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## EAC nations called on to improve ease of doing business

By Guardian Reporter

PARTNER states in the East African Community (EAC) have been urged to harmonize their tax regimes to improve ease of doing business and lure more investors in the region.

EAC member states like Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda are ranked in the top seven in the 'Where to Invest in Africa' 2019 report of the Rand Merchant Bank (RMB).

East African Business Council (EABC) chief executive officer, Dr Peter Mathuki made the remarks in an address to the virtual conference on 'Trade and Investment Opportunities in East Africa beyond Covid-19' which attracted investment promotion authorities, senior government officials, industry champions, development partners and investors from across the region.

The EAC has a market of more than 177.2 million people with the six partner states having a combined GDP of about US \$200 billion.

"EAC partner states should continue creating a favorable business environment in the region," he said, urging that Ethiopia be drawn to the bloc along with the

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# Ministers, deputies hit office ground running

By Guardian Reporter

WITHIN a day of taking oath of office, the newly appointed ministers and their deputies have hit the ground running, directing departmental staff to work harder than earlier to keep with the fifth phase government's pace.

Some ministers met senior staff immediately after being sworn in by President John Magufuli at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma on Wednesday.

During the event, President Magufuli told the ministers that they had an uphill task to accomplish promises given by the ruling party during the election campaigns, and that all the promises made were now falling on their shoulders, insisting that there was no time to waste after being sworn-in.

Dr Dorothy Gwajima, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children held a meeting with the heads of departments, insisting on no more business as usual as the Head of State wants them to

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa bids farewell to Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (L, foreground) and other leaders shortly opening the Tanzania Scouts general meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

## TANAPA reels from new elephant poaching wave

### ● Rumours on medicinal qualities see residents aiding poachers, says Tanapa

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

ELEPHANT liver and fat are being touted as cure for liver cancer, cervical cancer and ulcers, which fuels a renewed poaching drive, the government has observed, qualifying the curative claims as baseless.

Dr Allan Kijazi, the Commissioner for Conservation with the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) and Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Tourism, has expressed concern on the new wave of elephant poaching on the basis of the new alternative medicine rumours.

He made the observation when opening a two-day meeting for editors and senior journalists from different media outlets, intended for familiarization and discussion of TANAPA's strategies to implement the 2020/2025 CCM election manifesto on tourism and

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## Dar's meeting meant to find end to hitches in trade a flop

### ● RC wants better reports from government agencies

By Henry Mwangonde

A MEETING to discuss and find solutions to challenges affecting businesses in the city was yesterday cancelled after Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Abubakar Kunenge sharply objected to presentations from government institutions.

The meeting was organized by the RC's office and brought together officials of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and various agencies, to look for solutions to implement ease of doing business in the region.

The RC accused government institutions and agencies mandated for the task of promoting business and investment of poor presentations, saying their reports do not provide suggestions on what needs to be done to ensure smooth business operations, especially in the country's main commercial hub.

"Your reports do not provide answers to complaints raised by the private sector," said the RC shortly after listening to presentations by Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) officials and those of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

The RC, in an angry mood stood up and cancelled the meeting saying there was nothing in the presentations that had answers to complaints raised by the private sector.

"It is time we focus on being more serious and open if we are to succeed. I have learnt that we have serious problems on both sides of the government and the private sector itself; we need to come up with solutions on the outlined challenges," Kunenge told journalists outside the Julius Nyerere Convention

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi receives an NMB Bank Plc ATM card from the bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna (L), shortly after official talks at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House



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Jenga Afya Tokomeza Umasikini (JATU) company marketing officer Winfrid Winfrid (L) pictured yesterday briefing Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla (R), who was on a tour of an ongoing exhibition of Tanzanian industrial products in Dar es Salaam. Others include Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (2nd-R) and Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) director general Edwin Rutageruka (3rd-L). Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Dar's meeting meant to find end to hitches in trade a flop

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Centre (JNICC) where the meeting was briefly held.

The private sector had earlier listed down a number of issues as challenges which were affecting businesses in the city, where among others they lamented high charges from the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), charging 2.5 percent of the value of the product, shifting from charging US \$2 to \$5 for a consignment that was the case earlier.

Other complaints by the private sector include the slow flow of information whenever there is change in policy to be taken into account by technocrats in regions and districts. They cited an example of the blueprint which has erased a series of nuisance levies and taxes but they are still charged in some regions.

"Investors are required

to contribute to electricity connection fees which are not in their budgets, thus substantially increasing the cost of investments," said Kennedy Rweyumbiza of TPSF.

The issue of VAT refunds also emerged during the meeting, along with the withholding tax on rented facilities, with the private sector saying there is recklessness in enforcing the law as the law needs the owner to pay rather than the user.

City service levy is being overcharged despite the law indicating its maximum rate, they said.

Wilson Malosha, the Director of Trade in the ministry who represented the permanent secretary, said the ministry is determined to implement the business blueprint which reviews the legal framework, regulatory reform as well as taxation.

## Over 30 Tanzanians to study in Hungary

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 30 Tanzanians will from next year get an opportunity to pursue their university studies in various higher learning institutions in Hungary following an agreement entered between the two countries.

Dr Abdallah Possi, the Ambassador of Tanzania to the Federal Republic of Germany said that the agreement provides an opportunity for Tanzanian students to acquire new knowledge and skills in various courses of their choice.

Dr Possi who is also accredited to Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Switzerland said that the agreement approves how strong the diplomatic relations between the two nations is.

"Hungarian government has been pleased with the response of Tanzanians applying for such education opportunities that is why it has decided to welcome the agreement, Hungary has several best universities offering degree, masters and PHD courses," he said.

Meanwhile, the Tanzanian embassy in Germany has opened a new office of the Tanzania's Consul Office located in Brno, Czech. Tanzania has approved Roman Grolig to be a special Consul of Tanzania in Czech.

## TANAPA reels from new elephant poaching wave

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conservation.

Describing the new wave as worrying, he said TANAPA and the ministry are all alert on the matter, elaborating that poachers started the rumours to pull residents close to conservation zones to take the liver and fat of the killed elephant, and the poachers take the ivory.

"But, from what we know there is no scientific evidence that fat extracted from elephant and liver treat those chronic diseases. These are myths, which need to be discouraged as this is a new way used by poachers to continue doing unacceptable ivory business," he said, without stating which parts of the wildlife conservations sector have been particularly affected by the 'new look' wave of poaching.

The top conservator warned the public to desist from taking up the charms of that misconception as stringent measures will be taken against people who kill animals under the pretext of treatment.

He, however, said that there

are people who are engaging in hunting for bush meat but now this changes its shape to become a fake trade in medicinal charms, which risks to vastly expand elephant poaching.

As to exports of wild meat, Dr Kijazi said at the moment wildebeest and antelope are the target of hunters for bush meat, contrary to the country's laws, noting that if this habit continues it risks destabilizing conservation efforts, impacting tourism as a whole.

He announced that in the past three months, 12 elephants have been killed in the parks, in what appears to be a new wave of poaching.

John Nyamhanga, TANAPA's assistant conservation commissioner for law enforcement and strategic security, said 10 of the elephants were killed between September and November in the Tarangire-Ngorongoro-Manyara ecosystem. "The other two elephants were killed during the same period in the Ruaha-Rungwa ecosystem," he added.



Home Affairs minister George Simbachawene (3rd-L) presents handing-over documents to his deputy, Khamis Hamza Khamis, shortly after the latter formally reported at the ministry's offices in Dodoma city yesterday. Looking on are Inspector General of Police Simon Sirro (L), Fire and Rescue Force Commissioner General John Masunga (2nd-L) and Commissioner General of Prisons Suleiman Mzee (R). Photo: Ministry of Home Affairs

# Ministers, deputies hit office ground running

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deliver to meet Tanzanians' expectations.

Dr Gwajima directed the top officials and other aides to embrace technological changes when implementing their duties so as to improve service delivery to the community and increase productivity.

Listing her priorities, Dr Gwajima said the health ministry should be a model in terms of performance and service delivery by implementing all the key issues outlined in the CCM election manifesto for 2020-2025.

"We are going to work hard to ensure that we respond to the speech issued by President Magufuli when inaugurating the 12th Parliament. It is high time now for the ministry's officials and staff to work smart by adopting technological changes so as to achieve the goals," she declared.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki started with a visit at the farm of the former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda in Dodoma. He noted that fish farming in dams and ponds would increase the availability of fish in the country and reduce illegal fishing practices in natural waters.

He said the government has made great efforts to improve the fishing sector, including fish farming in dams and ponds, but more efforts are needed to woo the people into fish farming for income generation.

"Fish farming in ponds and dams will alleviate the tug of war pitting the government and illegal fishing practices, as people will no longer see the need to engage in unprofitable fishing practices," said Ndaki, emphasizing on the need to mobilize people to take up fish farming using low cost ponds.

The ministry will examine how it can mobilize resources to boost the fishing sector to improve people's incomes, he stated.

Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Dr Faustine Ndugulile said the ministry has a key role to play in the country's economic growth, calling upon the ministerial cadre to embrace team work to ensure successful implementation of the country's Information Communication Technology (ICT) policy.

"The ICT policy touches several other ministries. We have to ensure that we invest in improving communications infrastructures and services for the country's development," he emphasized.

Dr Ndugulile said that the development of a digital economy requires rapid growth of ICT use, to gain access to vital technologies recognized globally in facilitating awareness and access to goods and services.

Deputy Minister Eng. Kundo Mathew said that the newly formed ministry encompasses key issues in the social, economic and security situation, compelling senior officials and staff to enhance creativity, focus and efficiency to address various drawbacks facing the communication industry.

"We will invest in local expertise to implement various projects aimed at transforming the ICT industry," he affirmed.

The Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, William Lukuvi urged the ministry's senior officials and staff to be innovative and work hard to improve service delivery to the public.

"We will soon engage in a countrywide tour to inspect all land offices to assess the implementation of duties and see if our officers are working to address people's challenges. It is only through team work that we are going to achieve all the goals outlined in the party's election manifesto," Lukuvi said when he met the ministry's top leadership on Thursday.

The Deputy Minister, Dr Angeline Mabula said that top level officials and staff have to increase efforts and work as a team to achieve the 200bn/- collections target for the 2020/2021 financial year.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), Jenista Mhagama yesterday toured the ministry's offices at Mtumba area in Dodoma where she insisted on the provision of quality services and finding solutions to challenges facing members of the public.

"We must work to achieve the set targets," said the minister who expressed optimism that with the two new deputies the ministry's performance would excel in a short period of time.

Deputy Minister Patrobas Katambi promised to collaborate with other heads of ministries to ensure realization of the country's development agenda.

*"We will invest in local expertise to implement various projects aimed at transforming the ICT industry"*

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Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a bigger regional market.

He underscored the need for the countries to address issues of cost of doing business in energy and infrastructure drawbacks and ensure stable human capital development to entice investors to opt for East Africa.

Speakers representing investment promotion agencies in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zanzibar highlighted the region's priority investment sectors including

## EAC nations called on to improve ease of doing business

tourism, agriculture and agribusiness.

Other covered areas are infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, mining and metals, plus oil and gas developments, among others.

Guracha Adi, general manager for investor services at the Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest) said the government is set to inject Ksh. 2 to 3 billion to expand the manufacturing sector.

"While disruptive in many ways, Covid-19 has brought in opportunities in the manufacturing of chemicals and cosmetics, textiles and apparel particularly personal protective equipment (PPEs), pharmaceuticals such as antibody testing kits and metals, along with allied electronics such as oxygen cylinders," the manager affirmed.

He championed Kenya as a

favorable investment destination, underlining that the country has no foreign exchange controls and it permits full repatriation of profits, capital and interest for investors.

The KIA official highlighted the manufacturing of construction materials and equipment, agro-sector and leather processing, along with heavy industries as key investment opportunities available across the border.

Generation of energy from biogas and renewable resources, processing of minerals and precious metals and establishing motor vehicle assemblies are among opportunities investors can tap into, he stated.

Aschalew Tadesse, the director of investment promotion at the Ethiopia Investment Commission (EIC) said that 80 reform measures are currently being effected to ease doing

business in that country.

"We are focused on easing the process of acquisition of construction permits, starting a business, trading across borders and registering property," he stated.

Nick Nesbitt, the EABC chairman noted that non-tariff barriers (NTBs) continue to hinder cross-border trade due to different measures on Covid-19, urging improved regional coordination and harmonization of measures on Covid-19 for economic resilience and growth.





Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad, who is also the opposition ACT-Wazalendo's national Chairman, addresses a meeting at the party's head of office at Vuga in Zanzibar yesterday - the first such event since he assumed office in the Isles' Government of National Unity on Tuesday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

## DPP: Five to appear in court over illegal gold export

By Guardian Correspondent

A DAY after President John Magufuli explained on the rampant illegal minerals exports from Chunya District, Mbeya Region, two police officers claimed to facilitate such exports will be prosecuted with six counts including money laundering.

The police officers, according to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Biswalo Mganga facilitated the exports after receiving a 150m/- bribe.

President Magufuli, after swearing in new ministers and deputy ministers on Wednesday, directed the Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko to deal with the issue of illegal minerals exports from Chunya District.

Following the directive, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), apart from

the two cops, has also directed the prosecution of three minerals traders who were claimed to be owners of the minerals that was being smuggled out of the country and whose value had not been revealed.

In his statement yesterday, DPP Mganga mentioned the policemen to be charged as E.8970 Cpl Hassan Mohamed Njutilo and G.7757 PC Daniel Azael Mrema.

The minerals traders who are to be charged alongside the policemen are Sabra Habib Ally, Malof Salum Nassor and Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni.

Mganga said the charges they will face include money laundering in contravention of the Money Laundering Act (Cap 423) as revised in 2019, engaging in planned criminal activities contrary to Anti-Sabotage Act (Cap 200- revised 2019 and

receiving bribe contrary to the PCCB Act (Cap 329) Revised 2019.

Other charges to be preferred include offering bribe contrary to the PCCB Act, abuse of office and exporting minerals without permit contrary to the Mining Act (Cap 123).

Giving account on the incident, Mganga said on November 24 this year the suspects - the policemen in collaboration with Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni, small gold miner seized a gold consignment that was being smuggled by big minerals traders, Sabra Habib Ally and Malof Salum Nassor.

Soon after seizure of the consignment, the two policemen solicited for 150m/- bribe from Sabra Habib Ally and Malof Salum Nassor, in close cooperation with the small miner Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni.

The DPP said the minerals

traders paid the bribe money to the two policemen after which they returned the seized consignment of gold that had no permits or even government levy paid in accordance with the Mining Act (Cap 123), Revised in 2019.

"The two policemen and three traders committed themselves in a criminal gang to sabotage the country's economy, soliciting and receiving bribe and illegal self-enrichment against the country's constitution," DPP statement said.

Sabayi Nyasile, Chunya District Mineral Officer, speaking to this paper said there were still a few unfaithful people who engage themselves in illegal minerals export. He said the government in Chunya District continues with in-depth investigations to nab all those engaged in such criminal acts.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has called on the public to strongly fight against gender-based violence in support of the government efforts.

In a statement to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10th December, Human Rights Day, the commission said the government authorities in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar have done a lot to eliminate the vice.

Addressing a press conference here, the Commission's deputy Chairperson, Mohamed Khamis Hamad said the commission thanks both governments for various efforts to end gender-based violence. "Both governments are working tirelessly to end gender-based violence and

## CHRAGG calls on public to support government's efforts to rein in GBV

it is only important for the public to support these efforts," he said, adding that people should shun traditions and beliefs that fuel the vice.

He noted that one of the efforts is the establishment of strategic plans to eradicate gender violence on women and children in both mainland and Isles aimed at reducing the problem greatly.

Another strategy, he said is the establishment of 420 gender and children's desks at police stations throughout the country enabling 58,059 casualties to get services.

He named another effort as creation of 12 One Stops Centres that provide services to victims of gender-based violence and 11,520 for protection of women and children at village to national levels.

The deputy chairperson also emphasized the need for public servants, non-governmental

organisations to focus on strengthening public service ethics to avoid cases of gender violence against women and children.

However, he noted that despite the efforts by the government, the commission has realised several challenges that derail the efforts to build gender-based violence free society.

Some of the challenges include bad traditions and beliefs that allow underage to get married instead of continuing with education, female genital mutilation and sexual corruption at work places and higher learning institutions.

Speaking at the same event, CHRAGG Commissioner, Fatma Rashid Khalfan said in celebrating the 16 days of activism, the commission has organised conferences for students at the University of Dodoma (UDOM), University of Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar.

## Government advised to review bank interest rates for smooth businesses

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

STAKEHOLDERS have urged the government to review and if possible lower interest rates currently offered by local banks.

This has been said by Chairperson of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Angelina Ngalula during a stakeholders workshop on finance development in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Ngalula said: "Look into the interest rates to enable smooth businesses in the country for health a economy."

She has also called upon the government and other key stakeholders, banks in particular, to offer long term loans that need long term grace period to repay that loan. "Small and medium enterprises have been complaining over long term loans. Adding: We need to look for solutions on how we should help them grow," she explained.

According to her, long term financing structure is an imperative for business

people to invest into commercial agriculture, mining, industries, among others. She has revealed the high interest rates offered by local banks have forced some Tanzania transporters/trucker owners to take loans from Chinese banks that offer good interest rates.

Executive Director of Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA), Tuse Joune told this paper that banks in other key stakeholders in the finance sector were working to find solutions on how to address customers' needs, including SMEs.

Executive Secretary of Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC), Dr Godwill G. Wanga, said that TNBC works with Public and Private Sector to unlock challenges and threats of policy, legal, and regulatory concerns, contradictions, and barriers that limit private sector led economic competitiveness.

TNBC encourages, innovative exchange of ideas between government and private sector. This is critical

component for long-term investment, business, and economic competitiveness and growth.

### JOB VACANCY

ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

REQUIRED at upcountry location near major city and airport

- Fully qualified with at least 4 years of experience

- Willing to assist in human resource management functions.

- Willing to assist in various administrative tasks both in and outside office.

If you are ambitious and a team player with a valid driving licence please email your CV with contact to: [hpatwa@hapatwa.co.tz](mailto:hpatwa@hapatwa.co.tz).

## Tanzania to evaluate availability of family planning, reproductive health commodities - agencies

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA in collaboration with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will this year conduct survey to assess reproductive health commodities and services in the country.

The 2020 Service Delivery Points Survey (SDP 2020 Survey) will evaluate the availability and stock out of the family planning and reproductive health commodities.

The survey, which is scheduled to start soon this month, will investigate existence of supply chain (including cold chain), staff training for family planning and staff supervision for reproductive health including family planning.

It will also collect information on availability of guidelines and protocols, check lists and job aids, availability and use of the Information Communication Technology as well as waste disposal system.

Speaking yesterday during the opening of the one-day survey's stakeholders meeting held at RITA Tower in Dar es Salaam, Sabina Raphael Daima from Office of Chief Government Statistician, Zanzibar (OCGS) said results obtained from the survey would determine the status of the reproductive health commodities in the country.

Sabina, who was representing management of NBS and OCGS added that the survey results "will specifically help the government, UNFPA and other health partners including partners in FP2020 global partnership to measure and track results of Reproductive Health Commodities and Services (RHCS) interventions"

Indeed, Sabina who is Labour Statistics Manager at OCGS said the survey results would act as a catalyst for health programmes and policy makers to set relevant priorities in family planning

and maternal health services interventions.

She informed survey stakeholders that since 2010, UNFPA has been supporting the strengthening and mainstreaming of the Reproductive Health Commodities and Services (RHCS) into the existing health system through the Global Programme to enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS).

Meanwhile, UNFP said partnering with NBS and OCGS in conducting the survey was part of its engagement with government of Tanzania particularly in production of official statistics.

Samwel Msokwa from the UN organisation told stakeholders attending the meeting that UNFPA has been working with national statistics offices in implementing various surveys to support production of official statistics which are used to inform policy formulation and decision making in the country.

"We have been working with NBS and OCGS in many surveys, the SDP is one of those many including Demographic Health Survey (DHS), Household Budget Survey (HBS) and more significant is Population and Housing Censuses which are conducted after every ten years" Msokwa said.

The UNFPA official urged workshop's participants to focus their attention to survey tools to reach consensus on the survey's questions as far as national environment is concerned but cautioned them to adhere to the principle of comparability as the survey is international one.

Tanzania has conducted four Service Delivery Point Surveys however; the 2020 survey is the second to be implemented by NBS and OCGS. The first was conducted in 2018. The Service Delivery Point Surveys are implemented in 43 countries in the world.



### ZANZIBAR REVENUE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) NO: SMZ/F0111/NC/NCB/2020~21/32

FOR PROVIDING MEDICAL FUND MANAGEMENT SCHEME TO ZRB STAFF AND THEIR DEPENDANTS

(RE-ADVERTISED)

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for Zanzibar Revenue Board that appeared in the Zanzibar Leo ISSN 1821 - 8556 Issue No. 5959 dated 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 and through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: [zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/).

2. Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) intends to set aside funds from its Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be applied to cover eligible payment under the contract for Provision of Medical Fund Management Scheme to ZRB Staff and their dependants.

3. Zanzibar Board (ZRB) -Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Providing Medical Fund Management Scheme to ZRB Staff and their dependants.

The scope of services include:-

- Medical Fund Management Scheme that covers all treatment as Inpatient in hospital includes the general wards, ICU & ICCU Covered Theatre, Surgical Operations, and Maternity etc.
- Medical Fund Management Scheme that covers all treatment as Outpatient treatment include Various General & Specialist Doctors, X-Ray Covered Laboratory Tests, optical & dental cover, Medicines - Acute & Chronic, Maternity etc.
- Foreign Inpatient treatment on referral for treatments unavailable in Tanzania and any other related services

The above named services constitutes one lot; and bidders must quote for all items and related activities specified in the lot.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets act No.11 of 2016 and are open to all Bidders as defined in the Regulations.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Secretary of Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Tender Board, P. O. BOX 2072, Mazizini- Zanzibar Tel: 255-24-2230639/2233041 Fax: 255-24-2233904 email: [zrb@zanrevenue.org](mailto:zrb@zanrevenue.org) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 8.00 AM - 17:00 PM Monday to Friday except for public holidays.

6. A complete set of Bidding Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tanzania Shilling Two Hundred Thousands (TZS 200,000/-). Payment should be by Cash payable to Zanzibar Revenue Board (ZRB) Zanzibar-Tanzania the following bank details; Bank name -People Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ), A/C Name; Commissioner -Zanzibar Revenue Board and A/C No.0404003000. Also interested eligible bidder may download tender document through ZRB e-procurement Web Portal: [zanrevenue.org/eproc/](http://zanrevenue.org/eproc/) after making respective payment.

7. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Tanzania Shillings Five Million (TZS 5,000,000/-) in the format provided in the Bidding documents.

8. bids in the original plus three (3) copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:00hrs Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Bids will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference Room, 4th Floor of the Zanzibar Revenue Board Building- Mazizini- Zanzibar.

9. Late Bids, Portion of Bids, Electronic Bids, Bids not received, Bids not opened and not read out in public at the bid opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

Secretary  
Tender Board  
Zanzibar Revenue Board  
P. O. Box 2072, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room No: 209 Mazizini- Zanzibar



## Govt provides 798m/- for facelift of aged secondary school in Tunduru

By Guardian Correspondent, Ruvuma

THE government has dished out 798m/- for refurbishment of the aged Tunduru Boys Secondary School built in 1978 in Ruvuma Region with a student population of 700.

Limia Ausi, the school's Headmaster said the government, through the Ministry of Education has provided the funds for refurbishing classrooms, dormitories, new toilets, guard's room, but excluding teachers' houses.

He said refurbishing works begun in August this year and goes in tandem with school lessons' timetable, the situation that was making refurbishing go at a slow

pace.

"Sometimes we are forced to shift students to other classrooms to give room for their repairs, but so far construction work has reached 90 per cent, and we are doing that through force account system," Ausi said.

He said work was in last stages of completion and that refurbishment work has been completed to the administrative building, 16 classrooms and six dormitories.

He added that the school was built by the United Nations (UN) in 1978 to cater for the refugees' children at the height of liberation struggles in southern Africa.

He said after the liberation struggle, the UN handed the

school to the government that started enrolling students from other areas of the country.

"The first batch of students completed Form IV in 1982, and as for now the school enrolls students in Forms V and VI only in subjects' combinations including PCM, PCB, PGM, CBG, HGL and HKL," said Ausi.

