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## ADMINISTRATION



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## CULTURE



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## Biden reverses Trump selective travel restrictions

WASHINGTON, DC

US President Joe Biden (pictured) yesterday began to undo some of his predecessor Donald Trump's key policies, hours after being sworn in, including ending the travel ban on some majority-Muslim countries.

His proclamation said that the US "was built on a foundation of religious freedom and tolerance, a principle enshrined in the United States Constitution."

"Nevertheless, the previous administration enacted a number of executive orders and presidential proclamations that prevented certain individuals from entering the United States - first from primarily Muslim countries, and later, from largely African countries.

"Those actions are a stain on our national conscience and are inconsistent with our long history of welcoming people of all faiths and no faith at all," he declared.

Upon occupying the White House, one of President Trump's earliest and most

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# COVID-19 closures rescale tourism tax dues by 10bn/-

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

NEARLY 1,000 registered businesses closed shop last year in Arusha Region alone, causing unemployment and loss of billions of shillings in government revenues.

Briefing members of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) here yesterday on the status of revenue collection in the first quarter of fiscal 2020/2021, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) regional manager John Mwigura said about 917 businesses pulled down shutters.

"From July to December last year, we collected 162.8bn/- out of the projected 237.9bn/- . Tax estimates for more than 2,000 taxpayers have since been revised from the initial 20.6bn/- to 10.6bn/-," he said.

The slump was due to the fact that Arusha is the 'nerve centre' of tourism activities countrywide and for the northern circuit, the sector most hit following the

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**Filbert Mponzi, NMB Bank Plc's Chief of Retail Banking, presents a progress report on the bank's support to Tanzania's sisal industry. This was at the just-concluded sisal stakeholders meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. It was held in Tanga city on Wednesday. Mponzi said the bank has so far pumped a total of 1.1 trillion/- into agriculture in the country, including the development of the sisal industry. To the PM's right is Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**



## 'Joint COVID-19 response crucial for EAC economies to rebound'

By Guardian Reporter

ECONOMIES of East African Community (EAC) member countries are projected to rebound this year especially if partner states strengthen macro-economic policy coordination and respond jointly to the COVID-19 pandemic, still raging in most EAC member countries.

The East African Business Council (EABC) an apex body of EAC private sector chambers, says that all indications point to possible recovery in the region where its chances will be optimally used "if it stands

and acts as one against the pandemic."

EABC chairman Nick Nesbitt (pictured) says in introducing the past year report that the region is projected to recover steadily but it was dependent on how the pandemic is handled.

COVID-19 disruptions in 2020 provided a learning curve on the relevance of sustainable EAC regional value chains integration for the development of finished products with a view of reducing industrial and trade risks arising out of external shocks, he stated.

The AfDB East Africa Economic Outlook 2020 says that the East Africa region is projected to recover to 3.7 percent baseline scenario and 2.8 percent in the worst-case scenario under the assumption that COVID-19 would be contained in the short-to-medium term.

Using the platform of a media engagement on the State of EAC Economies amid the pandemic in Nairobi, Nesbitt emphasized the need for the EAC secretariat to fast-track a regional

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## Ministry lays siege to end capital city's water woes

By Guardian Reporter

WATER ministry senior officials will from today camp at the offices of the Dodoma Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DUWASA) to supervise speedy implementation of ongoing projects, minister Jumaa Aweso said yesterday.

Touring various water projects whose speed did not impress him, the minister said round the clock supervision from the ministry was needed to end an acute water shortage in the capital city.

With the shift of the seat of government

**Seven deep wells are ready for use, adding 21m litres to daily supply**

from Dar es Salaam which was essentially implemented in 2019 and being consolidated last year, the city's water supply and distribution is overstretched with thousands of civil servants shifting to the city.

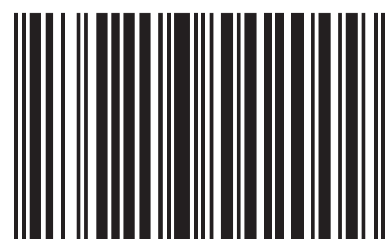
"DUWASA currently distributes 66m litres of water per day while the actual need is 103m litres. This means parts of the city continually face an acute shortage of water all the time," he said.

Ministry offices will temporarily be stationed at DUWASA premises not to

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**Iringa district commissioner Richard Kasesela (R) pictured earlier this week officially handing over to Sister Grevacia Kindole, head of Tosamaganga's St Theresia of Little Jesus children's centre, conjoined twins Dorice and Doricas for expert care. The babies, who were born in July last year, share the heart. Standing witness are the babies' parents, Aneti Juma (L) and Lemshungu Kundai. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya**



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Members of the Industries, Trade and Environment Parliamentary Committee observe a minute's silence in Dodoma city yesterday to honour their colleague, Special Seats legislator Martha Jachi Umbulla. That was shortly after they learnt of her death in India, where she was undergoing treatment. Photo: Correspondent Eliud Rwechungura

## COVID-19 closures rescale tourism tax dues by 10bn/-

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imposition of travel restrictions and thus flight cancellations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key sources of revenues that were negatively affected are Value Added Tax (VAT), employees' Pay As You Earn (PAYE), the Skills Development Levy (SDL) and Income Tax, he said, noting that these losses are tied to tourism industry businesses, not including the decline in park entrance fees.

The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) projected that export revenues from tourism would fall by \$910 billion to \$1.2 trillion in 2020, reducing global GDP by 1.5 per cent to 2.8 per cent.

Tourism supports one in 10 jobs and provides livelihoods for many millions more in both developing and developed economies, the

agency noted.

"In some Small Island Developing States (SIDS), tourism has accounted for as much as 80% of exports, while it also represents important shares of national economies in both developed and developing countries," a UNWTO report underlined.

As many as 100m direct tourism jobs are at risk, in addition to sectors associated with tourism such as labour-intensive accommodation and food services industries that provide employment for 144m workers worldwide. Small businesses (which shoulder 80 per cent of global tourism) are particularly vulnerable, it elaborated.

"Women, who make up 54 percent of the tourism workforce, youth and workers in the informal economy are among the most at-risk categories," the report added.

## Ministry lays siege to end capital city's water woes

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sit in air-conditioned rooms, take coffee and go home but to examine progress, go to the field and inspect implementation of various projects, he affirmed.

Apart from the influx of civil servants from Dar es Salaam, the shortage of water in the capital has been compounded by numerous construction projects going on in the city, he stated.

After the government announced the shift to Dodoma civil servants started relocating, and private sector interests followed suit.

After the actual shift started taking place, entrepreneurs with eyes for investment opportunities rushed to Dodoma and put up accommodation facilities, private schools, entertainment joints and other services.

The minister said that various projects including 15 deep wells at Mtumba area will significantly reduce water shortages in the capital city zone.

"Seven deep wells are ready

for use, adding 21m litres to daily supply," he said.

Speaking at Buigiri Ward in Chamwino District where a water tower is being put up, DUWASA technical manager Kashilimu Mayunga said the tank will be holding up to 2.5m litres from various wells.

"Once complete, this project will end water shortage in Chamwino District, including supplying the State House," he said.

Shifting the capital from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma was set out nearly 50 years ago by founder president Julius Nyerere, with subsequent governments being unable to muster the resources and resolve to put to action the plan until the fifth phase, when in July 2016 President John Magufuli directed ministries and key government agencies to prepare for relocation to Dodoma.

An executive order was appended to this announcement, directing the government to move its seat to the centrally-located town within the first term of the fifth phase, which ended last year.

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harmonised approach to promptly facilitate interventions at EAC border points to unblock trade blockages and facilitate faster clearance of goods.

EABC has been emphasizing the need for EAC Partner States to harmonize COVID-19 related charges and stop testing at border posts to avoid delays in truck and cargo clearance.

This year, East Africa's average inflation rate is projected to stand at 15.4 percent in the baseline scenario and 16.00 percent in the worst-case scenario. Kenya's inflation is, projected to stand at 4.9 percent in the baseline scenario and 4.6 percent in the worst-case scenario in 2021, on the basis of data from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

## 'Joint COVID-19 response vital for EAC economies to rebound'

EABC CEO, Dr. Peter Mathuki noted that macro-economic policy coordination in the EAC with a tighter monetary policy stance is necessary, to control inflationary pressures and foreign exchange volatility.

"Containing inflationary pressures will reduce the overvaluation of national currencies and improve export competitiveness," he asserted.

Dr Mathuki noted that while it was critical for Kenya to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the UK, to avoid losing out on trade, the region's enjoyment to the deal will enable

the bloc to export larger volumes of goods and enjoy economies of scale by marketing as one investment destination.

"It is more beneficial if the EAC region is marketed as a single investment destination," he said.

Dr. Mathuki urged EAC Partner States to take advantage of the new US administration and approach it with a bid to revive negotiations for the EAC-US Trade and Investment Partnership, stalled since 2016.

"Given that US and EAC negotiators had already agreed on some aspects of an envisaged

EAC-US Trade and Investment Partnership, a new initiative is needed on agreed areas and move forward on areas that the two parties have not agreed," he specified.

He expressed appreciation for the work of TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) for continued partnership and supporting the EABC towards advancing public-private sector dialogue and safeguarding intra-EAC trade and investments amidst COVID-19.

The meeting was also attended by regional business leaders and officials from agencies of the development partners.

## 17 pct of Nigerians don't believe coronavirus crisis is real - report

ABUJA

Only 39.9 per cent of the respondents said they would take a COVID-19 vaccine.

Amidst the continuous surge in the number of coronavirus cases in Nigeria, a survey has found that nearly a fifth of Nigerians still do not believe the disease is real.

The study by the research firm, SBM Intel, in all 36 states and the FCT, found that only 68.8 per cent of Nigerians believe that the virus is real.

The report said 14.4 per cent of Nigerians were not sure that COVID-19 is real, while 16.7 per cent did not believe it is real.

It said less than 50 per cent of respondents in Ekiti, Enugu, Kogi, Nasarawa and Sokoto States thought the virus was real.

The survey, titled: "COVID in Nigeria - The second wave" and published Thursday, X-rayed people's perceptions about the existence of COVID-19, as well as their reactions to the existing guidelines meant to curb its spread and the vaccines discovery and acceptance.

Of 36 states surveyed, the report noted that in most of the states (23), a large majority of respondents did not think that people were taking the right measures to prevent COVID-19 in their states.

It was only in Bauchi, Delta and Osun that more respondents believed that people were taking the right measures to curb the spread of the virus.

According to the report, only 39.9 per cent of the respondents said they would take a COVID-19 vaccine, while almost equal

proportion of respondents (35.9 per cent) said they would not.

The majority of the respondents were between 28-40 years (36.7%) followed by those between 18-27 years (24.0%), then 41-55 years (22.2%) which represents the active (working) population.

Some 9.5 per cent of the respondents were older than 55 years, and a smaller percentage, 7.7 per cent were younger than 18 years.

The report said sceptics cited the low death rate in the country as the reason for their disbelief.

"Some believe that the vaccines are a tool to depopulate Nigeria, while others expressed concern about the effectiveness ratio and the side-effects that the vaccine might have," the report said.

The survey said 63.3 per cent of Nigerians were opposed to another lockdown.

It was only in Abia and Gombe where a slim majority agreed that another lockdown would be necessary if the cases continue to rise.

AGENCIES



It said less than 50 per cent of respondents in Ekiti, Enugu, Kogi, Nasarawa and Sokoto States thought the virus was real



Women forced to leave the spot - under a tree - at Neyagawa village in Tarime District where they had taken their babies for clinic services on Wednesday. That was shortly after rain began falling. They then found shelter at the nearby Neyagawa Primary School. Photo: Correspondent Dinna Maningo

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controversial moves was a travel ban on people from certain nations he said were a security threat to the US

He signed a controversial travel ban just seven days after taking office as US president in January 2017, arguing that it was vital to protect Americans.

People from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, and North Korea were banned from obtaining any kind of visa. Chad was taken off this list in 2019. Last February, citizens of six

## Biden reverses Trump selective travel bans

more countries were barred from obtaining certain types of visas, including those from Eritrea, Nigeria, Sudan, and Tanzania.

Biden said the actions of the Trump administration had undermined national security.

"They have jeopardised our global network of alliances and

partnerships and are a moral blight that has dulled the power of our example the world over. And they have separated loved ones, inflicting pain that will ripple for years to come. They are just plain wrong."

But the new president said the US would still take threats to the

country seriously.

"When visa applicants request entry to the United States, we will apply a rigorous, individualised vetting system. But we will not turn our backs on our values with discriminatory bans on entry into the United States," the proclamation intoned.





Aisha Masanja, a Dodoma city planning officer, briefs local government leaders from Mpunguzi and Matumbulu wards yesterday on a sensitisation programme to be implemented soon. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## GNU promotes development in Zanzibar, Dr Mwinyi says

By Guardia Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday said that the presence of the Government of National Unity (GNU) promotes peace, unity and spearheads development of the people of the islands.

Dr Mwinyi made the remarks here when he met with the delegation of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation (MNF), which was led by the foundation Executive Director, Joseph Butiku at the Zanzibar's State House.

Mwinyi said that there has been a great deal of understanding and cooperation between the leaders and the majority of Zanzibaris, a situation that has led to the strengthening of unity, peace and solidarity since the end of the 2020 general election.

He lauded MNF for the outstanding job within and outside the country, noting that the foundation has been working closely with the two governments—Zanzibar and United Republic of Tanzania, religious institutions, political parties, the relations he described as key in reinforcing country's peace and tranquility.

Dr Mwinyi also asked non-governmental organisations to ensure they work in line with the government vision and they should refrain from political fanatics.

Mwinyi stressed that his government will continue to extend its cooperation to MNF in

ensuring the intended goals are achieved. He also received the request for the foundation to have an office in Zanzibar and Mwinyi vowed to work on the request for the betterment of MNF and the islanders.

Butiku commended Mwinyi for enabling the re-establishment of GNU in accordance with the 1984 Zanzibar Constitution with the aim of achieving high democracy and development.

He however said that Zanzibar has now been seen peaceful, united, stable and cohesive due to the reconciliation that has taken place.

MNF was established in 1996 by Mwalimu Nyerere to promote his legacy of peace, unity, and people-centered development. The foundation seeks to monitor public and private institutions and seek strategies to uphold his ideals of integrity, equality, and the rule of law in East Africa and beyond.

The foundation aims to build Africa's first presidential library and educational resource center while developing itself into the leading policy research institute in East Africa. The foundation will serve as a crossroads between government, academia, and civil society, seeking effective solutions to ongoing problems and pursuing their implementation. As such the foundation is something more than a think tank, but also a center for peace negotiation, citizen outreach, and political pressure.

## Man dies attempting to board moving train at Moshi station

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

A man aged between 35 and 40 years died yesterday when trying to board a moving train at Moshi station in Kilimanjaro Region, police have confirmed.

The train was heading to Arusha city from Dar es Salaam.

Acting Kilimanjaro Regional Police Commander (RPC), Ronald Makona said the accident happened on Thursday morning when the man who was identified

by one name as Noah was attempting to jump on to a moving train to continue with the journey.

"He boarded the train in Dar es Salaam heading to Arusha but he dropped out of the train to relieve himself, then he suddenly realized that the train had started leaving the station, hence trying to board in one of the wagons," said the police commander.

RPC Makona added: "He was badly injured with some of his body parts cut into pieces.

Police collaborated with the counterparts from the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) in collecting the body parts which were preserved at a nearby hospital."


TRC revived the passenger and cargo train services for northern zone regions in December 2019.

The train fare from Dar es Salaam to Moshi is 39,100/- for the second class sleeping coach, 23,500/- for the second class seating coach and 16,500/- for the

third class coach.

The fares to Korogwe are 25,400/- for second class sleeping coach, 15,300/- for second class seating coach and 10,000/- for third class.

The proposed fare for the train from Moshi in Kilimanjaro Region to Arusha city is 1,500/- for passengers and 300 for students for the third class, and 2,000/- and 400/- for passengers and for students respectively in the second class.



### TAARIFA KWA WAPANGAJI WA NYUMBA ZA NHC WANAODAIWA KODI NA MALIMBIKIZO

- Shirika la Nyumba la Taifa linawashukuru wapangaji wake walioweza kulipa kodi na malimbikizo yao baada ya kupewa notisi ya siku kumi na nne (14) ya kulipa kodi na malimbikizo wanayodaiwa. Aidha, wapo wapangaji wachache ambao bado wanadaiwa kodi na malimbikizo hadi sasa.
- Kwa mara nyingine, Shirika linatoa siku thelathini(30) kwa wapangaji wanaodaiwa kodi na malimbikizo kufika katika ofisi za Shirika zilizo karibu nao ili kulipa kodi na malimbikizo wanayodaiwa.
- Shirika linawashauri wapangaji wote kutumia fursa hii kulipa madeni yao na baada ya muda huu uliowekwa kukamkilika, Shirika litatumia taratibu za kisheria kukusanya kodi na malimbikizo yanayodaiwa wapangaji ikiwemo kukamata na kupiga mnada mali za wapangaji ili kufidia kodi na malimbikizo yanayodaiwa. Aidha, baada ya muda huu kupita, Shirika halitasita kutangaza kwenye vyombo vya habari majina ya wadaiwa wote sugu ili umma ufahamu watu wanaokwamisha maendeleo ya Shirika na Taifa kwa kutokulipa kodi.
- Tunashukuru wapangaji wote wanaotimiza wajibu wao wa kulipa kodi kwa wakati na kuliwezesha Shirika na Taifa kuwaletea maendeleo watanzania kwenye sekta ya nyumba.

**IMETOLEWA NA:  
OFISI YA MAWASILIANO NA HUDUMA KWA JAMII  
NHC-MAKAO MAKUU**



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Information to Tender may be obtained from:  
**nm.proposal@barrick.com**  
Applicants must quote reference "Mining Related Services MINE11/2020" in the subject line of your email and submit your company profile. Interested parties may submit tenders for select individual packages, or for all available packages.

**Key Dates**

- Last date to request Information to Tender 28 January 2020
- Tender submission closing date 12 February 2020

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited  
19 January 2020**



## Zanzibar VP urges private sector to set up schools for teaching Kiswahili abroad

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Second Vice President of Zanzibar, Hemed Suleiman Abdallah, has urged the private sector to take up the challenge and set up Kiswahili training schools in foreign countries, assuring them of the government support.

He said that developed economies have been able to converge their language and culture in which countries such as China are increasingly penetrating its language to facilitate trade and relations.

"The government is ready to support such initiatives and I suggest that you can start with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member countries," he said.

According to the VP, Kiswahili is currently one of the official languages in the bloc, and Tanzanians are set to benefit through training, translating, book writing, and interpretation services.

He made the statement while presiding over the closing of Kiswahili Day organized by the National Kiswahili Council (BAKITA).

During the event, President John Magufuli was awarded the Shaaban Robert medal by BAKITA for his role in advancing the native language within and outside the country.

The council's board of director's Chairperson, Dr Method Samuel, said President Magufuli had demonstrated unwavering support to the progression of the language and its experts.

"The president has enhanced the growth of translators and interpreters as professions especially during his meeting with foreign leaders," said Dr Samwel, adding "he has also opened up opportunities for Kiswahili tutors in various countries."

The chairperson said the team of experts including departments of Kiswahili from across universities in Tanzania as well as associations of Kiswahili, professionals had nominated President Magufuli unanimously.

Dr Samwel said they all agreed that his support which also includes amending the council's 1967 legislation as well as developing regulations in 2019 qualified

the head of state for the highest medal.

He reminded the meeting that during his first inaugural speech in 2015, the president insisted his government will enhance the use of Kiswahili language.

"In his foreign trip in May 2019, the President promised to offer trainers of the Language in Zimbabwe and Namibia," he said.

According to the board chairperson, President Magufuli also made Kiswahili an official language of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) block in August 2019.

Initially, the awards which were launched in 1995 to recognize the exceptional contribution that advances the native language set key principals for recipients.

They include having produced Kiswahili books, being able to advance the language within and outside the country, contribute to positive changes as well as best leadership.

The council recognized the University of Dar es Salaam as the best higher learning institution for its research and formalization of Kiswahili. It also awarded David Masamba as this year's best Kiswahili book writer.

On Media houses, the council recognized state broadcaster-TBC Taifa as the best radio station adopting fluency and standard Kiswahili grammar.

TBC was followed by ZBC radio and Wapo FM. Clouds FM was recognized as the best radio in developing vocabulary. It was followed by Kiss FM and UN radio.

BBC Swahili and Radio One were recognized as the best radios for vibrant Kiswahili debates and an overall radio in developing Kiswahili language respectively.

TBC One television was awarded a distinction in moral protection while ZBC TV, ITV, and Channel 10 being awarded for their best use of language and debates in first, second, and third press respectively.

In addition to Habari Leo recognition as the best newspaper, Zanzibar Leo and Mwananchi newspapers were also recognized for their fluency and standard use of Kiswahili language grammar.



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto (gesturing) has a word with motorbike taxi operators yesterday, chiefly on the need for them to observe road traffic regulations. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## RC Chalamila issues order on inclusive education in schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA regional commissioner Albert Chalamila has instructed education officers in the region to have in place a friendly environment in primary and secondary schools to enable the attainment of inclusive education.

Chalamila issued the instructions recently as he was addressing members of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) saying there was no need of segregating children with special needs with normal students as all these have to learn together.

He said various institutions that

offered to mobilize for inclusive education should be supported to ensure children with special needs get an education like any other.

RC Chalamila added that Child support Tanzania (CST) has scored many achievements in inclusive education without segregating children, by using various innovative strategies including using various gadgets for the children that with special needs to play with while they follow lessons in class.

Chalamila said education officers in the region should emulate CST and should abandon the segregation system in schools and classes.

Meanwhile, Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika instructed both public and private institutions in Mbeya Region to ensure the provide employment to people with disabilities as they also have the capability to work just like normal people.

He said his office has workers with disabilities and work hard sometimes more than normal people, and praised CST for being an example in employing people with special needs.

Noela Msuya, CST Director appealed to the government to consider introducing education on sign language to students in elementary classes.



Sultan Ngaladzi (L), the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau officer at Mirerani township in Simanjiro District, addresses residents of Naisinyai village earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter

## Vietnamese investors lauded for complying with Tanzanian laws

THE government has commended Vietnamese investors for complying with the Tanzanian laws and paying required taxes thus contributing to the country's economic development.

This was said yesterday by Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Stephen Mbundi when he met the Vietnam Ambassador to Tanzania, Nguyen Nam Tien in the country's political capital-

Dodoma.

The two leaders discussed ways to strengthen the existing diplomatic relations between Tanzania and Vietnam as well as strategies to attract investors from Vietnam to invest in the country.

Ambassador Mbundi expressed appreciation over the role played by Vietnamese investors who are complying with the Tanzanian

laws and paying the required taxes saying they are contributing to the country's economic development and its people.

He was optimistic that Tanzania and Vietnam will continue to prosper their cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two nations as well as Tanzania will continue learning and adopting technological advancement and skills from Vietnam in the areas of

agriculture and fishing.

Ambassador Tien said: "Vietnam is eager to honour the diplomatic relations which has lasted for 55 years and will continue to support Tanzania especially in investing in the area of processing Tanzanian cashew nuts."

The Vietnam Ambassador added that his country ranks second in buying Tanzanian cashew nuts.

## Financial institutions told to reduce interest rates, support sisal farmers

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Tanga

BANKS and other financial institutions have been urged to support sisal farmers and processors by reducing interest rates so that many people can be attracted to loans.

Issuing directives after discussions with sisal crop stakeholders at a meeting he convened in Tanga region on Wednesday, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said many people would like to secure loans from banks and financial institutions to fully engage and develop the sisal crop but they are being annoyed by high interest rate.

The sisal stakeholders meeting brought together stakeholders from farmers, investors, processors, banks, financial institutions, the private sector, researchers, academicians, etc to discuss the achievements, challenges and the way forward of sisal development.

He said banks and financial institutions are the main stakeholders in agriculture therefore they have a key role to play in the contribution of the crop's development.

The prime minister urged the farmers to open bank accounts so that it can be easier to deposit their money and other transactions saying without opening bank accounts, it will be difficult for the farmers to even secure loans.

He directed all district councils to identify and understand all farmers in the villages, their acreage, and prepare a data base.

"I direct district councils that you should also identify and prepare data base of all farms and lands that were acquired but are not used for a long time," he aid.

"Farmers should form groups and associations. The associations should be recognised, registered and closely supervised. We want to see active associations so that it can be easier to work with them in the development of the crop, he added.

