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**National Pg 3**  
 "Do not surrender your ATM cards"

**National Pg 4**  
 480 pupils sit on the floor

**National Pg 5**  
 House panel praises govt

**National Pg 6**  
 Lindi water projects on course

## France unveils language skills scholarships for teachers

By Francis Kajubi

FRANCE has announced two separate language scholarship programmes for Tanzanians beginning next financial year for teachers and diplomats, aimed at fostering the penetration of the language in the country. Frederic Clavier, the ambassador of France to Tanzania, made this announcement at the launch of celebrations to mark 'La Francophonie 2021,' a cultural festival of French speaking countries and communities around the world, to be marked from March 17 to end of the month. He said the first programme will run for three years, from the 2021/22 financial year onwards, to train primary and secondary school teachers in various colleges. "We intend to train 300 teachers both in French and teaching skills so that they can be utilized to train other teachers in the districts where they will be deployed," he said. "After that, the programme will run for another seven years to bring the total time to 10 years," the envoy noted. France will similarly work with ministries handling education and foreign affairs respectively to pick potential diplomats for training in various French-speaking countries with missions in Tanzania. About 20 to 30 diplomats will be picked per annum, he declared. The scholarships are being co-organised by six diplomatic missions, namely the embassies of France, Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Switzerland and Vietnam. "As of today, approximately 1.5 million Tanzanians are proficient in French, the only foreign language other than English to be offered as an option throughout the school curriculum, he stated; In Kigoma region, Francophones account for about six percent of the population, while the national average is two percent, he said, underlining that there is need to deploy new initiatives to fasten penetration of French literacy. Worldwide, around 59 percent of French language speakers live in Africa, with the number expected to rise to 80 percent by 2050, the envoy affirmed, noting further

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# TABOA regrets travel disruption

By Guardian Reporters

TRAVEL disruptions which ensued after some of members of the Tanzania Bus Owners Association (TABOA) grounded vehicles despite an agreement with the government to suspend the boycott are regrettable, the association said yesterday. TABOA Secretary General Joseph Priscus said in the city yesterday that some members had delayed or completely cancelled long haul bus trips, as they were in negotiations with government officials which ended at 10 in the morning. "We agreed to suspend the planned boycott but this information did not reach some of our members in time," he said. Priscus said that at present trips will continue as scheduled as it engages in negotiations with government agencies involved in the matter namely the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). There were inter-regional travel disruptions in some regions as a number of bus

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi consoles Hassan Issa, a photojournalist with the Zanzibar Second Vice President's Office admitted to the Isles' Mnazi Mmoja Hospital with injuries he sustained when a vehicle in the ZSVP's motorcade was involved in an accident at Kitogani in South Unguja yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

## Govt extends 3.6bn/- to special school

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE first secondary school with friendly infrastructure and equipment for able-bodied and disabled students has opened its doors after the government pumped 3.6bn/- into its construction. Constructed under the Education Programme for Results (EP4R) across two years, Patandi Secondary School has admitted 143 form one students this year; with 93 being a special needs selection. Gerald Mweli, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), said the school is unique since it offers

**It is a secondary school like no other in our country; pathways, classrooms as well as dormitories have been designed to accommodate learners with disabilities**

comfort to able-bodied and learners living with various forms of disabilities. "It is a secondary school like no other in our country; pathways, classrooms as well as dormitories have been designed to accommodate learners with disabilities," he said. Janeth Mollel, the school's headmistress said the 143 admitted students have reported and have been learning for two weeks now. "We admitted the special needs students from all over the country and so far so good," she said. The school has capacity to admit 600

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## Minister warns transporters on contracts for long-route drivers

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FAILURE to provide formal contracts for bus and lorry drivers on long routes risks to bring unrest and mar the country's economic activities, the government has stated. The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Disabled), Jenista Mhagama registered these fears at a consultative meeting on the various challenges facing long route drivers, bringing together stakeholders in the transport sector

**We have been taking a number of measures to improve drivers' working conditions, but most of them still work without formal contracts**

and the Registrar of Trade Unions. She said that the government was concerned that the transport sector, as one of the crucial areas in the country's economy; needs to ensure it operates in accordance with the laws, especially the Tanzania Employment and Labour Relations Act of 2004. She said that any situation of unrest in the transportation sector would affect economic growth as drivers carry cargo as well

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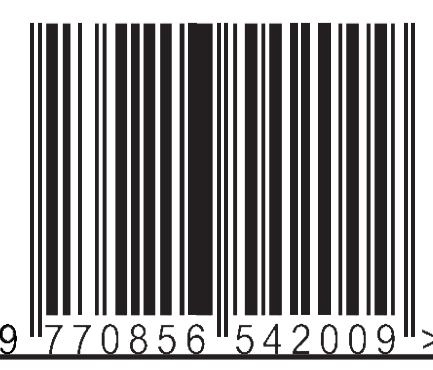
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## Minister warns transporters on contracts for long-route drivers

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as passengers.

"We have been taking a number of measures to improve drivers' working conditions, but most of them still work without formal contracts," the minister noted, directing the regulatory authorities to convene a meeting with bus and lorry owners to seek a consensus on drivers' contracts.

Such agreement needs to be reached during the meeting and be the framework of punishing any transporters violating the set regulations, the minister underlined.

"We only need to know who is delaying the formalization of drivers' jobs so that we can take appropriate legal measures against them. Employers should adhere to the set operational standards, regulations, laws and international conventions," she specified.

The minister directed employers to stop barring workers from introducing workers' unions at work places, noting that the unions are vital bridges between employers and employees.

Employers must build a culture of meeting workers regularly to discuss various issues related to their daily operations, she said, affirming that the move would reduce conflicts at work places.

"We need to ensure smooth operation in each of the sectors to maintain the country's growth pace. The government is determined to maintain the middle-income status and facilitate further growth," she told the gathering.

Pendo Berege, the Deputy Registrar of Trade Unions at the ministry, said the meeting was meant to discuss various challenges facing transporters and drivers.



The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (2nd-L), speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the upcoming anniversary of Francophone cooperation. With him are Swiss Ambassador Didier Chassot (L), Moroccan Ambassador Abdelilah Benryane (2nd-R) and Canadian High Commissioner Pamela O'Donnel. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## TABOA regrets travel disruption

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owners delayed or grounded vehicles due to unresolved electronic ticketing issues, reports indicated.

Mwanza Regional Traffic Officer Joyce Kotecha was forced to intervene as most buses delayed leaving the main Nyegezi terminal in what was termed as a go-slow over pending e-ticketing disputes.

"If they have genuine issues, they are supposed to raise the same with relevant authorities for resolution. What they did is sell tickets to passengers then refuse to take them to the agreed destinations," she said.

The traffic police intervention was prompted by a huge number of passengers stranded at the stand as bus operators, drivers, conductors and booked vehicles were nowhere to be seen at the terminal.

A reporter who arrived at the Mbeya terminal at 06:15 departure time saw buses plying other routes were leaving but those plying Mbeya-Iringa-Dodoma-Singida and Mbeya-Shinyanga-Mwanza routes were nowhere to be seen.

Juma Mohamed, the manager of Isamilo, one of the bus operators, said he grounded tools after receiving a phone

call from his bosses directing him to do just that.

"The bone of contention is electronic ticketing which the government wants us to use; we will be waiting for guidance from our bosses on the way forward," he elaborated.

Ndamo Jidaha, a Lake Zone-bound stranded passenger from Chunya district was among those who were left with no option but to wait at the terminal.

The passenger said that would-be travellers passengers were told that would be put on Isamilo bus but when they went to the Isamilo office, they found it locked and no passengers were allowed

to enter.

LATRA launched e-ticketing last week, requiring bus operators to use Point of Sale (PoS) machines in paying fares and passengers with smart phones purchase tickets electronically.

Aday after its launch TABORA members held a meeting which resolved that members ground their vehicles if issues they raised with regard to e-ticketing are not addressed.

TABOA leaders are particularly irate with PoS machines which require them to deposit some amount of money into its functioning, saying the system works to their disadvantage.

## Govt extends 3.6bn/- to special school

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students, of whom 416 would be lodged at the school, she said.

"We have students with all forms of disabilities and that is why some of our dormitories are self-contained for the convenience of disabled occupants," she elaborated.

The school is aptly located near the Patandi Teachers' College for Special Needs Education, the only college in Tanzania that offers this kind of education at higher diploma level.

"The instant chemistry between students and teachers is amazing; they eat and play together as if they

have been living together for years," the headmistress enthused.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) says inclusive education is the most effective way to give all children a fair chance to go to school, learn and develop the skills they need to thrive.

"It means all children in the same classrooms, in the same schools. It creates real learning opportunities for groups who have traditionally been excluded - not only children with disabilities, but speakers of minority languages too," it affirms in a recent report.

"Nearly 50 per cent of children with disabilities are not in school, compared to 13 per cent of their peers without disabilities. Robbed of their right to learn, children with disabilities are often denied the chance to take part in community activities, in the workforce or contribute to decisions that mostly affect them," the agency elaborates.

An estimated 93 million children worldwide live with disabilities. "Like all children, children with disabilities have ambitions and dreams for their future. Like all children, they need quality education to develop their skills and realize their full potential," the report underlined.



This is a scene from a section of the Morocco-Mwenge stretch of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, whose expansion is reported to have reached 70.35 per cent. It was captured yesterday. Photo: State House

## France unveils language scholarships for teachers

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that 21 African countries have French as an official language. "Members of OIF (International Organisation of the Francophonie) feel honoured after the decision of the 21st virtual ordinary meeting of the Summit of East African Community Heads of State organ to consider including French as an official language of the EAC," he declared. Abdelilah Benryane, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, said that six diplomatic missions in Tanzania are active members of OIF, celebrating the Francophonie to promote the French language. Globally, the OIF includes 88 member states and governments bearing witness to a common destiny, willing to promote and develop the French language in their respective societies, disregarding the actual rank that French occupies in the country's official language hierarchy.

The six missions have organized a series of free events that will run for two weeks from next Wednesday, he said, noting that in celebrating the event, the missions will offer delicious

traditional recipes to be shared with its social media followers to enhance cultural interaction. Art exhibitions will also be featured, as well as a higher education webinar with prominent speakers from the six countries, the reopening and inauguration of the new media library at the Alliance Française, plus writing workshops for kids and teenagers," the envoy specified.

The French embassy affirms that French is the fifth most spoken language in the world, with over 300 million speakers worldwide, expected to climb by 100 million by 2070 with most speakers being Africans. It is an official language in 32 countries and features in most international organizations, including the African Union, SADC and several other regional bodies.

French is a language of learning for more than 132 million people in 36 countries and the fourth principal language used on the internet. It is the second international language most used in the media, the third most important business language and the second most used language in interactive activities in international institutions.

## Govt sets aside investment land for Mahashree agro-processing firm

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE ministry of Trade and Industry has heeded President John Magufuli's directive that the ministry and the relevant authorities ensure the investor, Mahashree agro-processing Ltd is given land for sugarcane plantation and establishment of a factory.

The president made the statement on February 12, 2021, when he inaugurated the Mahashree agro-

processing factory in Morogoro, saying the investor had shown interest in sugar production in the country.

He directed that the ministry in collaboration with the Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) to make sure the investor gets land for investment in sugar production.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry indicates that

a team of experts from the ministry, EPZA, TIC, and Sugar Board of Tanzania as well as representatives from the Mahashree Agro-processing Tz Ltd visited Kigoma recently for the purpose.

"Kasulu District Commissioner, Colonel Simon Anange, and the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Joseph Kashushura received the delegation from the ministry, EPZA, TIC, Sugar Board, and

representative of Mahashree Agro-processing Tz Ltd" reads the statement.

The firm has obtained land of about 37,662 hectares bordering river Malagalasi. It is situated in three wards of Heru Ushingo, Kitanga and Nyamidaho comprising seven villages of Nyarugusu, Kiyungwe, Kitanga, Kuntundu, Nyamidaho, Kigadye, and Heru Ushingo.

The investment land is located

between 70 and 110 kilometres from Kasulu District headquarters. The resident director of Mahashree Agro-processing Tz Ltd is Dhaval Maheshwari.

The representative was interested in the land, promising to conduct a visibility study on the land and thereafter will start sugar cane plantation and building of sugar factory.

Kasulu DC, Col Simon Anange

thanked the ministry of Trade and Industry, TIC, EPZA, and SBT for choosing land in Kasulu for the big investment.

The deputy minister for Trade and Industry, Prof Riziki Shemdoe held talks with the representative of the investor and assured him of the government support and cooperation in efforts to ensure that such a big investment starts as soon as possible.

# Don't surrender your ATM cards after securing loans, teachers told

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

OFFICE of the President (Regional Administration and Local Government) has called on teachers in the country to avoid surrendering their ATM cards whenever they procure loans from financial institutions.

It also instructed for taking disciplinary steps including dismissal of any teacher who will be found to be a drunkard and for not reporting for work.

The office's deputy Permanent Secretary (Education) Gerald Mweli gave the remarks yesterday

when he addressed teachers and other workers at Ilboru secondary school here.

He said there are reports regarding teachers who procure bank loans surrendering their ATM cards to the banks.

"In my visits to many district councils I used to hear there was this problem of teachers surrendering their ATM cards to banks whenever they procure loans, I know there aren't such teachers here, or am I wrong?" he asked.

In regard to drinking and absence from work places, Mweli said there are areas in the country, including Arusha where

he visited where the two problems were widespread.

"In that we have issued a general directive that if any teacher will be found with these problems, disciplinary steps should be taken against him/her including instant dismissal," he said.

He praised Ilboru Secondary School for performing outstandingly in their national examinations and called on the teachers to work hard to prepare experts according to market needs.

"In the education sector we have been assigned with one major task - to prepare labour force for

other sectors, hence if we do not perform well, we kill other sectors," he said.

Arusha Region Education Officer Halifax Masukiri said the region has in place various strategies to ensure it leads in all national examinations.

"In the region, teachers and other regional leaders have in place strategies which we believe will make us lead in every national examination from those of Std IV to Form VI," Masukiri said.

Earlier, the School's Headmaster Denis Otieno said the school has 840 students and 69 teachers and claimed up to now the school had no title deed.

# RC directs women to abide by ethics in children's upbringing

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

WOMEN in the country are required to abide by ethics in the upkeep of children in order to eradicate incidents of child abuse including rape and sodomy to women and children.

The call was made by Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, Zainab Telack at the event to mark International women day (IWD) for

the region held at Ulowa ward in Ushetu, Kahama District. "We, women can eradicate rape and sodomy for the children if we know where your child is at all time, who are their friends and are playing with whom, as we believe this will greatly reduce child abuse," the RC said.

Telack appealed to all women in the country to jointly make vows to eliminate child abuse if they abide by ethics in their children's upbringing.

She also called on the women to continue working hard to contribute economically to their families and the nation in general, and added that they should assist their spouses to raise income

for their families, they should not leave the task entirely to them.

Shinyanga Region Administrative Secretary Albert Msovela said researches available show that there are still acts of child abuse in the society and decay of ethics among children is contributed by parents and guardians who are not close to the children. He said Shinyanga Region has resolved to fight acts of gender based violence (GBV) by empowering women, but also to provide education on GBV issues through various existing groups, including those that aim for their economic advancement.

THE COMPANY ACT CAP 212 OF 2002  
REGENCY GROUP LIMITED P.O BOX 16993 - ARUSHA COMPANY NO. 111281  
NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO WIND UP VOLUNTARILY  
NOTICE: I have given to the general public that by special resolution REGENCY GROUP LIMITED, dated 20th December, 2020.  
TAKE NOTICE: That all the creditors are hereby requested to furnish to the chairman with full details of their claims against the Company at the Company address within 21 days from the date of this Notice.  
Dated at Dar es Salaam on 25th January, 2021.  
JOHN JULIUS MWAMPAMBA Liquidator

THE COMPANY ACT CAP 212 OF 2002  
ASEEL GROUP LIMITED P.O BOX 13242-ARUSHA COMPANY NO. 73852  
NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO WIND UP VOLUNTARILY  
NOTICE: I have given to the general public that by special resolution made by members of ASEEL GROUP LIMITED, dated 20th December, 2020.  
TAKE NOTICE: That all the creditors are hereby requested to furnish to the chairman with full details of their claims against the Company at the Company address within 21 days from the date of this Notice.  
Dated at Dar es Salaam on 25th January, 2021.  
JOHN JULIUS MWAMPAMBA Liquidator



**THE ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES IN TANZANIA**  
Plot. No 01 Lumumba/Makamba Street, P.O.Box 13234, Dar-es-salaam, Tanzania  
Tel/Fax: +255 22 2184508/2184667, Email: info@aphfta.org

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ) FOR GOODS/SERVICES

APHFTA is an Umbrella Non-government Organization (NGO) of the private (self-sustaining) health sector in Tanzania established in 1994. It serves at public forum for the private health sector and provides a comprehensive array of advocacy, administrative, knowledge sharing, and networking products and services to the Private Health Care Sector (PHCS).