Ausi, on behalf of other teachers thanked the government for providing funds towards refurbishment of the school.

Abdalanus Sala, a Form VI student at the school thanked the government for repairing the school's dilapidated infrastructures that had been posing risks to the safety of students and staff.



Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (R) takes part in the digging of a foundation pending the construction of classroom building at Jengu Secondary School yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

## Govt to construct modern lab to bolster agricultural studies

THE government is contemplating to construct a vast-modern agriculture laboratory to beef up facilitation of thorough agriculture researches in the country.

The initiative, targeting to improve production and productivity in agricultural activities, will also see a meaningful exercise to renovate at least 10 agro laboratories at various locations within the country.

Coordinator of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II), Vumilia Zinkakuba said upon completion, the development will allow the farmers in the country to cultivate more professionally.

"In the next five years the government intends to attain major transformation in the agriculture sector, and thus, to have the vision accomplished, among others, the government has realised a need to invest

largely in agro-researches facilities," she stated.

It is projected that the facility will be of prudent in help the sector to meet intended productivity through scientific researches on improved seeds, soil testing and fertility, as well as to spearhead war against effects of climate changes.

Recently, the ministry of Agriculture installed and launched a modern internal control seed quality laboratory at the Morogoro- based Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA).

The initiative, supported by the Expanding Rice Production Project (ERPP) eyes to facilitate professional monitoring of the seed produced at the agency's farms in line with implementation of the 10 years strategy by the government to heighten performance of seed production

sector in Tanzania.

According to Agriculture Deputy Minister, Hussein Bashe, the parent ministry is under implementation of a key strategy aimed at improving the country's seed adequacy which currently stands at 80 percent.

The initiative, according to him, focuses to enable Tanzania to start benefiting from expanded external seed markets.

ASA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Sophia Kashenge said actual demand for improved seed stands at 186,500 tonnes in a year, but what is being produced is only 71,000 tonnes, a grim statistics which weakens performance of the economic sector. "Out of the produced 71,000 seeds, seeds for food crops are 59,368MT, whereby 35,000MT is for cotton, and the remaining 21,368MT is for food crops," she observed.

## Z'bar, Union govts to operate joint savings account in JFC

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar government is set to conduct talks with Union government on establishment of a joint savings account to operate under the Joint Finance Commission (JFC).

Minister of State, President's Office, Finance and Planning, Jamal Kassim Ali called upon the Union government to ensure timely appointment of the JFC Commissioner and Secretary to facilitate smooth operations.

"Both governments will be accountable for injecting money into the account," asserted the minister when addressing

journalists shortly after visiting institutions under the ministry including offices of the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) at Kilimani and JFC located at Kinazini.

JFC was set up to be the principal advisor of the Union government and the government of Zanzibar on financial matters related to the Union matters.

The minister pledged to provide a land plot for the construction of TIRA offices, saying the Zanzibar government will provide cooperation to ensure the services they offer become recognised by the people of Zanzibar.

He also advised Tanzania's

insurance regulatory authorities to provide services based on Islamic laws in order to get more customers in the Isles.

Dr Mussa Juma, TIRA Commissioner said apart from the authority's existing achievements they were still faced with the challenges of vehicle owners being arrested for not having insurance cover as well as delay of cases thereof at the courts.

He said many Zanzibaris do not have the habit of buying insurance cover against fire for their houses or life insurance due to little understanding on insurance matters.

## Construction of Uhuru Hospital in Chamwino now at 97 percent

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

CONSTRUCTION of the Uhuru hospital in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region has reached 97 percent with officials saying the remaining job will be completed early next week.

Briefing journalists yesterday on the implementation progress of the mega-project, acting head of administration at National Service, Cornel Hassan Mabena said that construction of the health facility nears completion and that they are expecting to complete the remaining job by December 15, this year.

"We are currently finalising with some few remaining issues

including installation of electrical systems, water facilities as well as fencing the area," he expressed.

Construction of the state-of-the-art hospital is being carried out by the National Service economic wing, Suma JKT and upon completion the facility is projected to play paramount role in helping to expand dispensation of health services within the region and the central zone at large.

The government has already committed more than 2.3bn/- towards construction of the health facility. The money was provided by Bharti Airtel from India.

Primarily, construction of the hospital was expected to be completed in May this year but the work was somehow thwarted

by heavy rains which has caused delay in delivery of many construction equipment to the project site.

Construction of the Uhuru hospital which is projected to serve as the chief health facility in Chamwino District surfaced following decision by President John Magufuli to allocate at least 995.2m/- that was set for independence celebrations during 2018 to facilitate its construction.

However, President Magufuli also directed that a total of 830m/- that was meant to support celebrations of this year's independence celebrations also to be directed to support final equipment installation at the hospital.



### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT OVERVIEW

Parent Sector : Sector For Administration and Management (ADM)  
Duty Station: Dar-es-Salaam  
Job Family: Administration  
Type of contract : Non Staff  
Level : Level 2  
Duration of contract : From 1 to 6 months  
Recruitment open to : External candidates  
Application Deadline (Midnight Paris Time) : 19-DEC-2020

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Only Tanzanian nationals can apply or those authorised to work in Tanzania  
Initial contract for 3 months, renewal subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds

#### OVERVIEW OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE POST

Under the overall authority of the Head of UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office and the direct supervision of the Finance and Administrative Officer, the incumbent provides a series of finance and administrative support services to the UNESCO National office in Dar es Salaam and in compliance with UNESCO Rules and Regulations. The administrative assistant will undertake the following responsibilities:

#### Long Description

- Compile, verify and maintain records of transactions and Office administrative activities. Process payments; check that documents are complete, correct and compliant with the rules, regulations and procedures;
- Ensure that the accounting records and corresponding justifications are complete and properly filed;
- Assist in preparation of budget, check completeness, accuracy and compliance of documentation;
- Assist staff members and their dependents by processing requests for visas, identity cards, driving licenses and other necessary personnel-related documents in accordance with requirements of the organization and the host country.
- Assist in recruitment process activities of the office;
- Make arrangements for shipment and receipt of office and project supplies and equipment and household effects, including customs clearance;
- Assist on preparation of purchase orders, contracts, meetings and follow up;
- Maintain and monitor stock levels of various supply items;
- Liaise with companies and host country's administration;
- Follow up air tickets purchase and payments, prepare travel authorizations and assemble information pertinent to the purpose of travel; track security certificates;
- Assist in the allocation of office and planning moves;
- Monitor the work of the cleaning staff to ensure the work undertaken by them meets the standards in the contract specification.

#### COMPETENCIES (Core / Managerial)

Accountability (C)  
Communication (C)  
Innovation (C)  
Knowledge sharing and continuous improvement (C)  
Planning and organizing (C)  
Results focus (C)  
Teamwork (C)

- For detailed information, please consult the UNESCO Competency Framework.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

**Education**

- Completed Secondary Education.

#### Work Experience

- Minimum 3 years of relevant work in administration and finance within UN or international organizations.

#### Languages

- Excellent/very good knowledge of English and Swahili

#### Skills and competencies

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Good IT skills and good knowledge of standard office software packages (MS Word, Excel, etc).
- Good analytical and problem solving skills.
- Initiative, service-oriented, and discretion.
- Proven ability to work efficiently, under pressure, and in a multi-cultural environment.
- Flexibility to adjust to different work schedules and priorities.

#### DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

**Education**

- Bachelors Degree in Finance, Administration or others related fields

**Skills and Competencies.**

- Knowledge of UN rules and regulations.

#### BENEFITS AND ENTITLEMENTS

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UNESCO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process.



# Herbalists highlight contribution of herbs and, alternative medicines in Tanzania's health sector

By Correspondent Valentine Okoro

WHILE health dispensation trend in Tanzania saw the government during the past five years invest massively on availability of high-medical technologies and medicines, on the other hand, health-seeking behavior within the country depicted that majority in the country are preferring traditional medicines.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Report on Traditional and Complementary Medicine (CAM) 2019, the use of Traditional Medicine (TM) is considered important in Tanzania, with use by 60 - 79 percent of the population, the same percentage is estimated for the population's use of herbal medicines.

Such a high percentage in the uses of traditional medicines literally gives the unquestionable end-conclusion that in Tanzania traditional medicines are not used to serve the purposes of 'complementary and alternative medicines', but are being used as a main medical option for the majority when experiencing health difficulties.

Since 2002, in Tanzania, there have been regulations governing providers of acupuncture, Ayurveda medicines, herbal medicines, homeopathy, naturopathy, osteopathy, traditional Chinese medicines, and Unani medicines, whereby as of 2012, nine herbal medicines were registered, all of which imported.

WHO defines traditional medicines as a total of knowledge, skills, and practices based on theories, beliefs, and experience indigenous to different cultures, whether explicated or not, used in the maintenance of health, as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement, or treatment of illness.

Primarily, botanical researches have so far established that Tanzania has been endowed with various rare medicinal plants, enough to make the country an alternative traditional medicine powerhouse.

However, despite such an endowment the country is still far away to benefit from the abundant medicinal herbal resources due to among others, poor awareness among the public and lack of friendly policies and systems. It appears that the majority of Tanzanians are seeking traditional medicines in a secrecy manner to avoid 'stigmatization' due to misconception and fallacy of reasoning within communities to associate traditional medicines with witchcraft beliefs.

High profile local traditional medicine practitioners insisted that herbal medicines remain a reliable source of remedies and with fewer side-effects compared to the popular industrial-made



Famous local traditional medicine expert, Dr. Yusuf Ramadhan Zuberi displays some medicinal plants at his home in Nzuguni area during a special interview with The Guardian. He serves as the Head of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Dodoma (Udom) Photo: Valentine Okoro



medicines.

"It's high time to launch a series of initiatives to assist Tanzanians to better from misconception towards traditional medicines. It should be understood that all modern medicines originated from traditional (herbals) sources," observed Dr. Yusuf Ramadhan Zuberi, Head of Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Dodoma (Udom).

Dr. Zuberi, a Ph.D. Holder said in an interview that historically modern medical services and medicines originated in Egypt (Africa) dated back between the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Health records showed that even the maiden operation was performed in Egypt and the first condom was also invented in Egypt. So the Africans and Tanzania, in particular, must be proud of and insist over the uses of indigenous traditional medicines that we have been gifted by God," he advised.

He said it's very disconcerting that despite being prudent and with high potential in producing reliable remedies, traditional medicines in Tanzania have been attached with poor image and 'notions' due to the effects of colonialism and domination of western cultures.

Dwelling on the fact that human treatments and medicines are closely related to human evolution and traditions, he suggested that it was high time for the country's medical tank thinker to retreat, and realize the need to reverse and invest larger into traditional medicines to cater to increased demand for remedies to cure numerous health difficulties.

"The world's trends are seeing major ambitions and initiatives to go back to sources of many life phenomena, and thus, it's not bad we go back to our original treatment sources,"

"What people fail to understand is that modern (western) medicines are being derived

from herbal medicines. What they're doing is to process the medicinal plants through uses of modern machines to study and remove active ingredients through titration to remain with needed medicinal contents," he detailed.

For his part, prominent local traditional healer, Haruna Yahaya Mwamuhehe, popularly known as 'Dr. Kifimbo' insisted on the need for the government to assist herbal medicine to be processed through scientific methods to improve quality, hygiene, and packaging.

He stated that the country stands a better chance to fetch huge profits in terms of foreign currencies should traditional medical producers embrace high technologies.

"We're however appreciating efforts so far demonstrated by President John Magufuli to recognize roles of traditional healers and cures in Tanzania, ever before any past regimes," he appreciated. Apart from including traditional healers in the ruling CCM election manifesto, Dr. Kifimbo expressed over plans by the government to open a special factory for the scientific production of herbals in Tanzania. "For instances, most indigenous traditional medicines producers are preparing their products 'very' locally, by exposing them in the open air for dry purposes, prompting to aflatoxins contaminations," he warned.

Through scientific approaches, he insisted that the traditional medicines will help the products be inspected and certified by the Government Chief Chemistry and other related quality control watchdogs. Dr. Kifimbo however warned over the increased wave of counterfeit traditional healers from across the country urged the public to seek treatments from reliable sources.

"There are people who tarnish good image of this sector by marketing fake medicines just

to go themselves richer. There is a need for the formation of intelligence systems to detect and put them to the task," he shared.

The outspoken Dr. Kifimbo, who branded himself through his best teeth healing herbal dubbed 'Mzanzagala' expressed to have to keep on receiving a huge number of patients with complicated diseases being after failing to get relief at various modern health facilities (Hospitals).

"I have been in traditional medicine corridor since 1980, I have encountered and experienced many things enough to conclude that traditional medicines provide healing answers to diseases that the hospital's medicines," he assured.

To attain major improvement of the traditional medicine industry in Tanzania, as in the case of well-to-do countries like China, India, and Madagascar Dr. Zuberi underscored a need for the government to put in place numerous initiatives.

Relevant records show Tanzania has yet to invest in supporting the production of useful botanical pharmaceutical researchers for the improvement of the country's herbal industry.

"Experience gives a clear picture that western donor countries cannot in anyway inject Tanzania with lucrative financial patronage to support the production of key researches for the development of our traditional medicines. And thus, it's of prudent for the government to seek for internal sources to finance such researches," he said.

The high profile herbal expert insisted that, after oil and minerals, medicines were the world's largest business which attracts billions and trillions of money hence poses 'high - technical competition', called for the government to be more vigilant over the matter.

"For instance, I am currently developing a special project proposal on 'Traditional

Medicine Profile and Banking' to conduct scientific study and formalization of at least 20 herbal medicines in a year," Dr. Zuberi said, added the vital project however relies on the availability of funds. In the same vein, he underscored the importance for key medical research institutions like National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) to partner with traditional medicine experts to perform key researches that will lead to the major development of the medical sector in Tanzania.

Giving his observations over herbal researches, Dr. Kifimbo said it was however vital for the government to create a system that will allow domestic traditional healers to be included in the production of key researches.

"Domestic medical healers play a meaningful role in the development of the industry, but very, unfortunately, they have always been sidelined when it comes to researches, as a result, some researchers have been producing unrealistic findings," he suggested.

In his observation, the establishment of special hospitals that offers traditional medical services will play a major role to stimulate and promote the use of reliable cures within the country. "Even one of the latest reports in the USA showed a development of at least 20 percent new users of traditional medicines in the country, a statistics which must remind us that even in the world's giant countries people have realized the importance of herbal cures," he informed.

And on this, he challenged it would also be profitable if there'll be initiating of special traditional medicine wings (doors) at each major hospital within the country to provide the patients with the availability of traditional treatment options.

Applications of synthetic fertilizer, in organic agricultural practices and other form of environmental pollution, poses

a great threat to the extinction of herbal plants in Tanzania.

According to Dr. Zuberi, 99 percent of plants in Tanzania are botanically potential, but there must be effective monitoring for their sustainability.

"There's a need for the government to earmark special areas for preserving herbal plants to ensure the country maintaining sustainable traditional medicines," he advised.

However, Dr. Kifimbo said deforestation and bush fire are among other factors for the possible extinction of medicinal plants in Tanzania if the stern measure will not be exercised.

"Today, regions that have to remain with medicinal plants treasury include Morogoro, Mwanza, and Tanga," he added.

"During the outbreak of novel Covid 19 in Tanzania, the majority was banked on modern medicines until when President John Magufuli decided to take a lead and sensitize overuses of traditional medicine to battle the epidemic, and thanks to God the initiative worked," he said.

Dr. Zuberi said there's a need for conduction of public awareness campaign to mold societies under a 'social construction' which understands values and rely on traditional medicines" he asserted.

## KEY FACTS

Traditional and complementary medicine is important and often underestimated health resource within many applications, especially in the prevention and management of lifestyle-related chronic diseases and in meeting the health needs of the aging population. The term 'Complementary Medicine' and 'Alternative Medicines' refers to a broad set of health care practices that are not part of the country's own traditional or conventional medicines and are not fully integrated into the dominant health care system.

## Traditional Chinese medicine helping global fight against COVID-19

Lung cleansing and detoxifying preparation, though difficult to understand even for Chinese, is becoming a familiar name to many foreign physicians treating COVID-19 infections.

The traditional Chinese medicine preparation, discovered and then widely used during China's epidemic outbreak, has been used in various countries including Italy, Britain, the United States, Japan and Malaysia, with positive results, said Wang Wei, deputy head of the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine.

Zhang Boli, president of

the Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, said Lianhua Qingwen capsules and granules, another recommended TCM for the treatment of COVID-19, has received marketing approval in more than 10 countries and regions and has been donated to several other countries.

"We are working with the University of Southern California on phase-two clinical trials of lung diffusing and detoxifying preparation," Zhang said. "They are paying close attention to the medicine and the experiment results we have achieved."

People overseas have taken

an interest in more than just these medications. Various treatment schemes combining TCM with Western medicine have also gained traction.

Zhang has joined dozens of video sessions this year to share his clinical experience in treating COVID-19 patients with medics in other countries.

At a video conference held by the World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies (WFAS), Kuo Tong Ho, vice president of the Singapore Chinese Physicians' Association, said the Singaporean government on May 5 permitted the use of Chinese acupuncture

and moxibustion in treating COVID-19 patients.

Kuo said the TCM prevention and treatment model had been effective in Singapore and welcomed Chinese experts to visit his country to offer guidance.

In order to meet the demands of foreign physicians for TCM treatment schemes for the disease, the WFAS has held 29 online lectures in both Chinese and English in collaboration with the China Association of Acupuncture-Moxibustion and the China Association of Chinese Medicine.

The lectures, given by over 50 frontline experts, were

viewed by audiences from more than 60 countries, with over 1 million hits.

Cao Hongxin, former president of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS), led a team of experts to conduct remote diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19 patients in countries including the United States, Canada, Australia and Britain.

According to the National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China has shared TCM therapy, effective prescriptions and clinical experience for dealing with COVID-19 with more than 80 countries and regions.

"The novel coronavirus

pandemic provides a new opportunity enabling TCM to go global," said Liu Baoyan, chief researcher of the CACMS and president of the WFAS, calling for efforts to cure more COVID-19 patients around the world with TCM.

Source: Xinhua  
Editor: Chen Xiaoli

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## WLAC embarks on initiative to reduce conflicts between employers and employees

By **Getrude Mbago**

THE Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) yesterday brought together trade unions leaders from various public and private firms in Dar es Salaam to capacitate them with knowledge on labour rights and laws so as to reduce unnecessary conflicts between employers and employees.

According to the centre, there is a huge challenge in the employment industry where most workers in both the public and private sector are still ignorant in translating what is in their job contracts.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam yesterday, WLAC's legal officer Barcoal Deogratus said that the move is aimed to improve awareness and legal aid services for timely access to justice for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

He said that the training is part of the implantation of the centre's two-year project dubbed "Community Legal Empowerment", which is funded by Legal Services Facility Tanzania (LSF) with a focus on training members of trade unions, employers' associations and labour officials in all districts of Dar es Salaam Region.

"We have recognised that most of the conflicting cases brought at the centre between employers and employees are caused by lack of awareness on the legal statements put in the job contracts thus leading to misunderstanding and conflicts, so we have brought them here to educate them on the importance of reading their contracts well before signing them," he said.

He noted that poor people in general and women in particular lack information about their rights and about access to mechanisms to enforce them, so with the implementation of this project more women will be reached with training and educational programmes to support them understand their rights.

He said that the programme also aims to

capacitate trade unions with more skills and knowledge to enable them strengthen their role of fighting grounds of discrimination in work places.

"Our aim is to strengthen the understanding of trade unions in labour issues premised on principles of equality specifically in the areas of employment standards and collective bargaining of wages as well as observance of youth and women rights," he said.

Deogratus said: "Poor awareness of rights, responsibilities and laws in general among workers in the country has been one of the major factors that lead to conflicts and discriminations in work places; so, this project has come at the right time to help the majority."

Emmanuel Bundala, chairman of the workers association at the Dar es Salaam's Royal Soap and Detergent Industries Ltd commended WLAC for organising the training as it is going to transform mindsets of the trade union leaders.

Swaumu Juma, women association chair at the SBC Tanzania Ltd said: "I am sure that this training will increase awareness on labour rights to us (women) working in formal and informal sectors so as to reduce the gender gap in employment and wages."

Reports show that in Tanzania there is dominance of men among well paid employees in the formal sector, men cover 66 percent and women cover 34 percent. Legal gender provision are not effective in the dominating informal economy where women are employed in low paying and hazardous jobs, being bullied and experience threats and sexual harassment.

Since 1989, WLAC has been at the forefront of the fight for the promotion and protection of women's rights in Tanzania, accomplishing its successes through four units: legal aid, advocacy and networking, paralegal training and outreach, and publication and documentation.



**Alex Kisamaka (2nd-R), a lab technician at a Maria Stopes dispensary, subjects Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha (R) to an HIV test yesterday as part of the commemoration of '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'.**  
Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

## Government completes construction of 500m/- worth buildings at Masasi FDC

By **Guardian Correspondent, Masasi**

THE government has completed construction of eight buildings at the Folk Development College (FDC) in Masasi District in Mtwara Region costing 500m/-.

This was revealed here mid this week by the College's Principal Alfani Mshana when reading his report on the college's development to the visiting Masasi Urban Member of Parliament, Geoffrey Mwambe.

Mshana said a total of 500m/- provided by the government following the college experiencing an acute shortage of buildings for a long time.

He said of the eight buildings, six were completely new and two had been extensively refurbished.

He said the structures included an administrative building, vehicles'

workshops, mechanical workshop, a day care centre, a dining room and a girls' dormitory.

Mshana said the structures that received extensive refurbishment include a toilet complex and an old dining room that was turned into a classroom.

Speaking to the college staff, Mwambe praised them for good supervision of government funds and urged them to work hard for the interest of the nation.

Some students at the college thanked the government for providing funds for the construction of the buildings as it has reduced the challenge they were facing on shortage of buildings.

FDCs were established in 1975 by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training as part of the more comprehensive adult

education programme.

FDCs have played an important role in implementing education reforms in Tanzania, by developing the Folk Education Development Programme I (FEDP I 2007-2012) to address problems facing the education sector.

Some of the goals for their establishment included to equip adult Tanzanians with knowledge and skills to be self-employed and self-reliant and enhance adults understanding and enabling them to solve their immediate problems in the society.

Others are to promote the skills including carpentry and joinery, masonry and bricklaying, motor vehicle mechanics, tailoring, cookery, bicycle repair, plumbing and other skills based training that are of need to the community.



**World Vision nutrition coordinator Dr Frank Mtimbwa (R) pictured yesterday presenting medical equipment to Shinyanga regional administrative secretary Albert Msovela for use in improving health services in the region.**  
Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By **Correspondent Theresia Victor**

## Warioba calls on political leaders to cherish peace, protect human rights

FORMER Prime Minister Judge Joseph Warioba has called upon leaders of political parties in the country to be in the forefront to advocate and uphold the country's peace as well as protect human rights for sustainable development.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the event to mark the International Human Rights day, Judge warioba said that political clashes are among major sources for the violation of human rights.

He said that there is no need for the country's peace to be ruined due to political differences that can be fixed if both parties agree to put their differences aside and firstly think on people's interests.

"Human right violation usually occurs due to political instability, so it is high time now for political parties to think on how they are

going to be champions of peace and human rights by ensuring that they implement their duties and being able to resolve their differences peacefully without affecting the public," he said.

He noted: "Without peace there is no human rights, we can recall the Arab Spring occurred due to political instability in their countries that distorted peace and violated human rights, something which affected a number of innocent people killing many others," he added.

According to him, protecting the country's peace should not be left to the government or certain group of people, but it is everyone's sole responsibility to ensure human rights are respected.

He underscored the need for the political party leaders, regardless of ideologies, to come together and think on joint measures to strongly promote the country's peace.

Irish Embassy Charge d'Affaires Adrian Fitzgerald said that standing up for human rights is not easy but it calls for everyone to do his/her part to ensure that the sphere is the right thing to do.

He further pointed out that there is also a need to educate young generation on the importance of respecting human rights so as to have a community that advocates for human rights.

"We need to deeply reflect on how the world can remain better by advocating for human rights," he said.

Legal and Human Right Centre (LHRC) executive director Anna Henga said that the event meant to reflect on ways forward to safeguard peace and human rights.

She said that human rights this year have been affected by the unanticipated Covid-19 pandemic which threatened human rights and hindered efforts by human right defenders to fight against abuses due to various restrictive measures posed by countries.