He directed the district council

to review crop cess, laws and put in place good and friendly crop cess that can help to promote small holder farmers," he said.

He directed sisal board to work very closely with TARI to ensure production and dissemination of the improved seedlings.

"We want to see a competent sisal board. The board should also work on title deeds of assets and properties such as houses, farms," he added.

The Prime Minister commended TARI for good work of research and production of improved seeds saying all other stakeholders like sisal board should work closely with TARI to succeed.

Earlier on, different stakeholders were invited for presentations but some of their main concerns were lack of loans from banks and financial institutions due to lack of collateral.

Members of parliament in different constituencies in Tanga regions said that there is a need for the financial institutions to lower down interest rates, investment in processing industries and revoke title deeds of the large farms that are not used so that ordinary people who want to farm sisal can use them.

They also said the farmers can only develop if they will be trained on agricultural best practices and secure good local and international markets.

"There is a need to make regular audit to all farmers associations and cooperatives so that they can be able to qualify to access the money from banks and other financial institutions, said a Member of Parliament Dunstan Kitandula.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said through the Ministry of Agriculture, TARI will increase production of seedlings through tissue culture to 10 million seedlings per annum.

TARI Mlingano centre Director Dr Catherine Senkoro explained that in 2019, Tanzania earned 11.7bn/- from sisal.





Zanzibar's Mjini Magharibi district commissioner, Idrissa Kitwana (R), has an audience with fishmongers at Malindi market yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hawa Abdallah

# FCS allots 10bn/- for building of capacity in 150 organisations

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) has set aside 10bn/- for building capacity to 150 civil societies Organizations (CSOs) across the country in a new drive to enhance effectiveness in enabling engagement of citizens in development processes.

FCS Program Manager Francis Uhadi said yesterday in Dar es Salaam in the joint meeting with CSO's representatives across the country.

He said with remarkable success that had been achieved in the last year, FCS will grant 10/- to 150 CSO's across the country to build the capacity of political leaders such as members of Parliaments and Ward Councilors.

"Our target is to build the capacity of the public to engage them in development processes," he said.

Uhadi said that lack of awareness among the public is still a big challenge, therefore, hindering their rights in participating in the development process.

The programme manager cited Zanzibar Island and Mwanza region records a high children harassment adding that concerted efforts were still needed.

He said FCS will collaborate with the government to ensure children and gender harassment are eliminated completely.

FCS's head of Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and learning Gestad Haule said that bureaucracy was still a big challenge in some public office.

"Increased public awareness is still needed to build the capacity of the community to demand their rights," he said

Emmanuel Simon, coordinator of the Tanzania League for Blind said since 2016, his society had benefited a lot from the grants from FCS.

He called on the government to fast track the process of printing books for the blind and all those with poor vision to enable them to access the right to read.

"Our country has ratified and signed the Marrakesh treaty, we, therefore, ask it to start printing books that can be used by blind and people with poor sight," he said.

The Action for Justice in Society (ASISO) secretary Tatu Mrutu said there was a positive response to the community to report issues related to harassment in Mwanza district, Kilimanjaro region.

She said as a result the number of women and children harassment has dropped noting that it was due to increased awareness.

"AJISO has done a commendable job in collaboration with the surrounding community to eliminate all harassment to women and children," she said.

Mrutu added that whenever harassment happens, people report police, and action is taken immediately.

*"Our target is to build the capacity of the public to engage them in development processes"*

By Guardian Correspondent, Kagera

## ASA provides 8,000 improved oil palm seedlings to farmers in Kagera Region

THE Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA) has provided 8,000 oil palm seedlings to Kagera Region for the establishment of the cultivation and production of the edible oil crop in the lake zone region.

The exercise, which was launched by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa in 2018 as a strategic crop with the aim of helping to reduce importation of edible oil into the country.

ASA's Chef Executive Officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge revealed this here yesterday while explaining on the opportunities embedded on the crop such as employment and food security.

Dr Kishenge said, there has been

a small increase in food by 2.9 percent compared to population growth which is 3.1 percent.

Supervisor of oil palm seedlings preparing group, Nassor Mtengaliki said the seedlings have been shown to be popular with farmers despite their practice of cultivating coffee and bananas.

He said the crop has many benefits including oil and soap manufacturing as part of entrepreneurship to have a variety of products derived from palm oil.

A resident of Kyakailabwa Julieth Swahi said that in order to benefit and be successful in farming, there is a need to scale up education on modern agronomic practices including best ways of caring oil palm seedlings.

"We are used to growing coffee, bananas, potatoes and vanilla. This is a new crop for us. It is possible to cultivate it only if we are given agricultural education," said Swahi.

Acting Regional Administrative Secretary Isaya Tendega said,

the region has a good climatic condition and the likelihood of achieving the production of the agriculture is high compared to the situation of what researchers say.

He said that in order to increase the income of the region and the individual, the farmer must be involved in agriculture and the improved oil palm seedlings have proved to be productive and mature early as compared to traditional ones and has high productivity.

By Devota Mwachang'a, Mwanza

## TMDA in a three-year strategy to improve its Lake Zone laboratory

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has embarked on a three-year strategy to improve its Lake Zone laboratory aiming to make it one of the centres of excellence for testing of disinfectants and antiseptics.

The Mwanza laboratory according to TMDA's Lake Zone Manager, Sophia Mziray will address various challenges including issues of quality of disinfectants and antiseptics.

Disinfectants are liquid chemical compounds designed to inactivate or kill harmful microorganisms on inanimate surfaces. Antiseptic is a chemical agent that inactivates microorganisms on external surfaces of the human body, so that they do not enter the body and cause diseases.

Speaking to journalists who visited the laboratory to observe various activities conducted at the facility including testing, medical equipment and reagents, Mziray said the lab will be among the best in the African continent.

"We are in the process of making the facility one of the largest, best and most efficient laboratories for testing samples within the Southern African Development Community (SADC)," said Mziray. She added that such

improvements will go together with provision of capacity building training for the staff and procurement of modern equipment to make it more efficient.

According to the manager, all the preliminary preparations have been completed including documentation and feasibility study. She said the facility will also carry out tests of medicines, medical devices and reagents from other regions.

She said the authority will also provide education to the public to increase their understanding on quality, safety and effectiveness of the products.

"We want the public to have a good understanding of the reagents and disinfectants because they are part of the regulators; they should be able to identify and report side effects to our offices," she added.

Mziray explained that the six regions in Lake Zone still face challenges in the control of medicine, reagent and medical devices importation. She said the medicines are imported through formal and informal borders, but the authority is working to end the problem.

Some formal borders surrounding the Lake Zone are Mutukula, Sirari and Kyerwa.

She said they have requested municipal councils within the six regions—Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga Kagera, Simiyu and Mara to appoint inspectors who will collaborate with TMDA staff in fighting against illegal importation of the medicines and medical equipment.

TMDA Manager for Communication and Public Education, Gaudensia Simwanza the authority has a 'stand alone lab' in Mwanza Region which has met the quality criteria recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO). Simwanza added that testing results provided from the lab are unquestionable.

The laboratory has received sample tests conducted in Germany and South Africa but the results were inconsistent, but the test results from TMDA laboratory became a solution," she stressed.

Acting Head of Lake Zone Laboratory, Bugusu Nyamweru said the laboratory is responsible for analyzing various pharmaceutical products through its chemistry and microbiology laboratories.



Pangani District CCM secretary Mohamed Moyo (R) has a word with coconut traders Mohamed Tupa (L) and Azizi Selemani on the Pangani River bank yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William



**GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM**  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

<p><b>JOB TITLE :</b> Program Officer and Administrative Support <b>LOCATION :</b> Dar es Salaam <b>REPORTS TO :</b> Program Manager</p> <p><b>OVERVIEW:</b> The Global Health Supply Chain Program Technical Assistance – Tanzania (GHSC TA-TZ) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and maternal, reproductive, newborn and child health (RMNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC-TA-TZ assists Government of Tanzania health programs by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.</p> <p><b>SUMMARY:</b> GHSC TA-TZ is recruiting for Program Officer to provide operational and administrative support for the implementation of work plan activities, including but not limited to assisting in monitoring annual work plans, liaising with technical and operational staff on various technical and operational program areas as well as lead management of large scale technical activities such as workshops, trainings, and conferences such as the Annual Supply Chain Summit.</p> <p>Additionally, this position will provide operational support to ensure project materials are filled according to internal protocol and administer internal and external meetings with clients.</p> <p><b>RESPONSIBILITIES:</b> Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all project deliverables are in project approved templates.</li> <li>• Manage the project's filing system and ensure all final deliverables are organized and saved appropriately.</li> <li>• Work with technical teams and other project staff to track deliverable.</li> <li>• Assist in development of project materials and information.</li> <li>• Coordinate with project staff to ensure approved project reports/ success stories and other public materials are on the appropriate project website as necessary.</li> <li>• Provide support to technical staff on preparation of presentations or documentation</li> <li>• Support project teams in planning and administrative implementation of training and workshops such as but not limited to paying out per diem rates, organizing conference facilities and booking venues, liaising with vendors.</li> <li>• Coordinate international and local travel.</li> <li>• Contributes to work plan development and implementation reviews.</li> <li>• Support project teams to provide high quality deliverables.</li> <li>• Support the coordination of clients such as USAID meetings, project technical meetings and conferences; prepare and disseminate agenda items, take minutes, and circulate as</li> </ul>	<p>appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support in the planning, development, and execution of the Tanzania Health Supply Chain Summit including:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Convene summit planning committee.</li> <li>- Finalize theme, topics, and timetable for the summit.</li> <li>- Execute marketing plan for the summit, and ensure that communication on conferences are timely, and communicated through relevant channels and reach relevant audiences.</li> <li>- Manage participant registration.</li> <li>- Confirm attendance of keynote speakers and other speakers/presenters, and ensure they understand logistics around their presentations (time, format, etc.)</li> <li>- Liaise with venue to ensure success of summit.</li> <li>- Recruit and manage volunteers for the summit.</li> <li>- Process all requests such as room set-up, catering needs and audio visual device requirements.</li> <li>- Prepare travel arrangements for participants, both international and local as appropriate.</li> <li>- Print conference materials and prepare welcome packets.</li> <li>- Coordinate post summit review by soliciting feedbacks; prepare and disseminate post event reports.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintain high-level of professionalism and competence when dealing with clients</li> <li>• Perform other duties as assigned.</li> </ul> <p><b>QUALIFICATIONS:</b> Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A degree in public health, supply chain management, business administration, public administration, and advanced diploma in related studies</li> <li>• Ability to take initiative and work in teams.</li> <li>• Extremely organized and detail oriented.</li> <li>• Excellent verbal and written English and Swahili.</li> <li>• Proficiency in Microsoft -Word, -Excel and -Office.</li> <li>• Proficiency with google drive, google survey, and google docs.</li> <li>• Experience with a USAID-funded project and knowledge of USAID rules and regulations strongly desired.</li> <li>• Experience working with an NGO strongly desired.</li> <li>• Experience in multicultural event management such as large conferences and meetings including planning and execution.</li> <li>• Experience in training planning and coordination is an added advantage.</li> <li>• Experience in working on areas of health programs/projects, such as commodities supply chain management is an added advantage.</li> <li>• Ability to work and communicate with diverse of people of various nationalities and cultural background</li> </ul> <p>Interested candidates are invited to send their cover letters, Curriculum Vitae with names and contact details of 3 work related references, enclosing certificate copies of relevant education and training.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Submission may be sent to -</b> <a href="mailto:ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com">ghsc.recruitmentz@gmail.com</a> by 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.</p>
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## Tanzania strives to become top mineral hub in East, Central Africa

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko has said that the ongoing reforms in the mining laws and policies are meant to make Tanzania, one of the best minerals trading hub in East and Central Africa and thus attract buyers from across the globe.

Biteko disclosed this on Monday in the live programme aired on ITV, saying that the government's zeal is to ensure that the mining sector contributes immensely to the country's development.

"Our aim is to make Tanzania a destination when it comes to buying minerals, that's why we're working hard to create a better environment that will woo larger mineral dealers from across the world to come directly to Tanzania and buy the precious stones," he said.

Biteko queried: "If all countries in Africa sell minerals in Dubai and Switzerland, why can't we set our own market in Tanzania so that all dealers come and buy minerals here."

He said that Tanzania has huge deposits of several minerals including gold, copper, irons, coal, graphite and many others which are yet to be tapped saying that the government has decided to ensure that the resources now benefit the country immensely.

He said that currently there are 28 operational trading hubs in the mineral-rich areas of Mwanza, Geita, Chunya, Arusha, Namanga, Singida Sekenke, Dar es Salaam, Kahama, Shinyanga, Ruvuma, Katavi, Tanga, Iringa, Manyara, Singida, Shinyanga, Dodoma, Kigoma, Tabora, Mbeya, Mara and Songwe. "Government-controlled selling and buying centres are part of President John Magufuli's drive to optimise mineral trading to benefit not just multinationals but also small-scale miners, brokers

and dealers," he said.

According to him, the hubs are part of efforts to improve and provide greater transparency in the country's mining industry, and to stop mineral smuggling and tax evasion.

Biteko said the government target is to ensure that the mining sector contributes 10 percent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025 noting that between 2015 and 2020 it grew from 3 to 5.2 percent respectively.

He said mining sector was the leading sector in the country with the value of mineral exports increasing each year.

Gilliard Lukoya, the mining officer in charge of Shinyanga Region said: "The presence of these buying centres has bridged the gap between miners and dealers, and now artisanal miners know where to sell their minerals and at what price, since the government sets the minimum allocated prices at the hubs every day."

The mining industry in Tanzania previously focused on companies like Acacia (recently bought by Barrick Gold) and its three mines at Bulyanhulu, Buzwagi and North Mara, the Geita Gold Mine, and Williamson Diamonds.

Tanzania is endowed with vast quantities and types of resources whose extraction has been central to the country's economic growth.

Leading minerals include gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt, silver, diamond, tanzanite, ruby, garnet, limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt, phosphate, coal, uranium, gravel, graphite, sand, and dimension stones.

Reports show the United Kingdom is the largest foreign investor in the mining industry in the country followed by India, China, Kenya, USA, Netherlands, South Africa, Canada, Germany and Oman.



Sebastian Kitiku (3rd-L), an assistant director in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, inspects the construction of a community centre at Kibaigwa Primary School in Dodoma Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Makete

FIRE has burned down part of boys' dormitory of Mang'oto Secondary School in Makete District, Njombe Region causing great destruction to furniture and students' belongings.

Makete District Commissioner Veronica Kessy visited the school mid this week and said the same dormitory was once set on fire by one of the students back in 2018 and gave directives for steps to be taken immediately against the perpetrators.

"I received report of the fire at this school and I was really

## Fire destroys school dormitory for second time in three years

distressed because the same dormitory was burnt down in March 2018 and we made great efforts to raise funds from the people's contributions to repair the building, but now we are back to square one," she lamented.

She said initial investigations have already been taken and called on the students of the school to give cooperation to nab the perpetrators through their

teachers.

"If there is a person you know who has committed the crime, go to your teacher and tell him, you will be protected," the DC said.

The District's Defence and Security Committee in collaboration with government officials arrived at the school and a students' poll was conducted to identify the culprits and thereafter went away with several students

for further interrogation.

Njombe regional Education Officer Gift Kyando told students to adhere to good conduct while at school and not engage themselves in criminal activities.

"You might be greatly infuriated but you should not burn a school dormitory, this is the second time now, back home your parents live in hardship but you burn a place where you sleep in," Kyando said.



Rice Council of Tanzania director Winnie Bashagi (R) conducts capacity building training for rice processors in Kahama District earlier this week. The thrust was on ways to make them improve the product, with a view to satisfying both domestic and foreign markets. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## TARI-Uyole in grand scheme to produce modern quality soya seeds for farmers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

UYOLE Centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) has embarked on a plan to expand soya crop by preparing modern quality seeds to be distributed to farmers aimed to tackle malnutrition in children and edible oil shortage.

The Centre's Director, Dr tulole Bucheyeki said they have already finalized research on the new soya seeds and were now in the second stage of production of the seeds in

abundance ready for distribution to farmers.

Dr Bucheyeki revealed this early this week when addressing reporters on preparations in the planting of the seeds for the current farming season.

He said research conducted show that the plan was of great benefit to Tanzanians, as apart from tackling the malnutrition, it will also alleviate the shortage of edible oil in the country.

"Our centre has invented four types of Soya seeds that will be

planted at the centre so that they can be distributed, and we stress for them to abide by the directives of TARI experts to have better harvests," he said.

The centre's Research Officer Lusungu Paul claimed that they have been spreading various farming technologies via pamphlets and brochures, Nananane Agricultural Exhibitions and the media.

He added that farmers who are ready to learn soya farming technologies should visit their

offices at Uyole, Mbeya or the demonstration farms.

Head researchers and supervisor of leguminous crops at TARI-Uyole Michael Kilango, said they have decided to plant eight hectares with soya, keeping in mind of great demand of the seeds from various areas in the Southern Highlands regions.

TARI-Uyole farm manager Allan Mwanga said they expect to produce more than 11 tonnes of soya seeds at the centre.

## Use modern technologies in cross-breeding, herders told

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) Mpwapwa centre has advised herders to use modern technologies in cross-breeding local seeds with hybrids to get the best products.

Lead researcher at the centre's cattle department Deogratious Masao made the remarks when presenting various studies conducted by the centre on livestock to help farmers.

Masao said the new technology to breed local seeds will help farmers to get quality products such as milk and beef.

He said the centre has been teaching livestock keepers to use the new technology to ensure that they benefit and move away from the traditional way of keeping livestock which has not been beneficial.

"We have been working on informing farmers on the best way to benefit from livestock keeping which they are doing, in the same way, improve their economic lives," he said.

He said livestock keepers have all the reasons to change the way they practice livestock farming especially this time when the country has graduated to a middle-income economy.

For his part, a researcher from the centre Thomas Kabuni said artificial insemination will help farmers to change the kind of farming they have been doing and instead turn livestock keeping into the business.

He said the centre has been satisfied that the new breeding technology has no effects and that if well used will help farmers economically.

Despite Tanzania being among African countries that have large numbers of livestock, it is yet to tap the potential.

Despite being rich in cattle, Tanzania is yet to meet its meat demand of 450,000 tonnes as its production is 350,000 tonnes annually.

NBS indicates that in December 2015, Tanzania had only four meat plants – three of them located in Arusha.

## Bridging education gaps can uplift African women entrepreneurs - UN

By Special Correspondent

EDUCATIONAL attainment gaps have limited the success of women-owned businesses in Africa, according to a report newly published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The "Women's Entrepreneurship Report" studied data from tens of thousands of African entrepreneurs and firms to establish links between education, access to finance and improved productivity.

"Increasing women's educational attainment can improve their ability to own a bank account and save for business. Women with secondary education are 51 times more likely

to have a bank account and 22 times more likely to save than those with lower attainment," the report said.

The commission revealed, among other things, that "education is a critical factor for productive female entrepreneurship in Africa."

"For instance, women with primary education or less are 27 times more likely to have started a business by necessity than those with higher attainment driven by opportunity," it said.

While Africa leads the world in terms of the number of female entrepreneurs, they largely start a business by necessity, tend to be smaller, and face more barriers in securing support and investment, the report noted.



# TBS seeking stakeholders' cooperation on imported vehicle tests

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has asked all imported vehicle stakeholders to provide enough cooperation with the newly procedures of inspecting the vehicles upon arrival in the country.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Director of Quality Control at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards, (TBS) Lazaro Msasalaga, said that from March 1 this year all imported vehicles will be inspected in the country.

"Initially the exercise was carried out abroad where TBS contracted some companies to inspect vehicles before they were shipped to Tanzania," he said.

Msasalaga said the government has now responded to the call by stakeholders who wanted the exercise to be conducted locally.

"Stakeholders forwarded their claims to the government pushing for the exercise to be conducted locally, we have responded but we are asking them to give us enough cooperation once started," he said.

He said that the decision would help to reduce time and costs involved when the exercise was carried abroad.

Narrating, Msasalaga said that preparation for the exercise has already commenced and TBS has set aside enough space.

In that regard, the \$150 (Sh346,366) inspection fee that was paid in the country of export on imported vehicles will now be paid in Tanzania.

"Any vehicles that will be inspected and found not to comply with the requirements will have to undergo upgrading and further inspection at the UDA yard adjacent to Dar es Salaam port before they are cleared and allowed on public roads," he said. According to him, the vehicles will be inspected at reserved yards after it has been cleared by customs officials at the port.

"If it is found not to meet required standards, the owner will not be handled his vehicle instead he will be directed to rectify the error," he said.

TBS will be out to ensure that all used cars imported into the country comply with the set requirements of such cars before they can be allowed to the roads.

Explaining the decision, he said TBS have already built the capacity of their vehicle inspectors, and it is only fair that they started practising what they have been trained to do at great cost.

According to him, the decision to use own inspectors will ensure that local garages get business, and at the same time the government gets revenues through the business.

He stressed that the business of repairing vehicles will obviously create employment for Tanzanians who will also gain experience on the works.

Since 2002, TBS inspects vehicles intended to be imported into the country using four contracted agents, one of whom is stationed in Dubai while the other three are stationed in Japan.

Speaking late last year, the rector of National Institute of Transport (NIT) Prof Zacharia Mganilwa advised Tanzania Bureau of Standards to stop renewing contracts with the companies that are inspecting motor vehicles on pre-shipment abroad and change the assignment into local authority so as to save foreign currencies.

Mganilwa was quoted as saying, at the moment, the institute has modern motor vehicle's inspection equipment which can be used to inspect used vehicles hence there was no need to send the foreign currencies to Japan, United Kingdom, Dubai or United States of America.

"TBS has been using foreign agencies for motor vehicle inspection abroad whereas a total of US\$150 is spent to inspect a single motor vehicle, this job can now be executed by NIT in the country," he said.

Prof Mganilwa added: "I asked them once to end the contract with the foreign inspection companies, NIT is here to do the job which would help increase income to state coffers."

He said instead of charging USD 150 as inspection fee abroad, they will look into possibility of reducing the rate.

"We want to see how we can make the billions of money remain into our country, we ask TBS to rescind the new contracts with foreign firms, since we have enough capability of inspecting the imported motor vehicles."

He explained that NIT has ability to inspect more than 1,000 motor vehicles per day at its new centre located in Mabibo, Dar es Salaam.

The institute has invested in modern technology at its motor vehicle inspection centre specifically to protect safety in the transport sector.

The don further said that he believe that their technology is equal to those applied in developed countries such as Japan, United Kingdom, Dubai and United States of America.

According to him, the main objective is to ensure that all used motor vehicles imported in the country meet all required standards and are road worthy.

"TBS has been securing inspection agencies through competitive international tender, we ask that the NIT can conduct the job with high efficiency," he added.



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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - RFP

### FULL CONCEPT NOTE:

#### Engagement of consultant to develop business plans for the diversification of income streams within the WMAs of the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor.

#### 1. Background and Introduction

Conservation enterprises and biodiversity-friendly businesses can help conserve critical landscapes by empowering communities who are the custodians of natural resources to benefit from their sustainable management. For conservation efforts to be effective, local communities must benefit from conservation efforts, and therefore establishing and building profitable and meaningful livelihood business options are critical.

WWF works with communities within the Selous – Niassa Wildlife Corridor (SNWC) in Southern Tanzania. With a total size of approximately 9,000 km<sup>2</sup>, SNWC serves as a significant biological link between the Nyerere National Park (NNP) /Selous Game Reserve (SGR) and the Niassa Special Reserve in Mozambique. The corridor stretches from the most southern border of the NNP and runs over 160 km southwards until reaching Ruvuma River, the border with Mozambique.

Alongside this, the local communities whose land falls within the wildlife corridor must also support the process and receive tangible benefits to support the maintenance of the SNWC. Within the SNWC there are 5 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that have been established on village lands and act as a vehicle to ensure local communities derive socio-economic benefits through the sustainable utilization of Natural Resources. These WMAs receive support from the Community Based Conservation Training Centre (CBCTC), located in Likuyu-Sekamaganga, in the form of training in WMA conservation and management.

The CBCTC is an essential partner in the improvement of conservation performance in the WMAs. It is expanding its portfolio of courses to include training in tourism services such as guiding, hospitality and fish farming. The fish farming component requires a business model to ensure that a proposed fish-farm not only serves as an educational platform, but that the farm also generates income to cover the overheads and subsidize training costs.