**APHFTA is looking for vendors who are capable of providing the following goods or services for its head office in Dar es Salaam and Zonal Offices in Mwanza,Iringa,Tabora,Njombe Singida & Morogoro.**

- Category 1:** Catering Services
- Category 2:** Office stationeries and expendable
- Category 3:** Printing and photocopying Services
- Category 4:** Ticketing and Travel agency services
- Category 5:** Office supplies consumables
- Category 6:** Air condition maintenance and services
- Category 7:** Auto Repair Garage and Car Maintenance Services Centre
- Category 8:** Graphics designs
- Category 9:** Vehicle hires and logistics services.
- Category 10:** Petrol stations and fueling services deploying fuel cards system.

### Deadline and Additional Information

The interested bidder should pick the detailed RFQ at APHFTA offices for respective category or categories stated above from 12-16 March 2021 from 10:00 to 16:00 hrs. A prospective bidder having any questions regarding the detailed RFQs shall contact APHFTA at: [info@aphfta.org](mailto:info@aphfta.org) from 18-23 March 2021 prior to the due date and time for submission of quotes. **The deadline for submission of the proposal is 26th March 2021 by 15:00hrs (East Africa Time).** Please quote respective RFQ category number in the email subject.

All responses should be submitted in hard copies, no electronic or email copies will be evaluated. Responses to our RFQ should be sent to the physical address below

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA)**  
Lumumba/Makamba Street Opp: Jakaya Kikwete Youth Centre Ground  
P.O.Box 13234 Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML) TANZANIA.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The purpose of the EOI/ RFI is to explore the supply market for competent Suppliers with the requisite skills, knowledge and financial capacity to Supply and Deliver of various Goods and Services to Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) in accordance with the RFI documents.

The responses to this EOI/RFI will be used to shortlist capable Suppliers that will be invited to respond to the Main Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Various Goods and Services for Geita Gold Mining Ltd. The details and dates for the issue of the Main Tender will be communicated to shortlisted Companies only. It is necessary to respond to this EOI/ RFI in order to be pre-qualified to be considered for the Main Tender.

### Scope of work:

Reference Number	Project Description
GGME01162	CONSTRUCTION AND ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION OF THE 33/11KV SUBSTATION FACILITIES
GGME01163	MANUFACTURE, DELIVER, OFFLOAD, INSTALL AND COMMISSION OF BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS)
GGME01164	MANUFACTURE, DELIVER, OFFLOAD, INSTALL AND COMMISSION OF EARTHING TRANSFORMERS /NEUTRAL EARTHING RESISTORS AND NEUTRAL EARTHING COMPENSATORS
GGME01165	MANUFACTURE, DELIVER, OFFLOAD, INSTALL AND COMMISSION OF MEDIUM VOLTAGE SWITCHGEAR
GGME01051	PROVISION OF AGA LOADERS REBUILD

### II. SPECIAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR PROVISION,SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS AND SERVICES

The below information forms the minimum requirements in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out:

- Approved dealership (where applicable)
- Capability
- Warranty (where applicable)
- Previous supply records of at least three (3) Clients on similar goods
- Previous experience on doing the same service

### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

The below information is required in order to conclude the prequalification evaluation set out below:

- Details of business presence in Tanzania
- Details on Compliance of the Mining Act (Local Content) Regulations 2018, including:
  - Approved Local Content Plan by Mining Commission
  - Ownership: Please provide the following information about your organisation's ownership/partners/members:
    - For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
    - For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.
- Quality assurance & Quality control plan/ procedures in place for the execution of similar type of work, Copy of ISO or any other certification as applicable.
- Service provider's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for the last 3 (three) years.

### IV. PREQUALIFICATION EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS

In evaluating the interested bidder, GGML will consider the following:

- Supply Reliability** – Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the goods supplied, particularly in the Mining Sector.
- Capability** – Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the supply of services and goods to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
- Permits and Certifications** – Prospective Bidders to provide details and evidence of permits and registrations issued by the relevant Government authorities, and any other statutory bodies regulating the related goods/services.
- Local Content** – Prospective Bidders to demonstrate their compliance with the requirements as set out in the Tanzania Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018, as amended by having an approved Local Content Plan.

**Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER of the goods they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at [geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com](mailto:geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com) not later than 0830 A.M 19 March 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.**

=END OF ADVERTISEMENT=



Former Information, Culture, Arts and Sports minister Dr Harrison Mwakyembe (R) presents a trophy to Fatma Alloo, one of the founders of the Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tamwa), at an International Women's Day event held in Dar es Salaam on Monday. Looking on are Tamwa chairperson Joyce Shebe (2nd-R) and executive director Rose Reuben. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

## Govt issues 3.6bn/- for construction of Madaba Council offices in Ruvuma

By Guardian Correspondent, Madaba

THE government has provided 3.6bn/- to implement Madaba Council headquarters building project in Ruvuma Region including seven quarters for the Council's staff.

Speaking here early this week, the Council's Executive Director Shaffi Kassim Mpenda said for the first project, the government provided 3bn/-.

He said so far the building was 100 per cent complete with 2.914bn/- spent and that the building has started operating, and greatly

solved the acute shortage of offices faced by council workers.

He said from the remaining money the Council also managed to buy office furniture including furniture for the conference hall including the microphone system.

Mpenda mentioned another project currently being implemented by the Council as the construction of seven houses for its staff whose cost 600m/- was also provided by the government.

He said out of the sum, 300m/- was set aside for the

construction of one-storey building for the district executive Director and the rest for the six quarters for the council's departmental heads.

"We thank very much the government through our President John Magufuli as we have surely been favoured as our council is still young hence there is a great need for various infrastructure," Mpenda said.

Madaba Council is among three councils in Songea District others are Songea Municipal Council and Songea District Council.

## 480 pupils sit on the floor due to shortage of desks

By Correspondent Deogratius Nsokolo, Kigoma

UVINZA special education primary school in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region is facing a shortage of desks, teachers and poor infrastructure affecting pupil's academic performance.

The schools infrastructure including classrooms dormitories are in bad condition forcing pupils to share beds and sit on the floor during learning sessions.

The school's head teacher, Goma Kamani said this when briefing Education, Science and Technology Minister, Prof Joyce Ndalichako who visited the school yesterday. He said the school has a total of 480 pupils, among them, 197 are disabled.

According to Kamani, the school has six teachers who teach special education adding the actual demand is 20 teachers.

"We need more teachers for special education; we are facing a shortage of desks, this affects pupils' performance academically because they do sit on the floor during learning sessions," he added noting the dormitories are in bad condition with a limited number of beds.

The head teacher informed that construction of two dormitories has stopped over lack of funds. He said they had earlier received 150m/- from the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) as well as 12m/- from the office of the district director in Uvinza, but they structures have not been completed.

He called upon the government to continue supporting the schools effort to improve infrastructures as well as learning facilities.

One of the teachers, Bahatisha Bisongwa said: "The standard teacher-pupil ratio for mentally challenged children is 1:5, but a single class at the school accommodates a big number of pupils, and most of sit on the floor."

Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Joyce Ndalichako said the school should be given priority and ensure it receives all the needed equipment. She said the district director must prioritize funding for the school's infrastructure improvement.

"The district authority should invest at the school to ensure pupils do better in the final examinations," said Minister Ndalichako.

He instructed the director to find solution to the challenges facing the school including the shortage of desks as well as construction of dormitories. He directed authorities to immediately disburse the 15m/- required for completion of the dormitories project.

## Tanzanian firm chosen the best startups among 19 African states

By Guardian Reporter

A Tanzanian company "Agrinfo" chosen as one of the best startups among 19 African countries in the grand final of the Next Innovation with Japan (NINJA) Business Plan Competition held in Japan.

On February 26, 2021, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Nikkei, the largest economic daily newspaper in Japan, hosted an online pitch event focusing on new technology businesses in Africa.

In the event, 10 African entrepreneurs, who were selected from more than 2,700 "startups" (new business enterprises) through pre-competitions held in 19 African countries, presented their business plans in front of thousands of web audiences mainly

from Japanese companies and investors. One of these top 10 companies is Agrinfo, a Tanzanian startup with a mission of providing farmers with decision support systems allowing them to sustainably optimize their operations. As a result of this final competition, Agrinfo was awarded the 3rd excellent startup company in Africa.

JICA would sincerely like to congratulate Agrinfo for this amazing achievement, which was able to compete with a number of other excellent startups in Africa.

As a prize of the competition, Agrinfo is going to be presented with a special visit to Japan, where Agrinfo will be able to have opportunities of interacting and matching up with Japanese companies and investors.

Agrinfo's CEO and founder, Rose Peter

Funja said: "I am extremely grateful for the opportunity; it is just by grace of God that we came up third amongst very well pitched startups, we feel indebted to continue putting in the work after so much trust and confidence. We continue to have Japanese companies reaching out to us, for a possibility of working together because of the exposure and for that we are humbled."

Since 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, JICA has been examining more than 2,700 startups from 19 African countries (incl. Tanzania) to encourage digital innovation in the continent.

In Tanzania, the three companies—Tanzania Majijibu Company Limited, Toolboksi Technologies Limited, and Agrinfo selected from 90 applicants were able to win

the opportunity by having top innovative ideas.

Moreover, competing with other winners from the rest 18 African countries, Agrinfo was chosen as the 3rd most innovative startup in the African continent.

In Africa, JICA intends to collaborate with various stakeholders to develop entrepreneurship, identify issues and struggles experienced by entrepreneurs, make policy recommendations for business environment improvement, promote collaboration among enterprises across industries, match up with Japanese companies and promote investment, contribute to "Industrialization", and thereby strengthen ties between African countries and Japan.



Yahya Ali Khamis, legislator for Zanzibar's Kijini constituency, speaks at a meeting of Water ministry officials and the Parliamentary Agriculture, Water and Livestock Committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Council vows to demolish houses built in violation of Grand Plan

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

TABORA Municipal Council has begun hunting for the people who were building houses without abiding by the 2015-35 Tabora Municipality Grand Plan in order to take legal

steps against them.

The remarks were given here yesterday by the Council Executive Director, Bosco Nduguru when responding to question from Councillors at their meeting for the Second quarter.

He said in the plan

houses that are to be built in Kanyenye and Gongoni wards and some areas of Chemchem, Tambukareli and Mbugani wards should be one-storey buildings.

Nduguru said all those who would be found to go against the plan will be directed to demolish

them and build one-storey structures instead.

He also called on all who own houses in the centre of the Municipality to stop the habit of selling their houses, as they were supposed to enter into agreement with people

wanting to construct storeyed structures and become part in their ownership.

He said he has directed Acting Buildings Inspector Mohamed Mussa to visit various areas of the town every day to enforce the directives.

Earlier, Ikomwa Ward Councillor salum Msamazi wanted to know why construction of ordinary houses was going on in Gongoni ward while the Municipality Plan unveiled in 2019 prohibited construction of such houses.

He called on top

Municipal officials to ensure they supervise the plan that was endorsed for modernizing the town and become attractive.

Tabora Municipal Head of Urban Planning, Lands and Natural Resources, Deo Msilui said in the endorsed plan, Kanyenye and gongoni wards the

houses to be built should be of two to six storeys.

He said the central area of Chemchem Ward should have houses of five to ten storeys, while some areas of Tambukareli and Mbugani wards overlooking the central market the houses should be of two to four storeys.

# House panel praises govt for commitment to improve specialised medical treatment

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

PARLIAMENTARY Community Services Development Committee has praised the government, through the Health ministry for its commitment to invest in and improve medical specialised treatment in the country thereby reducing medical costs for Tanzanians seeking such treatment abroad.

The remarks were given by the Committee's Chairman, Stanislaus Nyongo at the panel's sitting when it met here with experts from the Health ministry and its institutions recently.

"I praise all the institutions that submitted their reports, I praise you for your patriotism in saving the lives of Tanzanians and reducing the government's costs for

treatment abroad," said Nyongo.

Nyongo said the committee will continue to work together with the Health ministry and its institutions to ensure Tanzanians receive better medical treatment in the country, and through the Union Parliament, it will continue advising the government to invest more in specialized medical services.

Earlier, reading the report of the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), the Institute's Managing Director Dr Julius Mwaeselage said huge investment done by government to strengthen its infrastructures for specialized medical services delivery that incorporated the procurement of modern equipment and construction of new buildings have reduced referrals of cancer patients to seek

treatment from abroad from 164 patients in 2014/15 to 5 in 2019/20.

Dr Mwaeselage said the new infrastructures and equipment enabled the government to save 10.4bn/- by not referring 206 cancer patients abroad, while patients from neighbouring countries who came for treatment at the institute increased from 12 in 2014/15 to 73 in 2019/20 thereby increasing the government revenues.

Submitting his report for Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), Dr Onaji Vivian said in the period of for years the institute conducted 43,200 specialized surgeries that cost 16.5bn/- in local currency and if they had been referred abroad the cost would have reached 54.9bn, thereby saving the government 38.4bn/-.

Dr Onanji said the fifth phase

government has provided 7.9bn/- for the construction of a modern Angio-Suite vascular surgery.

"Among others, the laboratory will enable the institute to conduct head surgery without having to open the skull of the patient," he added.

In regard to Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI), its Managing Director Prof Mohammed Janabi said the five-year old institute has been treating heart patients from all the regions in the country who were referred from designated regional and district hospitals, as well as those coming directly from foreign countries.

He said the government, through the Health Ministry provided 1bn/- for the purchase of medical equipment for the institute.



A pupil at Ukombozi Primary School at Mifyome village in Iringa Region washes her hands yesterday to minimise the risk of contracting communicable diseases. Photo: Friday Simbaya

## NHIF registers 2,298 members in July-December 2020 period

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

THE National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in Ruvuma Region has registered 2,298 members from students' groups and members of Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) from July to December last year.

This was revealed here recently by the Ruvuma Region NHIF Manager Hance Mwanjenja when speaking to The Guardian in his office.

He mentioned the groups that registered with NHIF as including private individuals, children, workers from private institutions and religious organisations.

He said big efforts were being taken to ensure every individual citizen is reached to join the Fund through a special 'TOTO Afya' programme for those under 18 years of age.

He said a huge programme has been established to mobilise groups for the motorcyclists, drivers, food vendors and small entrepreneurs to also join the Fund.

However, he said much effort will be directed to farmers in AMCOS and primary and secondary school students.

Mwanjenja that the regional aim was to reach new members by providing education on health insurance so that every member knows the importance of having health insurance.

He said the Fund has also registered dispensaries, health centres, district and regional hospitals and pharmacies to ensure better services for NHIF members.

He said NHIF in Ruvuma Region expects to increase the number of members via various groups including cooperatives, health, students, entrepreneurs and children.

# President Mwinyi pledges to work together with Amb Bashiru Ally

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has promised to work together with Amb Bashiru Ally Kakurwa, the Union Government Chief Secretary to enable him perform his duties well.

The pledge was given yesterday when the Amb Bashiru Ally visited Dr Mwinyi at Zanzibar State House for introduction to the Zanzibar leader following his appointment to

the post.

Dr Mwinyi said the entire Zanzibar government leadership will continue to cooperate with Amb Bashiru.

He said such cooperation was needed in order to attain the set goals in serving all the people of the United Republic of Tanzania to achieve development.

President Mwinyi congratulated Amb Bashiru for being appointed as Chief Secretary and saying he has high hopes on

him from his hard work.

For his part, Amb Bashiru said he expects more cooperation from the Zanzibar government and its entire leadership.

He promised President Mwinyi that he would make sure the cooperation was strengthened between him and his Zanzibar counterpart, the Zanzibar Chief Cabinet Secretary, Eng Zena Ahmed Said.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Amb Bashiru met with and held discussions with his

counterpart, Eng Zena Ahmed in the latter's office at Zanzibar State House.

