project officer, Hamisi Masinde said that the project is being implemented by MJUMITA in collaboration with the Kilosa District Council with funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

It is being executed in four villages of Ulaya Mbuyuni, Unone, Mbamba, and Ithombe. Under the project, villagers and students were trained to establish tree nurseries and produce tree seedlings.

He said that so far, Ulaya Mbuyuni village has been able to establish two tree nurseries that comprise 33,807 different types of tree seedlings to be used for timber and fruit production.

The tree seedlings will be distributed in primary and secondary schools, local communities, government offices, hospitals, churches, and mosques to plant in their localities as income-generating activities and environmental conservation.

"To start with, a total of 328 tree seedlings have been distributed at Ulaya



Kilosa District Commissioner, Majid Mwanga hands over tree seedlings to village leaders of Ulaya Mbuyuni.

Mbuyuni Primary School and Ukwiva Secondary School. Among those, Ulaya Mbuyuni Primary School received 108 tree seedlings while Ukwiva Secondary School received 220 tree seedlings," he asserted.

Ulaya Mbuyuni Primary School head teacher Ramadhani Said, acknowledged the efforts made by MJUMITA and FAO to introduce the project in the areas saying that a total of 440 pupils will benefit

from this project.

"Right now the school has received 108 tree seedlings that comprise different species that including Teak, Cedrela Odorata, Afzelia Quanzensis, Mangifera Indica, and Tectona Glandis (Teak), and have been planted on school grounds and within school boundaries to avoid conflicts between their neighbors," he said.

He highlighted that trees planted on school grounds

also provide timber, fencing, shade, fruit for school children and teachers, opportunities for environmental conservation, help the school to earn cash, allow pupils to learn from there, and get students thinking about environmental conservation early.

MJUMITA's Board Member, Juliana Mwenda noted that the network has decided to introduce this project after discovering that people continue to destroy

forests, especially in village land forest reserves areas to meet various needs and with the growing population, these resources continue to decline.

"We believe when local people actively participate in tree planting whether in schools or in communities as well as educate them on the importance of forest conservation they will be able to own them, protect and use them sustainably," she said.

This is a new project designed to help pupils to understand the importance of environmental conservation in the early stages, create an economically friendly environment for the pupils and give a message about protecting and planting trees and understanding their importance.

According to her, planting fruit trees is the second component of providing better nutrition for students, and "Our project aimed to

provide tree seedlings for mango, avocado, orange, pawpaw, and other fruits to start with.

MJUMITA will provide awards for schools that will perform well in this project in terms of tree planting in their localities and establishing tree nurseries. It will also provide seeds and training to allow them to meet their goals because we have experts specializing in tree issues and environmental conservation.

Ulaya Mbuyuni Village Natural Resources Committee (VNRC)'s chairman, Titima Mohamed stated that Ulaya Mbuyuni village is now working with MJUMITA to implement the Forest and Farm Facility Project with more positive outcomes awaiting in the near future.

"Through the knowledge and skills gained from MJUMITA and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) so far the VNRC's members have been able to produce 9600 Cedrela Odorata tree seedlings, 4200 Tectona Glandis (Teak), 4007 Afzelia Quanzensis and 1000 Khaya anthothica," he said.

Their target was to produce 50,000 tree seedlings but have managed to produce 33,807 tree seedlings that will be distributed in four villages, while in Ithombe village have managed to produce 15,000 Cedrela Odorata tree seedlings.

He called on other stakeholders who are very competent to produce tree seedlings to join their hands to help more villagers get tree seedlings to plant in their localities for fruit farming and timber.

Ulaya Mbuyuni ward councilor, Ali Kibati commanded MJUMITA for the project but also called them to assist in digging a water well in schools so as to facilitate smooth supply of water for watering the trees.

"We need support because other schools have no water, students have to travel to other areas to fetch water, currently Ukwiva Secondary School gets water from Ulaya Mbuyuni Primary School," he said.

He lauded MJUMITA for introducing the FFF project in the area which will in turn help people and students to conserve the environment, combat climate change as well as earn income.

# BMIA launches 2nd batch financial journalism training in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

**T**HE Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) has announced the second intake of its Financial Journalism Training (FJT) program in Tanzania, which will train journalists and media professionals in business and financial journalism, to bolster the country's financial reporting industry.

The resumption of the program follows a two-year postponement because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conducted in partnership with Strathmore Business School, the University of Dar es Salaam Business School, and the University of Dar es Salaam School of Journalism and Mass Communication, this follows a successful first intake in 2019 which saw more than 40 journalists graduate from the program.

Commenting on the announcement, The Director at Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa, Erana Stennett said the second intake will see over 50 journalists and professionals from government.

Also from the private and nonprofit sectors and Tanzania's major media organizations trained over six-months on topics including data analysis, capital markets, accounting, public policy, economics and the transforming media landscape to strengthen their skills and knowledge in business and financial reporting.

She said the training will be facilitated by Bloomberg News reporters and faculty of



Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Governor Prof Florens Luoga speaks to the reporter in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) which announced the second intake of its Financial Journalism Training (FJT) programme in Tanzania.

the universities involved, adding that the Financial Journalism Training program aims to accelerate the development of a globally

competitive media and financial reporting industry in Tanzania, to further transparency, accountability, and good governance in the

country and continent at large.

"The program is a core component of the BMIA, which aims to contribute to the

advancement of business and financial reporting in Africa, recognizing the important role the media plays in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance.

"We are pleased to be resuming the Financial Journalism Training Program in Tanzania after a two-year pause. We believe that equipping journalists with the skills and knowledge to better report on business and financial matters is complementary to Tanzania's continued economic growth and progress," she said.

Speaking at the launch of the second intake, Prof Florens Luoga, Governor at Central Bank of Tanzania, said: "At this critical post-pandemic period, strong business and economic media reporting is core to keeping stakeholders informed in order to accelerate Tanzania's economic recovery. By training more journalists, BMIA's program is contributing to Tanzania's ongoing economic development and progress."

The launch of the second intake in Tanzania follows the program's success in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, Ghana and Zambia, where over 785 delegates have graduated to date.

Since its launch in 2014, BMIA has reached more than 1,000 stakeholders in Africa. BMIA has also sponsored five annual, in-person conferences for media owners and senior leaders in business, government and civil society.

NEW YORK

# Women leading humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, now include them in leadership, say UN Women and CARE

A joint UN Women and CARE report on the gender disparities in the wake of the Ukrainian crisis calls for donors and humanitarian partners to take greater care to promote the voices of women and marginalized communities in the humanitarian effort.

The Rapid Gender Analysis by UN Women and CARE, released on May 4, 2022, revealed the challenges and hardships women and minority groups face in Ukraine. UN Women and CARE officers conducted interviews with over 170 participants to determine how the war impacted their needs and concerns.

The war has affected multiple areas of life, from education and healthcare access to their livelihoods. In the last two months, women have emerged to take on more authority in households and the community, including community and civil society organizations.

Women have been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, the report reveals. However, they have not been included in leadership or the decision-making process.

The risk is that current humanitarian efforts do not fully address the more complex needs of the affected civilians, such as the disabled, people who have already been displaced before the current crisis, and ethnic minorities, such



Women have been highly impacted by the Ukraine war, and have headed humanitarian efforts in their communities, but are still absent from leadership positions. UN Women and Care called for their meaningful inclusion in planning and decision-making processes. Credit: Ed Holt/IPS

in Ukraine through the lens of gender. Presenting the report at the event on Tuesday were Felicia Dahlquist, Programme Analyst from UN Women's Ukraine office, and Siobhan Foran, CARE Gender in Emergencies Coordinator.

The speakers agreed that there was a need for gender-responsive and socially inclusive humanitarian efforts. This response could address the needs across different sectors, from providing shelter and non-food items (NFI) and education to lessening the care burden on mothers at home.

Dahlquist and Foran acknowledged that multiple areas need to be addressed all at once in a crisis. This runs the risk of other factors such as gender and diversity competing for attention.

Another recommendation was to increase communications to ensure accountability to the affected populations. This would mean implementing feedback and complaints mechanisms to ensure effective procedures and diverse communications channels to disseminate information on humanitarian aid to various groups.

A key topic of discussion was the role that media could play in reporting the stories of women, men, and minority groups on the humanitarian front.

The speakers said that the media has the ability, and thus a responsibility to address the ongoing issues that women and minorities deal with, to present the nuance and complexity of their experiences within the context of their intersectional experiences.

The media have the potential to reflect the voices of these communities to the general public but also get the attention of donors and humanitarian agencies to increase their efforts to support women-led organizations.

Even as donors and humanitarian agencies are expected to be pragmatic in their program planning and implementation approach, Dahlquist said it is essential to remember the humanity of the people who need this aid.

The media could play a key role in showcasing that human element, especially among those groups that receive less coverage in the news, such as ethnic minorities and the LGBTQIA+ community.

as the Roma.

Among the report's key findings, women, men, boys, and girls have different needs that must be considered in the humanitarian response.

However, the current frameworks of humanitarian aid need to improve to address their complex needs better.

Women, minorities, and other underrepresented groups face greater pressure with the compounded and intersectional impact of the crisis that can leave them more vulnerable in conflict or the loss of income.

Even though they are at the forefront of humanitarian efforts in their communities, they are not included in the decision-making process of how humanitarian aid is

disseminated to even the most vulnerable groups.

Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, said: "It's critical that the humanitarian response in Ukraine takes into account and addresses the different needs of women and girls, men and boys, including those that are furthest left behind...Women have been playing vital roles in their communities' humanitarian response. They must also be meaningfully involved in the planning and decision-making processes to make sure that their specific needs are met, especially those related to health, safety, and access to livelihoods."

A UN Women Media Compact event discussed the findings of the report and media experiences with reporting on the war

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 276 00--

**3 letters** LOP, KEY, ADE, SRI  
**4 letters** LOU, KAKA, HARE, EYES, DOOM, MAID, OOSE  
**5 letters** GRADE, FLOOD, OPRAH, OTAKU, DREAD, YIELD,  
**6 letters** EDITOR, INDIAN, STRIFE  
**7 letters** TUESDAY, ENDURED, ENAMOUR, ALLIOTED  
**9 letters** EMIRATE,  
**9 letters** JUG OF LOVE

**CLUES: Across**

- deflection
- Togo's Capital
- a risky or daring journey
- the size of a dose of medicine
- a person that leads something
- a wooden frame for holding an artist's work in progress
- talk nonsense
- the active male principle of the Universe in Chinese philosophy
- consecrate
- a metal weapon
- a thing that is difficult to understand
- 

**Down:**

- revelled
- deliberately destroy
- infests human skin and hair
- facts
- each of the limbs on which a person or animal walks and stands
- on one's own
- not often
- the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, which determines its character
- bristle
- carbonated water
- a cot
- put, lay

By Maggi: 075429240 | fahmagazi@gmail.com

# RADIO One RAJIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM NIPASHE 06.50 AM MATANGAZO 07.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07.10 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07.15 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07.40 AM HABARI NYEPESI 07.40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08.00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08.10 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 08.10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09.00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09.10 AM MATANGAZO 09.20 AM BRAND TALK 09.30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10.00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10.03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 10.10 AM VALIYOMO YAMO 13.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13.30 HRS DJ SHOW 16.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16.03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16.30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18.30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19.30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20.10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21.05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22.15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23.00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23.03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01.00-05.00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO	05.00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06.00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06.30 AM 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# BOT issues guidelines for banks to self-test performance risks

By Guardian Reporter

**B**ANKS and financial institutions in Tanzania will now be able to self-test various risks, both internal and external, that may stress their performances.

This follows after Bank of Tanzania (BOT) published the new Stress Testing Guidelines for Banks and Financial Institutions, 2022, Made under Section 71 of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006.

The guidelines published yesterday shall come into operation on the date of signing by the governor, according to BOT.

The stress testing will involve measuring the level of resilience of a bank against scenarios designed under plausible assumptions, as well as preparing mitigation plans to maintain a level of resilience or preparedness against shock.

BOT says through the guidelines, banks and financial institutions shall report the results of stress testing, including the impact on liquidity; profitability; and capital adequacy on quarterly basis.

According to BOT guidelines, regular review of the stress testing process shall include validation and other independent review of the key individual components of the stress testing process, such as a review



of the methodologies, scenarios, assumptions, and estimations of the stressed losses, revenues, and liquidity forecasts.

The review shall be in line with the internal audit programs of banks and financial institutions and directives issued by BOT.

