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# Membe promises 'clean campaign'



National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kaijage (R) presents Union presidential candidacy endorsement forms to ACT-Wazalendo's Bernard Membe in Dodoma yesterday. Related photos on pages 2 and 4. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER cabinet minister Bernard Membe yesterday picked up Union presidential candidacy forms from the National Electoral Commission's head offices in Dodoma, promising to run a clean campaign. Speaking after collecting the forms, the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT-Wazalendo) flag bearer said his campaign would not engage in bad language but would merely seek to persuade Tanzanians to see "why I am the person for the job". "We will be gracious in engaging with voters. We will clearly explain why the next phase of our country's leadership should be handed over to Membe," he said.

**I'll reach all corners of the country, and I know there are lots of people ready to stand as my guarantors. Once campaigns kick off on the 26th of this month, I'll start elaborating on my message**

we plan to deal with those challenges if voted into office," he added. Membe said that starting from today he will be crisscrossing the country to get 200 guarantors in ten regions to qualify as a fully-fledged candidate. He also sought to assure Tanzanians that he is in good health and ready to square it out with President Magufuli (CCM), Tundu Lissu (Chadema) and candidates of other parties now lining up their flag bearers. "I'll reach all corners of the country, and I know there are lots of people ready to stand as my guarantors. Once campaigns kick off on the 26th of this month, I'll start elaborating on my message," said Membe. The former CCM cadre said he saw the upcoming (late October) General

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## Agro-livestock ministries plan joint strategies, new research

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE Livestock and Fisheries ministry and that of Agriculture have agreed to develop a platform to enable them to work closer together to speed up development. The development was unveiled yesterday in Simiyu Region by Livestock and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina and Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe while on a joint visit at the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) pavilion at the Agricultural Exhibition (NaneNane) taking place

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Kagera Sugar Limited agronomist Geoffrey Semakula (L) briefs an NBC Bank delegation led by managing director Theobald Sabi (4th-R) on newly acquired instruments the company has recently started using in its sugarcane farms. The NBC officials visited the firm's farms and factory in Misenyi District, Kagera Region, earlier this week chiefly to see how best to chip in with support meant to boost productivity. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## PM inspects Dar-to-Moro SGR portion, 87pc finished

By Correspondent James Kandoya, Ruvu

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the construction of the Dar es Salaam - Morogoro section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) as it has now reached 87 per cent. Addressing a crowd in

Ruvu after touring the project from Ruvu to Pugu stations (50 kilometres) by engineering train, the premier commended the contractor for the speed and quality of the work done. He also reminded the contractor to ensure that construction work is completed on time as per contractual

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## Gas pays for Songosongo islanders' basic needs

By Henry Mwangonde, Kilwa

RESIDENTS of Songosongo Island in Kilwa District, Lindi Region, are leading a dream life without the burden of paying utility bills and school fees for their children. Thanks to the Songosongo

gas field located on and off its shore, the island is exempted from the hustle and tussle other Tanzanians must undergo to make ends meet. As part of its corporate social responsibility, the company extracting natural gas there has put up a water purification

**'The Guardian' visited the island recently to learn of this unique lifestyle**

plant and the precious liquid is piped to homes free of charge. Gas-generated electricity is also supplied free. "The Guardian" visited the island recently to learn of this unique lifestyle. A two hour boat journey from KilwaMasoko will lead

one to the archipelago, made up of a collection of five tiny islands surrounded by reefs, located to the southwest of the Mafia Island. A band of fringe reef protects the islands from the open sea, stretching approximately 40 kilometres.

The island is mostly resided by local people with a few visitors, the Makondes from the nearby region of Mtwara. Upon arrival one may think there is no one residing as the place is quiet at the main entry

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## PM inspects Dar-to -Moro SGR portion, 87pc finished

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agreement so that Tanzanians move to modern and fast transport.

He took time to remind the Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) management to ensure the contractor pays accrued debts to suppliers and subcontractors as President John Magufuli ordered in his recent tour of the project.

"Frankly speaking, the contractor has done good job so far. It is our hope that he will finish the job on time as per agreement," he said.

The 7.2 trn/- project is executed by the Turkish construction firm-YapiMerkez for the 300 kilometre section, followed by the Morogoro-Makutopora section (422 kilometres).

Majaliwa told TRC Managing Director Masanja Kadogosa to fast-track an evaluation exercise for residents of Pugu Kisiwani whose dwellings and other built structures are within the railway reserve zone.

The directive came after complaints from the residents of the Pugu Kisiwani in Ilala district who wanted to know the fate of promised compensation.

"I have directed the TRC boss and his team to come and start the evaluation process that seemed to be moving slowly somewhere, so that they can be paid and vacate the

space," he said.

He assured the residents that no one will lose his or her rights during the evaluation process, to pave the way for construction of the SGR Mombasa - Pugu Kisiwani section.

He similarly asked Coast Regional Commissioner Evaristo Ndikilo to ensure that ongoing conflicts between cattle herders and farmers are solved.

At Ruvu station some residents expressed fears following attack from a group of herders causing injuries and destruction of crops, and nothing had been done so far.

The Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Atahasta Nditije said the government was finalizing the tender procedures of procuring the fast track train when construction of the SGR is completed.

He said the Dar es Salaam-Moshi Arusha train will be launched anytime from now as the renovation of the old rail track was largely over.

Kadogosa said that once renovating the meter gauge track was over, the train can travel at the speed of 70 kilometres, from 35 kilometres per hour in the past.

The TRC management had directed the contractor to pay the suppliers and subcontractors debts amounting to over 21bn/-, he added.



James Mbatia, national Chairman of the opposition NCCR-Mageuzi, addresses the party's congress in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

## Gas pays for Songosongo islanders' basic needs

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point to the township, Songosongoo village head Swaluya Hassan Saad said most residents of the island are known thus if you are a visitor you are easily recognized.

At a glance, Songosongo is akin

to any village in Tanzania with plenty of thatched houses and poor access roads. The island's shores housed Tanzania's first natural gas development project comprising three shallow water wellhead platforms.

Natural gas was discovered both offshore and onshore, with five oil and gas companies currently

pumping the gas onshore and then to Dar es Salaam through the Mtwara-Dar es Salaam pipeline, to generate electricity.

The gas generating company pays school fees for any performing student from the island, ranging from secondary school to university.

Each month the company picks

youths from within the island to work temporarily on a rotational basis, the village leader said.

But despite these provisions, there are some who think life can be improved at the island, from what it is now.

Hassan Mussa, a local resident, said the gas economy was yet to trickle down to the island as there

was a lot to be improved.

"We believe that in the near future we will have gas experts from this area because this was a new thing to us," he said.

There is need to have a well equipped health facility and other important social services, he added.



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma (C) cuts a ribbon in Shinyanga municipality yesterday to inaugurate a building for the Shinyanga Zone of the High Court of Tanzania. He is with former CJ Mohamed Chande Othman (L) and Shinyanga regional commissioner Zainab Telack (R). Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

## Agro-livestock ministries plan joint strategies, new research

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in the region at national level.

The two concurred in their remarks that it was high time for the two ministries with related duties to work collaboratively by sharing work plans, best practices as well as strategies and researches.

"The country's livestock and agriculture sectors still face diverse challenges and to contain the situation, the best way is for parent ministries to start working more closely," the deputy minister declared.

As part of efforts to spur performance of the agriculture and livestock sectors, there is need for joint researches for uplifting the two sectors, he stated.

"Working and strategizing agendas closely will enable

agriculture research institutes and experts to share a roundtable with their livestock counterparts to produce desired results like production of animal breeds and feeds as well as how to mitigate diseases that affect both sectors," he specified.

Bashe urged TALIRI to ensure implementation of modern crossbreeding programmes being carried out do not affect the welfare and development of local breeds.

"It's better for you to ensure introduction and application of scientific cross breeding of animals of different genetics in Tanzania is not in any way thwarting smooth development and presence of key local breeds," he emphasized.

For his part, Mpina expressed optimism that the envisaged joint working

system will help facilitate and solve setbacks retarding development of the two sectors.

He stated that most research conducted was not fully benefiting the targeted groups, hence the need for a fresh and reliable research model to ensure that findings of such studies play intended roles in improving the sectors.

He spoke also of the need for major improvement in animal feeds, vaccination services, by putting up livestock clinics in every district countrywide.

Dr Eligy Shirima, the TALIRI director general, said the facility was strategizing and implementing a series of researches and programmes to improve the general performance of the sectors.

Dr Marry Kishe, acting research director at the Tan-

zania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), meanwhile said the institute had so far played a helpful role in fostering professional improvement of fishery resources in the country's main water bodies.

The quantity of Nile Perch annually in Lake Victoria has improved from 553,000 tonnes in 2018 to 916,000 tonnes in 2019, she said, noting also that TAFIRI is working around the clock to battle the effects of illegal fishing.

Today is the apex of this year's edition of the NaneNane agricultural exhibition, which recognizes the contribution of farmers to the national economy. The one-week fair takes place every year in major crop-growing regional centres like Simiyu, officials noted.

## EAC launches regional electronic cargo and driver tracking system

By Guardian Correspondent

The East African Community (EAC) secretariat has announced the launch of the Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS) in various border posts across the region in what is touted as a big game changer in improving truck turnaround and reducing corridors' transit costs.

RECDTS launched at border points of Malaba, Rusumo, and Kobero yesterday. Malaba border is the second busiest border crossing in Africa and serves a number of land-locked countries that include Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Northern Zambia, DR Congo, Central African Republic and South Sudan.

Uganda is the biggest transit market for Mombasa port, with about 30 percent of Mombasa port's total cargo volume going to the country. The port is today handling

34 million metric tonnes of cargo every year.

About 95 per cent of Rwanda's imports pass through the Rusumo border, ferried from Dar es Salaam port. According to official statistics, some 270 heavy trucks passed through the Rusumo border every day, prior to Covid 19.

The launch at Mutukula will take place on 14 August 2020, EAC announced in a tweet yesterday. In Namanga, the launch will take place on 21 August 2020. About 418 vehicles a day pass through the Mutukula border point, with trucks taking over a day on average to process through customs from Tanzania to Uganda prior to Covid 19.

Kenya and Tanzania in early June agreed to reopen their borders after a diplomatic tiff and a tense week that was marked by a simmering trade dispute occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic. Travel guidelines and restrictions rekindled a festering trade war that had seen both countries impose

sanctions on each other and ban trade in certain goods.

Government officials from both countries, who met in Namanga in early June, resolved to facilitate a seamless cross-border movement of goods and end the standoff.

The EAC secretariat has been piloting the system since last month. This followed a joint ministerial meeting of the Ministers responsible for Health, Trade and EAC Affairs held on 25th March of 2020 and in line with a directive by the Sectoral Council on Trade, Finance and Investment held on 3rd June this year to discuss the subject.

This initiative has received support from Trademark East Africa (TMEA) in partnership with the East African Community (EAC). Other key private sector players such as the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Associations (FEAFFA), the apex body of the Customs Clearing and Freight Forwarding industry

in East Africa have been involved in the mobilization of private sector logistics associations to participate in the review of the RECDTS system concept. The review meetings, which were largely held online provided an opportunity for the private sector to share their recommendations with the developers of the system and ensure it addresses various concerns raised by its members and the industry at large.

The system will ride on the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTS) platform for tracking cargo movement along the corridors, which previously lacked a component of tracking individuals, which has now become necessary in the wake of Covid 19 pandemic.

Trucking companies will be required to get accredited on the system by registering drivers and crew members. Drivers will be required to have smart phones with reliable internet connection.

## Membe promises 'clean campaign'

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Election as "quite special", noting that his new party has a plan not only to participate in the polls but to set out and actually win.

At its meeting in Dar es Salaam last week, the ACT-Wazalendo congress endorsed Membe to run for the Tanzanian presidency in the General Election. He was endorsed alongside the party's national chairman, Seif Shariff Hamad, as the party's candidate for the Zanzibar presidency.

Announcing the results, ACT-Wazalendo election committee chairman Joram

Bashange said 428 congress members attended the meeting and 420 of them voted for both candidates.

Membe, who was suspended from CCM early this year for what was described as violating the ruling party's rules, joined the opposition outfit last month.

But in remarks at a ceremony to welcome him to ACT-Wazalendo, he said that he was expelled from CCM simply for expressing his intention to run for the presidency under the ruling party - as that would mean challenging Dr Magufuli, who is vying for a second and constitutionally final five-year term in office.

# Four people including two Kenyans charged with economic sabotage

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR people including two Kenyans have appeared before Kisumu Resident Magistrate court charged with economic sabotage.

The suspects who were brought before the Principal Resident Magistrate Yusto Ruboroga are Beth Ngunyi (43), a trader and resident of Nai-

robi city in Kenya and Frolence Dirangu (34), a Betlee Company employee working as Information and Communication Technology Officer, Alven Swai (26) and Godluck Macha (28) Tanzanians and residents of Mbezi beach in Dar es Salaam.

Reading the charges, the State Attorney, Batilda Mushi claimed that between July 1 and 26, this year in various areas, the sus-

pects organized and committed the crime thus commissioning loss of 16.6m/- to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

He said that on July 13, this year in Tarakea area, Rombo District in Kilimanjaro Region, Ngunyi and Dirangu imported electronic devices in the country without having TCRA's licence.

He also claimed that on July 20, this year at Kibona Lodge area in Mbezi Beach, Dar es Salaam, the suspects installed the communication electronic devices without having licence from TCRA.

In the fourth charge, advocate Mushi claimed that between July 20 and 26 this year, at Kibona Lodge Mbezi Beach, the suspects illegally repaired

the electronic devices. It is also claimed that the suspects illegally started to operate the communications machines without licence.

Mushi claimed that the suspects also used the communications devices with the aim of supplying communication without getting approval from TCRA.

"The suspects also evaded

paying the required expenses which are needed to allow communication from outside the country. They used the machines to allow communication without having a licence," Mushi read.

In the ninth charge, it was claimed that on July 13 this year, near Kibona Lodge in Mbezi Beach, the suspects (Ngunyi and Dirangu) were in the coun-

try without permit.

On July 15, suspect Macha claimed to keep Dirangu and Ngunyi in his house being aware that they do not have permission to enter the country. In the eleventh charge, it was claimed that between July 20 and 26 this year, at Kibona Lodge area in Mbezi Beach, the suspects caused loss of 16.6m/- to the TCRA.



**Paul Kamkulu (4th-R), an acting assistant manager with the Tanzania Revenue Authority's customs department, introduces the authority's staff at the Namanga One-Stop Border Post in Arusha Region earlier this week to TRA board chairman Dr Suleiman Missango, commissioner general Dr Edwin Mhede and board members. The delegation was at Namanga earlier this week for a first-hand account of TRA's operations there. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

# Tanzania elected president of OACPS

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has been elected president of the Ministers' Council of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) effective from August 1, to January 31, 2021.

In a statement availed to the media yesterday, the position officially given to the foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi and was received on his behalf by the deputy minister Dr. Damas Ndumbo during the emergence meeting of council of ministers held on July 28, this year.

Tanzania becomes the president of the council after the ambassador of Tanzania in Belgium Jestas Nyamanga having been elected the chairman of the OACPS diplomats based in Brussels.

As per OACPS, the county which its envoys becomes chairman of the union, then its Foreign Affairs minister directly becomes the President of the Cabinet.

The decision to elect Tanzania was made by ambassadors from 15 countries in the Eastern Africa Region at a meeting held on July 2, 2020 and later approved by all the ambassadors of 79 ambassadors from the OACPS countries through their meeting held in Brussels on July 14, this year.

Tanzania, which is taking over the position from Gambia, is committed to implementing various issues of interest to OACPS Countries, including overseeing the finalization of negotiations on the new OACPS-EU Partnership Agreement which is expected to take effect in January 2021 after of the current Cotonou Partnership Agreement expires in December 2020.

Tanzania is also well prepared to ensure the interests of OACPS countries are included in the new agreement.

In addition, Tanzania is committed to implement various strategies of the community in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic and its adverse economic impacts in the member countries.

"Other priority areas which Tanzania will invest its efforts include to increase integration and cooperation among member states of the community; overseeing operational and system changes to align with the time changes as well as maintaining

solidarity and unity among the member states," read part of the statement.

Also among the benefits which Tanzania will get of being the president of the council is to increase the influence of our country in planning and implementing various strategies, projects and programmes of the OACPS including those implemented in collaboration with the European Union and other development partners such as agriculture, investment, trade and entrepreneurship, environment, infrastructure, youth and culture.

This is the third time for Tanzania to lead the council ministers' position since it joined in 1975.

Other reasons that led to Tanzania be elected to lead the position is due to the increase in its influence on the OACPS Community, Policies and solid steps taken by President John Magufuli in supervising various national and international issues as well as effective performance of the ministry of foreign affairs in overseeing Foreign Policy.

This includes Tanzania's active participation in issues affecting the interests of OACPS member states.

The Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), formerly known as the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, was created by the Georgetown Agreement in 1975.

It is composed of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states, with all, save Cuba, signatories to the Cotonou Agreement, or the "ACP-EC Partnership Agreement", which binds them to the European Union. The OACPS comprises 48 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific.

Some of the main objectives of the OACPS include sustainable development of its Member-States and their gradual integration into the global economy, which entails making poverty reduction a matter of priority and establishing a new, fairer, and more equitable world order.

Others are coordination of the activities of the ACP Group in the framework of the implementation of ACP-EC Partnership Agreements; consolidation of unity and solidarity among ACP States, as well as understanding among their peoples and establishment and strengthening of peace and stability in a free and democratic society.

# TBA urged to offer quality building services

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) has been challenged to continue delivering quality building services in order to fast track a pace of economic activities in Tanzania.

Speaking at the TBA's pavilion in the on-going Nanenane exhibition in Simiyu region, Regional Commissioner for Mara Region, Kigoma Malima said the state-

owned agency had so far played key role in facilitating construction of diverse public institutions in Tanzania. He unveiled that, the fifth phase government still plans to undertake hundreds and thousands structures in different regions, urged organization of the agency to work round the clock to improve performance.

"You have so far paid remarkable and commendable roles in helping construct-

ing key public institutions and the government still rely on your good services and thus, just improve your deliverance to comply with fast-speed of the fifth phase government," he advised the agency.

TBA's Acting Manager, Public Relations and Marketing, Fredrick Kalinga, the agency was implementing a project for the construction of affordable but modern houses in various parts within the country.



**Advertisement**  
**BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**  
**Requests the submission of Expressions of Interest from qualifying parties wanting to participate in the below work packages as part of the Restart Project at Bulyanhulu Gold Mine**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited (BGML) is a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation. Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Site is located 45km south of Lake Victoria, in the Kahama District of Shinyanga Region, northern Tanzania. There are road accesses to the mine from Mwanza, 127km to the northeast and from the town of Kahama, 84km to the south.

BGML, therefore, invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified companies interested in pre-qualifying for inclusion in a tender process for the provision of the following Goods and Services.