"We are now focusing on the need to build back better by ensuring human rights are central to recovering efforts in ensuring that we double up efforts toward ending human right abuses and creating a just and equitable society are realised," she said.

## Majority of employees express need for retirement education - research

By **Polycarp Machira, Dodoma**

AT LEAST 95 percent of employees in the public sector feel that education on retirement to public servants is highly needed, a new study has shown.

It also states that 77 percent of those interviewed admitted not having got it, thus education retirement and planning for quality elderly life should be provided to public servants.

The report titled, "The Importance of Education on Retirement Planning and Quality Elderly Life for Employees, Primary and Secondary Students in Tanzania" authored by a consultant Dr Mkumbo Mitula indicates that 98.3 percent of both primary and secondary schools interviewed are of the view that they need the education.

Some 88 percent of the students admitted that the education on retirement and planning for quality elderly life as taught to them by the researcher was well understood to them.

Presenting the report to the office of the Prime Minister in Dodoma, Dr Mkumbo said study conducted for 21 months since April 2019 involving 120 interviewees, 60 being lecturers and other public servants and 60, being students.

He said the aim of the study was to identify education gap on retirement planning among public servants and students in the country.

"The government always provides education on retirement to public servants who are about to retire but this study has shown that public servants need more than this, they want this education at the start of their employment, during the employment period and when about to retire" he said.

He noted what the government is doing at the last minute help public servants to psychologically face and accept the new environment outside employment.

However, he noted that they need to do more than that, like planning for retirement life through different deeper approach like psychological, health, education

economic and social, which they cannot get in two days training or last just before retirement.

On the other hand, most students in the country who are future employees and retirees are not prepared to face life after school, having financial discipline on income and expenditure.

He noted the study has further revealed that students in primary and secondary schools need to be empowered with this education, adding that it is very important that they get it early while in school, when they join employment and when just about to retire.

Dr Mkumbo in his report recommended that a team of experts comprising of researchers, curriculum experts, government representatives, employers, social security fund and representatives of employees to discuss the matter.

Secondly, the government to strongly intervene on the issues of improving social security funds' policy and finally education on retirement and planning for quality elderly to be provided to employees through public service department and the ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Speaking briefly after receiving the report on behalf of the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, the Permanent Secretary in the PM's Office, Dorothy Mwaluko said the government appreciates contributions of Tanzanians who are working to bring development.

She urged more researchers to go on the ground and help find solutions of problems facing people, saying by so doing they contribute to social development of the country.

On the same note, she challenged researchers to work on issues affecting welfare of private sector employers. "Out of the about 60 million Tanzanians only 500,000 are employed in the public sector," she said adding that a lot more needs to be done to establish their needs.

According to the PS public servants are almost sure of earning living throughout employment period and after retirement unlike their private sector counterparts.



## Bugwema health centre in Musoma due to offer services soon, says DC

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

RESIDENTS in Bugwema ward, Musoma district, Mara Region have reason to smile as they will now start accessing quality health services following the construction and refurbishment of the Bugwema health centre which is now in final stages.

Funded by the government, the 400m/- project involves construction of a maternity ward, laboratory, operating theatre, children ward and waste water management system. Citizens also contributed by bringing stones, water, sand, pebbles as well as cash.

Musoma District Commissioner Dr Vicent Anney said that the completion of the buildings will transform and enhance efficiency of health service provision at the centre while serving more people from inside and outside the ward.

In an interview with this paper, Dr Anney said the government's major aim is to improve the overall health in the district and thus reduce maternal death and other health complications.

"We expect that the project will be completed later this month. Inadequate health services are a major obstacle to the socio-economic development and have a negative health impact in the population, so this project is going to boost social-economic activities in the ward and the district," he said.

He urged authorities and residents to ensure that the implemented project is well kept and supervised for the services to last long and benefit future generations as well.

He further added that the rehabilitated health centre will also contribute to the local economy by keeping people healthy enough to engage in

various economic activities.

Musoma Rural legislator, Prof Sospeter Muhongo said that he promised to contribute 400 bags of cement and he has started to implement it.

"I have been contributing a lot in various development projects and I will continue doing so whenever needed, I promise to continue to work closely with my people so as to ensure that we stimulate economic growth in our area," he said.

Cliford Musiba, Bugwema ward councillor said that he used his car to bring water at the construction site for four months in an effort aimed to ensure that the project is completed on the scheduled time.

"Renting a private car to fetch water per day was 300,000/-, this was too expensive, so I decided to bring my car to support the construction for four months," he said.

Bugwema ward is formed by four villages which include Masinono, Muhoji, Kinyang'erere and Bugwema itself having a total population of 14,029 people.



**I have been contributing a lot in various development projects and I will continue doing so whenever needed, I promise to continue to work closely with my people so as to ensure that we stimulate economic growth in our area**



Hadithi Lab founder Edward Shilla (C) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the launch of a comedy dubbed "Bando la Kicheko" meant to enable university students to find entertainment and hone their showbiz talent. He is with TBL sustainability manager Abigail Mutaboyerwa (R) and Hadithi Lab innovation and production manager Tunu Mwinymbegu. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Do not collect, market metal waste without permit - NEMC

By Guardian Reporter

IT is unlawful for a person to collect and market metal waste without permits from the Vice-President's Office, the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) warned recently.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam following seizure of a truckload of metal waste that included parts of the standard gauge railway (SGR) in Mlandizi, Coast Region, NEMC Director-General Samuel Gwamaka, said while the government was keen on

recycling waste for the good of the nation and encouraged people to collect plastic and metal for recycling, selling the waste metal had to be done within the perimeters of law.

"The load of metal waste seized in Mlandizi over the weekend is a pointer to the fact that we must remain watchful because some people are deliberately collecting or taking part in vandalizing national costly installations like railway lines, bridges and road signposts and marketing such as metal waste. This is criminal.

I appeal to all Tanzanians to remain vigilant and protect vital installations," he appealed.

He said Tanzanians must know that rails, roads and bridges were necessities for modern life and economic growth and they were very costly, adding that people must remain observant and report people suspected to be vandalizing such infrastructure.

It was the duty of all Tanzanians to guard costly rails and road because they were being built for the benefit of the present and future generations, he said.

He appealed to Tanzanians to support the efforts of the government in implementing the national agro-industrialisation agenda that seeks to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial country by 2025. He said people vandalizing vital installations were undermining the national agenda.

People caught in Mlandizi in possession of parts of the SGR, roads and bridges would be taken to court once relevant charges had been framed, he explained.



Zanzibar Blue Economy and Fisheries minister Abdallah Hussein Kombo (C) pictured on Wednesday addressing farmers from villages in the Isles' Central District whom NMB Bank Plc has lined up for loans to help them improve their lives. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By correspondent Theresia Victor

## Embrace financial discipline, women entrepreneurs urged

SOME major challenges facing women entrepreneurs include issues of finance, hence the need for them to embrace financial discipline to boost their capital.

This was said on Wednesday by Motherhood Tanzania Founding Director, Tina Ndonde when speaking at women connect gala in Dar es Salaam. She also insisted the need for women operating small and medium scale businesses to ensure proper money management as well as cut unnecessary expenditures.

Ndonde noted that the women connection gala was meant to impart the women entrepreneurs with business skills and knowledge which also includes the importance of savings and balancing expenditures.

"We can grow our small businesses to bigger ones, but we need to save and ensure financial discipline," she said calling upon women to continue

grabbing the emerging business opportunities across the country.

According to her, women can do even better once they were capacitated and educated on various issues related to business operations. She said most of the women fail to develop their businesses over lack of money management skills.

Esther Jeremiah, a wine maker, insisted on women to conduct market researches before establishing any business. She was concerned that researches provide an entrepreneur with a clear picture on whether or not to invest in the particular business.

"We need to check the market first before we decide to invest in any business; this will help us to avoid losses," she said calling upon women to grab the loan opportunities provided by

the government at district levels.

The law requires each of the districts across the country to set aside 10 percent of its internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups.

Zakia Sulemeain said there is a need for small entrepreneurs to register their businesses with the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA) to be able to sell their product outside the country.

She underscored the need for women to attend more business gatherings and events to gain more skills as well as learn on emerging opportunities.

She said such gatherings are also important for establishing connections and knowledge sharing specifically in the areas of production, processing, marketing and customer care.

## Change lifestyles to avoid non-communicable diseases - call

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS have been advised to change their life styles by adopting nutritive diets to avoid non-communicable diseases that are more fatal, in particular blood pressure.

For Tanzanians who are aware of their blood pressure conditions, only 30 percent use drugs, while 70 per cent are not aware of their conditions and don't use drugs.

Dr Tatizo Waane, cardiologist from Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) said there has been a substantial increase of people suffering from heart diseases, kidney complications and diabetes.

Dr Waane gave the observations early this week in Dar es Salaam to reporters on the relationship between non-communicable and communicable diseases at a workshop organised by Tanzania Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (TANCDA).

"There is one research conducted that shows 30 per cent of patients from various countries in the world have blood pressure problems, out of who only 30 per cent are aware of the condition and use drugs to

control their blood pressure," he said.

He added: "Great concentration was on communicable diseases such as HIV/Aids, Malaria, Tuberculosis (TB) and cholera. World statistics also show that non-communicable diseases including cancer, heart diseases, blood pressure cause many deaths."

He said world statistics show 51 million deaths out of which 30 per cent, or about a third were due to non-communicable diseases.

"The costs for treatment of blood pressure, heart diseases and diabetes are perpetual once a person is diagnosed. 17 million deaths in the world were attributed to heart diseases," he added.

He said in Tanzania a sufferer of blood pressure spends between 10,000/- to 500,000/- each month on drugs, depending on the types of drugs.

He stressed that the only way to avoid these diseases was to exercise daily, including walking, consuming vegetables, drinking water and consumption of root crops and cereals to build up body immunity.

## Chato airport to boost gold mineral trade, national economy - Geita RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

GEITA regional commissioner Robert Gabriel Luhumbi said the Geita Regional Airport in Chato District is expected to boost gold mineral trade and the country's economy.

He gave the remarks mid this week in Chato District while inspecting the airport's construction work accompanied by officials from Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA).

Luhumbi said the airport, with international status, when ready, will open up opportunities for traders to export their minerals fast.

He said Geita was among regions bestowed with abundance gold minerals, tourists' attractions and fertile land fit for cultivation of both food and cash crops.

He said construction of the airport was an implementation of the national transport policy that calls for each region to have

a government owned airport capable to handle middle sized aircraft within Class 3C to 4C of 100 to 150 passenger capacity.

Ladislau Matindi, Air Tanzania Corporation Ltd (ATCL) Director General said Chato Airport was important due to the region's abundance of gold mineral resources and tourists' attractions.

He said the main aim of the government and the airline was to simplify transport hence it has decided to boost airport infrastructures at Musoma, Kahama, Kagera, Shinyanga and Mwanza City airports including the construction of an airport in Geita Region.

Matindi said apart from the region's minerals abundance, they expect to get more passengers from Chato Airport to Dar es Salaam as well as to other domestic and foreign destinations.

He said Chato Airport has the capacity to handle three big aircraft at a time and expects to provide more than 400 jobs.



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FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2020

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

## Commuting death row sentences sends the world a positive signal

A major highlight of the commemoration of this year's Independence Day anniversary was an alternative ceremony, if you will.

This saw President John Magufuli addressing the nation, not in marking the big day directly but by taking note of the momentous event in a different manner.

The occasion was the swearing-in of cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, where the president discussed matters relating to Independence Day - including traditional gestures like favourable consideration for convicts fit for pardon. Still, his overall gesture was far-reaching in its intensity.

The president commuted sentences for 256 death row convicts and pardoning 3,319 inmates finalizing their jail terms, a move reflecting his personal while carrying over a long-established tradition.

Previous heads of State have usually been hesitant to sign death warrants, though in a number of cases they did - a few during the first phase and a much bigger number during the second phase.

As is evident from their number, making the commuting decision isn't easy at all, as in most cases those convicted conducted themselves cruelly on other people, whether they were involved in physical conflict or not.

It is presumed that the High Court doesn't mete out the death sentence unless it is fully satisfied that someone had indeed inflicted fatal bodily harm on someone else with intention to seriously hurt or kill, in legal terms, situations indicating premeditated murder.

When the judge feels that this requirement is wanting even in part, the conviction is downgraded to manslaughter; it doesn't elicit the

death penalty, but only spending the rest of life in jail.

The origin of the campaign against the death penalty lies in the fact that even when courts have no reason to doubt the evidence adduced in court, numerous cases have come up in the course of the last half a century or less where individuals have actually been put to the gallows only for errors of judgment to be discovered later.

Each case where the life of a person has been lost is hugely sensitive to the public such that where there are failings in the broader administration of justice - including the conduct of investigations and adducing evidence - errors can't be totally eliminated.

This way the public gradually starts to worry over such death penalties.

There is another source of abhorrence for the death penalty, namely, a prior sense of clemency arising from an oft-quoted principle to the effect that 'no one is evil knowingly'.

The principle arises from the common view of human beings being in need of self-esteem, which is tied up with how others view this or that person.

In such cases, someone reaching a step of committing murder is himself a victim of a battery of social conflicts alienating his person from the public sense of good or right.

This view applies the axiom of reduced moral responsibility in such situations, the murderer himself being a victim of passion or injustice.

The president has retained the principle of the death penalty as enshrined in the law of the land, and even in commuting 256 death row convicts he did not malign the death penalty itself as it stands there.

## An environmental Independence Day a reminder of what's crucial

PEOPLE across the country marked the 59th anniversary of Tanganyika's Independence by engaging in massive tree planting activities.

This was a prolongation of what was set out in the early days of the current government, with then-incoming President John Magufuli cancelling Uhuru Day celebrations at the National Stadium in 2015.

He then directed that the money set aside for the occasion be used to widen the Morocco-Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road. This measure has resulted in the well-received easing of congestion previously lasting hours.

After marking the day with pageantry for two years, the president again cancelled the 2018 festivities and directed that the money meant for the celebrations be used for the speeding up of the construction of Uhuru Hospital in Dodoma, which is expected to complement the Benjamin Mkapa Hospital as an elevated referral hospital.

Having observed the huge festival last year, the same decision was made for this year's festivities, noticeably amidst a difference of opinion of sorts between Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and the hospital construction consortium. The premier wanted the work completed and ready for a scheduled December 9 handover.

The Independence festival was cancelled this year, but it was more or less duplicated by the equally captivating ceremony to swear in cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, at the Chamwino State House in the capital.

So there was indeed a presidential address, the swearing-in of a cabinet rather than a military parade, and

performances by music groups at the State House in Dodoma rather than the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In cancelling the celebrations to mark the country's Independence Day on December 9, the president had directed that funds earmarked for the event be used to procure medical facilities for the newly built Uhuru Hospital at Chamwino, with officials saying about 835,498,700/- had been allocated for the celebrations.

But, lest people forget, environmental concerns were given a distinctly higher profile this time around than previously.

In Tabora, regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati led the residents in planting more than 300 trees in the Igombe Dam Forest Reserve, a key water source for Tabora urban residents.

The RC said the activity was meant to support environment conservation efforts, adding that the region would plant 1.5 m trees each year.

Tree planting isn't all about environment conservation but also the protection of existing forest cover, and in this aspect many regions are placing restrictions on the harvesting of trees for charcoal.

Some activists are still pursuing economical charcoal stoves as a sustainable solution, while others see switching to gas as a more appropriate option.

What has failed to take off is organic sources of domestic energy like the burning of manure or the harvesting of energy from cesspits, chiefly for lack of start-up capital as well as administrative leverage to propagate these sources of energy. Despite limitations, though, crushed coal mixtures can also replace charcoal.

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# We need new strategies to fight gender-based violence

By Guardian Correspondent

GENDER activists met at the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) grounds at Mabibo in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday to discuss how to end gender-based violence, 25 years after the watershed September 4-15, 1995 Fourth UN World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace held in Beijing.

The meeting was under the theme "25 years of Beijing: Invest, Empower and Eradicate Violence".

The women and men in attendance discussed areas where manifestations of GBV such as rape, female genital mutilation (FGM), marriages involving underage girls, early pregnancies and the like were still rampant - and ways to combat them.

TGNP board chairperson Asseny Muro set the ball rolling, saying it was high time Tanzania ushered in a new phase of intergenerational collaborative efforts to develop new strategies reflection new gender perspectives.

Muro noted that it was sad that not many enough young women and men really understand gender as the world marked 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In the circumstances, she said, time had come to have in place the missing intergenerational link in the women's movement by working with young women for collective remedial or corrective action.

She mentioned barriers to gender equality, equity and social justice and stated that opportunities for women and girls are still limited, subsequently underscoring the need for more women to join efforts influence change and development.

According to Muro, gender equality is not something one could get on a silver platter but a continuous process involving a lot of collective efforts. She said working with young activists was a must for society to sustain the process.

Through collective efforts as a movement, she said, there are many strong women's organisations in Tanzania, like TGNP, implementing programmes meant to empower women and achieve gender equality and social justice.

Muro said she was happy seeing an improvement in the involvement and incorporation of women in decision-making bodies since independence in 1961.

She cited the example of Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, "who has been a champion of women's rights just like President John Magufuli".

Addressing the same gathering, TGNP executive director Lilian Liundi said efforts to ensure an improvement in the march towards gender equality should start with everybody.

"I wish there was much push in our midst, as individuals and as a community, in fighting for gender equality as was witnessed in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic. By now we would be very far and no longer talking about violence against women and other vulnerable groups," she said.

Her words were complemented by Darius Kalijongo, a senior official from the Department of Social Welfare in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

He said that, as part of an initiative to holistically respond to GBV, the government has established an integrated management system for all those subjected to such cases.

He said, alongside women, the system is also expected to respond to cases of violence against children.

Kalijongo, who spoke on behalf of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, explained that the government was committed to ending all forms of violence against women and children.

He admitted that the country had for long gone without a fail-safe system to make that happen, "but it is now in place", adding: "Great strides have been made owing to collaboration involving various stakeholders."

Kalijongo added that the Health ministry has developed guidelines for the establishment and management of safe homes for victims and survivors of GBV, human trafficking and various other forms of violence.

He pointed out that the development would support the establishment of shelters and safe homes particularly for elders.

Among the achievements recorded by the government

towards ending GBV was the establishment of 420 gender and children desks in 26 regions in the country, he said.

Likewise, the Tanzania Prisons Service has joined the war by setting up to 161 gender desks at the prisons.

Kalijongo said that GBV survivors were being attended to in health facilities set up as one-stop centres providing specialised services. So far, 14 such centres have been started.

"The goal is to provide similar services at regional and district hospitals countrywide. Major achievements have been recorded in respect of dealing with juvenile cases in line with the relevant laws of the land to ensure that the rights and well-being of children are protected," he explained.

He added that the move was also meant to ensure that children who were "diverted" from the full justice system were treated in the relevant communities and rehabilitation centres.

"We have developed divergent skills, whereby children who are in conflict with the law are taken to rehabilitation centres," Kalijongo said, adding that other aspects include looking for suitable homes, foster families and adopting families to enjoy care and support, regardless of other challenges.

The chief guest at the event, former minister and National Assembly Speaker Anne Makinda, was emphatic, in the absence of universal gender education and awareness, violence against women and children would remain a hard nut to crack.

"We need to pull all our efforts together against all forms of violence against women and children. Children at home should be treated equally without looking at their sex. We surely need enough resources to fight gender-based violence," said Makinda.

In February this year, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan was the guest of honour at an International Women's Day climax event in Simiyu Region, and she used the opportunity to praise all organisations fighting GBV.

She underlined the need to continue prioritising higher levels of education for women and girls to close the gender gap in sectors such as politics, governance and the judiciary.

UN Resident Coordinator Zlatan Milisic, who also attended the

event, highlighted the need to accelerate the implementation of global Sustainable Development Goal number five, which stresses the need to attain gender equality by 2030.

He said: "By 2030, we should live in a world where women and girls have access to education, healthcare and decent work. We should live in a world where women and girls live free from violence and are equally represented in political and economic decision-making processes."

UN Women's Country Representative Hodan Addou meanwhile noted that despite the significant gains achieved towards the realisation of gender equality in Tanzania, there was still much ground to cover in order to fully realise women's rights.

To reach that goal, she said, there was a need to work harder to ensure that poverty no longer has a woman's face and to ensure that women truly have equal opportunities to own land and property, to engage in decent work, and to promote better sharing of unpaid care work.

The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, which was chaired by Getrude Mongella from Tanzania, marked a significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality.

The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, adopted unanimously by 189 countries, is an agenda for women's empowerment and considered the key global policy document on gender equality.

It sets strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern.

The Beijing conference built on political agreements reached at the three previous global conferences on women and consolidated five decades of legal advances aimed at securing the equality of women with men in law and in practice.

It attracted more than 17,000 participants, including 6,000 government delegates and over 4,000 accredited NGO representatives, a host of international civil servants and around 4,000 media representatives.

A parallel NGO forum held in Huairou near Beijing also drew some 30,000 participants.



# Highly paid, job-secure lockdown zealots have helped kill off the British high street

By Neil Clark

UK department store chain Debenhams is to close with the direct loss of 12,000 jobs. Yet the well-off 'experts' continue to champion ruinous lockdowns, oblivious to the devastation they are wreaking on people's lives.

It was more than just a shop. Debenhams was part of British life. Part of the national fabric. It was a Clark who started it. William Clark (no relation, or at least not that I am aware of) began trading as a draper's store in 1778. Thirty-five years later, Mr Debenham became a partner and the name changed to Clark & Debenham.

Now, Debenhams is no more. Or, rather, it will be no more once its fire sale is over.

2020 is sucking the pleasure out of so many things, not least in regard to shopping. 'Click and Collect' is being aggressively promoted, but the joy of shopping is in the lingering. In the browsing.

But the 'experts' don't want us to do that. They want us to queue up to go into a shop, quickly make a purchase and leave.

Earlier in the week, behavioural psychologist and well-heeled political activist Professor Susan Michie of SAGE and 'Independent Sage' tried to terrify us still further by saying that going into non-essential shops was like playing "Russian roulette".

Michie claimed: "We're all taking a gamble any time we're putting ourselves into a place where other people are who might be infected." Did she even stop to think, or care, how her comments might affect the trade of these 'non-essential' shops?

Like many other department stores, Debenhams wasn't in rude health going into 2020, which I commented on in the Daily Express in January, but lockdown delivered the final blow. As it did to the wonderful Edinburgh Woollen Mill, founded in 1946, but now in administration.

Back in the 1980s, the EWM owned racehorses. Now, like all the other companies that have collapsed since March, its race is run. You really didn't have to be Nostradamus to predict the disastrous impact that lockdowns and other Covid-19 restrictions would have not just on the high street but on the economy in general.

Put another way: how could the government order the shutdown of millions of businesses without there being a disastrous impact in terms of jobs and a cataclysmic fall in GDP?

Yet, incredibly some thought that there would be no great price to pay. That we could just carry on locking down for months on end and then everything would be absolutely hunky dory afterwards.

As labelling people 'deniers' is all the rage, perhaps we could call these people - who tweeted the '#Extend-theLockdown' hashtag in May and June - as 'basic rules of economics deniers'.



Members of staff attach a closing down sign in a window of Debenhams store, amid the outbreak of the COVID-19 in Manchester, Britain, December 2, 2020 (File photo)

Now, they very publicly shed crocodile tears for jobs lost and call for more 'support' for those out of work, yet they advocated the very policies which were guaranteed to bring these unhappy outcomes about.

The Labour Party has been particularly disingenuous. "Thousands of Debenhams staff and their families face huge uncertainty this Christmas. Retail workers across the country will be worried about the future. Our high streets face a defining few months."

We must fight to protect good jobs and good businesses," tweeted Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer when the news broke. But Labour's line throughout the year has been to push for even tougher restrictions.

What all the advocates of lockdowns and draconian restrictions on business have in common is that they're all in highly paid and

secure jobs, usually in the upper echelons of the public sector. This is the real Covid divide of 2020.

I'm not just referring here to government ministers like Health Secretary Matt Hancock, who gets £141,000. Or pro-lockdown MPs on £82,000, plus all the other perks. Or the well-paid union leaders. Or, indeed, the well-heeled government scientists and members of SAGE. Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty is on a salary of £200,000.

Today, Whitty tweeted that the newly authorised vaccine was only a "step" towards normal and strongly hinted that restrictions would need to continue until at least the spring.