Where a bank or financial institution fails to submit stress testing processes and results as required under the guidelines, shall be liable to a civil

money penalty of one million shillings for every day in which the failure continues.

Also, if a bank or financial institution makes a misrepresentation of information on any of the stress testing reports, it shall be liable to a civil money penalty of one million shillings for every day in which the misrepresentation continues.

Role of testing is setting banks and financial institutions' risk

tolerance limits; complying with the requirement of the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP); conducting rigorous and forward-looking assessments of risk; and guiding the preparation of the strategic plans.

The testing report may range from simple portfolio level sensitivity or individual risk level analyses to comprehensive institution-wide scenario stress testing.

Stress testing scenarios shall be prepared semi-annually or as the BOT may deem necessary, the guidelines reads.

In developing assumptions for conducting stress testing exercise, banks and financial institutions shall cover macro-economic factors, geo-political factor, borrowers' characteristics, financial market conditions, concentration status such as depositors, borrows, sectors and transaction type, the document reads.

Banks and financial institutions are therefore required to conduct stress test using institutions' own internally developed models, data, assumptions or scenarios, with possible use of external data for some additional information.

They will also measure risk of an economic loss from a failure of the counterparty to fulfill its contractual obligations.

Other risks to be measured by banks and financial institutions through the guidelines include exchange rates, interest rates, macro-economic, market, operational and scenario.

On credit risks, banks and financial institutions shall assess at minimum the impact of the increase in provisions due to an adverse shift in the overall loan portfolio; default of top 10 borrowers; migration of loan classifications; and changes in default rates of particular sectors.

On foreign exchange risk, banks and financial institutions shall assess the impact of change in the exchange rate on the value of an institution's on balance sheet assets, liabilities, or off balance sheet positions and impact its capital requirements.

In testing liquidity risk, banks financial institutions shall assess the impact of inability to convert assets into cash at current market prices (asset liquidity risk); and inability to access sufficient funds to meet payment obligations promptly (funding liquidity risk).

Banks and financial institutions may assess the impact of various factors, including internal or external fraud, system failure and security risks on the banks and financial institutions' financial position to rest operational risks.

"The Bank of Tanzania has a role in ensuring the banking sector's resilience. In executing this mandate, the Bank has issued these guidelines aligned with the Basel Committee of Banking Supervision Stress Testing Principles, 2018," said BOT on the guidelines framework.

However, banks and financial institutions may opt to disclose their stress test results to reduce the risk that market participants may perceive from ill-informed conclusions about the resilience of banks and financial institutions.

# Africa's best banks bounce back after challenging year

By Guardian Correspondent & Agencies

IN March, many banks in Africa reported their 2021 annual results. Across the board, the recurring theme was a return to profitability with a bang.

After the banks had witnessed their operations and books ripped apart by Covid-19, 2021 not only marked a return to near normalcy, but also a bumper crop of mindboggling results.

From a global perspective, 2021 can be summarized as a recovery year, according to Sim Tshabalala, CEO of the Standard Bank Group.

For the banking industry, the easing of pandemic restrictions and increased access to vaccines fueled the economic resurgence.

In South Africa, a PwC performance analysis of Absa, FirstRand, Nedbank

and Standard Bank shows an average of 99 percent increase in headline earnings compared to 2020, attributed by the analysts to a 59.6 percent decline in the combined credit impairment charges.

As a result, the combined return on equity (ROE) rose to 15.9 percent compared to 8.3 percent in 2020.

"Having consistently maintained robust balance sheet metrics across capital, liquidity and credit provisions, the results reflect a rebound on the back of a more supportive operating environment and the focused execution of their digitally led strategies," says Francois Prinsloo, Africa Banking and Capital Markets leader at PwC.

In East Africa, CAC International Bank, whose balance sheet stands at \$472.8 million, posted \$4 million in profits and 18

percent ROE and is the winner in Djibouti. The bank's Cacpay Banki offers contactless services.

The best bank in Tanzania, CRDB, enjoys a strong market presence with 228 branches, 3 million customers and \$3.7 billion in assets. The bank cut down NPLs to 3 percent in 2022 from 8.6 percent in 2018.

Awash Bank, best bank in Ethiopia, is a leader in profitability, and posted \$75 million in profits last year. The bank's strength stems from its network of 566 branches, 5 million customers, and more than \$2.7 billion in assets.

Bank of Kigali, the best bank in Rwanda, posted \$35.6 million in profits in the first three quarters of 2021. Serving 350,000 retail clients and 26,000 businesses, the bank launched a product designed for wom-



en to further financial inclusion.

In Uganda, Centenary Bank won the country's best bank designation. With 2 million clients and 77 branches, it has been at the forefront of driving financial inclusion, mainly through mobile banking.

Kenya witnessed a similar situation where Central Bank of Kenya data shows that the banking industry's pretax profits for 2021 rose 72.7 percent to a record \$1.6 billion, resulting in mouthwatering dividends for shareholders.

"When we don't need capital, we give it back to shareholders," says Kariuki Ngari, CEO of Standard Chartered Bank of Kenya. The

increased dividends came after the bank posted a 66% jump in net profits to \$77.5 million.

NCBA, the winner for Kenya, has witnessed unprecedented growth in just a few years. With \$4.9 billion in assets, the bank posted 159 percent growth in profits for the first nine-month period of 2021 to \$96.8 million. As the market leader in asset finance, it opened nine branches to grow its retail market.

Across Africa, banks are optimistic that the tough season is behind them. Measures taken in 2020 to build up capital buffers to ensure sound footing and preserve credit strength are now paying off.

Besides, the problems of provisions for nonperforming loans (NPLs) and forced holdback in lending are no longer necessary.

Notably, banks expressed cautious optimism even with the threat of a pandemic relapse. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine casts a dark shadow on economic recovery.

The prices of commodities, particularly oil, wheat and fertilizer, already have risen sharply due to supply disruptions and inflation.

In late March, South Africa's central bank increased its benchmark rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 percent, the third such move since November, to counter inflationary pressures stemming from the war. The country imports 10 percent of its wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

Although Africa's banks are alert to threats, they see a growth opportunity from the 2021 rebound. Specifically, improving and strengthening digital platforms that were central in the swift recovery will undoubtedly define the bank of the future.

Among the big-four banks in South Africa, the number of digitally active clients increased by 8 percent in 2021 to stand at 14.4 million against 11.8 million in 2019.

# Western banks face \$10B loss after exit in Russia

PARIS

AS banks across the Western world prepare to leave Russia due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, they are also bracing for large losses. In fact, these banks predict they will lose a total of \$10 billion, according to a report by Business Insider.

UniCredit, an Italian lender, has set aside \$1.3 billion, and two French banks, Societe Generale and Credit Agricole, have set aside \$591 million and \$410 million respectively. Raiffeisen, a bank in Austria has set aside \$24 million in preparation.

Citigroup, a U.S. based lender, may face the biggest loss of all at nearly \$3.17 billion. The bank set aside \$1 billion last month due to this.

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon warned his bank could suffer a lost up to \$1 billion as well, and Goldman Sachs has already lost \$300 million. Both of these banks announced in March that they were going to begin pulling out operations in Russia.

According to some FT calculations, banks that are planning to close their Russian operations, which collectively have \$86 billion of exposure in Russia, are setting aside more than \$10 billion in expected losses.

This comes amid international sanctions forcing businesses and banks to cease operation in Russia because of its invasion of Ukraine.



**UniCredit, an Italian lender, has set aside \$1.3 billion, and two French banks, Societe Generale and Credit Agricole, have set aside \$591 million and \$410 million respectively.**

# Equity bank loans to coal projects after IFC entry

NAIROBI

EQUITY Group has committed not to lend to any coal-related projects, with the policy prompted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) that has just acquired a 6.71 percent in the country's largest bank.

The international financier is leveraging its capital to fund environment-friendly ventures and block financing of polluting industries in an effort to counter climate change.

Equity's new anti-coal policy comes as the country prepares to exploit the commodity, with major quantities discovered in Kitui County's Mui Basin.

"Through this equity

investment, Equity Group commits to zero lending for coal-related projects such as the development or expansion of coal-fired power plants, coal mines, transportation assets used exclusively for coal," IFC and Equity said in a joint statement.

The bank will also refrain from funding any utility company that generates more than 20 percent of energy or revenues from coal, or have an annual coal production of 10 million tonnes or more, or have an installed coal-fired capacity of 5,000 megawatts or more.

Burning coal is estimated to account for nearly half of carbon dioxide emissions and

72 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from the electricity sector worldwide.

Bamburi Cement is among the major manufacturers that use coal to fuel production.

Equity joins other African banks that have developed anti-coal policies on request from shareholders and investors, a trend that started in the developed economies.

Standard Bank of South Africa earlier adopted a policy that made it more selective in the coal projects it can finance, with a focus on limiting emissions.

Kenya's proposed 1,050MW coal power plant in Lamu collapsed after critical partners, including financial institutions

and General Electric withdrew their support.

IFC acquired its Equity stake from Britam and has tightened its commercial ties with the bank by mobilising major loans to be on-lent through its subsidiaries in the region.

The global financier and its partners on Tuesday announced it has signed a deal to lend a total of \$165 million to the bank.

IFC will provide \$50 million while UK fund British International Investment will provide \$65 million. Another \$65 million will come from Symbiotic, Responsibility, and FMO.

The new loans bring total credit marshalled from IFC to \$300 million.



Equity Bank Group Chief Executive Officer Dr James Mwangi

# Global investment banks in China finally turn into profit

BEIJING

ALL but one of the global investment banks in China finally managed to eke out a profit last year after Beijing allowed them to take full control of their operations and expand their influence in the country's colossal financial sector.

After years of losses or small returns, six out of the seven Wall Street and European financial institutions with investment banking ventures in mainland China – including JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley – made a profit in 2021, according to figures reported by the banks and seen by the Financial Times.

Morgan Stanley, which was the first Wall Street bank to create an investment banking partnership in China in 1995, made a profit of Rmb30mn (\$4.5mn) in 2021, according to the financial reports. In the prior three years, its onshore investment bank made a combined loss of about \$38mn.

JPMorgan, which established its first investment banking joint venture in China in 2010 but was forced to scrap it and start again in 2019, made profits of \$11mn last year. Its losses in 2019 and



2020 totalled \$39mn. The banks did not comment on their financial results.

The limited profits underlined the difficulties faced by western banks in China, where they have been plagued by operational setbacks and prohibitive regulations that have capped investment.

But a regulatory shift in the last two years as China opened its financial markets to foreign competition has raised hopes that years of investment might finally start to yield consistent rewards.

After Beijing scrapped foreign ownership limits in the securities and mutual fund industry in April 2020, the banks

could for the first time take full ownership of their Chinese operations and better integrate them with their global businesses. JPMorgan and Goldman have both moved to take over their joint ventures while Morgan Stanley has increased its ownership to 90 per cent.

However, the lenders still face an uphill battle to compete with China's own investment banking giants and capture a slice of the enormous domestic deals market.

China's brokerages earned Rmb191.12bn (\$28.4bn) in net profit in 2021, up about 21 per cent from the previous year,

Securities Association of China data show.

Geopolitical tensions between Beijing and Washington have also halted a stream of lucrative fees for global banks listing Chinese companies in New York and Hong Kong, which had for years justified their lossmaking operations onshore.

HSBC's Chinese partnership, HSBC Qianhai Securities, made a \$24mn loss, bringing its total losses since 2018 to \$89mn.

Goldman Sachs, which was granted full ownership of its 18-year partnership with Gao Hua Securities last year, made a profit of \$12mn in 2021. Swiss bank UBS was the best performer of the group, making a \$22mn profit.

"The objective is not to compete to be in the top three domestic underwriters in China," said a person close to Goldman Sachs. "The objective is to focus on the areas of the domestic market where we can differentiate and bring international capital to China in ways our domestic competitors find more difficult."

Goldman's results showed a jump in investment banking revenue last year from \$1mn to \$24mn, in part due to its role as co-sponsor of the \$3.5bn Shanghai flotation of biotech firm BeiGene.

On Tuesday, Goldman revamped its leadership in China, relocating Singapore

# Bitcoin rebound as Crypto world awaits rescue

SINGAPORE

BITCOIN held a partial rebound from this week's selloff amid steadier sentiment in global markets and expectations of help for a stablecoin whose struggles have cast a cloud over the cryptocurrency sector.

The world's largest token hovered around \$31,000 as of 12:50 p.m. in Singapore on Wednesday after bouncing from a brief dip below \$30,000 a day earlier. Ether, Solana and other coins fluctuated in somewhat narrow ranges.