Through funding from the German development bank (KfW), WWF Tanzania is implementing a three-year program, the Selous Ecosystem Conservation and Development (SECAD) program. The program aims to promote the sustainable management of natural resources across this landscape with a focus on the SNWC, and this consultancy will play a critical part in ensuring the long-term survival of the corridor.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the SECAD program is to ensure the long-term ecological intactness of the Selous - Niassa Wildlife Corridor through the effective management of a network of community-owned Wildlife Management Areas that can significantly benefit the local community through the sustainable use of natural resources.

##### Overall Objective of the Consultancy

WWF Tanzania Country Office now wishes to engage the services of a Consultant with the specific objective to develop and write three simple business plans and run a 3 day workshop in order to provide basic business skills and training on how to develop and implement the proposed business plans.

The recipients of the training will be approx. 20 people, from the CBCTC team, the WMA leaders and members of the community livelihood projects in the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor. The business plans required include:

- Business plan for the sustainable management of a small natural resource processing plant (and possible visitor centre), which would be used and managed for processing local non-timber forest products (e.g. honey) from local bee-keeping associations, which will develop various honey and bees-wax products;
- Business plan for one small-scale community-based bee-keeping association within the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor.
- Business Plan for fish-ponds, to be installed at and operated/maintained by the CBCTC. Part of this Business Plan is to evaluate the prior malfunction/deterioration of the existing fish ponds and evaluate how the component of sustainable fish farming could be integrated into the training curricula of CBCTC.

The training and workshops should include some of the following elements: business plan development, Human Resources, developing markets, operations, marketing and sales, project management and planning, plus networking.

##### Core Responsibilities:

- Undertake background research and engage with the stakeholders (including the WMA leaders, the Local Associations, WWF, Districts, TFS) in order to develop the business plans;
- Develop business plans, along the lines of the following structure, and incorporating the information from the previous section:
  - Executive summary with SWOT analysis;
  - Business description (goals/objectives, product/service details, personnel/spatial requirements, historical context including previous attempts at this/similar business endeavours and lessons learned therefrom, etc.);
  - Description of location;
  - Market/competitor analysis;
  - Organisational and management requirements;
  - Existing internal capacities and capacity needs assessment;
  - Infrastructure requirements;
  - Funding requirements;
    - Financial plan and forecasts, including:
      - Amount of funding required and use/breakdown;
      - Financial projections, split into components;

- Sales forecast, expenses, interest, taxes;
- Balance sheet with assets and liabilities;
- Cash flow statements;
- Break even analysis

##### j. Appendices including:

- Contact list with key contact persons/stakeholders met and interviewed;
- Photo report showing the existing and proposed locations;

- Review the developed business plans with stakeholders including possible investors and the private sector;
- Present business plans in a stakeholder training and workshop
- Provide training in business planning, including the following minimum topics: business plan development, marketing and sales, project management and planning.

#### 3. DELIVERABLES/EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REPORTING

- Following the signing of the contract, a short Inception Report is to be produced explaining the Consultant's understanding of the TOR, the general approach to the assignment, the team, the work plan, and budget.
- Following the approval of the Inception Report, the Consultant is to carry-out a business background review and undertake field trip to the areas to engage with the business owners;
- The Consultant will then be responsible for the design, implementation and delivery of three business plans following the structure listed above. The Consultant is required to clearly identify the revenue streams and the overheads and expenses of the business, in a simple easy to understand manner;
- The Consultant will present summary business plans during a three -day training workshop to a diverse range of stakeholders (Ministries, Regional, Districts, WMA leaders, Community leaders);
- The Consultant will participate in a 1-hour presentation and 1 hour Q/A session conducted with the project team, relevant WWF staff from the Tanzania country offices, partners and stakeholders, during which conclusions and recommendations will be presented and discussed.

#### 4. TIME FRAME

The assignment must be completed within 6 weeks after commencement

#### 5. THE CONSULTANT

The Consultant is expected to have a minimum tertiary education (e.g. degree) and minimum five years of relevant (geographical and technical) expertise in writing business plans. English and Swahili fluency is important within the team. The Consultant can expect guidance and field support from WWF staff and also the local community and stakeholders to undertake the work.

#### 6. WWF ACCOUNTABILITY

The key responsibilities of WWF in this consultancy are to support its smooth implementation by facilitating processes, making introductions and ensuring the consultant meets the correct stakeholders in the field. WWF will not support transport costs, and so all transport and associated costs are to be borne by the applicant, the field site is in (Namtumbo / Tunduru district).

#### 7. CANDIDATES' APPLICATIONS

We welcome applications from qualified individuals/institutions/parties that fulfil the following conditions

- The Consultant is expected to have five years of relevant (geographical and technical) expertise.
- Minimum tertiary education (e.g. University Degree) in relevant subject.
- Verifiable previous experience in developing business plans.
- Language skills: Report and business plans to be presented in English whilst workshops will be presented in Swahili. Therefore fluency in both languages is needed within the team.

#### 8. Mode of Application;

- Please send a 1-page application letter outlining your expertise and relevant experience about this consultancy;
- Submit a concise 2 page technical proposal highlighting the proposed approach, methodology, brief work schedule, team composition, and timings of the process; including the intended contents of the business training course.
- A brief financial proposal, clearly specifying the number of days, the daily professional fees, and proposed implementation cost;
- A 2 - 3 page CV of the lead consultant must be attached.

Interested candidates should send their application to:

Secretary: Procurement Committee [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

Alternatively, hard copies can be provided to:

Secretary: Procurement Committee  
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office  
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikocheni  
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es salaam, Tanzania

Deadline: Close of office, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

More information can be found in the following website links:  
[https://wwf.panda.org/wwf\\_offices/tanzania/](https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/tanzania/)  
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10. Applications should be supported by evidence of the past similar experience

11. Only successful applicant will be contacted



# The Guardian

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FRIDAY 22 JANUARY 2021

**Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

## Government stand on grain exports deserves legislation

**T**HE Agriculture ministry has lately reiterated the government's word to the effect that farmers can sell food or cash crops outside the country.

The ministry's permanent secretary issued assurances concerning permission for crops to be sold outside the country, with a view to providing opportunities to farmers to benefit more from enhanced cultivation of various crops.

This is a carryover of a declaration by President John Magufuli back last year or the year before, when some people started complaining that the price of maize was way too high for comfort.

The reiteration came late last week during an inspection tour of agricultural projects in Morogoro Region, where the permanent secretary said licences for crop sales across borders would soon start being issued to dealers.

He then urged farmers to grow food and cash crops in abundance, saying the government had decided to open up opportunities for them to sell their crops outside the country - depending on market availability. He said the was that farmers must profit as much as practicable from their work - and lead better lives.

This position by the president is an illustration of how age-old habits are being changed in order to make governance benefit everyone more equitable, as all producers and service providers state their prices to consumers but farmers are 'given' prices by the government.

It was in principle unfair, and so far it is the policy that has changed, while the mode of reference or the conversation relating to marketing food crops or grain in particular is still enveloped in old habits. It is still an issue of permits, in which

case it is shaky.

For this statement of principle to be sufficiently confirmed that it is intended to last, or in policy language to be sustainable, there is need for a relevant legal shift in that regard. It is also relevant that constitutional provisions be set out of the right of producers and service providers to market, sell or dispose of goods or services at prices they decide.

What the government can do is to indicate levies and taxes, as this is usually done across the board, not targeting a vast but specific category of producers or service providers.

In that regard, it would no longer be that crop traders, especially regarding food crops, are told to come forward and take up opportunities - as the government will issue licences for such exports.

That there is a decision where the government allows crops to be sold outside the country to broaden the market for crops grown in the country would be a thing of the past.

When a statutory provision is enacted on the right to sell crops at prices the farmer accepts, and in reselling by a purchaser, motivation becomes permanent.

While this assurance is positive and should hopefully reach many farmers, it cannot permit large investments in agriculture for it can be reversed in future, whereas big investments need long-term legal frameworks.

Not putting this policy shift to legislation simply suggests that it can be changed or dumped in the future. So it needs to be sustainable as a policy framework so that a reverse decision doesn't arise in future.

Additionally, it will help Tanzania stand as a reliable participant in the recently flagged off Continental African Free Trade Area (CAFTA).

## Union can adopt Zanzibar welfare scheme for elderly

**V**ARIOUS international agencies have been applauding the Zanzibar government for conducting law and policy reform intended to enhance the well-being of the elderly, chiefly by improving their households and access to health services.

Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi issued outlines of this effort when closing a seminar meant to review the Accountability and Fulfilment for Older Persons (AFFOD II) project and its implementation plan for 2021.

He assured Zanzibar residents that the government would continue to formulate policies and come up with programmes designed to improve older people's welfare. He said the Older Persons Act No. 2 of 2020 sought to create a mechanism for the elderly to be assured of their rights, among them access to quality health services.

The scheme makes the Zanzibar government the first in the region to introduce a welfare scheme covering the elderly, via the Zanzibar Universal Social Pension Scheme (ZUPS).

The scheme was introduced in April 2016, with officials saying it arose from the 2012 national census which cited older people as accounting for 5.6 per cent of the elderly population. Only a dimly lowly six per cent had pensions.

Dr Mwinyi's commitment that the Zanzibar government would continue taking care of the elderly through legislation and policies to guide experts in the Ministry of Health and other institutions merits emulation by the relevant Union institutions.

That would go a significant distance in ending trials in the condition of elderly people without social assurance, and often incapable of contributing to families where they live, and thus making their enduring of such conditions especially painful.

One way in which this adaptation can be done is to revamp or extend activities of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) to have a component of minimal payments for elders without pensions.

Also relevant was Dr Mwinyi's granting of a request by the elders that they be given special consideration when seeking services at health facilities.

This request was expressed at a meeting he had with senior citizens at the Zanzibar State House on January 7. The fact that the Zanzibar government spends 6.9bn/- annually to pay a 20,000/- monthly pension to Zanzibaris aged 70 and above can guide experts on costs. There are slightly over 28,500 senior citizens in Unguja and Pemba enrolled in the scheme, while the figure could well shoot to nearly one million on the Mainland if it was applied.

Zanzibar authorities, continuing with visions of founder president Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume, came up with this scheme, rather than imitating any World Bank programme - while the bank's input could still come in handy.

While the UN estimates that one in every six people in the world will be aged over 65 by 2050, the Irish Embassy in Tanzania says that Irish Aid has been supporting efforts on the elderly for years, especially praising the Zanzibar authorities in caring for the elderly.

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## Panel for stepped-up global action against COVID-19

GENEVA

**T**HE Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response has urged all countries to ensure implementation of critical public health measures known to decrease virus transmission in order to curb the spread of Covid-19.

It has also expressed grave concern at the prospect of inequitable vaccine rollout around the world.

In its just-released second progress report, the panel expresses deep concern over the continued significant rises in the numbers of Covid-19 cases and deaths.

Since this New Year's Day, the world has been recording an average of almost 12,500 daily deaths and 682,000 recorded cases of the pandemic.

"These cases and deaths are causing untold grief to families and avoidable stresses on health workers and systems," says panel co-chair Helen Clark, a former New Zealand prime minister.

She elaborates: "Basic measures like testing, contact tracing, isolation, physical distancing and the wearing of masks all have a role to play. We urge all governments to step up measures to protect the lives of their citizens and to support and promote the public health measures proven to work."

The co-chairs note that basic public health measures are even more pressing as new and reportedly more infectious variants of SARS-CoV2 are detected.

On the issue of vaccines, co-chair Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - a former Liberian president - says that the Panel is grateful to scientists for developing vaccines in record time.

"We regret, however, that the vaccine roll-out is currently favouring wealthy countries," she notes.

She adds: "A world where high-income countries receive universal coverage while low-income countries are expected to accept only twenty per cent in the foreseeable future is on the wrong footing - both for justice and for pandemic control. This failure must be remedied."

The report - to the WHO Executive Board - is an interim one before a major one scheduled

for the World Health Assembly this May. It updates the WHO board on initial findings and the panel's concerns.

The report says a major concern is that the international system for alert and response is not fit for purpose. It seems to come from an earlier analogue era and needs to be brought into the digital age.

Modern information systems are picking up signals of new disease before countries begin formal reporting. These are outpacing the procedures and protocols of international health regulations, including the declaration of a public health emergency of international concern.

The report considers whether the international system acted fast enough to detect and alert the world to this novel infectious pathogen with pandemic potential.

"When there is a potential health threat, countries and the World Health Organisation must further use the 21st century digital tools at their disposal to keep pace with news that spreads instantly on social media and infectious pathogens that spread rapidly through travel," says co-chair Clark.

"Detection and alert may have been speedy by the standards of earlier novel pathogens, but viruses move in minutes and hours, rather than in days and weeks," she adds. The panel finds that there is a need for a new international framework.

The co-chairs appreciate that at the time, many people worked hard to identify the new health threat, and took measures to address it. Identifying the timing gaps is a lesson for future response preparedness, not a critique of those who did their best.

The panel is also concerned that even when on January 30 WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern - the loudest alarm possible under the International Health Regulations - many countries took minimal action to prevent the spread internally and internationally.

It says that it is examining this further, including by analysing the chronology of actions by countries and by WHO, in relation to the spread of the virus and the emergence of new evidence.

The panel also describes additional early shortcomings at each step of the global and

national response to Covid-19 which have contributed to the pandemic. These include a failure to measure preparedness in a way that predicted actual performance, and a failure by countries to prepare, despite years of warnings of the inevitability of a health threat with pandemic potential.

The panel also finds that the pandemic response has deepened inequalities, both within and between countries - with low-income countries bearing long-lasting economic burdens due to the pandemic. The inequitable access to vaccines is among the most glaring examples of inequality exacerbated by the pandemic.

It also promises to further examine and recommend ways in which pandemic preparedness and response systems can be improved so that countries have equitable access to protective equipment, supplies such as oxygen and ventilators, and diagnostics, therapies and vaccines.

The report says that the panel is also concerned that WHO member states have high expectations in the UN health agency but have left it underpowered to do that job.

"The WHO is expected to validate reports of disease outbreaks for their pandemic potential and deploy support and containment resources, but its powers and funding to carry out its functions are limited," said co-chair Sirleaf, adding: "This is a question of resources, tools, access, and authority."

To this end, the panel has expressed concern that the incentives for WHO member states to cooperate with the agency are too weak to ensure their effective engagement with the international system in an effective, transparent, accountable and timely manner.

In the lead up to its report to the World Health Assembly in May, the panel says it will continue to gather information and analyse what happened during the early weeks and months of the spread of SARS-CoV2, as well as to examine the wider social and economic impacts of - and the implications for - the international system.

The panel's report underscores that lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic are both painful and grave and must serve as a catalyst for "fundamental and systemic change in preparedness for

future such events - from the local community right through to the highest national and global levels".

"There needs to be a fundamental shift so that pandemic preparedness is recognized as an obligatory investment not as a voluntary cost," it notes.

"The consequences of this pandemic remind us of how important effective multilateralism is," co-chair Sirleaf says.

She elaborates: "Geopolitical tensions have impacted on the response, and the resulting pandemic has given us many interlinked reasons to rethink and reset the way in which the international system and countries prepare and respond to global health threats.

"With 7.6 billion lives interrupted, a regression on previous gains towards attaining the (17 global) Sustainable Development Goals; the loss of trust in governments and institutions; and a loss of some six trillion dollars in GDP, there is every reason to change."

"We are at a global crossroads," the co-chairs say, adding: "The Independent Panel aims to make recommendations to support the world to be more prepared, more secure, and more resilient to future pandemic threats."

The panel was established by the WHO Director General in response to a World Health Assembly resolution. Its mandate is to review experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international response to Covid-19.

It comprises thirteen members, including co-chairs Clark and Sirleaf.

The panel's mission is to provide an evidence-based path for the future, grounded in lessons of the present and the past to ensure that countries and global institutions, including specifically WHO, effectively address health threats.

The panel is supposed to establish facts about global and country responses to Covid-19, distill lessons learned and make recommendations - in its main report to the World Health Assembly in May - on how the world can be better prepared to respond both to the current pandemic and to future global health threats.

• IPPPR



# Three rhinos stand in a row

By Wole Elegbede

**W**ILDLIFE trafficking is thriving. Its criminal gangs are acquiring panache and sophistication as internet access creates a corridor for wildlife traffickers to commit heinous eco crimes.

Yet, the area is under-reported, and it poses daunting challenges for investigative journalists probing the dark alleys and vast cells of the crime.

Concerns about illegal wildlife trade are growing among environmental practitioners and biodiversity enthusiasts in the face of the half-hearted commitment of many governments around the world to combat the crime. However, there is a recommitment on their part to improve their various approaches.

Currently, illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth about US\$23 billion annually, demonstrating its impact on the world's economy. And the impact which wildlife trafficking crime could have on health may be startling, especially as some reports suggest a possible link between pangolin trafficking and the origin of coronavirus.

In a recent virtual session of the Africa Investigative Journalism Conference 2020, I had an opportunity to listen to Fiona McLeod, founding director of investigative environmental journalism organisation Oxpeckers. She introduced tools that journalists could embrace while investigating wildlife crime.

The aim of the tools, she said, is to track and expose criminals and syndicates in Africa and beyond. She pointed out that Oxpeckers has developed comprehensive databases of eco offences and is working with partners to tell stories and make resources available to the public.

"We know that illegal wildlife trade is happening, so our objec-



Geo-mapping tools to investigate wildlife trafficking

tive is to make data more accessible," said McLeod, adding: "By keeping this data exclusive or under wraps, there's no accountability, there's no understanding by the public, and there's no buy-in to what we're doing."

Below are some tools, developed by Oxpeckers, to help journalists interested in investigating illegal wildlife trade.

**One: rhino poachtracker.** At the click of the button, this tool unveils statistics on rhino poaching incidents in South Africa, specifically of rhino deaths and poaching arrests in the country as far back as 2010.

The tool is based on original data collected from courts, law enforcement agencies and web scraping by Oxpeckers, which is aggregated and filtered to present it in an interactive and accessible way.

Oxpeckers launched the tool in South Africa, filling the gap after it became clear that the government, which previously provided the statistics, fell short and could no longer do it regularly, creating a void of accessible accurate and

timely information.

**Two: #WildEye rhino court case dashboard.** This tool aggregates data on rhino poachers' court cases across southern Africa. After developing a tool that tracks rhino deaths and arrests, Oxpeckers thought it was a good idea to develop another tool to track court cases, so users can see poaching arrests through the tracker. The data to fuel this tool are collected by Oxpeckers by aggregating existing datasets stored in different places.

A data savvy journalist could use this tool to unearth information for storytelling, while government officials and advocacy groups can make use of it as well.

There are two versions of this tool: #WildEye Europe and #WildEye Asia. These tools track seizures, arrests, court cases and convictions relating to wildlife crime across the respective regions.

Users can filter the maps based on different categories of data and search for specific countries, animals and dates. If interested in a par-

ticular case, users can subscribe to alerts to receive updates.

Both tools are open sources, which means that they are publicly available, and can be accessed and used by anyone. #WildEye works by allowing the user to request, share and develop stories. The data come from court records or freedom of information requests, and it is vetted by a team of investigators assembled by Oxpeckers. Journalists around the world have been using these tools to tell their environmental investigative stories. There are Indonesian journalist and editor at Haluan.co, Rezza Aji Pratama, and her colleague Wan Ulfa Nur Zuhra, a data visualisation expert and executive editor of the Indonesian Data Journalism Network.

These investigated how a heavier penalty in the country's new legislation could deter wildlife crime. They used #WildEye to make the investigation possible, and the story was published on Oxpeckers.

In another example, Chinese journalist Bao Choy, a member of Environmental Reporting Collective, analysed the 2019 and 2020 data available in #WildEye to explore the kind of sentences pangolin smugglers received in China.

The reporting revealed that pangolin trafficking offenders in China received light sentences unlikely to deter the illegal trade. Choy hoped that the story would trigger action on the part of Chinese authorities and that courts would take stricter measures against pangolin smugglers post-COVID, but nothing was forthcoming.

**A dispatch by International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Wole Elegbede is a multimedia journalist and project director at Press Attack Monitor, a platform that exposes press freedom violations in Nigeria.**

# Women's priorities should be inserted into National Five Year Plan

By Daniel Eliewaha

**T**ANZANIA is among African countries that have taken up intensively the problem of women's rights and has signed various international and regional conventions canvassing for gender equality.

One such convention is the international agreement on women's political rights, which acknowledged that women have the right to vote just like men, as well as the 1967 pronouncement of the United Nations General Assembly which asserted that discrimination against women is a felony that dehumanizes them.

Similarly there is an international agreement to extirpate all sorts of discrimination against women (CEDAN, 1979), the Beijing Plan of Action (1995) which came out of the fourth global conference on women, chaired by Ambassador Getrude Mongella. Another is the African Union Protocol of 2000 where a specific provision of recognition of gender equality was inserted.

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 has also set out rights of women to participate in positions of decision making, which includes their participation as voters and as contestants for various leadership positions, including being a member of Parliament.

Similarly the intention to extirpate all sorts of gender discrimination and of women being effectively involved in various economic fields are issues that were set out clearly in the National Vision and Long Term Development Plan, 2010-2025.

Recently a workshop took place bringing together about 60 women activists, leaders of civil society organisations to deliberate on the national development plans, the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSRGP I and II) as well as the National Vision as a whole.

The workshop, grouping activists defending the rights of women and girls, was sponsored by the Women Fund Tanzania-Trust (WFT) and the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP).

Opening the workshop, TGNP board chair Asseny Muro told the stakeholders that the purpose of the workshop was to build an in-depth comprehension for women on the Third Five Year Development Plan, to enhance their participation in that process, to generate consensus on priority issues for women, and ultimately to prepare their action plan which they will present to the government for implementation.

Elaborating, the WFT board chair, Prof Ruth Meena said there is a deliberate plan to reconcile issues of gender proportionality in vital development areas like planning, policies, law reform, and budget (gender mainstreaming). She said quite often there is an unequal division of labour and tasks in development activities and those who gain most are men.

She gave an example of 2016 statistics which shows that people employed in the formal sector stood at 1,658,046 where men were 63.9 per cent and women 36.1 per cent only.

In formal sector employment the salaries of women are smaller as compared to men, even when they have



the same qualifications.

Prof Meena said that despite that women are more numerous in the population, and carry burdensome tasks of care and enabling families to live well for instance by cooking, washing, cleaning homes, fetching water, looking for firewood and so on, these tasks aren't recognized at the national level in national income accounting (or GDP).

Noted activist Prof Marjorie Mbillinyi urged women to continue analysing issues relating to them with gender and class eyes, since many of those in authority who are men, their positions are conservative and are permeated with patriarchal sentiments. She said that the COVID-19

pandemic has demonstrated the world over on the importance of women in the society, since wherever they are they have been working hard despite the difficult environment in which they work.

WFT director general Mary Rusimbi said that women in the society in which they live must raise their voices and give alternative views if they want development for themselves. She said it was not right for women to participate in the country's development as a group of marginalized or vulnerable group, but as a group of people that is self-conscious and recognizes itself, thus centrally placed.

"The proposals we shall give in this workshop we

aren't giving them from our pockets, but are views of women and girls we represent who are in villages and in towns. We should leave here with a principled position, that national resources must be divided and reach women so as to bring about real development of the country as a whole," she added.

WFT senior official Bernadetta Kafuko and director of Assertive Girls, Janeth John both condemned gender discrimination and habits of sextortion when women and girls wish to be involved in development projects.

Gender discrimination and humiliation is the habit of men to put women to mental and psychological distress by

using her sexual or class position and make her weak so that she doesn't continue demanding her right. Sextortion is like any other act of corruption except that when the bribe demander wants is sex and not money or some other valuable item.

This kind of corruption occurs where there are relations of authority between the demander for sex and the sextortion victim.

At the end of the workshop, four groups were formed which prepared recommendations which were checked by a special committee and will be presented to the Government for scrutiny and implementation in the Third Five Year Plan (2020-2025).

The first group examined proposals on economic rights, the second group on social services, the third group on gender violence and the last group on women and leadership.

Workshop participants asked the government put in office following the October 28 general election to reaffirm principles of good governance, transparency and effective gender inclusion in implementing all plans for the development of our nation.

Also there should be deliberate and new strategies to reduce the gender gap in politics, economy and social services, and abandoning tired old tactics.