How many more businesses will that bankrupt? But rest assured Chris will still be getting his salary paid in full each month, whatever happens. And then there's the high-profile lockdown-promoting 'A-List' media celebrities too - like

Piers Morgan, the co-presenter of Good Morning Britain, who tweeted in 2017 that he gets paid £22.5 million a year.

When I hear these people spout off about how restrictions shouldn't be eased, or need to be strengthened still further, I am always reminded of the words of Upton Sinclair.

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it," the great American novelist once said.

We can update Upton for 2020: "It is difficult to get a man to understand the negative effects of lockdowns and draconian Covid restrictions when his salary won't be adversely affected by them."

Just a day before the sad news about Debenhams was announced, Neil Ferguson, on whose modelling lockdown was based, appeared on the BBC's Newsnight programme to say that

he had received hate mail.

We were all meant to feel very sorry for him. Don't get me wrong, sending hate mail is wrong. But it is surely Ferguson who should be saying sorry to everyone else. He remains in a well-paid, secure position as a professor at Imperial College.

Ferguson said: "As a scientist who has been quite prominent at times in the epidemic for me and people like me, it has been, at times, very difficult."

As 'difficult' as it is for Debenhams staff who were told, just a few weeks before Christmas, that they had lost their jobs? What kind of Christmas will they have?

Britain is heading for mass unemployment in the New Year. But the people who urged, and propagandised, for ruinous lockdowns which have put the country on course for its worst slump for 300 years will be immune to its consequences.

And it really didn't have to be this way. Countries which didn't lock down or shut down entire sectors of their economy have had lower death rates from Covid-19 than those which did.

Just compare per capita deaths in Belarus and Sweden with those in Britain and Spain. Or consider that the countries at the top of the per capita deaths table, Belgium and Peru, both locked down hard and early.

There is no evidence that lockdown led to a net saving of lives; quite the contrary, in fact. But there is evidence - all around us - of the economic destruction it has caused.

Lockdowns, even on their own terms, don't work - but the sad truth is that only when those advocating continued restrictions start losing THEIR jobs and their high salaries will the situation change.

**An RT dispatch published courtesy of the Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre. Neil Clark is a journalist, writer, broadcaster and blogger.**

## How should journalism move in the age of pandemics?

By Teemu Henriksson

How can journalists make their reporting on health crises more effective? What can newsrooms do to prepare for future emergencies? At a recent event, scientists, journalists, editors and science organisation representatives reflected over the lessons one could draw from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The end of the Covid-19 crisis may be on the horizon, given the recent positive news about vaccines. But experts warn that other global health emergencies are likely to arise in the future.

What can journalists and science communicators learn from the current crisis and its news coverage? How can journalists ensure that their work helps keep citizens informed, especially when misinformation is rife?

Representatives of the news media, academia and international science and health agencies came together to discuss these questions on November 23 and 24 at the Science in the Newsroom Global Summit 2020, organised by the World Editors Forum of the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

The discussions covered best practices of news coverage on health crises, smart collaborations between news organisations and scientists, and methods for newsrooms to build up their science and health journalism expertise.

### Journalists as mediators

Misinformation is sometimes perceived to be a contemporary problem, but all pandemics have seen an emergence of rumours about the origins and nature of the disease.

This is according to Sylvie Briand, Director of the Global Infectious Hazard Preparedness department (GIH) at the World Health Organisation. She said journalists have a crucial role in helping mitigate fears around diseases, as the news media act as a mediator between the science and the general population.

In terms of news coverage about Covid-19, many publishers have relied heavily on statistics to depict the evolution of the pandemic. But Denise Liesley, past principal of Green Templeton College at the University of Oxford, says although figures may give a sense of authority, it is important to remember that numbers can mislead just as well as words can.

She added that reporters should therefore always use their journalistic skills when presented with seemingly "neutral" statistics.

Indeed, statistics have been high-profile in the Covid-19 crisis and are essential for both scientists and journalists - but statistics are not neutral. Thus, journalists need to keep asking critical questions, and challenge the numbers when necessary.

### Serving the audience's needs

The second session looked at various approaches and techniques that can help journalists cover health crises effectively. Journalist Shirish Kulkarni underlined the need for journalism to position itself as an emergency service during a health crisis: news publishers should seek to create journalistic content that first and foremost serves the needs of the audience.

Moreover, although science journalism is often seen as being separate from other types



of reporting, the pandemic has shown that there is an urgent need to make science a central part of news coverage.

"Largely, it comes down to changing outdated newsroom culture," Kulkarni said, adding: "We need to remember that science is at the heart of everything we do - not separate from it."

Highlighting the effectiveness of data journalism, John Burn-Murdoch described the Financial Times' approach to data visualisations and how data projects have been central in driving traffic and informing readers about the pandemic.

Data journalism can have an important role as fact-based and transparent journalism in helping build trust with the audience, he said.

Burn-Murdoch explains that, according to research, text is critical in connecting with the readers when using graphics in that adding text can transform a dry, sterile graph into a more engaging and memorable experience.

### The misinformation challenge

The second day of the event kicked off with a discussion on the infodemic: how journalists, researchers and science communication professionals can make a difference in the fight against the spread of rumours and misinformation about Covid-19 and the eventual vaccine.

### Building smart collaborations

The final session of the event examined how newsrooms can augment their science and health reporting in a context where shrinking budgets have forced cutbacks on specialist reporters.

Collaboration was a key theme: the first example came from Australia, where the Australian Academy of Science has started to produce its own videos and collaborate with news publishers in disseminating them to citizens.

Paul Richards and Anna-Maria Arabia said that the academy is now working with the International Science Council in order to make the initiative international through Global Science TV.

Another example came from Canada: David Walmsley, Editor in Chief of the Globe and Mail, and Darren Gilmore, Executive Director of The Royal Society of Canada, discussed how journalists and researchers can forge successful and mutually beneficial cooperation. The newspaper and the scientific body joined forces in launching the Zero Canada Project, a hub featuring resources for Canadians living through the pandemic.

The event concluded with presentations from two leading news publishers. The first was Adolfo Arranz, Deputy Creative Director at South China Morning Post, who described how the Hong Kong newspaper used visualisations to cover the outbreak of Covid-19 from its early phases.

The second was Alyssa Zeisler, Wall Street Journal's Research & Development Chief and Product Lead for Newsroom Tools, who talked about how the pandemic pushed the newspaper to adapt its processes and website to help its audience better understand the unparalleled and evolving story.

This article was originally published on the website of QUEST - Quality and Effectiveness in Science and Technology communication.

**A World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) dispatch.**



# Now is the time for partnership to transform Africa's cocoa industry

By Special Correspondents in Accra

**R**ECENT studies criticising the global chocolate industry for exploitative practices have concerned ethical consumers. Cocoa farmers only earn about 6 per cent of the chocolate industry's total revenues. Leading chocolate companies have since 2001 made pledges to end widespread abusive labour practices but continue to fall short.

In Ghana, local firm Federated Commodities (FedCo) has shown that it is only by improving the cocoa supply chain, with experienced local oversight, that ethical, sustainable and profitable cocoa and chocolate industries can exist.

FedCo CEO Hajia Maria Adamu-Zibo is ready to form international partnerships to take the Ghanaian cocoa sector forwards.

Cocoa is essential to the livelihoods of up to 50 million people around the world, including around five million smallholder farmers. West Africa, mainly Ghana and Ivory Coast, produces about 70 per cent of the world's cocoa on 1.5 million farms, with the majority of the crop coming from small farms (of between three and five hectares each).

Cocoa farmers work very hard, often under strenuous conditions, yet don't earn enough to cover their basic needs. Although the worldwide chocolate market is valued at USD 103 billion, on average, farmers earn only about 6 per cent of the chocolate industry's total revenues.

Many cocoa farming communities in West Africa lack access to education, potable water and basic social amenities.

Furthermore, labour practices on cocoa farms are problematic. In a bid to reduce production costs, farmers are inclined towards child labour. An estimated 1.56 million children work on cocoa farms in Ghana and Ivory Coast.

About 43 per cent of children aged between five and 5-17 in these two countries are engaged in hazardous work, including exposure to agrochemicals without protective equipment, the use of dangerous tools and working at night.

Despite years of pledges from chocolate manufacturers to end abusive employment practices in their supply chains, there has been a 14 per cent increase in the number of children working in cocoa farms over the past ten years, accompanied by a 62 per cent rise in production.

## Sustainable practices counter child labour

Louisa Cox, Director of Impact at the Fairtrade Foundation, cited in a newspaper article, suggested that 'long-term finance, training and technical services, and helping farmers diversify beyond cocoa' are needed to help address child labour in the cocoa industry.

These are all measures that FedCo - an indigenous licensed buying company (LBC) founded in 1996 in Ghana - has a sustained track record of taking.

"As an affiliate company of Global Haulage (GlobalHaulageGroup.com), FedCo engages in the supply of traceable and certified cocoa beans to help promote sustainability in cocoa production through community development and capacity building of farmers," says FedCo's Adamu-Zibo.

"Under this programme, farmers are trained on adult literacy and good agricultural, business and social practices, which empowers them economically," adds the CEO.

The CEO elaborates: "The wellbeing of the farmer is of high priority to us. We strive to have a relationship beyond just transactions with the over 50,000 farmers who make up our supply base.

"We were amongst the first indigenous privately owned firms to go into sustainability. FedCo has achieved several milestones since then. We have 300 employees, 1,700 purchasing clerks, a larger fleet of vehicles, as well as an affiliate company that does not only cocoa haulage but also other endeavours related to the industry.

"We have also touched the lives of countless farmers and communities across Ghana through social interventions. The FedCo Cocoa Farmers Association consisting of about 15,000 farmers provides social benefits, including funeral benefits, and loan



facilities to set up farms, to buy agricultural inputs, and to send their children to school. A total of 3,000 farmers have benefited from various forms of financial support in excess of USD 500,000 towards their farming activities.

"Together with our partners, FedCo has since 2012 supplied over 44,000 tonnes of sustainable cocoa beans and invested about USD 7 million in sustainability, through training, cash premium payments, and various projects.

"Access to financing has always been a problem for the farmers. Farmers' lives are improved when we facilitate access to inputs and credit facilities so that they effectively carry out their pre-and post-harvest work.

"We are big on helping farmers by assisting them add value their livelihoods. Going forward, we intend to help more farmers improve their living income by helping them get sustainability programmes that will see them get paid more."

On diversification beyond cocoa, Hajia Adamu-Zibo says: "We have diversified into the cashew market which gives us a great alternative during the lean period of the cocoa season. Part of our community engagement drive is getting into farm service agreements with individual farmers. Deals like that will see us take care of their yield in exchange for the commodity after harvest. Diversification helps farmers earn more because they are not banking their livelihoods on just one crop. Processing is part of our long term plan as well."

## Empowering farmers through education, skills

Federated Commodities has big dreams for farmers in Ghana. "We go beyond just buying. We really try to do more for the farmers and communities," says Adamu-Zibo. The LBC believes that partnering with academic institutions to impart technical skills holds promise for improving farmers' lives and the cocoa industry.

"We have put in place programmes to help improve the quality of life of our farmers. For instance, we have worked with local educational authorities to build schools that will help give youth relevant skills to work in the industry. So far, we have constructed seven schools and intend to build more," she says.

"Training programmes for farmers are also part of our agenda so that they can learn how to diversify crops and make use of crop by-products. We are also teaching them financial literacy skills to empower them to better manage their finances.

"Since October 2018, about 2,032 farmers have enrolled in FedCo's Village Savings and Loan Programme, run in partnership with Solidaridad West Africa, which is enabling farmers to save for their futures and fund their ventures.

"We have had interactions with the Kumasi Technical School about the possibility of their students making tools that can help farmers break the cocoa. Discussions are also ongoing on how we can mechanise more processes."

With more partnerships and funding, Federated Commodities is deter-

mined to be able to do more, for more communities: "Our activities have really enhanced communities. We have also built libraries, computer centres, community halls and over 100 boreholes. It makes me so happy to see FedCo's impact in the lives of farmers and in communities, and how appreciative they are," says Adamu-Zibo.

## Case studies

FedCo has a long-term agreement with Valrhona, a French premium chocolate manufacturer that sources and transforms the finest cocoa to make high-quality chocolate. The agreement allows Valrhona to source cocoa directly from 1001 producers in eight communities in Ghana's Western region.

Community leaders stressed the importance of improving educational facilities. A subsequent assessment of schools revealed 30 per cent of students were learning in unsafe conditions, while a whole one-third of children were out of school.

In 2017, Valrhona launched a five-year project to improve access to education and learning conditions for the communities' 4882 children.

Cocoa farming is the economic base of Asamankese town, in Ghana's Eastern Region, but the farmers have struggled with skilled labour and agricultural inputs - which has contributed to limited yields and little to no profit.

FedCo has been working with farmers in Asamankese to improve production and yield by providing skilled labour and inputs such as fertiliser.

However, the project is currently on hold owing to funding challenges. CEO Adamu-Zibo believes that this project has lots of potential and that many more similar ones can be done: "In spite of these initial challenges, we are determined to pursue this and similar projects because we believe that they offer significant benefit to our farmers."

FedCo is open to new partnerships that will allow the project to recommence. As one of the top foreign exchange earners for Ghana, cocoa is central to the country's economic development. The 'cash crop' has sustained lives over generations and successive governments have explored interventions to revamp the sector.

Interventions taken by the Ghana Cocoa Board under President Nana Akufo-Addo's administration have since 2017 included increasing volumes of cocoa production through improved agronomic practices and increasing producer prices.

In September 2020, the government announced a 28 per cent increase in the guaranteed producer price it pays to farmers for the 2020/21 growing season. The price rise is due to the implementation

of a price floor of USD 2,600 per tonne and a living income differential of USD 400 per tonne, to put more money into the hands of farmers. Ivory Coast is taking similar steps.

Adamu-Zibo explains: "Indeed, cocoa has been an important commodity for our country. Cocoa is not just a cash crop for us; it has also become part of our politics.

"The cocoa sector feeds about 800,000 people in the country and issues that affect the industry can be quite emotive. Unfortunately, our industry has suffered a dip in production in recent times occasioned by climatic changes as well as factors such as disease.

"The impact of the measures the government has put in place will start being felt in a few years, with the expected rise in volumes of production."

"Adding value to our cocoa is also part of our national strategy. Value addition will help increase the value of our product, boost our standing in the global cocoa industry, and lead to job creation."

"The government is focusing on increasing production while also encouraging diversification in the overall agriculture sector to improve the sector and boost our national revenue. Cocoa and cashew processing will help add value and put even more people to work. It will also help more companies like us benefit from the industrialisation drive of the Ghanaian economy. Other commodities the government is looking at include coconut and rice production, to ensure the agricultural industry reduces its reliance on cocoa. This will give Cocobod room to better strategise and add value to cocoa."

Adamu-Zibo further explains: "In the future, cocoa will not be the dominant crop in Ghana if our diversification plans come to fruition. Cocoa will still be an important and relevant crop but it won't be as prominent as it is now."

## Path to international growth

With implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement set to start next month (January 2021), Hajia Adamu-Zibo believes that Ghana stands to gain greatly as long as the country improves its skill base and makes production funding more accessible.

She elaborates: "We are well endowed with natural resources and qualified hardworking personnel. The relevant bodies are doing their best, but we are still not as sophisticated as we need to be for the international market.

"The majority of items we import can be produced locally, but we lack the finesse required to make our products more attractive. A lack of focus on perfecting our products opens the door to a

high import rate. Our country must improve its skills base.

"The other obstacle in the way of our production capacity is funding. The cost of funding in Ghana is very high compared to other countries. If the interest rates eat so much into your margins, then you can barely run a profitable venture. If we work on the rate and make funds more accessible, we will create room for more innovation and production in our country."

Federated Commodities is understood to be exploring global partnerships to tap more into the global cocoa industry.

"We are looking to seal important contacts in Europe and America as we seek sustainability partnerships that will be of mutual benefit," Adamu-Zibo, adding: "In Africa, we are looking at - maybe - getting partners in Cote D'Ivoire as well as South Africa because these are two strong cocoa markets. We possess the knowledge as far as cocoa is concerned and an ideal partner would be someone who has the technical expertise to process on a large scale."

"Ghana can be the hub when it comes to business in all spheres if we adjust our tariffs. That way, we will favourably compete with Togo and Cote D'Ivoire. Maybe we also need to diversify our languages and get proficient in French. Ghana is surrounded by francophone countries and that should push us to learn French to properly transact."

## Optimising skills development

As Ghana seeks to grow its economy and compete more and better on a global scale, Adamu-Zibo calls on the government to "place more emphasis on skills development".

She elaborates: "We must cultivate a culture of perfectionism so that we develop the right disciplines and products that serve our people and beyond. If we have the right skills, we will have the right mindsets and ultimately the right products. Of course, we have to tackle issues of cost and infrastructure but I believe skills should be our priority."

With respect to Federated Commodities' ambitions to make greater contributions to the global sustainable cocoa industry, as well as Ghana's agricultural sector, Adamu-Zibo says: "There are a lot of challenges in the cocoa industry, and the competition is very keen, yet we have a loyal customer base. I believe Federated Commodities must be doing something right and that is why our farmers are happy with us."

She adds: "We need good partnerships to help our farmers so that we can keep them motivated. We are looking at skill development, education sponsorships, loans and savings programmes and host of other programmes.

"Our consistency has made us very trustworthy and reliable in a very competitive environment. In a decade, I foresee a company full of diversified professionals that can thrive in many fields and make this company a huge name in Ghana and beyond."

Agencies





# Exim's 'Chanja Kijanja' campaign takes new look

By Guardian Reporter

EXIM Bank's 'Chanja Kijanja and Exim Mastercard' that is aimed at encouraging the bank's Exim customers to shop and spend online with their bank cards through cashless payments (POS-payment machines) has taken a new twist as customers stand chances of winning an increase of grand prizes.

The campaign is rewarding Exim Bank customers with

Mastercard to celebrate best services offered for them in support of their lifestyles.

Andrew Lyimo, Exim Bank's Head of Retail Banking said that through the campaign, the would-be winners will be awarded different token prizes including cash prizes for them to pay for their children's school fees and other schools' equipment.

"In respect of our customers' priorities, we are now giving special chances for our

three winners (accompanied by their loved ones) to select fully covered trips of their choices like visiting Serengeti National Park or travelling to the beautiful island of Zanzibar."

"They (winners) may also opt for the reward of being paid school fees for one child and his or her school's equipment will also be covered," he said.

He said that during the campaign, 10 weekly winners will

each be awarded 'shopping vouchers' valued at 50,000/- while in every month, five (5) winners will be awarded best smartphones.

"As it was the case in the past, there are plenty of weekly, monthly and grand prizes to be awarded during the climax of the campaign," he said.

"What our Exim Bank customers are required to do is to do their purchase or payments through their Master-

Card as many times as possible for them to increase their chances of emerging winners," he said.

According to Lyimo, the campaign is open to all Exim Bank's customers holding Exim Bank MasterCards, including those who have registered or will need to be registered to be enrolled into Mastercard's system during the campaign.

"At Exim bank, our cardholders have been enjoying

utmost convenience across our networks when they do their purchase or payments in the shopping, or doing online purchase like Amazon, Ebay, Alibaba, Jumia, Kikuu, Duka Direct, payments for their travelling, hotel accommodation and other touristic activities," he said.

Stanley Kafu, who is the head of Marketing and Communication at Exim bank, said that he has been pleased with the good response of

customers to the ongoing campaign saying that "We are very much pleased with the outcome of the campaign."

"We are truly happy with Chanja Kijanja's response from our customers," he said, adding that the improvements have been made to make sure that the campaign runs smoothly and conveniently reflects to the best services offered by the bank and that is their philosophy of delivering services.

## Transforming tea trade with taste and impact

By Guardian Correspondent and Agencies

NOTHING quite compares the taste of Ginger Mint Fusion tea whose aromatic steam mistily wafts off when served in a cup.

As any customer at Salt restaurant in Dar es Salaam will attest, the tasty beverage is probably the best money can buy.

Perched at the posh Oyster Bay neighbourhood with lush vegetation - the restaurant, which boasts a tacky décor and grandiose French Style architecture - is a magnet for tea-lovers.

Whether you take it with milk, sugar, lemon or just plain, ginger tea, which is spiced with exquisite flavours, is irresistibly tasty.

From the swankiest of the city's hotels to Shoppers Plaza to Village Supermarket, the murky drink, whose flavour is intimately affected by how tea is grown and processed, is increasingly entrenched in people's way of life.

Stuck in a faint sense of mystery, customers are often taken by surprise - not knowing what flavour to expect when sipping one of the finest tea blends produced by truly Tanzanian tea blenders.

Kazi Yetu - 'Our work' in Swahili - is a start-up firm working to create jobs and economic opportunities for women in the yawning agricultural value chain, through value addition of locally produced tea products.

The firm is responsible for processing, blending, packaging and exporting fairly traded tea products to and benefit the Tanzanian economy.

While most agricultural products from Africa are often processed, brand-

ed and packaged abroad, the countries of origin, including Tanzania do not always enjoy economies of scale.

The 32-year-old entrepreneur, Tahira Nizari and her business partner and husband, Hendrik Buermann, are defying the odds to challenge the status quo.

Armed with impeccable academic credentials coupled with vast business experience - working for development organisations dealing with economic inclusion in non-profit development sector in East Africa and South Asia, Nizari had in 2018 launched an organisation with an ambitious vision and hustle to tap the economic potential in agri-business through value addition.

Kazi Yetu's factory in Dar es Salaam, which employs an all-women team to produce what Nizari terms as "traceable products" is a beehive of activities.

Distinctively intelligent and hard-working, Nizari has delved in market research, locally and internationally, to identify opportunities and build relations with a network of Tanzanian farmers, supplying produce for seven blends of the company's flagship Tanzania Tea Collection spiced up with local flavours.

With her razor-sharp mind, Nizari sees many opportunities in agriculture that many of her Tanzanian peers don't see.

"Some young Tanzanians may not be excited to venture in agriculture, we are creating new opportunities along the agriculture value chain that are profitable," she said.

With her refined interpersonal skills and unfettered social interactions with local partners both public and private



sectors, Nizari strives to create more income-generating opportunities to lift women from the quagmires of poverty.

As a social enterprise, Kazi Yetu partners with nascent agri-businesses to increase value addition through packaging, branding and marketing thus creating opportunities and links with international markets. From her humble beginning, Nizari and her husband, whose development work is changing the lives and increasing incomes for smallholder farmers and women entrepreneurs, have a clear vision for the future.

"We wanted to establish a social enterprise that would propel investment and growth in sustainable way" Nizari said.

To quench insatiable quest of consumers, Kazi Yetu makes various types of ethically-sourced teas blended with herbs from farms across Tanzania.

"Consumers worldwide want to know the origin of the products and how it impacts the people in the supply chain," she said.

According to her, the outbreak of the coronavirus early this year, had affected the company, its logistics, customers and facilities - almost bringing it to

the brink of financial ruins, since most tourists cancelled their travel plans to the country in most of 2020.

"We had to temporarily close our factory early in April, and ask our employees to stay safe at home," Nizari said

Exporting tea by sea and air was a bit challenging logistically since most governments imposed travel restrictions and lockdown policies, she said.

Despite wobbling in financial doldrums and logistical nightmares, Kazi Yetu got back to its feet - resuming most of its operations.

The company is currently running an online store from Germany - primarily targeting a key European market. Nizari is upbeat to tap the potential of online customers, who according to her are quite receptive, "We are excited to reach customers in Europe and are expanding to North America and Middle East," she said.

Through its mini-company in Germany, Kazi Yetu collaborates with like-minded social enterprises to increase value addition and reach African market.

In order to identify and meet growing needs of her business partners and suppliers, the company

trains its associate to stick to organic principles.

"We work with farmers to determine their specific needs and help grow their businesses," she said.

The company has, for instance helped a smallholder farmer in the northern Kilimanjaro region, who needed a solar drier for drying edible herbs.

"We have invested in the construction of the solar dryer, and she pays back the dues in instalments," Nizari said.

The firm, whose factory in Dar es Salaam has facilities for storage, production and packaging, employs a dozen of all women employees.

"We plan to invest in a tea packaging machine, to increase our up take from farmers and create more jobs for women," Nizari said adding, the factory is hoping to employ 65 women by 2022 and increase the number of source farmers to 7,500.

The firm is targeting tea drinkers seeking fairly produced, organic and natural products.