In the discussions the two pledged to strengthen the existing cooperation and to jointly monitor their activities for better implementation of their duties.

Amb Bashiru was appointed the Union Government Chief Secretary by President John Magufuli on February 26 2021 and sworn in the following day.



Lawi Odiero (R), an official with the eastern zone of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), presents a working licence to Tanzania Adventist Media Channels director Rev Christopher Ungani (C) in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on is TCRA legal affairs officer Violet Eseko. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# AU endorses candidate for post of UNIDO director-general

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union Commission has held a briefing session on the endorsement of Dr Arkebe Oqubay, Africa's sole candidate for the post of Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) meets with Resident

Heads of Mission The African Union Commission has held a briefing session on the endorsement of Dr Arkebe Oqubay, Africa's sole candidate for the post of Director-General of UNIDO. The Commission invited

resident Heads of Mission in Addis Ababa to inform that the 38th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union held on 3 and 4 February 2021, unanimously endorsed the candidature of Dr Arkebe Oqubay as the sole African candidate for the

post of Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). At the event, Albert Muchanga, Commissioner of Department of Economic Affairs and Trade, Industry and Mining at the African

Union Commission, noted that UNIDO must be led by a competent Director-General and expressed his confidence in the world-class calibre of Dr Arkebe who has hands-on experience in industrial policy formulation and implementation

and proven leadership capabilities to ensure equitable and sustainable global industrialization in developing world. Dr Arkebe underlined that UNIDO is expected to play a much more prominent role in post-COVID-19 era.

He presented the themes and pillars of his vision focusing on carbon-neutral industrialization, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and emphasized that fostering global collaboration of all partners and stakeholders

to promote industry in the developing countries would be his quintessential mission. In addition, remarks were made by members of the diplomatic corps supporting the candidate and expressed readiness to engage in the continental campaign.

## Iringa Region residents laud govt for completion of water projects

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

RESIDENTS in various localities within Iringa District in Iringa Region have commended the government for successful construction of various water projects.

The villagers claimed that they were previously forced to walk for long distances in search of the precious liquid.

Speaking during a visit by CCM regional political committee, the residents said they have been experiencing water woes for many years, the situation which contributed to the outbreak of waterborne diseases including cholera.

Barika Issa, a resident of Izazi village in the district thanked the government through the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) for completing a water project, thus they are now accessing clean and safe water.

She said: "We were spending hours in search of water; some of our girls could not go to school to help their parents to fetch water."

Tumaini Mvogola said that they were drinking water from unsafe sources and sometimes sharing it with animals including cattle, goats and donkeys.

Richard Luhala, Chairman of Mfyome village in Kiwere ward, thanked the government for completing renovation of a water project in their village.

He said they can now access clean and safe water throughout the day. He said the project had stopped functioning since 2010. He said previously, the villagers were buying a 20 litres bucket of water at 1,000/-.

Iringa regional political committee chaired by CCM regional chairman Dr Abel Nyamahanga visited the villages to inspect implementation of various projects as per the 2020-2025 CCM election manifesto.

RUWASA Manager in Iringa District, Eng Masoud Samila said that 96 percent of Izazi villages have access to clean and safe water. He said they are working to complete the remaining four percent.

He said construction of the Izazi-Mnadani water project started in December 2014 through the Water Sector Development Programme (WSDP) and the Water and Sanitation Sub-Programme (RWSSP).

Engineer Samila added that the Pawaga-Mlenge water project implemented through WSDP and WSSP will benefit about 30,258 residents from Ilolompya, Mboliboli, Itunundi, and Mlenge wards.

He said the agency is also repairing water projects at Mfyome village in Kiwere ward. RUWASA manager in Iringa Region, Eng Joyce Bahati said that many water projects have been inherited from the council after the establishment of the agency.

The ruling party's chairman in the region, Dr Abel Nyamahanga called upon water users to protect the projects since they have been implemented by the government at higher costs.

"The government spent billions of money to ensure you have access to clean water. Let us protect the projects so that they last longer and benefit many people," he said.

# AfDB named world's best multilateral financial institution by Global Finance

By Special Correspondent

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has been named the best multilateral financial institution in the world for 2021.

The bank received global recognition from renowned international U.S. magazine Global Finance for its path-breaking efforts as it transforms itself into a solutions bank for Africa, through a combination of its operations, knowledge services and investment positioning, which continue to help accelerate Africa's development.

The award is an affirmation of the success of the operational strategy being pursued by the African Development Bank under the leadership of Akinwumi Adesina, who was unanimously re-elected

to a second consecutive five-year term as President of the institution last year.

"With widespread expectations of consolidation in multiple sectors and all around the world, investment banks will play a leading role in reshaping the world economy post-pandemic," said Joseph Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of Global Finance on announcing the winning list.

"Companies need more than ever to understand the specialities and skills that investment banks bring to the table. Global Finance awards are a valuable guide."

In 2020 the AfDB received broad recognition for responding swiftly to the needs of the African continent in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic



**Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, said: "I am delighted at Global Finance's recognition of the African Development Bank as the best multilateral financial institution in the world in 2021. I am proud that for the first time since its establishment in 1964, the African Development Bank has risen to a position as a foremost globally-respected financial institution."**

and for its pioneering role in the global social bond market.

It was selected the same year in a poll of global bond market players as the best issuer for its \$3 billion dollar-denominated Fight Covid-19 social bond,

issued on 27 March 2020.

The Bank's Fight Covid-19 Social bond was the largest ever US dollar denominated bond in world history, floated on the Luxembourg stock exchange, and listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq Sustainable Bond Platform.

Also, in March 2020, the bank received the Environmental Finance's 2020 bond of the year award—SSA category—for a successful one billion Norwegian Krone social bond issued in 2019.

It was the first social bond ever launched in the Norwegian market, and the African Development Bank's first transaction in Norwegian Krone.

Since 2017, the African Development Bank has launched nearly \$5 billion worth of such instruments, denominated in US

dollars, Euros and Norwegian Krone.

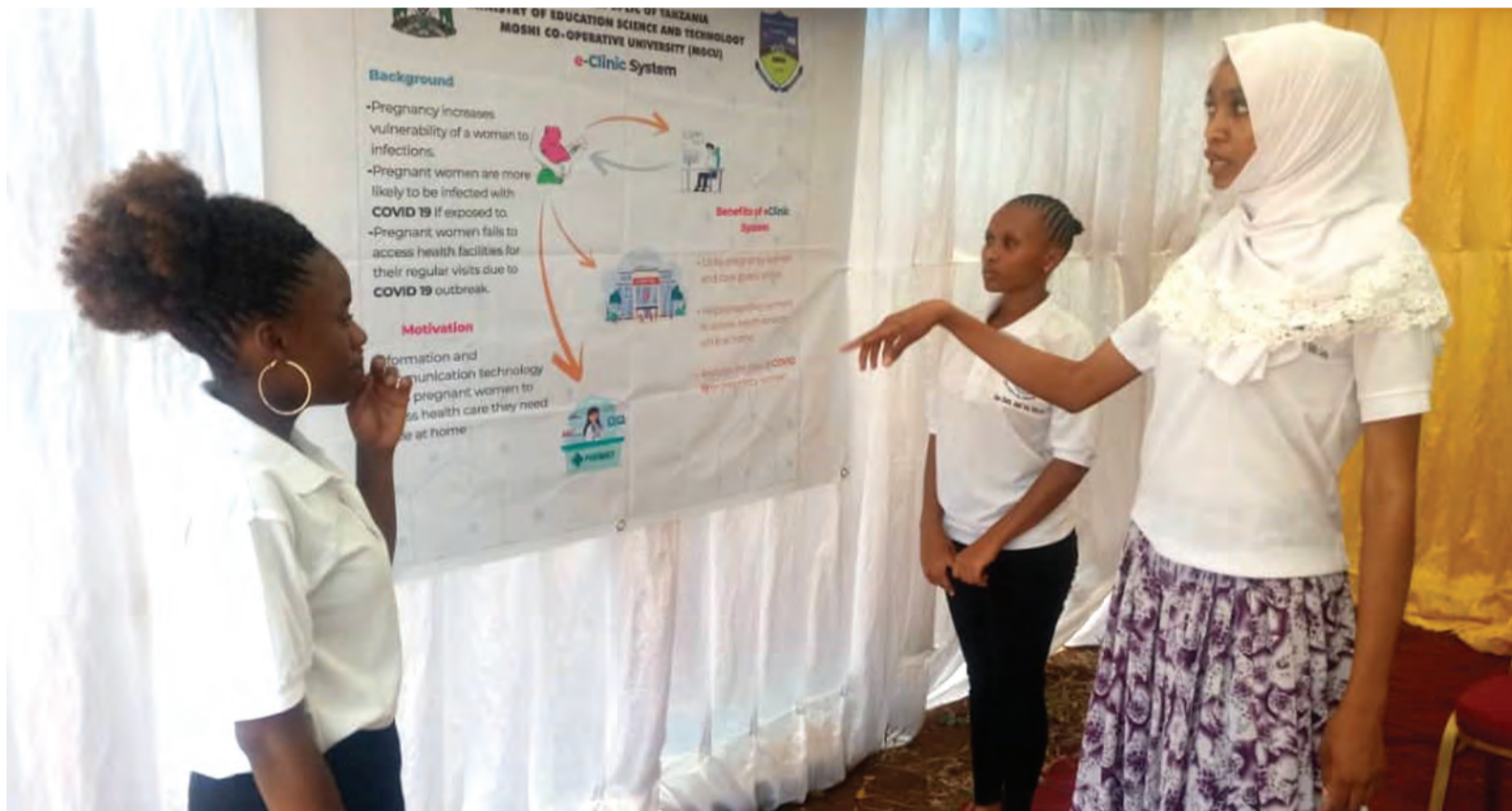
Bank President Akinwumi Adesina, said: "I am delighted at Global Finance's recognition of the African Development Bank as the best multilateral financial institution in the world in 2021. I am proud that for the first time since its establishment in 1964, the African Development Bank has risen to a position as a foremost globally-respected financial institution."

Adesina described the award as one which was "duly earned" and credited the bank's continued success to a new culture of results, strong client orientation, leadership, creativity and continued innovation by a team of excellent staff across all its jurisdictions. He added: "We are constantly innovating, developing and

deploying financial, investment and knowledge products to meet the rapidly changing needs of African countries and the private sector."

In February 2021, the ratings agency S&P Global affirmed the African Development Bank's "AAA/A-1+" foreign currency issuer credit rating with a stable outlook. The bank has continued to receive extraordinary support from its shareholders, including an increase in its subscribed capital from \$93 billion to \$208 billion, the largest increase in its capital since its establishment.

According to Adesina, The extraordinary support of our shareholders and the strong corporate governance of the bank's board of directors have served us well. We will continue to leverage our resources to better serve our clients.



Amina Juma (R), a third year Moshi Cooperative University student, explains how she and colleagues Patricia Dismas and Naomi Ngamanja, established an e-clinic system that they say offers pregnant mothers some protection against coronavirus infection. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

## Govt vows to ensure completion of water projects in Lindi District

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

THE government has mobilized itself to make sure various development projects, including water projects are completed so as to solve challenges facing the society in accessing the service.

In the circumstances, Shaibu Ndemanga, Lindi District Commissioner in Lindi Region said the government provided

a total of 8bn/- for implementing water projects in FY 2020/21.

Ndemanga gave the remarks when speaking at a public rally in Mtama District to mark International Women Day early this week at Nyangao Primary School grounds.

He said the funds have started being utilized in various water projects in Ruhokwe, Mtua, Shuka, Rutamba wards and other areas.

He said the aim of the

government was to ensure rural women, who hold great responsibility in development issues, spurn the challenges on water availability in their areas.

He said the government plans to complete the huge water project for Nyanganamara and Nyangao divisions by erecting a reservoir capable to hold one million litres of water that would be supplied to all areas of Mtama and Nyangao wards.

Earlier, reading her report on behalf of fellow women, Lindi District Community Development Officer Yolenda Makumbuli cited challenges that women face by not being ready to work together with legal apparatuses including police and the Judiciary when they are subjected to gender based violence.

She cited other challenges as including some husbands abandoning their families leaving upkeep burden to women.

Meanwhile, the DC called upon the women to appropriately supervise income and expenditure of their families which they earn from their own sweat.

In regard to cashew nuts and simsim production, DC Ndemanga said according to statistics in his office, in 2020/21 season the two crops earned the District Council more than 43bn/-, but still this has not changed the lives of many residents.

## GIZ, GIAE and IITA target job creation and increase in productivity of maize, cassava in Nigeria

LAGOS

THE Green Innovation Centers for the Agriculture and Food Sector Program (GIAE) - Nigeria funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) implemented by German International Cooperation (GIZ) have launched an eighteen months project to boost maize and cassava production and create job opportunities for youth and women in the value chains.

The new project will be implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in the four selected states, Kano, Kaduna for maize, and Oyo, Ogun state for cassava value chain.

The project will build capacities of smallholder farmers on productivity and farm safety technologies. And create job opportunities for women and youths through the establishment of commercial seed enterprises for retailing of disease-free improved stems, marketing of aflasafe and purdue improved crop storage (PICS) bags an improved agricultural storage bag.

According to the Project Manager, Godwin Atser, the grant addresses three major activity areas which are: (I) integrated pest management (IPM) with a special focus on tackling the presence of the invasive arthropod pest, Fall Army Worm (FAW); (II) aflatoxin and food safety with special focus on training of female maize growers, household caregivers and other actors on food safety and pre-/post-harvest management; and (III) building a cassava seed system where farmers will be involved in the production and sale of quality cassava stems to generate additional income.

"The geographic coverage of the maize value chain is Kaduna and Kano; and for the cassava value chain is Ogun and Oyo," he added.

The grant will also increase the capacity of farmers and extension agents in modern maize and cassava production using digitalized solutions on good agricultural practices (GAP), Six Steps to Cassava Weed Management and Best Planting Practices, and other IITA digital tools like the herbicide calculator, AKILIMO, Seed Tracker, and cassava e-market.

Sanne Chipeta, Head of Project, Green Innovation Center for the Agriculture and Food Sector—Nigeria, GIZ noted that the collaboration with IITA will help to further improve productivity and food safety in the value chains, contributing to food and nutritional security. In addition, the individual activities will help to create new employment and livelihood opportunities, especially for young men and women. She expressed optimism that the collaboration with IITA would overall add value and create positive results in the maize and cassava value chain.

To execute the project in the target states, IITA as well as previous projects implemented by GIZ in the target states will leverage on the knowledge generated by previous and ongoing projects like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Building an Economically Sustainable Integrated Cassava Seed System, Phase 2 (BASICS-II); AgResults Aflasafe, African Cassava agronomy Initiative (ACAI), IFAD-Zero Hunger Project, Youth in Agribusiness Projects and TAAT Programs; ongoing State and Federal Government-funded agricultural programs including the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)-Anchor Borrowers Program that is being implemented by several state governments for various value chains.



Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute staff follow proceedings at an International Women's Day event held at the Dar es Salaam-based health facility on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Resource center at Miyuyu Village, Newala District

## Making Miyuyu Resource Centre a hub for environmental knowledge in Newala

By Guardian Correspondent, Newala

BUOYED by success in introducing renewable energy, Miyuyu village in Newala District, has taken one more step to consolidate their gains and build an environmentally conscious generation of villagers.

Miyuyu, a model village under a project known as “Leading the Change” that is being implemented by being a local Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Mtwara Action For Self Help Activities (MASHA), has now established a Resource Center to sustain environmental awareness education.

The project that is funded by World Wildlife Fund, Tanzania (WWF-TZ) through the support of the Swedish International

Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) had led to the installation of renewable energy sources, increasing the use of improved cook stoves, and establishment of a business center.

According to MASHA Director, Allan Mkopoka, the resource centre would act as environmental or natural resource hub whereby communities in the village and other surrounding villages access knowledge on various environmental management issues.

“We achieved a lot under the project in the installation of renewable energy appliances such as solar PV and improved cook stoves (ICS) and establishment of the business center and saloon that both use solar energy as

source of energy,” Mkopoka said.

He said they have now decided to build a resource centre that would help villagers in and around the village to get more knowledge on environmental issues.

According to the WWF energy coordinator, WWF decided to support MASHA to establish a resource centre at Miyuyu village in order to promote more awareness on renewable energy and conservation of nature in Newala district.

“The resource centre has a lot of different reading materials and television programs. It’s my hope that people from different corners in Newala district will come and study renewable energy and environmental conservation at the centre,” Kessy pointed out.