All eyes are on TerraUSD, an algorithmic stablecoin that should maintain a one-to-one ratio to the dollar. It has lost the peg and was trading at about 80 US cents. Stablecoins are key elements of the plumbing in the crypto market.

Luna, a token that's part of the peg mechanism for TerraUSD, is also under pressure. It has dropped about 60% in the past 24 hours.

Do Kwon, founder of Terraform Labs – which powers the Terra blockchain – is moving to shore up the stablecoin. He said on Twitter that a recovery plan is close to being unveiled. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said TerraUSD's de-pegging highlighted the need for a regulatory framework for stablecoins.

BANKING &amp; FINANCE

# For Celina Gombanillah: Says nursing is a calling profession

By Guardian Reporter

ONE needs a great deal of selflessness to become a nurse. As extensive as nursing courses are, nothing can compare to the level of care and dedication that is needed on the job.

Nursing goes beyond just helping patients with their physical health, many times, nurses provide emotional support and care that goes beyond their job description.

Celina Gombanillah, a nurse at the Health Clinic located in the Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine, believes that helping people is her calling. "If there is a job that requires one to exercise the highest levels of professionalism at all times, then it is nursing," Celina says. "This is because nursing entails saving lives...it requires one to not only care for others but also for themselves," she adds.

Celina Gombanillah holds a diploma in nursing from Nkinga College in Tabora. Before joining the Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine in 2011, Celina worked as a nurse at the Mvudui Mine, where she expanded her knowledge and learned to treat people from

various backgrounds.

"Working on mining sites has given me the chance to take care of people from so many different countries. I can now use my diverse experiences to exceed the expectations set onto me," Celina says.

Celina's character is well known and acknowledged by her peers. She is described by colleagues as a committed, resilient, and dedicated employee. She is a result-driven team player who sets an example for everyone. Celina's department head, Dr. Said Kudra, says that "...her flexibility and resilience has helped patients receive timely care even in odd hours. She constantly goes above and beyond what is expected of her in her day-to-day assignments. She is the person that any leader aspires to have on their team, and she symbolizes the best of what we can and should strive to become," Dr. Kudra adds.

Celina embraces Barrick's values, as they strive to offer equal opportunities in the workplace. "I am happy to note that the number of women employees at the Barrick Bulyanhulu Gold Mine is

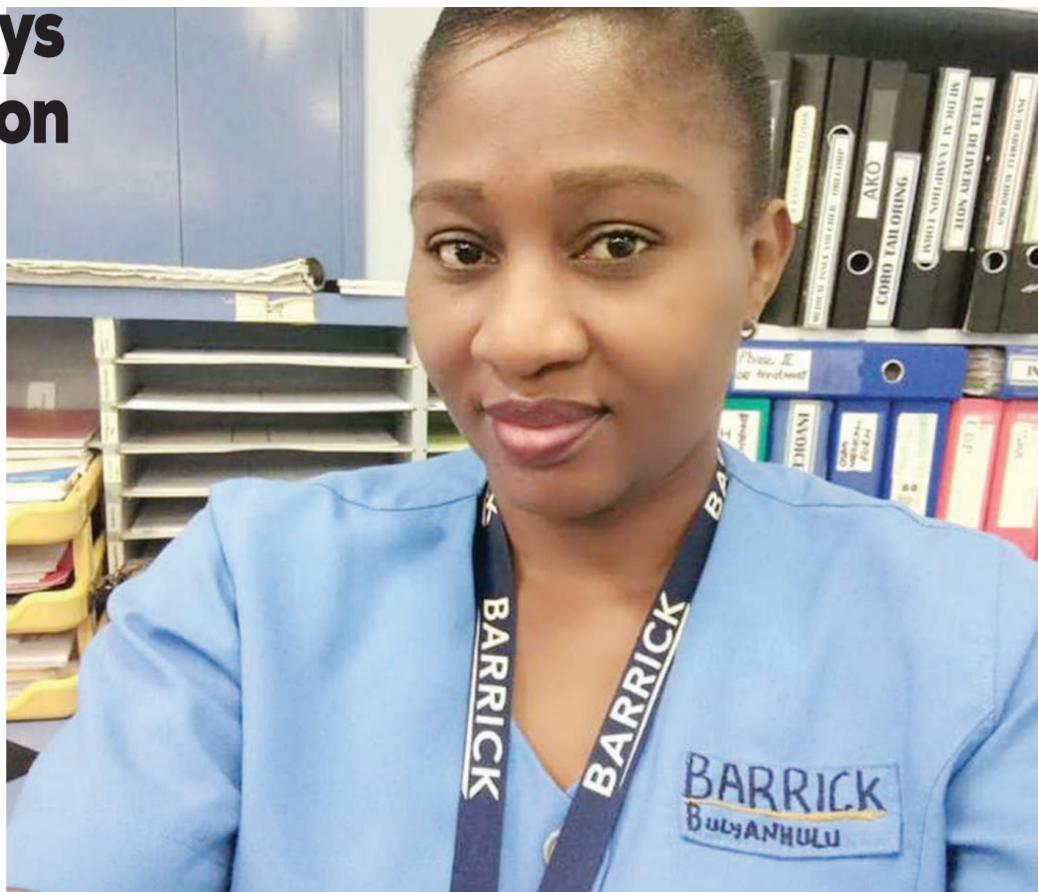
growing. Today, as I walk around the mine site, I can easily see female employees in various departments, including engineering and geology. The number of women in senior management positions is also very commendable," Celina says, as she reflects on the increasingly diverse Barrick workforce.

With the company's large investment in training and modern technological equipment, Celina has acquired the knowledge to use modern medical services and apparatuses in her work.

Like any job, Celina faces several challenges, however, she says that she has learned to embrace the challenges as opportunities for growth.

Celina plans on advancing her professional qualifications in the medical field so that she can serve her patients in a more effective and efficient manner.

"My advice to those seeking a career in nursing is to always act with the highest level of professionalism. A lack of professionalism in this field of work can have negative results, especially to the patients that depend on you," she says.



Celina Gombanillah

# Trust in FinTechs is an opportunity for banking sector

By Simon Tobelem

IN financial services, it's a question of trust, compounded by nervousness among businesses and individuals in these times of war, pandemic and rampant inflation.

One thing is certain for banks and other financial institutions in such fragile conditions: they must be innovative in order, if not to gain new customers, at least to keep those they already have – and there must also be reassurance.

According to the Edelman Confidence Barometer, banks and financial institutions form the industry that people trust the least, whereas Trustpilot reckons fintech start-ups in payments, investment and finances services are the exception. Despite regulation varying from country to country, an encouraging number of FinTechs or neo-banks are relatively well perceived by customers who are increasingly aware of how-to digital tools and applications in finance.

Nonetheless, suspicion is never far away as data privacy and the onward use of information remain a

huge concern. This has been a major hurdle for open banking reforms in the UK, with consumers reluctant to share personal data with fintech apps, even for accessing better or more competitive products.

Conventional banks are still 72% of the market for banking services and payments. Neo-banks and fintech start-ups have struggled to make inroads, despite compelling service offerings. In fact, the peak of the pandemic in 2020 saw the larger traditional banks' deposits increase.

So how is it that even after managing to raise billions of dollars in funding, the vast majority of early stage FinTechs are struggling? In short, many do not seem to be able to provide basic but critical support to their customers, some of whom may feel lost as they navigate a range of new, largely digital, services.

Online too often means nobody to phone, but a customer journey cannot end with app registration. The possibility of help at every touchpoint of a transaction, even if it's not needed, is imperative.



Simon Tobelem

is the CEO of next generation business banking platform Arie Finance.

Customer service should therefore be a key pillar in fintech. Clients, quite reasonably, equate digital with fast and easy – including easier access to human help when necessary. Furthermore, service that exceeds expectations creates loyalty and an inclination to refer.

A second area underpinning trust is transparency. Visibility and clarity are critical to delivering a better banking experience: the full cost structure of all products and services; complex areas explained in layman's terms; providing tools to better manage customers' financial risks; and better insights to

guide clients to the right strategies.

Consistent communication is key for FinTechs to maintain hard-earned trust. They must be authentic in sharing with their clients the good and the bad news – exciting corporate developments at the provider, as well as announcing improvements resulting from customer feedback.

To be fair, it also has to protect the institution. FinTechs have spent millions on AML/KYC compliance and many are now looking to reduce their costs while running more effective programmes, some combined with AI, which are user friendly for customers

and onboard them quickly with low risk of identity fraud.

As for regulators, without neglecting security and data protection they have had no choice but to adopt a new mindset and adapt to new technologies. New financial players in the UK, continental Europe and the US have been treated flexibly by regulators, relative to traditional operators.

For example, regulators such as France's ACPR and AMF, the UK's FCA and the FDIC in the US have entered into regular exchanges and even created 'sandboxes', where fintech start-ups can register or be exempted from legal obligations so they can test their products or services for a limited period. This clearly helps regulators better manage the specific risks associated with the emergence of new players.

Rather than complaining about unfair new competition, incumbent banks have also decided to change mindset, deciding it's better to partner with neo-banks and fintech start-ups by integrating their innovative payment

activities in ad hoc subsidiaries to become flexible payment service providers.

FinTechs are still pushing at an open door with potential customers, especially millennials. Traditional banks are still mistrusted by comparison; tighter financial regulation across the board has hiked the costs of intermediation for established players; and cloud storage, which helps to harness large scale data flows, possibly fits more easily into fintech models built from scratch.

Perhaps most importantly, these new players have begun to grip the concept of "personalisation" in their offer, rather than the "massification" pursued by banks in recent decades.

Research might show that people don't trust their banks, but they do trust the overall banking system to keep their money safe. FinTechs and neo-banks can turn a trust deficit among traditional providers into an opportunity to flex technology for sustainable customer benefit and market share growth.

# Chinese banks launch automatic digital conversion tools

BEIJING

CHINESE banks are exploring new methods of enabling digital yuan users to earn interest on their central bank digital currency holdings - with "smart management" tools that can detect when funds have been left idle for long periods of time.

The central People's Bank of China (PBoC) has repeatedly stated that the digital CNY's main raison d'être is to function as a retail payments tool. As such, digital yuan wallets and their contents accrue no interest when not in use.

However, anticipating perhaps that many customers are simply too busy to spend time converting digital yuan holdings into conventional fiat so that they can earn interest on their funds, some commercial banks in the country have developed solutions that automatically convert funds from digital yuan wallets into



China Central Bank headquarters

fiat, which is moved into deposit accounts.

Per Sina, the banks offering

such service include the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

(ICBC), which is rolling out solutions in its app that allow customers to customize settings

on their wallets - allowing AI and algorithms to "automatically" add digital yuan holdings above a certain amount (or left idle for a certain amount of time) to fiat saving accounts.

A similar solution has also been developed by the China Construction Bank (CCB), which also allows users to perform real-time top-ups from their fiat accounts in the event that they attempt a payment from their linked digital CNY wallets but have insufficient digital yuan funds to complete the transaction.

The CCB has named this function Automatic Combination Payment, and says that it will allow customers to choose the fiat accounts they want to link to their wallets in this manner. A maximum of around USD 743 worth of fiat can be "combined" in any single transaction, with a daily limit of some USD 1,488 placed on "combination" payments.

Leading academics were quoted as explaining that existing pilots have focused almost entirely on retail scenarios - in-store and online transactions.

The digital yuan, the academics claimed, has thus far been used much in the way that banknotes and coins once were. Commonly termed M0 in the economic sphere, such items are only in circulation, but have no function in the world of lending, interest accumulation, and borrowing.

This development, however, would theoretically allow the digital yuan to break out of the M0 space in some limited form. But the experts were keen to point out that the token is still very much a retail tool, and

that its advent will do little if anything to accelerate the "de-dollarization" of the Chinese economy.

Others predicted that further "improvements in balance and payment functions" would follow, with banks continuing to work on ways to integrate the token.

Meanwhile, a leading traditional Chinese medicine healthcare provider has become the first hospital in Hangzhou to begin accepting digital yuan payments from patients.

Hangzhou Net reported that the Zhejiang Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine - which was founded in 1931 - began offering both app-based payments and offline digital CNY payments after striking a deal with the CCB's Hangzhou Branch.

# Stanchart becomes sole arranger of \$50mn step-up for Access Bank

LAGOS

STANDARD Chartered Bank acted as Sole Arranger and Sustainability Structuring Agent of a \$50 million Reg S Step-Up Puttable Green Notes due 2027 for Access Bank Plc in the international capital market via a private placement.