"We aim to supply organic supermarkets and shops that promote such products," she said

Born in Canada, growing up in Dubai, Nizari owes her success to her humble family roots, which are deeply entrenched in Tanzania. Her mother grew up in Moshi on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

"My grandfather had a farm and a shop in the town centre... I always knew I wanted to come back here where my roots are," said Tahira whose husband delves in a myriad agri-development projects in East and West Africa.

Nizari, who doesn't have any children yet, loves walking her adopted street dog nicknamed Pilipili on the Indian Ocean beach.

## UN Secretary General: Vaccine nationalism is 'moving at full speed'

By Special Correspondent

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday that "vaccine nationalism" is moving "at full speed," leaving poor people around the globe watching preparations for inoculations against the coronavirus in some rich nations and wondering if and when they will be vaccinated.

The U.N. chief reiterated his call for vaccines to be treated as "a global public good," available to everyone, everywhere on the planet, especially in Africa. And he appealed for \$4.2 billion in the next two months for the World Health Organization's COVAX program, an ambitious project to buy and deliver coronavirus vaccines for the world's poorest people.

After a virtual U.N. meeting with the African Union, Guterres said at news conference that financing COVAX is the only way to guarantee vaccines will be available in Africa and other developing areas.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a high-level U.N. General Assembly meeting last week on COVID-19 that "the light at the end of the tunnel is growing steadily brighter" to end the pandemic. But, he added, vaccines "must be shared equally as global public goods, not as private commodities that widen inequalities and become yet another reason some people are left behind."

Tedros said WHO's cash-strapped ACT-Accelerator programme to quickly develop and distribute vaccines fairly, which includes the COVAX project, "is in danger of becoming no more than a noble gesture" without major new funding. COVAX will require an additional \$23.9 billion for 2021, he said, stressing that the \$28 billion total is less than one-half of 1 per cent of the \$11 trillion in stimulus packages announced so far by the Group of 20, the world's richest countries.

The United Kingdom and Russia have already started vaccinating people against the coronavirus. In the United States, the Pfizer vaccine could get a green light for emergency use in the coming days and the Moderna vaccine in the coming weeks. Canada announced approval of the Pfizer vaccine Wednesday,



Guterres said Africa's 54 nations have registered more than 2.2 million cases of coronavirus infections and over 53,000 deaths from COVID-19.

"There is real hope that vaccines - in combination with other public health measures - will help to overcome the pandemic," he said.

But to end it, he added, vaccines must be available to all and "most African countries lack the financing to adequately respond to the crisis, due in part to declining demand and prices of their commodity exports."

The director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, John Nkengasong, said in late November that vaccinations against the coronavirus on the continent might not start until the second quarter of next year. "I

have seen how Africa is neglected when drugs are available" in the past, he told reporters.

Guterres said Wednesday when asked about Nkengasong's assessment: "It is my hope that we'll be able to do it before the second quarter, but it is true that what we're seeing today is an enormous effort by several countries in order to ensure vaccines for their own populations."

"It's true we are seeing vaccination nationalism moving at full speed," the U.N. chief said.

"If Africa is not properly supported, we will not be able to fight the pandemic," he said. "There are several vaccines in the pipeline for COVAX, and it is perfectly possible to deliver if the financing is guaranteed."

## HKMU to confer degrees to 181 medical doctors at its 18th graduation ceremony

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

HUBERT Kairuki Memorial University (HKMU) is expected to confer degree to 181 medical doctors in its 18th graduation ceremony to be held tomorrow at its main campus in Dar es Salaam.

A statement by HKMU stated that there will also be 53 students who will be conferred with degrees of Bachelor of Science in Nursing and 146 will receive Diploma certificates in pre-nursing and in service.

The statement said there will be one graduate for Master of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology and one Master of Medicine in Paediatrics and Child Health.

The university vice councilor, Prof, Charles Mgone said they are planning to establish a new campus in Dar es Salaam, a move aimed to increase medical practitioners in the country and reduce gap between doctors and patients.

Prof Mgone said at the time of independence there was only one doctor for every 25,000 people whereas currently a doctor attends to at least 20,000 people. He said the recommended ratio is one doctor per 4,000 people per year.

"We want to increase the number of doctors; we have taken measures to improve our teaching, research and health delivery services by establishing a new campus in Boko," he noted adding the decision is in line with the university's values of striving for professionalism, excel-

lence, adoptability, competitiveness and working partnerships.

He said the move is also to fulfill the late Professor Hubert Kairuki vision and dream of making HKMU a model university that provides highest quality education, conducts cutting edge research and provides exemplary services to the society.

He said HKMU has been working in partnership with various stakeholders and that it intend to raise funds to build an ultra-modern campus which will comprise of a teaching facility, recreation, healthcare services provision and accommodation facilities.

According to Prof Mgone the campus will include a school of medicine, pharmacy, nutrition, public health, biotechnology, social sciences and medical laboratory sciences.

The professor said the campus will also include recreation and sports facilities, modern teaching and research laboratories, teaching health center and students' hostels and cafeteria.

He said when fully operational the university will have capacity for training 5,564 students annually, 4,010 in the new and 1,554 at the old campus.

He said that HKMU which is the first private university established in 1997 has a population of around 1,500 students with 80 faculty members and 65 supporting staff.



# Carbon neutrality by 2050: World's most urgent mission

By António Guterres

As the world marks the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement on climate change, a promising movement for carbon neutrality is taking shape.

By next month, countries representing more than 65 per cent of harmful greenhouse gases and more than 70 per cent of the world economy will have committed to achieve net zero emissions by the middle of the century.

At the same time, the main climate indicators are worsening. While the Covid-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced emissions, carbon dioxide levels are still at record highs – and rising.

The past decade was the hottest on record: Arctic sea ice in October was the lowest ever, and apocalyptic fires, floods, droughts and storms are increasingly the new normal. Biodiversity is collapsing, deserts are spreading, oceans are warming and choking with plastic waste.

Science tells us that, unless we cut fossil fuel production by 6 per cent every year between now and 2030, things will get worse. Instead, the world is on track for a 2 per cent annual rise.

Covid-19 pandemic recovery gives us an unexpected yet vital opportunity to attack climate change, fix our global environment, re-engineer economies and re-imagine our future.

There are several things we must do. First, we need build a truly global coalition for carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Union has committed to do so. The United Kingdom, Japan, the Republic of Korea and more than 110 countries have done the same. So, too, has the incoming United States administration. China has pledged to get there before 2060.

Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for net zero – and act now to get on the right path to that goal, which means cutting global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 compared with 2010 levels.

In advance of next November's UN Climate Conference in Glasgow, Governments are obligated by the Paris Agreement to be ever more ambitious every five years and submit strengthened commitments known as Nationally Determined Contributions, and these NDCs must show true ambition for carbon neutrality.

Technology is on our side. It costs more to simply run most of today's coal plants than it does to build new renewable plants from scratch.

Economic analysis confirms the wisdom of this path. According to the International Labour Organisation, despite inevitable job



losses, the clean energy transition will create 18 million net new jobs by 2030.

But we must recognize the human costs of decarbonisation, and support workers with social protection, re-skilling and up-skilling so that the transition is just.

Second, we need to align global finance with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, the world's blueprint for a better future.

It is time to put a price on carbon; end fossil fuel subsidies and finance; stop building new coal power plants; shift the tax burden from income to carbon, from taxpayers to polluters; make climate-related financial risk disclosures mandatory; and integrate the

goal of carbon neutrality into all economic and fiscal decision-making.

Banks must align their lending with the net zero objective, and asset owners and managers must decarbonise their portfolios.

Third, we must secure a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience to help those already facing dire impacts of climate change.

That's not happening enough today: adaptation represents only 20 per cent of climate finance. This hinders our efforts to reduce disaster risk.

It also isn't smart; every \$1 invested in adaptation measures could yield almost \$4 in benefits. Adaptation and resilience are especially urgent for small island developing

states, for which climate change is an existential threat.

Next year gives us a wealth of opportunities to address our planetary emergencies, through major United Nations conferences and other efforts on biodiversity, oceans, transport, energy, cities and food systems.

One of our best allies is nature itself: nature-based solutions could provide one-third of the net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Indigenous knowledge can help to point the way. And as humankind devises strategies for preserving the environment and building a green economy, we need more

women decision-makers at the table. Covid-19 and climate have brought us to a threshold. We cannot go back to the old normal of inequality and fragility; instead we must step towards a safer, more sustainable path.

This is a complex policy test and an urgent moral test. With decisions today setting our course for decades to come, we must make pandemic recovery and climate action two sides of the same coin.

• **António Guterres (pictured) is United Nations Secretary General.**

## Digital technologies bring better life to people

By Zhang Cong, Gu Yekai

THE Light of Internet Expo of the 2020 World Internet Conference (WIC) was held in Wuzhen township, Tongxiang, east China's Zhejiang province, from Nov. 22 to 24.

Focusing on the world's most recent Internet development trends and cutting-edge technologies, the expo attracted a total of 130 well-known companies and institutions, which showcased new digital technologies, products, applications, and results in AI, cloud computing, big data, blockchain, 5G and other fields.

At the booth of China Mobile at the expo, a 5G-driven medical waste collection vehicle from Shaoxing, Zhejiang province, drew the attention of visitors.

Equipped with 5G technology, the vehicle could perform such functions as statistical analysis, real-time supervision, panoramic mapping and AI video monitoring, realizing the closed-loop monitoring and online law enforcement of the entire medical waste industry chain.

China Mobile has also helped Shaoxing establish an information platform that could realize full-cycle, intelligent, and closed-loop digital management of industrial solid waste, domestic waste, and construction waste. "The information platform could

guarantee that the origin of every single bag of garbage could be traced," said Shen Yuan, a staff member of China Mobile at the booth.

An ocular fundus diseases screening all-in-one machine displayed at the booth of Chinese search engine giant Baidu could scan the eyes of users and provide the results within several seconds.

A technician pointed out that the device can input a two-dimensional photo of the ocular fundus taken by its built-in camera and assess the risks of diseases based on information about the four major physiological structures of the fundus it extracted through deep learning algorithms.

The system is able to spot major eye diseases such as glaucoma, macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, helping high-risk groups have their eye diseases detected early.

One of the highlights of the expo is the exhibits showing how industrial Internet applications can improve production efficiency.

At the booth of Seiko Epson Corporation, a special pair of glasses was particularly eye-catching. It turned out to be a remote operation and maintenance support system based on augmented reality (AR) technology.

With the special pair of glasses, workers at the operation and maintenance site of industrial equipment could send high-definition pictures



Children interact with Xiaodu, a smart robot rolled out by Chinese search engine giant Baidu, during the Light of Internet Expo of the 2020 WIC, Nov. 22. File Photo

to back-end experts in a real time manner and see the drawings and relevant materials about the equipment provided by back-end experts via a virtual screen, thus receiving guidance on fault diagnosis, operation and maintenance.

During the COVID-19 prevention and control, many companies have asked experts from foreign countries to debug and repair their production equipment remotely through the system, which infused vitality into the resumption of work and production, said Wang Jiahui, a staff member at

the booth. At the booth of the State Grid Corporation of China at the expo, a power distribution robot was swiftly moving its arms while the images of its operation were displayed on a screen in real time.

By controlling the robot through a terminal box controller, operators could simply stand on the ground and allow the robot to autonomously identify the position of the wire lead and carry out related power distribution tasks through the application of technologies concerning such purposes

as 3D reconstruction of environment, visual recognition, and motion control, which is both more efficient and safer.

Exhibits showing roles of science and technology in facilitating public welfare undertakings have also attracted many visitors.

At the booth of China's tech giant Tencent, visitors could design silk scarves via a mini program, with the design inspiration coming from representative theme elements and more than 200 details from murals in the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, northwest China's Gansu province.

They could also upload photos of themselves and try the scarves they have designed virtually with the help of image processing and facial recognition technologies before placing an order.

By purchasing the scarves, the users will be making donations to the digital protection of the Mogao Grottoes, according to a worker at the booth. At the expo, China UnionPay displayed several special POS machines, also a public welfare project that enables users to pay one yuan and then get poems written by children from poor mountainous areas.

The money collected in the project will be used to support art education for these children.

Many visitors paid for the poems by scanning a QR code to contribute to improving education in poor areas.

China UnionPay is now expanding online channels for the POS machine to involve more people in the public welfare project, said a worker at the booth.



## EXPERT COUNSELS STATE TO INVEST IN WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

By Francis Kajubi

**W**ITH only less than 10 percent of waste water being properly managed in Dar es Salaam and worse situation in other cities of the country, an expert has advised that the government starts treating equal the importance of sewage management with clean and safe water investments.

Speaking to Property Watch at the sidelines of the 4th Annual National Multi-sectoral Forum dialogue on water resources management held in Dar es Salaam last week, Plasco Limited's Chief Operating Officer, Alimiya Osman said the government has not adequately invested in sewage management hence causing a challenge of waste water disposal in big cities.

"There is no way the government can ignore sewage management in big cities and put all its efforts to invest in clean and safe water for the public only and hope to create smart cities," Osman argued.

He said because of poor investment in waste water management, the biggest challenge facing the country currently is presence of stench water clandestinely while the very little system available has been overwhelmed because it's old and dilapidated.

"Most of sewage infrastructures that we have goes beyond 50 years. What do we do in man-



Weholite technology pipes being manufactured at Plasco Limited's factory in Dar es Salaam. File photo

aging sewage produced by the daily growing population in our cities?" wondered Osman whose company has invested over US\$10 million (23.19bn/-) in a new technology known as Weholite for the manufacturing of modern sewage pipeline, septic tanks and water storage tanks.

The Plasco Limited's COO further noted that the Weholite technology is the latest is available in the market and is exclusively designed to address challenges of sewage management in big cities.

"We ask the government not to shy away from new technologies but instead

it should adopt and embrace them since they have been useful in many developed countries. We wouldn't have invested all this money in this technology if it wasn't essential in water and sewage management," he stated.

Plasco is a developer of new technolo-

gies of water management and manufacturers of plastic pipes since 1995. The company is now applying Weholite technology in manufacturing high gravity system pipes with diameters of up to three meters suitable for transferring sewage smoothly.

Osman commended the government for controlling mass importation of construction materials hence enabling local manufacturers to dominate the market while generating jobs and boosting Treasury revenue.

Themed 'accelerating realization of water security for all through enhanced multi-sectoral dialogues' the dialogue brought together water stakeholders from the government, civil society organizations, private sector and media practitioners.

Co-organized by the Ministry of Water in collaboration with the 2030 Water Resources Group, World Bank, Global Affairs Canada and Shahidi wa Maji, the dialogue on water management was aimed at enhancing cross sectoral coordination as envisioned in the country's Integrated Water Resources Management Development plan.

## TIRA chief touts training of insurance personnel by employers in Zanzibar

By Property Watch Reporter, Zanzibar

THE government wants insurance service providers, including banks, to invest more in ensuring their risk management personnel acquire professional qualifications in the business.

Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)'s Commissioner of Insurance, Dr Mussa Juma said in Zanzibar last week while opening training course organised by NMB Bank Plc for its staff that such an investment has deliver returns across the board in the industry.

Dr Juma said beneficiaries will not only be the trained staff but also their employers and the country as a whole noting that professionally qualified employees will help address inherent shortcomings currently haunting the industry notably limited uptake of insurance and lack of products tailor-made to cater for specific needs of the market.

The TIRA chief added that training staff on insurance matters will also build their capacity hence increasing the number of people with requisite skills to better serve consumers in the market where penetration remains low.

"Ultimately, the insurance fraternity will play a key role in dealing with the prevailing sectoral glitch of the industry

not contributing adequately to economic growth and overall national development," Dr Juma noted while adding that like most African markets, contribution of insurance to national output has for many years remained at less than one per cent.

He called on insurance companies, banks doing bancassurance, brokers and other stakeholders in the industry to ensure that their people are certified by professional bodies after receiving appropriate training.

"The insurance law requires every insurance service provider, be it a bank or a broker, train people working for them. I commend NMB for considering that and TIRA as regulator of the industry will ensure you get the support you need to serve many Tanzanians," Dr Juma assured.

"NMB entry into bancassurance business is a major development for us in the industry since it has already started paying dividends in terms of increasing service providers and many people being insured through the bank's extensive branch network in the country," he added.

The top lender was the first bank to be licensed by TIRA and formally started offering bancassurance services in February this year. Its Chief Human Resources Officer Emmanuel Akoonay said the training investment has paid off in many ways, including increasing accessibility to services.



Commissioner of insurance Dr Mussa Juma makes remarks during NMB bank Plc's staff training held in Zanzibar last week. With him are NMB chief of retail banking, Filbert Mponzi (R), and chief human resources Emmanuel Akoonay. Photo courtesy of NMB

Akoonay said the goal of introducing NMB Bancassurance was to help serve the majority Tanzanians who have been sidelined for many years. "Since the launching of the service, more than 250 employees have been trained. This has boosted service provision leading to an average of more than 30,000 people being insured every month through NMB," Akoonay said.

"When our plans to go digital materialises, many more people will be accorded the opportunity to access insurance wherever they are and at any time that will ultimately end the physical need to visit the bank's branch to get insured," he added. NMB Senior Bancassurance Manager, Martine Massawe said the acquired knowledge and skills will be pivotal in making the bank a key player in the highly competitive industry.

## Ethiad launches carbon offset programme

ABU DHABI

ETIHAD Airways, the national airline of the UAE, will purchase carbon offsets to neutralise all of the CO2 emissions generated by its wide-body 787-10 'Greenliner' aircraft next year.

The initiative marks the first step of the airline's journey to cut its CO2 emissions to 50 per cent of last year's levels by 2035 and to reach full net zero emissions by 2050, which is a first for any major airline in the Gulf, it said. It will also roll out an additional voluntary programme offering flyers the chance to offset their own carbon emissions via its website.

"It's encouraging to end a difficult year with such a positive move for the sustainable future of aviation," said Etihad chief executive, Tony Douglas. "While the year brought many challenges, sustainability has remained at the top of our agenda, and the work hasn't stopped."

The company's offset programme has been sourced through Respira,



Launch event for Etihad's 'Greenliner' last year. All of the carbon generated by its flights next year will be offset by funding a Tanzanian forestry programme.

a carbon offset finance business that specialises in creating tailored offsetting projects. Etihad's scheme will see it buy 80,000 tonnes of CO2 offsets that will fund a Tanzanian forestry project. The Makame Savannah Redd project is aimed at curbing deforestation and better managing local resources across 100,000 hectares of the Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem, the

airline said. London-based Respira is also setting up operations within Abu Dhabi Global Market, the emirate's financial free zone, to support Etihad's sustainability efforts and bring its offset expertise to the region, the company said. "Respira offers a fresh approach to the carbon market by aligning the interests of project developers,

buyers and capital providers," Ana Haurie, the company's chief executive, said.

"It is a privilege to work with Etihad, which has shown real commitment to its sustainability goals through what is a challenging period for the airline industry," she added. Etihad's offsetting programme is being verified and certified by carbon offset assurance

## Fairview Hotel, City Lodge put on sale amid Covid-19

NAIROBI

NAIROBI'S Fairview Hotel, Town Lodge and City Lodge Two Rivers have been put up for sale as the South African hospitality group which owns the three units plans to exit East Africa after barely six years of operation.

City Lodge Hotel Group says it has received an offer from a buyer who is interested in the three hotels in addition to City Lodge Hotel in Dar es Salaam which it also owns.

"Shareholders are advised that following receipt of an unsolicited non-binding offer for the proposed acquisition of City Lodge's East African operations, comprising of its hotels situated in Kenya and Tanzania, the company has entered into negotiations which, if successfully concluded, may have a material effect on the price of the Company's securities," said the firm.

The update was shared at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange where the hotel is listed. The firm says that occupancy levels have been below expectations at Two Rivers while bookings in the Tanzanian unit have been sluggish, leaving only Fairview with a robust performance.

The firm has not however made a direct reference to sluggish business as the reason for selling the hotels which will now leave its operations in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique.

City Lodge has also not disclosed who the buyers are or the price it is seeking to fetch from the four hotels that have a combined bed capacity of

over 320 rooms. The offer comes at a time Covid-19 has ravaged the hospitality industry mainly through hotel closures and booking cancellations, making City Lodge Hotel Group plunge into Sh3.64 billion (R486.6 million) loss—the first in over seven years.

"The 2020 financial year was our most challenging operating year in the group's 35-year history, mainly due to the lockdown protocols implemented by the South African government, and similar restrictions in the rest of Africa countries in which the group operates," said Chairman Bulelani Ngcuka.

Average occupancies for the group in the 12 months to end of June, declined from 55 percent in the previous financial year to 38 percent.

City Lodge entered Kenya in 2012 by acquiring Fairview Hotel that is situated opposite the Israeli Embassy in Nairobi.

The group then opened another hotel in Two Rivers mall in early 2018, mainly targeting clients from non-governmental organisations, embassies and other business travellers.

City Lodge then followed up with entry into Tanzania in December 2018 by opening City Lodge Hotel Dar es Salaam, a 148-roomed hotel targeting business travellers and tourists.

The planned exit comes at a time the group has been marketing Fairview more actively to South Africans and positioning it as a first-choice conferencing, events and wedding venue.



# WORLD VISION DONATES LIVESTOCK TO PASTORALIST COMMUNITIES IN LONGIDO

By Property Watch Reporter, Longido

A record 4,274 livestock heads including goats and cows have been donated by World Vision to struggling pastoralist communities in Longido District of Arusha Region to assist them tame poverty.

Speaking during a hand over ceremony of the livestock in Longido earlier this week, Project Coordinator, Peruth Daudi said some 1,874 families from 19 villages have benefitted from the initiative.

"The 104 families got one cow, two goats while 412 families will get three goats and two sheep while the third group of 1,358 families will get a goat and sheep each," Daudi said adding that the project is also aimed at fighting malnutrition among destitute families.

He said in total, 123 cows, 3,267 goats and 884 sheep of hybrid nature have been distributed. "These animals have high meat and milk production capacity which these families need in abundance," he added noting that the



Longido district commissioner Frank Mwaisumbe labels one of the goats which World Vision has donated to destitute pastoralist communities. This was at ceremony held mid this week. Photo courtesy of World Vision

over 710m/- donation has been made by World Vision Canada.

Speaking at the same event, World Vision Northern Zone Head, Mkama Nangu told Longido District Commissioner, Frank Mwaisumbe who was guest of honour at the function that they will ensure that the project is sustainable because beneficiaries are required to donate any young ones generated to other families.

"This project targets pastoralist communities because they have lost much of their livestock due to droughts caused by climate change," Nangu said while noting that the project is expected to completely change the beneficiaries' lives by 2023.

In remarks to launch the initiative, Mwaisumbe World Vision has set a new record in his district which no other charity organization has done before. "I can assure you that the government will ensure that this project is sustainable because it targets very poor communities in line with President John Magufuli's thinking," Mwaisumbe said.

## 'Large number' of hotel deals are endorsed under Red Sea tourism project

CAIRO

RED SEA Development Company, the developer of the mammoth tourism project on Saudi Arabia's west coast, said it signed deals with "a large number" of hotel companies for the project's first phase and will reveal the line-up of operators soon.

The company, which is owned by the kingdom's Public Investment Fund, is developing 16 hotels with 3,000 rooms across five islands and two inland sites as part of the first phase that will be delivered by 2023. Phase one also in-



The Red Sea Project includes a vast archipelago of more than 50 untouched islands, with direct access to unspoiled, and thriving coral reefs.

cludes construction of a new international airport. "We've signed agreements with a large number of those hotel companies and more are coming," the company's chief executive, John Pagano said.

"We're going to make an announcement later in the year where we'll announce the

stable of brands. But you will not be surprised or disappointed by the brand stable that we are going to be presenting to the marketplace."

Red Sea Development Company's masterplan covers a 28,000 square kilometre site - an area slightly smaller than Belgium -

containing an archipelago of 90 offshore islands and 200 kilometres of coastline, with inland sites featuring mountains, canyons, wadis and an extinct volcano. Once complete by 2030, it will house 50 hotels containing 8,000 rooms.

The first phase will cost an estimated 28 billion Saudi riyals to 29bn riyals (\$7.46bn-\$7.73bn) to develop, 14bn riyals of which will be debt funded through a syndicated loan, with participation principally from local lenders. "We're just finalising the loan facility, which we hope to sign before the end of the year," Mr Pagano said.