A renewable energy consultant, Roben Kamsige said there is a need to create a generation of people who have the knowledge and positive attitude on environmental conservation.

“To achieve that we should put more emphasis on our children by encouraging them to read books, journals, leaflets, factsheets, brochures etc concerns with environmental conservation,” he said.

Kamsige explained that this should act as the primary goals of establishing a resource centre in Miyuyu, since the village is the place where the main water sources supplying Masasi and Nachingwea Districts, Mbwini are located.

A Miyuyu village resident, Zuaminina Abdallah was excited

about the establishment of the resource centre. “Through the resource centre, I learned the use of solar energy in the preservation of food products such as mushroom, un-ripened mangoes and selling them. This will enable me to get money to support my family,” she said.

Another villager, Phillip Namkodya said that he has visited the resource centre several times since its opening and has learned a lot of renewable energy technologies that also support the conservation of the environment.

The most interesting thing that I have learned is on the plantation of fast-growing trees that mature early and being ready to be processed into charcoal. I think I will use the knowledge that I get from the centre,” he said.

## Adoption of fingerling production technologies transforms livelihoods in Kenya

NAIROBI

Zinath Deen, a fish farmer from Vihiga County in Western Kenya. She has been practicing fish farming since 2012 in her farm called Tigoi Fish Farm. What began as a hobby for her later transformed into full-fledged business.

Over the years, Zinath has been struggling to produce fingerlings due to inadequate information and technology. She however experienced a turnaround upon her participation in a training on production of tilapia fingerlings.

Organized by the Aquacultural Association of Kenya in collaboration with the Aquaculture Compact (TAC) of Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), Zinath’s eyes practically opened to a world of opportunities through best practices in fish farming.

“I realized that I was doing the production of fingerlings the wrong way and resolved to do things the right way henceforth,” Zinath said.

Sponsored by the African Development Bank as part of its Feed Africa Initiative, TAAT’s main objective is to improve the business of agriculture across Africa by raising agricultural productivity, mitigating risks and promoting diversification and processing in 18 agricultural value chains within eight priority intervention areas.

The programme increases agricultural productivity through the deployment of proven and high-performance agricultural technologies at scale along selected nine commodity compacts which include aquaculture.

The bank, through the TAAT Aquaculture Compact (TAC) disseminates aquaculture technologies at scale by increasing aquaculture value chain actors’ productivity, increasing fish protein consumption and enhancing sustainability across the value chain.

Led by the WorldFish Centre, TAC responds to emerging opportunities for partnerships, influence and impact in fisheries and aquaculture across Africa.

Through its collaboration with the Kenyan Aquacultural Association, the compact was able to train fish farmers and breeders including Zinath on several technologies which included production of fingerlings in hapas, smoking of catfish in modern smoking kiln, value addition and production of affordable fish feed using locally available ingredients. Women and youth were the prime targets of the training with a view to creating jobs while assuring food security.

Following the training in 2019, Zinath and her fellow fish farmers, by the fourth quarter of 2020, were able to increase their production tenfold. Their annual production increased from 120,000 to 360,000 mono sex tilapia. Annual income also increased from \$16,649 to \$49,440.

With increased income through her fish farm production, Zinath was able to increase her number of employees from 2 to 5. She was also able to transfer the technology to 38 farmers who participated in the training sessions she organised in her farm.

Zinath’s experience as well as that of her colleagues, further accentuates the fact that with right technology, fish farmers are able to graduate from subsistence to commercial producers of fish hence improving their livelihoods through increased income.

The TAC team will therefore continue on this trajectory of disseminating technology to more farmers so as to integrate it with the other methods of fingerling production.

## Ministry of Land warn against destroying, shifting of beacons

By Guardian Correspondent, Shinyanga

THE government has cautioned all land owners who destroy, remove or shift beacons saying it will take legal steps against them that include 750,000/- fine or one year in jail.

A statement issued early this week by the Communications Department of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and human settlements Development said it was an offence to engage in any activity that would involve the destruction, removing or shifting of the beacons.

The statement said the ministry has discovered that there are people who destroy, remove or shift beacons as these acts are illegal.

The statement said such acts retard government efforts in ensuring the safety of land owners’ title deeds.

The Land ministry is responsible in land survey, planning, allocation and formalizing land plots and use beacons to mark the plots that have been surveyed in accordance with Land Survey Act (Pap 324) of the laws.



Harrison Mashauri (R) of KCB Tanzania’s Zanzibar branch shows journalists some of the items worth \$m/- the bank recently presented to Aisha Mohamed (C), one of the beneficiaries of its ‘2jijiri’ employment programme, in support of her business. With them is another official with the bank, Evance Charles. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## RC urges RUWASA to know region’s water needs before budgeting for 2021/22

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge has called on Rural Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA) in the region to ensure in its 2021/22 budget it first meets with every local council to know their water requirements and

reduce water shortage for the people.

Dr Mahenge issued the directive here yesterday when opening the stakeholders meeting in the water and sanitation sector aimed for cooperation in solving water shortage challenge.

He said there was the need for the authority to go back to the local

councils to know the actual requirements of water projects before planning for the budget for implementation of various projects in Dodoma Region.

“Go back to the districts, and make sure you have a water dam that can serve two or three villages,” he said.

He also wanted RUWASA

to ensure it goes from village to village to assess the situation on the availability of water and the actual needs of the residents in order to include that in its work plan for the coming budget.

“We must be innovative, the innovation department should be strengthened because we in Dodoma

Region have a lot of water under the ground and during the current rain season we lose a lot of water,” he added.

Dodoma Region RUWASA Manager Dr Godfrey Mbayaye said the aim of the meeting was to meet with stakeholders and water consumers from all districts in the region in order to work

together in seeing that the plans they put forward had benefits for the areas they come from. He said RUWASA had a total of 167 water projects at various stages of completion and 100 completed projects, equivalent to 60 per cent. He said by December 2020 water supply service to rural areas stood at 61.9 per cent in all the region’s

districts, adding that by June this year water supply service was expected to reach 67.2 per cent.

He added that in FY 2020/21 RUWASA in Dodoma Region was allocated more than 9.3bn/- and by December last year the region received more than 4.1bn/- or 44.6 per cent of the amount allocated.

THURSDAY 11 MARCH 2021

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

## Firms in gemstone industry should operate responsibly

A gemstone also called a gem, fine gem, jewel, precious stone, or semi-precious stone is a piece of mineral crystal which, in cut and polished form, is used to make jewelry or other adornments. However, certain rocks such as lapis lazuli and opal and occasionally organic materials that are not minerals such as amber, jet, and pearl are also used for jewelry and are therefore often considered to be gemstones as well. Most gemstones are hard, but some soft minerals are used in jewelry because of their luster or other physical properties that have aesthetic value. Rarity is another characteristic that lends value to a gemstone.

Apart from jewelry, from earliest antiquity engraved gems and hardstone carvings, such as cups, were major luxury art forms. A gem maker is called a lapidary or gem-cutter; a diamond cutter is called a diamantaire. Asian based e-commerce direct selling company-QNET has vowed to continue maintaining its quality status calling on other companies that operate in the gemstone industry to take extra precaution to ensure that their supply and value chains all operate responsibly and sustainably.

In a virtual press-conference held recently, the company's chief executive officer Malou Caluza noted that the jewelry industry has faced criticism for the dangerous nature of mining the precious gemstones, so companies have to ensure that they observe ethics in their daily operations.

She said that now, more than ever, consumers are demanding for more transparency in supply chains and ethical sourcing of raw materials.

"QNET is dedicated towards this cause as we want to make a positive impact in the lives of our people, the communities in which we operate, and the environment," she said. She said sustainable mining wants anyone in the mining industry to be conscious of the supply chain to ensure that the precious gems are not fueling child labour or funding terror groups, or any other unethical practice for that matter.

Caluza said QNET, with its recent release of the Timeless Tanzanite collection is

partnering with suppliers who are certified members of The Responsible Jewelry Council (RJC) to reduce the presence of unlawful mining practices and to improve supply chain accountability.

The RJC is a not-for-profit global leader, focused on setting standards for ethical sustainability in the jewelry and luxury watch industries, and uses periodic third-party auditing to assess vendors' supply chains. "Working with suppliers who are responsible, fair, and ethical is important to QNET as it is an integral part of our business core values. We strive to deliver more than high quality products—we want our customers to be able to buy with confidence knowing that each piece is produced in fair working conditions using sustainable materials."

Caluza noted that Tanzanite is an exceptionally rare gemstone and is found in only one place in the world, the hills of Merelani in northern Tanzania, a region renowned for Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest single free-standing mountain in the world.

Since its discovery in 1967 by the Maasai tribe, the gemstone has not only strengthened the Tanzanian economy, and created jobs for local people; but also helped fund various community projects, bettering the lives of the people in the region surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro.

"Tanzanite is a truly unique African gemstone. When our customers buy these elegant pieces of jewelry they not only get to own a piece of exceptional rarity and beauty set with only lawfully mined authentic stones, but they are also helping to support the livelihood of thousands in the local mining community who have relied on the industry for many years," added Caluza.

QNET is an international e-commerce based direct selling company headquartered in Hong Kong. It is one of Asia's leading e-commerce based direct selling companies offering a wide range of health, wellness and lifestyle products that enable people to lead better lives. QNET's business model pivoted upon technology and e-commerce has helped empower millions of entrepreneurs in more than 100 countries worldwide.

ENDS

## Wanted: Successful evaluation strategies of honey value chain

Forest and honeybee resources in many countries in the world are the main sources of goods and services to the surrounding communities. The benefits provided by forest ecosystems include goods such as timber, food, fuel and bio products; and ecological functions such as carbon storage, nutrient cycling, water and air purification, and maintenance of wildlife habitat.

Stakeholders in the forestry and beekeeping sector have expressed their determination to invest heavily and accelerate the use of the sector's products so as to ensure that they become an important source of economic growth in the country.

They were speaking during the closure of the three-day international scientific conference on forest and honeybee products value chains for development of sustainable livelihoods and industrial economy, held in Dar es Salaam last week.

Reports show that Tanzania is endowed with between 337 and 481 million hectares of forest and woodlands which 55 per cent of the total land area of Tanzania.

Dr Sima Bakengesa, chairman of the conference's organising committee said in order to achieve this, the stakeholders have agreed to put more effort to support value chain development in forest and honey products. He said the stakeholders agreed that much effort will be directed to the promotion of factories establishment, research, value addition and marketing.

He said the country's development of sustainable value chains for forest-based products is critical to ensure social, economic and environmental benefits.

According to him, during the meeting, the stakeholders also agreed together to invest heavily in research, modern factories, value addition, tree planting and a number of works so as to bring transformation of the sectors.

Dr Bakengesa further said if communities could see the potential available in the forest reserves and invest efforts to con-

serve them, then they could reap big and thus stimulate development.

Tanzania is going to invest heavily to implement its strategies aimed to transform the forest and honey-bee sectors.

The Tanzania Forest Service in collaboration with various stakeholders is well prepared to increase production of value added forest and honey-bee products.

It is our hope that TFS will continue to intensify efforts and plant more trees but also fight against deforestation as the country is currently witnessing environmental burdens due to excessive tree cutting.

We can't allow deforestation to continue. Impacts of climate change are hitting our country with its impacts that includes loss of forest cover yielding to soil and water source degradation, disruption in rainfall patterns and severe droughts...This should be fought with all our efforts.

If our forests are well protected, will bring a number of positive impacts while also benefiting the current and future generations, so every person has a role to ensure that there is no forest cutting, burning and harvesting without having permission from the government.

The conference has been productive as it brought together scientists, decision-makers, development partners, diplomatic community, innovators, business community and practitioners from Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan and Finland.

During the meeting, the government launched two 10-year master plans for beekeeping and forest sectors, designed to unlock Tanzania's potential in honey and timber production, processing and export.

Despite the potential of forest and beekeeping sectors, rich biodiversity in natural forests, there are a number of constraints that still hinder growth of the sector which include increased destruction of forests fuelled by human activities as low research and development to drive innovations needed to support value chains development among others.

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## International Women's Day 2021: A post-COVID world needs amplified women's voices in politics, climate change

By Alison Kentish

The following opinion piece is part of series to mark the upcoming International Women's Day, March 8.

The UN says young women remain particularly underrepresented in politics and disproportionately excluded from consultation on issues that affect them such as climate change. This IPS International Women's Day article features 2 young Saint Lucian women; one in her first year as a senator and the other, a champion for sustainable living and environmental protection

The theme for International Women's Day 2021, 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an Equal Future in the COVID-19 World,' is grounded in the reality that this women's day is unlike any other

It is being observed against the devastating health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. As vaccination campaigns bring hope for recovery, United Nations Women says that shift must include women 'at every table where decisions are being made.' 'Women's full and effective participation and leadership in all areas of life drives progress for everyone. Yet, women are still underrepresented in public life and decision-making,' the agency said.

According to the most recent UN Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women, progress towards gender parity in public life and decision-making has been too slow. The report encourages countries to remove the barriers that prevent women from entering public life, to help tackle the COVID-19 and climate change crises.

It also calls for urgent action to facilitate women in the 'political pipeline,' noting

that young women are particularly underrepresented in politics. IPS spoke to Lisa Jawahir, a young communications professional who was appointed by the Saint Lucia Labour Party to the Senate in August 2020, about her experience, goals and vision for women in politics.

"The reality is that in Saint Lucia, young women in leadership, particularly political positions are very rare. While we had a young woman run for political office at the age of 21 in 1997, since then, there hasn't been a bold step by administrations to have young women serve at the highest order of the land. For me, at the age of 31, being appointed as the youngest Parliamentarian in the House of Assembly means that women and young girls can believe again that anything is possible," Jawahir told IPS.

UN Women says while women have been influential in political decision-making, they often face push-back, both online and offline. It is something that Jawahir says she has experienced.

"I once participated in a political forum, representing young women interested in politics. In an interview with a print journalist, I shared my desire to run for political office and the article made the cover page. While this felt like a remarkable step in the right direction, a few days later, I lost my biggest client who shared concerns that I was now politically affiliated.

"Unfortunately, in my country, victimisation based on political affiliation is rampant, especially for women. It's become a challenge to operate my small business, but I'm driven by the desire that one day I will be in a position on the governing side, to ensure that no young person, woman or vulnerable group will be unjustly treated due to their political interests," she told IPS.

Voices like Jawahir's, according to UN

Women, must be multiplied and amplified. As the world pivots to pandemic recovery, the agency says women and girls will be key leaders and change agents, particularly in areas like climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Saint Lucia's Snaliah Mahal is a recognised personality in sustainable living, environmental protection and climate change education. As an undergraduate student in Mexico, she interned with the UN Information Centre and volunteered in relief efforts post-flooding in Mexico and following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. She completed a post-graduate degree in Climate Change and International Development and volunteers with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network. She also runs 7Ks, a small business that produces zero waste and eco-friendly home and personal care products.

"I believe that citizens from Small Island Developing States, because of their inherent disadvantages and vulnerabilities, must do whatever they can to ensure that our voices are heard not only internationally which sometimes is the focus, but locally and regionally and be part of the discourse no matter how small you may consider your contribution," she told IPS.

Mahal's contribution is part of what UN Women describes as the critical role that women play in climate action and natural resources management. The agency says in many countries, women also serve as energy managers in the home. As entrepreneurs, they continue to offer innovative solutions to climate change impacts.

Mahal says women and girls who want to be part of the movement for a more sustainable future can start small; wherever they are, with whatever resources are available.

"Find a cause that you believe in and focus on it. It does not have to be something big. It can be as simple as deciding to share your knowledge with friends and family, or something a little more challenging such as starting a backyard garden or a compost heap. These are important first steps," she said. This International Women's Day, an important message by UN Women is that 'when women lead, we see positive results.' As women lead campaigns for social justice, environmental justice and a sustainable future and as they seek to amplify their voices, the agency is calling for countries to make space for women and encourage their participation in public life, private sector leadership and parliaments.

As the world focuses on building back better, the role of women as caregivers, lawmakers, community organisers and innovators is being celebrated - even as calls for increased representation in decision-making continue. Mahal and Jawahir say women and girls can continue to make positive change in their communities.

"You can join an organisation that advocates climate change and other environmental issues and implements projects. Most importantly, individuals especially women already in the field, who have the knowledge and skills should not hesitate to share their experiences with other women and girls, to ensure that there is continuity in action," Mahal says.