The offering represents a first of its kind in Africa, and the second Green Bond Issuance by Access Bank, following its debut Naira Green Bond Issuance in 2019.

This innovative puttable Green private placement for Access Bank is a 5-year Senior Unsecured Note (Reg S) issued under Access Bank's \$1.5 billion Global Medium-Term Note Programme and is listed on the main market of the London Stock Exchange.

The Bond was issued with a coupon of 5.50 percent in the first two years and then steps up (on the put option date) to 7.25 percent in the last 3 years to maturity, with interest payable semi-annually in arrears.

This innovative structure enabled Access Bank Plc to achieve an attractive pricing, with a blended average cost of funding below of fair value, amidst the rising and volatile



interest rate environment.

The net proceeds from the issuance of the Bond, will be used by Access Bank for the financing or refinancing, in part or in full, new and/or existing projects and/or assets meeting the eligibility criteria set out in the Bank's Green Financing Framework dated 18 November 2021, on which S&P Global Ratings has provided a second party opinion.

This deal was solely originated, executed

and led by Standard Chartered, with our sustainable finance team working with Access Bank to establish a Green bond framework.

Mr. Olukorede Adenowo, Standard Chartered's Executive Director, Corporate, Commercial and Institutional Banking, Nigeria & West Africa, noted that "Standard Chartered is proud to once again partner with Access Bank on this momentous transaction."

The success of this issuance continues to demonstrate investors' confidence in Access's strategy as a leading banking group out of Africa.

"We work with our clients across Africa to deliver on their growth aspirations and also use our market leading position in the international bond markets and sustainable financing space to drive inclusive growth and development in Africa," he added.

# SoftBank on record loss as Masayoshi son's bets tumble again

TOKYO

BILLIONAIRE Masayoshi son is poised to set another record - and not the good kind.

When he reports earnings for the March quarter Thursday, SoftBank Group Corp's Vision Fund investment unit may have lost more money in one quarter than it ever has before.

The world's largest tech fund is estimated to have lost about \$18.6 billion on its public portfolio alone during the quarter ended Mar. 31, even greater than the record \$18.3 billion drop marked in the fiscal second quarter, according to Kirk Boodry, an analyst at Redex Research who publishes on SmartKarma.

That would mean a loss for the Vision Fund unit of about \$10 billion, accounting for SoftBank's stake in each fund, Boodry estimates.

It's a drastic reversal from a year ago when Son took the stage in Tokyo to announce SoftBank had earned more money in a single quarter than any Japanese company in history.

The company he founded about 40 years earlier hit net profit of 1.93 trillion yen (\$177 billion at the time), eclipsing Japan Inc. heavyweights such as Toyota Motor Corp. and NTT Corp.

"It's not normal. Investors, markets are starting to get worried," Boodry said. When it comes to "the scale or potential of losses, markets seem to be building in more downside in general."

SoftBank's two Vision Funds have been hit hard by plunging tech valuations as global interest rates climb and China tightens its regulatory grip on the industry. South Korea's Coupang Inc. and China's Didi Global Inc. have been among the biggest drags for the Vision Fund, with each of them posting their biggest quarterly share-price slump of 40% and 50%, respectively.

The Vision Fund's biggest loss to date - 825.1 billion yen - came in the fiscal second quarter when global stock markets tumbled. The unit then regained profitability, earning 109 billion yen in the three months ended Dec. 31.

The actual bottom line for the fiscal fourth quarter will hinge on how SoftBank marks the value of its vast number of privately-held holdings. These include ByteDance Ltd., which operates the popular short video platform TikTok, and India's Oyo Hotels.

"There is much less visibility on this part of the portfolio, particularly at Vision Fund 2 where many of these investments are smaller or at an earlier stage," Boodry wrote in a note to investors. Still, "SoftBank will likely take meaningful losses in the private portfolio too."

BANKING &amp; FINANCE

# JPMorgan, Goldman pushed to name clients trading Russia debt

NEW YORK

JP MORGAN Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are being pressed to hand over extensive information on clients trading Russian debt, as US Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Katie Porter expand efforts to pry into whether Wall Street is profiting from the invasion of Ukraine.

The Democrats sent JPMorgan Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon and Goldman CEO David Solomon letters Tuesday demanding lists of clients betting on Russian government and corporate debt since the war broke out in February, as well as the types and sizes of wagers and any gains.

The lawmakers also want information on the banks themselves, including tallies of any trades they've handled and revenue generated.

"We are seeking information on how your dealings could benefit Putin's regime and how your institution may be profiting off of Russia's invasion of Ukraine," the lawmakers wrote to both CEOs.

Trading in Russian debt has become a hot-button topic - and the demands for information threaten to widen the spotlight from banks arranging transactions to potentially numerable hedge funds and other investors who've waded back into the market.

The invasion of Ukraine initially sent prices of Russia-linked bonds tumbling, even if they weren't subject to international sanctions. Some in the industry have since adopted differing views over whether to take advantage of the buying opportunity.

JPMorgan and Goldman have said they are pulling back from Russia in response to the country's invasion of Ukraine. In announc-



ing those moves, both New York-based firms said they would focus on supporting clients in managing or closing out pre-existing obligations.

Representatives for JPMorgan and Goldman Sachs declined to comment. JPMorgan has previously said that "as a market-maker, we have been helping clients reduce their risks and manage their exposures to Russia in the secondary markets. None of the trades violate sanctions or benefit Russia."

Warren, an influential member of the Senate Banking Committee, began focusing on how banks were handling Russian-linked securities shortly after the invasion began.

In early March, she tore into JPMorgan and Goldman after Bloomberg News reported that the firms, which facilitate client trades, were purchasing Russian corporate debt.

In one note to clients, JPMorgan strategists upgrad-

ed recommendations for debts from certain Russia-linked corporations, labeling oil and gas giant Lukoil PJSC the "best recovery play." Warren and Porter called out that analysis in their letters.

"This maneuvering is legal under the sanctions put forward by the US Treasury because trading in the secondary markets is not prohibited so long as counterparties to the transactions are not sanctioned entities, and so long as the Russian sovereign debt being traded was issued prior to March 1," they wrote to both banks. "However, it may undermine the work of the US Treasury and the international community seeking to hold Putin to account."

Warren and Porter also asked the banks to describe how they're ensuring that trades comply with US sanctions.

Banks and their CEOs tend to respond to requests from members of the Senate Banking Committee and other prominent lawmakers, while avoiding sharing client data deemed confidential or other information they believe would hurt their position in the market.

Dimon wrote in his annual shareholder letter in April that his firm is working closely with governments to implement sanctions and other directives. "Of course," he said, "we are following both the letter of the law and the spirit of all the American and allied sanctions."

## WORLD

## Soaring food, fuel ramp up social unrest risk for emerging markets

LONDON

RISING fuel and food prices look set to stoke an "inevitable" rise in civil unrest, with developing middle-income countries such as Brazil or Egypt particularly at risk, a report by a risk consultancy said.

Three quarters of nations expected to be at high-risk or extreme risk of civil unrest by the fourth quarter of 2022 were middle-income countries, as defined by the World Bank, Verisk Maplecroft said in an update to its political risk monitor.

"Unlike low-income countries, they were rich

enough to offer social protection during the pandemic, but now struggle to maintain high social spending that is vital to the living standards of large sections of their populations," the report found.

Argentina, Tunisia, Pakistan and Philippines were also among the countries to watch in the next six months, the authors said, pointing to their high dependency on food and energy imports.

Food prices hit an all-time record in February and again in March. Energy prices also rose sharply.

Lebanon, Senegal, Kenya and Bangladesh face



A store employee organises food products in a shelf with the products price signs in Bolivars in Caracas, Venezuela on Sept 28, 2021. File photo

similar pressures.

The report pointed to Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan as examples of middle income countries that have already suffered unrest this year. The former saw rising food and fuel prices contribute to escalating tensions, while an attempt to cut fuel subsidies sparked protests in Kazakhstan.

Civil unrest could hamper a potential economic recovery but also deter investors focused on environmental, social and governance factors, it said.

"Some countries risk falling into a vicious cycle, whereby worsening governance and social indicators make them ESG investment pariahs, impeding the inflows needed to improve economic performance and address societal needs."

The report found that more than 50 percent of the almost 200 countries covered by the index have experienced an increase in civil unrest since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Agencies

## Modern technology aids China's epidemic fight

HEFEI

AT an isolation hotel in Hefei, capital city of east China's Anhui Province, two small unmanned disinfection devices are using the elevator to make their way through a building. As they disinfect each corner of the building, an unmanned sweeper is not far behind.

"The unmanned disinfection device can disinfect 1,000 cubic meters of space every 15 minutes. Meanwhile, the sweeper can clean up 5,000 square meters per hour, which greatly reduces labour costs and the risk of cross-infection," said Ge Qing, general manager of the Hefei branch of IDRIVERPLUS, a company that provides multi-functional solutions for autonomous driving systems.

As sporadic resurgences of COVID-19 rage across China, modern technologies including unmanned devices and robots have played a key role in the country's fight against the coronavirus.

According to Ge, the company also developed unmanned patrol vehicles to ease the burden on staff

at health checkpoints located at expressway entrances.

"Expressway entrances are among the key points of epidemic prevention and control. Unmanned patrol vehicles can measure the temperature of passing drivers and provide them with relevant information, which is vastly more efficient," said Ge, adding that such devices have been adopted in places such as Shanghai, Hebei, Yunnan and Xinjiang.

To address the delivery problem in the locked-down neighborhoods, unmanned delivery vehicles and drones have been deployed to meet the residents' daily needs while reducing human contact as much as possible.

In regions including south China's Guangdong Province and the eastern Chinese metropolis of Shanghai, driverless delivery vehicles have been used to hand out supplies, while drones help supervise prevention and control measures and send medication to those in need. While China's quick response to battle the COVID-19 epidemic has helped accelerate the development of digital



Volunteers use a drone to inform residents to take COVID-19 nucleic acid test during off-peak hours at a COVID-19 testing site in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, Feb. 22, 2022. File photo

technologies, novel applications like health codes have highlighted the problem of the "digital divide". Many senior citizens find it difficult to access smartphone-based services. Considering the dilemma faced

by the elderly, some regions have developed targeted user-friendly devices to help bridge this gap.

At the entrance of the Second Affiliated Hospital of Anhui Medical University in Hefei, intelligent equipment allows the elderly to swipe their ID cards or simply look into the camera to quickly verify their health codes and enter the building.

"As some elders don't know how to use smartphones, we worked with a technology company to provide simple methods for the elderly to verify their health codes, which has not only been convenient but also increased the accuracy of verification," said Fang Gang with the hospital.

For Han Youhe, 69, such design is not only practical but also heartwarming. "Verifying health codes is a must nowadays to enter any public place.

Previously, I needed to ask others for help and I would even refrain from going out to avoid the trouble. But now I can simply swipe my ID card for verification, which is much more convenient," Han said.

In order to promote the applica-

tion of cutting-edge technology in epidemic prevention and control, regions across China have rolled out policies to encourage science and technology enterprises to join the fight against the epidemic. Shanghai has launched supporting policies covering fields including R&D, start-up services, finance and given out "innovation coupons" and reduced relevant tax and rent for tech companies.

The southern Chinese metropolis of Shenzhen has also arranged special funds to carry out key anti-epidemic projects based on science and technology, while providing subsidies for successful technology applications.

"Science and technology is both a powerful weapon and the strongest shield against the epidemic. In many links of COVID-19 prevention and control, science and technology can help us solve problems in an efficient and precise manner.

Facing such a unique situation, tech companies should shoulder their social responsibilities and provide support," Ge said

Xinhua

## Egypt reaffirms support for Morocco's sovereignty over Sahara

RABAT

EGYPT reiterated its position in support of Morocco's territorial integrity and UN efforts in line with UN Security Council resolution 2602 which stressed the preeminence of the autonomy plan.

This came in a joint statement following talks in Rabat between Moroccan and Egyptian foreign ministers, Nasser Bourita and Sameh Choukri.

The two countries expressed in the statement their willingness to boost cooperation at all levels, citing notably trade and investments.

They also called for bridging the gap between Arab countries and expressed rejections in any interferences in the domestic issues of Arab states.

Morocco also expressed support for Egypt's water security and called for a halt of unilateral initiatives in managing shared rivers in line with international law.

They also reiterated support for the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Egypt commended the role by King Mohammed VI, Chairman of Al Quds committee, while Morocco lauded Egypt's efforts to reach inter-Palestinian reconciliation and the reconstruction of the Gaza strip.