No.	Reference no.	Description of work/goods to be procured	Pre-Qualification Criteria
1	BUL-20-07-305	<b>Equipment Installation – Process Plant:</b> Installation of equipment's (Screens, Cyclones, Pumps), Fabrication and installation of feeding and discharge chutes for all equipment's	i. Mechanical Contractor with CRB registration ii. Experience working with similar works, installation of heavy industrial equipment's since last 3 years iii. Highly skilled workforce – certified - welders, riggers, scaffolders iv. Competence in Working at Heights and fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
2	BUL-20-07-306	<b>Construction of Open Stockpile :</b> Earth works and Liner works for construction of open stockpile	i. Civil Contractor with CRB registration ii. Experience working with similar works, earthworks and liner installation works in last 3 years iii. Should have fleet of equipment's – Articulated dump trucks, Loaders, Excavators, Pneumatic compacting roller, Bulldozer, etc. iv. Certifications for HDPE lining systems welders v. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry vi. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vii. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
3	BUL-20-07-307	<b>Equipment Installation and Commissioning Specialist – Process Plant :</b> Equipment installation and commissioning – Process plant equipment's	i. Consultancy firm into Engineering design and Project Management in Mineral Processing Industries ii. Experience working with similar works, in engineering design and project management of Mineral processing companies since last 5 years iii. Highly skilled workforce of Engineers, Installation and Commissioning Experts, Technical Draftsmen with onsite experience iv. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mineral processing industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
4	BUL-20-07-308	<b>Design and Supply of new containerised MCC complete with Switchgear, Fire protection and suppression system and earth leakage protection</b>	i. Companies who have been designing and manufacturing switchgear for more than 10 years ii. Schneider switchgear iii. Manufacturing lead time iv. Cost v. Guarantee and warranty time frames

5	BUL-20-07-309	<b>Pneumatic Knife Valves</b>	i. Make/Clarkson equivalent ii. Valve Specialist company with support iii. Slurry flush ports iv. Quality v. Lead time vi. Cost vii. Guarantee and warranty time frames
6	BUL-20-07-310	<b>Supply of Steel - 135 Tons</b>	i. Grade of steel as specified ii. Length and size iii. Cost iv. Lead time
7	BUL-20-07-311	<b>Conveyor Equipment (Gearbox set, Idlers, Belt, Viz)</b>	i. Manufacturer – 10 years' experience ii. Quality iii. Cost iv. Lead time
8	BUL-29-07-312	<b>Annual Mills Condition inspection :</b> Annual inspection of Mills – SAG mill, ball Mill & Regrind Mill	i. Company into design, engineering and manufacturing of Mills for Mineral Processing Industry ii. Highly skilled workforce in inspection and audits of Mills for Mineral processing industry iii. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. iv. Company to have more than 10 years of experience
9	BUL-29-07-313	<b>Foundation &amp; Jacking Pads Repair Works :</b> Repair works on Mill foundations and Jacking pads in process plant	i. Civil Contractor having experience in concrete repair works ii. Experience working with similar repair civil works in last 5 years iii. Highly skilled workforce iv. Fully conversant with the risks and control measures of working in Mining industry v. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. vi. Company to have more than 5 years of experience
10	BUL-29-07-314	<b>Trommel &amp; Journal Liner Installation - Ball Mill :</b> Installation of trammel and journal liners on Ball Mill – Process Plant	i. Company into design, engineering and manufacturing of Mills for Mineral Processing Industry ii. Highly skilled workforce in inspection and audits of Mills for Mineral processing industry iii. Team with multi discipline members should have sound Knowledge of Mine Health & Safety acts. iv. Company to have more than 10 years of experience

The above Goods & Services are intended to be awarded through a competitive tendering process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors shall be invited to receive the tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Full company profile;
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.;
- Applicable certification, accreditation and affiliated registration
- Years' service and experience of key personnel to be assigned to project
- Required equipment availability to perform the specific work
- Indicate the above Reference number and description on your Expression of interest submission.

Kindly send your response by email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com) by latest close of business on the 13th August 2020. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of BGML.

For and on behalf of **BULYANHULU GOLD MINE LIMITED**



United People's Democratic Party Union presidential candidate Twali Ibrahim Kadege (R) and his running-mate, Ramadhani Ally Abdallah, with the bag containing their candidacy endorsement forms shortly after NEC chairman Judge (rtd) Kajage (R) presented the documents to them in Dodoma yesterday.



Alliance Democratic Change Union presidential candidate Queen Sendiga (R) and her running-mate, Shoka Khamis Shoka, show the bag containing their candidacy endorsement forms shortly after National Electoral Commission chairman Judge (rtd) Semistocles Kajage (R) presented the documents to them in Dodoma yesterday. Photos: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



NEC chairman Judge (rtd) Kajage (R) presents the Union presidential candidacy endorsement forms to Sauti ya Umma's Mtamwega Mgaywa in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on (L) is the candidate's running-mate, Satia Musa Bebwa.

## New initiative to enhance employability of graduates

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW programme has kicked off to give Tanzanian graduates problem-solving skills to improve their chances of employing themselves or being hired.

Implemented by digital transformation company Smart Codes through its Smart Lab platform in partnership with Human Development Innovation Fund, the initiative is billed as an antidote to the problem of graduates ending up as job seekers instead of job creators.

Speaking during the launch in Dar es Salaam last week, The CEO and founder of Smart Codes Edwin Bruno said the programme is designed to accommodate over 400 students in a number of universities in Tanzania, including the University of Dar es Salaam, St Joseph University, Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology and the Institute of Finance Management.

"Given the available technology, we believe that there is a great opportunity in cultivating good tech talents and young entrepreneurs

with innovative mindsets from universities for future great tech-based companies. That is what this programme aims to achieve by the time it ends," he said.

He added that the institutional capacity building under the university outreach programme will be conducting online training to university students as a capacity building in the areas most critical to employment and also getting them to understand the innovation practices in relation to problem-solving and coming up with groundbreaking solutions.

"This will give students a chance to think about the problems around them, co-create innovative solutions, and develop business cases around these solutions," Bruno said.

The CEO added that the initiative has various activities including soft skills training, human-centered design thinking workshops, partnering with various organizations and companies in the corporate world, and finally career fair mainly in the tech and engineering industry.

## Students invent simple and natural way to help preserve fresh produce

By Getrude Mbogo

TWO students from Kisimiri secondary school in Arusha Region have invented a simple and natural way of using lemon grass oil popular as Mchaichai to preserve fresh produce from rotting.

They are Albert Mhagama and Sarah Kasala. Their invention made them to become runner-up in the just ended Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) annual exhibition and awards.

According to the students, the new simple way would help majority of small-scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) who have been struggling to find funds to purchase modern preservation tools.

"Many small entrepreneurs, especially the green grocers obtain great loss since they cannot afford to preserve their products because most preservative methods are expensive to them," said Mhagama.

Mhagama said that their research was conducted in various parts of Arusha Region.

"We visited the Meru area including Kisimiri, Ngarenanyuki, Momella and other areas like Usa River and observed the markets and schools to see the extent of rotting of groceries in markets and the way the school desks and other furniture have been affected by termites," he said.

He said that interviews were conducted to normal residents of Meru area, asking them on their knowledge and uses on lemongrass, furniture producers were also interviewed on how they ensure durable furniture to their clients.

Also furniture attacks by termites and other wood eating insects has been another problem to people using furniture and houses made of wood especially in areas of Kisimiri, Majiyachai, Momella, Usa River and other areas of Meru.

"What people do not know is that all these problems can be solved easily and cheaply by the use of lemon grass oil. Many Tanzanians, plant the lemon grass (Mchaichai) for tea purposes only. This project brings about another useful way to use the lemon grass. Lemon grass oil can be locally obtained to solve this problem," Mhagama added.

He added: "In this section, we tested for three things; what causes the rotting of vegetables and fruits. The chemicals present in the lemongrass oil and their properties essential for prevention of fruit and vegetable rotting. We also tested the types of fruits which can be preserved, preservation duration and other conditions in which this method may be suitable."

According to him, they later found that lemon grass produces best results when used to preserve

fresh produce.

"The role of the lemongrass oil is that when the fruit is dipped in the oil, it prevents the ripening hence rotting of the fruits since the oil hinders the produced ethylene gas from spreading to the surrounding fruits, and also since it has antibacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial, properties it then prevents bacteria and any other microorganism from attacking the fruits and vegetables hence rendering them safe and free from rotting," he said.

Kasala said that they also experimented on the types of fruits and vegetables which can be stored or preserved using the lemon grass oil and the conditions which this method holds.

"We then found that all sorts of vegetables can be preserved and the fruits which are suitable for this method are tomatoes, bananas, berries, pears, avocados, pawpaw among others," she said.

She said fruits and vegetables can be preserved for as long as eight to ten days depending on the type of fruit, this method does not alter the chemical composition of the products.

"The anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-oxidant, and anti-microbial properties of the lemongrass oil are responsible for the preservation of the fruits and vegetables. The insect repellent, verminifugal and

farmers have already started to benefit from the quality cassava seeds which are currently distributed in the regions.

Magige noted that farmers in Lake Zone regions have for years been facing challenges of poor quality seeds and pests, the thing that resulted in most of them stopping to cultivate the food and commercial crop.

He said previously, most of the cassava seeds were not resistant to pests. "We have capacitated farmers to produce quality and disease-resistant seeds by using simple technologies. The new cassava varieties are also draught resistant," he said mentioning the new seed varieties as Mkumba, Mkulanga-Wani and Holela.

Research associate at International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Juma Yabeja said the new cassava seed varieties currently used by farmers have been certified by the Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI).

He said seed producers do not need to carry them to market places, as they are sold direct from the farm,

thus reducing costs.

According to Yabeja, the established electronic systems where all seed producers are registered with detailed information including location of their farms. He said through the system, interested buyers can easily trace the producer and but the seeds direct from the farm.

One of the farmers who engages in seed production, Veronica Sumbuka from Tarime-Rural District in Mara Region, said the new certified cassava varieties have resulted into increased yields whereas they now harvesting up to 7 tonnes of cassava per acre.

She said: "We now have the best cassava seeds which are draught and disease resistant."

A farmer, Masunga Nandi from Bariadi District in Simiyu Region said the new seed varieties are different from traditional ones. He said the new varieties guarantee them with enough yields for food and business.

In Tanzania, cassava is cultivated in Mwanza, Mtwara, Lindi, Shinyanga, Tanga Ruvuma, Mara Kigoma, the coastal regions and Zanzibar.

research in the field of science but also, help to encourage more students to join the science platforms at their schools and nourish their scientific talent."

During his opening remarks, the YST executive director and co-founder Dr Gosbert Kamugisha said that: "Right from the start in 2011, YST embraced mobile and digital technology and through our extensive mobile network logistics we managed to reach schools in all regions and developed a grass-root driven science for development movement."

He said this year on the 10th Anniversary, YST faced many challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many innovative strategies were applied to restructure and deliver YST2020 to mitigate these challenges.

He said that the YST Digital Mentoring and Judging Framework was developed which allowed research to continue and remote judging of the projects.

Dr Kamugisha commended the main sponsors including the Karimjee Jivanjee Foundation (KJF) for their continued generous support.

"We were immensely grateful for the incredible support of companies and organisations across the private, government and development sectors," he added.

## Open cafes to spur coffee drinking habit, RAS urges coffee processing investors

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

KAGERA Regional Administrative Secretary Prof Faustine Kamuzora has urged the investor of the coffee processing factory—Ammza to open cafes that will push people to adopt coffee drinking culture.

Coffee drinking statistics for Kagera Region shows that only five percent of the residents drink coffee compared to the region's production of 70,000 tonnes for the 2019/2020 season.

Kamuzora was speaking shortly after receiving the factory performance report that listed, among others, infrastructures challenges and the need for internal and external markets for the processed coffee, taking into consideration that the region is bordered by five countries.

He said the first thing is to create a 50-50 percent internal and external market, but stressed that the need to instill coffee drinking culture was also important in creating the internal market.

"Hence our investor should also think of opening cafes in the urban areas to encourage people to drink coffee," Kamuzora said.

The investor, Amiry Amza said if there was an adequate workforce, the number of coffee drinkers will increase.

He said as for now the factory can produce 3 tonnes of processed coffee

per year, despite various challenges including power outages and small capital. "If he completes the construction of power infrastructure to have reliable power supply, by 2022 I can utilise 33 tonnes per week," Amza said.

He said the current production level has seen the employment of 42 people in various categories.

Recent statistics from the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) depicts that coffee exports for 2019/2020 season was estimated at 50,000 tonnes, down from 68,000 tonnes in 2018/19 farming season. Until 2000, coffee used to contribute to at least five percent of Tanzania's export earnings accounting with Kilimanjaro and Arusha regions accounting for 20 percent of the export.

By 2010, the country's share in the global coffee had shrunk to a mere 0.8 percent though Tanzania is ranked third after Kenya and Ethiopia in the export Arabica coffee.



**If he completes the construction of power infrastructure to have reliable power supply, by 2022 I can utilise 33 tonnes per week**



Jane Mgidange (C), coordinator of the Free Pentecostal Church of Tanzania's inclusive education project, pictured on Thursday presenting personal protective items including buckets, soap and hand sanitiser to Shaff Juma - a Standard Two pupil with disability at Dodoma Region's Nkukungu Primary School. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## UDSM graduates challenged to volunteer instead of waiting for formal employment

By Guardian Reporter

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) graduates have been challenged to work as volunteers instead of waiting for formal employment in the government.

The University's Vice Chancellor, Prof William Anangisye, made the statement recently when speaking during the university's 50th graduation ceremony in Dar es Salaam where

581 students were conferred with degrees.

Prof Anangisye said that all the graduates are responsible for bringing development changes at their specific localities as well as the nation.

"You should not wait to be employed, since you have the skills, you must volunteer to work in accordance with your professional," said the VC, urging the graduates to be sharp in grabbing job opportunities in the la-

bour market.

He reminded them that they are the country's workforce and that Tanzanians are waiting to benefit from their acquired knowledge and skills.

Prof Anangisye said: "You must be sharp and rapidly-changing to be able to grab job opportunities. You should be disciplined in whatever you do to protect the university's image."

According to him, the uni-

versity has been recording an increased number of graduates over the years. He said in 1970 the total number of graduates was 485 while the number of offered programmes was only 10.

"We had our 10th graduation in 1980 where the number of programmes offered was 29, a total of 989 students graduated, the number kept increasing each year," he noted.

The Vice Councillor said that in 1990, the number of gradu-

ates dropped to 344 following closure of the university for one year due to various disputes. He added in the year 2000, the university had 1,807 graduates.

The number of offered programmes increased to 132 in 2010 with 6,830 graduates conferred with Degrees, he said.

Chairman of the Council of University of Dar es Salaam Judge Damian Lubuva (Retired) said the council has so far endorsed a number of proposals

and policies. He said they have approved a request from Ministry of Energy to take over the management of the Mineral Resources Institute, which formerly operated under the ministry.

Judge Lubuva informed that the council has also approved the university's strategic plan for the 2020/2021-2024/2025 which among other things will look into challenges and successes recorded by UDSM during the particular period.

Meanwhile, Prof Amelia Kivaisi said the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has resulted into retarded development around the globe. He said most of the countries opted for quarantine as part of measures to curb Covid-19 spread, hence delayed development.

The highly contagious, pneumonia-causing illness (Coronavirus) firstly reported in Wuhan, China has infected over 3 million people across the world.

## Govt sets aside 200bn/- for agricultural research in 2020/2021 fiscal year

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

THE government has set aside more than 200bn/- for research work on agriculture in the fiscal year 2020/2021.

This was disclosed here mid this week by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Omar Mgumba when he was officially opening the 27th Nanenane agricultural, livestock and fisheries exhibition at Themis fair grounds in the city's outskirts.

Mgumba instructed for the establishment of a system for assessment that would show which training, technology, equipment or knowledge had been learned from the exhibition.

He said the main aim of the exhibition was to discover opportunities in the farming, livestock and fisheries sectors that will spur the country's economic growth.

The deputy minister said the exhibition will also help in training farmers, herders and fishermen in ensuring production from the sectors are gainful and contribute to the country's economy.

On the other hand, Mgumba called upon Tanzanians to make sure they elect better leaders who will mobilise for better farming, livestock keeping and fishing methods to produce raw materials for the country's industries.

"It is imperative for the people to elect better leaders who will be accountable in pushing forward wheels of development in the farming, livestock and fisheries sectors," he said.

The Arusha Regional Administrative Secretary, who is the leader of the Exhibition's Secretariat, Richard Kwigaga said Themis grounds is among the earliest fair grounds built with quality infrastructures and proposed it should be used as a centre for dissemination and training in agriculture, livestock keeping and fisheries for the whole year.

He said a total of 650 public institutions participated, comprising all 22 local councils from the Northern Zone regions, i.e. Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Manyara regions.

Nane Nane also known as 'Farmers' Day' is celebrated each year to appreciate the contribution of farmers and all involved in agriculture throughout the country.

Not only are agricultural products put on display at the fairs, along with farm technologies and innovations of numerous agricultural companies, but there are also abundant food stands and marketplaces set up.



A roast meat 'specialist' based at Mikocheni in Dar es Salaam prepares to get into business yesterday - but in an environment far from safe in terms of hygiene, what with a sewage trench just inches away. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Dodoma City resolves 80 pc of hardcore land conflicts

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Region has been able to resolve hardcore land conflicts by 80 percent in the last five years.

This was disclosed here by the Dodoma City Director, Godwin Kunambi mid this week when speaking to reporters on the city's

achievements in resolving land conflicts.

Kunambi said in the last five years the city has been able to remove hardcore land conflicts faced by the residents in various areas.

He also said the City Council has allocated 3,044 land plots to the residents who shifted to give room for the construction of various projects in their areas.

In addition, he said Dodoma City was growing fast due to President John Magufuli's allocation of funds for the big projects being built to international standards.

"The projects include the Ndugai Market, central bus station, the ring road and a central park all valued at 89bn/-, he explained.

He said the Ndugai Market has cost 14,6bn/-,

the central bus station 24bn/-, the ring road 26.7bn and the central park (Chinangali Creation Center) 2.9bn/-.

Kunambi appealed to Dodoma residents to cooperate in pushing the development wheel including protection of the infrastructures that have cost a lot of public funds.



Erick Atugonza (2nd-R), a medical officer with Moshi municipality, presents one of several banners with messages on the war on Covid-19 to Majengo market chairman Ismail Mumba (L) on Thursday. It was a donation by the NGO Action for Justice in Society (AJISO) funded by the Foundation for Civil Society and meant to sensitise the public on ways to fend off the pandemic and other diseases in four markets in the municipality. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

### Ruvuma Region markets purchase 5.5bn/- worth of minerals in a year

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

SINCE they were opened in May 2019 the minerals and gems markets in Ruvuma Region purchased minerals valued at 5.5bn by May this year.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme said during the period, the markets located at Tunduru and Songea bought 390,936.27 grams of the minerals.

"Royalty obtained from the sale amounted to 332.09m/-, inspection fees 55.34m/- and service charge was 16.60m/-, Mndeme said.

She said the government continues with the implementation of various activities for the growth of the mining sector in Ruvuma Region.

She said the mining sector in the region has grown fast in areas with licensed miners.

Ruvuma Region Resident Mining Officer, Eng Jumanne Mohamed Nkana cited the benefits from the establishment of minerals markets in the country as including better prices for the minerals due to transparency in the markets.

He said another benefit was the unnecessary to smuggle the minerals, the practice that made miners being conned of the minerals by unscrupulous dealers.

He also said it is now easy for the government to get correct statistics for levy collection.

He also said in order to solve challenges facing small miners in Ruvuma region, the government is building a minerals excellence centre for them.

RC Mndeme mentioned the benefits for having such centre as including the availability of data for miners in the region, allocation of mining areas and provision of training and skills to the small miners through various stakeholders.

Other benefits she mentioned was the need for gainful mining, loans for the small miners and adding value to the minerals, and conflict resolution among the miners.

Minerals Minister, Dotto Biteko told the National Assembly in April this year that establishment of mineral hubs across the country have contributed into the sector's growth from 0.9 percent in 2018 to 12.6 percent in 2019. Biteko said until February 2020, a total of 28 minerals exchange centres were established at different regions insisting the hubs have greatly contributed in solving many challenges facing the sector including lack of coordinated market, tax evasion and illegal exportation of minerals.

Tabling the ministry's budget estimates for the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the minister said through the mineral exchange centres, small scale miners have been able to bargain better prices and sell various minerals worth over 1trn/- between March 2019 and February 2020.