Jawahir's message to young women is "if you were to remember anything after reading this article, remember that there is absolutely nothing stopping you from reaching your goals whether you decide to enter politics or become an entrepreneur. Not your age, not your gender. You decide what it is that you want. Stay focused, and go after it."

## For women in tech unconscious bias is real: Here's how to fix it

By Ellison Anne Williams

I founded my tech startup as a mother of five. A post-COVID-19 restart is a chance for the tech community to push women forward and give them opportunities

As a PhD mathematician who spent the first decade of my career working in the government space before moving on to become founder and CEO of a tech startup, I've thoroughly lived the 'woman in tech' experience. And compared to even a decade ago, personal experience validates the idea that there is now a broader acceptance of women in leadership positions within the technology sector.

However, women pursuing such roles in our industry unfortunately still face a challenging path, particularly if that woman happens to be a mother. There is no shortage of stats that speak to the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, engineering, and math, but sometimes it is important to talk about the imbalance as it appears through the lens of personal experience.

When I first founded my company in 2016, I intentionally avoided talking about my family and the fact I have five children to remove the investor bias of 'how can she possibly run a business and be a mom at the same time?' In a competitive fundraising environment, I didn't want to risk anything that might impede their vision of my abilities as a technologist and entrepreneur.

Does my role as a mother undermine my ability to be a successful founder? Absolutely not - it arguably enhances it - but as most women working in this space can attest, that is not always the reality of the situation. Unconscious bias is real, but the best way to overcome it for myself and the woman who will walk this path after me is by continuing to pursue and deliver substantive, undeniable value. I've never aspired to be a successful woman in tech; I aspire to be a successful founder and CEO - all other labels excluded.

Being a mom and a successful business woman are not mutually exclusive. You don't have to be superhuman to have a happy family and run a tech firm. When it comes to cultivating roles for women in

the tech industry, the first step is to highlight this path as an option. We can't - and shouldn't - force anyone into a STEM career, but we should do more to ensure it is more frequently considered by young women. The education sector has a vital role to play in helping young women understand that they have a choice.

That may come in the form of mentorship, STEM programs designed to reach young women, or just a continued normalization and exposure of the women in leadership roles. They can choose to focus on a career, or, if they prefer, to raise a family. Or they can choose to do both. We should celebrate and publicise the fact that young women today really should and do have that choice.

Unfortunately as the past year has demonstrated, highlighting the option to pursue a career like mine is something we need to strive for in the best of times - and desperately hold on to in the worst. One of the most challenging parts of the current pandemic for women has been the loss of practical choice. When it comes to opportunities in the workplace, women are disproportionately bearing

the pandemic burden, and mothers are feeling it even more substantially.

U.S. Census Bureau data shows that 3.5 million mothers living with school-age children left the active workforce during the early months of the pandemic. In some cases, that meant shifting to paid or unpaid leave, losing jobs, or leaving the workforce all together as the challenges stemming from virtual school and a lack of adequate child care options piled up. Those of us with kids at home can particularly empathize and relate to increased stress relating to the changes in routine and loss of community.

When the global economy eventually begins to bounce back, we need to use this re-start as a chance to push women forward and give them opportunities.

In the tech community, we can open doors for women by exposing them to options and offering flexible work environments. And for those of us who speak from within 'women in tech', I hope we will continue to amplify our actions and our voices, showing others that I have done it - and you can too.



# How can the media in Africa take back the pen from western outlets?

**JOHANNESBURG**

Africa No Filter recently gathered a group of media experts and funders to unpack findings from the 'How African Media Covers Africa' report, the focus being on why African media outlets struggle to cover more African news.

"Until we have much stronger and more vibrant new media platforms that speak to these audiences in language and context that makes sense to them, it's very difficult to drive a new African narrative," said Tomiwa Aladekomo.

Aladekomo is the CEO of Zikoko Media, which gets six million hits every month on their website and social media. He was one of six panelists at the recent 'Africa No Filter Presents: A Conversation About Who is Telling Africa's Story' webinar.

He was joined by Jonathan Rosenthal, Africa Editor at The Economist; Dapo Olorunyomi, publisher & editor-in-chief of Premium Times Nigeria; Thebe Ikalafeng, Brand Leadership Group CEO; Vasantha Angamuthu, African News Agency (ANA) CEO; and Aguil Deng,

programme manager with Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa and Africa Corporate Philanthropy, Bloomberg.

They were unpacking findings from the groundbreaking Africa No Filter report, 'How African Media Covers Africa'. While some findings were expected, like the fact that the BBC and AFP were responsible for a quarter of the African news that African media outlets tell about the continent, others were startling.

Consider this: less than 1 per cent of stories in African media outlets were from African news agencies, and newsgathering sources on African countries resulted in content that continues to feed old stereotypes.

Furthermore, the quality of local journalism didn't allow for nuanced or appealingly complex and contextualised storytelling that is critical for telling stories about the 54 countries in Africa.

Even though 87 per cent of the editors surveyed in the research said they were interested in covering African news, Angamuthu said one of the most consistent challenges faced by ANA was getting buy-in or support from more



African media outlets.

"African content comes up often in our discussions with potential partners. The kind of responses we get leads us to believe that African content is a nice-to-have rather than a must-have," she said, citing affordability as one of the biggest stumbling blocks in taking Africa's pen back from the hands of the western media.

Olorunyomi meanwhile chipped in: "It's difficult from a financial perspective for most of our newspapers, radio stations - for the media

as it were - to be able to meet up to the challenges of effectively covering both their nation and the African region of their audiences."

There's also the fact that 70 per cent of media brands admired by Africans are not African at all, according to the Brand Leadership Group's Brand Africa 100: Africa's Best Brands annual report. They include CNN, BBC and Al Jazeera.

The impact on who gets to set the continent's news agenda is far-reaching, Rosenthal explained, elaborating:

"Take Nigeria. You can have a hundred columnists writing articles that are critical of the Nigerian government and, in a sense, many in Nigeria will overlook them."

"But when The Economist comes out with a big piece that is perhaps critical of the president, it goes viral within Nigeria - everyone talks about it. There is power there," he noted.

Rosenthal gave problems with press freedom as another hurdle, citing some countries where he said journalists are not free to do their work, "so we're

aware that we can have some positive influence". He however warned that people need to be very careful not to just fall into "easy, lazy characterisations".

More than the challenges facing media outlets on the continent, 'A Conversation About Who is Telling Africa's Story' was an opportunity to ask: how can the African media take back the pen?

Donor funding has proved to be effective, said Deng. Explaining that Bloomberg has funded several media

initiatives and storytellers across the continent - with more than 780 alumni across 19 countries.

The panelists agreed that collaboration and ownership of stories, including at community level, are some of the keys to telling a variety of quality African stories.

Deng elaborated: "There really is no shortage of pipeline in terms of talent. Africa has talented and highly skilled storytellers, reporters, editors and African news agencies. What this report high-

lights are issues about opportunity and access. That's where funders have an important role to play."

However, donor funding is not a long-term solution, Deng noted. And this is where the rise of digital platforms like Zikoko Media come in.

Where traditional media are "under threat", Ikalafeng said, digital media are thriving. They are also doing what traditional African media need to do to take back the pen. Let's stop complaining and start creating.

**Africa No Filter is a donor collaborative working to shift stereotypical and harmful narratives within and about Africa. Through research, grant-making and advocacy, its objective is to build the field of narrative change-makers by supporting storytellers, investing in media platforms and driving disruption campaigns. The collaborative is funded by Ford Foundation, Bloomberg, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Luminate, Open Society Foundations, Comic Relief, the Hilton Foundation and the British Council.**

## African women discuss ways to better agriculture and food systems in Africa

**NAIROBI**

THE Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) has just hosted leading African women in discussions whose thrust was on exploring how their unique platforms could help amplify the needs of women in agriculture across the continent.

The participants included Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy & Agriculture at the African Union (AU) Commission, and Dr Agnes Kalibata, President at AGRA and the UN's Special Envoy on Food Systems Summit.

The others were African women leaders from various fields, all deliberating on how women could bring change to Africa's agriculture and food systems.

The discussions also explored how to inspire a groundswell of successful women agribusinesses in the continent.

The discussions were in line with the theme of this year's International Women's Day - "Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a Covid-19 world".

Ambassador Sacko, the keynote speaker at the event, reiterated the AU's goal of gender equality as a fundamental human right and an integral part of regional integration, economic growth and social development.

She highlighted the continental body's strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empower-



ment (GEWE) to ensure the inclusion of women in Africa's development agenda.

Participants echoed that women are key players in agriculture, amplifying the need for exploring how their organisations can help amplify the needs of women in agriculture and women across the continent.

They also exchanged ideas and experiences on how women can help in finding solutions to endemic inequalities in agriculture that continue to undermine women's capacity to respond to - and recover from - the impact of Covid-19.

To meet some of these challenges, AGRA kicked

off the Resilience Investment Series for Women Executives (ARISE) programme.

This seeks to equip women-owned and women-led SMEs with the necessary tools and practical management skills needed in ensuring recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Speaking at a fireside chat at the event, Dr Kalibata stressed the effects of the climate change coupled with inequalities in accessing land and other agricultural resources that undermine women's capacity to respond to - and recover from - the impact of the pandemic.

She noted that the gen-

dered access to opportunities means that women and men have different resources available to them to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the crisis.

The event was sponsored by AGRA's VALUE4HER programme, a platform whose aim is to increase incomes and employment opportunities for women.

This is implemented by linking women-led agribusinesses with competitive high value regional and global markets as well as improving women business leaders' technical and managerial skills with training on market dynamics, to grow their agribusinesses further.



### JOB OPPORTUNITY / VACANCY

**LETSHEGO TANZANIA LIMITED IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:**

Job Title: Head of Sales, Product and Channels  
Reports To: Chief Executive Officer

**Purpose of the Job:**

- To manage sales growth of the company's products and services in Tanzania.
- Ensures consistent, profitable growth in sales revenues through positive planning, deployment, and management of sales personnel.
- Identifies objectives, strategies and action plans to improve short- and long-term sales and earnings.
- Provide Strategic management by identifying business growth opportunities (new markets, new products and new services) and deliver those through the design of the most cost effective delivery channel appropriate to the respective segment.
- Promote and drive innovation across the company.
- To develop appropriate marketing strategies and objectives for marketing and selling the organization's products and services

**Key Accountabilities:**

- Collaborates with CEO in establishing and recommending the most realistic sales goals for the company.
- Ensure Sales targets for the country are achieved
- Accurately forecasts annual, quarterly and monthly revenue streams.
- Develops specific plans to ensure revenue growth in all products.
- Review and assessment of sales results of the company and sales staff's productivity.
- Coordinates proper company resources to ensure efficient and stable sales results.
- Formulates all sales policies, practices and procedures.
- Collaborates with CEO to develop sales strategies to improve market share in all product lines.
- Interprets short- and long-term effects on sales strategies in operating profit.
- Identify new representation opportunities and thereby ensure a proper cost effective distribution channel across the company
- Develop Customer Service Improvement strategies
- Oversees development of policies, procedures and objectives for marketing and selling the organization's products and services.
- Oversees product/service development, pricing, marketing budgets, and sales objectives.
- Steering the delivery of all the channel-based (electronic, branch and agents) products to the Company's customers, including offering the required maintenance support to customers in order to meet or exceed planned revenue or volume targets;
- Driving and monitoring the sale of the various products to current and prospective customers;
- Identifying and translating viable and profitable market opportunities;
- Leading, motivating, and developing the sales and marketing team to ensure that business objectives are achieved;
- Establishing and implementing appropriate models, procedures and processes for guiding the department's activities and from time to time reviewing and modifying these to fit in with the Company's risk management processes;
- Driving engagements and partnerships with stakeholders and segment heads;
- Identifying opportunities for cross selling and referral to other Company sales lines through developing and maintaining a broad understanding of customer needs;
- Manage and drive innovation process that identifies strategies, business and process opportunities across the company.

**Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:**

- Problem-solving and analytical skills to interpret sales performance and market trend information.
- Ability to identify risks and proactively work on mitigating the risks
- Ability to plan 3-5 years planning in terms of vision, mission and mandate
- Ability to plan work flow to maximize efficiency
- Ability to work as a team player
- Ability to identify business growth opportunities and make informed decisions

**Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:**

- University Graduate from a recognized and well established University with a degree in Marketing, Sales, Commerce or equivalent
- Knowledge of banking channels, marketing conditions, the Tanzanian market and banking trends;
- A postgraduate holder of Entrepreneurship, Business Administration, Finance or other business related.
- Strong Sales and Customer oriented and visionary leadership ability;
- Minimum of 10 years' experience, with at least 4 years in a senior management role in relationship management/ banking, operations, product development or sales;

**FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 through the email: [TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com](mailto:TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com)

Disclaimers: This job advert is not an in-depth list of duties and responsibilities associated with the position. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

# Having digital giants pay for content is good news, but will it help local media?

By Amy Binns

THAT the internet has all but destroyed the business model that has always supported journalism is not news. But what has made the news around the world recently is that the Australian government has attempted to do something about it.

It has passed a new law forcing organisations such as Facebook and Google, which make a great deal of money out of carrying news material on their platforms, to share their advertising revenue with media organisations.

Facebook incurred a worldwide backlash by temporarily blocking all news sites for users in Aus-

tralia. Google, meanwhile, took the opposite tack by signing early agreements with the country's key media players.

Facebook has now also pledged to strike deals with Australia's leading news companies in return for allowing its users to post their content on its pages.

But if the purpose of the new law is to serve democracy by supporting public interest journalism, how well will it work?

The wholesale movement of revenue from media outlets employing professional journalists to content platforms which produce no original stories is a major international problem.

The social media don't

just reduce funding for professional journalism but also enables the spread of fake news that rapidly fills the gap left behind.

It's a problem that has been obscured by the social media's many other issues: bullying, use by criminal groups, and disturbing, exploitative, violent and pornographic content. But, in fact, how advertising income breaks down has much deeper implications.

Digital advertising spend is continuously increasing, but about 40 per cent goes to Google, with Facebook in second place at about 22 per cent - and closing the gap.

Meanwhile, local newspapers have watched as their property advertising



communities in the absence of local watchdogs - they are more likely to toe the party to line than rebel, and do less constituency work, while their areas get less federal funding. Where local newsrooms have had severe staff cuts, there's also less competition in mayoral elections.

There's evidence from Norway and Japan that councils in areas with high local paper circulations are more efficient. The decline in the number of local newspapers and reduced coverage of local politics have even been blamed for political polarisation, particularly in poorer areas.

And it's not just about politics. The Index on Censorship has reported on the problems of reduced local newsrooms trying to report accurately while public bodies, including health and education trusts, employ highly paid marketing teams to protect their image; and local social media groups share information that often turns out to be false.

Having fewer local journalists means seeing less coverage of court cases and inquests. In my own research into coverage of coroners' courts, we found evidence of "news deserts": areas where inquests were never reported owing to staff cuts and patchy information from courts.

Editors told me that it was increasingly difficult to contact the police directly, as contacts were funnelled through police "newsrooms" - previously press offices - which now seek to prioritise good news stories about police successes.

This has serious consequences. The importance of the reporting of public inquests has been highlighted by the work of George Julian, who live-tweets inquests of people with learning difficulties and autism.

These typically die two decades earlier than people without these special needs, often owing to poorly managed care which is only highlighted during the inquest process. But if there is no one there to cover the inquest, there is little public pressure for change.

The moves by the Australian government are a step in the right direction but there is a risk that the negotiating system will let the big players grab the newly released revenue, leaving high-quality, professional local journalism high and dry again.

This is actually in nobody's interests. National news organisations have long relied on the local press to act as a grassroots army of reporters. Many national stories began as a local paper's front page, and many great reporters started out on the local press.

Self-interest actually should dictate that they use their power to help their smaller colleagues. But it seems likely that, without a keen oversight by the reviewing body a year from now, short-termism will ensure that they continue to carve out the biggest slice of the pie.

**A dispatch by The Conversation. Amy Binns is a senior lecturer, Journalism and Digital Communication, at the UK's University of Central Lancashire.**

has disappeared to Rightmove and their classified advertisements to Ebay and Facebook.

As for job advertisements, which were such good money spinners for local and national newspapers, they have migrated mainly to CV upload sites such as LinkedIn.