They both agreed about the need for an inter-Libyan dialogue free from foreign interferences and called for the departure of all mercenaries and foreign armed men from the North African country.

During his visit to Morocco, the Egyptian Foreign Minister inaugurated the new headquarters of Egypt's embassy in Rabat.

Agencies



## Israeli government wary on the 1st anniversary of 11-day war

JERUSALEM

ALTHOUGH the recent clashes between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas were smaller and more intermittent than last year's 11-day war, they were enough to put the fragile Bennett coalition government on edge.

On the first anniversary of the outbreak of the deadly war, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, and other high-level military officers on Sunday participated in the "Chariots of Fire" military exercise, the largest in the country in decades.

Since March 22, tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have spiraled as deadly shooting and stabbing attacks took place across Israel, almost every time followed by Israeli raids in the occupied West Bank.

During this year's Ramadan from early April to early May, repeated clashes broke out between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli police in Jerusalem's holy site, known to Muslims as the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and to Jews the Temple Mount.

In Israel, criticism of the government's handling of the attacks is mounting, despite the extensive measures announced by Bennett to beef up security, such as the formation of a National Guard that consists of professional security personnel and armed civilian volunteers.

Avoiding another war with Hamas and maintaining the ruling coalition are the priorities on the agenda for the fragile Bennett government, as the Ra'am, the only and first-ever Arab political party to be included in a ruling coalition in Israel, threatens to turn the temporary suspension of its participation into a permanent exit.

"Bennett is in a difficult situation due to the ongoing wave of terrorist attacks as well as internal problems within his coalition," said Yochanan Visser, an Israel-based Middle East affairs analyst, noting that Ra'am is "in fact holding the government hostage."

Ra'am decided to temporarily freeze its membership in both the Knesset (parliament) and the coalition on April 17, two days after over 160 Palestinians were injured in clashes with Israeli police at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. If Ra'am pulls out its four seats in the 120-member parliament, Bennett's coalition, which has only 60 seats now, will be in the minority and on the verge of dissolution.

Apart from one attack that killed an Israeli security officer guarding the West Bank settlement of Ariel on April 29, Gaza's ruler Hamas has not claimed responsibility for most of the attacks on Israelis. Despite the threats exchanged between the two sides, it seemed to Israel that Hamas was not preparing for a military operation.

Xinhua

## Palestinian PM calls on EU to pressure Israel to stop violations

JERUSALEM / RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh on Tuesday called on the European Union to pressure Israel to stop its violations against the Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Ishtayeh made the appeal during a meeting with the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell in Brussels, said a press statement issued by Ishtayeh's office.

During the meeting, Ishtayeh briefed the top EU diplomat on the latest political developments in the Palestinian territories, as well as the Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, particularly Israeli settlers' endless storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem. He highlighted the importance of preserving the existing historical status of the mosque.



Ishtayeh also called on the EU to pressure Israel to stop its plan to displace Palestinian people.

Ishtayeh discussed with Borrell the financial situation and the

crisis that the Palestinian government is facing due to a decline in foreign aid and the ongoing unjust Israeli deductions of Palestinian tax revenues.

He called on the EU to accelerate the provision of financial support to Palestine and pressure Israel to release the withheld funds and stop all forms of deductions of Palestinian tax revenues.

Ishtayeh also stressed the importance of reviving the peace process and working to protect the two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Yesterday morning, Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed in the northern occupied West Bank.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement that the reporter was shot while covering an Israeli military raid and died shortly after, adding that another Palestinian reporter was shot in the back during the raid.

The ministry said Israeli troops shot Abu Akleh.

In a statement, the Israeli army said it has launched an in-

vestigation into the incident and was looking into the possibility that the journalists were hit by "armed Palestinians."

The raid triggered clashes with armed residents, and "massive fire was shot toward Israeli forces by tens of armed Palestinian gunmen," said the statement, adding that the soldiers "responded with fire toward the sources of the fire and explosive devices. Hits were identified."

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid tweeted that Israel offered to carry out with the Palestinians "a joint pathological investigation into the sad death" of the journalist.

"Journalists must be protected in conflict zones and we all have a responsibility to get to the truth," Lapid said.

Israel seized the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war and has maintained control over it ever since, despite international criticism.

WHEN the reporter walked into his office, Harish Chandra Shah, President of Nepal China Cultural and Educational Council, just finished a day's work.

Harish was voluble on topics about China. "I took all these photos in China. There is a story behind each of them," he said, pointing at dozens of photos displayed in a bookcase in his office.

Harish, his father and children have all forged a special bond with China. "My father paid a visit to China when I was little.

After he returned home, he told me that the Chinese people are kind and hospitable and that China is the most reliable and a true friend of Nepal, which greatly influenced me. I always wanted to visit China since I was young," he said.

In 1977, then 20-year-old Harish went to study in China. In the following seven

## CPC leads Chinese people to better life - Nepalese expert

years, he lived and studied in Beijing, and toured Hebei and Sichuan provinces and other places in China, witnessing how China took its first steps in implementing reform and opening-up.

After he got back home, Harish chose a job that promotes friendly exchanges between Nepal and China. Because of his influence, Harish's son and daughter also studied in China, and his wife has taught herself Mandarin. "Our family can speak with each other in fluent Mandarin," Harish told People's Daily.

Harish shared with the reporter his visit to a village in southwest China's Yunnan province.

"In 2019, I took an investigation tour of a village near Kunming, capital city of

Yunnan province, as a member of an investigation group.

The local people have become better off by growing vegetables and flowers, some of which are sold to Malaysia and Indonesia. As the village speeds up development, new school, clinic and elderly care center have been built and residents have lived a better life," Harish noted.

Harish learned from local residents that the village was really poor just a few years ago and that it has been with the help and under the guidance of resident officials sent to the village for poverty alleviation that the village has taken on a new look.

"When I was there, I felt villagers'

heartfelt support for these resident officials and for the Communist Party of China (CPC). Only such a political party that adheres to a people-centered approach and leads the people to a better life can be popular with and supported by the people," Harish pointed out.

Three volumes of the English edition of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China" were placed in a conspicuous spot in the bookcase in Harish's office. The book series by Chinese President Xi Jinping have answers to all the questions related to the miracles in modern China, according to him.

"I joined in the translation of the book series into Nepali. During the process, I consulted a large number of materials,

from which I gained a better understanding of the Chinese leader's foresight in governance and how he always keeps the people close to his heart," Harish said.

Harish pointed out that the lasting friendship between Nepal and China has been built on the basis of mutual respect and assistance.

After a major earthquake hit Nepal in 2015, China stood firmly with the Nepalese people in Nepal's disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction. While overcoming difficulties and fulfilling its commitments to Nepal, China helped the latter achieve positive results in earthquake relief.

During the global fight against the

COVID-19 pandemic, China has also lent a hand to Nepal and provided COVID-19 vaccines for the country just when it was in need of them.

"China has provided vaccines for and donated anti-epidemic supplies to us. Such timely and heart-warming help truly demonstrates the close friendship between our two countries," Harish noted.

According to Harish, China has not only provided vaccines for other developing countries including Nepal to close the "immunization gap", but carried out win-win cooperation with many other countries in the joint construction of the Belt and Road to stabilize global economic development and actively practice the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind.

People's Daily

## WHO rules out COVID-19 vaccines side effects as causes of concerning unknown hepatitis in children

BEIJING

SINCE a new kind of acute hepatitis of unknown origin among children was first reported last month in Britain, around 300 cases have been reported in over 20 countries, drawing great concern from health officials and parents.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has alerted physicians worldwide to watch out for such unusual cases of hepatitis, and is working closely with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, as well as affected countries, to support ongoing investigations, including lab testing.

"With continued new notifications of recent onset cases, together with more extensive case searching in other countries, it is very likely that more cases will be detected before the cause can be confirmed and more specific control and prevention measures can be implemented," said the WHO.

On April 15, the WHO published an alert on severe acute hepatitis cases of unknown origin in children in Britain, which affects children aged between one month and 16 years.

Since then, there have been continuing additional reports of cases. Countries including Britain, Spain, Israel, the United States, Denmark, Ireland, the Netherlands, Italy, Norway, France, Romania, Belgium, Indonesia, Panama, Portugal and Brunei have reported such cases, according to the WHO.

The symptoms of the hepatitis include abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, jaundice, severe acute hepatitis, and increased levels of liver enzymes, it said, adding that the viruses that commonly cause acute viral hepatitis have not been detected in any of these cases.

Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. There are different etiologies, or causes, that can lead to this inflammation, such as an infection or intoxication by drugs or substances.

The most frequently implicated infectious agents are the viruses responsible for hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. So far, laboratory tests exclude cases of known viral hepatitis. In many cases, adenovirus infection was detected in the affected children, and the link between the two is being investigated as one of the hypotheses for the underlying cause.

Jay Butler, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s deputy director of infectious diseases, said that some of the common causes of viral hepatitis had been considered, but were not found in any of the cases.

Adenovirus has been detected in more than 50 percent of these cases, though it has not been confirmed as the actual cause, according to the CDC.

As for the concerns about whether the acute hepatitis could be linked to COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines, the WHO and some countries have a preliminary

conclusion, and the answer is no.

"Based on current information, most of the reported children did not receive the COVID-19 vaccine, ruling out a link between cases and vaccination at this time," said the WHO. "In a few cases, the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus was detected, and this is one of the lines of investigation along with others such as the adenovirus," it added.

According to Brunei's health ministry, acute hepatitis is not one of the common features of COVID-19 infection in children or a complication of COVID-19 vaccination in children, while the CDC has also ruled out COVID-19 as a factor in the those cases.

The WHO is working with countries and partners to look at a range of possible explanatory factors.

One of the leading hypotheses is adenovirus, which is a group of common viruses spread from person-to-person causing respiratory symptoms, vomiting and diarrhea in children.

Philippa Easterbrook, from the WHO's global hepatitis programme, told a press conference in Geneva that the leading hypotheses now remain those which involve adenovirus while the role of COVID-19 also within consideration.

Adenovirus currently does not fully explain the severity of the clinical picture. There have been case reports of hepatitis in immunocompromised children with adenovirus infection, however, it is unusual to be a cause of severe hepatitis in otherwise healthy children.

Factors such as increased susceptibility among young children following a lower level of circulation of adenovirus during the COVID-19 pandemic, the potential emergence of a novel adenovirus, as well as SARS-CoV-2 co-infection, need to be further investigated, according to the WHO.

The most important thing to protect children, said the WHO, is to "pay attention to symptoms, such as diarrhea or vomiting, and to the color: if there are signs of jaundice -- where the skin and whites of the eyes turn yellow -- medical attention should be sought immediately."

"We recommend basic hygiene measures such as washing hands and covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing to prevent infections, which can also guard against the transmission of adenoviruses," said the organization.

As for the countries to prevent the spread of the disease, the WHO's recommendation is to stay informed and to monitor for cases. Further work is required to identify additional cases, both in currently affected countries, but also elsewhere.

The priority is to determine the cause of the illness to be able to further refine control and prevention actions, said the WHO.

## Generational inheritance keeps leather making tradition alive in Zimbabwe

BULAWAYO

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Mduuzi Jele is eagerly learning the art and craft of leather making from one of the industry's seasoned experts.

With steadfast determination, Mduuzi Jele, son of a leather technician, hopes to accumulate the prized skill so that he can also pass it down to the next generation.

Mduuzi Jele is one of several young men who have been brought in by Boustead Leather company, a tannery based in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city, to learn the craft of leather making from senior technicians. "I started working in the leather industry because I wanted to learn after seeing my father sewing different products at home from leather, so I was so curious to know how the materials were produced," Mduuzi Jele told Xinhua.

His mentor Cecil Rusere believes that it is his social responsibility to pass down the knowledge that he has acquired over the past 32 years in the leather industry.

He said Zimbabwe's position as a competitive leather producer can only be safeguarded if the old impart their wisdom to the young. "I realized that it is important to teach the youngsters to accumulate knowledge so that our country develops. If I don't share this knowledge, I will get old and die with the knowledge," said Rusere.

Boustead Leather has a production line that encompasses the purchase of hides, tanning, designing, taxidermy and training.

All products are handmade in its workshop in Bulawayo. For Mduuzi Jele, the determination to keep his father's legacy alive drives him. "What I see so important about being taught by our fathers is that as they are growing old, and as young people we need to know the skills so that when the old men retire we will continue running the company," he said.