Biteko said the government's strict measures to curb illegal exportation of minerals has facilitated seizure of different minerals worth US \$3,210,976.35 and 1,556,209,334.61/- in Tunduru, Kyerwa, Mwanza, Mirerani, Holili, Babati, Hai, Dodoma, Nzega and Kahama.

## Investors from Egypt, Namibia to invest in meat processing

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Simiyu

GIANT meat processing investors from Egypt and Namibia have lodged application to the National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO) in readiness to extend their investments foot-holds in Tanzania.

The potential investors seek to install state-of-the-

art meat processing industries in different parts within the country.

Acting General Director for NARCO, Masele Shilagi Mipawa, told The Guardian during a special interview at the Nananene agricultural exhibitions in Simiyu Region that the Namibian investors have applied for at least 10,000 acres in Kal-

ambo and 1,000 in Ruvu for

construction of the vital investments.

"NARCO will continue setting and encouraging good investment environment to attract both local and international investors to invest largely in meat processing sector in Tanzania," he said.

Mipawa briefed that Egyptians have also applied for a chunk of land adding more foreign investors are also in

process to come and invest into the country's key economic sector.

He observed that influx of such key investment meant a lot in propelling for the much-needed industrial economy in the country.

"The increased investments means fresh doors of direct and indirect employment for Tanzanians, but also, the development will ensure for production and supply of diverse key meat related

products," he expressed.

He detailed that, at least 120 giant and 200 small scale investors are currently with diverse contracts with the state-owned company in different regions in Tanzania.

"Doors are open for more investors to come and invest in meat industry since NARCO's investment conditions and set prices are very patriotic and affordable," Mipawa ensured.

With at least 14 well established ranches, scattered in different regions, NARCO has a key role to produce improved livestock species, as well as other vital animal's related products.

Tanzania is rich in livestock resources with a total of 32.2 million cattle, according to Livestock and Fisheries Minister, Luhaga Mpina.

In between July 2019 and March this year, a total of 134 heifers were produced through Artificial

Insemination (AI) at Kitulo dairy farm and National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO).

From the 32.2 million cattle, the country is endowed with 20 million goats, 5.5 sheep, 2 million pigs and 636,997 donkeys.

According to data from Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) the livestock sector contributes 7.4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) whereby 30 percent of it is from the dairy industry.

## TCU elevates SAUT-Mbeya centre to University College of Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TANZANIA Commission for Universities (TCU) has elevated the former St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) Mbeya Centre to be Catholic University College of Mbeya (CUcom).

Speaking mid this week during the inauguration of the university, the President of Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC), Bishop Gervas Nyaisonga said the university has been elevated after satisfying the needed conditions.

He said the Catholic Church will continue working together with the government in the development of higher education to enable the nation have many intellectuals to solve the country's challenges.

Bishop Nyaisonga who is the first CU-CoM Chancellor said the country's education sector is still far back comparing with the size of the country, the situation and the people's needs.

He said lack of a big number of intellectuals capable to oversee the nation's resources and solve people's problems is the same as the sheep who lack a shepherd.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Albert Chalamila said the government, recognising the contribution by universities in the social and economic fields, has the responsibility to ensure it puts in place better infrastructures that will enable students to study with ease.

He said the government will ensure social services including water and power are available in all centres that provide education to ensure the sector has the pace in producing professionals. SAUT's Vice Chancellor Ambassador Costa Mahalu pledged to continue working together with all departments under the ministry of education so as to provide quality education to Tanzanians.

Prof Mahalu stressed that as of now Tanzania needs quality education for its people in order to produce experts that will strengthen various sectors for the country's economic growth.

He called upon Tanzanians to grab the opportunity to send their children to the universities inside and outside the country to get experts who will assist the country to implement various development projects.



**Prof Mahalu stressed that as of now Tanzania needs quality education for its people in order to produce experts that will strengthen various sectors for the country's economic growth.**



Work in progress at the site of what is meant to be a modern long-distance bus terminal - at Mbezi Luis in suburban Dar es Salaam - as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## RUWASA in Songea District provides training to nine water consumer communities

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) in Songea District, Ruvuma Region has provided training and certificates to nine water consumers communities in Madaba and Songea District councils.

Speaking during the training session, RUWASA expert in Songea District Samuel Sanya said the authority working together with the communities will ensure residents in the areas with sustainable water

supply.

He however said the communities will be required to contribute.

The training's official guest, the Songea District Administrative Secretary (DAS) Pendo Ndumbo said RUWASA's aim is to enable the communities to have sustainable water supply.

She said the communities that have received the training should be teachers and good supervisors in the protection of water infrastructures to enable residents enjoy uninterrupted water supply service.

Ndumbo said the nine communities that received training should ensure the residents get better service, protect the environment, as the government has dishied out a lot of money for big water projects.

She said apart from the training, there are also guidelines issued and endorsed by all the communities of which she directed they should enforce, and when infrastructures are broken down they should be repaired using contributions from the consumers.

The 2017 National Environmental

Status Report indicates that by 2016 only 6 between 10 people (59.7 percent) had access to clean and safe water in rural areas while 9 out of 10 people access clean and safe water in urban areas.

At least 60 percent of the country's population has access to water while over 50 percent of Tanzanians spend more than 30 minutes searching for the precious liquid. Tanzanians spend at least 5 percent of their income on water against the international standard which is 2 percent.

## Govt to provide training for quality animal fodder production - director

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has embarked on initiative to provide training for cultivation and storage of fodder including distribution of seeds for quality livestock fodder for herders in the southern highlands regions for healthy livestock especially during the dry season.

Speaking to reporters mid this week on behalf of various government institutions under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries at the ongoing Nananene Exhibition at John Mwakangale grounds in Mbeya, the Acting Director of Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Mbeya Centre Dr Edwin Chang'a said during dry seasons herders in the regions are faced with an acute scarcity of quality fodder.

He said this results in poor livestock products, and sometimes the animals die.



Food vendors based in Dar es Salaam Region attend Thursday's launch of the issuance of identity cards specially meant for small traders under an arrangement devised by the government and implemented jointly by the regional authorities and a nonprofit organisation known as Mama Alaska Jamii. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## TDB to introduce school milk feeding programme to improve consumption

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Simiyu

THE Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB) is set to implement a series of strategies in an effort to improve milk production and consumption within the country.

Among the top strategies, include a plan to introduce a special milk feeding programme in different primary schools within the country as well as awareness campaigns to educate the public on the important of drinking milk.

Moreover, the board is also in preliminary processes to start imparting local small-scale milk processing plants with needed professional techniques for milk production and packages, with an eye to meet recommended international standards.

In an exclusive interview with The Guardian during the on-going Nanenane agricultural exhibitions, observed at the national level in Nyakabindi grounds, in Simiyu Region, TDB Acting Registrar, Noely Byamungu, expressed grave concern over poor milk-drinking custom among many Tanzanians.

He briefed, while the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that for better health, an individual is supposed to consume at least 200 liters of milk in a year, the rate in Tanzania is disconcerting, currently at 54 liters annually per an individual.

"To improve consumption, we're in pro-

cess to establish school milk feeding programme (SMFP), the development which will automatically push for a fresh 'milk generation', he stated.

Byamungu added: "Our survey established also poor milk consumption is a result of inadequate supply; propelled often by unreliable milk transportation from rural to urban areas and thus, we are seeking a solution to the trend."

He said the envisaged programme will go in tandem with key training programmes over the benefits of drinking milk at the recommended levels.

Byamungu detailed that the board will soon also start visiting livestock keepers in different parts of the country to train them over milk handling (hygiene) as well as other key milk procedures.

The Board's Dairy Processing Officer, Shehemba Jumaa said most of small milk processing factories were facing major challenges hence failing to produce quality milk products.

According to him, some challenges include high prices for milk packaging, unprofessional structures, and facilities as well as markets.

To address the challenges, he ensured, "TDB is planning to start visiting the factories and assist them on how to develop professional milk processing structures, key needed facilities, milk packaging and coordinated markets," he detailed.

## WHO ramps up Covid-19 support to hotspot countries in Africa

By Special Correspondent,

Brazzaville

THE first members of a surge team of health experts from the World Health Organisation (WHO) have arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa to bolster the country's response to Covid-19. As the continent nears one million cases, WHO is expanding support to countries experiencing a significant uptick in cases.

South Africa is among the five countries in the world most affected by Covid-19. After their arrival, the WHO surge team went into quarantine in line with the national regulations. A second group of experts will deploy next week. Altogether more than 40 public health experts are expected to provide surge support, working with national and provincial counterparts on key areas of the response.

"As the impact of the vi-

rus intensifies in a number of hotspots in Africa, so too are WHO's efforts," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "At the request of the South African government, our experts will be embedded with the national response teams, working closely with local public health officials to address some of the urgent challenges the country is currently facing."

Across the continent, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken

varied trends: 10 countries accounted for 89% of new cases over the past two weeks. New cases have increased by more than 20% in 16 countries in the African region in the past two weeks compared with the previous fortnight.

WHO is increasing support to 11 countries which have requested assistance as they experience a surge in Covid-19 cases and deaths. The Organization is mobilizing more technical experts on the ground, scaling up trainings to build up local capacity, particularly at the provincial and district level. With community trans-

mission occurring in more than half of countries in Africa, WHO is beefing up community engagement and health education and providing direct material support to strengthen testing capacity.

"Lack of testing is leading to some under-reporting of Covid-19 cases and preventing us from understanding the full picture of the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa," said Dr Moeti. "We need to turn this around so countries can calibrate their response, ensuring it is most effective, and as cases move into the hinterlands, testing must be decentralized

from the capital cities."

To help meet demand for essential medical equipment across Africa, WHO and other United Nations agencies have formed a global procurement consortium which leverages their networks, expertise and product knowledge to support countries that have limited access to markets. The WHO-led consortium has secured critical volumes of testing kits and other key diagnostic supplies from major manufacturers.

So far, the consortium has shipped 1.8 million testing kits to 47 countries in Africa over the past month. An-

other 1.1 million testing kits are expected to be dispatched in the coming weeks.

Testing for Covid-19 in Africa remains low by global benchmarks, but capacity has expanded significantly since the outbreak began. In sub-Saharan Africa, over 6.4 million polymerase chain reaction tests have now been performed. Eleven countries are now performing more than 100 tests per 10,000 population, compared with just six a month ago. July saw a 40% increase in the total number of tests performed compared with the previous month.

## Malaria in Africa: Parasite resistant to drug of choice

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A drug-resistant strain of the parasite that causes malaria has been identified by scientists in Rwanda.

The study, published in Nature, found the parasites were able to resist treatment by artemisinin - a frontline drug in the fight against the disease.

This is the first time scientists have observed the resistance to the drug artemisinin in Africa.

The researchers warns that this "would pose a major public health threat" in the continent.

Scientists from the Institut Pasteur, in collaboration with the National Malaria Control Program in Rwanda (Rwanda Biomedical Center), the World Health Organization (WHO), Cochin Hospital and Columbia University (New York, USA) analysed blood samples from patients in Rwanda.

They found one particular mutation of the parasite, resistant to artemisinin, in 19 of 257 - or 7.4% - of patients at one of the health centres they monitored.

In the journal article the scientists warned that malaria parasites that developed a resistance to previous drugs are "suspected to have contributed to millions of additional malaria deaths in young African children in

the 1980s".

When the first malaria drug, chloroquine, was developed, researchers thought that the disease would be eradicated within years.

But since the 1950s the parasites have evolved to develop resistance to successive drugs.

This is a deeply worrying and highly significant moment. Today marks a setback in the fight against the malaria.

Resistance to artemisinin is not new as it has been in parts of South East Asia for more than a decade.

In some regions there, 80 percent of patients are now infected with malaria parasites that resist treatment.

But Africa has always been the biggest concern - it is where more than nine in 10 cases of the disease are.

It appears as though the resistance evolved in malaria parasites in Africa rather than spreading from South East Asia to the continent.

The result, however, is the same - malaria is getting harder to treat.

Malaria infection is now commonly treated with a combination of two drugs - artemisinin and piperazine.

But then malaria parasites started developing a resistance to artemisinin as well - this was first recorded in 2008 in South East Asia.



Camel Keeper Ally Hassan (in yellow-and-green T-shirt) pictured at a Nane-Nane agricultural exhibition at suburban Dodoma's Nzuguni grounds earlier this week briefing visitors at one of the pavilions on how the animals used in transporting people and goods. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## Africa's \$29 billion wildlife and tourism industry threatened by coronavirus crisis

By Christine Maema

THE coronavirus pandemic has affected virtually all sectors of life and Africa's wildlife tourism industry is also under threat.

The sector which usually generates \$29 billion a year and employs 3.6 million people has

been affected by a myriad of factors according to a report published by Nature Ecology & Evolution.

The pandemic has brought leisure travel to a near halt and many wildlife-protection services will struggle without money from safaris and hunting. Hardest hit will be countries that

boast the Big Five - elephants, lions, buffaloes, leopards and rhinoceroses - such as Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa. Others like Uganda, where gorillas are a drawcard, will also suffer.

"Tourism helps governments justify protecting wildlife habitat", the report said, as "it creates revenue for state wildlife

authorities, generates foreign exchange earnings, diversifies and strengthens local economies, and contributes to food security and poverty alleviation".

Tourism also generates 40% more full-time jobs per unit investment than agriculture, has twice the job creation power of the automotive, telecommuni-

cations and financial industries, and employs proportionally more women than other sectors.

Governments face severe budget crises driven by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of relief measures. Shortages will compel policymakers to cut anything perceived as 'non-essential'.

African wildlife authority budgets, already grossly inadequate, risk being slashed further, jeopardizing wildlife and wildlands.

About 50%, or \$30 million, of the Kenya Wildlife Service's annual budget comes from tourism, while that figure is 80% in Zimbabwe and the same percentage, or

\$52 million, in South Africa. Half of the budget of the Uganda Wildlife Authority is from tourism to view the mountain gorillas.

Decreasing tourism revenue threatens millions of jobs and peripheral industries, severely impacting the livelihoods of some of the continent's poorest people.

## Letting fishing areas recover shall improve fisheries, lives

FISHING communities in sea-shore districts in Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions are seeing the benefits of adopting a conservation approach to fishing, where temporary stoppage to allow fish to grow is yielding big dividends. Communities earlier saw the program as disruptive of their activities, and went on with it half heartedly as various authorities saw plenty of justification in it, but now they are seeing the difference. It is an innovation that shows how the fisheries sector as a whole needs to be organized.

Reports from Songosongo Island in Kilwa District say that this sustainable fishing programme which halts activities for a while has seen increased harvests and beefing up the average size of octopus from half a kilo to five kilos, an astonishing achievement. This brings more money to residents of Songosongo Island who are now learning to see fishing in a more professional way, that is, hunting a while and letting the stock of fish grow, so that they get better fish, a better price and allow the fish to grow once again. It is one of those things that people wonder why they did not discover it earlier, but everything has its time.

Reporters who visited the area recently were told that the fallow fishing area initiative sought to pull octopus species to the area, implying that earlier fishermen would take note of its presence or catch some octopus sporadically. In that case letting the area silent or calm for several months was bound to make a difference in the fish population, first in the rate of growth and then in the diversity of species. In that case octopus was a particularly targeted species as it has excellent

market uptake compared to other species.

Data collected in the area shows that slightly over a year ago, the average catch in three days of fishing could bring around 500 kilogrammes but after one year elapsed with the project, three days of fishing enables villagers to catch 20 to 40 tonnes. As this harvesting period continues for a while before the zone has to be left fallow again, no loss arises from halting fishing activities, but the contrary is the case. Still it took a year of learning by results for residents of the area, who rely on fishing for their needs, to get a vivid picture of just how helpful it is to leave a whole stretch of fishing area fallow, for the stock to grow.

That is how the project moved from its negative image earlier, as when it was introduced close to two years ago it smacked of a massive disruption of regular fishing activity. Much later, seeing the changes in the catch size and the value of the fish, the residents have become enthusiastic supporters and protectors of the procedures laid down for fishing periods and when to let the fishing zones rest idle. It is an excellent example of community participation, but some auxiliary work needs to be done, so that when the fishing grounds are left fallow for several months they remain safe from pirates, who can cause ruin. In that case this programme has for two years or so been conducted by development agencies working with local people. As its yield boosting results are spread around, unwanted gate crashed could drop in. That is why district defence security committees need to be involved to ensure pirates are fully kept away.

## Effect of alcohol use on pregnancy still serious public health concern

ALCOHOL also known as ethanol has a number of effects on health. Short-term effects of alcohol consumption include intoxication and dehydration. Long-term effects of alcohol consumption include changes in the metabolism of the liver and brain and alcoholism. Alcohol intoxication affects the brain, causing slurred speech, clumsiness, and delayed reflexes.

Alcohol stimulates insulin production, which speeds up glucose metabolism and can result in low blood sugar, causing irritability and possibly death for diabetics. There is an increased risk of developing an alcohol use disorder for teenagers while their brain is still developing. Adolescents who drink have a higher probability of injury including death.

Even light and moderate alcohol consumption increases cancer risk in individuals. A 2014 World Health Organization report found that harmful alcohol consumption caused about 3.3 million deaths annually worldwide.

Negative effects are related to the amount consumed with no safe lower limit seen. Some nations including Tanzania have introduced alcohol packaging warning messages that inform consumers about alcohol and cancer, as well as foetal alcohol syndrome.

Alcohol in the mother's blood passes to the baby through the umbilical cord. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause miscarriage, stillbirth, and a range of lifelong physical, behavioral, and intellectual disabilities.

Drinking alcohol at any time during pregnancy can cause serious health problems for your baby. Alcohol includes wine, wine coolers, beer and liquor.

When you drink alcohol during pregnancy, the alcohol in your blood quickly passes through the placenta and the umbilical cord to your baby.

The placenta grows in your uterus (womb) and supplies the baby with food and oxygen through the umbilical cord. Drinking any amount of alcohol at any time during pregnancy can harm your baby's developing brain and other organs. No amount of alcohol has been proven safe at any time during pregnancy.

There's no safe time to drink alcohol during pregnancy. Alcohol can cause problems for your baby any time during pregnancy, even before you know that you're pregnant.

You may be pregnant and not know for 4 to 6 weeks. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy increases your baby's chances of having these problems: Premature birth.

This is when your baby is born before 37 weeks of pregnancy. Premature babies may have serious health problems at birth and later in life. Brain damage and problems with growth and development Birth defects, like heart defects, hearing problems or vision problems. Birth defects are health conditions that are present at birth. Birth defects change the shape or function of one or more parts of the body. They can cause problems in overall health, how the body develops, or in how the body works.

Despite the detrimental effects of alcohol on adolescent health, high rates of alcohol use are reported among Tanzanian youth. Alcohol outlet density and advertising may contribute to adolescent drinking in urban Tanzania. Findings have revealed a high density of alcohol-selling outlets and outdoor advertisements.

The abundance of alcohol-related cues, including their close proximity to places where youth congregate, may facilitate and increase adolescent alcohol use in Tanzania.

We therefore recommend several changes to the alcohol environment to reduce adolescent drinking. Structural interventions that reduce adolescents' access and exposure to alcohol are needed in Tanzania.