To maintain visibility in the new digital world, news organisations have to be present on social media platforms - which simply means more eyeballs for the likes of Facebook and Twitter.

Deprived of advertising revenue, traditional news organisations are in seemingly unstoppable decline - not just in the UK but around the world. In the UK, 265 titles have closed since 2005 - with Covid-19 proving the final nail in the coffin for some.

The Australian initiative attempts to mitigate against technology giants siphoning off all digital revenue, but a major and valid criticism is that the deal appears to be skewed in favour of large media organisations. Funds also need to be made available to support independent local news organisations. The imbalance is already visible.

Google pre-empted the new law by reaching agreements to pay seven Australian media organisations, including Rupert Murdoch's considerable newspaper and TV empire. But there's concern that the grassroots organisations that provide most public service news are unlikely to benefit without the massive influence of the nationals.

Google has also agreed to pay for the use of news snippets in Google News search results from some publishers in France - but so far only to a handful of major national organisations as well as the international news agency Reuters.

Again, the agreement looks set to benefit the biggest players the most, since one of the criteria is monthly traffic. Reuters' French rival AFP has already complained.

But why does this matter? Research has shown clear links between a loss of journalism - particularly at local level - and a loss of public participation and trust in democracy. The watchdog role of the local press drives up standards in many other unexpected ways.

In the US, members of Congress in areas not covered by a local newspaper do less to represent their



WWF for a living planet®

## VACANCY: PROJECT EXECUTANT – LAND FOR LIFE

WWF is seeking to hire a competent and motivated Project Executant – Land for life for its office in Tanzania, based in Arusha.

### Main Tasks

Under the direction of the SOKNOT Focal person, and working closely with the WWF and TPW project teams, the Project Executant will support the coordination of project activities in the Lake Natron area which constitutes the Tanzanian part of the project area

### Duties & Responsibilities

- Responsible for coordinating all project activities, working with WWF and TPW staff and a number of external experts and partners, which will include a multi-stakeholder engagement process, the review and collection of essential baseline data, the co-creation of appropriate implementation approaches and the establishment of related monitoring systems.
- Support TPW with the implementation of the thematic activities such as Human-Wildlife-Conflict (HWC) mitigation, participatory land use planning, sustainable rangeland management, eco-friendly business development, community-based natural resource management, wildlife and habitat conservation and according to already established implementation protocols and strategies.
- Ensure the strong participation and benefitting of women and youth as well as people with disability in all project activities.
- Identify and develop excellent working relationships with important stakeholders such as community leaders and community-based organizations, women group representatives, local user groups, Government authorities, research institutions and other projects in the region.
- Represent WWF at meetings/workshops at local government (district) levels and ensure effective coordination, collaboration and knowledge sharing with Government authorities and other stakeholders.
- Manage day-to-day operations of the project, which include effective administration and tracking of project finances, project monitoring and evaluation, timely reporting to WWF, TPW and donor and effective coordination and cooperation between project partners.
- Work with WWF and TPW staff to develop/adjust

work plans and budgets.

- Cooperate with Senior Management Team staff in WWF-Tanzania on relevant topics to ensure alignment with WWF plans and policies and to support further fundraising.
- Submit regular progress and technical reports to the SOKNOT Program Coordinator
- Ensure the confirmation and documentation of free, prior and informed consent of the target groups, the implementation and monitoring of safeguards according to WWF's ESSF Framework, the mitigation of identified risks and the establishment of a grievance mechanism in close cooperation with the respective WWF focal persons.

### Required Knowledge and Skills:

- A postgraduate qualification (MSc), knowledge and experience in a relevant discipline (e.g., natural sciences, social sciences, conservation biology, landscape ecology, economics, conservation planning or related field), a PhD qualification will be an added advantage.
- At least 5 years professional experience in relevant sectors, in particular with regard to community-based natural resource management and gender-oriented livelihood and business development support, preferably in Northern Tanzania.
- At least 2 years of experience in program development and management, including preparing and managing sizable and complex budgets, technical and financial reporting, matrix working, program monitoring and evaluation, and ensuring compliance with donor requirements for implementation.
- Demonstrated ability to drive multi-stakeholder engagement processes including stakeholder workshops, and to build capacity of multiple stakeholders to engage in the project

Additional information, including Terms of Reference, can be obtained through web address: [http://wwf.panda.org/who\\_we\\_are/jobs/](http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/jobs/). Applications must include a complete Cover Letter & CV with full contact details of three referees and should be addressed to the People & Culture Manager, via email to: [hresources@wwftz.org](mailto:hresources@wwftz.org) by **Friday, 26th March 2021 at 4:30 pm**. Only the shortlisted candidates will be contacted and the interviews will take place in Dar es Salaam or via zoom video conferencing. WWF is an equal opportunity organization.



# AfDB purchases temporary bridges to replace infrastructure destroyed during cyclones in Mozambique

**MAPUTO**  
**T**HE African Development Bank (AfDB) has finalized the purchase of 26 modular steel bridges to replace infrastructure that was destroyed in weather disasters in Mozambique.

The modular bridges are due to be installed in coming months after the appointment of local contractors. The goal is to restore transport connections to the isolated regions of Manica, Sofala, Nampula and Cabo Delgado. An estimated 500,000 people are expected to benefit.

With a service lifespan of up to 100 years, the bridges will provide a temporary solution in areas that are vulnerable to extreme weather while

the government invests in climate-smart permanent bridges.

"We are delighted to be able to deliver this important contribution to Mozambique and respond to the recent climate disasters while investing to building back better," said Pietro Toigo, the African Development Bank's country manager for Mozambique. "The Bank will remain at the forefront of the fight to mobilize climate finance for adaptation and contribute to climate justice for the African continent."

The bridges are funded under the Post Cyclone Idai and Kenneth Emergency Recovery and Resilience Program, which was approved in the wake of these two cyclones that struck Mozambique, Zimbabwe and

Malawi in 2019 and affected around 3 million people in the three countries.

The program is being implemented over four years, ending in December 2023, at a total cost of UA 70.86 million (\$100 million) of which UA 66.01 million is to be paid by the Bank and the remainder by the affected governments. The funding was provided by the African Development Fund, the concessional arm of the African Development Bank Group.

João Osvaldo Machatine, Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, said: "The government of Mozambique is delighted to be working with the African Development Bank to help build resilience to climate and disaster risk management in the country."

Central Mozambique has been hit by extreme climate events in recent years. Cyclones Idai and Kenneth passed through the same region of the country in March and April 2019, also affecting neighboring countries. Disaster struck again with Tropical Storm Chalane in December 2020 and Cyclone Eloise in January 2021.

Mozambique is regarded as one of the world's most climate-stressed countries. In its 2018-2022 Country Strategy Paper for Mozambique, the African Development Bank identifies climate change as a key development challenge, and has directed roughly \$120 million to strengthening the country's climate resilience.

# Tabora village brings ray of hope for lepers

By Special Correspondent

AZIZA Mgaya does not remember how she ended up at a homeless shelter after she was diagnosed with leprosy, which changed her life forever.

With her lips twisted to the side, left eye swallowed by a fallen facial muscle, fingers truncated, she is in misery.

Mgaya, 46, who speaks with difficulty, was barely 16 when the skin around her hands started to peel and subsequently withered. Her palms turned grey and were numb to the touch.

"I was taken to the hospital then, where I was given some pills and a cream to rub on my hands," she said.

Four months later, a deep wound appeared in her palm.

"It was very painful and it wouldn't heal," said Mgaya who woke up to the grim reality that she had leprosy.

"I was too young. It was not easy to accept the condition given the existing social stigma against lepers," she said. Like others suffering from leprosy, which ravages the skin and nerves and causes painful deformities, the diagnosis for Mgaya meant a life sentence of social isolation.

"I could barely do anything. I was a burden to the family that's why I decided to come here," she said angrily.

Perched on an impoverished neighborhood six kilometers (4 miles) from Tabora in western Tanzania, the village is home to lepers and other marginalized people who are shunned by their families because of the mistaken belief that they are cursed.

Leprosy is curable but it can mutilate body organs and cause terrible disfigurement.

While its devastating physical effects can be avoided when a patient is treated in the early stages, in many cases the diagnosis is identified too late.

As part of its broader push to dispel Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) Tanzania has recognized leprosy in its policy, paving the way for sufficient budget resources to fight and eliminate the social malady which has pushed many to the edge of survival.

Upendo Mwingira, NTD Programme Manager at Tanzania's Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children said the nation has significantly reduced cases of leprosy in the past 30 years.

"We have multiple policy interventions at our disposal to eliminate not just leprosy but also other neglected diseases," she told Anadolu Agency

She said the government is determined to defeat the malady by strengthening community-based leprosy elimination campaigns and the integration of leprosy care in health facilities.

Despite the progress Tanzania has made in taming the disease, experts say the East African country's final push to eliminate the disease requires community involvement, innovation and a coordinated response with global partners.

Deusdeddit Kamara, coordinator of National Leprosy and Tuberculosis care and Prevention (NTLP) said preventive treatment to those who have had contact with leprosy patients is necessary to reduce transmissions.

"Fighting leprosy requires a changing mind-set toward those who are suffering. This disease is not a source of shame and prejudice. All barriers to those seeking medical care should be removed," he said.

Sitting on a squeaking wooden bench, the Kidawa Shante, 61, is unflinchingly determined to kill a menacing bed bug scuttling on the edge of her head shawl using her twisted palms.

"I am alive today because of the grace of God," she said. "Some people don't give us the respect we deserve as fellow humans."

As a disease with a long history of misery and neglect, many lepers in Tanzania often become street beggars in major cities to avoid discrimination in their families.

"They are miserable members of the society," said Harold Kilungu, a social worker at Tabora Advocacy Centre for Development. "Some of their family members believe they're sinners who brought the

illness among themselves," Kilungu said most lepers in Tabora face acute depression and anxiety because of blatant discrimination and the negative perception of the disease.

"We are trying our very best to raise community awareness," he said.

Government data and World Health Organization (WHO) statistics show the disease is no longer a public health problem since the country attained leprosy elimination level with less than 10 patients in every 100,000 people.

Moreover, infection rates have been reduced from 43 patients in every 1 million people in 2019, according to data from the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics.

Globally, millions of poor people are affected by preventable neglected tropical diseases. In 2015, the UN formally recognized NTD as a target for global action toward the Sustainable

Poverty has many faces, but in Tanzania, one of the most tragic has been its close link with neglected diseases. According to WHO data, from 2015, more than 60% of 1.5 billion people suffering from NTDs, including leprosy and elephantiasis, received treatment.

In remote areas of Tanzania, where prejudice against lepers persists, human rights activists say families often abandon victims to starve and die in squalid conditions.

Although leprosy can be treated with multi-drug therapies, those affected in Tanzania still face significant stigma.

Kessy Lusumo, 56, was 21 when he was diagnosed. Sitting on a wooden bench, his hands twisted by the disease, he clutches a torn bible as he ponders his predicament.

"My parents died when I was young and I lived with my uncle," he said. "When I found out I had leprosy he expelled me. I had nowhere to go and felt that my future was spoilt."

Distraught, Lusumo sought help at a local shelter run by sisters of charity in Tabora.

"Nobody would help you, if they know you're leprosy, we suffer in silence," he said.

# Lions kill game tracker at South African wildlife reserve

JOHANNESBURG

A 27-year-old man who worked as a game tracker at Marataba Safari Lodge in South Africa's Limpopo province was attacked and killed by lions over the weekend, police said Monday.

Police spokesperson Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo said Malibongwe Mfila, a tracking specialist,

disembarked from his car and walked in the park when he was suddenly attacked and killed by two lions.

As a game tracker, Mfila's job entailed driving around the park to check where animals such as elephants and lions were to alert guides who would take tourists on drives to view the wild animals.

The police confirmed that the two lions were later shot dead by rangers

as they would likely repeat similar attacks if left to live.

The owners of the Marataba Luxury Lodges, said Mfila was following up on cheetah tracks and appeared to have alighted from his vehicle, as per procedure, when the incident occurred.

"He had walked just 20 meters from the vehicle when he came upon two young male lions hidden

in the thicket. The lions attacked and killed him," the lodge owners said in a statement, adding they are devastated by the loss.

Lion attacks are common at South African game reserves and parks. Last year, two lions mauled Arthur "West" Mathewson, a Limpopo lodge owner, to death during their regular walks.

# Malaria data opened up to combat drug resistance

By Louise Coghlin

A HUGE trove of aggregated data on malaria parasites from around the globe is unlocking genetic secrets on the organism's evolution and could assist in the mounting battle against drug resistance, experts say.

Scientists analysed genetic variations of 7,000 Plasmodium falciparum parasites from 28 countries, and curated the data to make it accessible to other researchers, including those without expertise in genetics.

The open access dataset, analysed in a study that is currently undergoing peer review in the journal Wellcome Open Research, represents the world's largest resource of genomic data on malaria parasite evolution and drug resistance, according to the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK.

Richard Pearson, co-author and data scientist at the Wellcome Sanger

Institute, told SciDev.Net the data could help in the search for new drugs and vaccines, and the development of surveillance tools needed to control and eliminate malaria.

The Plasmodium falciparum parasite, which is transmitted to people via mosquito bites, is the deadliest malaria parasite globally and the most prevalent species in Africa, where it accounted for almost 100 per cent of malaria cases in 2018, according to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates.

Malaria is preventable and curable, yet remains a major global health problem, with an estimated 229 million cases and 409,000 deaths in 2019, according to the WHO.

The WHO African region is disproportionately affected, accounting for 94 per cent of malaria cases and deaths in 2019, though people in South-East Asia, the Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific, and the Americas are

## Malaria impact in 2019

**229,000,000**  
 global cases of malaria

**409,000**  
 global deaths due to malaria

**67%** (274,000) of all malaria deaths worldwide are children under 5 years of age

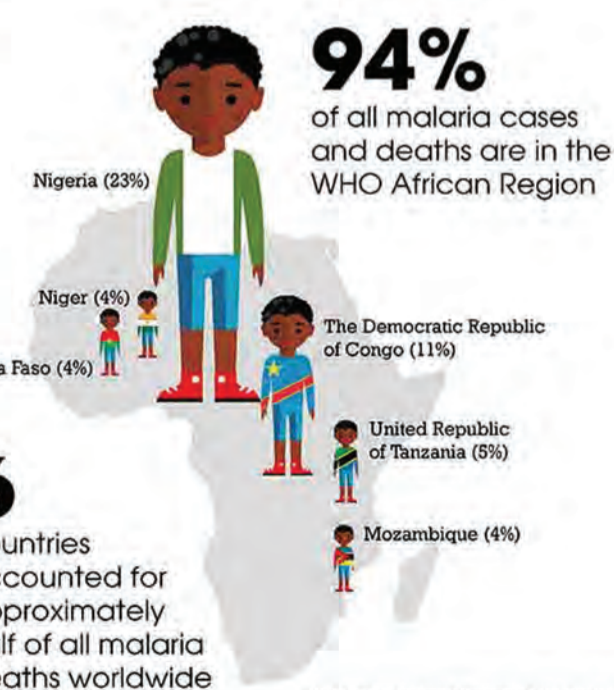


also at risk.

Resistance of the parasite to antimalarial medicines has been a recurring problem since the 1950s. Pearson, also of the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute, said the curated data could help build understanding of the

genetics of this resistance.

"Malaria parasites are constantly evolving, for example, in ways that can make them resistant to the different drugs used to treat malaria," he said. "Understanding which genes are changing, and where in



the world this is happening, can help with control programmes."

Other genetic changes in the parasite can cause the failure of diagnostic tests, resulting in patients not receiving the correct treatment, said Pearson.

"We're in a constant arms race with the parasite," he added. "We try new things, new drugs and so on, but the parasite, as with all life, keeps evolving to find a way round them. We're trying to keep a step ahead."

The data was produced

by MalariaGEN, a global network of groups who are leading separate studies into the biology and epidemiology of malaria while working together to build data resources aimed at controlling the disease.

Researchers conducting 49 studies at 73 locations in Africa, Asia, South America and Oceania together contributed 7,113 samples of P. falciparum for the aggregated analysis and scientists at the Wellcome Sanger Institute sequenced each sample, looking at more than three million changes in the parasite's DNA.

"Going forwards, as the dataset grows, the longer-term goal is to help inform the decision making of national malaria control programmes, to enable them to answer questions like, 'Which drugs should we be using in which places?' based on near real-time, high-quality data."