Rusere said being in the industry gives him a chance to share the knowledge that he has accumulated over the past three decades and nurture the next generation of leather technicians. "In my department, I have eight young men that I am working with, they are already well vested with production processes, even in my absence they can do the work on their own," he said.

Mduuzi's father, Themba Jele, who



Themba Jele makes a leather jacket at a company in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, on May 3, 2022. Xinhua

has been in the leather industry for the past 33 years, hopes to keep his legacy alive through his son.

"The reason I brought him to work here is that he remains with vast knowledge about the leather industry because I'm getting old and I'm very close to retiring, and if I retire I should do so after imparting so much knowledge in him that will help him be in the same or better level like me in this industry," he said.

"My legacy in the leather industry is substantial, and these young people that I have impacted knowledge will continue with my legacy and this will make the leather industry continue to grow for more generations to come," added Themba Jele.

Sibusiso Sibanda, Managing Director of Boustead Leather, is making sure that Bulawayo's rich knowledge and tradition in leathercraft are utilized to the fullest by bringing in young recruits so that they can learn from the old.

"The interesting team that I have here is about four generations, where there are the sons, the fathers, the grandfathers and the great grandfathers that worked here," he told Xinhua.

Sibusiso Sibanda, who is a leather technologist and taxidermist, said the secret to succeeding in the industry is to work as families. "So what we do, we are imparting our knowledge to our sons that they will eventually impart with their sons and their sons."

Some of these elderly people that I

am with, their fathers used to work here, including their grandfathers," said Sibusiso Sibanda.

Today about 45 seniors are mentoring a group of 18 youngsters at the company. Sibanda's son, who is still in high school, also comes to learn during the school holidays. By doing so, generational knowledge in leather making is kept alive in families.

"The leather industry is like boat building. The knowledge has always been kept a secret because there are recipes involved. So it's always been kept in families, so you find a family of good recipe makers, a family of good shavers, a family of guys that know how to grade, so they are different departments that are run by family members," Sibusiso Sibanda said.

Another young man, Bongani Sibanda (not related to Sibusiso), was brought by his father to learn the art of leather making at the company. "I found the industry very interesting and most of the time my father would encourage me to take the job and showed me how different products were made even from leather leftovers and the whole process of leather production, so that is the time I joined my father in the industry," he said.

Bongani's father, George Nhondoro Sibanda, said he brought his son into the industry so that the knowledge can be passed on to the next generations.

"I have been working at this company for the past 35 years. I decided to bring my son to this company so that he can accumulate the knowledge that I also acquired at this company. He will continue gaining the knowledge and teaching others, even to bring his children in this industry," said George Nhondoro Sibanda.

"With my father retiring anytime soon, I foresee

myself continuing because lam now used to my work, it's now in my blood," Bongani Sibanda said.

Bulawayo, previously Zimbabwe's industrial capital, has over the past decades lost its glory due to the impact of Zimbabwe's economic challenges.

As a result, many companies closed, which resulted in experienced workers moving abroad, or leaving the industry. Through Sibusiso Sibanda's efforts, the talent is being brought back to Bulawayo and utilized to ensure that the city reclaims its dominant position in the leather industry regionally.

"In our industry, we have decided to keep it old school, the reasons being our cows are organic, our leather becomes organic," Sibusiso Sibanda said. "We have kept our old machines which will give us the old school way of doing our leather which is highly sought after in the bespoke market," he added.

Increased production has seen the company spreading its tentacles to foreign markets including China.

"We have some of our hides which will be going to China very soon, we have had very few inquiries, because we were at the Dubai leather expo, so we met quite a number of people that are interested in our leather," said Sibusiso Sibanda.

Through a partnership with the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Authority, Boustead Leather exports leather products made from game. Some of the exotic leather projects include crocodile, zebra, wildebeest, and impala, among others.

Zimbabwe has a long history of leather production dating back to the Stone Age era. By the 1990s, the country had one of the most sophisticated leather industries in the region.

Xinhua

## System for safeguarding Chinese people's living standards further improved

BY rolling out a series of policies in the interests of the people and providing them with assistance subsidies, the Chinese government has built a closely knit network for guaranteeing people's well-being.

In 2014, China's State Council issued Interim Measures for Social Assistance, which created a full-fledged social assistance system; in 2020, a directive on reforming and perfecting the system was rolled out.

Last year, the annual assistance subsidies allocated to people in need by the central government rose to 147.6 billion yuan (\$22.2 billion); and the average subsistence allowance in urban and rural areas across the country grew to 711 yuan and 530 yuan per person per month, respectively, compared with 330 yuan and 172 yuan per person per month in 2021.

China has endeavored to make social assistance more effective. As a tiered and classified social assistance system is gradually built and improved in the country, mechanisms concerning basic living assistance, social assistance for special purposes and temporary assistance in emergencies and disasters have matured.

The country's subsistence allowance system makes sure that all people with serious illness or severe disabilities and other people eligible for the government's subsistence allowance can enjoy the allowance.

To ensure that all people in extreme poverty can receive assistance and support from the government, the country's scheme for assistance and support for severely impoverished people integrates assistance for urban residents without income, the ability to work, or



A volunteer and two kids play with building blocks at a poverty alleviation relocation site in Gangbian township, Congjiang county, southwest China's Guizhou province, August 2, 2021. File photo

support by family and rural residents eligible for the "Five Guarantees" (food, clothing, medical care, housing, education for orphans or funeral expenses); those who are unable to work and have no source of income, including the elderly, the disabled and minors who have no legal guardians to support them, and regulates the identification of people in extreme difficulty.

The mechanism for temporary assistance makes good use of petty cash of townships and subdistricts for emergency assistance, thus solving the sudden, urgent and temporary difficulties of people in a timely manner.

China has consolidated the fruits of poverty alleviation to guarantee people's basic living standards.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) has introduced measures to strengthen the comple-

mentarity of rural subsistence allowance system and poverty alleviation and development policies to solidify the foundations for the social security system for years.

Since the end of 2017, the standards of eligibility for rural subsistence allowances in all Chinese county-level regions have consistently reached or exceeded the national poverty line.

As of the end of 2020, 19.36 million registered impoverished people in China had been covered by the country's social assistance system, which accounted for 19.6 percent of the population lifted out of poverty in the country.

The MCA has guided regions in improving the system for actively discovering people in straitened circumstances and achieving more accurate identification of the group so that people in need can receive timely assistance. Lichuan county, Fuzhou city,

east China's Jiangxi province, has ensured precise identification of people in need of social assistance through grid-based management. It has built a three-tiered grid-based database for these people, which includes 561 grids.

Dezhou city, east China's Shandong province, has established a mechanism for the dynamic monitoring of low-income population and gained a panoramic portrait of the economic situation of each household. Besides, the city has incorporated 42 relief policies and some welfare policies originally handled by 15 functional departments into one platform. By employing data, the city has provided targeted assistance for over 1.18 million people.

Social assistance has effectively made people's life easier. Ma Jifei, a farmer in Hongshibao district, Wuzhong city, northwest China's Ningxia Hui au-

tonomous region, tried applying for subsistence allowance for his sick father after he lost sources of income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and had trouble affording medical care for his father. According to Ma, the application was quickly approved.

In an effort to help urban and rural residents who are struck by the pandemic and disasters and thus face troubles with basic living, local civil affairs authorities have adjusted promptly and introduced many social assistance policies and measures, expanding the coverage of subsistence allowance and temporary assistance and providing one-time temporary relief funds for uninsured and unemployed persons that can't guarantee minimum living standards.

Guided by these policies and measures, governments of areas hit by emergencies and disasters provide temporary assistance in a timely manner for migrants without local household registration status who face severe difficulties with basic living.

These policies and measures also stress enhancing visit to and care services for people amid the pandemic and arranging personnel to provide timely care and assistance for special groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities, and children, in the homes of COVID-19 patients who are being isolated and treated.

As China's network for safeguarding people's living standards becomes increasingly tight, the country is bound to achieve even greater results in guaranteeing people's well-being.

People's Daily

## Somalia registers 39 candidates to contest for presidency

MOGADISHU

SOMALIA'S joint parliamentary committee responsible for organizing the presidential election said Tuesday it has registered 39 candidates who will take part in the polls scheduled for Sunday.

The committee, which concluded two days of registration of the candidates including incumbent President Mohamed Farmaajo, said only one female candidate expressed her interest in vying for the country's top office.

According to a list compiled by the committee, former Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khairre, two former presidents -- the country's seventh and eighth presidents, Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud, respectively, and several ex-ministers are among those who will take part in the long-awaited presidential election.

The committee said 329 lawmakers from both houses -- 54 from the Senate or Upper House and 275 from the Lower House -- will elect the country's tenth president. The presidential candidates will address Parliament Wednesday and Thursday on their policies ahead of the vote.

The end of the registration exercise came as Somalia's international partners welcomed the progress and the date which has been set by the committee to finally hold the election of the president.

"We are encouraged by the positive progress in registering presidential candidates and other preparations

for this electoral deadline to be met," said the partners including the African Union, the European Union and the United Nations in a joint statement issued in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia.

The partners said there is no justification for any further delay, noting that with both chambers of Parliament sworn in and fully functional, any outstanding electoral issue should be resolved by the duly elected parliamentary leaders. "We urge Somalia's leaders to conclude this final stage of the electoral process swiftly, peacefully and credibly so that attention can turn to domestic and state-building priorities."

The election of the president will coincide with a historic day as the country will also commemorate the 79th anniversary of the Somali Youth League formed on May 15, 1943 by 13 young activists who spearheaded the struggle for a united and independent Somalia in the 1940s and 1950s.

The presidential election, which is 15 months behind schedule due to COVID-19, severe drought, insecurity and differences among Somali leaders, comes after Somalia concluded parliamentary elections in April. In order to be elected as president, a candidate must garner at least two-thirds or 184 of the votes of both chambers. Farmaajo, whose term in office officially ended on Feb. 8, 2021, has been under pressure after the election date passed without resolution of issues related to how the vote would have been conducted in Somalia.



Bernard James (2nd L), a coordinator for a dance music show known as 'Wafia Dans', talks to reporters (not pictured) in Dar es Salaam yesterday about the preparations for the show to be held in the city later this month. Others are (L-R) Mapacha Musica Band's president, Joseph Mponzeza 'Jose Maru', Morogoro's Waluguru Original Band president Deogratius David, and Arusha's Mjengoni Classic Band president Digital Mukongya. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT SABATO KASIKA

## Dar Regional Commissioner set to grace dance music show

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

DAR ES SALAAM Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla, is expected to be the guest of honour at a special dance music show known as 'Wafia Dans' which will take place in the city later this month.

The show's coordinator, Benard James, stated so when he spoke to reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday and explained that it aims to revive dance music that is currently lagging.

According to the coordinator, it will bring together five bands from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, and Morogoro.

"We have invited the Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner and other officials of the Ministry of Culture, Arts and Sports, and if the latter will not get the opportunity, then the Regional Commissioner will be the official guest," James noted.

The coordinator mentioned the bands that will stage entertainment at the show as Msondo Ngoma, Bogos Musica, and Mapacha Musica all based in Dar es Salaam, Waluguru Original Band of Morogoro, and Mjengoni Classic of Arusha.

## Shimiwi election set for May 25

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE National Sports Council (NSC) has stated that the Mainland Tanzania's Inter-Ministerial Sports Federation (SHIMIWI) election will be held on May 25 using the past constitution.

Allen Alex, the NSC Sports Officer who is coordinating the election, stressed that it will be held using the past constitution as the current one is not valid.

Alex pointed out that Shimiwi's recently amended constitution has been found to have several shortcomings.

The official added that shortcomings include the inclusion of some illegal members to the federation's general assembly, so the situation does not give justice to those legitimate.

He said the NSC had already held several meetings with Shimiwi's leadership and agreed that the election would be held using the past constitution.

Alex pointed out that after that, they would make the changes, but he was surprised that the Shimiwi officials did not inform their members of the decision.

He said the constitution was not approved in the right order and then the meeting decided that the past should be used in the election, which will be held

"For the second year in a row, we are continuing our efforts to restore the quality of this music to its former glory. We are asking the media to assist us in this endeavour," he said.

James said dance music has a great role to play in providing entertainment, educating, and promoting development activities in the country.

According to him, the genre had in previous years helped to achieve many developmental milestones.

He explained that they have set a five-year goal to promote the music genre, insisting that as the years go by, they will evaluate to see how successful they have been and go as far as identifying barriers.

Mo Green's Liaison Officer, Kesa Mwambeleko, whose firm sponsors the show, said it would continue to sponsor it as much as possible to restore the country's dance music prestige.