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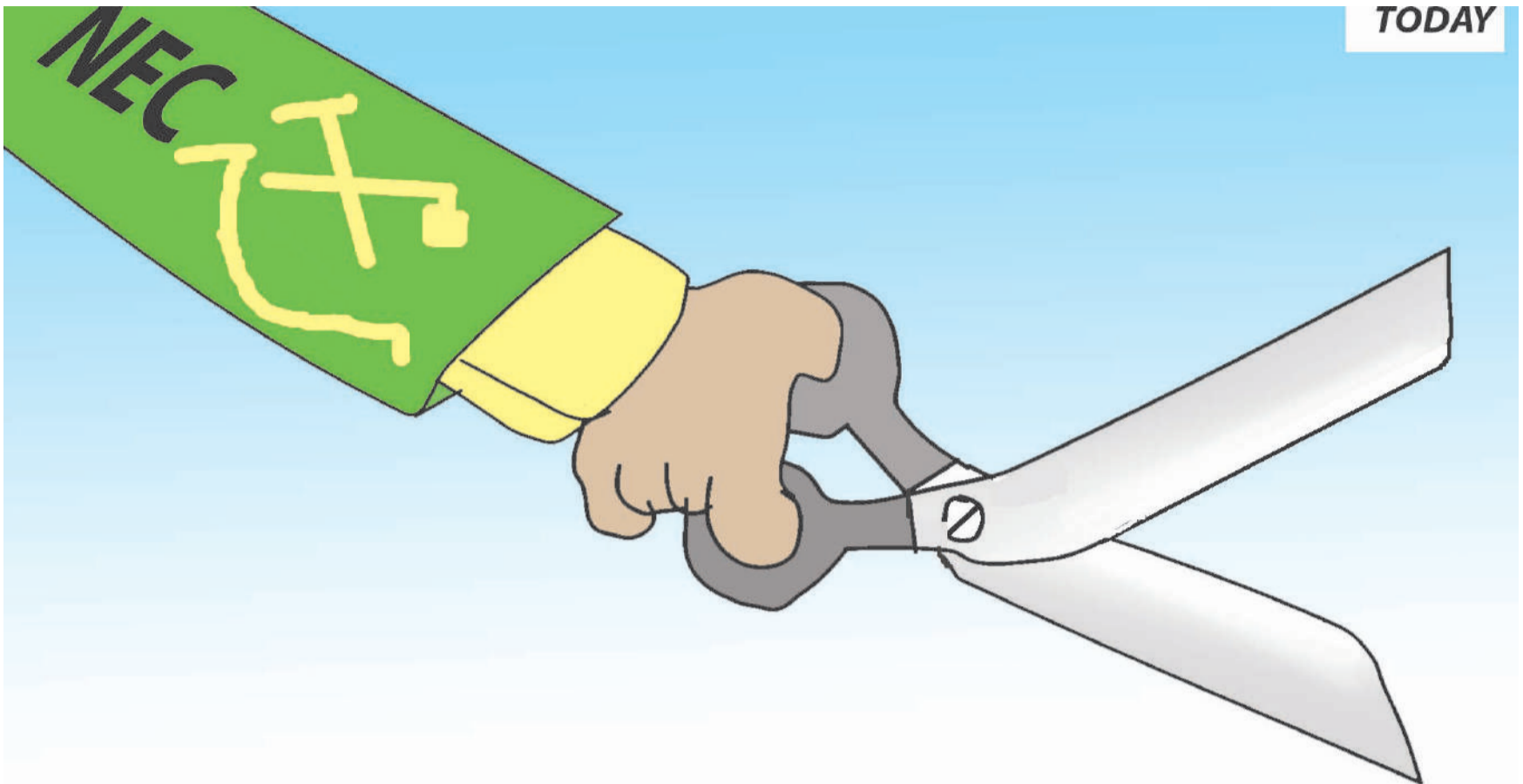
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## Inequality sermon by UN's Guterres: What UN members buying the gospel?

By Issa Aremu

JULY 18th is the annual Nelson Mandela International Day (NMD) as declared by the United Nations in November 2009. NMD honours and celebrates Nelson Mandela's birthday for his selfless service to humanity; the only one to be so recognised. And he is an African!

One human life that matters in terms of selflessness, forgiveness and reconciliation in a polarised divisive world! Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, at Mvezo, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa to the Thembu royal family. He was a revolutionary political leader, democratically elected as the President of non-racist South Africa from 1994 to 1999, having struggled to dismantle apartheid based on white supremacy.

UN Mandela Day first was held on July 18, 2010. NMD is NOT a public holiday; it is a working day that highlights Mandela's struggle for social justice in 67 years (27 spent in prison, 18 at the notorious Robben Island, for daring to courageously confront apartheid). UN rightly declared apartheid a crime against humanity. The idea of July 18 is that every individual like Madiba has the power to transform the world and to make an impact.

The objective is to inspire governments, individuals and organisations to take action to help change the world for the better. Of course, nobody truly expected NMD to be observed by the 45th American President Donald Trump. What with his insular divisive, bipolar white/black outlook which is at variance with Mandela's global inclusive reconciliatory actions? Secondly, America's dismal history of official racism at home and abroad hunts like spectre.

Many of Donald Trump's predecessors were indeed accomplices of successive apartheid chieftains from President Harry Truman when apartheid was officially declared in 1948 to Ronald Reagan when the racist contraption was dismantled in the 90s. Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher were unapologetically in "constructive engagement" with apartheid (read: no sanctions!).

But NMD was not officially observed in Nigeria either, a twist of solidarity value this country was noted for. Nigeria



was once a frontline state against imperialism in Southern Africa. General Murtala Muhammed's famous "Africa Has Come of Age" set the historic liberation agenda for decolonised Angola and Mozambique. Late President Shehu Shagari literally "liberated" Zimbabwe in cash and diplomacy, when Iron Lady Margaret Thatcher almost truncated the Lancaster Agreement. Nigerian workers generously contributed to Solidarity Fund against apartheid.

Nigeria and Nigerians were in legitimate excitement seeing dignified Mandela out of prison in 1990. Nigeria actually bankrolled ANC during the 1994 historic election that produced Nelson Mandela as the elected president. Of course the proverbial waters had overflowed the solidarity bridge between Nigeria and SA. Mandela once recalled one of his worse moments being part of the 52-member Commonwealth meeting which expelled Nigeria following the judicial murder of the political activist and writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa executed with ten others in 1995 by military dictator, Sanni Abacha.

Mandela had agonised to no result through "persuasive diplomacy" to impress on Abacha that some Nigerian lives mattered. Nigerians and many Africans had fallen victims of periodic xenophobia in a liberated South Africa, an issue which agonised Mandela to the grave.

But still on 2020 NMD! António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, ably delivered this year's Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture speech entitled "TACKLING

THE INEQUALITY PANDEMIC: A NEW SOCIAL CONTRACT FOR A NEW ERA" in New York. It was truly revolutionary (Mandela-like!) that reminds the world about the "inequality (social) pandemic" against the background of the current health pandemic caused by "a microscopic virus". António Guterres not only had photo opportunities with Madiba (as most world leaders did) but he had a mouthful from the fountain of the Icon's "wisdom, determination and compassion" which most leaders care less for.

But who is listening to him in the pack of leaders who are overtaking the poor and privileging the rich? There is a saying that when the rich are worried about the plight of the poor, it is called charity. But when the poor are concerned about the fortunes of the rich, it's called revolution. The 9th Secretary General of the UN is neither a revolutionary nor a money bag. It's therefore important we take his non-ideological sermon on deepening global inequality seriously.

I searched in vain to find out how many heads of state and government paused for at least 67 minutes in service of humanity, on July 18, as enjoined by Madiba on his annual birthday. The truth is very few leaders lead like Nelson Mandela. I agree with the UN Secretary General that with more "...than 70 percent of the world's people ... living with rising income and wealth inequality", "inequality defines our time." Quotes of Mandela on poverty and inequality can actually make a book. He damned

poverty right from the time it was not fashionable to do so.

In 2005, Nelson Mandela at London's Trafalgar Square said "Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times -- times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation -- that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils."

The bane of poverty discourse is that we often discuss the poor in relations to the poor ignoring the fact that mass poverty is inconceivable without the complimentary opulence of the few. Undoubtedly, inverse relation exists between the growing numbers of the enlisted poor and the ever diminishing but concentrated new mega-rich.

"Between 1980 and 2016, the world's richest 1 percent captured 27 percent of the total cumulative growth in income", disclosed Guterres. This confirms the 2020 data released by Oxfam ahead of Davis World Economic Forum (WEF) according to which "world's 2,153 billionaires have more wealth than the 4.6 billion people who make up 60 percent of the planet's population". Inequality pandemic is even "grimly pandemic" when it's disaggregated locally. Every inequality is indeed local! Again according to Oxfam, the "Wealth of five richest men in Nigeria could end extreme poverty in the country; yet 5 million face hunger. The combined wealth of Nigeria's five richest men - \$29.9 billion - could end extreme poverty in that country".

Inequality pandemic is fueling current insecurity in the country, putting both the rich and the poor on the tenterhook just as much as coronavirus pandemic does. Think about it! Few rich Nigerians who keep Jeep farms (remember 76 jeeps of a governor in the North east) can hardly get sleep no less than millions who go to bed without food: the result is the same: insomnia arising from inequality! Precisely because few can hardly sleep because of gluttony, so also sleep eludes the multitude in hunger and anger! I agree with UN Secretary General that without immediate balance, "the rising inequality sinks all boats".

We should rescind the mantra of "the survival of the corrupt, the "smartest". And enthrone win-win solidarity Economics, in place of zero-sum Economics in which the crooked takes all. Even if there was no COVID-19, there is a persistent poverty pandemic which unlike the Virus has cure in wealth and power redistribution. This is the lesson from Guterres's 2020 NMD lecture. But who among the UN members is converted to the new gospel?



## What failure teaches you

**D**O you know that Edison made 10,000 attempts until he could finally create the light bulb? And remember a few years back, mostly in primary school, pupils were asked to repeat a class if they underperformed? Teachers understood that failure was part of the learning process and the more you tried the better student you became. Though some of the teachers tried to convince us that success was an expected norm. It's not. Success is a rare gem that comes after repeated failures.

When I sat for end of semester Exams (UE), I was so confident that I was going to get at least an A in Financial Accounting given the shiny course work I already scored. I thought I knew all the answers to the questions. When the results came out, that was the poorly performed subject! Slapping me with a very reckless supplementary. This experience taught me something. It was a reminder that I didn't know everything. Sometimes the process of gaining humility is, well, humiliation wow!

People love success stories, but freak out at the prospect of failure. The simple truth is - no great success was ever achieved without failure, if it was then where would discipline be taught if not after several failed attempts to something.

I love attending #Failfirst events organized by Sahara Sparks, a tech company based at the Dar es Salaam. Many



great entrepreneurs have been featured in the forum. These are the kind of forums that have taught me to recognize and appreciate that there are areas in our lives we have mastered, areas we are developing, and areas where we haven't even scratched the surface yet.

But the big question is how you respond to failure right after it takes

place. In fact, research shows the key response to know if a person or organization's failure will lead to further tragedy or turn to success is simply this: do they own the failure?

I happened to have gone through business incubation and for those who understand the environment, several businesses, startups to be precise, work

from the same space. I have witnessed startups fail miserably and close down. In the event of failure, some managed to pick up the pieces and piece them back, others would start completely new and different ventures while others would die completely.

I observed as all these unfolded because I was aware that I could easily fall into any of the scenarios especially the latter if I went through a rocky phase. But I observed and learned a lot that has helped me keep my business afloat.

Personally, this is what failure has taught me;

It taught me to try many avenues before giving up on reaching a goal because usually, there is more than one way to get there. Failure taught me that success - real success - rarely comes in the form of a "big break". More often than not it comes after months, even years, of hard work.

It taught me not to trust everyone who says they are out to help me. It taught me to trust that gut feeling, the intuitive sense inside me.

I learned that life is at its best when everything has fallen out of place, and you decide that you're going to fight to get them right, not when everything is going your way and everyone is praising you.

It's important to remember that setbacks, failures, and tragedy are a part of life. There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.

And hard times are good in their own way, too. Because the only way you can achieve true happiness is if you experience true sadness as well. It's all about light and shade. Balance.

Well, Good things take time and we all know this cliché' too pretty well but failure will define it to you just so clearly when it sets foot in your space. Rome wasn't built in a day, trust the process, one day at a time is the only way forward.



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# TARI urges farmers to use new agro forestry technology for enhancement of productivity

By Gerald Kitabu, Bariadi Simiyu

**A**T this time when climate change is ravaging crops, Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has advised Tanzanian farmers and other stakeholders to opt agro forestry technologies researched and developed by the institute for substantial agricultural benefits. As noted by Dr Kiddo Mtunda, the

Centre Director, TARI-Tumbi.

She said the mandate to research on Agro-forestry technologies that will benefit farmers and stakeholders at large.

"When we talk about agro-forestry, it involves practices of planting trees and crops in the same plot where the farmer has an opportunity of improving agricultural production in sustainable manner while getting their needs for food, timber and woods for different uses and restoration

of degraded land, she explained".

Under agro-forestry, soil organic matter and biological activity are maintained at levels suitable for soil fertility such that the farmer who used to harvest a tone per hectare can get up to three tones per same size of land particularly on maize crop.

Agriculture research officer from TARI-Tumbi, Kassim Masibuka said besides increased income and crop produc-

tion, the agro forestry has substantial benefits both economically and environmental sustainability.

Speaking to the farmers at Nane nane agricultural show at Nyakabindi grounds, Bariadi, Simiyu region, Masibuka said TARI has managed to develop different technologies on agro forestry that could help the farmers increase productivity.

He named the technologies as rotation woodlots, for provision of fuel wood for domestic use, curing tobacco, timber and environmental conservation.

He said under agro forestry, farmers have the chance to plant tree together with crops without compromising each other for 2-3 year then the land are left to rest for few years before tree harvest.

At fallow phases, the farmer can opt to use the land for livestock grazing or bee-keeping it can take another 2-3 years, at this time shade from tree can increase organic matter in soil hence improve physical and chemical properties of the soil.

Leguminous plants for Soil fertility improvement:

This is the technology that involves the use of some nitrogen fixation plants which include leguminous tree plants and herbaceous legumes such as mucuna pruriens, cannalia ensiformis, lablab (herbaceous legumes) and acacia angustissima, Gliricidia sepium, leucaena spp (tree legumes) for soil fertility improvement and restoration of degraded land. These plants can improve soil fertility through soil cover from leaf biomass, adding organic matter and fixing nitrogen in the soil.

Fodder banks and rangeland improvement technologies.

This is another technology that has been researched and developed by TARI. It involves improving livestock feeds quality through use of leguminous plants as a protein source to animals particularly during the dry season where there is high shortage of quality livestock feeds.

In this technology, the leaf biomass produced from these plants can be used for zero grazing through cut and carry or planted in rangeland for outdoor grazing by planting together with grasses for livestock grazing.

He further explained that TARI-Tumbi, has also conducted domestication of value indigenous and medicinal plants which have high potential in contribution of food and nutritional-health security to our communities. There are several potential indigenous fruits and medicinal plants in miombo woodlands which are underutilized, TARI-Tumbi have conducted research on identification of these potential indigenous fruits and medicinal plant, their propagation methods and growth performance in field crops, also adding value on indigenous fruits through processing into various products such as juice, jam and wine

On improving soil fertility technology, TARI-Tumbi in collaboration with ICRAF has managed to conduct several researches on nitrogen fixing plants which have the ability to fix nitrogen and also produce biomass which if incorporated in the soil can add high amount of biomass that can be broken down into organic matter in the soil, he said. In addition, these leguminous tree species can be used in improvement of some rangelands where farmers keep land for grazing animals.

Dr Mtunda called on the farmers and other stakeholders to visit Nanenane exhibitions to learn more about agro forestry to improve agriculture production in the country. she said as the population increases, the need for more productive and sustainable use of the land is crucial, nutritional food security can be achieved through agro forestry as it enhances natural resource protection and conservation.



An agricultural research officer from TARI-Tumbi, Kassim Masibuka, demonstrates new agroforestry technologies researched and developed by TARI. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

# Agriculture scientists spearheading efforts to save East Africa's potatoes from new global pest threat

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

**W**HILE the market for potatoes in Eastern Africa has been growing steadily, stemming from increased demand from the fast food industry and for processing into high value products such as crisps and starch, the crop's production on the other hand, has been declining, thus denying farmers much-needed income and food.

Factors contributing to low yields include attack by major pests and diseases, inappropriate cropping practices by farmers, including use of substandard seed and lack of organized market infrastructure. One new emerging pest threat to the production of potato in the region, and in many other countries in the world, are the parasitic microscopic worms known as Potato Cyst Nematodes (PCN). These destructive pests attack potato roots and can cause yield losses of up to 80 percent, and even total crop failure.

PCN consist mostly of two species, *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida*, both of which have recently been discovered attacking potatoes in Kenya. *Globodera rostochiensis* however, has since been shown to be widespread across Kenya, and has additionally been detected further afield in Uganda and Rwanda.

Scientists at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), working together with International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) under the joint Nematology Unit, NemaAfrica, housed at icipe's campus in Nairobi, and their national and international partners have been at the forefront of efforts to study these nematodes and determine the extent of the problem and cost-effective control measures.

"PCN are among the most important pests of potatoes globally. They are particularly lethal because each female nematode produces hundreds of eggs, between 300-500, which remain protected in a cyst formed by their body after they die," said Danny Coyne leading nematologist and soil health scientist at IITA.

"These cysts can remain dormant in the soil for years, awaiting the next potato crop host. Because of the dangers they



pose, PCN have been designated as quarantine pests in many countries, to strictly control their spread," he added.

## Establishing prevalence of potato nematodes in the region

Following the detection of *Globodera rostochiensis* in Kenya in 2015, IITA scientists in partnership with their counterparts at icipe and Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) among others, conducted a country-wide survey to determine the diversity, prevalence and distribution of

**Juliet Ochola, a Msc student research on 'suicide hatching' as an effective way to control nematode, looking at the pest with a microscope in the laboratory. PCN cysts white on roots. Researchers are evaluating potato field for resistance to PCN in Kenya**

these nematodes in the country, a first step in control efforts.

They found that *Globodera rostochiensis* was not only widespread throughout the country including in areas bordering Uganda and Tanzania but also in very high concentrations.

The study also established the presence of the second species of PCN, *G. pallida*, in Kenya although with a very restricted distribution.

In Tanzania, PCN has not been officially confirmed as present. "However, given the current confirmed distribution of the pest in the Eastern Africa region, and given the cross border trade in potatoes in the region, there is likelihood that the PCN pest will ultimately be

come established throughout the region, if not already," Danny Coyne.

These findings were published in the paper, potato Cyst Nematodes: a new threat to potato production in East Africa, published in May 2020 in *Frontiers in Plant Science* journal.

The team also established the presence of the pest in Uganda, and published as first report of potato cyst nematodes *Globodera rostochiensis* (Wollenweber, 1923) infecting potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L) in Uganda in June 2020 in the *Plant Disease* journal. Colleagues in

Rwanda have also detected these nematodes in the country.

## Control efforts

PCN, similar to other plant parasitic nematodes, are often overlooked due to a lack of clear symptoms and low levels of awareness. The scientists therefore stress the need for more awareness for farmers to use healthy, certified seed and to practice crop rotations to reduce the buildup of the pests.

It is also important to put in place comprehensive phytosanitary control measures in commercial potato seed systems as one of the studies found PCN in many of the seed production farms in Kenya.

Another effective control measure is to identify and promote new varieties of potato cultivars with similar attributes to farmers preferred varieties. IITA scientists are working with partners, including the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), James Hutton Institute in UK and the International Potato Center (CIP) among others to identify suitable cultivars for farmers in the country.

## Suicide hatch - an effective PCN management strategy

The hatching of nematode eggs from their protective cyst into the soils, where they then find the host plant roots, is triggered by chemicals that are actually released by the potato roots.

The newly hatched juvenile nematodes then use other chemical signals from the roots to locate and infect the potato roots. Identifying these chemicals and synthetically producing them may offer possibilities for manipulating PCN hatch and host location.

IITA scientists are therefore also engaged in a study to explore 'suicide hatch' as a new innovative approach to effectively control these pests. If the PCN can be stimulated to hatch in farmers fields, using these signals, but before potatoes are planted then the nematodes will have no roots to feed on and will starve to death in the absence of the host - 'suicide hatch'.