According to the WHO, stronger malaria surveillance

systems are urgently needed to tackle the disease in endemic regions.

Daniel Neafsey, assistant professor of immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA said: "This dataset is the latest and largest agglomeration of Plasmodium falciparum malaria parasite genomic data in the world."

"A lot of the value comes from the consistent, homogeneous and very high-quality way in which the data are analysed. This can really help, for example, with sifting the importance of different mutations that signal drug resistance for ongoing drug-surveillance."

"As we continue to build understanding about how variation among malaria parasites contributes to vaccine efficacy, I think this will be a really valuable resource for making sure vaccine development proceeds at a faster pace."



## JOB OPPORTUNITY / VACANCY

### LETSHEGO TANZANIA LIMITED IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:

Job Title: Product Manager-Bancassurance  
Reports To: Head of Sales,Product and Channels

#### Purpose of the Job:

Banc Assurance Manager is responsible for formulating sound and appropriate policies and procedures that will stimulate banc assurance business to ensure service efficiency and cost effective. The person shall be responsible for developing and managing insurance products to existing customers and to the general public through the company branch networks. Also she/he is accountable for supporting Banc Assurance team, business management and the overall performance of the insurance products in line to the agreed target.

#### Key Accountabilities:

- Managing Bancassurance unit as separate profit Unit of the company. Managing Bancassurance unit expenses and ensure it is within budget.
- Managing Agency contracts and negotiating commission from each principal insurance company
- Provide leadership to the insurance team for both life and non-life products and ensure all claims are managed as per agreed TAT.
- Play a key role to ensure that all claims are well received, screened and decision made with agreed TAT
- Provide the main link between the bank, Insurance companies and Insurance agency to customers.
- To systematically plan to insurance agency business to all branches in line with the annual plans.
- To ensure that insurance UNIT operations is complying with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)
- Opening and maintaining collection account of each Principal
- Push sales of insurance products in order to attain targeted commission budget
- Recruiting new insurance clients and maintain existing to meet the desired market share.
- Managing and supporting sales activities in the branches.
- Initiate, plan, organise and follow up on direct marketing activities individually.
- Ensuring that customers are serviced with high standards and ethics
- Selling banks core products (accounts, loans, and forex) to all non-banked insurance clients
- Ensuring that all products sold are in compliancy with BOT Banc-assurance guideline and TIRA
- To maintain sound and active relationship with Bancassurance regulators and keep updated with any industry changes
- To produce daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly Bancassurance Sales reports to management
- To prepare Monthly and quarterly regulatory reports (TIRA and BOT).
- Prepare and conduct regular training to staff on insurance products and how to sale Insurance products
- To develop sound succession plan for the Bancassurance unit
- To identify Knowledge Gap on Insurance products and develop training program which will cover the Gap

#### Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:

Job holder should seek to develop strong relationships with those performing a similar role at peer group businesses/banks and to join any appropriate industry forums that will enhance job performance and understanding.

Multi-cultural awareness and the ability to interact with a wide range of differing levels and sectors of staff, society, social and business, is an essential characteristic of the person holding this position.

#### Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:

- Degree in Insurance and Risk management or equivalent insurance experience with COP certificate. Master degree in the insurance and risk discipline would be an added advantage.
- A minimum of 4 years' working experience in insurance industry.
- A comprehensive knowledge of Tanzanian Insurance business.
- Conversant with insurance product offerings in the wider financial services industry
- Effective communications skills, organizational skills, and ability to respond to requests effectively and efficiently.
- Understanding of BOT and TIRA guidelines on Bancassurance
- In-depth knowledge of current computer system functions, input procedures, codes, report capabilities and configuration.
- Ability to plan and conduct training sessions to staff members on insurance products and sales
- Ability to carry out detailed written or verbal instructions with multiple concrete and abstract variables.

#### **FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 through the email: [TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com](mailto:TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com)

Disclaimers: This job advert is not an in-deth list of all duties and responsibilities associated with the position.Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY / VACANCY

### LETSHEGO TANZANIA LIMITED IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:

Job Title: **Bancassurance Officer**  
Reports To: Product Manager-Bancassurance

#### Purpose of the Job:

Bancassurance Officer is responsible for implementing sound and appropriate policies and procedures that will stimulate banc assurance business through service efficiency and cost effective. The person shall be responsible for managing insurance products to existing customers and to the general public through the company branch networks. Also she/he is responsible for banc assurance business generation and the overall performance of the insurance products in line to the agreed target.

#### Key Accountabilities:

- Implementing Banc assurance strategies to ensure agreed target/budget are attained.
- To ensure adherence of Agency contracts and negotiating commission from each principal insurance company
- Managing both life and non-life products and ensure all claims are attended as per agreed TAT.
- Play a key role to ensure that all claims are well received, screened and decision made with agreed TAT
- Provide the main link between the bank, Insurance companies and Insurance agency to customers.
- Implementing insurance agency business strategies to all branches in line with the annual plans.
- To ensure banc assurance business is in compliance with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA)
- Opening and maintaining collection account of each Principal
- Push sales of insurance products in order to attain targeted commission budget
- Recruiting new insurance clients and maintain existing to meet the desired market share.
- Managing and supporting sales activities in the branches.
- Initiate, organise and follow up on direct marketing activities of banc assurance business.
- Ensuring that customers are serviced with high standards and ethics
- Selling banks core products (accounts, loans, and forex) to all non-banked insurance clients
- Ensuring that all products sold are in compliancy with BOT Banc-assurance guideline and TIRA
- To maintain sound and active relationship with Bancassurance regulators and keep updated with any industry changes
- To produce daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly Bancassurance Sales reports to management
- To prepare Monthly and quarterly regulatory reports (TIRA and BOT).
- Prepare and conduct regular training to staff on insurance products and how to sale Insurance products
- To identify Knowledge Gap on Insurance products and develop training program which will cover the Gap

#### Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:

Job holder should seek to develop strong relationships with those performing a similar role at peer group businesses/banks and to join any appropriate industry forums that will enhance job performance and understanding.

Multi-cultural awareness and the ability to interact with a wide range of differing levels and sectors of staff, society, social and business, is an essential characteristic of the person holding this position.

#### Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:

- Degree in Insurance and Risk management or equivalent insurance experience with COP certificate.
- A minimum of two years' experience in insurance industry
- A comprehensive knowledge of Tanzanian Insurance business.
- Conversant with insurance product offerings in the wider financial services industry
- Effective communications skills, organizational skills, and ability to respond to requests effectively and efficiently.
- Understanding of BOT and TIRA guidelines on Bancassurance
- In-depth knowledge of current computer system functions and applications

#### **FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 through the email [TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com](mailto:TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com)

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## JOB OPPORTUNITY / VACANCY

### LETSHEGO TANZANIA LIMITED IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:

Job Title: IT Manager  
Reports To: **Head of operations**

#### Purpose of the Job:

Responsible and accountable for the smooth running of our computer systems within the limits of requirements, specifications, costs and timelines.

Supervising the implementation and maintenance of our company's computing needs.

#### Key Accountabilities:

- Managing information technology and computer systems
- Controlling and evaluating IT and electronic data operations
- Managing IT staff
- Plan, organize, control and evaluate IT and electronic data operations
- Manage IT staff by recruiting, training and coaching employees, communicating job expectations and appraising their performance
- Design, develop, implement and coordinate systems, policies and procedures
- Ensure security of data, network access and backup systems
- Act in alignment with user needs and system functionality to contribute to organizational policy
- Identify problematic areas and implement strategic solutions in time
- Audit systems and assess their outcomes
- Preserve assets, information security and control structures
- Handle annual budget and ensure cost effectiveness

#### Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:

- Proven working experience as an IT Manager or relevant experience
- Excellent knowledge of technical management, information analysis and of computer hardware/software systems
- Expertise in data centre management and data governance
- Hands-on experience with computer networks, network administration and network installation
- Ability to manage personnels

#### Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:

- The successful candidate will have improved skills, a proven professional experience and a detailed knowledge of industry's best practice processes.
- University Graduate from a recognized and well established University with a degree in Information Technology MIS,or equivalent
- A minimum of 6 years in management experienced in IT Management.

#### **FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 through the email [TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com](mailto:TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com)

Disclaimers: This job advert is not an in-deth list of all duties and responsibilities associated with the position.Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



## JOB OPPORTUNITY / VACANCY

### LETSHEGO TANZANIA LIMITED IS LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION OF:

Job Title: **Relationship Officer-Private Payroll**  
Reports To: Private Payroll Manager

#### Purpose of the Job:

The relationship officer shall execute day-to-day sales activities of the unit by ensuring that all sales strategies, plans and goals attained. The person is responsible for performance of Deduction at Source business for private employers to ensure the business is growing, meet required market share, portfolio quality and overall management in line with company strategy.

#### Key Accountabilities:

- Achieve growth and attain sales targets by successfully managing employer relationship for DAS-private
- Implementing strategic business plan that expands company's customer base and ensure its strong presence in the market
- Ensure business performance in line with agreed weekly, monthly and Annual target and monitoring of employer relationship.
- Managing on boarding process for both employer and employees in line with company policy.
- Managing business relationship that includes, TAT, portfolio performance and quality of loan
- Build and promote strong, long-lasting customer relationships by partnering with them and understanding their needs
- Monitoring of sales, revenue and expenses in line with forecasted budget.
- Identify emerging markets and market shifts while being fully aware of new products and competition status
- Coordinating with marketing team on lead generation

#### Thinking Requirements and Working Complexity:

Job holder should seek to develop strong relationships with those performing a similar role at peer group businesses/banks and to join any appropriate industry forums that will enhance job performance and understanding.

#### Knowledge and Experience Required of Job Holder:

- Minimum a Bachelor's degree in business or related field.
- Successful previous 2 A' experience as a sales representative or sales officer, consistently meeting or exceeding targets
- Committed to continuous education through workshops, seminars and conferences
- Demonstrated ability to communicate, present and influence credibly and effectively at all levels of the organization
- Proven ability to drive the sales and managing customer relationship
- Strong business sense and industry expertise
- Excellent positive attitude toward work and team player.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

#### **FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Interested and qualified applicants are requested to submit their application explaining why they are the best fit for the position by 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 through the email [TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com](mailto:TZ.Human.Resources@letshego.com)

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## Invest in quality seeds, Mkumbo tells TADB

By Banker Correspondent, Katavi

MINISTER of State in President's Office (Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo has tasked the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to cooperate with research and other national institutions to produce quality crop seeds.

He told reporters at the end of the inauguration of Katavi Regional Investment Guide that he believes it is pertinent and urgent on the part of TADB to invest in quality seed production by cooperating with other national institutions, especially the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in order to strategically strengthen national food security, get quality raw materials for local industries and increase agro-exports.

Prof Mkumbo said to achieve that endeavor, national institutions have to be united under an elaborate strategy and pursue a single aim particularly at this time when the nation is struggling to build an industrial economy by 2025.

The minister said it is illogical to talk of building industries without making big reforms in the agriculture sector, the sector that produces raw materials for those industries.

"What the TADB can do is to invest in production of quality seeds in order to increase agricultural production and feed local industries with quality enough raw materials. I appeal to the TADB and



Minister of State in President's Office (Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo (R) receives information from one of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) officials shortly after launching Katavi Region Investment Guide recently. On his (R) is the bank's official Chibya Kakema. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

partner banks to invest in agricultural reforms to end the raw materials challenge," he pleaded.

Citing example of edible oil production, the official said national requirements stand

at 500,000 tonnes of oil while industries are producing 210,000 tonnes. The discrepancy, he said, shows clearly the shortage of raw materials to local industries. He called on the bank to unite farmers

with industries by giving farmers soft loans.

TADB, he said, has contributed enormously to efforts towards national food security and crop value addition. In Katavi Region, he said,

the bank has financed over 30 agro-processing industries.

The TADB was started in 2015 by government as strategic institution with which to grow speedily the agriculture sector.

## Deep concern over internet disruptions in Senegal

DAKAR

DIGITAL rights advocacy group Paradigm Initiative has expressed deep concern over what it described as "disturbances of the internet and social networks" in Senegal.

According to a statement released by the organisation, the West African country recorded disruptions to the internet and social networks on Friday March 5, 2020 as evidenced in a report by NetBlocks.org.

Paradigm Initiative also cited alerts from internet users that revealed disruptions on social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp and some Telegram servers.

It added that prior to these disturbances, "clashes and other demonstrations shook several cities in the country after the arrest of the political leader and opposition leader, Ousmane Sonko; came third in the last presidential election in 2019."

The organisation stated: "Disturbances of the internet and social networks are a violation of digital user rights, and a violation of certain Internet rights according to the Senegal constitution Article 8, which guarantees its "citizens fundamental individual freedoms including freedom of opinion, expression, the press, association, assembly, travel, and demonstration".

"As a reminder, Senegal had recorded similar disturbances of internet servers a few days before the presidential election of February 24, 2019," the statement continued.

The organisation said it was deeply concerned over disturbances of internet networks and said these were aimed at suppressing demonstrations and the expression of online freedom of opinion in Senegal.

"Paradigm Initiative urges and requests the Senegalese government on its responsibilities and calls for respect for international human rights obligations, and to make a lasting contribution to actions to protect digital rights in the country, in accordance with the resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) adopted in 2016 on the right to freedom of information and expression for the internet in Africa, ACHPR / Res.362 (LIX)," the organisation added.

## UBA Bank Tanzania launches mobile application to enhance digital banking

By The Banker Reporter

AS the world grapples with the novel coronavirus outbreak which experts say is partly spread by bank notes, United Bank for Africa Tanzania has introduced a new mobile application to enable its customers use digital banking.

The new UBA Bank Tanzania application brings together the best of financial management, payments and lifestyle services as it seeks to promote digital banking platform in the country. Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch of the UBA Mobile App, the bank's Head of Digital Banking, Asupya Bussi said the application is targeted at UBA account holders and prospective

customers who can also download it in a seamless way in order to transact.

"This application has a sleek and trendy user interface that lets users build in their own image with a range of preferences designed to make life simpler," Bussi said while adding that it also provides a lot of options for control, support, flexibility and fun.

She pointed out that the UBA Mobile App has a distinctive user interface and with the latest design and usability trends that will eventually give differentiated experience for key segments like the youth. "It also has increased features and innovation delivery

delight for customers with better speed to market enhancements," she added.

Backing her UBA Bank Tanzania peer, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, Brendansia Kileo said the new application was developed to further enhance ease of banking, reduce cost of transacting both for the bank and its customers and develop lasting customer relationships through superior customer experience.

"This application provides safety and a trusted payment system. Our customers can walk around with their virtual money knowing they have 24/7 access to their funds

and customers private account information are never disclosed during payment transaction," Kileo noted.

She further argued that the application also ensures improved operational efficiency and drastic reduction of transaction processing time, redefines customer experience and retention as customers can be served on a personalized level.

"Our investments made over the years in the area of technology have started bearing fruits because with the UBA Mobile App it demonstrates our resolve to provide unparalleled experience across all channels which is line with UBA Bank vision

to dominate Africa's digital banking space," she added.

United Bank for Africa Plc is a leading pan-African financial institution, offering banking services to more than fourteen million customers across over 1,000 business offices and customers touch points in 20 African countries.

With presence in New York, London and Paris, UBA Bank is connecting people and businesses across Africa through retail, commercial and corporate banking, innovative cross border payments and remittances, trade finance and ancillary banking services.

## Halotel donates 5m/- to Dar vocational training centre

By Beatrice Philemon

HALOTEL Tanzania has donated 5m/- to the Salt Vocational Training Centre located in Makabe area of Ubungo Municipality in Dar es Salaam to support children with mental disorders.

Handing over the money, Halotel's Communication Officer, Hindu Kanyamala said that the support is part of celebrating International Women's Day as well as recognizing women's role in social and economic development.

She said that the support came after realizing that the center with 22 children is owned and managed by a

woman—Rebeka Lebi.

"We congratulate you for taking care of these children and provide them with vocational training to bring positive changes in our society. We believe this amount will help them to move forward," Hindu said.

According to Hindu, despite the center taking care of children, Lebi has gone an extra mile by providing practical training and technical skills of making different handcraft works so that they can be productive in the future.

She vowed that Halotel will continue to support women's efforts in scaling up

their daily activities, which in turn creates positive impacts in terms of social and economic development.

According to her, women have been upfront about achieving financial freedom and supporting societies. Halotel continues recognizing and value their efforts by providing its support as a way to hold up their endeavor.