The project is moving "at pace", Mr Pagano said, with 5,000 workers already on site and 7.5bn riyals (\$2bn) worth of contracts awarded to date. This will increase to 15bn riyals by the end of this year, including the recently announced public private partnership agreement with Acwa Power, which will provide 100 per cent renewable energy for phase one, as well as water, wastewater treatment, waste management and district cooling.

The deal with Acwa Power involves building the world's largest battery stor-

age facility, which will be connected to a solar and wind facility providing the bulk of the power, although some installations will be built locally on islands. The hotels will initially be owned by The Red Sea Development Company.

"Having said that, there are opportunities and we're having discussions with a number of investors who are interested in participating in the hotel assets. We'll probably have more to say about that in the coming months." The Red Sea Development Company's capital is committed to the project so it doesn't need external investors, but bringing in private sector partners will add credibility, he said.

"If the private sector is underwriting, then there's more confidence in what we're doing," he added. The company is not interested in selling sites for others build on, because development is being carried out in a "critical habitat", Mr Pagano said.

"If I screw up one part of the lagoon, I screw up the whole thing. So we're not prepared to take that risk," he said. Instead, it is offering joint ventures through which a partner could buy out the whole property at a later date.

## Tlhabane Square maximising community's impact with local procurement, skill transfer

JOHANNESBURG

TLHABANE Square in Rustenburg is a new mixed-use precinct being developed by the Public Investment Corporation. Situated along the Swarttruggens Road (R104) and bordered by Monareng Street and Motsatsi Street, the precinct consists of the following:

A retail mall offering 31,000m<sup>2</sup> of GLA; Offices: ±12,000m<sup>2</sup> of GLA (incorporating Home Affairs, SASSA, a Labour Department office and a hotel with conference facilities); Ancillary buildings, including a police station at 10,000m<sup>2</sup> GLA; New magistrate's court: 8,000m<sup>2</sup> GLA; The refurbishment of the existing service station; and A new taxi drop-off, tyre fitment centre and traders' market. The retail mall itself comprises two levels of retail together with parking. In addition, direct on-grade open parking will be available throughout the precinct.

Preferential procurement

Not only is the success of the final project important - much emphasis has been placed on maximising community impact during the construction and development process, too. Preferential procurement criteria were set out by the client in the tender requirements, indicating that 30% of the work needs to be undertaken by local, 51% black-owned companies. George Honey, contracts manager for Trencor,

explains that the joint venture drew up a procurement plan in the initial stages of the project which ensures that this requirement will be met. The majority of the unskilled labour being used on the general building work is local, as is much of the semi-skilled labour.

Because of the relative remoteness of the site, building materials are also procured locally as much as possible. "We passed on the same preferential procurement requirement criteria to our specialist subcontractors in a back-to-back contract. Meeting this requirement is not always easy, but so far everyone has stayed on target and our reporting reflects that," says Honey. Local labour and construction materials have so far been used in a variety of areas, including civil works, electrical and plumbing work, reinforcing steel, concrete and formwork erection. The construction of a standalone Cashbuild on the site has been subcontracted to a Level 6 CIDB registered contractor.

In formulating a strategy for recruiting local people, the construction team has focused mainly on unskilled and semi-skilled people who can be upskilled. "We have a labour desk officer who was elected by the local community. He has a database of available people and we source labour through that database when needed," Honey explains. A minimum wage, which is said to be well above the basic statutory



Tlhabane Square development in Rustenburg.

minimum wage, was set in the initial stages of the project.

Active skills transfer is taking place on site, especially from the specialist subcontractors. People have been trained not only in construction skills, such as concrete placement, crane operation and scaffolding erection (to mention just a few), but in

administrative tasks, including time and attendance management, health and safety administration, and even first aid and fire prevention. "If we have a post vacant, we identify someone within the local community and train them up in one of these skills," Honey says. This includes giving them on-site training and formal training as required.

## Zanzibar's blue economy minister counsels public to invest loans

By Property Watch Reporter

THE public has been advised to invest in viable businesses including real estate money acquired from financial institutions as loans so as to repay on schedule. Zanzibar's Blue Economy and Fisheries Minister, Dr Abdallah Hussein Kombo said during an NMB Bank Plc's public sensi-

tization meeting held earlier this week in Central District of Zanzibar that timely loan repayment warrants one to be creditworthy.

"If loans are properly invested they can be repaid which makes the lender have confidence in the borrower for additional loans which leads to growth of individuals and the economy," Dr Kombo said while commending

NMB's leadership for targeting to assist fishing and agrarian communities in the Spice Islands.

He paid tribute to NMB for supporting the new Isles government tap the huge potential that remains unexploited in the blue economy which includes fishing and marine agriculture. "I call upon the public to respect and accord NMB all the necessary

cooperation so that the loans that you get will be invested profitably and be repaid on schedule," he advised while stressing that Presi-

dent Hussein Ali Mwinyi's administration wants to revolutionise the lives of the people of Zanzibar during his first five year tenure. Briefing the Blue Economy and Fisheries Minister, NMB's Senior Agribusiness Manager, Wogofya

Msalamagoha said the bank will work with the Isles government to ensure that its development targets are realised.

"In supporting government efforts to develop the blue economy, NMB will assist to develop the capacity of fishermen and seaweed farmers through loan provision so that they grow economically," Msalamagoha said.

He explained that the bank will give loans to the farming and fishing communities both in cash and working equipment terms.

NMB's Zanzibar Manager, Abdallah Duchi said the bank is well positioned to ensure that it delivers on the government's ambitious targets to revolutionise farming and fishing on the Spice Islands whose major

income earner is tourism. One of the fishermen who is poised to benefit from NMB's initiative, Mlenge Khatib from Chwaka said the bank has come to rescue them from years of artisanal fishing with very little success. "One of our major challenge is also a reliable market which NMB experts have promised to assist us address," Khatibu said.



## TECHNOLOGY

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# BRITISH HOUSE PRICES ON STRONGEST RUN SINCE 2004

LONDON

**B**RITISH house prices recorded their strongest growth since 2004 in November, with the average home now selling for £253,000 (\$338,443). House prices increased 7.6 per cent in November compared to the same month a year earlier, according to the Halifax's House Price Index.

"At just over £253,000, the average property price has risen by more than £15,000 since June. That equates to 6.5 per cent - the strongest five-monthly gain since 2004," said Russell Galley, managing director of Halifax. Prices also increased 1.2 per cent compared to October, adding almost £3,000 to the cost of a typical UK home.

A desire for more space following the pandemic spurred many to upsize or relocate after the first lockdown, with UK finance minister Rishi Sunak's stamp duty land tax break at the start of July boosting the market further.

The tax holiday, which expires on March 31, means that nine in 10 people buying their first home or moving up the property ladder will pay no stamp duty at all, with the measure delivering an average saving of £4,500, according to HM Treasury. However, properties sold to home movers in November recorded a much higher rate of annual house price inflation of 7.5 per cent, according to Halifax, compared to first time buyers at 5.8 per cent.

"It is interesting to note that the



Residential apartments in London.

stamp duty saving of £2,500 on a home costing £250,000 is now far outweighed by the average increase in property prices since July," said Mr Galley. House prices were 3.8 per cent higher in the three months ended November, with the relocating set to continue.

"With mortgage approvals at a 13-year high, the current market continues to be shaped by a desire for more space, the move from urban to rural locations and indications of a trend for more home working in the future," said Mr Galley. "And while industry data shows agreed sales and

new instructions to sell fell to their lowest level in the past five months, both remain at historically high levels and well above seasonal norms."

Britain's construction industry grew faster than expected in November, boosted by the strongest orders in six years amid a surge in house prices, with the IHS Markit/CIPS construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), rising to 54.7 in November from 53.1 in October, its strongest level since July with new orders the highest since November 2014. While the housing market has been much more resilient than many predicted at the outset of

the pandemic, Mr Galley said many households remain confident about further price growth next year.

"However, the economic environment continues to look challenging. With unemployment predicted to peak around the middle of next year, and the UK's economy not expected to fully recover the ground lost over 2020 for a number of years, a slowdown in housing market activity is likely over the next

## It's a crusade for sustained workplace sensitisation on harassment, equality

By Sarah Majengo

ONCE people experience humiliation, it sticks. In the workplace, this can take many forms ranging from bullying, discrimination to sexual harassment. The aftermath of these violent acts is a shattered confidence and vulnerability that has far reaching consequences on the mental and financial health of individuals resulting from missed opportunities.

This year's campaign to end violence against women has been a source of considerable reflection that has widened the lens on the pervasive nature of the various forms of violence from the board room to the home. As we endeavour to tackle harassment and support the mobility of women into more senior positions in the workplace, this article presents a case for embedding considered workplace initiatives that address gender stereotypes and protect women from harassment.

There are many examples of how the beliefs we hold about gender have spilled over to the workplace. A friend shared that at her first meeting as the only female on the board of a company, one of the members asked her for a cup of coffee. In another example, a working group requested the only woman on the team to take minutes.

An even more insidious practice that young women entering the job market face is sexual bribery in exchange for employment - the same applies to promotions and benefits. Stories from other women cite sexual coercion in the form of flirting, harassment, sexual insinuations, inappropriate contact through texts and calls.

During a conversation with a woman on this topic, she said flippantly, 'women don't even realize that they have adjusted to a climate of abuse, it's like they've become numb to it.' She added, 'it is all institutionalized, women expect their counterparts to just take it the way they did.'

The 2016 Regional Human Development issued by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimates that gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average \$US95 billion a year, which is equivalent to six percent of the region's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is jeopardizing the continent's efforts for



Sarah Majengo, Head of Communications at Songas Limited.

inclusive human development and economic growth.

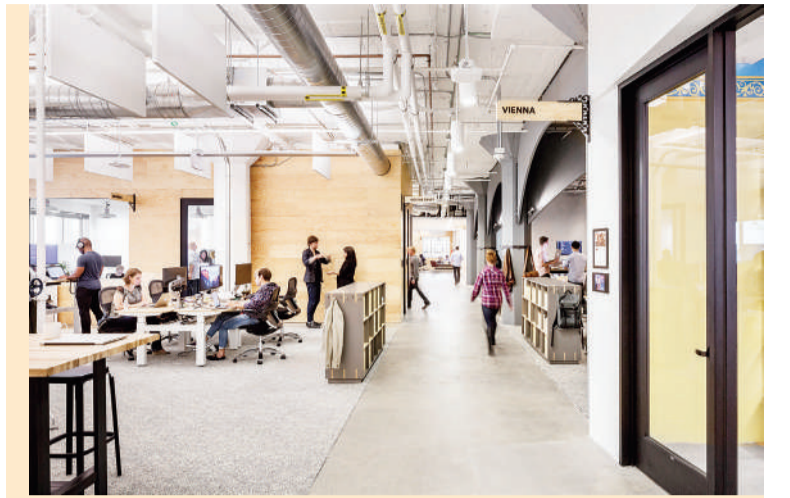
Multiple sources cite that it will take nearly a century to achieve gender parity at the current rate of progress. We should not be alarmed by this because the evidence on the ground speaks for itself when it comes to genuine equality and women empowerment policies, practices and initiatives that seek to increase female participation across all spheres of society.

Beyond the fanfare of targeted campaigns and women's day initiatives, what can the private sector do to promote gender equality and ensure they are directly helping address larger issues that affect women in society? We need to revamp the workplace culture to train personal responsibility and elevate mutual respect and tolerance of one another.

The implementation of well-designed workplace interventions akin to those on compliance and health and safety, can play a significant role in sensitization,

while informing employees about their rights and responsibilities. We need to adopt similar mechanisms such as those found in factories and power plants, where the safety culture is paramount. Similarly, this can be accomplished with the code of conduct through gender sensitization with frequent refresher trainings that are supported by diversity and inclusion dialogues and workshops throughout the year.

As the 16-day campaign comes to an end, the conversations around the violence facing all vulnerable people have challenged us to be more accountable - especially to each other. We all have a role to play in bridging the gender gap and ending violence against women. Attaining workplace equality will require a combination of interventions but the most important one lies on individual responsibility and establishing the right environment that prepares all employees for a more inclusive and safer workplace.



Headquarters of Airbnb in San Francisco.

## Airbnb reaches \$47bn value in above-range IPO

SAN FRANCISCO

AIRBNB priced its long-awaited initial public offering above a marketed range to raise about \$3.5 billion, capping a year in which it bounced back from the coronavirus pandemic by capitalising on closer-to-home travel.

The home-rental company's IPO came just hours after DoorDash almost doubled from its listing price in its debut trading session, adding to a flurry of consumer-facing web-based companies going public this month.

Airbnb and its investors are selling about 52 million shares Wednesday for \$68 each after marketing them for \$56 to \$60 each, said people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified because the information wasn't public yet. At that price, Airbnb has a fully diluted value of about \$47 billion, which includes employee stock options and restricted stock units. A representative for Airbnb declined to comment.

Airbnb's listing adds to what was already a record year for IPOs, with more than \$163 billion raised on US exchanges, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That includes DoorDash's \$3.37 billion offering. Other companies lined up for IPOs this month include video-game company Roblox, instalment loans provider Affirm Holdings and ContextLogic, the parent of online discount retailer Wish Inc.

DoorDash's first-day surge propelled its valuation, including employee stock options and restricted stock units, to about \$71 billion. An increase of a little more than 51% when Airbnb shares begin trading Thursday would push the company's valuation past that of DoorDash.

Pandemic crush  
 San Francisco-based Airbnb

## Renergen patents helium-cooled cases for Coronavirus vaccines

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's Renergen has patented cryogenic cases that can keep vaccines at ultra-cold temperatures for 30 days, a potential way of getting some of the first coronavirus shots to be approved to remote areas, said Chief Executive Officer Stefano Marani.

Renergen's design uses helium to keep the vaccines at between minus 70 and minus 150 degrees Celsius without the need for a power supply, Marani said in an interview on Wednesday. It could be used to transport inoculations to remote parts of Africa and Southeast Asia, he said.

"We built this with the African market in mind," said Marani. "This isn't to move the vaccine from the factory to the local pharmacies or inner-city transport - this is for Africa and Southeast Asian countries where the logistics and supply chain takes a lot longer to get to a destination."

had seen a bounce back in domestic bookings since the early days of the pandemic crushed demand. In a letter to shareholders, the three co-founders said the 10 months since the pandemic have been "the most defining period since we started Airbnb."

In the past thirteen years, Airbnb has totally upended the travel market, given people an opportunity for income and created a whole new market for services related to real estate and hosts. Today, Airbnb is one of the biggest travel companies in the world.

The company's IPO plans were put on hold in March as the pandemic ground global travel to a halt. By April, room bookings had plunged 72%. Airbnb rolled out a blanket refund policy and doled out more than \$1 billion in cancellation fees.

By June, though, things were starting to look up. City dwellers who were sick of being stuck inside their homes got in their cars and drove to mountain towns and rural communities, often setting up for weeks or months at a time as work-from-home policies allowed.

Domestic boost

International travel was down, but demand for domestic, short-distance trips and stays outside of the top 20 cities was proving resilient. In the third quarter, Airbnb's revenue declined only 18%, compared to the near 60% decline for Expedia Group and Marriott International. The three-month period was also Airbnb's most profitable ever, based on earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation. Airbnb's offering is being led by Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Shares of Airbnb are expected to trade on the Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol ABNB.

The cases are made from aluminum and can transport at least 100 doses of the vaccine. When in its liquid form, helium can stay cold for much longer than dry ice and liquid nitrogen, said Marani.

Renergen is in the construction phase of South Africa's first commercial liquid natural gas plant that will also produce helium, with production starting in the third quarter of 2021.

Depending on where the helium is sourced, the operating cost of the device should be under \$0.07 per dose per day, he said.

Renergen is seeking partners for the large-scale manufacturing of the cases, said Marani.



## WORLD

# Facebook faces US lawsuits that could force sale of Instagram and WhatsApp

WASHINGTON/PALO ALTO

FACEBOOK Inc could be forced to sell its prized assets WhatsApp and Instagram after the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and nearly every U.S. state filed lawsuits against the social media company, saying it used a "buy or bury" strategy to snap up rivals and keep smaller competitors at bay.

With the filing of the twin lawsuits on Wednesday, Facebook becomes the second big tech company to face a major legal challenge this year after the U.S. Justice Department sued Alphabet Inc's Google in October, accusing the \$1 trillion company of using its market power to fend off rivals.

The lawsuits highlight the growing bipartisan consensus to hold Big Tech accountable for its business practices and mark a rare moment of agreement between the Trump administration and Democrats, some of whom have advocated breaking up both Google and Facebook.

The complaints on Wednesday accuse Facebook of buying up rivals, focusing specifically on its previous acquisitions of photo-sharing app Instagram for \$1 billion in 2012 and messaging app WhatsApp for \$19 billion in 2014.

Federal and state regulators said the ac-

quisitions should be unwound - a move that is likely to set off a long legal challenge as the deals were cleared years earlier by the FTC.

"For nearly a decade, Facebook has used its dominance and monopoly power to crush smaller rivals, snuff out competition, all at the expense of everyday users," said New York Attorney General Letitia James on behalf of the coalition of 46 states, Washington, D.C. and Guam. Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and South Dakota did not participate in the lawsuit.

James said the company acquired rivals before they could threaten the company's dominance.

Facebook's general counsel Jennifer Newstead called the lawsuits "revisionist history" and said antitrust laws do not exist to punish "successful companies." She said WhatsApp and Instagram have succeeded after Facebook invested billions of dollars in growing the apps.

"The government now wants a do-over, sending a chilling warning to American business that no sale is ever final," Newstead said.

Newstead also raised doubts about alleged harms caused by Facebook, arguing that consumers benefited from its decision to make WhatsApp free, and rivals like YouTube, Twit-



Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook CEO

ter and WeChat did "just fine" without access to its developer platform. In a post on Facebook's internal discussion platform, Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg told employees he did not anticipate "any impact on individual teams or roles" as a result of the lawsuits, which he said were "one step in a process which could take years to play out in its entirety."

Comments were turned off for Zuckerberg's post, as well as for other posts on the lawsuits shared by Newstead and Chief Privacy Officer for Product Michel Protti, according to copies viewed by Reuters. Newstead also warned employees not to post about the cases.

Facebook did not immediately respond to questions about the posts.

## PROTRACTED FIGHT

Zuckerberg told employees in July that Facebook would "go to the mat" to fight a legal challenge to break up the company, calling it an "existential" threat, according to audio of internal company meetings published by The Verge. Although breakup remedies are rare, some antitrust experts said the case was unusually strong given damning statements by Zuckerberg plucked from Facebook's own documents, like a 2008 email in which he said "it is better to buy than compete."

Other experts such as Seth Bloom of Bloom Strategic Counsel said the FTC complaint was "significantly weaker" than the DOJ's lawsuit against Google. "We're talking about acquisitions that are six or eight years old and it will be difficult for a court to order divestitures of many years ago," Bloom said.

"I do not know if the FTC or DOJ will be successful in breaking Facebook up. I'm assuming this will be dragged out in the courts as FB defends itself," said Daniel Morgan, a portfolio manager at Synovus Trust in Atlanta, Georgia.

The lawsuits are the biggest antitrust cases in a generation, comparable to the lawsuit against Microsoft Corp in 1998. The federal government eventually settled that case, but the yearslong court fight and extended scrutiny prevented the company from thwarting competitors and is credited with clearing the way for the explosive growth of

US relations down a dangerous path," Cui said. "We do have differences and disagreements, but our shared interests always come first, so much so that no difference justifies any conflict or confrontation," he said. "We believe that at a time of deepening globalization and closely intertwined interests between the two countries, a new 'Cold War' and 'decoupling' will lead nowhere."

Cui said China and the United States should have the wisdom and capability to overcome their differences and rebuild "a strategic framework of relations featuring win-win cooperation and sustained and stable development."

Xinhua

# China envoy seeks US cooperation in post-pandemic world

WASHINGTON

CHINA-US cooperation "cannot and should not be absent" in a post-pandemic world where instability and uncertainties poses severe challenges to global governance, Chinese ambassador Cui Tiankai said on Wednesday.

"The year 2021 is essential as we greet the dawn of a post-pandemic era, where China-US cooperation cannot and should not be absent," said Cui (pictured) in his remarks at the Annual Gala of the US-China Business Council on Wednesday.

"Research and development of vaccines and medications are making good progress in various countries, bringing hope and confidence to all of us. However,

the instability and uncertainties of a post-pandemic world will pose severe challenges to global governance," he said.

"We believe that whenever human society faces major difficulties and challenges, countries with stronger capabilities shoulder greater responsibilities," he said.

"China and the United States should coordinate and cooperate to combat COVID-19, promote world economic recovery and growth, and reform and improve international governance system and architecture to better address global challenges, such as climate change. This is also what the international community expects of us," he said.

The ambassador said that Chinese President Xi Jinping,



in his message of congratulations to President-elect Joseph Biden, stated that the Chinese side stands ready to work with the US side "in the spirit of non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation, focus on cooperation, manage differences, advance the healthy and stable development of China-US ties, and join hands with other countries and the international community to promote the noble cause of world peace and development." "We look forward to working

together with the American government and people of various sectors toward this end," said Cui.

## Beyond ideological differences

He said China and the US have risen above ideological differences and Cold-War confrontation and made huge progress in their relations over the past five decades, which "has had positive impact on both countries and profoundly changed the whole world."

"Some are trying to deny these basic facts and redefine the relations with conflict and confrontation. What they are doing is to distort and repudiate history and dig pitfalls for the future. That will only lead China-

# US Senate backs arms sales to UAE after Trump veto threat

WASHINGTON

AN effort to stop President Donald Trump's high-tech weapons deals with the United Arab Emirates fell short on Wednesday in the US Senate as Trump's fellow Republicans opposed resolutions of disapproval seeking to block the sale of drones and advanced F-35 fighter jets.

The Senate voted 50-46 and 49-47, mostly along party lines, to stop consideration of the resolutions, killing them at least until President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan 20.

Biden, a Democrat, is expected to review the sales.

Early on Wednesday, the Trump administration had issued a formal notice of its in-



An F-35 fighter jet pilot and crew prepare for a mission at Al-Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. (File photo)

tention to veto the measures if they passed the Senate and House of Representatives.

The White House said the sales support US foreign pol-

icy and national security objectives by "enabling the UAE to deter increasing Iranian aggressive behavior and threats" in the wake of its recent peace

deal with Israel.

Backers of the sale also described the UAE as an important US partner in the Middle East.

The two weapons packages are a major component of a planned US\$23 billion sale of high-tech armaments to the UAE. Opponents said the transactions were being rushed through, without sufficient assurances that the equipment would not fall into the wrong hands or fuel instability in the Middle East.

Some US lawmakers also criticized the UAE for its involvement in the war in Yemen, a conflict considered one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

The administration told

Congress in November it had approved the massive sale to the UAE of products from General Atomics, Lockheed Martin Corp and Raytheon Technologies Corp.

Some lawmakers also worried that the weapons transfers might violate US guarantees that Israel will retain a military advantage in the region. But Israel, which enjoys strong support in Congress, has said it does not object to the sales.

Accusing Trump of cutting short or sidestepping Congress' typical review of major weapons sales, lawmakers have tried repeatedly during Trump's four-year presidency to block his plans for arms sales. **Agencies**

# Senior PLO official resigns, calls for Palestinian political reforms

RAMALLAH, West Bank

VETERAN Palestinian negotiator and women's rights advocate Hanan Ashrawi resigned on Wednesday from her senior post in the Palestine Liberation Organization, and called for political reforms.

Ashrawi, 74, did not give a reason for her resignation in a statement announcing the move. But she said that the PLO's Executive Committee, on which she served, had been marginalised "and [excluded] from decision-making".

The 15-member committee, the most senior body of the PLO, is headed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and is not often convened by the 85-year-old leader.

"The Palestinian political system needs renewal and reinvigoration with the inclusion of youth, women and additional qualified professionals," Ashrawi said in her statement, adding that she had tendered her resignation to Abbas.

"I believe it is time to carry out the required reform and to activate the PLO in a manner that restores its standing and role."

In a brief statement, Abbas said he had accepted Ashrawi's resignation.

Critics accuse Abbas of allowing Palestinian political institutions under his authority in the West Bank to stagnate. There have been no presidential or parliamentary elections for the Palestinian Authority, which he heads, for more than a decade.

Ashrawi's negotiating days date back to the earliest public, US-mediated talks with Israel in 1991 at the Madrid Conference, where as PLO spokeswoman she articulated the Palestinian quest for statehood to the world.