With so much progress made, the team will redouble its efforts to find the effective solution to this menace which can spell doom for potatoes in the region and the food and income of millions of people in the region.

## How come clove canopies serves as GBV hotspots?

By Gaudensia Mngumi

**P**OVERTY has made women and children particularly from the impoverished families to have numerous problems in such a way that for decades some have become prey to sexual abuses during clove harvesting seasons in some areas of Pemba Island.

The story starts here, 'sex for cloves' or in Kiswahili 'mali kwa mali' or 'mpeta' the terms used to describe the way women, the grandmas (elderly) and the children are exploited under clove trees in some areas in Pemba. The tribulations have raised the need for the survivor's to be supported so that they can be creative and aim at self-supporting activities to fight poverty, diseases, illiteracy and much more Gender Based Violence (GBV).

"We have the enemy and it is our cloves. It is internal challenge that in every clove harvesting season we witness treacherous ways of abusing our women and children particularly girls. We have seen that and definitely, it poses the greatest danger to women and girls in Pemba, says Saada Saleh a member for Pemba Female Youth Organization.

Despite the fact that cloves (karafuu in Kiswahili) in Zanzibar and Pemba is everything and sometimes the island is dubbed the spice island, it is a pity that under karafuu trees women and girls are pinned down and raped and this happens between September and January yearly.

"This is the time to hear about many cases of unwanted pregnancies, child pregnancies, and child and elderly rapes and girls truancy because most of the impoverished families push into the karafuu bushes to look for money. But it is a hard task that they can't pick them easily off the ground. The men has to climb the trees to shake the cloves from buds," says Saada.

She adds, "Because the trees can grow beyond 15 meters tall and become much wider, no women can climb, but men are professional climbers and shakes off the cloves while women and children get in to the fields to pick cloves that fall on the ground but one must pay-there is no free cloves".

In many cases women work like hired labourers in fields to pick the cloves. They sell their labour to farm owners who pay them at least 1.2 dollars per one kilo of cloves, while the owners sell a kilo of cloves for 11 dollars, so in order for them to earn much money they needed more cloves to pick them off the ground.

Narrating the story to The Guardian during a media visit in Wete Pemba in late July, Secretary for Pemba Female Youth Organisation, Hakima Ali Abdallah, says, since long time ago women and girls have been working in karafuu farms to collect the cloves, however in recent years, abusers have seen an opportunity, they know that picking scattered cloves is a tedious work and the easiest way is to climb the trees to shake the cloves which will scatter all over the ground and hence make it easier to pick them off the ground.

The payment for the climbing and shaking cloves is none than sex. It is harder for the women to climb the biggest cloves trees and that is where men have an advantage. In some cases climbers shake the karafuu, collect



**Some TAMWA staff participating in a radio programme to address GBV issues. PHOTO: TAMWA PEMBA.**

huge lots and offer them to the women, girls or the elderly mamas for sex, says Hakima.

"We are all aware that the effects of unwanted sex is unwanted pregnancies among women, girl students and transmission of diseases like HIV, STIs and hepatitis B. We have started to encourage women to report to authorities issues regarding sexual exploitation in cloves. Says Hakima. "Traditionally, women and children pick cloves before sexual exploitations sets in, of course no one likes this business but to most women when we ask them why indulging into that business, their response is that, poverty challenges the poor to move into this shameful business of exchanging their flesh with cloves. While others says they want to better their living and see that their children have at least something to eat by having a good time as they call it life in clove season."

She was quickly supported by Saada who

was the 2020 general elections lawmaker aspirant for Kojani, as she points out "I want to talk we don't have to hide. One thing we all need to know for sure is we should help our women to find an alternative. Every time we see the headlines that sexual harassment is rampant in our areas it implies that we have not done our part." Says Saada.

Responding to what the government has done to curb sexual exploitation under clove trees the Wete District Executive Director, Mkufu Fakhi Ali, says the government has been proactive to reduce 'mpeta' and currently the sexual abuse cases reported to law enforcers have been declined citing only single incident recorded last year.

We have been proactive in organising meetings and campaigns in the most affected communities before and during the cloves harvesting time... we have campaigned on how to prevent and address sexual violence against children and women in shehia (areas) with higher productions.

"We inspire our people to report the cases to the police and the shehia officials, because if they don't open up it will be hard to get the victims and curb the crimes as well," says Mkufu.

Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in Pemba is the forefront in the war against sexual violence against women during clove harvesting time. Apart from conducting awareness raising campaigns through media the association has trained various sexual violence victims to pursue their own income generating activities to better their lives.

Pemba TAMWA Coordinator Fathia Musa Said, articulating the programme activities notes that women have been trained to make 'alternative tea' or 'tea masala' which sometimes they call it tea spices, in this case they use various flavors or aromatic spices like cloves, cinnamon, cardamom and dried ginger to make 'spices cha' which is an alternative to tea leaves. They have learned and master various techniques of soap making they produce bar soaps, bathing and liquid soaps, while some keep chicken in which they sell eggs and meet. The chicken support programmes have engaged 20 families in poultry programmes.

"Consequently we have donated 200 chicks, every family have received 10. Our expectations for the supported households are to improve their economies at the same time to make them eat healthy," says Fathia.

Speaking for herself, Asha Abdallah Rashid, the TAMWA support GBV victim beneficiary, says her life is good and is full of 'lives' and good experiences despite that she has been brutally abused by her spouse in the past (her story withheld). "The good news is that I don't rely on anybody's hand to earn my living. I keep chicken, make soaps and sell my tea masala."

Asha is confident that joining the pro-

gramme is rewarding and she feels that she is fully responsible for her children and her life as well as other survivors and that couldn't have happened without the people in the community, the government and TAMWA.

Fathia says despite huge efforts and dedication to end GBV and sexual exploitation, the culture of secrecy is entrenched in Pemba, as a result, their campaigns have to go extra mile to ensure the community changes and report the cases to police. In the beginning it was hard to get the family and even the authorities to take GBV issues seriously because the families and the relatives do not cooperate. Victims fear they will be blamed and their families doubt that they will be ashamed as a result everybody tries as much as one can to conceal and cover up the cases.

"Subsequently, in many occasions TAMWA is inspiring people to go to court but because of culture of secrecy they don't comply, but in a bid to bring changes our association has been conducting trainings on human rights and we teach the GBV victims to be confident and defends themselves in court. We teach them how to go through the evidences, to present it in the court as witnesses and to give evidence in order to break the culture of silence or 'muhal' as the folks call it."

Youths, gender activist and the human rights defender in Pemba challenges the government to find income generating alternatives ways in order to get grid off 'dirty' things like GBV under clove trees.

They all seriously challenge the House of Representatives to pass laws that prohibit human abuse in cloves production. And the district or municipal authorities to commit themselves to feed the needy to ensure that Pemba remains a global exporter of cloves, not a GBV hotspot.

## NEWS/NEWS FEATURES

## African activists take up the law to save women

By Special Correspondent, Harare

AS a young girl growing up in northern Zimbabwe's mining community of Mashonaland, Beatrice Savadye watched as her friends were forced into child marriages and early motherhood while many became sick with HIV.

Wanting a different life for herself and other girls, Savadye started the Zimbabwean women's movement Roots Africa seven years ago fighting for, among many things, legislation change to better protect women's rights in her region.

Under the lockdown, Savadye is one of a band of female activists in Africa pushing for stronger laws to protect women trapped indoors with abusers from a surge in violence, and also a spike in HIV infections.

"I don't like seeing injustice. We work to build resilience among young girls, to say that even if you are poor, you can have a better life," said Savadye, 33, while driving through Bindura, a town in Mashonaland.

The United Nations in June warned of a surge in domestic violence under coronavirus lockdowns, with calls to helplines doubling or tripling in some countries, as restrictions on movement made it impossible for many women to flee abusers.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) highlighted the risk of domestic violence and HIV infection for women and girls in sub-Saharan Africa, who already accounted for 59 percent of new HIV infections in the region in 2019.

While providing training, rescuing women from abusive homes in her own car, sheltering 30 women and their children and assisting them with antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to prevent full-blown AIDS, Savadye is also pushing for legal changes.

"It is painful to become an adult at a young age. Young girls need role models to look up to, safe spaces to run to, and laws to protect them," said Savadye.

### Justice

In 2016 Roots Africa helped push for a constitutional court judgment that led to a ban of child marriage in Zimbabwe.

Savadye meets regularly with traditional leaders to make sure this legal protection translates into reality, particularly during the pandemic.

"We have seen an increase in child marriages during the lockdown as economic meltdown is one of the key drivers of child marriage and exploitation," Savadye told Reuters.

She is now pushing for a review of the Zimbabwean Termination of Pregnancy Act to fully legalize abortion. Currently it is only legal if the mother or child's health is at risk or the mother can prove she was raped, said Savadye.

"We are fighting against backstreet abortions," she said, adding that she also has to help women access ARV medication secretly so that controlling partners in denial of their status won't banish them from taking the pills. Across the border from Zimbabwe, Roots Africa's efforts are echoed by the South African women's rights charity Ilitha Labantu that means bringing a sunbeam of hope to the people in a local isiXhosa language.

"Violence against women has been a pandemic for a long time," said the charity's director, Ella Mangisa, 37.

"We fight against the normalisation of gender-based violence," she said from her office in Gugulethu, a township in South Africa's Western Cape Province.

Founded in 1989, Ilitha Labantu shelters abused women, provides them with skills and uses educational workshops



to teach school and university students about consent, sexual violence and communication.

During the lockdown, the organization saw a spike in women fleeing abusive partners. "The Domestic Violence Act says a woman should be offered a place of safety if she is abused. But why must she run around like a headless chicken looking for this safety?" Mangisa asked.

"The perpetrator should be removed from the house, not the other way around," she said, adding her organization submitted a suggested amendment for the act to government during lockdown. "Laws and how they are enacted

will better help women access justice," Mangisa said.

### Dream

Further east in southern Africa, 25-year-old Malawian activist Grace Ngulube has used her own experience of being born with HIV to educate and help women at risk of getting the virus. "I faced many challenges such as stigma and denial. Little by little I became more confident to help others," said Ngulube from her home in the city of Blantyre.

Ngulube's organization, the National Association of Young People Living with HIV, organized support groups before the pandemic hit for youth living with

HIV, educating them on their health rights and assisting them with accessing medication.

But when schools closed and movement was restricted, Ngulube heard reports of a rise in sexual violence against women, girls and teenage pregnancies. Using WhatsApp to stay in touch with as many girls as she could, Ngulube also began meeting community leaders to ensure child marriages did not occur, even though they are illegal.

"There are laws, but we are pushing for them to be enforced," she said, adding that young girls with HIV were stigmatized for having low immune systems and labeled as potential corona carriers.

"This is why we need civic education," Ngulube said. But Savadye in Zimbabwe said she was concerned education campaigns ran the risk of being drowned out by COVID-19.

"With all efforts focused on fighting the coronavirus, we cannot forget about HIV, malaria, child marriages and gender-based violence," said Savadye, who often takes her 3-year-old son to her awareness workshops.

"I want him to be an ally to women one day, in a society where men and women can thrive with dignity. Whatever work we do now contributes to that dream."

# WHO: Breastfeeding link to COVID-19 is negligible

By Guardian Reporter and

### Agencies

THE risk of COVID-19 infection from breastfeeding is negligible and has never been documented, the World Health Organization (WHO) has said, calling for greater support for the practice.

The appeal, during World Breastfeeding Week, comes as WHO warned that not using mother's milk is linked to 820,000 child deaths a year, at a cost to the global economy of \$300 billion.

"WHO has been very clear in its recommendations to say absolutely breastfeeding should continue," said Dr. Laurence Grummer-Strawn, head of the World Health Organization's Food and Nutrition Action in Health Systems unit. "We have never documented, anywhere around the world, any

(COVID-19) transmission through breast milk."

Exclusive breastfeeding for six months has many benefits for the infant and mother which far outweigh any risk from the new coronavirus pandemic, according to WHO.

These advantages include the fact that breastmilk - including milk which is expressed - provides lifesaving antibodies that protect babies against many childhood illnesses.

This is only one of the reasons why new mothers should initiate "skin-to-skin contact" and "room-in" with their babies quickly, as "the risks of transmission of the COVID-19 virus from a COVID-positive mother to her baby seem to be extremely low", added Dr. Grummer-Strawn.

Having tested the breastmilk of "many" mothers around the world in a vari-

ety of studies, the WHO official explained that although a few samples had contained the virus, "when they followed up to see whether the virus was actually viable and could be infective, they could not find any actual infective virus".

Underscoring the WHO's longstanding support for using mother's milk over substitutes, Dr. Grummer-Strawn also warned that the pandemic had weakened essential breastfeeding support usually provided to families with newborns.

"The interruption of services has been tremendous around the world providing the kind of support mothers normally would get with breastfeeding," Dr. Grummer-Strawn told journalists.

"Often times, the health services that would provide maternal child health have been diverted to take care of the COVID response;

sometimes families do not feel comfortable in going into the health services, because they're afraid that they might get COVID and so they don't come for the routine kinds of support."

According to the WHO, "about 820,000 children's lives are lost every year because of a lack of breastfeeding". Dr. Grummer-Strawn continued, in reference to deaths among under-fives. "Economically, there are losses of about \$300 billion a year in economic productivity, lost because of a lack of breastfeeding," he added.

Numerous good things come from breastfeeding - for the child and their mother in developing and industrialized countries - WHO has long maintained.

It has insisted that "it is not safer to give infant formula milk", together with UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN).

The three organizations have united in their call to Governments to protect and promote women's access to skilled breastfeeding

counselling, for World Breastfeeding Week 2020 (1-7 August).

"Breastfeeding provides benefits during the time of breastfeeding, and those that are most recognised are protection against diarrhoea, which is one of the top causes of mortality in low-income countries, protection against respiratory infections, against obesity - childhood obesity later on - as children get older, protection against leukaemia," said Dr. Grummer-Strawn.

Breastfeeding also protects the mother against breast cancer, ovarian cancer, Type 2 diabetes later on, the WHO official said, "so there are benefits for both the mother and the baby, and when we added these up it comes out to about 820,000 lives around the world, even in high-income countries".

In addition to the pandemic, breastfeeding is under pressure from what WHO and UNICEF have described as harmful promotion of breastmilk substitutes.

Countries could do more to protect parents from misleading information, the UN agencies be-

lieve. "We continue to be very concerned about the practices of the formula industries, both the big multinational corporations as well as in many countries there are local manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes that are trying to get mothers to get on to their products," said Dr. Grummer-Strawn. "They use a number of tricks, sometimes it's not as blatant advertising as it once was, because they know that they can get caught."

According to WHO, of 194 countries analysed, 136 have legal measures related to the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions adopted by the World Health Assembly (known as the Code).

However, only 79 countries prohibit the promotion of breastmilk substitutes in health facilities, and only 51 have provisions that prohibit the distribution of free or low-cost supplies within the health care system, WHO said in a report published in May.

Only 19 countries have prohibited the sponsorship of scientific

and health professional association meetings by manufacturers of breastmilk substitutes, which include infant formula, follow-up formula, and growing up milks marketed for use by infants and children up to 36-months old, the UN health agency study found.

WHO and UNICEF recommend that babies be fed nothing but breast milk for their first six months, after which they should continue breastfeeding - as well as eating other nutritious and safe foods - until at least two years old.

"The aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes, especially through health professionals that parents trust for nutrition and health advice, is a major barrier to improving newborn and child health worldwide," said Dr. Francesco Branca, Director of WHO's Department of Nutrition and Food Safety.

"Health care systems must act to boost parent's confidence in breastfeeding without industry influence so that children don't miss out on its lifesaving benefits."

## Urban agriculture thriving in East Africa during COVID-19

By Richard Wetaya

FOR many of those living in and around Uganda's capital city, COVID-19 has presented opportunities to make a profit and contribute to Kampala's food basket.

Kampala typically depends primarily on agricultural produce grown by farmers in outlying areas of the country. But the lockdown and transport restrictions disrupted the links between rural and urban areas, threatening the city's food security.

In response, urban and peri-urban farmers began catering to the city's numerous food markets, where they're doing a roaring trade in leafy vegetables, Irish potatoes, plantain, corn and other fruits and vegetables.

Janson Mugabe is one of those urban farmers. He said Kampala's peri-urban agricultural sector has become an important source of food for many of the city's low-income earners, who feared they would have nothing to eat when restrictions on movement were imposed.

In an effort to allay those fears, the Ugandan government distributed food rations, including corn flour and beans, to about 1.5 million low income residents of Kampala and its environs. But by all accounts, not everyone in need in got food.

"For some families, the food supplied by the government has not been suffice. To that end, they have had to make do with fresh food supplies from urban farmers and urban farming groups," said Mugabe, who is also the director of Mushana Agribusiness School, one of Kampala's peri-urban agricultural training schools.

"As an alternate nutritional and food security safeguard, the urban and peri-

urban agricultural sector has helped to maintain and diversify the city's food supply chain," he continued. "In many ways, it has filled the food gap which was created by the lockdown."

Agricultural researcher David Omoding agreed. "Estimates show that in the lockdown, over 65 percent of Kampala's vegetable supplies have been provided by the sector."

In Kampala and other cities in the East African region, urban agriculture serves as a vital resource in the livelihood strategies of many city dwellers and it has thrived during the COVID-19 lockdown.

The RUA Global Partnership on sustainable urban agriculture and food systems recently reported that urban agriculture in Nairobi, Kenya's capital, was doing well during the lockdown. Statistics from the University of Nairobi indicate that about 30 percent of households in the city benefit from urban and peri-urban agriculture, such as vertical gardens and hydroponics.

In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's capital, urban agriculture comprises at least 60 percent of the informal economic sector and is the second-largest urban employer.

The practice dates back to the 1890s in Kampala, where it is mostly carried out in backyards, around buildings and occasionally on public land. Across the city and its environs, there are numerous signs of urban agricultural activity, including crop cultivation, fish farming and cattle breeding.

"For several low income households, bearing a hand in these urban farming activities, the lockdown has meant improved income-generating portfolios," Omoding said. "The urban agricultural sector's prospects for the



future also look rosy as the city's population increases and as Uganda pursues its goals for Vision 2040, which among other things calls for the modernization and transformation of agriculture."

### Taking the long view

"One of the reasons urban agriculture will continue to do well and remain resilient in the post COVID-19 period is because Kampala's governing authority has integrated it into the city's slum development

plans," said agribusiness expert Fred Ainomugisha. "What is needed is better access to credit and agro-inputs for the urban farmers."

"If it is harnessed well, peri-urban and urban agriculture can be a viable antidote to the youth unemployment and crime pickles that many metropolises in Uganda and East Africa face," Ainomugisha added.

In Kampala suburbs such as Bwaise, several youth groups have been gaining urban farming skills. At

the Mushana Agribusiness School, for example, apprentices are taught how to carry out vertical farming in small spaces.

"The school teaches apprentices about backyard and compound farming on spaces of 2-3 square meters," Mugabe said. "Thus far, over 70 youth apprentices have been trained, but the target is to train over 1,000 youth living in Kampala's slums by the middle of August." However, meeting that goal depends on the situation with COVID-19.

# Would heading the WTO be a poison chalice for Africa?

By Peter Fabricius

**T**HE sudden resignation of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) director-general, the Brazilian Roberto Azevêdo, has created both opportunity and challenges for Africa. Of the eight candidates to replace Azevêdo, three are African: former Nigerian finance minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; former Kenyan foreign minister and WTO General Council chairperson Amina Mohamed; and Abdel-Hamid Mamdouh, an Egyptian lawyer and erstwhile WTO official.

The other candidates are former British trade secretary Liam Fox; former Moldovan foreign minister Tudor Ulianoschi; South Korean trade minister Yoo Myung-hee; former Saudi economy minister Mohammed al-Tuwaijri; and Mexico's former WTO deputy director-general Jesús Seade Kuri.