# A tale of two inaugurations – Trump's and Biden's...

By Jon Allsop

**F**OUR years and a day ago, I boarded a bus with what felt like half of my journalism school class and travelled to Washington, DC, for the (presidential) inauguration of Donald Trump and the Women's March the day after.

I had arranged to cover the events for Pacifica radio and ended up writing a short dispatch for my hometown paper back in the UK - my first "real" bylines.

I woke up early for the inauguration, anticipating a long wait to get onto the Mall, but the line was relatively short and there was plenty of space inside to rove around and interview Trump supporters. So much for the biggest inaugural crowd ever.

I spoke to the Naked Cowboy, and to young families and children on school trips; I steered clear of a group chanting "Lock Her Up," but never felt threatened myself.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous not to go to the inauguration," a student wearing a Hillary Clinton lapel pin told me, when I asked him why he was there. "It's a testament to American democracy to have one president leave peacefully and another come in."

The sentiment - and the number of friendly, first-time political participants I spoke with, at the inauguration as well as the Women's March - stuck with me.

Despite my initial "sense of foreboding," I wrote in my dispatch, the proceedings "may, just, have buttressed the foundations of a shaking democracy".

Yesterday, Joe Biden was sworn in as (US) president, and it was widely expected that there would be no crowd on the Mall - the consequence of a deadly viral pandemic that his predecessor refused to try to tame, and an attempted coup that his predecessor encouraged.

Reporters would not be strolling around town unencumbered, recording vox pops. Owing to the violence - both general and targeted at members of the press, specifically - during the insurrection and the threat of the same yesterday, various newsrooms were expected to have provided their reporters with gas masks, helmets and body armour; they would be reporting in teams for added safety, while some would travel with assigned security guards.

On Tuesday, Capitol Police told reporters that they would not be allowed to enter the secure area surrounding the Capitol while wearing their protective gear. In response, news organisations wrote to the Secret Service urging a rethink, or at least further clarity.

As the New York Times reported, several outlets assigned journalists with combat experience to cover the inauguration. The Nation was sending Andrew McCormick, a military veteran and recent CJR fellow.

Press groups issued advisories warning reporters of potential threats, including aggressive policing, arson and the potential for a vehicle attack on an assembled crowd.

The contrast between the threats of today and the calm of inaugurations past has been held up, by some, as a neat metaphor for the damage the Trump era has wrought, both on the press and the country as a whole.

Such yardsticks can indeed be useful points of comparison. Still, while they may mark the messy rush of history, they don't always structure it - and Trump's presidency clearly cannot be seen as a straight line from harmony to discord.

This week, I listened back to my reporting from Trump's inauguration, and it hit me with a contradictory mix of emotions and questions.

I felt proud that I had produced coherent audio with no professional experience, but also cringed at framing that channelled various tropes I have since come to hate: the invocation of "America's divisions" as an actor in their own right; the whiff of bothsidesism; the general optimistic tone, which now comes across as complacent.

To what extent was the latter attributable to my youthful naïveté, or my white privilege, or my Britishness? To what extent was it inherited from the canons of conventional political journalism that I aspired back then to emulate?

Most difficult of all to answer: to what extent was I actually wrong? There's no question I had blindspots back then, and still do, but I don't remember feeling complacent about the dangers Trump posed at the time.

Then again, I find that it's hard to recall exactly how I felt without the weight of everything that has happened since crowding my memories. The excitement I heard from children attending the Women's March was exhilarating; the Trump supporters I asked for interviews were generally friendly and happy to talk to me; the peaceful transition was a relief.

It's tempting to now view all this as a lie: in 2017, Trump and his most militant supporters were assuming institutional power without the need for violence; wasn't it inevitable that they would deploy it when their grip on power was threatened?

Perhaps. But history does not proceed on the principle of inevitability, and the last four years have been marked by a series of inflection points at which Trump and his many enablers could have chosen differently and steered America off its present path. Inevitability can obscure accountability.

At the same time, we know that the fundamental nature of Trump the man hasn't changed. There's a broader lesson for the press in this.

To the extent reporters have erred in covering this presidency, it hasn't exactly been in any failure to predict the specific tumult of its climax; prognostication is not our job.

Rather, the failure came in insufficient honesty about all the threats to democracy that were already apparent; in the relentless optimism, among many influential journalists, that meaningless fluctuations in Trump's public behaviour constituted a "pivot", a "change of tone", or newly "presidential" conduct; in the insistence that old-school journalistic practices - crafted by older white men and policed primarily by political good faith - would be enough to hold a reliably faithless president and his co-partisans to account.

As my CJR colleague Pete Vernon and I wrote in a recent, detailed critique of Trump coverage, the basic rhythms of our industry have "conspired, time and again, to downplay demagoguery, let Trump and his defenders off the hook, and drain resources and attention from crucial longer-



Joe Biden takes oath as the US President during the inauguration ceremony in Washington, DC, Wednesday | Photo: Bloomberg

term storylines".

The challenge, as I wrote last week, is to let the shock of this moment shake loose our old bad habits.

Thinking back to Trump's inauguration, it struck me, too, how strange it is that this period would prove to be the launchpad for my journalism career.

For all that my perspective has changed and broadened these past four years, I do not know what it is like to write professionally about a president who isn't Trump.

Clearly, I'm not alone in that. As time goes on, will those of us who cut our teeth in this era stay linked by a common journalistic sensibility? If so, will we prove a force for change in an industry that needs it? Or will its legacy - its trauma, even - be messier than that?

It's not healthy to have to cover any event from behind a bulletproof vest. As with all the questions swirling in my head this week, the answer may be all the above.

And here is more on the inauguration, one being the pardons. As expected, Trump used his last night as president to announce a raft of pardons and commutations. Among the 143 beneficiaries were his former campaign chief and media booster Steve Bannon; the GOP fundraiser Elliott Broidy; and Ken Kurson, a former editor of the New York Observer

who was charged with cyberstalking last year.

According to NYT, however, Trump backed off a plan to pardon Sheldon Silver, the former New York State Assembly speaker, after word of his intention leaked out in the press - triggering a furious reaction among New York Republicans and a critical editorial in the New York Post.

The outgoing, Tuesday saw a federal appeals court overturn a last-minute Trump administration move to relax regulations on emissions from power plants.

The court called the policy, which was widely construed as an attempt to hamstring (incoming president John) Biden's climate plans, a "tortured series of misreadings" of existing laws.

Elsewhere, Politico's Tina Nguyen reported that chunks of a late Trump-era report spinning US history for educational purposes appear to be a copy-paste job. And on the journalism front, Michael Pack - the Trump-appointed CEO of the US Agency for Global Media, which oversees Voice of America and other state-backed broadcasters - named new boards for several of the outlets and stuffed them with conservatives, including a contributor to the Epoch Times. Before Christmas, I looked at the damage Pack has done at VOA.

The incoming. Five of Biden's cabinet nominees faced Senate hearings on Tuesday. One of them, Avril Haines, Biden's pick for director of national intelligence, pledged a declassifying of intelligence records - which Trump declined to release - that reportedly blame Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for the murder of the dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

In media news, the Biden administration will immediately institute new safety and testing protocols for reporters covering the White House.

Trump news, drawn daily: For the past four-and-a-half years, Warren Craghead, a Virginia-based artist, has drawn daily grotesque images of Trump and his administration officials - a project that required daily engagement with the chaotic Trump news cycle.

Craghead spoke with CJR about the effort, which has now ended. "Some people think that staring at this stuff and drawing it is corrosive," he said, adding: "But it's not - it's empowering. It's no substitute for actual, material activism or advocacy. But it is something; I'm

doing something."

FOIA emoji: According to Sara Fischer, of Axios, and the nonprofit FOIA Project, more Freedom of Information Act requests were filed under Trump's presidency than during any equivalent period. News organisations submitted more requests than under the presidencies of George W. Bush and Barack Obama combined.

"BuzzFeed News has by far led media companies in FOIA filings during the Trump administration, followed by the New York Times," Fischer writes.

Full circle: I ended my broadcast from the Trump inauguration and Women's March by reflecting on the inaugural briefing of Sean Spicer, Trump's first press secretary - his deranged lies about the size of the crowd; and what it all portended for Trump's relationship with the press.

Politico reported on Tuesday that Spicer, who now hosts a show on the right-wing network Newsmax, is trying to return to the briefing room as a member of the White House Correspondents' Association. His application is pending.





# Platform to give SMEs a boost in intra-Africa trade

By Special Correspondent

SMALL and medium enterprises eyeing a slice of intra-Africa trade will now have a platform to ease transactions.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) app will enable the SMEs to sell and buy goods via a cashless and contactless platform under the low duty regime that satisfies the “know-your-customer” requirements at banks and financial institutions.

AfCFTA trade promotion and programmes director

Francis Mangeni said SMEs admitted onto the app will be issued with a mark of identity.

“It is true that Africa has seen a number of trade agreements at regional level, but AfCFTA is different because it is being set up to fulfil aspirations of a truly single market that competes for the biggest of global opportunities,” he said.

Creation of the AfCFTA is aimed at opening the 1.2 billion people market whose launch has been deferred from January 1 to a later date owing to challenges on tariff

concessions, rules of origin and trade in services.

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers asserts that overlapping membership to regional trade blocs, underdeveloped transport infrastructure (road, rail and air), unfamiliar or different customs and trade procedures and weak value chains also hurt AfCFTA's dreams.

Intra-Africa trade remains low at 15 per cent compared to Europe's 68 per cent, North America's 37 per cent and Latin America's 20 per

cent, solely blamed on “national” interests by member States keen on safeguarding their own industries, trade barriers and poor transport and telecommunication connectivity.

Under the AfCFTA, liberalisation of trade is being carried out through regional trading blocs – the East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Economic Community of West African

States (Ecowas) – which run separate Customs unions.

Africa is banking on technology to turn AfCFTA aspirations into a reality.

Aside from AfCFTA app, other technological advances made by individual players in a bid to promote Africa trade include EcoBank's Emerald Ecobank Business Club online platform that offers SMEs direct linkages to 33 markets.

Ecobank's Commercial portfolio across East Africa head Humphrey Muturi said, “as a Pan-African bank,

we recognise the pivotal role that emerging businesses play in growing our business in the 33 African countries and would wish to see them grow with us”.

He added: “A secure network could unleash vibrant and profitable value chains via B2B agreements where SMEs understand trade rules and requirements in different markets. Parties will be at liberty to seal such deals via the Ecobank Mobile App which has 4 million downloads so far.” The German government

has partnered with global logistics firm, Deutsche Post DHL Group to moot an e-commerce platform that facilitates cross border trade in Africa.

The Sh3.8 billion digitisation drive will reduce manual customs and trade processes in favour of digital clearance protocol running in tandem with an e-commerce platform thereby helping promote a bulk goods movement regime thereby promoting low-emission logistics in cities.

## A fertile new market in African aquaponics

By Efuia Konyim Okai

A FISH farming system which produces tilapia, algae and plants that can be used as both fish feeds and agricultural fertilisers has been established by two West African entrepreneurs.

Dubbing the system “eco-aquaponics”, its developers believe that the approach can help the region's crop and fish farmers alike, while improving food security.

When Fredrick Kpamber and Kingsley Safo met in Accra, Ghana, in 2012 they originally planned to discuss possible collaborations relating to the ornamental fish aquarium sector.

Kpamber had been engaged in an ornamental fish and accessories business in the Middle East for several years, while Safo brought experience of the handicrafts sector and had a keen interest in aquaculture. Both noted the interesting developments and challenges in Ghana's and Nigeria's tilapia aquaculture sectors and they soon started an enterprise - Bio Green Agro - and the experimental production of high-quality tilapia fingerlings.

“The Akosombo strain of Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*), developed by the Aquaculture Research and Development Centre (ARDEC) has great potential as a high-quality food fish. In the course of commercial production of tilapia fingerlings, we also carried out research on its characteristics, especially the correlation of its feeding and breeding behaviour, which enabled us to achieve some groundbreaking results. Our investiga-

tions led us into the field we now call ‘eco-aquaponics’,” says Kpamber.

One of the interesting observations they made related to the feeding habits of the fish.

“When this omnivorous fish is not deprived of diverse dietary choices, it is instinctively a very choosy feeder, with a clear preference for vegetative, natural diets, and an intense appetite for certain types of algae. When these are abundantly available, they have profound positive impacts on its natural immunity (health), physical appearance, taste, flesh texture, fecundity and fry survival,” says Kpamber.

The duo's solar-powered (off-grid) farm currently consists of 19 4,500-litre pools, one 7,000-litre pool and four of 12,000 litres. As well as tilapia they also actively cultivate local algal strains and continuously assess the feed value of these plants.

“We symbiotically cultivate algae in a regulated way within our fish-rearing pools and these algae serve as primary nutrition for our fish and other plants. They tend to be motile species which grow in colloidal suspension, as they are rich in nutrients and possess a very high autotrophic regenerative power,” Kpamber explains.

“The challenge is that these are more difficult to separate from water. However, over the years we have developed a cost-effective chemical-free technique for extracting algae from the fish farm environment into thicker concentrations, making it cost-effective to transport to agricultural farms where it can be used as a fertiliser,” he adds.

Trials suggest that the concentrated algal



fertilisers, which they sell for only 10 US cents per litre, are very effective.

“We have found that soils and crops respond very positively and quickly to these algal nutrients. We have conducted trials at several farms, and have confirmed that our cultivated algae are excellent providers of soil and plant nourishment. This process has been inspected and certified as organic by the Participatory Guarantee System (Ghana) under the International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements,” says Kpamber.

After Safo attended a number of aquaponics exhibitions in Europe, he was “struck by the amount of high-tech resources that were mobilised to produce a few kilos of vegetables”.

Kpamber says he was too, noting that: “If the benefits of aquaponics were to be effectively harnessed in Africa then some effort must be put into developing more efficient systems with fewer limitations.” The aim would be to “support farming of the heavier staple crops we mostly consume - going beyond just certain varieties of vegetables, as are mainly produced in conventional soil-less aquaponics.”

All the floating plants cultivated at the facility (varieties of Eichhornia, Azolla, Spirodela, Lemna and Chaetomorpha) are served as fresh feed to the tilapia

While most aquaponics systems involve cultivating plants for human consumption, the two West Africans are concentrating on feeding their live aquatic plants directly to fish.



## East African countries better prepared, but desert locust threat not over as yet

By Special Correspondent

ACTION to control unprecedented desert locust infestations in the Horn of Africa last year has protected crops and livelihoods, but funding is needed to sustain operations against new incursions, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said.

Dominique Burgeon, FAO's Director of Emergencies and Resilience, said the huge desert locust swarms in 2020, some as wide as 60 kilometres, had not been seen in decades, threatening food security in a region where many were already going hungry.

Surveillance and response led to 1.6 million hectares of land being treated. As a result, more than three million tonnes of cereals, valued at approximately \$940 million,

were protected: enough to feed 21 million people for a year.

“We can say that huge progress has been made, capacities of the countries have been tremendously augmented...but yet the situation is not over”, he told journalists.

“We have made a huge effort, we are much better prepared, but we should not be complacent. We should not relax.”

Keith Cressman, FAO's Senior Locust Forecasting Officer, said Cyclone Gati in December brought heavy rains, creating the conditions for new swarms to form in eastern Ethiopia and central Somalia.

Locusts began migrating south to northern Kenya and southern Ethiopia when the waters dried up, as experts had predicted.

“We had forecasted this in Octo-

ber. We had provided early warning to both countries to expect this shortly after mid-December, and that's indeed what happened”, he said. “And since then, they have been arriving nearly every day.”

The locusts are young now but will mature, and reproduce, in the coming months. FAO anticipates a new generation will emerge in early April, coinciding with seasonal rains and the planting period in Kenya and southern Ethiopia.

Desert locusts are also breeding further north, on Somalia's coastline on the Gulf of Aden, with new swarms likely to begin forming in late February.

“This is a cause of concern, and this is also why it's extremely important that the control operations...are not disrupted,” said Cressman.

## AfDB, EIB sign Joint Partnership Action Plan to fast-track development in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed a joint partnership action plan highlighting their strengthened cooperation and mutual development priorities and a strong shared emphasis on boosting public and private sector investment in Africa.

The Joint Action Plan enables both institutions to grow a shared pipeline of bankable projects around key complementary themes to which each institution would bring their comparative advantage.

These themes are: climate action and environmental sustainability; transformative large-scale quality infrastructure investment; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and services; financial inclusion with a gender lens aimed at the empowerment of girls and women; education and training; and the health sector.

The signing comes amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which is increasing poverty across the African continent and threatening markets and livelihoods, heightening the urgency for action.

The agreement was signed by African Development Bank, Acting Senior Vice President Bajabulile Swazi Tshabalala, and Thomas Östros, European Investment Bank Vice President, during a virtual ceremony attended by more than 100 stakeholders from across Africa and Europe. The session was preceded by a short roundtable between the two senior management members and representatives from both institutions.

“It is crucial that more multinational development banks and other development finance institutions commit to closer and stronger collaboration, such as seen through this Joint Action Plan between the AfDB and the EIB, in order to more efficiently and effectively support our regional member countries during these troubling times,” said Tshabalala. “Sustainable economic growth and security in regions facing particular challenges, such as the Sahel and Horn of Africa, are our top priority.”

“Partnerships are crucial for the EIB's business and impact, and this partnership with Africa's Bank is crucial for Africa. The Action Plan signed with the African Development Bank today demonstrates the firm commitment of the European Investment Bank, the EU Bank, to delivering investment that makes a real difference to Africa. Enhancing our work with the African Development Bank, Africa's multilateral development bank, is a strategic priority for the EIB and Europe. Together the EIB and AfDB will enhance cooperation and engagement with African partners

to ensure that Africa emerges from the health, social and economic challenges of COVID-19 to an even brighter 21st Century,” said Thomas Östros, European Investment Vice President.

The Joint Action Plan was developed following an EIB delegation meeting with the African Development Bank in February 2020.

Shared priorities for supporting transformation The plan reflects the Bank's High 5 development priority areas as well as EIB's priority areas for Africa. In the wake of COVID-19 both institutions have devoted financing for rapid response to meet budgetary and health needs of countries in the region.

Building on track record of joint financial and technical support across Africa

Over the past 5 years, the shared portfolio of the two institutions has grown to EUR 3.4 billion, leveraging investment totaling EUR 10.2 billion for 26 projects across the continent.

The EIB and African Development Bank recognise the unique role of publicly owned development banks in supporting high-impact and pioneering investment and mobilising private sector financing.

Recent cooperation to increase venture capital financing for innovation and technology companies through the Boost Africa initiative and commitment to the Desert to Power programme highlights how public banks accelerate financing in priority policy areas.

The unique financial and technical contribution of public banks was further demonstrated earlier this month when the EIB and AfDB Presidents confirmed enhanced support for biodiversity and investment across the Sahel under the Great Green Wall initiative confirmed at the One Planet summit hosted by the French President Macron and Prince Charles.

In recent years the EIB and AfDB have jointly supported clean energy, water, transport and private sector projects across the continent, from Morocco in the north, Senegal in the West, Kenya in the East and Zambia in the South, and elsewhere across Africa.

In the Sahel region, both AfDB and EIB are financing climate and energy initiatives such as Desert-to-Power and the Great Green Wall Initiative.

The African Development Bank Group and the European Investment Bank have a long history of cooperation, framed by their relationship as Multilateral Development Banks and a Memorandum of Understanding on an Enhanced Strategic Partnership, signed in 2005, between the EIB, the AfDB and the European Commission. They have also signed a Procedural Framework for co-financed public sector projects.



# AfCFTA and future of entertainment, sports in economically united Africa

JOHANNESBURG

**T**HIS New Year's Day marked the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement. In ratifying the pact, 34 African countries have created the largest free trade zone in the world by country participation.

This is a historic point for the continent - the beginning of what is hoped will, at the very least, form a workable framework for a modern African economy.

It should be an African economy that will allow free movement of labour and goods within member states - a drastic change from the current siloed or "isolationist" economic structures, and hopes to foster intra-African trade, industrialisation and self-reliance.

Economic co-dependency or co-operation between sovereign states is not a new economic strategy. Europe has sought to achieve this at the regional or supranational level through the establishment of the European Union.

However, the recent decision of the UK to leave the EU shows that the goal of integration is not without its challenges.

The United States has functioned for so long as a collage of economic co-dependent states that few pay much attention to the analogies with modern supranational regional organisations such as the European Union.

However, on closer inspection, it is clear that the same rules of a shared currency, open borders and the full



economic integration of the states played a large and important role in the growth, stability and development of the US.

There are similar associations in Asia - the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and in the Arab region - the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU).

Africa has also championed regional economic integration, but never at the level or scale of the AfCFTA and, indeed, not as successfully as in other world regions.

African economic communities like ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), SADC (Southern African Development Community), EAC (East African Community) have failed to substantially integrate their disparate national economies which would have served to protect the region from exploitation by its neighbours to the east and the west.

With consumer population projections favouring Africa, and a combined consumer and business spending projection of \$6.7 trillion by 2030, the time is now ripe for Af-

ricans to look inwards for solutions to the continent's economic woes.

The sports, media and entertainment industry is one space where the continent continues to show promise. African content competes favourably on the radio and streaming networks on a global scale, spurring key investments from media giants like Disney and Netflix.

The continent is also a major contributor in the world sports industry particularly in consumption and talent exportation. The discussion must now revolve around the question of how the AfCFTA and intra-African collaboration can be best employed to secure these industries' futures.

The answer lies in developing local industrialisation, production and distribution infrastructure for the consumption of sports, media and entertainment. This is key to the success of the AfCFTA in these industries.

It will be near impossible to unlock the true value of this agreement without Africa first fixing its infrastructure deficit, and this is relevant

even beyond the sports and entertainment sectors.

African countries must seek to localise their production and distribution processes as much as possible to control a larger part of the continent's market.

For example, the music industry today is primarily dominated by streaming consumers and, with the rise of movie streaming platforms like Netflix and Amazon TV, the film industry is leaning towards this model as well.

From the onset of the digital revolution, China was branded "isolationist" for regulating the entrance of businesses like Google and Facebook into the country to give local alternatives a chance to develop.

This move may have been branded as a security move, but it has also proven to be an economic boon to Chinese competitors in these spaces.

With this agreement, the time is ripe to develop African digital infrastructure to leverage upon the continent's population resource in industries like music and film where there is already an appreciable global presence. It is indeed the right time to create our own entertainment giants!

In the sports arena, rather than constantly exporting our best talents, local investment in sports like soccer, for example, can provide the required infrastructure to ensure that African athletes can thrive right here on the continent.

This will serve to effectively reduce talent flight, a major challenge in the industry today. It could eventually place African leagues at par with the popular European leagues where so many players of African descent consistently perform excellently.

It is still too early to gauge how the AfCFTA will affect the sports and entertainment industry, since it is still in its early stages of implementation. We are also yet to observe how committed member states are to this intended collaboration.

One thing is for sure, though, and it is that any initiative that welcomes the free movement of goods and services within Africa and promotes intra-African investments and cooperation on intellectual property rights is a huge step in the right direction for a continent with much to benefit from greater economic integration.

• **A Centurion Law Group dispatch.**

## What publishers need to know about keeping readers engaged in 2021

By Faisal Kalim

**L**AST year was an extraordinary one for publishers: beginning with the coronavirus pandemic and ending with the (US) presidential election.

It was extraordinarily challenging and required quick shifts in strategies to adapt to the pandemic. Publishing saw tragic job cuts and closures, but also record levels of traffic and subscriptions growth.

Now that the world is looking forward to normalcy as vaccination drives launch all over, it's time for publishers to reconfigure their strategies once again.

NiemanLab invited some of the brightest minds from media and publishing - including academics - worldwide to write about what lies ahead in their Predictions for Journalism 2021 series. Here we share their thoughts on ways in which publishers can serve their readers better based on learnings from 2020.

### 'Shift for newsrooms'

There will be a "shift for newsrooms," writes Marcus Mabry, Vice President for Global Programming at CNN Digital Worldwide.

He adds "Our audiences can be expected to decline. This will force an expansion of the service and personal journalism that was growing as audiences shrank before (then US President Donald) Trump hijacked the news cycle."

As fewer users read, watch and listen to us out of anxious necessity, we will need to make our journalism that much more essential to their lives.

"Journalism that serves readers will give answers - and reassurance - to people who are just plain tired after this slog of a year," says Megan McCarthy, Executive Editor for Growth, Reviewed.

"Readers will have questions about vaccines, public health and economic policy, and the outlets delivering that information in a clear, accurate, and direct way will thrive," notes the editor, adding: "Think straight news with a dollop of traditional service journalism. What information will improve readers' daily lives?"