Following the signing of the Oslo Accords with Israel in 1993, Ashrawi served in the cabinet of the newly-formed Palestinian Authority, which has limited self-rule in the West Bank.

A champion of women's rights, Ashrawi was the first woman elected to the Executive Committee in 2009. She was re-elected to the group in 2018 and has headed its Department of Public Diplomacy and Policy. **Agencies**



# Russia's Sputnik V vaccine efficiency raised to 96.2%

MOSCOW

THE preliminary data obtained in the Russian Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine trials show that the efficiency of the jab stands at 69.3% after the first component is administered and 96.2% after the second, member of the independent monitoring committee examining the results of the vaccine's clinical trials Ramil Khabriyev said yesterday.

Earlier, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) reported that the coronavirus vaccine is 95% effective.

"The assessment was conducted in the period between the 14th and the 21st day, or before the injection of the second component, while the second observation group is after the second component is administered. So, if we compare or assess the efficiency as of today, it is calculated and submitted to us, developers and researchers, to be 96.2%," he said at a scientific forum.

Khabriyev explained that the efficiency is calculated as the ratio of the efficiency of the jab between the vaccinated group and those who received placebo.

"At a committee meeting, we <...> passed certain decisions, communicated them to all those interested and recommend that they come up with a proposal to change the protocol and make a decision to submit the parameters based on the materials of 20,000 tests soon.

[We will study them and later] will make a decision about revealing results (who received the vaccine or placebo - TASS) <...> and will make another assessment. I am completely sure that the data at least won't be lower than what we had before," he added.

The expert noted that the efficiency before the second component injection was already reaching numbers of up to 70%, which can be even higher after more clarifications and changes take place.

On August 11, Russia became the first country in the world to register a coronavirus vaccine named Sputnik V, which was developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of the Russian Health Ministry. **Agencies**



# Sales of China's anti-poverty products exceed 330 billion yuan in first 10 months

SALES of products from China's poverty-stricken areas exceeded 330 billion yuan (about \$50.16 billion) in the first 10 months of this year, doubling the amount of last year's 160 billion yuan, according to a press conference on China's pro-consumption campaign to aid poverty alleviation held by the State Council Information Office on Nov. 24.

Since the beginning of 2019, the government, enterprises and all sectors of society have directly purchased or helped sell special agricultural products worth nearly 500 billion yuan from poverty-stricken areas through consumption-driven poverty reduction efforts, according to preliminary statistics.

Guo Lanfeng, deputy secretary-general of

the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), said that the policy system for poverty alleviation by consuming products and services from poor areas has been gradually improved, with innovative ways and emerging models such as targeted procurement, and replacing donation and assistance with purchase.

Activities including the China Forum for Consumption and Poverty Alleviation, and a month-long national pro-consumption campaign to promote poverty alleviation were held. As a result, there is a growing consensus throughout the society to participate in poverty relief efforts through consumption.

Driven by poverty alleviation efforts through consumption, per capita income

of net operation of rural residents in poor areas rose by 7.1 percent year on year to 4,163 yuan in 2019. The growth expanded by 2.7 percentage points.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, the per capita net operating income of rural residents in poor areas rose by 4.9 percent on a yearly basis during the first six months of this year, higher than the growth rate of China's GDP during the same period.

This year, departments and organizations of the central government have launched special programs to alleviate stagnant sales of farm produce in central China's Hubei province, which was hit hard by the epidemic.

According to preliminary data, by the end of October, departments and organizations

of the central government had directly purchased over 1.6 billion yuan worth of agricultural products from Hubei, while providing assistance that led to sales worth 17 billion yuan, said Cheng Yongwen, head of the Hubei provincial development and reform commission.

For example, the All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives had organized 46 organizations to directly purchase over 13 million yuan worth of major products that encountered poor sales such as tea, crayfish, and shiitake from the province, while helping sales worth 3.4 billion yuan. E-commerce platforms have also redoubled efforts to boost sales of agricultural products from Hubei.

Meanwhile, People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency, China Media Group and other state-owned media had launched charity activities to assist Hubei in the fight against the epidemic. People's Daily app launched an online activity to call for purchasing products from the province, attracting over 30 million views.

Shanghai has made good progress in helping boost sales of agricultural products in poor areas. According to Chen Xiaoyun, head of the Shanghai Municipal Government's Cooperation and Exchange Office, the city has promoted sales of 12 billion yuan worth of agricultural products from poor areas across China, including over 6 billion yuan worth of products from Yunnan province and Zunyi city in Guizhou province. **People's Daily**



# Xi, Macron reach accord on key issues

By Cao Desheng

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron reached broad consensus on Wednesday on bilateral and international issues, and both expressed the hope that negotiations on the China-European Union investment agreement will be finished at an early date.

They also pledged to promote bilateral ties while speaking by phone on Wednesday night.

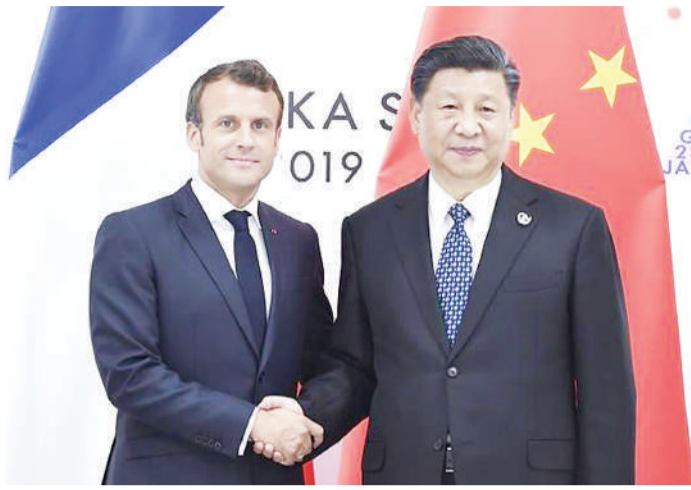
Xi said increasing instability and uncertainties in today's world require major countries to assume bigger responsibilities. Upholding multilateralism and safeguarding the international system with the United Nations at the core as well as international order underpinned by international law are important items of consensus between China

and France, he said.

Xi called on the two countries to insist on a consensus to guide bilateral ties, strengthen exchanges and cooperation and maintain close communication and coordination on major international and regional issues.

The global and strategic significance of China-EU cooperation is growing in prominence given the new circumstances, Xi said. But whatever changes may happen in the international landscape, he said, China will remain committed to firmly advancing the healthy and stable development of China-EU ties.

He also expressed hope that the EU will adopt a positive policy toward China. Both sides should work together to step up negotiations on the China-EU investment agreement and hold high-level dialogues on the environment and climate change as well as on digital de-



President Xi Jinping (L) his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron

velopment to bring bilateral ties to a new stage, Xi said.

Macron mentioned cooperation between France and China in the fight against COVID-19, saying his country considers ties with China to be greatly important.

France stands ready to work with China to intensify France-China and EU-China cooperation, he said, adding that it also wants to continue to strengthen coordination and cooperation with China on major issues such as climate change, public health and cooperation with African countries.

He also expressed the hope to visit China at an appropriate time.

China and France will use the opportunity of the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022 and the Paris Olympics in 2024 to strengthen people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, they agreed.

They also agreed that the two countries will jointly uphold multilateralism and work together to cope with climate change.

Xinhua

## West pressuring India to weaken its military cooperation with Russia – Lavrov

MOSCOW



WESTERN COUNTRIES are pressuring India to weaken the military and technical cooperation between New Delhi and Moscow and also to push it into confrontation with China, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at the videoconference meeting of the Russian International Affairs Council Tuesday.

"The West is trying to, I have no doubts, resurrect the unipolar world order. Such poles as China and Russia are unlikely to be subservient to it.

However, such a clear pole as India, for example, is subjected to an elaborate and aggressive policy of the West that is trying to draw the country into anti-Chinese games, promoting Indo-Pacific strategies, and to dramatically weaken our close partnership, strategic and privileged relations with Indians," Lavrov stressed.

"New Delhi is facing tough pressure exerted by the US in issues of military and technical cooperation [with Russia]."

According to the foreign minister, Western countries currently ignore objective global development trends, seeking to reinstate the unipolar world order that would include all states but for Russia and China with which it would deal later. The minister stressed that Moscow intends to continue advancing a unifying agenda in international affairs.

Agencies

## African countries urged to balance health, policy interventions to mitigate impact of COVID-19

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries have been urged to strike a balance between health, economic and social policy interventions in the coming months to mitigate the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The urgent call was made by African experts during the ongoing African Economic Conference, which is being held virtually from December 8 to 10.

The 2020 edition of the African Economic Conference provides a platform for academics and young researchers to present solution-oriented research to policymakers.

The experts emphasized that measures to prevent the spread of the virus have "dampened prospects for economic growth on the continent, due to the prolonged impact of lockdowns and restrictions on travel and movement of goods."

As part of the high-level continental economic conference, the impact of COVID-19 on Africa was underscored during a session on the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic hosted by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Africa Development Bank (AfDB) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

A study paper presented at the conference entitled, "COVID-19 in Africa: The Implications for Macroeconomic and Socioeconomic Dimensions," also noted that while Africa's young population shielded it from the worst of the pandemic, countries now face weak growth and a diversion of resources that may aggravate the economic impact of COVID-19.

The paper argued that in the face of dwindling resources, the continent's policymakers will have to implement a wide range of macroeconomic policy measures to re-



cover faster.

According to Mila Malavoloneke, who presented a paper called, "Rethinking China-Africa Trade Relations: The Impact of a Sino-Africa Free Trade on Trade Balance," Africa's trade with China has been severely affected as some manufacturing facilities in China shut down during the pandemic. "With COV-

ID-19, the challenge with the supply chain increased," she said, adding that countries have to implement structural reforms to address the existing production capacity.

She said that China is a strategic commercial partner for Africa, although there is a need to address the industrial divide for the continent to make significant gains. Ma-

lavoloneke also emphasized that African countries should boost trade by looking at negotiating a free trade area with China.

The Africa continent, despite registering relatively the least confirmed COVID-19 cases as well as COVID-19-inflicted deaths as compared with the rest of the world, has endured serious economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a recent UNECA report, a one-month full lockdown across Africa would cost the continent about 2.5 percent of its annual GDP, equivalent to about 65.7 billion U.S. dollars per month. The report, entitled "COVID-19: Lockdown Exit Strategies for Africa," also revealed that the staggering loss is in addition to the wider external impact of COVID-19 on Africa of lower commodity prices and investment flows.

Xinhua

## 2020 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Media Online Summit kicks off

THE 2020 Mekong-Lancang Cooperation (LMC) Media Online Summit was held on Nov. 24. Under the theme of "Enhance Cooperation to Combat COVID-19 and Revive Economy," media outlets from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam conducted in-depth communication and exchanges.

Myanmar Minister of Information Pe Myint delivered opening remarks via video links, saying the LMC has achieved inspiring results thanks to its tremendous efforts to promote regional economy, improve people's livelihood and pursue common development.

Lancang-Mekong countries are geographically close to each other, and share similar cultures and a common destiny, so it's vital for them to join hands for cooperation, he noted, adding that enhancing media cooperation among these countries will help improve mutual understanding and trust.

President and editor-in-chief of People's Daily Tuo Zhen remarked that facing new situations in the post-COVID era, media shall play a unique and important role in promoting pandemic control, economic recovery and sustainable development.

He called on media outlets



A freight train departs from Yiwu, east China's Zhejiang province for Hanoi, capital of Vietnam, Oct. 10. File photo

to uphold the vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind, carry forward the LMC spirit, shoulder responsibilities, and gather strength from all sides, so as to rally stronger public opinion to strengthen the win-win cooperation and people-to-people bond among Lancang-Mekong countries.

"Despite late establishment, the LMC is featured by high starting point, fast development, solid foundation, and promising future," said Vice Foreign Minister of China Luo Zhaohui.

"We should take responsibility for future generations, and follow the '3+5+X' framework to build an LMC economic belt

and foster an LMC community with a shared future," he noted.

Former chairman Chaiwat Wanichwattana of the Thai-Chinese Journalists Association said the LMC concerns the welfare of all the people in the region. He believes China has showcased a valuable spirit of sharing and a sense of responsibility as a major country by promoting the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), sharing the hydrological information of the Lancang River, and advancing public health cooperation. China's efforts have helped regional countries jointly combat COVID-19 and revive economy, he added.

Since this year, the Lancang-Mekong water resource co-

operation has embarked on a fast lane of development. In addition, all tunnels along the China-Laos Railway were holed through, and a series of important projects, including the Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, have resumed work. The LMC has injected new vitality into regional cooperation, bringing tangible benefits to riparian countries.

Director-General U Ye Naing of Myanmar Radio and Television introduced that the LMC Special Fund has been invested in 22 agriculture, education and information technology projects in Myanmar this year to benefit the people, which offered powerful support for the country to realize sustainable economic development and constantly improve people's livelihood.

Soy Sopheap, owner and director of DAP Media Center which runs *Deum Ampil Daily Newspaper* in Cambodia, holds that the LMC is of even more importance under the current international situation. He hopes that media outlets from Lancang-Mekong countries can make joint efforts, build consensus on the battle against COVID-19, and expand their cooperation results to pursue more fruits of the LMC.

People's Daily

## UN chief says he will take COVID-19 vaccine

UNITED NATIONS,

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that he will take a COVID-19 vaccine publicly when such a vaccine becomes available to him.

Asked whether he will take a vaccine and whether he will do it publicly given wariness among people toward vaccination, Guterres said: "I, of course, intend to receive the vaccine when it becomes available for me in whatever situation that will be justified for that. And obviously, I would have no doubt in doing it publicly."

He encouraged everybody to be vaccinated.

"I encourage everybody, as access to the vaccine (becomes available), to be vaccinated, because it is a service not only that we provide to ourselves. Each one of us being vaccinated provides a service to the whole community because we are no longer spreading, there is no risk of spreading the disease," he told reporters after an annual United Nations-African Union conference.

"So vaccination is for me a



moral obligation in relation to all of us."

Guterres reiterated his call for a COVID-19 vaccine to be a global public good available to everyone, everywhere, and particularly, available in Africa.

He also repeated his appeal for a bold and coordinated international approach on debt relief efforts for African countries, including debt cancellation, where

appropriate, as well as the meaningful increase in the financial support to African countries to provide the necessary liquidity and to finance the recovery.

Most African countries lack the financing to adequately respond to the COVID-19 crisis, due in part to declining demand and prices of their commodity exports, he said.

Xinhua

## Chinese envoy calls for more international support for Central Africa

UNITED NATIONS

A CHINESE envoy on Wednesday called for more international support for Central Africa to help the countries in the region in their fight against COVID-19 and in their economic recovery.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries in Central Africa have adopted strict measures and have implemented a regional strategy coordinated by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). As a result, the pandemic has been alleviated, said Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

That said, the pandemic is still spreading globally, and regional cooperation shall by no means be

relaxed. The UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) must help countries in the region in joint prevention and control, and promote cooperation in information sharing, testing methods, and clinical treatment, Dai told a Security Council meeting on UNOCA.

China has provided the region with multiple shipments of anti-epidemic supplies, and has dispatched medical experts to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of the Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, and Angola. China remains committed to offering further assistance, he

said.

Dai asked for efforts to support countries in Central Africa in their economic recovery and development, which is severely affected by the pandemic and is facing increasing downward risks.

The international community has the obligation to help them maintain macroeconomic stability, expand job opportunities, and ensure a secure and smooth industrial chain and supply chain, he said.

China has been actively implementing the Group of 20 (G20) debt service suspension initiative, and is a country that has honored

the largest amount in this regard among G20 members. China has helped Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, the DRC, Angola, and other countries in the region overcome difficulties, he said. Dai asked UNOCA to urge the developed countries and multilateral financial agencies to speed up actions and honor their commitments at an early date so as to genuinely alleviate the debt burden of the region.

He called for international commitment to supporting national efforts in safeguarding peace on their own.

The overall stability in Central Africa is a result

of the concerted efforts of the countries in the region. However, it must be noted that Boko Haram and the Lord's Resistance Army are still active in the region while piracy in the Gulf of Guinea remains rampant. The international community must take action in support of the regional fight against terrorism and organized crime, he said.

In so doing, it is imperative to respect, at all times, national sovereignty and ownership, he added.

With multiple elections to be held this year and next year, UNOCA can provide, upon request of the coun-

tries concerned, technical support and assistance in kind, said Dai.

The question of the Southwest and Northwest regions of Cameroon falls into domestic affairs of the country by the nature of the issue. China is convinced that the government of Cameroon is able to handle it properly and maintain national stability, he said.

The government of the Central African Republic (CAR) is faced with the arduous task of security capacity-building. China continues to call on the Security Council to lift its arms embargo against the CAR at an early

date, said Dai.

He stressed the need to support regional integration in Central Africa. ECCAS has made solid strides in regional integration. UNOCA must facilitate good neighborly relations and deepen economic integration in the region, said Dai.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be integrated into regional and national development strategies. China hopes that UNOCA will strengthen communication and coordination with other relevant UN agencies, sub-regional organizations and the African Union, leverage their respective advantages, and form synergy with a view to promoting regional stability and prosperity, he said.

Xinhua



# SPORT



Some of JKT Queens' players celebrate after their team mate had scored for the club in a recent Mainland Women Premier League's match against Simba Queens, which took place at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

## Players, officials hail Serengeti Lite for sponsoring Mainland Women Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

PLAYERS with clubs that are participating in the Mainland Women Premier League, together with the clubs' officials, have saluted the league's sponsorship by Serengeti Lite beer, saying that the sponsorship has catapulted the league from its previous modest position to the robust league that it is today.

Speaking at different intervals with the media recently, some of the clubs' players and coaches were in agreement that had it not been for Serengeti Premium Lite sponsorship, the league would still be in doldrums, reeling from financial strains that had previously dogged it for years.

On January 2018, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) entered into sponsorship deal with the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to support the Mainland Women Premier League through the Serengeti Premium Lite brand.

Through the sponsorship worth 450m/-, the beer brand became the first sponsor to financially support women soccer in the country.

Produced by the SBL, Serengeti Premium Lite beer brand, a winner of the prestigious Superbrands award, is one the brewers' most popular beer brands and the only light beer to be produced locally by Tanzanians and for Tanzanians.

One of the Mainland Women Premier League participating clubs' players, Mwanahamisi Omari, a striker with Simba Queens soccer club, while commenting on the league, stated the sponsorship by Serengeti Lite has been the cornerstone of the league's revival, and she feels proud to be a part of it.

"The league is very competitive, last season we emerged as champions but it was not easy at all. We faced strong opposition from the past champions like Mlandizi Queens and JKT Queens who

played very hard to defend their positions," Mwanahamisi said.

She noted: "Such teams like Alliance Queens and Ruvuma Queens are equally strong and it's my hope the coming season will be even more competitive."

Simba Queens' head coach, Musa Hassan 'Mgosi', stated he predicts a tough encounter from their opponents due to adequate preparations that every team taking part in the league have had and he expressed his appreciation for the sponsorship.

"With the support from Serengeti Lite, we now have a livelier and competitive league more than ever before. We are the champions but we know the challenge ahead of us to retain our position. All of the teams have good players and are well prepared for the coming season," Mgosi noted.

Yanga Princesses' assistant coach, Mohamed Hussein, alias 'Mmachinga', also expressed his gratitude to Serengeti Lite for supporting women soccer, urging other companies to borrow a leaf from SBL.

Anitha Msangi, Serengeti Premium Lite brand's Head, disclosed the sponsors are proud to engage with the Mainland Women Premier League.

She noted that the sponsorship has played a significant role in empowering women to increase their participation and performance in the sports sector in general, and in soccer in particular.

She further said that Serengeti Lite believes that by giving more visibility to the numerous talented women in the sport, it can help to raise their profile and the attractiveness of women's soccer.

"Soccer is no longer just a form of entertainment to the fans nor is it just a preserve for men only, it is also meant to unite and inspire people across the globe. It is also a source of steady income to the players," she noted.

Serengeti Lite's trademark solid commitment to support the sports sector in the country was also recently cemented once again following Serengeti Premium Lager's renewal of a sponsorship contract with senior national soccer side, Taifa Stars, at an event which took place in Dar es Salaam.

## Zanzibar fashion festival set for next week

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

A fashion festival known as 'Runway Bar' is set to take place in Zanzibar on December 19.

Entrepreneurs as well as designers in Tanzania have been asked to come forward to participate in the festival with the aim of showcasing and selling their products.

The festival, which is the biggest in the Isles, is expected to take place for three days and it will involve entrepreneurs and designers of various works of art from in and outside Zanzibar.

Speaking to reporters, the festival's General Manager, Waiz Houston Shezukindo, said that it is good for entrepreneurs and designers of various works of art to use the opportunity to advertise their products.

He said the festival is an opportunity for entrepreneurs and designers in the country to supplement their daily income and make a living.

"Through this festival, entrepreneurs and designers of various works of art will have the opportunity to promote their works and ensure they have a permanent market and supplement their daily income," Shezukindo

said. He stated the festival that will bring forth various styles, including clothing, further gears towards creating jobs for young people and giving them the opportunity to showcase their talents.

He explained that festival mainly targets to offer unemployed young people opportunity to get employment through the fashion industry and fulfill their dreams.

He clarified that the festival will adhere to Zanzibar's values and follow the Isles' rules and culture through the traditions and customs.

"We saw the need to showcase talent and give entrepreneurs the opportunity to sell their works, as well as offering artists opportunity to showcase their talents and get advertising and we thus organized the festival," he said.

A model, Shekha Muhsin Othman, urged young people to be self-employed and stop waiting for government jobs to meet their needs and boost national income.

"Young people should wake up, they should not expect to be employed by the government, they should use the opportunities for self-employment," the model noted.

## SPORTS

## Taifa Stars have higher profile in new second term's fifth phase cabinet



Senior national soccer side, Taifa Stars.

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

LAUNCHING the new line up of cabinet ministers after swearing them in, President John Magufuli had a word on practically each ministry, and what he said about the culture portfolio (to cut a long story short) was enthralling for soccer lovers.

He pointed at a losing streak in the senior national soccer side 'Taifa Stars' and asked the new minister, late first term cabinet newcomer, Innocent Bashungwa, to look closely as to what needs to be done.

That does not promise the moon but at least a good hearing of proposals as to what needs to be done to uplift the national side, definitely in a state of certain disrepair in past few years.

This situation promises a sort of throw-back to the fourth phase government, where President Jakaya Kikwete took up sponsorship of the senior national side, especially by engaging a professional coach, former Barcelona star Emmanuel Amunike of Nigeria.

The side saw the finals of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) for the first time since 1980, in the heydays of veteran player and soccer administrator, Leodegar Tenga, and that prospect has not been in view for some years.

The fifth phase president was there in the final days of that excitement about AFCON, and may wish to see those days come back before he leaves.

What is also noticeable is that the sporting and specifically soccer atmosphere has been part of the wider administrative cleansing exercise that has preoccupied various echelons of public administration for a while, with court cases opened on national or club affairs since 2016.

There is a way this environment can impact upon sports, as no other environment can rapidly be created to replace the old one, in which case at the level of competition there are winners and losers.

The two top club sides and archrivals faired in contrasting ways, Msimbazi Street-based Simba losing a section of leaders and Jangwani Street-based Yanga an erstwhile sponsor.

Yet this cannot be of much interest as regards the national side, as its environment is different, relying on public resources for its uplift, and when this is left to the soccer federation, a period of decline sets in.

That seems to be tone struck in instructions given to incoming minister Bashungwa, to map out what needs to be done so that Tanzania is noticeable again in regional soccer, at the CECAFA and CAF level as well.

There is already a framework that has been built as the side is not altogether a pushover in the current regional tournament, and junior teams have been doing well, thus the ship of soccer is steady.

As minister Bashungwa readies to take office, reports have it that the national U-20 team, Ngorongoro Heroes, that clinched honours in this season's CECAFA competition for that age category were already being lined up for some possible professional stints, for a number of them.

To be sure, it is the U-17 side where scouts are more at work to seek out talent at a fairly early age, as there are no international competitions below that age, so scouting below 15 years or so is a local issue, for clubs raising youth sides.

Even with U-20 players scouts can find good material for improvement to

high level play, for a robust professional career.