Some pundits believe Africa has a good shot at the job. An African has never held the position - though the WTO doesn't formally rotate the job regionally. Also, the continent has three candidates, and they are competitive. But there are problems.

The African Union began the process of endorsing a consensus candidate at its February summit. But a combination of late nominations, Azevêdo's unexpected departure in August, Covid-19 and dogged competition among Egypt, Nigeria and Kenya have made that unlikely.

With the first round of voting due to start in Geneva next month, it seems the three African candidates will have to campaign nationally and without continental endorsement - which might hurt their chances.

Okonjo-Iweala and Mohamed seem to be the frontrunners of the three Africans, at least judging by relative media attention. Some at the

WTO say Mohamed is ahead of all eight candidates.

Mills Soko, Professor of International Business and Strategy at the Wits Business School and Professor Mzukisi Qobo, head of the Wits School of Governance, punt Okonjo-Iweala as a "political heavy-hitter with the skill and experience to cajole, knock heads together and break logjams".

They also say Okonjo-Iweala could "contribute towards restoring the multilateral trade agenda".

But it's unclear whether South Africa, for one, shares this enthusiasm. One trade official said Okonjo-Iweala's lack of trade experience would count against her at the WTO. And he was worried about her recent remark that if elected, she would try to build bridges between China and the United States (US).

This official saw that as implying that she would back off from defending China's inclusion in the WTO's category of developing countries enjoying "special and differential" trade status. That position means China enjoys better trade terms than developed countries.

The US and the European Union have been trying hard to squeeze China and other major emerging markets like India out of this category as they are too big to enjoy such preferential treatment.

And Pretoria evidently fears that kicking China out of the club would have a cascading effect that could ultimately also expel South Africa. The official said only the Egyptian candidate had been explicit about defending special and differential treatment.

This issue is a reminder of the desperate state world trade and particularly the WTO are in. The Doha Round of trade negotiations has stalled since 2001, the Trump ad-



Roberto Azevêdo

ministration is mounting a full-scale assault on the WTO, and Covid-19 has shrunk global supply chains, thereby seemingly sidelining the WTO.

In such circumstances, does Africa really want the job of WTO director-general at all? Would this not be a poison chalice, setting up an African incumbent for inevitable failure?

The African trade official thinks this would probably be so if US President Donald Trump were re-elected in November. But with his Democrat rival Joe Biden in the White House, an African WTO director-general could make progress, including defending special and differential treatment.

And an African in the Geneva

chair could also help the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) - now due to become operational on 1 January 2021 - especially by sheltering it from wider global trade as it attempts to build up intra-African industrial supply chains.

Trudi Hartzenberg, Executive Director of South Africa's Trade Law Centre (tralac), supports the idea of an African woman at the helm of the WTO, at a critical time for the institution, and for multilateralism more generally. "It's not all doom and gloom; there's light at the end of some tunnels," she says.

An agreement on fisheries subsidies could well be within reach, Hartzenberg says. She also sees potential in projecting the model of the WTO's only recent major success, the Trade Facilitation Agreement, onto other areas, such as investment.

"The Trade Facilitation Agreement is a multilateral pact but member countries self-select their commit-

ments," she notes. It also includes technical and financial support for developing and less developed countries to help with implementing commitments. Hartzenberg also suggests this model could be applied to the "plurilateral" agreements that some - but not all - WTO members have started negotiating on issues such as e-commerce.

"To get all 164 member states in such a diverse body to agree on anything is very difficult," she notes. So member states should reconsider these more pragmatic plurilateral agreements in specific sectors where those who are ready and willing move ahead and others may join later.

She also notes that some global supply chains may reconfigure and become more regionally focused as a result of Covid-19. Despite this, the pandemic is also showing that global trade and multilateral rules remain essential, not least for the transparency and notification that members must give others about what they are doing to accommodate the pandemic.

Hartzenberg disagrees with the African trade official's suggestion that the AfCFTA should evolve as an African import-substitution enclave. That sort of protectionism - apparent in the positions of some countries in the negotiations on tariffs and rules of origin - would just drive others into a protectionist corner and reduce the potential impact of the AfCFTA, she says.

Instead, African nations should boost and diversify their capacity to produce tradeable goods and services, including through African value chains, but also by integrating better into global supply chains.

Africa would also be more competitive globally if it reduced its excessive logistics costs such as transport, which are generally lower for imports from China than between African countries. Significant benefits are likely from better customs and border management and other trade facilitation improvements.

None of this will be easy, and Hartzenberg cautions that the AfCFTA alone won't transform and diversify Africa's productive capacity. Member states must work at national level to attract investment, for example. The AU also has several flagship projects such as those to boost infrastructure and industrialisation, which complement the AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA, though full of potential, isn't the magic bullet for Africa's economic ills. It has by no means rendered the WTO obsolete for Africa. Likewise global trade, though ailing, is not dead. So having an African in the Geneva hot seat - one who is prepared to work very hard and very smart - could still be a big boon for the continent. **DM**

# A review of Beijing's efforts to fight second wave of COVID-19

**B**EIJING Lowered its COVID-19 emergency response from level II to III starting from July 20, following 40 days of hard work to battle the disease. Taking the most resolute, decisive and rigorous measures and establishing a strict epidemic control network across the city, Beijing has reported no new confirmed cases within 28 days, or two incubation periods.

The second wave of COVID-19 in Beijing, from its start from the Xinfadi wholesale market to final clearing, demonstrated the mechanism, speed and spirit of China.

On June 10, when Beijing had reported zero new domestic cases for 56 consecutive days, a man surnamed Tang from Beijing's Xicheng district went to the fever clinic at Beijing's Xu-

anwu Hospital.

Tang's sample for nucleic acid test was soon sent to a testing team of the hospital led by Wang Peichang, director of the hospital's clinical lab. The positive result unsettled Wang and his colleagues, who have gained rich experiences in the battle against COVID-19. Therefore, they went on for another round of test for verification, and the result was still positive. The test result was soon reported to Beijing's health authorities by Wang and his colleagues.

The result worried Dou Xiangfeng, an expert from Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control who was on his night shift when he was informed of Tang's case at 1:04 a.m. of June 11. Five hours later, Dou visited Tang in a quarantine ward, together

with another doctor surnamed Qiao from the disease prevention and control center of Xicheng district, though he spend his night sleeplessly, working on the epidemiological report of Tang. "Screening efforts must be ensured in the places Tang had visited, as well as for those who had physical contact with him in the past 7 days," Dou noted.

Two hours later, 38 close contacts and 23 screening sites were confirmed, and city-wide screening was launched. Over 100 staff members raced against time to trace the source of the infection. Around 2:00 a.m. of June 12, environmental samples tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Xinfadi wholesale market, and the beef and mutton sections in the basement floor of the market was taken as "epicenter."



Citizens buy vegetables in a supermarket in Zhichun Road, Haidian district of Beijing, June 16. Vegetables and fruits are in sufficient supply and stable price in Beijing's supermarkets. (file photo)

Around the same time, Xinfadi wholesale market was quarantined. Fengtai district, where the market is located, also isolated the high-risk groups in the market. The district authorities, responding to the demand of a site command center, designated quarantine hotels, rented taxis and allocated anti-epidemic materials to relocate the high-risk groups. A total of 916 people were relocated to and quarantined in 5 hotels within 10 hours.

Community-based epidemic prevention and control serves as a bedrock for Beijing to fight the disease. Nearly 100,000 community workers launched "blanket" screening in 3,235 communities and 3,876 administrative villages in Beijing, and all close contacts were quarantined at home for observation. The community workers were grouped to screen different neighborhoods, communities, residential complexes and individual buildings, and adopted tailored quarantine measures if needed.

The rapid growing capability of Beijing's nucleic acid testing has become a legend in epidemic response. The city launched massive testing that covered over 12 million people, and around 52 percent of the confirmed cases were screened by testing. Nucleic acid testing played an important role in detecting the source of infection, cutting the chain of infection and stopping the spread of the virus.

The centralized admission of patients and allocation of medical resources, as well as individualized treatment plans that combined traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine, were major highlights of Beijing's efforts

to fight the second wave of the novel coronavirus. More importantly, no death occurred this time in Beijing.

On June 16, Beijing raised its COVID-19 emergency response to level II, and over 100 medical workers from 18 hospitals in the city went to Beijing Ditan Hospital for assistance. Du Bin, Tong Zhaohui, Jiang Li and other experts known for their outstanding performance in Wuhan, once again stepped onto the frontline to save critical patients.

Beijing launched a 24-hour hotline to respond to the demand of citizens, and a press conference was scheduled at 4:00 p.m. every day and broadcasted by both central and local media.

On July 19, the 157th press conference announced to lower Beijing's COVID-19 emergency response from level II to level III. The message moved many attending journalists to tears who experienced the hard-won success of the painstaking efforts made in the past 40 days.

A draft version of emergency regulations for public health emergencies were submitted to the 23rd meeting of the 15th Standing Committee of Beijing Municipal People's Congress for deliberation on July 28, as an effort of the city to formalize the effective measures it explored its COVID-19 response. Meanwhile, the city's leading group for COVID-19 prevention and control stressed that it's not yet the time for celebration, as Beijing's epidemic response is still underway.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 120 00--

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CROSSWORD: 1 Printed publications 5 a female servant 7 plural form of ass 8 sliced bread broiled to make it crisp 10 Creator of heaven and Earth 11 edema 13 submit to the authority of 15 an organic compound made by replacing the hydrogen of an acid by an alkyl or other organic group an indirect reference 17 make a bleating sound 19 apparition of dead people

## BUSINESS

## EXPRESSION

## Artists paint Covid-19

## NAIROBI

While Covid-19 has been wreaking havoc on millions of lives and livelihoods all over the world, the stealthy virus has not managed to kill the creative impulse of scores of Kenyan and other African artists. Proof of their resilience is currently online and on display at the One Off Art Gallery in a group exhibition entitled simply 'Covid 19 - Social Distancing.'

The showcase has something of a serendipitous feel to it since it was only a few months back (when it became clear the pandemic wasn't disappearing overnight) that One Off's founding gallerist, Carol Lees asked artists online to take the theme and run with it.

The show has works by more than 40 artists, most of whom are Kenyans but as the call was accessible to all, Carol got responses from Nigerians, Britons, and other East Africans. The work has come in a myriad of forms, media, and topics, mostly related either directly or tangentially to the theme of the viral pandemic.

A few artists recycled old imagery and simply added a mask to artwork they had already conceived. Occasionally, the masking was tastefully done, as with the masked bride by Margaret Njeri and the mother and child by Esau Osomo. Nonetheless, the clichéd effect is still inescapable.

But then there are wildly original works in the show. Like the fastidiously multicoloured lungs hanging out (at arm's length) on a clothesline, as if Ugandan artist Mark Kassi is giving greater dignity to the dead than are the data dished out daily in the form of horrifying statistics. There's little love expressed in the exhibition apart from Musah Mwakelemu's celebratory 'Triumph of love (in the pandemic).'

Otherwise, the agony of the isolation imposed by the self-quarantining is well conveyed in works by Waweru Muturi and David Kipkoeh whose solitary cell dangles in space without reference to time or place. Simon Muriithi takes a slightly different approach to the lockdown although he too interprets the boxed-in character of the Covid-19 crisis.

In contrast, several artists illustrate the 'business-as-usual' approach of peasant survivors living on the edge

and having no recourse but to head to the market to sell their wares. Esther Mukuhi's women are a case in point.

Those who've chosen to illustrate social distancing are few, but the masked figures of Munene Kariithi, Richard Kimathi, and Rashid Diab offer essential examples of what is required of the public if we seriously mean to lick the virus. In contrast, John Mutahi's canvas is overcrowded with faces, illustrating a kind of hell that's likely to leave those characters testing positive for the virus.

The danger, of course, comes in the form of invisible aerial droplets that seem to be the subject matter of paintings by Churchill Ongere and Leo Coimbra. Their pieces are emblematic of the issue that the global multitude doesn't seem to understand but must do eventually. And that is these droplets (painted as dots, bubbles or balloons) are infectious killers which may be lurking anywhere.

Mental toll The other point that artists examine in this Covid-19 show is the mental toll that the lockdown has taken on the public. One of the clear illustrations of what the virus can do to one's mind is Wallace Juma's painting of a head which seems to be split open as if mental shrapnel has affected the man's mind.

Yet this exhibition is not only about agony and despair. Works by Paul Kidero and David Marrian both reveal the restorative nature of the open air. Kidero's solitary man walks serenely out (at arm's length) on a clothesline, as if Ugandan artist Mark Kassi is giving greater dignity to the dead than are the data dished out daily in the form of horrifying statistics. There's little love expressed in the exhibition apart from Musah Mwakelemu's celebratory 'Triumph of love (in the pandemic).'

Two works by Sophie Walbeoffe extend the celebration of nature as her birds and tree are joyfully unaffected by the virus. Rather, they reflect what happened during the first wave of the pandemic when people willingly went into lockdown and indigenous wildlife emerged after years of invisibility.

Finally, referring back to the eclectic, the gallery placed no restrictions on participation or media that artists might employ. As such, this show (which will be at the Gallery until August 23) features everything from mixed media, acrylic paints, and prints to photography, digital art, and sculpture. It also presents both veterans and newcomers at the gallery.



Mark Kassi artwork for Art Images (COVID-19 Exhibition) at One Off Contemporary Art Gallery Limited.

## IMPRESSIVE

## 'We no give up' Africa Foresight Group opens the first freelance management network in Africa

## ACCRA

Africa Foresight Group (AFG), is the largest freelance management network in Africa. AFG announced just amassed a \$700,000 capital infusion from a seed round led by Consonance Investment Managers and GFH Holdings.

Founded in 2016 by Yasmin Kumi, AFS is female-led and offers consulting services for clients in the region. AFG boasts over 100 consultants in its network and has thus far completed 140 engagements for investment funds, top companies, and other development partners.

AFG experts and consultants create work in industries that create quantifiable value for the continent. This covers sectors such as FMCG, finance, and agribusiness. The company is made

up of a 15 member team based in Nigeria and Ghana. AFG is well represented in its networks in other African markets such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya.

Yasmin Kumi derived her interest at consulting when she attended McKinsey's 40th-anniversary party where she worked as an event runner. This was way back in high school. 7 years later she was fortunate to work for McKinsey.

Founded in 2017, Consonance Investment Managers is an early-stage growth investment platform helping entrepreneurs build companies across sub-Saharan Africa. GFH Holdings is the office of a leading West African family running several successful projects in the energy, retail, and real estate sectors across Ghana and Nigeria.

## UNIQUE

## Meet Muwado, the eight-year-old girl making Somalia laugh

## MOGADISHU

All throughout Mogadishu and past, there may be one identify that brings smiles to folks's faces: Muwado. The eight-year-old girl is the star of brief comedy movies which have taken Somalia by storm.

Viewed thousands and thousands of instances on on-line platforms resembling TikTok and YouTube, Muwado Abshir's sketches contact on a variety of subjects, from unemployment and style to social media obsession and even relationships - and her jokes spare nobody. "I like to make people happy. I get happy when I see people laughing," Muwado tells Al Jazeera, earlier than breaking into laughter herself.

"People look higher when they're completely happy and laughing." It all started in December of final 12 months, when the eldest of Muwado's seven older siblings, Abdikassim Abshir, was making a video for his TikTok channel.

"She wouldn't leave me alone and kept on asking me to make a video of her," the 19-year-old recollects. But merely taking pictures the video was not sufficient for Muwado, who insisted that her brother share it on-line. Abdikassim reluctantly concurred - and inside days, the clip had greater than 1/4 of 1,000,000 views.

The humorous sketch begins with Abdikassim telling Muwado to not play along with his telephone as a result of she is simply too younger. He then asks her to go to the outlets to purchase him ice cream.

"Be patient," Muwado retorts. When I develop up, I'll get you ice cream. I'll get misplaced if I



Eight-year-old Somali toddler, Muwado Abshir.

am going out to purchase you ice cream now.

Thinking that the submit's reputation was unintentional, Abdikassim then posted a video that includes simply himself - and did this didn't go down too properly along with his followers. "People would not let me post anything that Muwado was not in. They were not asking but demanding. I had no choice. It was either I post Muwado videos or don't post anything," he stated.

The brother-sister duo began posting movies collectively, with Abdikassim arising with the script and Muwado delivering the punchlines. No subject was left untouched,

with particular consideration reserved for social media influencers, schoolteachers and politicians.

One submit, making gentle of federal leaders chopping ties with the central authorities in Mogadishu, garnered greater than 1.1 million views. Because of her age, Muwado's movies are posted on her brother's channel.

The account now has greater than 235,000 followers and three.2 million likes on TikTok. Muwado's YouTube channel has garnered near seven million views in lower than a 12 months - and that excludes the figures from folks downloading and resharing her movies.

"Very sensible, very humorous"

Somalia is recovering from a brutal two-decade civil warfare that has broken virtually each sector together with the leisure trade. With the weapons falling silent, many youths have been more and more taking to social media, principally TikTok and Facebook, to seek out leisure, categorical themselves and move their time. But nobody may have predicted that an eight-year-old girl would seize the consideration of thousands and thousands in the conservative nation.

"We have never had someone her age doing what she is doing. She makes the country laugh. I hope she continues forever," says Nafisa Abdile Abdi, a retailer proprietor in central Mogadishu. "Whenever I'm down or had a tough day, I

With Muwado's star persevering with to rise, one among the nation's hottest musicians, Sharma Boy, launched a music devoted to her. "Muwado, the happy one. She is better than the rest. She has no arrogance, always joking. No one like her on TikTok," Sharma Boy raps in the music.

And Muwado's on-line fame has additionally translated offline, with folks inviting her to birthday events, graduations ceremonies and even weddings for an look payment - a determine her household didn't wish to disclose.

But it was not all the time like that. Muwado's mom, Siraad Muuse, did her greatest to cease her from turning into a public determine. "She is very young,

She needs to focus on other things like school, learning the Quran and just been a child," says Siraad, who was not completely happy when she came upon Abdikassim had posted movies of his sister online. She warned him towards doing so, however the two siblings continued.

"Every day I will get phone calls from people telling me your daughter is on the internet. I always thought it was the first video until I realised there were dozens of other videos. It was too late to stop them. Now they tell me before they post and they tell me what the video is about," says Siraad, who is now supporting her daughter. And due to Muwado's rising profile, Siraad has additionally change into a star in her personal proper.

"I get stopped on the streets by people and they ask how Muwado is doing. People are very nice and care about her. They call me Muwado's mum and have stopped using my name. They even take photos with me," Siraad stated.

Meanwhile, Abdikassim has massive goals and plans for Muwado. "I want her to make her a big star in Africa then take her to Hollywood where she can become a bigger star. God has given her a gift and I want to share that with [the] world," he stated. But his younger sister may want some convincing.

"I enjoy making people laugh but that is not what I want to do when I grow up," she stated. "My dream is to change into a health care provider. I believe it's higher to deal with folks than to make them laugh." "People will find other things to make them laugh," she added, once more bursting into laughter.

## FORTUNE

## Lotto winner scoops R38m after playing same numbers for years

## JOHANNESBURG

An entrepreneur from Gauteng plans to use his Lotto jackpot of nearly R38 million to erect a tombstone for his late father and ensure that his mother lives a comfortable life. But he's not planning on telling a soul about his winnings - not even his mother.

"Since finding out that I won the jackpot, I have not been able to sleep. I have mixed emotions. At some point I am calm, the next I am nervous, I have had a roller coaster of emotions for the last couple of days," the winner said. "I started playing the Lottery when I was 19 years old and I have always been hopeful that one day I will strike it lucky, but this life-changing win has come as a big shock and surprise to me."