### 'We should get ready for what comes next'

Cory Haik, Chief Digital Officer at Vice Media Group and Francesco Zaffarano, Editor in chief at Will Media, emphasize that publishers should ask their readers what they need.

"We journalists always ask ourselves what are the most important stories for us to report on, but we spend far too little time asking our audiences what it is they want from us. The prejudice that journalists know best is deeply rooted

and hard to kill," says Zaffarano.

He says that publishers got paradoxically lucky in 2020 as, "it wasn't hard to recognize that a global pandemic was something people really wanted to know more about."

He notes that news publishers played a key role in helping the public navigate the complexity of the pandemic, but cautions: "This honeymoon is not going to last, and we should get ready for what comes next."

A resurgence of trust in news sources is another encouraging sign. "One way of looking at it is that in 2020, we actually gave people what they needed - which in turn resulted in a spike in trust," writes Zaffarano.

"Ultimately, what the comparison between 2019 and 2020 may show is that if journalism responds to people's needs, people will trust it more," he adds.

He says that if the lesson to be learned from the resurgence of journalism during the pandemic is that people do need journalism - but only on the condition that journalism proves relevant to their everyday lives - then the best way to meet this demand is to ask people what kind of information they need.

### 'Our audience is not a monolith'

"We need to be essential," says Haik, recommending recommends that rather than chasing groups of people based on macro trends revealed by data, publishers should focus on the micro.

"Our audience is not a monolith, as we've long tended to talk about them. 'The youth want X', 'millennials need Y', 'conservatives believe Z, now use 'Triller', and so on," she explains.

Haik suggests asking practical and existential questions like: "What do audiences need from us? Not in the macro, but the micro."

She elaborates: "That new franchise you're building, that podcast, the video series - who is it for? What need is it serving? What will the audience do with it? Do they really want it, need it? Or are we just trying to keep their attention long enough for the advertisement to serve?" "These are the questions we need to be asking so that our content - how we serve our audiences - can steer our strategy."

Meanwhile, journalism has to meet audiences where they are rather than where it would like them to be. In other words, it has to stop pretending that it can just talk and lead, and instead agree to also listen and be led. At least, this is according to Pablo Boczkowski, Professor of Communication Studies, Northwestern University.

### 'Future resilience of the world's media'

Tshepo Tshabalala, Director of the Journalism and Media Lab, University



of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, meanwhile recommends going niche.

"The future resilience of the world's media lies in focusing on niche audiences and verticals. Its success lies in organisations that speak to very specific interests and the need for credible content," he writes.

Tshabalala quotes Opinary journalist and co-founder Pia Frey as having said that the era in which every news site covers more or less the same set of topics and stories is over, that the challenge now is differentiation and segmentation - the rise of the niche, if you will, and that The clearer the editorial profile of a particular niche, the higher the potential to build a loyal and paying audience around it.

According to Tshabalala, audience insights will play a key role in running a niche newsroom successfully. Publishers will "need to know and understand every single thing about their audiences... Ample audience insights will lead to loads of revenue opportunities that many traditional media are missing".

Frey says that one way of attracting a paying audience to a niche is to hire journalists with an established profile and following in that area. The New York Times did that by hiring Kara Swisher and Ben Smith for covering technology and media, respectively.

The same "can also be done in a way that is simpler and with more humble ambitions," she adds.

Frey refers to the trend of journalists going independent on Substack - many of them are generating substantial revenues through paid email newsletters. She says that publishers can take a cue from this and build communities by channelling their journalists' expertise via newsletters.

### 'Cut through barrage of cacophonous digital signals'

Frey recommends that publishers invest in such journalists and experts, "hire and

put them into the centre of a growth strategy, and then let them guide the entire marketing subscription funnel, including their own newsletter, podcast, and weekly column. "Their communities don't even have to turn into brand promoters for the entire organisation, so long as they're registered and keep coming back to their respective favourites."

"Eventually, those personality-centred communities may even serve as an excellent gateway for advertisers to reach their target audiences," notes Frey.

"A key advantage of niche news media is that their narrow focus can allow reporters to become subject-matter experts," writes Tshabalala, adding: "Niche platforms become valuable as they provide more deeper insights on focus areas that larger but broader news organisations are more likely to miss."

Mabry adds that publishers should go beyond informing and entertaining their audiences and try to give them ways to impact their world.

He says it could involve "helping others in danger of losing their homes in eviction crises or helping them envision their role in strengthening our democracy..."

"Every media organisation has been trying to find ways to be essential in the lives of our audiences," he says, adding: "How else to cut through the barrage of cacophonous digital signals assaulting them from the time they wake up until they go to bed - and then some." Only if readers, listeners and viewers feel like they need us, will we be a part of their media diet.

• **A WNIP report. A long-serving business journalist, Faisal Kalim rose to become Editorial manager of The CEO Magazine before turning his attention to developments in media and digital publishing. His specialised focus is on the latest revenue generation strategies available to publishers.**

## China, Africa to further upgrade bilateral cooperation this year

By He Yin

**C**HINA-AFRICA relations have withstood the test of the vicissitudes of the international landscape, become firmer as time goes by, and always maintained strong vitality.

The sound development of the bilateral ties comes from the fact that the friendly relations and cooperation between China and Africa conform to historical trends; the defining feature of China-Africa relations are sincere friendship, mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, as well as common development; and both sides can scale new heights and find new areas of converging interests and new growth points in bilateral cooperation to realize new leaps of the bilateral ties at every critical stage. This is quite revealing.

In the new era, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the principle of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith and the principle of pursuing the greater good and shared interests for developing China-Africa relations. He has also personally promoted the building of a closer China-Africa community with a shared future and been engaged in head-of-state diplomacy in developing bilateral relations with Africa, which has effectively accelerated the growth of China-Africa ties.

Given the mounting uncertainties and instabilities in the international landscape, China and Africa are joining hands to counter unilateralism and protectionism, and unwaveringly safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at its core and the international order based on international law.

As former Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano pointed out, Africa's development goals are highly compatible with those of China, and that China-Africa cooperation can help improve global systems, strengthen global governance, and provide fair platforms for all countries seeking prosperity and development.

The usual year of 2020 witnessed how China and Africa voiced support for each other amid the COVID-19 pandemic and fought against the pandemic side by side. The two sides have set an example of international cooperation against the COVID-19 and lifted their bilateral relations to a new height.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, more than 50 leaders of African countries expressed sympathy and support for China via phone calls or statements. As African was stricken by the virus, China was the first country to rush in with assistance. China sent expert teams to 15 African countries, started the construction of the new headquarters of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ahead of schedule, and pledged that once the development and deployment of COVID-19 vaccine is completed in China, African countries would be among the first to benefit.

When chairing the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19 on June 17, Xi pointed the way forward for the joint fight against the COVID-19, pragmatic cooperation, as well as the development of bilateral ties between China and Africa.

China and Africa have worked together actively to implement the outcomes of the summit, benefiting

Chinese and African people, as well as people in the rest of the world. In-depth cooperation between the two sides has shown the solidarity and leadership the world needs to defeat the pandemic, said World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

China and Africa have been a community with a shared future all along, and enhancing friendly ties and cooperation with Africa has been a consistent choice of China's diplomacy.

Over the past 31 consecutive years, Chinese foreign minister has chosen Africa for the first overseas visit every year. The tradition has manifested the great importance the country attaches to Africa, the unbreakable friendship between the two sides, as well as China's firm support for the development and revitalization of African countries.

Recently, China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the establishment of the China-Nigeria Intergovernmental Committee with Nigeria, and MoUs on co-operation on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Botswana respectively. These documents have further consolidated the political mutual trust and traditional friendship between China and Africa, and further expanded prospects for co-operation for the two sides. Facing the formidable task to defeat the virus, stabilize the economy, and protect livelihoods, China and Africa share the aspiration to intensify cooperation and jointly boost development.

As the largest trading partner of Africa for more than ten consecutive years, China has contributed over 20 percent to the continent's economic growth for years. So far, 46 African countries and the African Union (AU) have signed documents on cooperation under the framework of the BRI with China.

China and Africa are continuing advancing the implementation of the outcomes of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in 2018, actively promoting coordination between development strategies of the two sides and speeding up high-quality construction of the BRI, which will help Africa build up resilience for economic recovery and growth.

China supports Africa in its endeavors to build the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), enhance connectivity, and ensure sound progress in the building of industrial and supply chains, and is expanding cooperation with Africa in areas of new business forms including digital economy, smart city, clean energy and 5G. This is conducive to Africa's economic transformation and upgrading. Last year, China and Africa celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the FOCAC. This year, the two sides are going to further upgrade their bilateral cooperation, taking the opportunity of the new sessions of the FOCAC.

It's believed that China and Africa will be devoted to pushing forward with the bilateral cooperation towards higher quality and more benefits to people's livelihoods, and constantly make new achievements in building a closer China-Africa community with a shared future.

People's Daily



# RELIEF AS OVER 600 FAMILIES DUE TO ENTER MAGOMENI QUARTER FLATS

By Francis Kajubi

**O**VER 600 families of the defunct Magomeni Quarters in Dar es Salaam are heaving a sigh of relief as they get into ultra modern apartments in completed flats next month.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the week, Chairman of the 644 evicted families, George Abel thanked President John Magufuli for ordering Tanzania Building Agency to let them occupy the apartment without paying any rent for five years.

"We thank the president because he also ordered that priority to buy the apartments should be given to us first," Abel said as a verification exercise of the families that were evicted in 2012 to pave way for the new complex is underway.

He however requested President Magufuli to ensure that the apartments are sold to them at hiked market prices but rather for TBA to recover its costs. "Most of us are able to pay a modest price for the apartments so that we can own them," he pleaded while pointing out that well off individuals are also lobbying to get ownership of the prime location.

In 2016, President Magufuli laid a foundation stone for the construction of the new



Residents of Magomeni Quarters verifying their documents at the site of their prospective new apartments in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

flats backed by a 20bn/- state loan while ordering TBA to make sure that the ex-Magomeni Quarter residents be allowed to stay for five years free of charge.

The residents who were evicted in 2012 by Kinondoni Municipal Council when Dr Magufuli was Minister for Works, had their colonial era single unit houses demolished without being given alternative houses.

Of the 20 acre plot, President Magufuli ordered that three acres be used for the construction of residential apartments to accommodate the evicted families while the rest of the area be used to build a commercial complex and public primary school.

"We are currently undergoing a documents verification process with all ben-

eficiaries an exercise which started on Monday and will continue to next week. I am glad that most of the beneficiaries have their documents details right and secured" said Abel.

End last year, TBA's CEO, Daudi Kondoro told then Minister of Works, Transport and Communications, Engineer Isack Kamwelwe that the project will be completed early this year.

"At the moment, construction works of the project have already reached more than 70 percent and we are looking forward to receive the allocated funds to finalize the project so that the residents can move in," explained Kondoro who assured the residents of adherence to the deadline.



**At the moment, construction works of the project have already reached more than 70 percent and we are looking forward to receive the allocated funds to finalize the project so that the residents can move in**

## Evidence that banks sell repossessed houses for cents in the rand market

JOHANNESBURG

IT'S been known for years that the banks have been flogging off repossessed properties for a fraction of their market worth, but the evidence was anecdotal and fragmented. Not anymore.

An affidavit filed in support of the R60 billion class action suit brought by Lungelo Ditokelo Human Rights Foundation against the major banks, based on a sample of about 12 000 repossessed properties, found that these properties were sold for 50-60% of their proper value, mainly through sheriff's auctions.

The class action suit, which is being defended by the banks, seeks to recover billions of rands in lost home equity as a result of this practice. "Our South African banks sell property about five times more than the international average as a percentage of the total number of outstanding bonds and 20 times more than best practice," says Garth Zietsman, a statistician who analysed data from the National Credit Regulator.

Even more disturbing is that the poor are worst affected. Lower valued homes were sold for about 40% of their market value, against 81% for the higher valued ones.

According to the evidence

The evidence shows dozens of properties were sold for less than 1% of their market value. Of the 200 worst cases, all were sold for less than 17.2% of their market value. The banks have yet to file their replies to the case.

In this case, the lending bank was FNB. Standard Bank and Nedbank also had several properties selling at auction for R1 000 when the market value was R200 000 to R440 000. There is no comparable data available for Absa.

As can be seen from the banks' responses below, it seems the rates of evictions and properties ending up in sale in execution (auction) has declined during the Covid crisis. Banks say they are endeavouring to assist clients in difficulties through various interventions.

Zietsman's analysis focuses on sales of repossessed properties from 2011 to 2014, before new court rules came into effect obliging banks to establish a reserve (or floor) price before auctioning properties. Prior to this, properties could be sold without floor prices, resulting in some being sold for as little as R100 and even R10.

**'Inhumane'**

King Sibiya, head of the Lungelo Ditokelo Human Rights Foundation, is not convinced of the banks' self-proclaimed virtue and argues that SA has among the most inhumane practices in the world when it comes to bank repossessions.

"Here we are in the middle of a Covid crisis when millions of people have fallen into arrears on their homes through no fault of their own, and the government imagines it is business as usual, where banks can carry on like they have done for decades. Eighty percent of the cases before the high courts are brought by banks attempting to recover debts and evict people from their homes. "Other countries impacted by Covid put a total freeze on evictions, while we imposed a freeze of three months. Three months? There's no justice in that."

**Zoom justice**

"We have default judgments being handed down by Zoom judges because people cannot attend court in person to defend themselves," says Sibiya. He adds: "People have no idea how to access this virtual justice system - which is in itself a denial of people's constitutional rights of access to justice."

The Foundation says it will be lobbying the Department of Justice to put a total freeze on evictions while the Covid crisis is still in effect. "People will get thrown out of their houses in the thousands, and make no mistake - that is when you will see a Covid crisis out of control," says Sibiya.

**The bogus arrears matter**

Analysis by consumer advocate Leonard Benjamin suggests that many properties are being repossessed over bogus arrears figures.



A couple consoling each other after their home was sold by a bank.

Homeowners are being sued for arrears that have effectively been written off, due to a practice known as "double dipping."

Benjamin says the banks are automatically spreading any arrears over the remaining term of the loan each time interest rates are adjusted, which has the effect of extinguishing the arrears. All the customer has to do is pay the new, adjusted instalment to catch up on any outstanding amount owed. Yet the banks continue to pursue customers through the courts for the lump sum arrears. The UK courts ruled against the banks on double-dipping - something local banks have denied doing.

Advocate Douglas Shaw, who is representing the Foundation

in its class action suit, says the banks resisted the introduction of a reserve price system at sheriff's auctions which would allow homeowners an opportunity to recover some of the equity in their properties.

Now that reserve pricing is part of the law, the banks are still managing to game the system by arguing cases in the high courts instead of the magistrates courts, driving people further into arrears through higher legal costs, and by setting reserve prices so low as to prejudice the defaulting homeowner.

"The government needs to treat this as a national crisis and put a freeze on evictions until the Covid crisis has been handled," says

Sibiya.

**FNB's response**

How many mortgages (and what percentage of mortgage accounts) are now in arrears as a result of lockdown difficulties or rescheduled arrangements? Our stance is to assist customers and only as a last resort to proceed with litigation. Over the course of Covid-19 and the lockdown, we have focused on trying to assist customers via our Cashflow Relief programmes. During the hard lockdown period, litigation was suspended.

What steps are being taken to accommodate mortgage customers in difficulty as a result of Covid-related loss of income? From 1 April 2020, FNB assisted customers with a customer-centric Cashflow Relief Plan to cover all instalments that a qualifying customer has with us. Our Cashflow relief was for a period of 3-months at prime interest rates with a flexible repayment term.

Furthermore, a number of pre-selected customers were offered extended relief for a further 3-months, totalling a 6-month payment break. Our Cashflow Relief Plan covered our customers' instalments across credit, insurance and FNB Connect repayments. We are committed to helping customers to minimise the impact of Covid-19 on their finance and continue to evaluate our assistance for customers on individual merits.

## Concerns as counties lag in desks for schools plan

NAIROBI

A majority of counties are yet to distribute enough desks in public schools to allow for safe learning three weeks after pupils resumed physical classes.

Data from the Ministry of Education shows only 25 percent or 12 of the 47 counties have hit the 80 percent mark in the distribution of 625,000 additional desks needed to curb the spread of Covid-19 among learners. This means that thousands of learners in public primary and secondary schools are yet to receive spacious personal desks to achieve the one-metre distance prescribed by the Ministry of Health.

"I urge counties to step up the distribution as we seek to complete the exercise and focus on effective learning and



School desks being made at Outering Road in Nairobi.

preparation for examination," Education Cabinet Secretary George Magoha said yesterday.

As part of the preparations for the reopening, the government allocated Sh1.9 billion under the Economic Stimulus Programme for the supply of locally assembled desks to public primary and

secondary schools.

The plan is to ensure each pupil got a spacious personal desk and at the same time cushion jua kali workshops and carpenters from the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The desks with large surface for writing and holding books are expected to eliminate the old seating arrangements in

primary schools where four or five pupils would be squeezed into a single bench.

According to the Ministry of Education, Nairobi County has achieved 100 percent distribution, with 14,490 desks supplied to primary schools and 5,150 to secondary schools. Nairobi is followed closely by Uasin Gishu (94.7 percent), Siaya (91.5 percent) and

Vihiga (90.8 percent).

Others on the list of counties that have surpassed the 80 percent distribution mark are Kisumu, Nyandarua, Nyeri, Kiambu, Migori, Machakos, Muranga and Busia. Thousands of children resumed in-person learning on January 4, the first time since March, amid challenges of social distancing to curb the spread of Covid-19 in schools. A spot check in schools across Nairobi on the first day of reopening showed that except for temperature checks and handwashing routines, things largely remained as they were before the pandemic, with pupils sharing desks and sitting shoulder-to-shoulder. Though many had protective masks, some of them wore them incorrectly - opting to wrap them around their chins instead of covering their mouths and noses. As at Wednesday Kenya had recorded 99,444 confirmed cases of the Covid-19 and 1,736 fatalities, amid calls for schools to keep learners safe.

The enrolment in public schools has swelled after a number of private institutions permanently shut due to the prolonged closure. Prof Magoha yesterday acknowledged the challenge of crowding but said the government would ensure learners and teachers have sufficient protective masks and hand sanitisers.

"Despite the challenge of physical/social distancing in some schools, they are implementing different mitigation strategies including use of dining halls, auditoriums and open spaces (learning under trees) among others," he said. He said the government had disbursed over Sh19 billion in capitation to all public primary and secondary schools, and urged prudent use of the funds to safeguard and boost learning.



# NMB GIVES OVER 7BN/- LOANS TO STRUGGLING SISAL INDUSTRY

By Property Watch Reporter

**I**n supporting government efforts to revive the struggling sisal sub sector, NMB Bank Plc has disbursed loans worth over 7bn/- in equipment, agro-inputs and farm administration.

NMB's Chief Retail Banker, Filbert Mponzi said in Tanga earlier this week during a sisal stakeholders conference chaired by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa that the bank has invested heavily in the agriculture sector with over 1.1trn/- disbursed in loans so far.

"The bank has been supporting the government's efforts to revive the sisal subsector by providing equipment loan for 11 tractors and 22 trailers all valued at over 1bn/- to help mechanise the production process," Mponzi said.

He explained that NMB is a committed financial institution to the agriculture sector which is important to ensure development of industries as raw materials feed into manufacturing and agro-processing industries.

Mponzi said apart from providing equipment loans to large and medium size farmers, the Dar es Salaam based lender has overall provided 7bn/- which also helps build capacity of smallholder farmers.

He said in order to empower smallholder farmers through loans and training on basic financial management skills, the bank has opened accounts to over 1,500 farmers and farmer cooperative groups.

"The opening of these accounts has convinced farmers to use formal bank-



Tanzania Sisal Board headquarters in Tanga.

ing channels to transact but also qualify for loans to invest and grow their farms," he said while promising the Prime Minister that NMB will continue working with smallholder

farmers throughout the country because an industrial revolution needs to be preceded by an agrarian one.

The NMB Chief Retail Banker pledged

to continue training smallholder farmers on entrepreneurship and modern farming through NMB Foundation which works directly with individuals and their cooperatives.

"The bank will also continue to give loans at all levels from small, medium and large scale farmers so that they can graduate and become owners of agro-processing firms and manufacturing companies using commodities as raw materials," Mponzi pledged while assuring stakeholders that even those who want to establish sisal products manufacturing plants can get funding from the market's largest bank.

In a key note address to stakeholders, Prime Minister Majaliwa said revival of the sisal subsector is a priority to the government because the natural fibre is not only important to industrial development but also creates jobs and helps farmers earn decent income.

He said the government is targeting to see that by 2025, annual sisal production should reach over 120,000 metric tons from the current less than 100,000 tons. "Increased sisal and palm oil cultivate helps the government save millions of dollars in importing products such as bags and edible oil," Majaliwa said while revealing that increased palm oil production locally has assisted the government to save US\$470 million in edible oil imports per annum.

In welcoming remarks to the PM, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Hussein Bashe said the ministry has set aside funds to invest to hybrid seeds production for various commodities including sisal and palm oil.

"We have also come up with a letter of credit arrangement to allow smallholder farmers get agro-inputs and equipment loans from banks at affordable rate," Bashe said while unveiling that the rate will not exceed three percent.

## Private sector investment key in bridging Africa's housing gap

LONDON

**O**n the eve of the UK Department for International Trade's Africa Investment Conference, East African architecture and master planning firm FBW Group noted that private sector investment is key to solving East Africa's mounting affordable housing challenges and the UK can play a leading role in turbo-charging the development drive needed.

The conference, on 20 January, comes 12 months after the UK-Africa Investment Summit hosted in London by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, where 27 trade and investment deals, worth £6.5bn and commitments worth £8.9bn were announced.

It will explore how inclusive, sustainable and resilient investment can serve to help countries across the continent transition to a cleaner, greener economy and support recovery from the impact of the coronavirus.

Speaking before the conference, the UK's minister for investment, Gerry Grimstone, said: "Despite the current global economic context, the UK's an-



A residential apartment under renovation in Nairobi.

bition to be Africa's investment partner of choice has never been stronger. "Growing investment relationships will be central in helping economies recover and build back better from the disruption caused by coronavirus."

"Africa's economic potential and investment opportunities are huge, and our partnership will help ensure UK and African businesses are able to capitalise on trade and investment opportunities, now and in the future."

UK investment in housing sector  
 Early last year, UK Climate Investments

announced a £30m (\$39m) commitment to support the construction of 10,000 green affordable homes in Kenya. Managed by Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets, UK Climate Investments is a £200m pilot investment programme mandated to invest in India and Sub-Saharan Africa.

FBW, which has operations in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, believes that commitment has the power to unlock more inward investment and give East Africa's private sector confidence to commit to green, affordable development projects across the region.

Said Antje Eckoldt, FBW Group director and its Kenya country manager: "There are major opportunities for UK investors to make a real difference by supporting projects that will deliver real social and environmental change."

"The large-scale commitment by UK Climate Investments is a game-changer, embedding green standards into the market that will give local investors added confidence to put more of their money into the affordable housing sector."

"We're also seeing other welcome investment moves from the UK, including a joint venture involving CDC Group, the UK's publicly-owned impact investor. It is using 3D printing technology at scale to build affordable and low-carbon housing and schools in Africa, starting in Malawi."

### Housing challenge

Housing remains a major challenge across East Africa. The World Bank has estimated that 200,000 housing units are needed annually in Kenya alone. Uganda and Tanzania also face a large-scale and growing housing shortage.

To try and close that gap the Kenyan government has launched a programme to build 500,000 new affordable homes by 2022. Since 1969, the country's population has grown at a compounded annual rate of 3% and there are now more than 47.5-million people living in Kenya. However, the country only had 26,504 active mortgages at the end of 2018, according to research.

The World Bank has also estimated that by 2050, 50% of the Kenyan population will be living in urban centres. Said Eckoldt: "This rapid urbanisation, which we are seeing across the region, will put even greater pressure on the availability of affordable housing. Closing the housing gap is really important if East Africa's economic potential is to be fulfilled. "There are major challenges, including meeting budget requirements while also delivering homes of real quality, but the drive to deliver affordable housing is gaining momentum."

### Sustainable solutions

"The delivery of sustainable building solutions and green principles is also coming to the fore in this drive. Locally sourced materials and skills are at the heart of this, along with meeting the challenges of climate change and its impact."