"It is not wrong for other sponsors to join us in our efforts to promote dance music, which is popular among all age groups, so that it can last," Mwambeleko noted.

on May 25, and the deadline for contestants to pick up and return the forms would be May 20.

"Shimiwi leaders are required to inform their members of agreement with the NSC and following the old constitution, the NSC is the federation's election administrator," he said.

He said members have a right to complain as they need to know the decision reached in the NSC meetings with Shimiwi officials, so they need to know what is going on.

He said so far the NSC has not received any information from Shimiwi about the suspension of the election, so it continues with the process of issuing forms to those who want to run for office.

There have been many complaints on social media from various members of Shimiwi, with some demanding that the NSC should not monitor the election and others demanding that it ought to be suspended until a compromise is reached.

Shimiwi Secretary-General, Moshi Makuka had earlier acknowledged the existence of complaints from some of the federation members, stressing that they had not yet received any letter from the NSC regarding the forthcoming constitution.

## All set for Dar swimming competition

By Guardian Correspondent

THE FK Blue Marlins Swimming Club Invitational gala has been slated for this weekend at the FK International Schools' swimming pool, Bahari Beach in Dar es Salaam.

Opalina Nanyaro, FK Blue Marlins team manager, said on Tuesday the event is open to all clubs and individual swimmers in the country.

Opalina said the event is in the Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) calendar and each club and school is required to send swimmers up to 30.

She said that swimmers will compete in different events categorized according to their ages.

The age groups for female swimmers are eight and under, nine and 10 years, 11 and 12 years, 13 and 14 years, and above 15 years old.

Male swimmers have been put in age groups of eight years and under, 9 and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14, 15 and 16, and above 17 years.

She said there will be also a Masters category whereby adult swimmers, who would rather not swim in the 15 years and above group, will feature in the category.

"We expect to see more than 200 swimmers compete in the tournament that has been sponsored by Shoppers, Kahawa Cafe, Cool Blue, EFM, Doctors Plaza Polyclinic, PRO Fixers Tanzania, FK International Schools, Viscar Integrated Consulting (TZ) Lim-



Some of the FK Blue Marlins Club swimmers pose for a picture during the past event, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

ited, Coca Cola Company, and GardaWorld," she said.

Opalina revealed adult swimmers can however participate with an age requirement of 25 years and above.

She said medals will be presented to the top three swimmers whereby the gold medal will be handed over to the top swimmer, followed by silver and

bronze.

Trophies will be presented to winners in the various age groups except for the Masters' age group.

Medals will be handed over to winners in relay events, however, relay events do not score any points if all events will constitute heat declared finishes.

Each swimmer, Opalina pointed out, can enter a

maximum of six individual events and two relays.

According to the team manager, each club or school will enter a maximum of two swimmers per event and there will be only one relay team per club per event (both freestyle and medley).

She said that the swimmers will battle it out for medals in five styles, namely backstroke, butter-

fly, freestyle, breaststroke, and individual medley.

The swimmers will also compete in the relay. The event will see the country's top-ranked swimmers come up against swimmers from other clubs in the country.

Opalina said clubs are now in intensive preparations ahead of the event that has targets to promote the game in the country.



Dar es Salaam's Don Bosco Club players put their skills to show in a regional chess tournament that took place recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## IST junior chess tournament dates announced

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE International School of Tanganyika (IST) Inter-School Junior Chess Championship will be held in Dar es Salaam at the end of next week, organizers disclosed.

Kara Luis, the chief arbiter of the championship said, the event will be held at IST Masaki Campus Upstairs Yoga/Dance Studio, taking place from May 21-22.

He said so far six schools have confirmed to compete at the event, but the number is expected to increase as invitations have been extended to many schools in Dar es Salaam and surrounding areas.

The registration deadline is May 19. Luis said the championships will be played in eight rounds swiss format and the categories are eight years and Under, 10 years and Under, 12 years and Under, and 16

years and Under. He said the best three schools will be presented with trophies and medals that await the best-performing students.

"The International School of Tanganyika's Inter-School Junior Chess Championship will be held end of this month," Luis noted.

"We hope many schools will come up with their students for this championships, the aim is to see that the game of chess is played among the youths," he said.

Chess is a board game played between two players. It is sometimes called Western chess or international chess to distinguish it from related games such as xiangqi and shogi.

The current form of the game emerged in Southern Europe during the second half of the 15th century after evolving from chaturanga, a similar but much older game of Indian origin.

Today, chess is one of the world's most popular games, played by millions of people worldwide.

Chess is an abstract strategy game and involves no hidden information. It is played on a square chessboard with 64 squares arranged in an eight-by-eight grid.

At the start, each player (one controlling the white pieces, the other controlling the black pieces) controls sixteen pieces, one king, one queen, two rooks, two bishops, two knights, and eight pawns.

The object of the game is to checkmate the opponent's king, whereby the king is under immediate attack (in "check") and there is no way for it to escape. There are also several ways a game can end in a draw.

Organized chess arose in the 19th century. Chess competition today is governed internationally by FIDE (International Chess Federation).

The first universally recognized World Chess Champion, Wilhelm Steinitz, claimed his title in 1886, Magnus Carlsen is the current World Champion.

A huge body of chess theory has developed since the game's inception. Aspects of art are found in chess composition, and chess in its turn influenced Western culture and art and has connections with other fields such as mathematics, computer science, and psychology.

One of the goals of early computer scientists was to create a chess-playing machine.

In 1997, Deep Blue became the first computer to beat the reigning World Champion in a match when it defeated Garry Kasparov.

Today's chess engines are significantly stronger than the best human players and have deeply influenced the development of chess theory.

## Haaland satisfies Man City's need for a striker and status

LONDON

MANCHESTER City are still licking their wounds from another painful Champions League exit, but by winning the race to sign Erling Haaland they have established themselves as a go-to destination for Europe's top talent.

The 21-year-old goalscoring phenomenon had his choice of the continent's top clubs thanks to a reported buyout clause of 60 million euros (£51 million, \$63 million) that will see him leave Borussia Dortmund well below his market value.

Real Madrid wanted to pair the Norwegian with Kylian Mbappe at the Bernabeu next season, Barcelona sought him as a successor to Lionel Messi, while Bayern Munich again aimed to swoop on their Bundesliga rivals.

Haaland, however, will instead line up in City blue next season, just as his father Alf-Inge did between 2000-2003 during a very different era for the club.

The arrival of petrodollars from Abu Dhabi has long since transformed City's fortunes, with Pep Guardiola's men now on the brink of a fourth Premier League title in five seasons.

But Haaland is the man City need to fill a void if they are to reach the next level -- a superstar striker.

City have played the best part of two seasons without a recognised number nine.

An attempt to land Harry Kane as Sergio Aguero's successor fell short last summer and it may have cost City another shot at Champions League glory.

Despite beating Real Madrid 4-2 in the first leg of their semi-final, Guardiola's men missed a series of sitters to put the tie to bed.

That came back to haunt them last week as Real miraculously hauled themselves off the floor to score twice in the final seconds of the second leg and set up a final against Liverpool, City's nearest challengers for the Premier League trophy.

Haaland, however has scored 23 goals in just 19 Champions League appearances for Salzburg and Dortmund.

- City future-proofing -

What remains to be seen is how well he can be embedded into Guardiola's system.

League titles won with Samuel Eto'o at Barcelona, Robert Lewandowski in his time at Bayern Munich and Aguero in his early years at City dispels the notion Guardiola's football cannot accommodate a number nine.

But the recent story of City's success under the Catalan coach has been one of collective brilliance.

Riyad Mahrez is their top scorer with 24 goals in all competitions this season, ahead of Raheem Sterling (16), Kevin De Bruyne (15) and Phil Foden (14).

Not all superstar signings have gone as planned for Guardiola in the past.

Haaland's arrival has sparked comparisons with Zlatan Ibrahimovic's ill-fated season at Barcelona in 2009/10.

And Jack Grealish, despite costing City £100 million to make him the most expensive player in English football history, has spent much of this season on the bench.

But by landing one of Europe's hottest properties, City are also looking to a future beyond Guardiola, whose current contract runs out in 2023.

Now they will have at least one season together to try to satisfy City's desperate desire for a first Champions League title.

AFP

## Klopp: 'Beast' Haaland 'really good' City signing

LONDON

LIVERPOOL boss Jurgen Klopp has described Manchester City's new striker Erling Haaland as a "beast" who is "unfortunately a really good signing" for their Premier League title rivals.

City confirmed on Tuesday they triggered Haaland's £51 million release clause, and the 21-year-old will join the club on July 1 subject to agreeing on personal terms.

After Liverpool beat Aston Villa 2-1 at Villa Park through goals from Joel Matip and Sadio Mane to move level on points with City having played a game more, Klopp was asked how much Haaland will improve Pep Guardiola's side.

"A lot," he replied. "Good player, good player. City was never and will never be a team who wins games because of one player. They have a specific way to play.

"Erling will realise all of a sudden he will score a lot of goals on the second post where he just puts a foot on it. He will love that. He will have other situations. He's a real beast. He was injured a couple of times at Dortmund but when he's fit, he's a real beast. Unfortunately, a really good signing."

Liverpool came from behind to beat Villa after Douglas Luiz's third-minute strike, and Klopp insisted they will continue to fight to the end despite competing on three fronts with Saturday's FA Cup Final against Chelsea up next.

"In my mind we were six points behind City before the last game and then we won and they lost and we were only three points behind," said Klopp.

"So with that mindset, I came here today. It means we are still chasing like mad. Honestly, maybe it is because I am a bit dumb but it works brilliant. The boys are invited to follow that path so yes, we don't waste energy really to think 'hopefully they lose.' We just know we have to win. That didn't change at all.

"Now we have to recover, really recover and play the FA Cup final because obviously there is no mercy nowhere because this situation we make ourselves by qualifying for all finals, which is absolutely massive."

Klopp was unsure whether Fabinho would be available after the midfielder was forced off in the first half with a hamstring problem.

(Agencies)

# Why Erling Haaland, Pep Guardiola, Man City are in many ways a perfect match



Erling Haaland

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IT wasn't quite LeBron James and "The Decision." After all, Erling Braut Haaland wasn't a free agent, it wasn't televised, there was no "hometown betrayal" narrative and there were plenty of whispers that an announcement was imminent as various suitors had dropped out of the race. But it's not far off.

Haaland didn't say -- or at least had not yet said so as of Tuesday night -- that "I'm going to take my talents to the Etihad and join Manchester City. ... I feel like it's going to give me the best opportunity to win and to win for multiple years." But he and his entourage were probably thinking it.

This is a 21-year-old man-child and alongside Kylian Mbappe, he's one of the two hottest properties in the global game. Confirmation came on Tuesday that he was joining forces with Pep Guardiola and Manchester City, one of the very best (and best-resourced) clubs over the past few seasons, and the hot favourites to win their fourth Premier League title in five years.

What unites player and club, other than the fact they're close to the gold standard in what they do, is planning.

After playing second fiddle to crosstown rivals Manchester United for most of their history, and winning two Premier League titles in the early years under Emirati ownership more with a scattered, big spending approach, they committed themselves to a long-term project and zeroed in on Guardiola, the architect of two Champions League crowns when he was at Barcelona and the most coveted coach in the game at the time, as the coach to take them further.

Guardiola was at Bayern at the time, but they rolled out the red carpet for him. They made no secret of their desire to learn from the Barcelona model, right down to organising their youth academies along the same ideas and securing former Barcelona executives such as Ferran Soriano (now the club's chief executive) and Txiki Begiristain (City's sporting director).

Everything was ready for the day he was ready to commit and when he finally did, in the summer of 2016, he arrived in an environment that was more familiar than it might otherwise have been.

Haaland's career has also been meticulously planned out. Part of it is down to his dad, Alfie, a former Norwegian international who spent three seasons at City from 2000 to 2003. Being an ex-professional's son means having access to networks and know-how beyond the average Joe, and Haaland took full advantage.

He started out at his local club, Bryne, and at 16, after visiting and being scouted by half of Europe's biggest teams, he stayed in his home country, opting for Molde. Eighteen months later, just after turning 18, he moved to FC Salzburg in Austria, turning down more lucrative opportunities at bigger clubs.

Why Salzburg? Because they were part of the Red Bull group of clubs and were known not just for giving youngsters playing time, but for playing modern, fast and high-pressing football. They were the ideal "finishing school" and just as important, they agreed to put a relatively low release clause (€20m/\$21m) in his contract. If young Erling excelled beyond that fee, he wanted to be sure he could move on.