National Lottery Operator Ithuba said it was thrilled to announce that the Lotto jackpot for the Wednesday 29 July draw had been won by one lucky player, who pocketed a cool R37 951 526.20. "Ithuba has located the winner, a self-employed entrepreneur based in Gauteng. He spent R20 on his ticket and manually selected his winning Lotto numbers of 06 16 23 26 33 48, and bonus number 07."

Almost changed his mind The winner, who has been playing the same manually selected numbers for years, almost changed his mind at the last minute.

"I have been playing the same numbers for the past four years, not only for Lotto but for PowerBall and Daily Lotto. I wanted to play the Quick Pick selection because I thought I have been playing the same numbers for years and the maximum amount I have won was R1 200 in the Daily Lotto draw early this year.



Busisiwe Msizi, head of corporate relations at Ithuba.

"So I thought maybe it's time I changed my playing strategy. I asked the cashier for a Quick Pick selection, but before I gave her the money, my gut told me that today might be the day I strike it lucky and opted to play the same numbers manually." The winner said the day after the draw he logged on to the National Lottery social media pages to check the winning numbers.

"I saw that one person had won and wondered who the lucky person might be, and, as per usual, I started to dream about what I would do with the money. "As I was checking the numbers, I

realised that these are some of the numbers I usually play. It was only after the fifth number that my heart began racing and I realised I might be the jackpot winner.

Slept with winning ticket under pillow

"I slept with the ticket under my pillow for two nights and kept on waking up every hour to check if indeed I'm the holder of the lucky jackpot-winning ticket and not dreaming.

"I am not planning on telling any member of my family, including my mother. I'm scared that if I tell

her, she might get excited and tell her best friend by mistake and that might cause me unwanted problems and will compromise my safety."

When asked about the first thing he plans to do with his newfound fortune, he said he was planning on buying a car for his business because it requires him to travel around the province to meet his clients. He also wants to extend his mother's house to a double-storey and erect a tombstone for his late father.

He will only buy himself a proper house in one of the province's exclusive housing estates next year because he does not want people to suspect he is the winner of the Lotto jackpot. He will invest a small amount towards growing his business and the rest he will invest to make sure he and his mother live a comfortable life for many years to come.

## Big winners

"We are so excited to have created yet another instant millionaire in a space of four months. Our first major 2020 winner won a massive R135 million PowerBall jackpot in April 2020. This was soon followed by the R77 million PowerBall winner from the 30 June draw, and the R15 million Lotto PLUS1 winner from the 1 July draw.

"The biggest jackpot so far was won by a player from KwaZulu-Natal who won the biggest PowerBall PLUS jackpot ever of R153 million in our 10 July draw using their Standard Bank app. We promised to offer big jackpots and we are happy that we have been able to offer these big amounts to our players," said Busisiwe Msizi, head of corporate relations at Ithuba. Ithuba offered trauma counselling and financial advice to the winner, as part of its winner services package, that comes at no cost to winners of R50 000 and above.

## AMBITIOUS

# 23-year-old's experience and journey creating her very own fashion brand

## KIGALI

In 2017, Kanyana Nadine, 23, took a bold decision. She had been studying sciences with a vision to major in computer programs coding and Information Technology but decided to drop it all and pursue fashion.

"My family was supportive but not all my friends could understand why I did not pursue IT as everybody anticipated and decided to join fashion," she said. At first, Kanyana was uncertain if making clothes would work out as a business so she kept it only as a hobby and went to school to major in IT.

When she started, she would only use her sewing machine at home and make clothes for her family and friends. That, however, changed when Kanyana hesitantly contested in Art Rwanda Ubuhanzi in 2017 and was shortlisted among the best. "Never in a million years did I imagine that I would make it among the top in the fashion category," she excitedly said. Kanyana was shortlisted among the top 10 finalists in Fashion category.

After contesting, her and other winners were put into an incubation programme for fashion train-



Kanyana Nadine at Art Rwanda Ubuhanzi Showroom, where her clothes are exhibited.

ing and how to turn fashion into a profitable business. The incubation lasted for weeks and has given Kanyana "a life-changing experience."

During the incubation programme, which is still ongoing, involving over 70 artists, Kanyana has been given an opportunity to produce a range of products under professional supervision and easily access the market. She now has a brand called 'Kanyana

Brand' with a growing clientele. Apart from customized orders, Kanyana's clothes are exhibited at Art Rwanda Ubuhanzi showroom at Kigali Business Center (KBC).

A challenged vision Kanyana is inspired by her strong passion for fashion and one of her signature touch to her clothes is an old-fashion style from the 1970s which she loves.

"I have always loved making clothes but mostly thrifting them

and making DIY (Do It Yourself) projects. Those were my favorite things to do since my childhood. I would always transform my clothes and revamp old ones." She said. However, it bothers her that there are negative mindset around sewing in Rwanda.

"I am not only a designer but also a tailor. It's sad how sewing is associated with illiteracy. Many people think sewing is the last resort when one failed at school,

which is wrong. In fact, if literate people did it, it would be an even bigger business," she said. Such mindset are one of the challenges that Kanyana faces and she thinks if not changed, it would make it difficult for her and other aspiring 'fashionistas' to grow.

One of Kanyana's dreams is to take her Brand on the international level and showcase what Rwandans are capable of in the fashion scene. Although finding affordable resources and raw materials is still a challenge, she believes with the current efforts put into Made in Rwanda products, such issues will unravel.

Fashion is an emerging sector

Although there are already significant fashion brands on the Rwandan market, Kanyana is not concerned about competition because the nature of the industry is growing.

"In fashion, everyone has their own signature, specialty and own targeted clients. There is no confrontational competition like other businesses. Small businesses learn from big ones and work on their specialty and that brings a lot of opportunities for young people investing in fashion," she explains.

It takes her at least a day to sew two dresses that earn her Rwf20, 000. Before she contested in Art Rwanda Ubuhanzi, she would get one order in a week which grown to three orders per day currently.

## CIRCUMSTANCE

# Covid -19 sees salon clients go for used hair in Kenyan capital

## NAIROBI

Stylist Julia Wanja picks her way delicately through piles of food waste, discarded masks, rubber gloves and other rubbish at Nairobi's Dandora dumpsite, looking for used hair extensions she can clean and resell to customers. The pandemic means fewer clients with less money and she is cutting down on costs by cleaning and reselling hair from the dumpsite.

Officials direct trucks to dump their loads depending on where the waste has come from. Domestic and commercial waste - which includes bags of hair extensions discarded by other salons - goes to different sections. Medical waste is usually incinerated. "I have fewer customers," the mother of three told Reuters from her wooden stall near the Dandora dumpsite as vehicle horns blared in the background. "If you are not going to work, there is no need to style your hair."

Wanja said she washes the used hair extensions carefully using detergent, Dettol and hot water. Most of her customers trust her to wash the hair well, she said, although a few like to clean it themselves as well.

Like other scavengers, she wears a mask to sort through the trash. "We cannot allow anyone to enter the dumpsite without a mask on," fellow scavenger Denis Githaiga said, as he ripped through piles of plastic bags.

Wanja has been selling second-hand hair since 2008, but says there is more demand now since many people cannot afford new extensions. "New hair is more expensive than second-hand hair," the 38-year-old said. "People don't have money."

Wanja's customers say as long as the hair has been cleaned, they do not mind where it is from. The hair looks new: long, luxuriant locks hang from the walls in Wanja's stall, or are perched on a battered styrofoam head. "The hair bought new from a shop and bought used only differs in price. But once it is plaited, there is no difference," said Cecilia Githigia as Wanja's fingers worked a weave into her hair.



Stylist Julia Wanja at Nairobi's Dandora dumpsite.

## OUTSTANDING

# Joburg DJ's mom gets guard of honour after retiring from 50 years of teaching

## PRETORIA

Radio and TV presenter Frankie du Toit caused quite an online stir when he posted a heartfelt tribute to his mother who retired after almost 50 years as a maths teacher on Friday - much to her irritation. Du Toit, who is a co-host of The Breakfast Club on Johannesburg radio station, 947, previously known as Highveld Stereo, posted a series of tweets on Tuesday honouring his mother's career and legacy.

In a video taken on her last day at work on Friday, Elmarie du Toit, 70, is seen walking from her classroom at Woodhill College in the east of Pretoria to the parking lot as the school corridors are lined with mask-clad pupils and staff members, clapping and cheering her on.

Clutching her handbag, she pauses a few times to exchange remarks with some of the pupils. She had been a teacher there for nearly 20 years. Frankie wrote that the children bought a little porcelain owl called Ellie, named after her, which she put in the garden so they can remember her when they walk past it at the gate.

"Like so many amazing teachers in our country, she's dedicated her life to helping kids grow and learn. Thousands of young minds have sat in her maths classes over the past five decades and I have never met a pupil that didn't love Mrs Du Toit. She made maths fun and was tenacious at helping every child that struggled," he wrote.

Swapping the classroom for the internet



70-year-old South African teacher, Elmarie du Toit (R) in her garden.

Speaking to News24 on Wednesday, Frankie says while his mom has "retired" from teaching in a brick-and-mortar classroom, she has moved on to teaching online. "She has joined Brainline, which is a remote-learning academy, and she will continue to teach full time. My sister and I have tried to convince her to retire for good, but this is her passion she doesn't want to give it up. She is quite the technophobe, but she was willing to learn.

"So, over the past three weeks, we and some other people

helped her to become au fait with the technology involved, and now she makes the rest of us look like fools with her mastery of the equipment. So, after 50-odd years in a classroom, she is continuing her career on the internet."

Frankie says she continued to teach throughout the lockdown because she felt she couldn't leave her matric pupils in the lurch. "Even when she was battling cancer a few years ago, she soldiered on throughout her chemotherapy. That was just staggering. I don't think she took

more than five days' sick leave during that entire period," he says proudly.

"I posted the video and pictures on Tuesday without her knowledge and when I called her to tell her about it, she scolded me for a good 30 minutes. She didn't want any recognition for the contribution she has made to society - she is extremely humble."

And Frankie is quite right, Elmarie's humility is apparent when she reacts to being called about her son's social media antics. "I don't understand why all

of you are so interested in an old woman who's retiring..." she quips during an interview with News24 on Wednesday afternoon.

"I am very cross with Frankie for putting this on Twitter. I told him, you should stay away from me for a while, he can really keep his mouth shut for a change," she says, laughing. Elmarie studied at Stellenbosch University and, after obtaining her degree and teaching diploma, taught in Cradock for three years before leaving teaching for a while.

"I never really saw myself as a teacher, that was never my plan. But a few years after I left, I realised that this was my calling, and I've been teaching ever since." Elmarie says, looking back, it's hard to believe that so many years have gone by since her career started.

"Time goes by so quickly. When you are young, you don't realise that. But I still have the same passion I always had. I love mathematics and I enjoy teaching it. I'm also crazy about working with teenagers. That's why I just continued doing it through all these years. "And now I decided to carry on teaching online. At this point I can't say too much about that as I only started on Monday. But it is vastly different from being in a classroom."

Elmarie was completely taken by surprise by the pupils' guard of honour on Friday. "Because of Covid-19, you can't have assembly and gatherings, so this was such a lovely, special gesture. I really didn't expect it. The pupils and staff at Woodhill are incredible."

According to Elmarie, teaching is a calling, not a career. "You are born a teacher. If not, you won't last long, you won't be able to cope." Asked about what some of the highlights of her decades-long career have been, Elmarie muses: "I don't know what to say about that. All I did was to raise two children and teach. And that's it..." "However, teaching has been a great privilege for me. People have been very kind to me - that's all I can really say."

## COMPETITIVE

# Meet the Zimbabwean producer who collaborated with Beyoncé on The Lion King

## HARARE

Following the release of Beyoncé's album, The Lion King: The Gift - which featured several African artists, writers and producers - the continent has been celebrated and acknowledged for its boundless musical talents.

Relatively unknown, up-and-coming Zimbabwean producer, DJ and bassist Robert Ndabehinle Magwenzi, professionally known as Evoke, is among the handful of talented African artists featured on this album. Evoke co-wrote and co-produced Find Your Way Back, which has been one of the fan favour-

ites on the album, alongside Spirit and Brown Skin Girl.

Other notable artists featured on the project include the likes of Wizkid, Burna Boy, Busiswa and Moonchild Sanelly. The 27-year-old producer says he was absolutely thrilled to have been considered for this opportunity, which

he considers to be the highlight of his career thus far.

"When I first got the news that I would be writing and producing for Beyoncé, I couldn't believe it," he said. "I thought it was a joke. I wondered how she and her team knew about me, I still wonder. Needless to say, I am very happy and still in awe."

Evoke's career as a producer took off after he was involved in the production of Manu WorldStar's hit single, Nalingi. With over 1.5 million streams since its release, Nalingi is one of the biggest South African songs to come out of 2018.

"What's next for me is to just keep working hard and using opportunities like this to take my craft to the world and show them what Africa has to offer," he added. "I haven't done anything, I see this as scratching the surface. I'm really excited to work harder to reach my full potential."

SAFETY

# Shisha cafes ordered to keep clean throughout Covid-19 crisis



Salem Al Ali smokes shisha at Orkied Cafe in Ras Al Khaimah.

DUBAI

Shisha cafes have been given the green light to reopen in Ras Al Khaimah and Ajman after five months of closure to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Authorities this week said a strict set of precautionary measures and hygiene standards must be met for a cafe to reopen safely. Cafes in Dubai were granted permission to serve shisha in mid-July. Cafes in Ras Al Khaimah opened this week and those in Ajman will reopen from Sunday.

Tito Al Ghanaïma, an Egyptian who works at Orkied Cafe in Mina Al Arab, Ras Al Khaimah, said the new measures meant a longer wait for customers but that this would ensure their safety. "The process of preparing

a shisha has become somewhat longer than before as many new standards had been added to the process," he said.

"This means that customers should expect to wait for eight to ten minutes more for their shisha to be ready, which should not be an issue for many." Staff must wear face masks at all times and keep a two-metre distance from each other and customers whenever possible.

Shisha pipes must be extensively cleaned and sterilised between uses. The pipes are typically made up of five parts, including a disposable, single use mouth piece. These must be taken apart and cleaned after every use.

"I start cleaning the shisha parts once the customer places the order to guarantee that it's 100 per cent clean," said Mr Ghanaïma,

45. "I first clean the shisha bowl with soap and water and then the rest of the parts, the stem, tray, water vase and the charcoal tong.

Mr Al Ghanaïma then uses a disinfectant fogger, which sprays a fine sanitising mist, to sterilise all the shisha parts. "After that, I prepare the shisha bowl by adding the flavoured tobacco and the charcoal before serving it to the customer," he said.

Traditionally, the server would test the shisha using a disposable mouthpiece by puffing on it several times. This also encourages the tobacco to burn but this practice has been banned under Covid-19 safety measures to prevent potential contamination. Cafes must now use a device that recreates that process instead.

"We have been using disposable hoses for many years now, so it is not a new

thing for us," said Mr Al Ghanaïma. Water in the shisha vase must be changed after each use and only disposable hoses can be used. Other measures including limiting only four people to one table and encouraging the use of hand sanitisers.

Shisha pipes have become a staple of society across the Middle East and are popular with tourists. Studies have shown that the lung damage caused by shisha is much worse for smokers than cigarettes. The practice was banned at cafes in March to prevent the spread of the virus using communal hookah pipes.

The reopening of shisha cafes was welcomed by regular smokers who said they missed the social element of smoking. "Friends gatherings cannot be complete without the shisha but, after the spread of the corona-

rus, many traditions have been affected," said Mohamed Kamal, an Egyptian who works in public relations.

"I cannot start my day without smoking shisha first thing in the morning," he said. Prior to the outbreak, Mr Kamal would begin his days with smoking before going to work. He and his friends would regularly spend their evenings at shisha cafes. "When they decided to allow the shisha again I was the first one to go to the cafe and order shisha," he said.

Emirati Salem Al Ali, 45, only smokes shisha occasionally and said the safety measures were necessary to keep everyone safe. "There is no place for a simple mistake and we all have a role to play in order to keep the country safe and virus-free," he said.

DEAL

# Variety mag cover star and the WAP hitmaker Megan Thee Stallion, announced as Revlon's latest ambassador

PARIS

"I've always set the bar high for myself with everything I do, but to now be a brand ambassador for Revlon, it feels like a new level." After an unfortunate incident landed Megan Thee Stallion in hospital when she got shot a few weeks ago, the sun is starting to shine again in the "Hot Girl Summer" hitmaker's world.

This is why it's a festive week for Megan's fans. Earlier this week, Variety dropped their latest issue fronted by Megan Thee Stallion on the cover, where she is hailed as the "hottest rapper right now," while this morning, the girl's hip hop artist dropped the official "WAP" music video with Cardi B, which sees fans welcoming a new anthem for sexually liberated women. And on Thursday, iconic mega beauty brand Revlon, made the hot announcement that Meg is their latest Global Brand Ambassador. Proof - once again - that authenticity always wins.

"I've always set the bar high for myself with everything I do, but to now be a brand ambassador for Revlon, it feels like a new level," said Megan. "To me, the Revlon brand stands for both beauty and female strength and I'm excited to help define what that means to a new generation of women," the 25-year-old adds.

Known for her breakout hits, including viral TikTok anthem " Savage," Megan Thee Stallion is the ultimate triple threat: music artist, social media sensation, and cutting-

edge tastemaker. She continues to set and conquer goals in both music and television with a slew of awards and accomplishments to her name. Most recently, she released the song, "Girls In The Hood," and hit #1 on the Billboard charts with her track " Savage."

She is also co-anchoring HBO Max's reality show competition, Legendario, which highlights modern drag ball culture, working on her new album and pursuing her bachelor's degree in Health Administration at Texas Southern University. "Megan is a remarkable talent and we know she's only going to continue to rise to new heights", said Silvia Galfo, Revlon Global Brand President.

"When we first approached her about a partnership nearly a year ago, we were drawn to her confidence and fierce ambition as much as her power to hold nothing back. She loves to express herself with makeup and is a constant inspiration to her fans on living boldly. It's that authenticity and unapologetic spirit that we admire, and we are thrilled to welcome her to the Revlon family," adds Silvia.

Over its 80+ year history, Revlon has defined modernity with its electrifying "Unforgettable Women" campaign in the 1990's and signed the first Black and plus-size models to beauty contracts. Revlon was also the first mainstream makeup brand to feature a woman of color in a national beauty advertisement in the 1970's. Megan Thee Stallion will begin appearing on behalf of Revlon across media platforms from this month.



Megan Thee Stallion for Revlon.



ITV	
<b>Sun 02 Aug</b>	08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Beating again  12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 15:15 Albu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating again 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 00:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Mon 03 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Grapes of justice 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Tues 04 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Grapes of justice 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
<b>WEDNESDAY 05 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumeru 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumeru Michezo 09:00 Kumeru Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTW
<b>FRIDAY 07 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumeru 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumeru Michezo 09:00 Kumeru Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt 11:00 The Base 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu
<b>SATURDAY 08 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumeru 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Shika Bamba 5 10:30 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Art and lifestyle 21:30 ITV TOP 10 22:10 Hawavuni lakini wamo 22:45 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTW
<b>SUNDAY 09 Aug</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumeru 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Sijapoteza 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great Queen Seonduk 16:45 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:20 Mjuzi Zaidi 22:05 Bongo Movie: The heart attack 00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
<b>SUNDAY 09 Aug</b>	08:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Beating again 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 15:15 Albu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating again 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 00:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Mon 03 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Grapes of justice 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Tues 04 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Grapes of justice 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Wed 05 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Grapes of justice 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt 22:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
<b>Thurs 06 Aug</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of justice 16:30 Business edition rpt









## Ronaldinho lawyers to agree plea deal - sources

ASUNCION

RONALDINHO's legal team has presented a plea deal to the Paraguay public prosecutor's office that would lead to the release of the former Barcelona star and his brother, sources have told ESPN Brasil.