Eckoldt says effective urban planning will also have a big part to play in shaping future housing development. The UK Centre for Cities and Infrastructure has been set up to "turbo-charge investment" in fast-growing cities across the developing world.

It will provide British expertise to African governments and city authorities to improve the way cities are planned, built and run, including making them more environmentally friendly. The focus will be on improvements to infrastructure, including water and energy networks.

## Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate completes the finishing touches

CAPE TOWN

**T**HE Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate offers the same unrivalled location, but with an all-new African-inspired spa experience and re-imagined event facilities.

Taking full advantage of its perfect location on the banks of the iconic Sabie River, right at the Paul Kruger Gate, the Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate has re-imagined traditional safari lodge hospitality following a recent revitalisation of its amenities. The property will now launch a sensational African-inspired spa, set in beautiful riverine woodland with spectacular natural landscapes and exhilarating big five game-viewing.

The new spa facilities will comprise three air-conditioned treatment rooms and a unique tree house. The treatment rooms are raised on wooden decks with each one overlooking the Sabie River so that guests can enjoy a unique game viewing vantage point while indulging in a relaxing treatment. The hotel's spa facilities offer something special and unique, not only because of the location but also the authentic African treatments, which boast Shangaan names and the exclusive use of African beauty products.

Revitalised conference and event facilities complete the extensive refurbishment project and positions the property perfectly as a modern facility with up-to-date technology and modern finishes allowing business and event guests the perfect location that blends with leisure and relaxation.

The Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate's conference facilities consist of four event rooms, 207m<sup>2</sup> of total event

space and its largest capacity space allows 255 guests. When it comes to seamlessly combining all the comforts of an upmarket hotel experience with authentic Kruger Park safaris, no one does it better.

"The refurbished amenities have been a labour of love, drawing on local artisans to create a uniquely South African experience," says Francois Meyer, general manager of Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate. "During the rebuild, all labour was sourced locally. At times we had up to 120 local bricklayers, plumbers, painters and other craftsmen on site."

But the upmarket hotel's passion for its location doesn't stop there – only a small portion of the property has been developed, with the balance dedicated to conservation and providing a habitat for indigenous fauna and flora.

"Over the last five years, we implemented several energy saving initiatives - which have amounted to a 22% saving in electricity. This effort to reduce our footprint is apparent throughout our new expansion, with technology introduced to continue improving our energy and water efficiency. In addition, all wet waste is recycled, and all grey water is cleaned and returned to the river," he added.

Reducing the property's carbon footprint is a major part of our conservation efforts, says Meyer. But it does not stop there. "We have elevated the hotel's cleanliness standards and hospitality norms and behaviours to meet the new health and safety challenges presented by the current pandemic environment," adds Meyer.

"We understand that health and hygiene will be at the forefront of our guests' minds as they consider travelling and staying at the hotel. With the increased measures, we want



Protea Hotel by Marriott Kruger Gate.

them to see and understand what we are doing and why we are doing it – so that when they walk through the doors of our hotel, they know our com-

mitment to their health and safety is a priority at all times," adds Meyer.



## TECHNOLOGY

# TEN HOTLY-ANTICIPATED BUILDINGS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 2021

## NEW YORK

**W**ORLD Architecture Community (WAC) has compiled a list of 10 hotly-anticipated buildings to be completed in 2021.

Although some buildings are completed, they are still not fully operational for the public due to Covid-19 precautions, like for MVRDV's mirrored bowl-shaped art depot in Rotterdam and Renzo Piano Workshop's Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in Los Angeles.

Designs by OMA for Architecture and Design Galleries in Denver Art Museum's renovated Martin Building, Heatherwick Studio's Pier55 in the Hudson River, Sou Fujimoto's House of Hungarian Music in Budapest and Zaha Hadid Architects' King Abdullah Financial District in Riyadh make the list of the most anticipated buildings of 2021.

## Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum, Rotterdam

MVRDV's art depot, led by co-founder Winy Maas, made its silver opening during September 2020 but it will officially be open to the public in the fall of 2021. After the silver opening, the depot has closed its doors for approximately a year, until September 2021. During this period, 151,000 works of art will be moved into the building and the last finishes will be completed throughout the building.

Once fully operational, MVRDV's mirrored bowl-shaped Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen in Rotterdam will be the first publicly accessible art depot in Rotterdam. The key component of design is its mirrored façade panels. Thanks to these mirrored facade, the building reflects both the park and the city. MVRDV won a competition to design a 15,000m<sup>2</sup> art depot in 2014. Construction started in 2017 for the art depot.

## Valley, Amsterdam

MVRDV's mountainous mixed-use building is currently under construction in Amsterdam's Zuidas District. MVRDV has recently revealed the latest images from the construction.

Set to be completed in 2021, the mixed-use project will contain apartments, shops, offices, cultural institutes, and a creative centre. The building has reached its highest point of 103m in Amsterdam's Zuidas district.

"Started construction in 2017, the 75,000m<sup>2</sup> project is designed for EDGE Technologies, the project will bring much-needed greening to Amsterdam's Zuidas business district thanks to its landscape of jagged stone terraces, bay-windows and balconies, with dense planting designed by landscape architect Piet Oudolf."

## Quzhou Sports Campus, Quzhou, China

Currently under construction in Quzhou, in China's Zhejiang province with the first phase, the stadium of the complex is expected to be completed in 2021.

Once complete, Quzhou Sports Campus will become the world's largest earth shelter building complex. Led by Ma Yansong, founder and principal of MAD, the park covers an area of 570,000m<sup>2</sup>, of which the total building area of the stadium complex and supporting facilities is 390,000m<sup>2</sup>.

The park includes a 30,000-person capacity stadium, a 10,000-person capacity gymnasium, a natatorium, outdoor auxiliary training grounds, athlete service and experience centre, as well as a science and technology museum and children's place.

The campus is made of wavy landscapes, creating smooth topography and covered with lush vegetation, the studio is inspired by Quzhou's long history and beautiful natural scenery, with 71.5% of its land covered in forest for the campus.

## Denver Art Museum

The new galleries of the Denver Art Museum will be realised as part of a larger campus transformation and OMA has designed nearly 92,903m<sup>2</sup> of new and renovated space within the building's original footprint.



Quzhou Sports Campus, Quzhou, China.

The design of the new galleries, led by OMA Partner Shohei Shigematsu, was set to be completed on 6 June 2020 to the public, but the rest of the campus is expected to be completed and reopened in fall 2021. The project is part of an overall campus reunification and building renovation project led by Machado Silvetti and Pentest Architects. Boston-based Machado Silvetti and Denver-based Pentest Architects are responsible for designing the building's seven-floor transformation and OMA is designing a few select galleries on one of the floors.

In the interiors, OMA created three distinct rooms: the Joanne Posner-Mayer Mezzanine Gallery, the Ellen Bruss Design Studio and the Amanda J. Precourt Design Galleries – that will connect the DAM's architecture and design collection while simultaneously providing dynamic spaces for visitors to engage with design materials, create artwork and respond directly to the objects and ideas presented.

## Wormhole Library, Haikou, Hainan

MAD has designed a porous library that acts as a "wormhole" for its visitors on the coast in Haikou, Hainan Province in China. It is formed by a sensuously curved pavilion that "transcends time and space."

Wormhole Library is currently under construction on site and the library will serve as a multi-functional building that allows visitors to read, enjoy views of the sea, and attend open-air performances, temporarily removing themselves from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. In design, MAD used white concrete to make the building as a single unit by maintaining a humanistic scale.

## Pier55, Hudson River, New York

Pier55 (or Little Island) is Thomas Heatherwick's much-anticipated project which is under construction in the Hudson River of New York. Located near the Meatpacking District and the High Line, the island is made of 280 concrete piles which resemble a mushroom.

Currently photographed by the Field Condition, the main structure of the installation has already appeared. Heatherwick's design, forming a 2.4 acre park, features an undulating structure of 132 pots with plantings sitting on 280 concrete piles.

Pier55 is conceived as a unique topography that will house a public park and performance space on Manhattan's lower west side. The project was commissioned by a non-profit organisation and funded primarily by the Diller von Furstenberg family which will build and cooper-

ate the Pier in collaboration with the Hudson River Park Trust. Completion of the park is expected in the spring of 2021.

## Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California

Although the official opening of the Academy Museum's was planned for 14 December 2020, the opening has recently been rescheduled from 30 April until 30 September of 2021 due to Covid-19.

Designed by Renzo Piano's office Renzo Piano Building Workshop, the new moviemaking centre of the Academy Museum has been underway since 2012. RPBW released the final version of the plans in 2018. The project redevelops the former 1938 May Company Department Store building, which was recently named the Saban Building on Wilshire Boulevard.

Dubbed as "the world's premier movie museum", the revitalised campus will feature more than 50,000ft<sup>2</sup> (4,645m<sup>2</sup>) of gallery space, two theatres, cutting-edge project spaces, an outdoor piazza, the rooftop terrace, an active education studio, a restaurant, and store.

## Inner-city Campus and Public Park in Dhaka

In March, WOHA released first images for a sustainable inner-city campus and public park in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Currently under construction on site, WOHA's design creates a new model for sustainable development in the region and tropical spaces that do not require full air conditioning.

WOHA, known for its nature-driven design approach, the project is being developed as an extension of BRAC, the largest non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the world, BRAC University was established in 2001 and aims to instil in its students a commitment to working towards national development and progress. WOHA's design will transform a former flooded wasteland into a liveable, tropical, and sustainable inner-city campus and public park. The project is scheduled for completion in 2021.

## King Abdullah Financial District Metro Station, Riyadh

King Abdullah Financial District Metro Station by Zaha Hadid Architects is designed by using a set of parametric design principles and BIM modeling to acquire an accurate construction model on site. Currently under construction in Riyadh, the metro station was documented by Riyadh-based photographer Faisal Bin Zarah in July 2019 and this photo

shows that the panels were started to be applied on top of the structure.

The project was commissioned by the ArRiyadh Development Authority in 2012, the 45,000m<sup>2</sup> metro station is designed to meet the increasing number of residents (expected to reach 8.5 million residents with a decade) in the city of Riyadh. The metro station will provide a new public transit system for the city with six main lines covering 176km and 85 new stations connecting with the city's new rapid bus network. According to ZHA's website, the project is expected to be completed in 2021.

## Image House of Hungarian Music

In our list, we end up with Sou Fujimoto's much-anticipated undulating Hungarian music venue situated in a pastoral setting in Budapest's largest park beside Városliget Lake. The project is overlooking the ice rink on the site of the disused and demolished buildings of the Hungexpo offices.

Currently under construction on site, the 3,000m<sup>2</sup> building is being developed as part of the Liget Budapest project, which also includes SANAA's new National Gallery of Hungary, selected in 2015, alongside other projects including Museum of Ethnography by French firm Vallet de Martinis, DIID Architectes and the Photo Museum Budapest and Museum of Hungarian Architecture by Hungarian firm Középülettervez. Zrt.

Released with recent photographs by the Liget Budapest, the photographs show that the structure of the building is almost complete, and the iconic roof is already taking shape, as well as its monumental glass walls, the largest of their kind in Europe.

Fujimoto won an anonymous competition for the scheme in 2014. The building was planned to be opened to visitors in March 2018, but the project has seen many delays for the construction so far. Fujimoto's House of Hungarian Music is scheduled to be completed and opened in 2021.

## Dubai built more high-rises than any other city in 2020

## DUBAI

**MORE** high-rises were completed in Dubai last year than in any other city in the world, a new report shows. Twelve buildings taller than 200 metres were completed in 2020, a record for the emirate and three more than in 2019, the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat's 2020 Year in Review report showed.

"Dubai has always been one of the centres globally for tall buildings and thus this position came as no surprise," said Christopher Seymour, managing director for consulting engineer Mott MacDonald Middle East.

"The reason there was an apparent surge in completions in 2020 was down to the upturn in commitment in investment for this type of project around five years ago, aligned with the strong property market at the time – and those projects finally came to completion." The tallest building completed in Dubai last year was the 336-metre-high SLS Tower in Business Bay, making it the 11th-tallest worldwide.

Rounding off the top five are the 307-metre-high Amna Tower at Habtoor City, Jumeirah Gate (303 metres) at Jumeirah Beach Residences, ICD Brookfield Place (282 metres) at DIFC and Boulevard Point (280 metres) in Downtown Dubai.

The last time Dubai topped the global ranking was in 2010, the year the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, was completed. It broke Shenzhen's four-year streak as the city completing the most towers. The southern Chinese city completed nine buildings above 200 metres last year, down from 18 in 2019.

Globally, there were 106 high-rises completed last year, a 20 per cent decline on the 133 handed over in 2019. This was the lowest number since 2014 as Covid-19 disrupted construction around the world.

The tallest building to be completed last year was Central Park Tower in New York City, at 472 metres – the first time in five years that the tallest completed building was not in China, and the first time since 2014, when One World Trade Centre completed, that the tallest building of the year was in the US. This was also the first time since 2014 in which no building exceeded 500 metres in height.

China completed more than half the total number of buildings in the study (56), down from 57 in 2019 and 92 in 2018. The second-most prolific country in terms of high-rise completion was the UAE, followed by the US with 10 and the UK with five. India completed three 200-metre-plus buildings in 2020, all in Mumbai.

In 2020, London completed four buildings with a height of at least 200 metres – the most in any year – despite the shadow of Brexit hanging over the city. Three of the four are in Canary Wharf, the financial district.

The report estimates that between 125 and 150 buildings taller than 200 metres will be completed this year. Of the top 30 projected completions this year, 18 are in China, five are in the US and three are in Saudi Arabia.

The two tallest buildings set to be completed this year are Riverview Plaza A1 in Wuhan (436 metres) and 111 West 57th Street in New York City (435 metres). The number of towers in the UAE over the next few years is expected to fall as project launches slow amid a push to improve the supply-demand imbalance.

"In the last few years, the property market has become significantly weaker, particularly following the onset of the pandemic," Mr Seymour said. "While we will still see completions of significant assets this year and next, the investment into new schemes is predicted to be lower."



Dubai's SLS Tower in Business Bay.



## WORLD

## World welcomes US return to 2015 Paris climate accord

BRUSSELS

CLIMATE-CHANGE leaders and campaigners worldwide welcomed US President Joe Biden's move to rejoin the 2015 Paris Agreement but said Washington must also cut emissions and use its influence to encourage other countries to do the same.

In one of his first acts as president, Biden issued an executive order on Wednesday to bring the United States, the world's second-largest greenhouse gas emitter, back into the global treaty committing nearly 200 countries to halt rising temperatures quickly enough to avoid disastrous climate change.

Washington formally left the Paris accord last year but its role as a heavyweight in global climate negotiations had already stalled with the 2016 election of President Donald Trump.

Trump cast doubt on climate science and asserted that the accord was an economic burden. UN climate negotiations have stuttered since then, with multiple summits failing to deliver ambitious action.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they get a standing ovation just by entering the room," former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres said, referring to a US return to global climate talks. "That doesn't mean that they will have a standing ovation for

ever. They have to prove that they are really determined to make the changes that are necessary."

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the US return to the Paris accord but added: "There is a very long way to go."

The climate crisis continues to worsen and time is running out to limit temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and build more climate-resilient societies that help to protect the most vulnerable."

Climate diplomats said they want to see an ambitious US commitment to cut emissions this decade and a diplomatic push to convince others to follow suit.

Climate agreements signed by China and the United States played a big role in securing a deal at the Paris climate talks in 2015.

But during the Trump administration, climate became another source of friction between the world's two biggest economies, and experts said it was unlikely that their relationship could immediately return to normal.

"What remains unchanged is the need for the G2 to move towards the same direction ... Now the task is for the pair to switch to high gear, holding each other's hand or not," Li said.

**Carbon border tax?**

Biden has said he wants to put the



US President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden watch fireworks from the White House, on Wednesday in Washington. (AP)

United States on track to net zero emissions by 2050 but has yet to detail what regulatory tools he intends to use to achieve that goal.

"One of the core challenges for the administration is going to be reframing this as opportunity for green growth, for jobs - for the kind of things we've seen in Europe, which has managed to significantly grow its economy while reducing its carbon emissions," said Kelley Kizzier, a former European Union climate negotiator, now at the non-profit Environmental Defense Fund.

**The EU is already eyeing areas for collaboration.**

In June, it will propose a carbon levy on imports of certain polluting goods to protect European industry from cheaper competitors in countries with weak climate policies. Biden pledged in his election campaign to do the same, through "carbon adjustment fees or quotas" at the US border.

Carbon border policies offer "an opportunity to work together to set a global template for such measures," the EU said in a December memo on its priorities for the new EU relation-

ship with the Biden administration.

Policy analysts say a joint US-EU carbon border measure could drive faster decarbonisation in countries with high-emitting export-oriented sectors.

"This is a very important tool in the hands of the EU and the US administration to stimulate global climate action," said Simone Tagliapietra, research fellow at Brussels-based think tank Bruegel.

Frans Timmermans, the EU climate policy chief, said he would team up with John Kerry, Biden's international climate envoy, "to convince ever more countries that ambitious climate action is in their best interest."

But for vulnerable countries grappling with floods, heat waves and droughts made more devastating by climate change, the priority is finance.

Former President Barack Obama's administration pledged to deliver US\$3 billion to the UN flagship fund to help vulnerable countries fight climate change. Washington has delivered only US\$1 billion so far.

"President Biden should fulfil the remaining pledge," said Tanguy Gahouma-Bekale, chair of the African Group of Negotiators in global climate talks.

## Libyan delegations meet for election talks

TRIPOLI

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya, or UNSMIL, on Tuesday said the Libyan Constitutional Committee started its second meeting in an Egyptian resort, where members discussed constitutional arrangements for national elections.

The meeting, in the Red Sea city of Hurghada, coincided with a fresh appeal by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for all foreign fighters and mercenaries to leave Libya by Saturday. Their departure was called for in a cease-fire agreement signed on Oct 23 by the warring sides after years of fighting split the oil-rich North African nation in two.

The meeting, attended by delegations from the House of Representatives and the High Council of State, each comprising 10 members, "is convened to discuss the constitutional

arrangements necessary for the holding of elections on Dec 24, 2021", the UNSMIL said in a statement.

"If you fail to reach an agreement, this will have very negative repercussions on the other tracks including the security and economic situation," acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Libya Stephanie Williams was quoted as saying in her opening remarks.

"Therefore, you have a great responsibility to reach a consensus on the constitutional arrangements."

The UN mission reaffirmed its support and encouragement for constructive dialogue between the two sides, adding that it looks forward to the outcome of the committee's deliberations by the 60-day deadline.

Political road map

During the first meeting of



Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Libya Stephanie Williams

the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, from Nov 7-15 last year in Tunisia's capital Tunis, 75 Libyans representing the country's social and political spectra discussed a political road map to achieve lasting peace, and

agreed on the December date for elections.

Guterres also urges the UN-recognized government that holds sway in the capital Tripoli, in western Libya, and the forces of military commander

Khalifa Haftar who run most of the east and the south, "to maintain their resolve in reaching a lasting political solution to the conflict, resolving economic issues and alleviating the humanitarian situation".

Libya has been suffering escalating violence since the 2011 fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

Guterres encouraged the broader international community to support implementation of the ceasefire without delay, including "ensuring the departure of all foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya, and the full and unconditional respect of the Security Council arms embargo" against Libya.

He also urged the Security Council to give the support mission "a clear but flexible mandate" to support a Libyan-led mechanism to monitor implementation of the cease-fire.

Agencies

## Hungary becomes first in EU to approve Russia's virus vaccine

QUITO

HUNGARY became the first European Union (EU) nation to approve Russia's COVID-19 vaccine as Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Hungary's drug regulator granted emergency approval for Russia's Sputnik V, the agency's director, Matyas Szentivanyi, told state tel-

evision late Wednesday. The decision followed pressure by Orban to fast-track it and skirt the EU, which has yet to authorize the vaccine.

The country's drug regulator has also given preliminary approval for the use of the vaccine made by AstraZeneca, Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff said yesterday.

Like many of its EU peers, Hungary has faced public skepticism of the vaccines and so far has administered them for only a little more than 1 percent of its population amid a trickle of doses from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.

The government has warned that without a ramp-up, curbs like an evening cur-

few and the closure of some businesses could be in effect through the summer.

Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto will be in Moscow on Friday where he may agree to a large purchase of the Russian vaccine. Despite the emergency approval -- which is for six months and an option to extend that for another six -- Hungary's health

authority is still reviewing the Russian version in tests, and mass inoculations may happen only after its sign-off, state television reported.

Hungary is also ready to purchase more than a million doses from China's Sinopharm within days of regulatory approval, Orban told state radio on Jan 15.

Agencies

## Italy's Conte gov't facing hard part after confidence votes

ROME

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte survived two narrow confidence votes this week that could have forced him to resign. Now the hard part begins, according to analysts.

Struggling to contain the coronavirus pandemic and pep up the country's slow-growing economy, Conte's government last week faced a near-lethal blow when former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi pulled out. That left the government with less than a majority in the 321-seat Senate.

Late Tuesday, Conte's allies were able to cobble together enough support to keep the government from collapsing. But his majority will be smaller and less secure than it had been.

The pandemic continues to impact nearly all aspects of Italian life. On Wednesday, there were more than 13,500 new coronavirus infections and 524 new deaths from the virus, pushing the totals since the start of the pandemic to more than 2.4 million and nearly 84,000, respectively -- both among the highest national totals in the world.

The economy is also a problem area. Final 2020 gross domestic product (GDP) growth figures are not yet available, but the consensus among economists, investment banks, and multilateral institutions is that the economy will contract by 9 to 10 percent for the full year.

But analysts said changes in policy when it comes to these two areas -- the coronavirus and the economy -- are unlikely.

"I don't think we're going to see a strong change in policy in terms of the pandemic or economics from this new phase of the Conte government," Francesco Daveri, a professor of macroeconomics at the SDA Bocconi University School of Management, told Xinhua. "But the government will have a smaller margin for error in implementing these policies."

Daveri continued: "I think what we will see in the coming weeks and months is a case of muddling through the challenges that arise."

Giacomo Bandini, director-general of Competere, a think tank, said Conte's government will likely have to stay away from potentially polarizing policy initiatives since he cannot afford to lose allies and in many cases, he might need to persuade some opposition lawmakers to support his cause.

"The one thing that is clear to anyone who sympathizes with Conte is that they want to avoid calling new elections at all costs," Bandini said in an interview with Xinhua. "There are too many challenges to holding elections during a pandemic, and polls show that opposition parties would likely take over if there was a new election."

Other challenges facing the government: the debate on how to most effectively spend the 222 billion euros (269 billion U.S. dollars) in grants and low-interest loans that make up the European Union recovery fund, and Italy's role as the head of the Group of Twenty (G20) this year.

Still, despite the potential pitfalls it faces, the Conte government's survival of the risky confidence vote was welcomed across Europe and also by investors, who sent the broad blue-chip index on the Italian Stock Exchange in Milan nearly 1-percent higher in heavy trading on an otherwise uneven day for European markets.

Xinhua

## Zimbabwean first lady highlights women's role in fight against COVID-19

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa on Wednesday stressed the critical role that women in the country should play in helping to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

She said women have a role to play at the household level in ensuring that families adhere to COVID-19 safety and preventative measures.

"As mothers, let us enforce compliance at the family level with measures that reduce the spread of COVID-19 amongst us. We need a plan at the household level for regularly using any means at our disposal to clean and sanitize our homes, to ensure that everyone in the home knows the importance of having a mask and masking up properly, more importantly to organize sharp safe errands for our requirements to get going whilst enforcing the family to stay at home," she said in a statement.

She also called on women in the country to join her in three days of fasting and prayer from Jan. 21 to pray for the nation as the deadly virus wreaks havoc in the country.

"I thus humbly appeal to all women to commit to a three-day period from tomorrow in which we fast and pray calling for divine intervention to save the nation and our people," she said Wednesday.

Zimbabwe is currently under a new 30-day nationwide lockdown imposed on Jan. 5 to curb rising cases of the pandemic.

Xinhua

## Young Chinese girls revive, innovate 1,200-year-old porcelain leaf cup making techniques

TU Jing and Yu Huihui, graduates from Nankai University in China, have dedicated themselves to revitalizing traditional techniques in making porcelain leaf cup, a traditional craft originated in Ji'an, east China's Jiangxi province.