Which is exactly what

happened. He scored 28 goals in 22 games in the first half of the 2019-20 season and that January, he took his next step up the food chain. With a fee of €20m being less than a third of his market valuation at the time, he could pretty much pick his destination, and he chose Borussia Dortmund: a bigger club and a bigger challenge, but the same commitment to youngsters.

And again, they agreed a release clause -- €60m, as it turned out -- that was far below what he would otherwise fetch on the free market.

So while Haaland wasn't technically a free agent, having a release clause so low relative to your potential transfer fee on the open market (which is comfortably in the €180m range) amounted to pretty much the same thing. He -- along with his father and his late agent, Mino Raiola -- were in control. They could name their price and, crucially, their destination.

That meticulous planning doesn't just extend to his father and agent being clever in plotting out his path, either. By all accounts, Haaland is a clean-living, hardworking kid, with a softer, new-age side

to him (yoga and meditation). He avoids controversy, respects hierarchy and despite not being an outspoken media presence, still manages to rack up 15 million followers on Instagram with posts such as these back home in Norway. He has lived and breathed the game at the highest level since childhood, and it shows.

On the surface, it's a perfect match. Manchester City haven't had a dominant central striker since 2018, before injuries hastened Sergio Aguero's decline. They still score plenty of goals, mind you, but mostly without a specialist centre-forward. Last summer, they pursued England striker Harry Kane, but were put off by Tottenham's \$160m valuation. Haaland, who is seven years Kane's junior and arguably already on his level, is a comparative bargain.

This also isn't a case of a naive young superstar with stars (and money signs) in his eyes. Haaland and his advisers know exactly what they're getting into with City. They know the way Guardiola wants his teams to play, the way he favours the extra pass, the way he values work rate together with quality, the way the individual is subordinate to the collective.

Tempting as it may be to draw comparisons to the grand failed experiment of 2009 -- the last time Guardiola bet big on

an oversized Scandinavian centre-forward, by the name of Zlatan Ibrahimovic -- they're off the mark. Guardiola, then at Barcelona, had just won his first Champions League and the club acquired the towering Sweden international for a fee of \$55m plus the rights to Samuel Eto'o, a total package worth in excess of \$80m.

It didn't work out as Ibrahimovic clashed early and often with Guardiola, leaving after just one season. It led to some, most recently Patrice Evra, suggesting Guardiola can't handle outsized, in-your-face personalities and that he, not any individual player, had to be the star.

It's a very wrong reading of the situation, then and now. First off, Ibrahimovic is outsized, outspoken and larger-than-life to a degree Haaland never will be. Second, he was 27 and fully formed as a pro at the time, while Haaland is still developing (which is scary, given how good he already is).

Also, Guardiola today isn't the Guardiola of 2009 either. He too has grown, had life experiences and worked successfully with plenty of big personalities at Bayern Munich (Thomas Muller and Manuel Neuer, to name but two).

On the pitch, the fit seems natural. Haaland is a big, central striker, but he's also fast and an excellent passer of the ball. He has vision and work-rate, two

qualities that Guardiola seems to prize above all else. Personality-wise, he's hungry, probably hungrier than Ibrahimovic (who had already won league titles at three different clubs). City's cupboard is brimming with trophies; Haaland's contains only the 2020-21 German Cup and the league title he won in his first six months at Salzburg, when he was 18 and made just two league appearances. Hunger and motivation won't be an issue.

Ultimately, City can celebrate: they won the Haaland sweepstakes. Critics will say Real Madrid are putting their chips in the Mbappe basket when it comes to their next big signing, that Barcelona are close to insolvency (and Juventus are only in a marginally better boat), that Chelsea are under government sanctions, that Liverpool are busy trying to extend their own forwards (Sadio Mané, Mohamed Salah) rather than thinking of signing new ones, that Bayern Munich have their own strict salary structure... but let them talk.

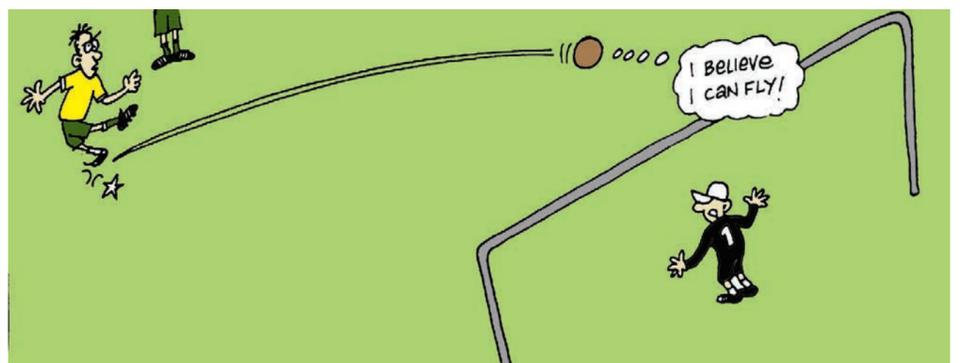
The fact is everybody wanted Haaland, and City got him. The fact that he chose them as much as they chose him (if not more) bodes very well.

Both are going into this with eyes wide open. Now, the rest is up to Pep and Erling.



Pep Guardiola

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

Why Erling Haaland, Pep Guardiola, Man City are in many ways a perfect match

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## With fair schedule, Simba SC would be ahead of Yanga, claims Pablo



Simba SC head coach, Pablo Franco. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

**S**IMBA SC head coach Pablo Franco Martin has claimed that his side would probably be top of the table if the NBC Premier League schedule was not too tight. Simba SC is the Premier League defending champion.

Speaking to the press ahead of a league encounter with Kagera Sugar, Martin said their rival, Yanga, is now dropping points because the side is playing every three days for the first time this season.

The tactician disclosed: "We had two days to rest, not to prepare for this game as you know most of the

time the day after the game is to rest, then to recover the next day. We don't even have enough players to complete the 20-man list for the game. It is going to be a tough game."

"Most of the time we are

facing a team that has had one more day to prepare for the game. But tomorrow we are playing at home, it is going to be a different game to the one we played in Kagera," the gaffer noted.

The Spaniard coach pointed out: "The only thing I hope is that because in Kagera we played a good first half which we should have led 4-0."

Martin said: "We scored a goal that should have been allowed but they disallowed because of handball, then they scored in the second half because of handball, both handballs were non-intentional."

"We are now in a better pitch and I hope that with things that we cannot control in a fair way we hope to have a better result."

The coach stated: "It is almost impossible. They have a huge advantage. They are the best teams when playing away. It seems even if we do our job, someone else is going to do something to make it impossible."

"The reality of the situation is that since they started playing after every three, four days they are dropping points."

The gaffer pointed out:

"We only dropped points in this league when we played after every three days in a row, traveling, having no time to prepare for the games."

"People think players or coaches are robots and we can perform anytime. Even for European players, it is impossible to perform every three days."

"You are not professionals, you don't have the facilities, you can't recover, the food is not good, there are no supplements. The trips are uncomfortable so you are spending a lot of extra energy."

Martin said: "And now the team that you thought was much better than us but they didn't show when they have the same schedule are even more points."

"That's why I always say with a fair schedule for both teams and fair decisions from things we cannot control we will probably be on top of the table," he revealed.



Simba SC's Zambian midfielder, Clatous Chama.

## Chama refutes rumours of sparkling feud with coach

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC attacking midfielder, Clatous Chama, has denied rumours of his feud with the side's head coach Pablo Franco after missing several games.

Chama, former Morocco's RS Berkane midfielder, will miss next month's games due to an ankle injury he picked in his squad's league tie against Yanga, popularly known as the 'Dar es Salaam derby', which took place in the city on April 30.

Chama picked an injury in the Premier League game against Yanga after returning to training earlier in the week.

He played in the clash despite not being fit and consequently failing to play well.

Chama was thereafter left due to his injuries and was unable to travel with the squad to Lindi for a league game against Namungo FC which ended in a 2-2 draw.

After the injury continued to plague him, the club reported that after the tests he underwent it was found he ought to have time to rest and should not practice for at least a month.

During that period, Chama will neither be seen at the Mo Simba Arena, Simba's training ground, nor traveling with the team in either away games or any other match.

The other player attending a special exercise program run by the outfit is forward Chris Mugalu that is also nursing an injury.

"I have no problem with the coach and the coach has no problem with me. There is no other problem in the team that makes me stay out rather than these injuries since the game against Yanga when I got injured," Chama noted.

"I am not in either the training ground or a match due to this problem but the technical bench, my teammates, and officials are aware that I am continuing with a special gym training program to be fit and come back as soon as possible," the midfielder pointed out.

Chama stated: "I do gym exercises in our camp in that sense that I meet my coaches and teammates as usual," the past season's best midfielder revealed.

During his six-month stint in the orange and black outfits of RS Berkane, the Zambian midfielder was being paid a salary estimated around 48m/-.

The footballer did not play against Namungo FC at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi on May 3 and the clash against Ruvu Shooting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

His absence sparked rumours that he has not been on good terms with Simba SC head coach Pablo Franco since the goalless draw with Yanga.

Since being signed by RS Berkane for around 700m/-, he has been injury-prone, regularly picking injuries on the ankle, which has plagued him since he played for the Moroccan outfit.

## Paralympic Committee hails Games Athletes Program support

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) has hailed the Commonwealth Sports Development Program, termed as Games Athletes Program (GAP), describing it as a game-changer in sports involving people with disabilities.

The GAP supports the development of inclusive sports pathways throughout the Commonwealth, removing barriers to participation for people with disabilities, and for women and girls to become actively involved in sports.

In Tanzania, GAP programs and activities are operating under the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC).

Vincent Kaduma, TPC vice-president, said in an interview that his committee is indebted to the support which GAP has offered to the country's Paralympic athletes and coaches.

Current local beneficiaries of the GAP program are Paralympic powerlifter Yohana Mwila and his coach Albert Chivalala.

Others are Para athlete, Sauda Njopeka, and her coach Bahati Mzungu.

The quartet is in South Africa attending various courses and training. Mwila and his coach were recently in the United Kingdom, while Sauda and her coach were in South Africa.

Kaduma said through the program Mwila is now



National Paralympic athletics squad's performers, Sauda Njopeka (L), and Ignas Mtweve, participate in discus training in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the 2022 Commonwealth Games slated to take place in Birmingham, England in July. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

licensed and classified by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) classifiers.

He said now both Mwila and Sauda are exposed to international competitions.

"The GAP program has come at a good time when the country and many African countries were lacking proper and modern training on Paralympic sports," the TPC official noted.

"TPC hails the program, the coaches who are under the program will impart the knowledge gained to

other coaches, the athletes too will do the same," he said.

He, however, said the challenge which GAP faced in Tanzania and many African countries is that it was not officially introduced to TPC, which is the mother body of all national associations for sports for people with disabilities.

He said there is no good communication between TPC and TOC.

Kaduma issued an example of the athlete Sauda, who is reported to be sick and beyond her prime, but

she is in South Africa attending the course.

He said if TOC had communicated to TPC, the committee would have consulted the Tanzania Paralympic Athletics Association (TPAA) for an athlete who can perform well in the course and training.

Kaduma pointed out: "The aims of GAP are very good but here in our country and many other African countries, it was imposed on national sports associations for people with disabilities."

"We were not involved

from the start, TOC did it on its own and imposed it on us, we are of the view that GAP would have been very effective if we were fully involved," he said.

Henry Tandau, TOC vice-president that is responsible for taking charge of GAP at the committee, told a meeting organized by the National Sports Council (NSC) on Tuesday that TOC could not consult TPC on the names of Para athletes and coaches as they were running late.

"We were against time, I phoned TPC secretary-

general (Ramadhan Namkoveka) but he could not be reached, I phoned the committee president (Tuma Dandi) and informed him of the program, he told me to give him time but we were against time," he told the meeting.

According to Commonwealth, the development of coaches is fundamental, but so is tackling many of the barriers and constraints that prevent participation.

The program involves multi-stakeholder partnerships and the building of long-term collaborations with universities, sports organizations, and government agencies.

GAP supervisors said in a statement: "Through partnerships, people are now shifting their mindsets and starting to have a positive influence on communities to believe that it is a fundamental human right for women, girls, and people with a disability to be included in their sports pathways."

GAP is a sport for development and peace program that supports the development of inclusive sports pathways throughout the Commonwealth.

It was developed by the Commonwealth Games Federation and Griffith University.

It has expanded into a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with other partners joining on this exciting but challenging journey.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