The 2005 Ballon d'Or winner and his brother Roberto Assis were arrested in March for attempting to enter Paraguay with false passports.

After 32 days, the two were released from a high-security jail in Paraguay in April after paying bail of \$800,000 each and were placed under house arrest in a luxury hotel in the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion, where they remain.

As ESPN reported last week, the defense team for the Assis brothers was already working on a plea bargain.

A source close to the prosecution told ESPN Brasil last week that the case against the two is "90% closed."

The plea bargain includes a guilty plea from the two brothers for entering Paraguay with fake

passports and fines of \$20,000 and \$50,000, respectively, for Ronaldinho and Roberto.

Roberto would agree to a criminal record in Paraguay, but Ronaldinho's record would be clean there.

The plea deal also means the two brothers would agree to remain in Rio de Janeiro and follow rules of conduct set by the Paraguayan courts.

The legal team said that Ronaldinho would comply and would thus delay his planned move to Barcelona.

The public prosecutor has six months to investigate the case and has ordered the arrest of 18 other people in connection with it.

Last year, Ronaldinho had his Brazilian passport seized at home because of an investigation into alleged environmental crimes, but the document was returned to him in September 2019, and it is still not known why he did not enter Paraguay with his own passport.

(Agencies)

## 'Arsenal nearing agreement on new Aubameyang contract'

LONDON

ARSENAL is close to making their biggest signing of the summer and it's not a new face: The Gunners are nearing a new contract for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, according to Sky Sports.

The deal would give Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta long-term access to a player he wants "to build the squad around."

The move is a break from tradition for the Gunners, who will give a massive raise to an older player.

Aubameyang is no ordinary veteran, though, the 31-year-old scoring 29 times in 44 matches across all competitions this season.

The Gabonese star won a share of the Golden Boot during the 2018-19 season, his first full season at Arsenal.

Aubameyang has not scored less than 22 league goals in any of his last five seasons, including the 23 he scored between Borussia Dortmund

and Arsenal in 2017-18.

Recently, he led the Gunners to a record 14th FA Cup with a Man of the Match performance that included a brace.

Aubameyang has 252 goals across his last three stops at Arsenal, Dortmund, and Saint-Etienne.

The only danger here would be Aubameyang's big money becoming an albatross akin to what happened to Alexis Sanchez at Manchester United and Mesut Ozil at Arsenal.

For now, though, there's no sign of Aubameyang slowing down and the Gunners can save those worries for a later date, as attracting a player of his character without Champions League football is a tall task.

And perhaps Aubameyang cementing his time at the Emirates will sway a star currently on the fence about a season in the Europa League.

(Agencies)

## Bale didn't want to play for Real vs. City - Zidane

LONDON

GARETH Bale was left out of Real Madrid's squad for their Champions League clash with Manchester City because he "preferred not to play," coach Zinedine Zidane has said.

Bale and midfielder James Rodriguez were both absent from Madrid's 24-man travelling party for Friday's round-of-16 second leg game in Manchester.

"We have a relationship of respect between coach and player. That's clear," Zidane said in his pre-match news conference on Thursday. "It's a personal conversation. The only thing I can say is [Bale] preferred not to play. The rest is between him and I."

The French coach went on to characterise the decision as "personal" and denied being disappointed in Bale's attitude.

"I respect Gareth a lot," he said. "Things have to stay inside the dressing room between players and coach. Gareth Bale is a Real Madrid player and I respect that. He preferred not to play, that's the only thing I can tell you."

Sources close to the player told ESPN that Bale preferred not to travel, believing he would not be involved in the game in any case.

Bale barely featured as Real Madrid won the La Liga title last month, making just two appearances in eleven games after the season restarted in June.

The 31-year-old was also left out entirely for the final league game of the campaign, a move Zidane

called "a technical decision."

Sources have told ESPN that Madrid are willing to let Bale go this summer, although finding a suitable buyer may prove difficult given the player's financial demands and the club's insistence on receiving a substantial fee.

Colombia international Rodriguez has also been left out in recent weeks at his own request and is expected to leave during this transfer window.

Real Madrid needed to overturn a 2-1 first leg deficit to progress to the Champions League quarterfinals, after City staged a late comeback at the Bernabeu back on Feb. 26.

Star forward Eden Hazard missed that game with an ankle fracture sustained just days earlier, his second serious injury of the season.

The €100 million signing recovered in time to play a limited role in Madrid's La Liga title win, while still struggling with ankle pain.

"It's true he had some discomfort at the end of the league season but now he's much better," Zidane said. "We've had a lot of time to prepare. I think he's fine and feeling confident."

He added: "It's true that after he was injured during the season, playing every two or three days, it was hard for him to recover. But he doesn't have to play with discomfort. There was a moment after his second injury, but now he's fine. Let's hope he can keep going without problems."

(Agencies)

# Iker Casillas proves Rocky correct over 21-year career: Life is all about getting back up

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

WHETHER you embrace the biblical version (Proverbs 24:16) or the Rocky Balboa variation, the concept is the same. Life hits you hard and often. And it's not about the falling down, it's about the getting back up.

There are many ways to celebrate the career of Iker Casillas, who retired Tuesday aged 39, some 21 seasons after making his top-flight debut for Real Madrid at 18. The goalkeeper captained Spain to their first ever World Cup and won two European Championships and 167 caps along the way. He won five league titles, two Copas del Rey and three Champions League crowns for Real Madrid. Only one man has made more appearances for the club in its illustrious history.

Casillas and Xavi, who first bonded at the 1999 World Youth Championship in Nigeria, will forever be remembered for having the humility to bridge the often-vicious sporting, political and cultural divide between Madrid and Barcelona at national-team level, a split that had long caused La Roja to massively underachieve, thereby putting together perhaps the greatest period of international dominance by any footballing nation.

Fine reasons, all. But what stands out to me, what makes Casillas somewhat different is that he's been a portrait of resilience throughout, taking more than his fair share of licks and each time bouncing back.

Casillas is not the only one to have overcome adversity, time and again, of course. But few have had his sort of journey, one where you start at the very top, with greatness thrust upon you. Indeed, the fact that he arguably peaked a decade ago and had the rockiest stretch of his career in his early 30s, when most keepers are supposed to be at the height of their powers, makes him all the more compelling.

Casillas wins the starting keeper job at Real Madrid in the 1999-2000 season and starts for them in the Champions League final later that season, four days after his 18th birthday. Ten days later, he gets his first cap for Spain. A year later, he wins his first Liga title.

At 20, Casillas is the goalkeeper of the first iteration of the Galacticos, with Luis Figo, Raul and Zinedine Zidane. The launch angle to his career is nearly vertical at that point and yet, in the second half of the 2001-02 season, the wheels come off. He has some poor performances, struggles in the way young keepers are wont to do and is dropped in the spring. Suddenly, he is too small. Too young. Too attached to the club colors to be cool under pressure.

He is, as usual, on the bench for the 2001-02 Champions League final in Glasgow, watching Real Madrid take a 2-1 lead over Bayer Leverkusen thanks to Zidane's epic long-range wonder goal. And then, with 22 minutes to go, Cesar Sanchez, who had supplanted him as Madrid's No. 1, falls hard on the Hampden turf and signals for a change.

Casillas comes on and makes a string of stops, two of them spectacular kick-saves, to preserve the victory. A few months later he is again Madrid's starting keeper, a job he would retain for the next decade.

Casillas had been metaphorically kicked in the gut. And he had gotten back up when it counted most.

There might be a parallel universe in which Cesar doesn't get hurt, Casillas doesn't come on, Real Madrid still win the cup and he remains a backup who then leaves the Bernabeu, frustrated at the lack of opportunities. Fate reopened that door for him in that final, but he was ready to step through it. That's the thing about getting back up; sometimes you need a lucky break to be able to do it, but it's still up to you to be ready when the moment comes.

Fast-forward 10 years. It's the 2012-13 season. Jose Mourinho is in charge and the rivalry with Barcelona is as poisonous as ever. So too is the atmosphere at Real Madrid. Mourinho suspects there's a rat in the dress-



Iker Casillas

ing room, airing the club's dirty laundry.

As the club struggles, threatening to implode, fans are split between Mourinho-backers and Mourinho-haters. Casillas becomes a scapegoat, blamed for being the dressing room mole. He's dropped for backup Antonio Adan, and to reinforce the point, Mourinho buys another keeper, Diego Lopez, halfway through the season.

Officially, Lopez arrives because of an injury to Casillas' hand, but he keeps the starting job even after Casillas regains full fitness. The writing is on the wall. Casillas' morale is at a low ebb.

Even though Mourinho leaves at the end of the season, Casillas knows Lopez is an exceptional keeper. So too does Carlo Ancelotti, the man who replaces Mourinho. Casillas makes too much money and wields too much power for a backup. President Florentino Perez wants to bury the nightmarish final

season under Mourinho and purge the venom still in the club's system.

There's a World Cup title to defend the following summer, too; Casillas knows he can't do it as a reserve and seriously considers moving on. But he doesn't. He stays to compete for the starting job and again, he's rewarded with a helping hand. Ancelotti opts to split the job. Lopez plays in La Liga, Casillas gets the Copa del Rey and the Champions League. Real Madrid go on to win both competitions and he starts every game along the way.

And just as Casillas is back up again, lifting Madrid's 10th European Cup in Milan, there's another kick in the groin less than three weeks later. Spain get humiliated 5-1 by the Dutch in the World Cup opener, a rematch of the 2010 final. Casillas makes at least two massive errors. All he can do is admit his fault and say it was the worst game of his career ... which it probably was.

Once again, he's down. His international career is in doubt with the emergence of Manchester United's David De Gea and, at club level, he has to deal with both Lopez and the newly arrived Keylor Navas.

Many want Casillas gone. He is not the keeper he was, and he might never be again. But then, another helping hand and, as ever, he's ready to grasp it. Lopez is sold to Milan and Ancelotti names Casillas as his starter, but the joy lasts until the end of the campaign.

Ancelotti is sacked, Rafa Benitez comes in and Perez unceremoniously shows Casillas the door. He's 34, by no means old for a keeper, but when you leave Real Madrid, especially when you've been there since the age of 9, the only way is down.

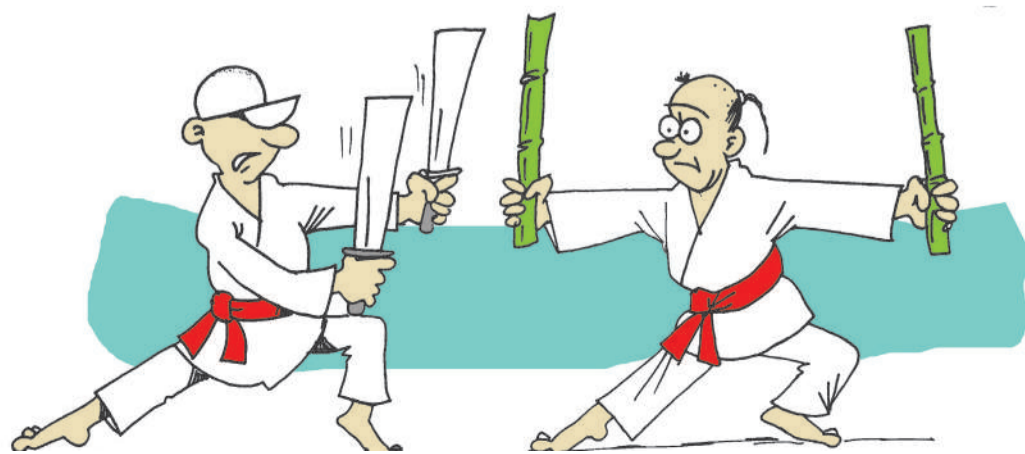
There were rumours that Casillas would retire; instead, he signs for Porto as a free agent. A smaller league in Portugal, and less money, but a chance to

play. And, more important, to get back up. He plays for four seasons, enduring both the thrills of another league title as well as a sustained period on the bench in his third year, followed by a return to the lineup. It's a microcosm of his career: another fall, another rise.

Casillas' last stumble was a heart attack in May 2019. He returned to training and, after months of uncertainty, opted to call it a day on Tuesday, saying farewell with a social media post that speaks volumes: "The important thing is the path you travel and the people who accompany you, not the destination that it takes you."

Wisdom. The boy whose career appeared to be on a perpetually upward trajectory was now a man who understood fully that as long as the number of times you get back on your feet is greater than the number of times you fall, it really doesn't matter where you end up.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Azam FC confirms pursuing new striker

## SPORT

Ronaldinho lawyers to agree plea deal – sources

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## AT reschedules 2020 National Championships

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS year's National Athletics Championships, which was slated for early this month in Dar es Salaam, has been pushed back.

The championships, which is jointly organized by Athletics Tanzania (AT), Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) and National Sports Council (NSC), was earlier scheduled for August 5-6 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium but it has been pushed to September 12-13.

Gulam Rashid, TOC president, said at a joint press conference yesterday the postponement was due to lack of accommodation, as the facility, which they had planned to use for hosting athletes from upcountry, will be occupied with other activities on the earlier planned days.

He said TOC hired Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) hostels but students at the institution will be sitting for their final examinations on September 5, a day the championships was set to start.

Rashid said due to this AT, TOC and NSC have agreed to have the championships one week later.

"All was set for the National Athletics Championships, but on Thursday we received communication from the DUCE management informing us that on September 5 students will be sitting for their final examinations, we respected them and postponed the championships to a week later," he said.

Henry Tandau, TOC vice president, said the committee will use 45m/- at the championships as the aim is to see to it that the event is used to unearth talents which can represent the country at international events.

He also said each region was given a quota of its athletes that will compete in the showpiece, but if the regions want to add more athletes on the quota, they must pay for the added athletes.

"The TOC will use 45m/- at the championships, the money is to pay for accommodation, hospitality, medals and other things to about 215 athletes and 36 coaches who will attend the event," he stated.

"If there is any other region which wants to have more athletes in their team than what was on their quota, they are free to do so provided they pay 100,000/- for each athlete," he said.

At the press, Tandau announced that they have invited Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa to be the guest of honour, but they are yet to receive a response from the Prime Minister's office.

Ombeni Zavalla, AT acting secretary general, said the championships will be used to select athletes who will represent the country at international events.

She said the closing date for receiving names of athletes who will compete at the championships is Saturday next week and she asked regions to select athletes who will perform well at the event.

Zavalla also warned top athletes who skip the National Championships, saying the association will not offer permissions to those athletes to compete outside the country.

"I'm asking all regions to select good and elite athletes, we want athletes who can compete at the international events, let me take this opportunity to warn top athletes who refuse to represent their regions at the National Championships, we will not grant permission to them to compete outside the country, we are now tired of this tendency that has athletes refuse to be in their respective regions' teams," she said.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

AZAM FC Chief Executive Officer, Abdulkarim Amin 'Popat', has confirmed the club is pursuing a new striker as they continue to rebuild for a pretty busy season ahead with the club keen on mounting a credible title challenge.

The 2013/14 Vodacom Premier League winners have already confirmed five new additions including Rwandan international midfielder Ally Niyonzima, former Gor Mahia FC goalkeeper David Kissu, midfielders Awesu Ally



Azam FC's newly signed midfielder, Awesu Ally (C), dribbles past fellow midfielder, Mudathir Yahya, at the outfit's training which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

and Ismail Aziz Kada, and striker Ayoub Lyanga.

In the attacking department, Azam FC has Obrey Chirwa, Shaban Chilunda, Iddi Selemani, Andrew Simchimba, Mbaraka

Yusuph and Richard Djodi but head coach Aristica Cioaba insists he wants more competition for places in attack.

In the league, the club scored 24 fewer goals than leaders Sim-

ba while Chirwa was the only striker to have hit double digits.

There has been speculation during the last couple of weeks that Azam FC are looking to loan out Chilunda but the club has

come out publicly to say he is going nowhere at the moment and they are actually looking to add another striker.

Amin said: "Niyonzima is a defensive midfielder, Kada is an attacking midfielder. We have Lyanga who is a wide striker so we are currently pursuing a centre forward to complete our transfer business."

However, Amin refused point blank to be drawn into revealing the identity of the striker they are chasing though he admitted Kipre Tchetché is a club legend who they would be willingly welcome anytime they are able to do so.

The 32-year old Ivorian striker currently plays for Kedah in Malaysia Super League.

He joined Azam FC in 2011 and spent five seasons in Tanzania cementing his place as one of the best imports in the Vodacom Premier League with 47 goals to his name.

Azam are also believed to be in the market for an attacking midfielder following the imminent exit of Salum Abubakary 'Sure Boy' who is linked with a move to rivals Yanga.

With only one year left on his contract, Azam FC will only let the midfielder leave on a permanent deal and they are now waiting to see if Yanga will come back with an improved offer after rejecting the 20m/- offer tabled earlier.

It is expected Yanga will make another attempt in the coming days as the midfielder has stated his wish to pursue fresh challenge elsewhere.

## MCC cricketers lose to K&P Constructions team in 2020 Nasser Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

THE K&P Constructions side's cricketers have boosted their quest for turning into one of serious contenders for silverware in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division B, comprehensively beating Malabar Cricket Club (MCC) by 33 runs in a duel, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

It was one of several 2020 KNML games, which took place a week before the competition was brought to a halt to give room for the 2020 Advanced Players League (APL) which starts this weekend.

Skipper Lakshmikanth Sukavasi put his batting heroics to show as K&P Constructions side went on to amass 162 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 30 overs once they had won the toss and chose to bat first.

Sukavasi surpassed half century mark and posted unbeaten 59 runs, cracking five fours in his spell at the crease.

He greatly helped to steady the ship when opening batsmen, Venkateswararao Katru and Naga Gurijala, had been dismissed.

They started their innings promisingly, in which Gurijala scored 21 runs which included two fours, fellow opener Katru notched 15 runs which included three boundaries.

They to some extent found it difficult to amass runs once the openers were sent back to pavilion by MCC captain, Sreejesh Puthiyaveetil, as the former experienced three quick dismissals.

Shaik Abdul Shaheel helped K&P



Malabar Cricket Club (MCC)

Constructions team pile more runs, recording 18 runs, Sukur Basha chipped in with 10 runs which consisted of a four.

They were dealt yet another blow when Raghunatha Chilla experienced early exit prior to having Gulam Yassin closing out the innings with Sukavasi, posting four runs not out.

Puthiyaveetil finished his spell with the most impressive figure in MCC, posting three wickets and leaking 25 runs in six overs.

The MCC medium pacer Faraj Athumani recorded two

wickets and leaked 45 runs in six overs.

The K&P Constructions team went on to successfully defend their score as they bowled MCC out for 129 runs in 22.4 overs.

Zanub Ahmed, who had opened MCC innings with Annarathodika, helped to prevent what would have turned into a woeful start by the side in the chase, posting 16 runs.

Ahmed made up for his fellow opener's rather less impressive spell at the crease, cracking three boundaries to

ultimately post the figure.

After yet another early exit of Shafii Mwarami, who was trapped for leg before wicket by K&P Constructions team's Yassin, Nandakishan Pottachira stepped up to significantly push the score.

He posted 26 runs, which consisted of three fours, and was ultimately MCC's top run getter in the fruitless chase.

Salaam Ollikkandy notched 23 runs which included two fours, Athumani and James Jeyson ended with 19 runs and 14 runs respectively.

Skipper Puthiyaveetil and Ismail Kottal's early exits, eventually, had MCC's efforts to mount a successful chase ending in vain.

Yassin ended with the best bowling figure for the eventual winners, registering six wickets and leaking 14 runs in 5.4 overs.

He had one maiden over in the spell that had him post an impressive economy rate of 2.47.

Skipper Sukavasi compounded MCC's woes, in which he took three wickets and leaked 31 runs in five overs.



Domestic athletes battle it out in a past National Open Athletics Championships, which was held in Arusha. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