Not least in the picture in how soccer is actually doing well in the country are the repeated honors of the women's sides, where the U-17 national side has grabbed honours in an invitational capacity for the Council for Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) tournament, pundits say, for the second time consecutively.

There was a time that the senior women's national side, Twiga Stars, was winning trophies in the region, but it must be admitted that it is with the youth teams that Tanzania has tended to shine regionally, and even at the continental level.

For one thing, the success of the women's senior side and now the U-17 side was registered under the same coach, Bakari Shime, who is making an imprint on the women's game the way veteran Twiga Stars' coach Charles Boniface Mkwasa at that time struck imagination at the helm of the teams.

This aspect is vital because there was a time that the senior men's teams and the junior sides were all under the same coach, at one time Danish coach Kim Poulsen being an inspiration.

Since his departure the Danish coach has struggled somewhat, and is now linked with a fifth division side at home, while one of his successors, Amunike, left a job with an Egyptian club not long ago.

Press reports say Poulsen sees Tanzania as his second home, but it is up to professionals here to determine if he inspires hope even now, as there is plenty to choose from, and by comparing experiences and formulas for uplifting the squad.

## Fountain Gate FC boosts pursuit of promotion to Premier League

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WITH five wins and a draw in six matches of this season's First Division League (FDL), Dodoma's Fountain Gate FC has boosted its search for promotion to the next season's Premier League.

The side, currently, leads the FDL's Group B with 16 points.

The team are just one point above second-placed Geita Gold FC which has also played six matches, the latter have collected 15 points to make the quest for promotion to the top flight much exciting.

However, the battle for promotion is tight for the former Premier League sides, namely Singida United, Mbao FC and Alliance FC.

The trio is lowly positioned in the FDL's Group B and, for that matter, has a challenging task of winning promotion to the top flight.

The three sides were relegated to the FDL in the previous season after failing to grab essential points, which could have seen them stay put in the Premier League.

The teams seem to have lost focus in the FDL, based on their level of performance. Singida United are placed eighth in the 10-team Group B with two points from five matches drawn after registering draw in two clashes and are yet to win any game so far.

Again, Mbao FC is winless as the squad has lost all five games it has feature in to make it a sketchy mission in their quest to



Dodoma's Fountain Gate FC

earn top flight promotion next season.

For now, Mbao FC is under coach Ammy Ninje, who had in the past served as head coach for the senior national football squad, Taifa Stars.

Ninje is drilling the Mwanza outfit's players to make sure that they do not face relegation to the Second Division League (SDL).

Mwanza's other side, Alliance FC, once a respected club mostly made up of youthful players, looks to have pressed the wrong button as it continues to register poor results in the FDL.

They are positioned 10th in the group without winning a single match in five appearances and have scored only one goal in the games.

Should Alliance FC fail to regroup and win the squad's coming matches, the squad will certainly face a drop to the SDL.

Domestic football followers' familiar saying it is quite difficult for an outfit to secure promotion to the Premier

League than it is for a top flight club to face relegation to the FDL, for that matter, applies to the three teams.

Although domestic soccer followers expect a strong response from Alliance FC, Mbao FC and Singida United in the FDL, it is currently not the case.

In Group A of the FDL, Mbeya Kwanza are placed third, Iringa's Lipuli FC is placed second and African Sports of Tanga is enjoying the driver's seat in the group.

All top three squads in Group A have chance to land promotion to the Premier League, given they have collected 13 points each with only goal difference separating the squads.

Ndanda FC, which had in the past featured in the Premier League, sit at the bottom of the Group A with only two points after fettering in six games.

The Mtwara-based club is, in this case, putting itself in danger of facing relegation to the SDL.



## Italy's World Cup hero Rossi dies aged 64

MILAN

PAOLO Rossi, Italy's goalscoring hero from their victorious 1982 World Cup campaign and scorer of a hat-trick against Brazil in one of the most famous matches in the competition's history, has died at the age of 64.

The celebrated striker's death comes with the soccer world still in mourning for Argentina icon Diego Maradona, who passed away late last month.

Italian TV channel RAI Sport, where Rossi had been working as a pundit, said on Thursday "Pablito" had died of an "incurable disease".

Rossi's wife, Federica Cappelletti, posted a photo of herself and her husband on Instagram along with the words "per sempre" - "forever".

"There will never be anyone like you, unique, special ..." Cappelletti later wrote in Italian on Facebook.

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) president Gabriele Gravina said that Rossi was "indelibly linked to the blue shirt and his style of play inspired many strikers of future generations."

Rossi, almost frail-looking for a striker at the time but quick, agile and intelligent, won two Serie A titles, a European Cup and a Coppa Italia with Juventus but will be most fondly remembered for lighting up the 1982 World Cup in Spain with six goals.

His selection in the Italy squad came after a two-year ban for a match-fixing scandal and was initially criticised by pundits, who wrote him off as out of shape.

But they were left eating their words when he struck one of the World Cup's great hat-tricks against Brazil, who were runaway favourites and had enchanted the world with their flowing football.

Italy's 3-2 victory in that classic encounter in the second group phase booked them a place in the semis against Poland, where Rossi again made the difference.

He sunk the Poles with a brace in a 2-0 win that fired his side into the World Cup decider against West Germany.

Rossi then scored Italy's first in a 3-1 victory that gave them their third World Cup title and their first since 1938.

He won the Golden Boot as the top scorer and Golden Ball as the player of the tournament, a campaign regarded as one of the best individual World Cup performances.

## Arsenal boss Arteta on Aubameyang: No one 'undroppable'

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta has warned Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang that "no one is undroppable" but backed the striker to overcome his recent dip in form.

The Arsenal captain has scored just two Premier League goals all season and was a peripheral figure once again as they slumped to a 2-0 defeat in Sunday's north London derby at Tottenham Hotspur.

Aubameyang is not expected to feature in Arsenal's final Europa League Group B match at Dundalk on Thursday night given they have already secured top spot but when asked whether he would keep playing the 31-year-old in the League no matter what, Arteta replied: "No one is undroppable at the end of the day."

"You have to find the right players to win football matches but we cannot forget what Aubameyang has done for this club and what he's done in recent months, not years ago. And as well because I see how he is training, how he is behaving and how much he wants to turn the situation around."

"When I see that type of hunger I stay as a strong supporter to a player when he is established in the team and the performances that he has provided. Today and this week, the response I have seen from the players and the reaction I saw from the players after the match, I cannot be any prouder."

"I know how difficult it is for everybody at the moment after losing the derby you can be completely

down and I saw a completely different team that wants to fight, that is united, that has a big belief in what they are trying to do and they want to do it themselves and push each other harder and harder."

"Auba was one of the main guys there and today he was walking [around] the place with an energy that wouldn't be associated to a team or a player that is suffering at the moment and this is for me the way we have to approach it."

Arteta also confirmed Thomas Partey will be sidelined for "the next few matches" after suffering a thigh injury at Tottenham.

Partey was originally expected to miss the game with a similar problem sustained against Aston Villa on Nov. 8 but pushed to return to action, only to limp off before half-time in the build-up before Spurs scored their second goal. Arteta provided an update while defending his decision to play the midfielder at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

"He got injured in the same area," Arteta said. "Not exactly the same spot, but similar as it was before. We MRI [scanned] him yesterday. There was an injury there and he will miss the next few matches. He did incredibly well. He was very confident."

"We tested him three times. He had zero symptoms about it. But in football you have a lot of unpredictable actions and he went into the floor, his knee got stuck. After, he needs to stretch and get up. Immediately he put a lot of stress in a similar area and he felt it again."

PERSONAL REDEMPTION  
Born in Prato, Tuscany, Rossi played his entire club career in Italy. He was banned for three years in 1980 as part of the nation's infamous "Totonero" match-fixing scandal but always denied any wrongdoing.

The ban was later reduced to two years, allowing him to carve out his slice of World Cup history and win "personal redemption."

"On one hand I felt fulfilled. I said to myself, 'you've made it,'" he said in a FIFA documentary in 2018.

"On the other hand, I was disappointed that all of this just ended. The World Cup was over."

He also scored three goals at the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. With a total of nine goals, he remains Italy's joint highest scorer at the World Cup with Roberto Baggio and Christian Vieri.

He was included in the 1986 World Cup squad but did not play and ended his playing career a year later with Verona, at the relatively young age of 30.

Italians woke on Thursday to media eulogies for one of the country's favourite soccer sons. Rossi was "the one who beat Zico's Brazil, Maradona's Argentina, Boniek's Poland and in the final, the Germany of Rummenigge," La Gazzetta dello Sport said on its website.

Former Italy Prime Minister Matteo Renzi tweeted: "In our hearts, forever. Farewell Pablito."

Germany's former World Cup winner Juergen Klinsmann tweeted: "Dear Pablito, we always remember you!"

Former Italy coach Giovanni Trapattoni, 81, said: "Bye bye Paolo -- players should never depart before coaches."

REUTERS

# Why English Premier League won't fall behind in Brexit era

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IN less than four weeks, barring some sort of rethink or extension, the United Kingdom will leave the European Union. The impact extends to football. For example, as part of the EU, the Premier League could not impose restrictions on hiring foreigners from within the union and the larger European Economic Area (EEA). Now, it can set itself whatever rules it likes, subject to approval from the Football Association (FA) and, of course, the UK government.

On Tuesday, following months of negotiations, the FA, Premier League and Football League unveiled a new framework of regulations to govern the post-Brexit era. They cover the men's and women's games and aren't limited to players, but provide guidelines for managers, assistant coaches, directors of football and performance managers too.

Basically, work visas will be handed out based on a points system, which considers club and international appearances, age and the quality of the league a player joins from. It's a similar principle for the non-playing positions.

The idea is to help further develop the game in England, by limiting access to the best and brightest. In reality, it's most likely a great big nothing-burger, with a dollop of posturing and politics layered on top. Most of the regulations have little effect and, for those who do, there's a convenient "exceptions panel" that, if appeals panels under the old work permit rules are anything to go by, will be closer to a "rubber stamp" panel. Oh, and on top of that, virtually all the EU players already in the United Kingdom will be grandfathered in, so most of the effects of these regulations won't be felt for several years -- by which point there could be a bunch of entirely new rules.

### That's a bit negative. What's the most significant change?

The biggest change has nothing to do with the new regulations, but is a natural result of Brexit. With very few exceptions, FIFA bans the transfer of underage players from one country to another. It's only allowed if the player resides near a land border (and the club he joins is less than 30 miles away) or if his parents move for "legitimate non-footballing reasons" or if the move is within the 30-nation EEA, which the United Kingdom will leave as of Jan. 1, 2021.

Had the rule been in place earlier, players like Paul Pogba (the first time around), Cesc Fabregas or Gerard Pique could not have come to the Premier League. But, in fact, transfers of minors across borders are increasingly rare anyway; they usually occurred because clubs found a loophole. Considering that in most countries you can't sign a professional contract until you turn 16 or 17, they'd wait until a kid's 16th or 17th birthday and sign him as a free agent, paying only minimal compensation to his previous club. That doesn't really happen much anymore.

### Plus, there are workarounds. Like what?

You can reach a deal with his club, sign the player and leave him on loan until his 18th birthday. Or you can use a "bridge club," a team within the EEA that signs the player on your behalf and then moves him on when he becomes of age. Some English clubs have partnerships with EEA clubs, others (such as Watford or Manchester City) have common shareholders. It may cost you a bit more, but you can get around it.

The single most significant impact might be felt by clubs who scout heavily in the Republic of Ireland. Traditionally, a number of Irish players join English academies at the age of 16 and complete their development there. Now, that's more difficult.



The Premier League will be subject to post-Brexit regulations beginning in January. (Agencies)

### What about the points system? Won't that ensure quality control on the players who come in?

For a start, the regulations are pretty generous. The vast majority of players who signed for Premier League clubs in the past four or five years would have fulfilled the criteria. And, like I said, for those who don't, there's the exceptions panel.

OK, but what about managers? I read that Manchester United would not have been able to hire Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, for example.

More accurately, he wouldn't have met the criteria, but again, I refer you to the exceptions panel. We don't know what they would have done, but I'd find it extraordinary if they had the intestinal fortitude to go to Manchester United -- a club that generates considerable revenue for the league and English football as a whole -- and tell them who they can or cannot hire. It's their money.

The same, frankly, applies to all those requirements for assistant coaches, directors of football and performance managers (whatever that is). And even in the extremely unlikely scenario where the exceptions panel says no, there's nothing stopping the club from hiring a figurehead for the role and paying the guy they want as a consultant. This used to happen all the time when there were strict rules requiring coaching qualifications and a club wanted a guy who hadn't yet obtained them.

### There are limits on the number of foreign under-21 players a club can sign. Surely that's significant?

That might be the biggest joke of all. The limit is six per season. Do you know how many foreign players aged between 18 and 21 the Premier League's Big Six signed during the entire 2019-20 campaign? Three: William Saliba and Gabriel Martinelli at Arsenal, and Pedro Porro at Manchester City.

You assume the limit was introduced with the thinking that, considering clubs can no longer sign under-18s from abroad, they'll suddenly try to hoard under-21s. But it doesn't really make sense because it's not as if they were importing boatloads of under-18s. Last year, the Big Six signed a grand total of 16 under-18s from abroad. Chuck in the three

guys in the 18-to-21 age group and that takes you 19. So why put a cap of six in a category where the six biggest -- and most active -- clubs only signed 3.1 each last season?

It sounds like these restrictions aren't really restrictions at all. Premier League clubs can still mostly do exactly what they want. So what's the point?

You're right. And the Premier League can do what they want because, ultimately, they have all the leverage. They drive elite English football, not the Football Association. But, hey, they had to come up with something and they didn't want the FA to lose face entirely so they made a bunch of largely irrelevant rules.

### And, to be fair, deep down, I think the FA was OK with that and not just because they weren't humiliated.

How so? Because the more intelligent folks at the FA know that markets and competition work and quotas, generally, do not. England have the best crop of young players that they've had in years. At U21 level, they qualified for the past seven European Championships. Prior to that, they had qualified for just two of the previous nine. They've reached five of the past seven U20 World Cups. Before that, it was three out of six.

They've qualified for four of the past seven Under-17 World Cups, becoming world champions in 2017. Before 2007, they had never even qualified for one.

How did England produce all these gifted youngsters? By having world-class training facilities and world-class coaching. That costs money, and much of the tab was picked up by Premier League clubs, who have been wildly successful in the past two decades. Being able to play and train against more of the best in the world has made English players better.

The FA know this and they don't want to lose that competitive advantage. So they pretended to do something with their new regulations but, in fact, all they're doing is largely preserving the status quo. Which, of course, suits the Premier League just fine.

So yeah, to quote the Bard: "Much ado about nothing."

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

**Why English Premier League won't fall behind in Brexit era**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Arusha Girls cricket team pictured after playing one of the 2020 Women Cricket Premier League's matches, which took place in Tanga recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

## Tanzania set to host ICC Africa U-19 Women Championship next year

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA will next year host the first ever International Cricket Council (ICC) Africa U-19 women cricket tournament to be held in Dar es Salaam.

The country has already hosted several major ICC tournaments, including the World Cricket League Division Four for men in 2008 and several others for ladies.

This will be the first time for Tanzania to play host to the ICC Africa women tournament for the U-19 category.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Vice-Chairman, Shaheed Dhanani, said in the city on Wednesday that a lot is expected to happen next year in the international cricket arena after the resumption of sports activities.

Several countries across the globe had, for several months, suspended sporting activities because of coronavirus pandemic which has hit the world.

Dhanani, former senior national cricket team's player, disclosed that Tanzania is ready to host the mega women tournament in Dar es Salaam as TCA is now refurbishing all venues that will host matches.

He said officials from ICC Africa region will, in February next year, visit Tanzania to inspect grounds that will host matches and hotels' status that will accommodate foreign players.

He disclosed the officials will also analyze several other factors for Tanzania to win hosting bid.

Among others, how health measures (preventive measures against coronavirus) will be taken as visitors will make their stay.

This factor will be eliminated should the World Health Organization (WHO) declare the world free from coronavirus.

Dhanani disclosed that after the ICC Africa region's officials are satisfied with the arrangements, they will grant TCA a green light to host the continental tournament in June.

"We have no doubt that we will host it, what they will do is just a mere formality which we ought to go through," he said.

Major Dar es Salaam's cricket grounds that have regularly been hosting cricket tournaments at both domestic and international levels include Kinondoni's Leaders Club, Annadil Burhani, University of Dar es Salaam's and Gymkhana Club.

The national teams' head coach, Kenyan Steve Tikolo, will probably be subjected to the national U-19 women team's preparations ahead of the event that will also have other teams from various African countries featuring in it.

Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Rwanda are among other countries expected to field teams in the event.

## Olympians set to constitute KAWATA leadership in 2021

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Athletes Commission (KAWATA)'s leadership will from next year consist of athletes that represented the country in Olympic Games, it has been disclosed.

Filbert Bayi, Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) secretary general, stated at the opening of the commission's general assembly in Dodoma on Thursday the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had issued directives to all of the body's member countries that the latter's athletes' commissions' leaderships should comprise Olympians.

He disclosed the IOC demanded the athletes commissions' managements should be made up of nine officials that had featured in the previous three Olympic Games.

The TOC official noted the current KAWATA leadership, led by chairman Kassim Hussein Salehe, will from next year no longer be under TOC. He stated the new IOC directive demands the KAWATA, which was formed in 2006, to end its term and let athletes that have represented the country in Olympic Games take over.

He noted the KAWATA members will, after the general assembly, elect their leaders that will be in power for four years under TOC's patronage.

According to him, efforts are done to bring sportsmen and women that have represented the country in such other major tournaments like World Championships, Commonwealth Games and All Africa Games into the commission's fold.

He disclosed the Tanzania Olympians Association (TOA), which has a constitution registered by the Registrar of Sports Associations and Clubs, will still operate given the association constitutes Olympians. All this, the TOC official disclosed, is done because sportsmen and women have what it takes to issue useful advice to sports associations' officials on various issues pertaining to sports development.

The sportsmen and women, he stated, can as well communicate with corporates and firms to create employment opportunities for individuals involved in sports.

He stated IOC has motivated National Olympic Committees to set up athletes commissions with a view to seeing to it athletes are acknowledged as an important sector in the respective countries' sports development. Bayi said: "TOC instructs sports associations which have yet to form their respective athletes' commissions to form the bodies in an effort to give the athletes an opportunity to contribute to the sports disciplines' development."

He pointed out that TOA can keep on vouching for a recommendation for seeing to it retired sportsmen and women have a better life.

The TOC, Bayi stated, has opted to work with TOA in such crucial issues like submitting recommendations to the International Olympians Association (IOA), should there be any.



Some of Tanzania Athletes Commission (KAWATA)'s members take part in the association's general assembly, held in Dodoma yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Simba SC's coach praises midfielder

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's head coach Sven Vandebroek has heaped praise on his player, Mzamiru Yassin, whom he described as a key figure as the team returned to the Vodacom Premier League action with a convincing 2-0 victory against Polisi Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday night.

Second half substitute Clatous Chama grabbed a brace to keep Simba SC within touching distance of league leaders, Yanga, and second-placed Azam FC with two games in hand.

Coach Vandebroek praised his team for the deserved victory and went on to single out Mzamiru as one of the players who performed well.

"If we talk about the game, we know that December is every three-day-a-game. Many players had many minutes on their dashboard so we decided to rest a few ones but still had a strong bench. That is our advantage," Vandebroek said in a post-match press.

He noted: "From the start the tempo was a bit too low to create real dominance. We still created four to five changes in the first half. Second half with the changes, there was a bit more speed in the game and more direction towards the goal. We got the two goals in the last twenty or twenty five minutes after the two changes we made."

"I think in general, I don't know the statistics but if you're gonna look, I think we will have a lot of ball possession. I think the shots on goal are also in our favour in a big way."



Simba SC midfielder, Mzamiru Yassin

"In the end we only lost control between minute 35 and 40 in the second half where they came with crosses and there was some space in the midfield, then we brought Erasto Nyoni to calm down the situation."

"You can be angry or be disappointed that someone missed a pass but you also have to look on the defense side for what they put on as an effort to cover the few guys up front."

"I'm gonna give a compliment to Yassin. If you look at the distance he ran today, then he is over everyone else. He did a really good job in defense to cover and to balance the midfield."

"Yes, he missed a few passes, but sometimes you have to accept because he does another job for you in the team that is very important. I am satisfied with his performance today."

Up next for the league defending champions is an away game against struggling Mbeya City FC, to be held in Mbeya on Sunday afternoon.

## Serengeti Boys to face Rwanda in CECAFA U-17 Championship opener

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIA's national U-17 soccer team, Serengeti Boys, will, tomorrow, start their campaign in Group B of this year's Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) U-17 Championship with a date against hosts Rwanda at Umuganda Stadium in Rubavu District in the Western province.

The regional showpiece will take place from December 12-22 and it will be played at two stadiums, namely Umuganda Stadium in Rubavu District and Huye Stadium

in Huye District. Serengeti Boys, who have played in the competition twice, are trying to seal a treble in Rwanda this time around.

The showpiece's Group A, which comprises Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan, will have the squads play their matches at Huye Stadium. After the first game on December 12, Serengeti Boys will face Djibouti on December 17.

All participating teams will be responsible for their respective countries' requirements including COVID-19 testing and other protocols required by their governments prior

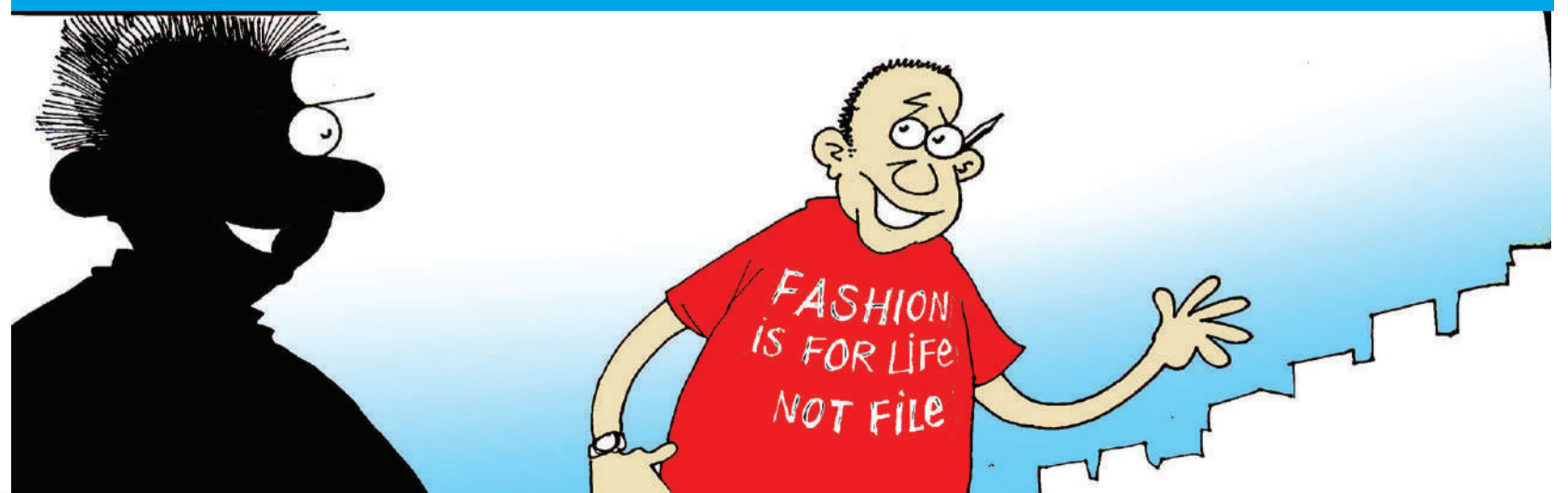
to departure back to their home countries after the tournament.

After the pool stage, the top two teams will proceed to the semi-finals. The Cecafta U-17 tournament serves as qualifiers for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-17 tournament's finals, a showpiece that further decides which African teams will represent the continent in the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Rwanda has been given the opportunity to host the tournament after failing to qualify and withdrawing themselves from this year's CECAFA U-20 tournament, which took place in Arusha.

*We have no doubt that we will host it, what they will do is just a mere formality which we ought to go through*

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV FRIDAY**

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 S5ELEKT  
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)

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**Friday Night Live** The Weekend begins here! Listen to upbeat mixed music by the hottest DJs, Gossip, showbiz updates and exclusive interviews with celebrities from home and abroad. Don't you dare miss this.

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**