As an unique invention of Jizhou Kiln, a famous porcelain kiln in ancient China, the porcelain leaf cup making techniques featuring the integration of a whole tree leaf into porcelain ware, have a history of over 1,200 years and have been included into China's national list for intangible cultural heritage.

Tu first met porcelain leaf cups in 2016, when she was a postgraduate student of the College of Tourism and Service Management of Nankai University.

She was deeply impressed by the craft, thinking that it was indescribably wonderful that after being burned in the kiln, natural leaves emerged unscathed and integrated into the porcelains.

The post-90s postgraduate student then became enchanted by the intangible cultural heritage.

In the same year, Tu and her friend Yu Huihui took a trip to the ruins of the ancient Jizhou Kiln located in Yonghe township, Ji'an county, Ji'an city of Jiangxi province, trying to learn more about the techniques behind the special leaf cups.

During the trip, they came across Wen Qiu, a post-80s craftsman engaging in making porcelain leaf cups, and learned that the craft was facing gloomy develop-

ment prospects due to unstable output and quality, as well as a lack of marketing channels.

Such marvelous works of art and exquisite craftsmanship deserve to be seen by more people, thought Tu, who decided to make efforts and help promote the intangible cultural heritage.

The main reason why intangible cultural heritage seems far away for ordinary people is that the design of relevant products doesn't suit the market, they thought.

"We hope to innovate designs and then sell the products through e-commerce platforms," Yu said.

They encouraged Wen, who is skilled at developing colors of glaze, to create new types of glaze and helped him select pig-

ments for the new glaze.

Finally, they decided on an ultramarine glaze. Developed from natural lapis lazuli, the glaze is safe and environment-friendly, and will never fade.

To promote porcelain leaf cups made with the new glaze, they helped make the copy for advertisement and learned photography to better present the products in photos.

One week after the new leaf cup was launched on an e-commerce platform, the sales volume of the product reached 200,000, bringing Wen an income of more than what he earned in the previous three years, while attracting more craftsmen who came to seek cooperation.

Innovation has been a never-ending top-

ic for Tu and Yu in reviving the traditional techniques.

They discovered that some locals use leaves from bodhi trees to make leaf cups, which they believed to be of more artistic value compared with mulberry leaves, main materials for craftsmen for over a thousand years.

Their idea of making porcelain leaf cups with leaves of bodhi trees aroused concerns among craftsmen in their team.

Leaves of bodhi trees are thicker than mulberry leaves, which makes the porcelain firing more difficult than it already is, according to craftsmen, who told Yu and Tu that the township where their workshop is located doesn't grow bodhi trees.

People's Daily





Pan Fangjian delivers express packages to a villager, Nov. 18, 2020. File Photo

## China straightens 'last mile' of rural logistics

TO ensure the "last mile" logistics in rural areas is of vital importance for developing rural e-commerce.

Last April, China's first smart logistics express project came into service in Huazhou, Maoming of south China's Guangdong province after 6 years of development.

The project, which transfers and delivers parcels and joins local poverty alleviation efforts, handled over 3,000 express packages in half a month since its operation, up from 8 on the first day. The growth indicated how smooth logistics can drive rural e-commerce.

The smart logistics express project consists of three base stations, a cable way, shuttle robots, a warehouse and delivery system, and a smart central monitor.

Agricultural products loaded on the shuttle robots, such as vegetables, sweet potatoes and pomegranates, can be shipped from village-level base station to the township base station along the cableway, while at the same time, another shuttle robot goes the other way around, carrying express packages received by the township base station to the village.

In the past, villagers had to go to the township to fetch their packages, but thanks to the smart project, today they not only enjoy more convenient logistics services, but find an easier way to ship their agricultural products to the outside.

Once they receive an order on their phones, they can immediately pick the crops and give them to the safe hands of the smart logistics express project, which substantially saves their time and energy. Logistics is of top priority when it comes to the vitalization of rural economy. Rural logistics networks always come with huge size and heavy cargos, but the unit price, cargo quantity, and shipping frequency are low.

Besides, the origins and destinations of the packages are also widely distributed. Out of the consideration for cost, many express companies set agencies only at township level. As a result, express packages were not able to reach villages, and agricultural products of the villages couldn't be sent out, either.

To solve this problem, China's postal service regulator raised a clear requirement in a three-year plan, vowing to cover all administrative villages in the country with express services before the end of 2022.

Based on the smart logistics express

project, Maoming has established a three-tier network that covers counties, townships and villages, by which cargos can be delivered within an hour.

The new transportation system, which is smart and light and is able to deliver cargos in small volumes and large batches, features low investment, fast construction and low occupation of resources.

That's why it can run smoothly in rural areas. In addition, big data, cloud computing and other advanced technologies are also able to make logistics more efficient, so as to make express services more timely, faster, and cheaper.

In the long run, to cover all administrative villages with express services can not only improve the logistics efficiency in rural areas and lower logistics cost, but also promote the in-depth integration between postal services and modern agriculture and rural tourism, so as to contribute to poverty alleviation.

Recently, the general office of the Ministry of Commerce and the general office of the State Post Bureau jointly issued a notice on the promotion of synergistic development of e-commerce and logistics.

The notice proposed to coordinate rural enterprises in e-commerce, postal service, express delivery and transportation sectors, encouraging them to enhance cooperation and improve the three-tier delivery system covering counties, townships and villages.

Though logistics demands are huge in rural areas, the government still needs to enhance guidance and promote scientific development to avoid overlapping efforts.

Market factors are not able to stimulate the willingness of enterprises, which also might lead to unbalanced investment. The leading role of the government, on the one hand, is able to coordinate efforts and form a synergy; on the other hand, it can also strengthen guarantee and bring modern logistics services to remote areas.

To straighten the "last mile" of rural logistics is a prerequisite for realizing poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.

As long as efforts are made to implement policies based on actual conditions, manage matters with science-based principles, and coordinate the whole picture, the rural logistics network will be running efficiently and create a better life for rural people.

People's Daily

## Nearly half of Russians are ready to pay with digital ruble – survey

MOSCOW

ABOUT half of Russians are ready to use the digital ruble for payments and only 15% of respondents do not trust the digital currency, according to a survey carried out by the country's Otkritie Bank.

The survey indicates that the majority of Russians - 53% - are neutral to the Central Bank's idea to make the digital ruble a new means of payment. At the same time, 47% of Russians are ready to use it on a par with other ways of paying for goods and services.

Most supporters of this position live in the Northwestern District (55%). Some 41% of respondents backed this

idea in St. Petersburg and another 42% in the Far East and the Southern Federal District each.

At the same time, 15% of respondents balk at the idea of using the digital ruble. Among the main reasons they name a high risk of fraud, the lack of knowledge of how to use the digital currency and personal distrust, the survey showed.

The residents of St. Petersburg (48%) and the Southern Federal District (45%) are best aware of the digital ruble. In Moscow, 38% of respondents said they knew what the new

digital currency was. The lowest level of awareness is seen in the North Caucasus Federal District and the Volga Federal District where 67% and 66% of respondents, respectively, admitted the lack of knowledge about the digital ruble.

Furthermore, 57% of Russians believe that digital currency will outperform ordinary money in the future. At the same time, 12% of them are sure that this is likely to happen in two or three years, while 45% of respondents say this will be in 10-15 years.

Agencies

## Still separated: COVID-19 order keeps families apart after Biden lifts 'Muslim ban'

LOS ANGELES

ON Tuesday night, on the eve of President Joe Biden's inauguration, Mania Darbani's mother called her from Iran.

She was ecstatic that Biden would soon repeal the Trump administration's so-called "Muslim ban" that barred people from a number of mostly Muslim-majority nations, including Iran, from coming to the United States.

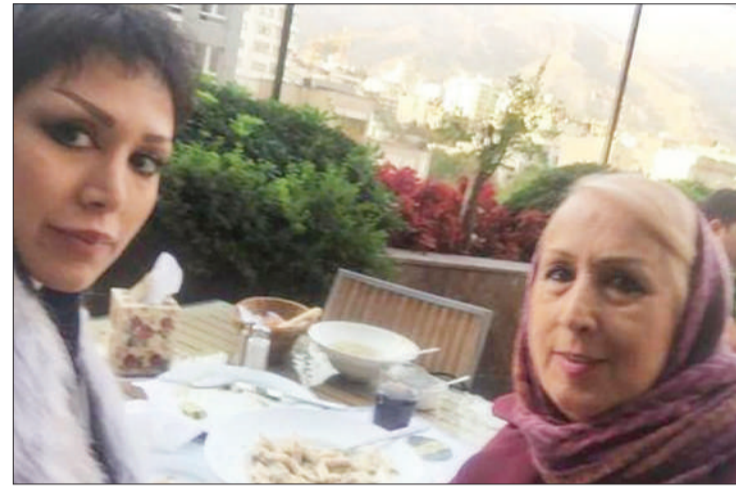
"It means I can get to you very soon," Maryam Taghdissi Jani, who is applying for an immigrant visa, told Darbani, a 36-year-old receptionist who lives with her husband in Los Angeles.

Darbani said she could not bring herself to explain that other roadblocks remained in place before her mother could join her. On top of the original travel ban that kept them apart for years, Trump issued another ban in 2020 that blocked certain immigrant visas because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Darbani, a U.S. citizen, petitioned for an immigrant visa for her mother, a 71-year old nurse, in 2019, but the Trump administration stopped issuing almost all new family-based green cards in April 2020, saying the move would protect American jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden has not yet said whether he will rescind the proclamation, but until he does, Taghdissi Jani will remain in Iran.

"I am very sad right now, I am just waiting for her," Darbani



Mania Darbani and her mother Maryam Taghdissi Jani are seen in a restaurant in Tehran, Iran in this 2017 file photo.

said. "My father passed away and my mom is alone. I need her here."

Since December 2017, after a revised version of the original travel ban was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, some 40,000 people have been barred from entering the United States under the ban, according to State Department data.

But for many families separated by the travel ban a reunion isn't on the cards anytime soon due to layers of pandemic-related travel and visa restrictions.

**'CANT REALLY CELEBRATE YET'**

On Jan. 18, Biden press secretary Jen Psaki said the incoming administration would reject a Trump attempt to lift a restriction on travelers from Europe and Brazil. She added that the Biden administration planned to "strengthen public health measures around international travel."

The Biden administration did not immediately respond to a request for comment about whether he plans to lift the immigration bans.

Curtis Morrison, an immigration attorney representing more than 5,000 people in lawsuits challenging the coronavirus-related immigration bans, has been advising clients for weeks that Biden's rescission of the travel ban will not change the broader freeze on travel. "It's a positive development, but we can't really celebrate yet," he said.

Lameaa Albarmaki, 25, a Yemeni green card holder who immigrated to the United States in 2015 as the war in her country intensified, is waiting to be reunited with her husband.

She lives with her young daughter, parents and four younger siblings in Baltimore. Her daughter, as well as three of her siblings are developmentally disabled, she said, and she needs help. "I need him to just be with me," she said. "That's all I need and I hope."

Agencies

## Bridging education gaps can uplift African women entrepreneurs - UN report

ADDIS ABABA

EDUCATIONAL attainment gaps have limited the success of women-owned businesses in Africa, according to a report newly published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

The "Women's Entrepreneurship Report" studied data from tens of thousands of African entrepreneurs and firms to establish links between education, access to finance and improved productivity.

Increasing women's educational attainment can improve their ability to own a bank account and save for business. Women with secondary education are 51

times more likely to have a bank account and 22 times more likely to save than those with lower attainment," the report said.

The commission revealed, among other things, that "education is a critical factor for productive female entrepreneurship in Africa."

"For instance, women with primary education or less are 27 times more likely to have started a business by necessity than those with higher attainment driven by opportunity," it said.

While Africa leads the world in terms of the number of female entrepreneurs, they largely start a business by necessity, tend to be smaller and face more barriers in securing support and

investment, the report noted. It pointed out that necessity-driven entrepreneurs lack productive and innovative activities which could transform their businesses. In comparison, opportunity-motivated entrepreneurs are more likely to operate in profitable sectors and are expected to add about 17 more jobs in the next five years.

Findings of the report showed a positive link between access to finance and women's business practices and performance. UNECA's Director for Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division Thokozile Ruzvidzo said that "women's entrepreneurship is recognized as the biggest yet underutilized opportunity for sustained economic

## Africa CDC opens COVID-19 vaccines pre-order programme for 55 AU members

ADDIS ABABA

THE Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), has announced the commencement of COVID-19 vaccines pre-order program for all African Union (AU) members.

The move by the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP), on behalf of the Africa CDC, came a week after the announcement by the South African President and African Union (AU) Chairperson, President Cyril Ramaphosa, on January 14 that the AU has secured a provisional 270 million COVID-19 vaccine doses for Africa through its COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT).

"The AMSP, on behalf of the Africa CDC, today commenced the COVID-19 vaccines pre-order programme for all AU members," an Africa CDC statement issued late Tuesday read. The African Export-Import Bank (AfreximBank) will facilitate payments by providing advance procurement commitment guarantees of up to 2 billion U.S. dollars to the manufacturers on behalf of the members.

While AVATT has secured a provisional 270 million COVID-19 vaccine doses from Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson and AstraZeneca, AMSP, the single-source platform enabling faster, more transparent and cost-effective access to COVID-19 supplies, has opened the pre-orders program.

According to the Africa CDC, the initiative offers an equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines doses for the 55 AU members.

"These are historical times. For the first time in history, Africa has secured access to millions of vaccine doses in the middle of a pandemic as most of Western countries," the statement quoted the AU Special Envoy, Strive Masiyiwa, as saying. "There is still a huge shortage of vaccine doses and that is why this continental collaboration has designed a fair allocation coupled with timely and equitable access of COVID-19 vaccines across the continent," Masiyiwa.

President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank, Benedict Oramah, also stressed that the AfreximBank is proud to expand its support to African economies in their bid to contain the pandemic.

Xinhua

## With no self-pardon in hand, private citizen Trump faces uncertain legal future

WASHINGTON

DONALD Trump issued a list of pardons during his final hours as U.S. president but did not include himself, his children, or personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, even though advisers said he had privately debated the extraordinary step of a self-pardon.

Here is how the decision could impact his potential civil and criminal liability as a private citizen:

What may have guided Trump's decision not to pardon himself and members of his inner circle?

Presidential pardons can only accomplish so much. They can shut down prosecutions by the U.S. Department

of Justice, a federal agency. But investigations brought by state-level prosecutors, such as the criminal probe Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance is leading into whether Trump's businesses engaged in fraud, would still be active.

Vance has not charged anyone with criminal wrongdoing and Trump has said the investigation is politically motivated.

A self-pardon would have only increased calls to prosecute Trump on a state level, said Daniel R. Alonso, a lawyer at the Buckley firm and Vance's former deputy in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

It could also have fueled efforts to hold Trump account-

able through civil lawsuits brought by private litigants, such as family members of people who died during the Jan. 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol by Trump followers, said Jessica Levinson, a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

Before the attack, as lawmakers were certifying Democrat Joe Biden's Nov. 3 election victory, Republican Trump took to a stage near the White House and exhorted a crowd of supporters repeatedly to "fight" - using the word more than 20 times - and "not take it any longer." He also called on his followers to march on the Capitol, the seat of government.

"With a pardon comes at

least the veneer of an admission of guilty," said Levinson. "In a way, I think pardoning himself and his family is almost like a taunt. It would have said 'try to come and get me,' and would have accelerated litigation and investigation."

There is also considerable doubt among scholars about whether a self-pardon would hold up in court. Many experts said it violates the basic principle that no person should be the judge in his or her own case.

Self-serving pardons might also have drawn the ire of Republicans in the U.S. Senate, who will soon have a trial to determine whether Trump's Jan. 6 speech was incitement,

the charge in his impeachment by the House of Representatives.

The trial could result in Trump being disqualified from future office.

Would a pardon for Giuliani have helped Trump?

The answer is likely yes, though hard to speculate, legal experts said.

Giuliani had dealings with Ukrainians on Trump's behalf when he was trying to dig up dirt on Biden and his son Hunter Biden. Trump's efforts led to his first impeachment by the House in December 2019 and the Republican-majority Senate acquitted him in February 2020.

In November 2019, federal prosecutors in New York

sought records of payments to Giuliani as part of an active criminal investigation, according to a grand jury subpoena seen by Reuters.

Prosecutors were investigating money laundering, wire fraud, campaign finance violations, making false statements, obstruction of justice, and violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, according to the subpoena.

Giuliani has denied any wrongdoing.

The scope and status of the investigation is unclear, and Giuliani has not been charged with wrongdoing. It is also unclear if he knows anything about Trump that would be valuable to prosecutors.

But not receiving a pardon

makes it more likely that Giuliani would cooperate with prosecutors and implicate Trump if charged, said Jessica Roth, a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and a former federal prosecutor.

"Without the possibility of a pardon, the prospect of a conviction and potential prison sentence becomes more real, providing an incentive to cooperate to receive more favorable treatment," Roth said.

Trump may have decided against pardoning Giuliani because he lost a series of lawsuits brought on behalf of Trump attempting to invalidate Biden as the election winner, Levinson said.

Agencies



# SPORT



Mbeya Kwanza FC

## Mbeya Kwanza FC in pursuit of promotion to VPL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MBEYA Kwanza FC's officials have said they are satisfied with the results the side got in this season's First Division League (FDL) first phase.

The club stated it is now focusing more on the league's second phase to ensure they achieve their goals of playing in the Premier League.

The side, which is participating in the FDL for the fourth time, had an impressive spell last season, despite finishing fourth, and it is now struggling to win promotion to the top flight and play against, among others, domestic soccer big guns, Simba SC and Yanga.

By the end of the FDL first phase, Mbeya Kwanza FC had collected 20 points and remained in second place in Group A, staying level with the group leaders, African Sports, on points.

Mbeya Kwanza FC's chairman, Mohamed Mashango, said the results of the club's games in the first phase were not bad as, in nine matches, they have won six, drawn two and lost one.

He said the team's officials have now made sure they have registered players according to a report presented by their coach, Steven Matata.

The officials, according to him, are optimistic they will help the side excel in the FDL's second phase and win promotion to the Premier League.

"The first phase's results were good and now we have made significant improvements by registering talented and experienced players according to the recommendations of the technical bench," he stated.

Mashango mentioned the signings they made in the mini transfer window as John Kabanda, Juma Seif 'Kijiko', Soud Mlindwa, Jessy Joseph, Isack Steven, Ramadhan Omary and Suleiman Aziz.

"We have also left five, Habad Kawambwa,

Mwanya Hamad, Emmanuel Mwakajinga, Abdilahi Said and Aden Chepa, we believe we will achieve our goals this season" he disclosed.

And a total of six FDL teams have been seen wanting to challenge Simba SC and Yanga in the Federation Cup tournament after qualifying for the showpiece's round of 32.

Last season, FDL outfit, Tanga's Sahare All Stars, had a fairy-tale run in the tournament, making it to the semi-finals tournament despite not performing well in the league and finding themselves relegated to the Second Division League (SDL).

Clubs which have progressed to this season's Federation Cup's round of 32 are Mbao FC, African Lyon, Rhino Rangers, Transit Camp FC, Ken Gold and Arusha FC.

They are awaiting a schedule to know the opponents they will take on in the stage.

Simba are currently the Federation Cup's defending champions, they booked a place in the round of 32 with an emphatic 5-0 victory over Majimaji FC.

Simba's age-old rivals, Yanga, sailed through to the round of 32 without kicking a ball, because their previous round's opponents, Singida United, were relegated to Regional Champions League.

Mbao FC's head coach, Ammy Ninje, said his team does not either choose or discriminate against any type of competition they face due to their plans.

"We are preparing for all matches no matter what league, that's why we were able to travel and fight for victory, we are waiting for the schedule to know who we are meeting and we are ready," he noted.

Rhino Rangers' head coach Dani Mwangombe said every match for them is a three-point battle and they are not afraid of anything and they are determined to seek victory in a match against every team they face.

"Even though we want to win the competition so we can represent the country internationally, we continue to weave the team to make sure we do well in our competition, we will not give up," he said.

## Yanga set to assemble for VPL preparations next week

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA are set to assemble for training on Monday to prepare for the Vodacom Premier League (VPL)'s second phase and this season's Azam Sports Federation Cup tournament.

Acting Yanga secretary general, Haji Mfikirwa, said all players, including those registered during the mini transfer window, namely Dickson Job and Fiston Abdul-Razak, would report to the camp, to be held in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam.

Commenting on the break the outfit's players were given, Yanga's manager Hafidh Saleh said: "After a lot of work we put to win this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition, head coach Cedric Kaze has given all players a break to go and reunite with their families until January 25, when they are expected back to camp."

He stated: "The coach has decided to give the players a brief holiday without any training program to give them enough time to rest after the hard work they have put in the league and the Mapinduzi Cup competition."

"We hope to start camp on January 25, it will be on Monday next week, all players, who took part

in Mapinduzi Cup tournament in Zanzibar, along with those we registered during the mini transfer window, will assemble to begin preparations."

"We believe that by the time they stay in camp until the league resumes, they will have received something from coach Cedric Kaze and his colleagues, who make up the technical bench."

Saleh stated after returning from Zanzibar, Yanga's head coach, Kaze, gave his players a 10-day break, which will end on January 25.

Kaze chose to give them a complete rest without any training program so that the players can have time to stay with their families before returning to camp on January 25.

Yanga had on January 13 this year ended a trophy drought by winning this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament, registering a 4-3 win over Simba in penalty shootout of the showpiece's final.

Yanga currently top the Vodacom Premier League's standing with 44 points after playing 18 games, they have not lost a game so far.

The top flight's leaders have won 13 games, drawing five games and remain the only team boasting of unbeaten spell in the league.

## SPORTS

## Sponsors still optimistic of Taifa Stars' progress in CHAN

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA'S national soccer team "Taifa Stars" main sponsors, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), via Serengeti Premium Lager brand, remain optimistic about the team's ability to progress to the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN)'s knockout stage, despite losing to Zambia in a Group D clash.

Taifa Stars succumbed to a 2-0 loss to Zambia in the opener played at the Limbe Omnisport Stadium in Cameroon on Tuesday.

The biennial tournament is the sixth edition of the African Nations Championship, exclusively for players based in their home nations.

It is scheduled to take place from January 16 to February 17.

The tournament features 16-teams consisting of four groups of four.

Two teams from each group will advance to the knockout stage, before quarterfinals, semi-finals and the final.

Morocco, who hosted the fifth edition of the competition in 2018, are the showpiece's current defending champions.

Despite the Tanzania team's first loss, Anitha Msangi, Serengeti Premium Lager brand's Head, stated: "SBL has continuous faith and confidence in the national team to fight back and qualify."

"We encourage players and supporters to take a leap of faith and look forward to the next game with optimism." "We are delighted to see a younger and energetic generation of players take part in this tournament—they have the bravery and winning mentality to uplift our nation in this competition's next games."

Anitha added: "We are steadfast with the team's head coach Etienne Ndayiragije and the team's preparations towards this tournament."

"We bared witness to this a few days ago after our encounter in an international friendly match against the Democratic Republic of Congo and drew 1-1 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium."

Anitha urged Tanzanians to continue supporting the national team adding that Serengeti Premium Lager, the main



Taifa Stars' midfielder, Lucas Kikoti (2nd L), fights for the ball with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) team's defender, Inonga Baka, during their international friendly match held recently at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. Both teams were preparing for 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

sponsor and Taifa Stars' number one fan, will always be behind the team.

Taifa Stars are yet to play two matches in Group D. The second match will see the side lock horns with Namibia tomorrow, the Tanzania side will complete the round robin with a date against Guinea next week.

The firm came a long way to support the sports sector in Tanzania, with football being second-to-none.

One of SBL's historical support for Taifa Stars is a first three-year deal worth 2.1bn/- in 2017 and the firm renewed another three-year deal worth 3bn/- in 2020 signed with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The deals were essential in the sports industry and the nation's social-economic development.

Furthermore, the support invigorated local football, a game hold so dear by many in the country.

Consequently, in 2019 Taifa Stars qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) held in Egypt, for the second

time since 1980.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, once disclosed how SBL sponsorship supported their strategic plans.

He pointed out: "With the sponsorship, our team and management have had less strain. As a result, the players and the technical bench can concentrate on their assignments, enabling us to achieve exemplary performance in most of our fixtures."

Other significant SBL commitments were made in 2018 when TFF received sponsorship package worth 450m/- from Serengeti Premium Lager to sponsor the Serengeti Women's Premier League.

The deal gave rise to modest and competitive women teams in the country such as the Women's Premier League's former champions Mlandizi Queens and JKT Queens.

Other prominent participants in the Women's Premier League are Alliance Girls, Simba Queens, Yanga Princesses and many more.

## Namungo FC striker set to miss VPL action for three months

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League's Namungo FC has suffered a blow after the outfit's striker, Bigirimana Blaise, broke a leg and he will, therefore, be out of action for three months.

The team's doctor, Gabriel Kasonde, said Bigirimana (pictured) was injured in the semi-final match of this year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament against Simba, which ended with Simba recording a 2-1 victory.

He noted: "After the problem, we rushed him to the hospital and bandaged him as a first aid, we took him to Muhimbili Hospital and he was bandaged hard."

"The initial stage is he will be out for three weeks and then he can stay out for three months and then he will slowly start to return to the field," he disclosed.

So far the Burundian striker is the top scorer in the squad having scored four of the 14 Premier League games the club has played.

But, Reliants Lusajo, who has served Namungo for two seasons since the team's participation in First Division League (FDL), has returned to the club from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

After last season ended with him being the top scorer for Namungo FC, he left them and landed at KMC FC.

Lusajo sealed a one-year contract with KMC FC, but two weeks ago the outfit's management suspended him.

"We have brought the player home. Lusajo is at Namungo FC now on a two-year contract after buying the KMC FC contract out," Namungo FC's secretary general, Ali Selemani, noted.

Walter Harrison, KMC FC's manager, explained that they had decided to part ways with the player due to a good offer from Namungo FC and they, therefore, did not see any reason to retain the player.

Bigirimana will miss the two home and away games of this season's CAF Confederation Cup tournament's play off against Angola's Clube Desportivo 1º de Agosto, which will be played next month.

Namungo FC will play away to the Angolan squad in Angola on February 14, before concluding the second leg at home in Tanzania on February 21.

The overall winners of the two games will advance to the group stage of the tournament.





## Contract stress, loss of form: What's going on with Mbappe at PSG?

By Julien Laurens, ESPN Correspondent

WE have not exactly heard how he felt on Saturday night because Kylian Mbappe didn't speak after PSG's 1-0 win at Angers on Saturday. He didn't even post on social media, though he didn't need to; PSG fans could tell he was clearly unhappy on the bench.

Was it because he was subbed off in the 79th minute by Jesus Perez, Mauricio Pochettino's assistant, who took charge of the team because the manager tested positive for COVID-19? Was it because 2021 has been a pretty rotten year for him so far, even by his own lofty standards? Was it for both these reasons, or something else?

Mbappe has not been playing like Mbappe for a while now. In his last 13 games in all competitions, he has scored five goals, including just two in his last eight appearances. Before this mini-slump, he got visibly frustrated with the focus on his goal "drought" in the Champions League, sources told ESPN. Until the final game of the group stage at the Parc des Princes against Istanbul Basaksehir in December, where he got a brace in a 5-1 victory, he hadn't found the back of the net in the competition in all of 2020.

The truth is that the French prodigy, still only 22, has been disappointing since football returned in France last year after the coronavirus led to the premature end of the 2019-20 Ligue 1 season. His stats in 2020-21 campaign are certainly lower than in previous seasons, though not in terms of goals or assists; with 12 (including 4 penalties) and 4 in 12 starts (16 appearances in total), he is doing pretty well. It's more in the content of his performances that there is a problem, as his contributions to PSG's attacking play are down quite significantly for a player of his calibre and talent.

Mbappe's non-penalty expected goals per game (excluding penalties) and expected assists per game are lower (1.45 last season, compared to 0.86 this season, in all competitions). He shoots less often (down 1.2 shots per game in 2020-21) and less often on target (by almost 1 full shot), and he loses the ball more than last year despite still having the same percentage of successful dribbles (around 50%).

In recent games against Saint-Etienne, Marseille and Angers, when Neymar was not in the starting XI, Mbappe seemingly struggled to be the main guy. He tried

too hard on his own to make things happen and lost the ball repeatedly. He only succeeded in 25% of his dribbles against Angers, and didn't carry once the ball in the opposition's penalty box! It's so unusual to see from a player from whom we're used to seeing impact and productivity around goal.

Despite having abundant talent around him, Mbappe's main flaw is arguably that he tends to try to do everything on his own, often via individual runs in possession, which are not working at the moment. Not having Neymar next to him every week, due to the Brazilian's myriad absences and injuries, has made things difficult too, as Mbappe has a strong rapport with the PSG's No. 10 and is maybe a bit lost when Ney is not there.

The fact that the Frenchman has struggled to be fully fit for most of the season has also been a problem. Despite being so young, the 2018 World Cup champion has played an enormous amount of games since he was 17.

The numbers are staggering: 202 matches (155 starts), 14,116 minutes played at club level along with 37 caps and 2,533 minutes for France. That's an incredible 16,649 minutes of football at just 22, and with a style of play based on speed and energy. Mbappe is such an explosive player, both on and off the ball, that he needs to be 100% in order to realise his potential, and such momentum has been hard to find. There have been injuries, the break due to the pandemic, him testing positive for COVID-19 as well.

Because PSG were still in the Champions League, Mbappe and his teammates never actually properly stopped. He always felt like he never stopped playing between last season and this current one, like he told the club's website back in September. "I don't feel that we have played our 9th game of the season but our 69th! Usually after playing a Champions League final, you have a proper break, you forget about football. We didn't. We never stopped and it is hard to deal with it, mentally and physically" he said.

There are some off-field issues impacting his performances on the pitch, but arguably the biggest source of stress right now is his contract situation.

On Tuesday in an interview with France Football, Leonardo, PSG's sporting director, mentioned again the negotiations with his No. 7, whose contract expires in June 2022, the same timeline as Neymar's existing deal.

## Defenders turn scorers as Cameroon, Mali edge nearer last eight

YAOUNDE

CAMEROONIAN Salomon Banga set a trend of defenders scoring Wednesday as his country and Mali moved closer to the African Nations Championship (CHAN) quarter-finals, Burkina Faso remained in contention and Zimbabwe were eliminated.

In a dramatic start to the top-of-the-table Group A clash in Yaounde centre-back Banga put hosts Cameroon ahead and Mali right-back Issaka Samake levelled with only 12 minutes gone.

There were no further goals and the 1-1 draw left both Cameroon and Mali with four points and needing only one more each to reach the last eight of a tournament reserved for home-based footballers.

Burkina Faso outplayed Zimbabwe 3-1 in the second match of a double-header at the Stade Ahmadou Ahidjo in the Cameroonian administrative capital with two more defenders netting.

Left-back Issouf Sosso put the Burkinabe ahead and substitute right-back Issiaka Ouedraogo completed the scoring midway through the second half.

There have been 15 goals in the first 10 CHAN group matches with defenders bagging six, midfielders five and forwards just four.

Partson Jaure equalised for Zimbabwe before half-time and another midfielder, Claver Kiendrebeogo,

put Burkina Faso ahead a second time eight minutes into the second half.

Victory lifted the Burkinabe to three points ahead of a final group match against Cameroon on Sunday while only pride will be at stake for pointless Zimbabwe when they face Mali.

It was the first victory in eight CHAN matches for Burkina Faso since they debuted in 2014, and they must secure maximum points again, against the host nation, to reach the quarter-finals.

A lively clash between Cameroon and Mali would have produced more than two goals but for excellent goalkeeping from Haschou Kerido and Mali captain Djigui Diarra.

Banga headed Cameroon in front on six minutes with his second goal of the tournament and Samake scored direct from a free-kick.

Sosso scored the best goal in the other match, slamming a weak clearance through a crowd of players and into the net on 14 minutes.

The 16-team Nations Championship kicked off four days ago after being postponed twice last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

When original hosts Ethiopia fell behind with preparations, the tournament was moved to Cameroon, where the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) will be staged next January and February on dates to be announced.

AFP

# Chelsea's issues go beyond Lampard: Why they aren't giving up on him yet

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

THERE'S a familiar ritual whenever Chelsea struggle in midseason -- and make no mistake about it, seven points out of a possible 24 in their past eight Premier League outings is a massive tailspin -- and it centres around an impatient Roman Abramovich, surrounded by a virtual (possibly Zoom or, more likely, Telegram-based) court of agents, advisers and friends-of-friends, worthy of "Game of Thrones," pushing potential replacements and the urgency of change.

It feels like a plausible trope because Chelsea (not counting Steve Holland or Ray Wilkins and their one-and-done stints) have made 13 managerial changes since Roman Abramovich acquired the club in 2003. That's more than Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal combined. Throw in the fact that Chelsea find themselves in this position (eighth in the table) after finishing fourth last season and engaging on a summer transfer spree that resulted, according to Transfermarkt, in a net spend of £170.9m. Again, that's more than Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal combined.

And so, the questions are inevitable. How safe is Frank Lampard's job? Who are Chelsea lining up to replace him? How soon before Lampard leaves?

Indications coming out of the club are that all this is premature. Nobody is guaranteed a job in perpetuity, but there are plenty of things Lampard has done well in his 18 months in charge, and the intent is to give him every chance to succeed. This basically means he'll stick around unless things deteriorate further, or Chelsea suddenly come to believe that a top-four finish is in serious peril and somebody else is capable of coming in right now to give them a better shot at next season's Champions League.

Are these empty words? Maybe, but a closer look at both Chelsea's past and present suggests they might be telling the truth. And there are plenty of clues to why that might be the case.

First and foremost is that the manager-changing Abramovich persona is a bit of an exaggeration, particularly in recent seasons. Yes, Lampard is their seventh manager since they won the Champions League in 2012, but two of the six (Rafa Benitez and Guus Hiddink) were interim bosses on short-term contracts. Roberto Di Matteo was, himself, an interim boss who became a permanent boss by virtue of winning the European Cup, but he was never seen as a long-term solution.

While it's true that he might have been fired anyway, Maurizio Sarri actually left to take charge of Juventus. Jose Mourinho's return ended with the club one point above the relegation zone: not exactly a knee-jerk sacking. Finally, Antonio Conte stuck around until the end of his second season even as his relationship with the club rapidly, and severely, deteriorated.

A more significant factor is that Chelsea made a huge call this past summer, one that cut against conventional wisdom and the actions of virtually every other big club: they doubled down and spent big on new players during a pandemic, at a time when they knew revenue was going to be severely affected (indeed, it has been) and without knowing for how long. Matchday income went down to zero, media revenue declined as broadcasters asked for (and obtained) rebates, while commercial partners began scaling back.

Chelsea's decision to sign players during the pandemic and bring in Timo Werner, Edouard Mendy, Malang Sarr, Ben Chilwell and Kai Havertz (plus Hakim Ziyech, whose deal had been agreed



Frank Lampard

before we knew what COVID-19 was, and Thiago Silva, who arrived on a free transfer, but with a hefty salary) might have been counterintuitive, but from a certain perspective, it made sense. They were accumulating assets at a time when the competition was, broadly, scaling back -- assets that would appreciate in value if they played well and, because they are young, retain value if they struggled.

The problem is that the pandemic worked both ways.

It might have been somewhat cheaper to buy, but it also became very difficult to sell or even loan players on the sort of salaries Chelsea players have. No fewer than 11 since-departed players -- and their wages -- were still at Stamford Bridge, waiting to find out what their future might hold when the season began. Some, like Ross Barkley and Ruben Loftus-Cheek, featured at the start of the campaign. Lampard, already with a very limited pre-season and few friendlies to work with, had to deal with a bloated squad, which only made it more difficult to work. Throw in injuries to some key players (Ziyech, Christian Pulisic) as well as the late arrival of Havertz, and there simply wasn't time to make the sort of decisions and experiments that would ordinarily be made in pre-season.

The club are very clear on this, just as they're clear on the fact that adding six starters (or, at least, guys with "starter" price tags) into an XI is going to be far from straightforward, which is why there's plenty of merit to the argument that Lampard needs time to be fully assessed. Equally though, there's no question that mistakes were made, from the changing cast of characters in midfield and out wide, to playing Timo Werner as a lone striker, and even to the bumpy relationship with Antonio Rudiger earlier this year.

The fact that Lampard has corrected course and opted for a different approach is seen by some at the club as encouraging and a sign of intelligence. But sooner rather than later, you have to get it right and deliver results.

Another factor in Lampard's favour is that while this is a big and deep squad, it has a glaring weakness. It's not lost on anyone that Chelsea have just one specialist defensive midfielder, N'Golo Kante, and he rarely plays like a pure holding midfielder of the sort who sits in front of the back four. Chelsea were linked with Declan Rice for most of the summer and to many observers, it made sense. Twenty-two years old, three years of Premier League experience under his belt, eight seasons in Chelsea's youth academy before being released and Mason Mount's pal ... what's not to like?

Except that deal never happened, and while Rice

might not be the second coming of Claude Makelele that some Chelsea fans think, there is no question he would have made this a more balanced side in the middle of the park, offering more protection to the back line and a platform for the front players. We don't know why it didn't happen; we do know it was talked about all summer, and we can speculate that the £80 million price tag West Ham placed on his services had something to do with it.

In normal circumstances, players like Barkley, Loftus-Cheek and perhaps Jorginho might have been sold to raise the needed funds, but the pandemic football economy isn't normal circumstances. And that raises the question: what if Chelsea had spent the Havertz money (£72 million plus bonuses) on Rice instead? Was it ever an "either/or" situation? And if it was, what would Lampard have wanted?

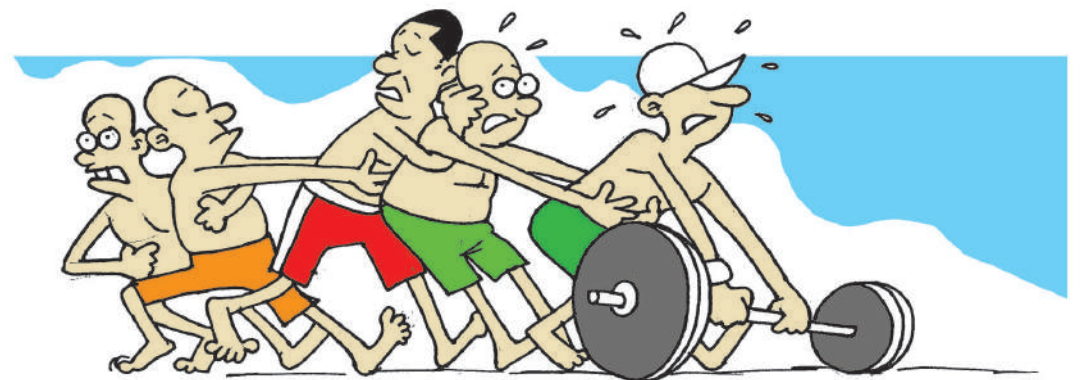
There's no question that Havertz is, potentially, a generational talent, but equally, there's no question he's a very young player with a huge price tag needing to adapt to a new league without the benefit of pre-season. Not only that, but there's still no consensus as to what his natural position is, which is why Lampard has used him in at least four different roles. In each of those roles, Chelsea already had far more depth than in the role Rice would have filled.

There's also no question Havertz hasn't lived up to his price tag or his salary: he hasn't played a full 90 minutes of league football since mid-October. He might yet blossom, of course, but his signing in many ways is emblematic of the perpetual tension between club -- who thinks long-term -- and manager, who, necessarily, thinks about his job and achieving results this season.

Finger-pointing over signings and who wanted whom is futile and destructive, and Chelsea are keen to avoid this. It was a joint decision made by Lampard, Director of Football Petr Cech, head of international scouting Scott McLachlan and others. Fine. But those in the room know who was driving the discussion and they know why and how they didn't sign Rice or a player similar to Rice. Presumably, so too does Abramovich.

Last season's achievements, coupled with the three factors above, are what will keep the manager in his job, provided that results start to improve. Lampard is far from blameless, and he'd be the first to admit it. If anything, it would be odd if a guy with two seasons of managerial experience wasn't making mistakes. But in addition to the usual mitigating circumstances, there are others that apply here including some, like Rice, that might be just below the surface.

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Chelsea's issues go beyond Lampard:  
Why they aren't giving up on him yet**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Upanga Sports Club cricketers in a group picture after taking on Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup tournament's clash, which took place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's oval early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

## Ulega calls for basketball promotion in schools

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DEPUTY Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega, graced CRDB Bank's 50m/- financial sponsorship for the best young basketball players who sparkled in the recently held national tournament 'Taifa Cup'.

The bank promised to offer the sponsorship in a bid to acknowledge and promote the game among youths in the country.

One of the largest banks in the country, CRDB, picked 26 best players during the Taifa Cup competition held in Dodoma in November, 2020.

Gracing the ceremony, which took place this week, Ulega commended CRDB's support in its endeavour to upgrade sports, especially basketball, in the country.

The Deputy Minister said both public and private stakeholders should make efforts to improve the sports industry and set sustainable strategies to promote basketball talent from the grassroots level.

He noted: "Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) should put in place sustainable strategies to promote basketball talent from the grassroots level."

"But let us also establish and develop basketball academy schools. We as the Ministry, are fully prepared to work with you (TBF and other stakeholders) to achieve the goal," he stated.

Tully Mwambapa, CRDB Bank's Director of Communications, said the scholarship for players is a continuation of the bank's efforts to empower youths through sports.

"In recognition of this, the bank through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Policy considered it appropriate to include education and sports," she said.

The institution, through its CSI Policy, has been investing in youth sports believing that it will assist to increase their participation in various development activities in the community.

The bank said it was led to sponsor basketballers since the game was given less priority compared to other sports, thus discouraging many youngsters, despite their talents, to participate in the game.

"After a long process of assessing the potential shown by youths, as well as monitoring their academic information, we have successfully arrived at the conclusion that the 26 players met the committee's criteria set for scholarship opportunities for 2020/2021," she disclosed.

The TBF president, Phares Magega, thanked CRDB for continuing to invest in basketball, saying that the scholarship will go a long way in encouraging more young people to participate in the sport.

The CRDB Bank Taifa Cup tournament with the slogan 'It's More Than a Game, It's Life', was launched on October 7 last year and was held with great success at Chinangali courts in Dodoma from November 12-21 last year.

## Premier League restart date now revealed, two foreign pros confirmed by Simba SC



Kilimanjaro's Polisi Tanzania's midfielder, Abdul-Aziz Makame (L), battles for possession with Azam FC striker, Ayoub Lyanga, when the squads locked horns in a Vodacom Premier League's clash, which took place at the former's venue on December 31, 2020. Azam FC won 1-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Vodacom Premier League will resume on February 13 after five weeks of inactivity.

The development was confirmed by the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) on Thursday.

The league was adjourned to pave way for the senior national team, Taifa Stars, to prepare and participate in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) and also allow Simba SC, Yanga, Azam FC, Mtibwa Sugar and Namungo FC take part in the 2021 Mapinduzi Cup competition in Zanzibar.

The CHAN tournament which was initially set to be held in April 2020 but was postponed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic started on January 16 and will end on February 7.

It is Africa's major football event since the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus disease.

"Tanzania Premier League Board has informed all teams taking part in the 2020/21 Mainland Tanzania Pre-

mier League that the top-tier will resume on February 13," read the statement issued by the TPLB.

The remaining fixtures from the last round of matches, which were postponed due to Simba and Namungo FC's continental engagement in CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup, will take place from February 4 before clubs play the 19th round of matches.

Yanga, who are the only remaining unbeaten side, are out in front-nine points ahead of second placed Simba.

Yanga have won 13 of their 18 games as they look to end their three-year title drought.

The defending champions, Simba, can however close the gap if they win their three games in hand.

They have won 11 of their opening 15 games while also losing two in the process to claim 35 points.

Azam, who started the season impressively before fading out, are placed third on 32 points with one game in hand.

At the bottom, Mwadui FC, Ihefu FC, Mbeya City FC and JKT Tanzania are in the direct relegation spots, while Namungo FC and Gwambina FC are battling for survival in the relegation playoffs spots.

In another development, Simba have constantly been linked to various players but, according to the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s registration report for the just ended mini transfer window, Zimbabwean striker Perfect Chikwende from FC Platinum and Democratic Republic of Congo midfielder, Doxa Gikanji (DC Motema Pembe, DRC) are the only confirmed signings.

The two signings increased the number of foreign players at Simba to 12.

Clubs are allowed to sign a maximum of 10 foreigners for the domestic competition leaving Simba fans guessing which two will be dropped as the club is yet to make an official announcement on the development.

## Upanga Sports Club edges DCC in DC Gymkhana Cup cricket tourney

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM's cricket giants, Upanga Sports Club, has made its plan to make successful comeback in domestic cricket known, posting a seven-run victory over Dar Cricket Club (DCC) in this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Gymkhana Cup tournament's duel, which took place in the city recently. The duels eventual winners raced to 120 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 20 overs after having been presented with a chance to start batting.

Openers, skipper Kishen Kamania and Vikram Rathore, made their experience count given they saw to it their team take control of the innings.

Rathore was the squad's top run getter, ending with 52 runs which included five boundaries. Kamania as well put good knocks to show, notching 29 runs which consisted of two fours.

There was though not much to write home about thereafter, based on the performance of the rest of the outfit's batsmen, with Dhyye Shah chipping in with 12 runs. Veteran batsman Vi-rendra Kamania could only post seven runs which included a four. Abdulwahid Mohamed and Hozefa Hussein were the DCC bowlers with most wickets, given they recorded three wickets apiece. Mohamed gave away 18 runs in his four-over spell and Hussein gave away 13 runs in four overs.

Much as DCC chased their opponents' score zealously, the latter's experience ultimately helped them prevail.

In response, DCC notched 113 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

Assad Aziz and Hussein were ultimately the players that had meaningful contribution in an unsuccessful chase.

Aziz was the top run getter, ending with 25 runs which included two fours, Hussein notched 18 runs not out, cracking a four. The DCC skipper, Adil Kassam, who in the past played for Upanga Sports Club, would have wanted to get the better of his former club, sadly, his efforts ended in vain.

Meet Jetha and Mitul Jethalal ended with 10 runs apiece. Kassam's efforts to make his presence felt hit snag, given he could only post nine runs, cracking a four. Vaibhav Patel, Dhyye Shah and Rathore saw to it Upanga Sports Club successfully foils DCC's chase, putting scintillating bowling showing.

Shah ended with most wickets, in which he posted three and gave away 16 runs in his four-over spell, Patel and Rathore had two wickets apiece.

Cricket outfits from across Dar es Salaam are participating in this year's DC Gymkhana Cup tournament, powered by Makita.

EATV

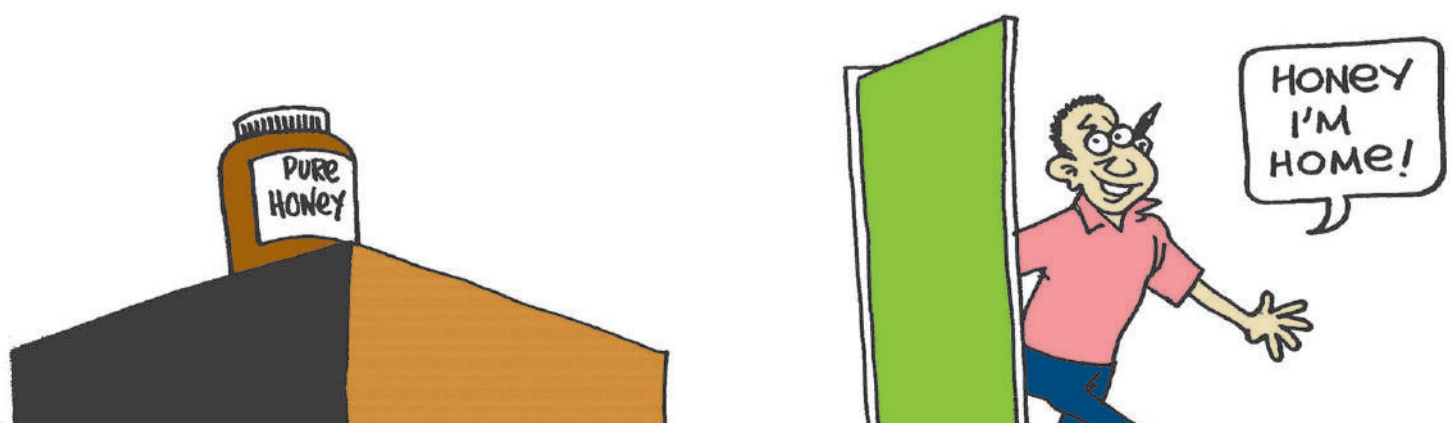
FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live