"We'll continue to cooperate with our societies to bring social development as one way to appreciate its customers and participate in the development of our country's economy. We as telecom operators' social development it's also our

development because we all come from society," she stressed.

For her part, Lebi said that the center has 22 children who are facing mental disorders such as autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy.

She noted: "I would like to thank Halotel Tanzania for recognizing the importance of Salt Center; this support has come at the right time, we are going to use it to buy learning equipment and other needs."

"These children faced lots of challenges on their growth and we're here to change their lives by providing them with practical training and



Halotel Head of Marketing Department Sakina Makabu (L) hands over a dummy cheque worth 5m/- to Managing Director of Salts Center, Rebeka Lebi yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# A principled approach to avoiding common pitfalls in management of tax risks

By Evelyn Manu

ONE of the key resources in any organisation is funds. It is the objective of every organisation to channel its resources for best usage. In many cases, organizations have suffered financial losses due to unforeseen tax risks, resulting into divergence of resource usage from the original course.

Tax risks could be substantial depending on several factors such as the base value or principal amount involved, time delayed to identify and resolve the risk, the type of tax in question, or the nature of the risk (deliberate or an error). In addition to tax risks emanating from organisations' day to day operations, there is also uncertainty on how tax systems will respond to continued effects of globalization on businesses - and this exacerbates the problem.

The concept of tax risks is familiar to many organizations, as witnessed by the large number that have in place tax compliance strategies. However, there is still a significant number of cases of financial losses resulting from tax risks. This begs the question: why do organisations suffer from substantial tax risks if they have tax compliance strategies? The possible answer lies in the three principles as elaborated here under.

Our experience has shown that most tax strategies designed by organisations are not comprehensive enough to cater for common tax risks, let alone tax risks associated with our fast-paced world. Most



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tax strategies are set to monitor tax compliance in the narrow spaces of payment of taxes and filing of tax returns to meet due dates.

The second is collective responsibility where many organisations have historically considered tax issues to be within the purview of tax specialists and therefore they are not embraced across the board. This compromises the evaluation of tax in various business ambits. With increasing attention on tax in Tanzania, the

potential impact of tax risks reaches far beyond the tax department or tax specialists, highlighting the need for tax issues to be handled collectively.

Timeliness comes in the third position as in several circumstances, organisations have become aware of tax risks upon TRA audits or other internal or external reviews. At such point in time, the risk of a financial loss has far materialized as such audits or reviews are usually based on historical data.

It is also common for organisations

to self-assess their taxes upon computation of respective taxes for purposes of meeting the taxman's deadlines. These assessments are based on already-booked transactions and may attract additional tax liabilities in cases where all applicable taxes were not taken to account when the transactions were undertaken. For instance, there is a risk when any new business activity is carried out without being evaluated from tax perspective. Specifically, the risk here could be incorrect alignment of applicable taxes hence leading into over or under payment of tax. Many organizations suffer financial losses simply because a tax specialist is not involved in reviewing activities at their initial stages.

Additional tax liabilities may further translate into deterioration of shareholders' returns, organisations' investment plans and staff bonuses, among other things. Tax risks may also result into reputational risks depending on how they are handled. It is against this backdrop that organisations need a shift in their tax compliance strategies to tax risk management systems that evaluate business processes with a 360degrees' view. Organisations must also frequently review their tax risk management systems in order to maintain their relevance in this fast-paced world.

A comprehensive tax risk management system has at least three crucial elements which I will cover in the next three parts of this four-part series of articles.

## Air cargo demand rises to pre-Covid levels

NAIROBI

GLOBAL Air cargo demand returned to pre-Covid levels in January, showing recovery for the first time since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic a year ago. This comes as a relief to airlines that have been struggling for the last year.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) said January demand also showed strong month-to-month growth over December 2020 levels, buoyed by Africa and Asia robust growth in trade.

The upturn in air cargo comes at a time when local airlines such as Kenya Airways and Astral Aviation have increased their freight capacity in order to capitalise on freight demand following a dip in passenger numbers.

Passenger numbers remain low as the demand for flying is still subdued amid new travel restrictions and lockdowns by different countries.

"Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers, was up 1.1 percent compared to January 2019 and three percent up compared



to December 2020. All regions saw month-on-month improvement in air cargo demand, and North America and Africa were the strongest performers," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and chief executive.

"Air cargo traffic is back to pre-crisis levels and that is some much needed good news for the global economy. But while there is a strong demand to ship goods, our ability is capped by the shortage of belly capacity normally provided by passenger aircraft," he said, noting that in normal times, a third of world trade by value moves by air and "that this high value commerce is vital to

helping restore Covid-19 damaged economies".

African airlines' cargo demand in January soared 22.4 percent compared to the same month in 2019, eclipsing the 6.3 percent year-over-year increase for December 2020.

IATA said a robust expansion on the Asia-Africa trade lanes contributed to the strong growth in the review period.

European carriers' international cargo demand slipped 0.6 percent in January compared to the same month in 2019. This was an improvement from the 5.6 percent fall in December 2020 over the

year-ago period. International capacity decreased 19.5 percent, a deterioration from the 18.4 percent year-to-year decline recorded for December.

On the other hand, IATA announced that passenger traffic fell in January 2021, compared to pre-Covid levels (January 2019) and compared to the immediate month prior (December 2020).

Total demand in January 2021 - measured in revenue passenger kilometres or RPKs - was down 72.0 percent compared to January 2019. That was worse than the 69.7 percent year-over-year decline recorded in December 2020.

Total domestic demand was down 47.4 percent versus pre-crisis (January 2019) levels. In December it was down 42.9 percent on the previous year.

International passenger demand in January was 85.6 percent below January 2019, a further drop compared to the 85.3 percent year-to-year decline recorded in December.

## Digital customs system set for full rollout June

NAIROBI

Full implementation of a digital customs system will significantly increase efficiencies at the Port of Mombasa and along the Northern Corridor, Ministry of East African Community Affairs Principal Secretary Dr Kevit Desai has said.

The integrated Customs Management System (iCMS) which is 90 percent complete is expected to be rolled out fully in June.

"With full implementation of iCMS, we expect Kenya's ranking at the World Trade Index to go up by 20 position. In the system, we have integrated 41 modules and we expect the remaining four to be completed by June this year," said Dr Desai.

iCMS will enable revenue authorities to receive declarations of goods before ships dock at the port, reducing the time taken to clear goods.

Kenyan has implemented a number of programmes in the past decade which has seen the time to import and to export goods fall in the EAC by 54 percent and 92 percent. For the same period, the turnaround truck time between Mombasa and Kampala has fallen from 18 days to four days while costs to import and export have fallen, in the same period, have reduced by 45 percent and 66 percent respectively, according to TMEA report released this year.

With these achievements, Covid-19 has tried to push back the efforts forcing a number of stakeholders to come together to prevent further decline.

Some of the programmes the Kenyan government and other regional governments have implemented which has boosted efficiency and revenue collection include Single Customs territory (SCT) which in-



**A ship docks at the Port of Mombasa.**

volves goods being cleared by lodging a single declaration in the country of destination and the goods being subsequently released upon

confirmation by the country of destination that the taxes have been paid, unlike in the past when multiple declarations at the borders were made.

## Data and fintech subscriptions lift MTN to stronger full year results

ACCRA

MTN Group recorded improved topline performance in the year ended December, driven by a surge in active data and Mobile Money (MoMo) subscriptions, despite turbulent market conditions ushered in by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The telco, which has been seeking to reposition itself and push into new sources of revenue, recorded increased uptake of its fintech business, which includes MoMo, insurance, airtime lending and e-commerce.

The Pan-Africa mobile operator says driven by its focus on furthering digital and financial inclusion, it added 19 million active data users and 11.7 million MoMo users, to reach 114.3 million and 46.4 million respectively.

In addition, MTN, which presented its financial results today, says the number of active merchants accepting its MoMo propositions increased 115% to 440 000.

In Nigeria, MTN signed up more than 280 000 additional agents, to end the financial year with more than 395 000 registered agents for its fintech business.

In the year 2020, MTN's data revenue expanded by 31%, with a 110% increase in traffic brought about by higher levels of online demand resulting from the effects of COVID-19, including an increase in learn-from-home and work-from-home.

MTN says it surpassed the breakthrough 100 million mark in the first half of the year as it continued to work towards its ambition of connecting 200 million data users to its networks in the medium-term.

"Anchored in our intent of driving the industry-leading connectivity operations in our markets, we sustained our efforts to bridge the digital divide," says MTN.

"We expanded our 3G and 4G coverage footprint, adding 16.3 million and 55 million people respectively; invested in 5G in SA; recorded 140 million smartphones on our network; and reduced the effective rate per megabyte by 32.9%. Average data usage rose by 60% to 4.4GB per month."

Turning to fintech, MTN says revenue rose by 23.9% and the value of MoMo transactions was \$152 billion and the mobile operator processed 12 400 transactions per minute (up 35% from 9 200 in 2019).

"While COVID-19 accelerated the adoption of mobile financial services, growth in fintech revenue was moderated by reductions in transaction fees to support our customers, lockdown restrictions on agents and a slowdown in economic activity."

At the end of December 2020, MTN's aYo insurance joint venture had 11 million registered policy-holders and six million active policies. In total, aYo generated \$6.4 million (R106 million) in service revenue and \$10.5 million (R172 million) premium income.

CEO Ralph Mupita says despite the challenging trading conditions, MTN continued to demonstrate strong operational execution and resilience in delivering a solid performance for the year in its key commercial and financial metrics.

In the year, MTN added 28.8 million customers to its networks, to end with a subscriber base of 279.6 million, as at December 2020.

"We continued to perform favourably against our medium-term targets, with service revenue growth of 11.9% and EBITDA growth of 13.4%, maintaining our strong operating leverage," says Mupita.

"The solid operational result was supported by the pleasing growth in our larger operations as well as a broad-based improvement across all our regions. In the larger operations, MTN South Africa sustained the turnaround in its core business units, while MTN Nigeria and MTN Ghana continued to deliver solid overall performances with double-digit service revenue growth in both markets."

Mupita says 2020 was characterised by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, including volatility in global commodities and capital markets, as well as the implementation of varying degrees of restrictions. These, he says, were most severe in April 2020, after which they began to ease.

"The pandemic has brought about unprecedented socio- and macro-economic challenges globally that have impacted lives and livelihoods across our footprint. The health and safety of our people across our markets has been our key priority.

"To the end of February 2021, we have reported 1 404 COVID-19 infections and mourned the loss of 10 MTN employees across our markets. We continue to apply health measures to safeguard the wellbeing of our people, who have also been empowered to work remotely."

MTN also made a \$25 million donation in support of the African Union's programme to secure much-

# Key treasury auction could determine direction of yields

NEW YORK

INVESTORS concerned about demand for U.S. Treasury debt will be watching Wednesday's 10-year auction for clues to where yields in the recently volatile market may be headed.

The U.S. Treasury Department has increased debt issuance dramatically in the last year to fund coronavirus stimulus endeavors. Roughly \$3.6 trillion of new government paper was issued in 2020 versus \$2.9 trillion the year prior, according to SIFMA. With President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion fiscal package on the docket, issuance in 2021 is slated to rise to \$4 trillion this year, according to ING.

Ballooning supply and weak demand at an auction of seven-year notes in late February helped send the 10-year yield more than 20 basis points higher, with spillover volatility in the equity market. That has put investors on watch for Wednesday's auction of \$38 billion in 10-year notes at 1 p.m. EST.

"I think (the 10-year) auction will have a significant impact on

sentiment over the next few weeks," said Gregory Whiteley, portfolio manager at DoubleLine.

Analysts at NatWest wrote in a note that the 10-year and subsequent 30-year auction - scheduled on Thursday - could cause "another mid-week surge in yields."

An auction on Tuesday of \$58 billion in U.S. three-year notes went "not so well as to warrant any rethink" on the 10-year auction, said NatWest.

A move higher in yields could also prompt a comment from the Federal Reserve, which holds its next policy-setting meeting on March 16-17.

"If the market runs too far ahead of itself, I would expect (the Fed) to have to say something... to cap rates from going too much higher," said David Norris, head of U.S. credit at TwentyFour Asset Management.

Whiteley said another 20-basis-point move higher in the 10-year yield is possible in the next week or two if demand at auction is weak.

Among the tools the Fed has at its disposal are an increase in its Treasury purchases and an extension of a regulatory break on



The US Treasury Department in Washington.

a rule called the supplementary leverage ratio, which would allow banks to maintain current holdings of Treasuries. Still, Fed Chair Jerome Powell in an interview with the Wall

Street Journal brushed off concerns about higher yields.

"If the auctions go well, this could be a sign to the Fed that rates are increasing for all the right reasons,"

said Meghan Swiber, U.S. rates strategist at Bank of America, adding that with a fair amount of demand at auctions the Fed might not "necessarily need to

step in."

Key to the performance of Wednesday's auction is demand from investors in Japan - the largest foreign holder of U.S. government debt securities, according to Treasury Department data - as investors square away positions ahead of the March 31 year end. Some of the weak demand at the seven-year auction was due to less buying from Japan, said Ben Jeffery, U.S. rates strategist at BMO Capital Markets.

"The same dynamic holds this week for the 10-year auction this week," he said.

But a further rise in yields following the auction could ultimately entice those investors back into the market and cap the rise in rates.

"We think that as rates increase we could actually have Japanese investors and pension funds step in at these levels because Treasury yields do look really attractive relative to their local alternatives," Swiber said.



## U\$1,400 stimulus checks set for bank balances

NEW YORK

A CHUNK of President Joe Biden's coronavirus relief package is poised to end up in the stock market and could provide a boost for GameStop and other stocks embraced by individual investors active in online social media forums.

The relief package, which is on track to be signed into law later this week, is set to provide \$400 billion in direct payments of \$1,400 per person, helping individuals earning less than \$80,000 annually and couples making less than \$160,000. The government should be able to start delivering checks almost immediately once Congress finalizes the bill and Biden signs it.

"I do think that you will find a lot of that stimulus money will end up in the market, and I think if anything it's a bullish catalyst," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab.

A Deutsche Bank survey of 430 retail investors last month found that on average they plan to put 37 percent of any stimulus checks directly into equities.

At that rate, the amount from the latest package that could go into stocks ranges from \$25 billion, if only traders with online accounts spend money on stocks, to as much as \$150 billion, if all stimulus recipients spend their checks in the

market in the same proportion, according to Deutsche Bank strategist Parag Thatte.

U.S. equity funds have been seeing near-record inflows of about \$15 billion a month, "so incremental flows stemming from stimulus payments can be sizable, especially if deployed quickly," Thatte said in an email.

Despite a recent pullback in stocks, including a 10 percent correction in the tech-heavy Nasdaq, the benchmark S&P 500 is near record highs and has climbed more than 70 percent from lows during the throes of the pandemic in March 2020.

If stimulus payments do flow into the stock market, they could end up disproportionately going to GameStop or other stocks favored by retail investors active on social media platforms.

Frederick said that younger adults tend to be on the lower end of income brackets, and therefore more likely to be eligible to receive stimulus payments, and that younger investors are more inclined to invest in so-called "meme stocks."

Shares of GameStop were soaring to start the week, following news about the video game chain's e-commerce strategy, while other stocks favored by retail investors on forums such as Reddit's WallStreetBets also were rallying.

There was some evidence of stimulus excitement among investors on social media platforms. On the popular

WallStreetBets forum, an account called "IwantSpaceX" posted: "Lets get our Stimmy checks IN!"

The stimulus payments could add fuel to interest from individual investors that has already been rising, with the COVID-19 pandemic leaving Americans with more time in front of their computers or on their smartphones.

Goldman Sachs strategists recently raised their 2021 net equity demand estimate from households from \$100 billion to \$350 billion, reflecting "faster economic growth and higher interest rates than we had assumed previously, additional stimulus payments to individuals, and increased retail activity in early 2021."

"We expect Households will be the largest source of equity demand this year," Goldman strategists said in a note.

Brokerage TD Ameritrade saw nearly 1.76 million retail accounts opened during January through September of 2020, a record amount for the company for the first nine months of a year.

"People have time, people have interest and now they are actually starting to understand what it is they are investing in," said JJ Kinahan, chief market strategist at TD Ameritrade. "You have really started to see an interest from the individual investor in a way that we have never seen before."

## Stocks rise after wild tech reboot yields inch higher

LONDON

WORLD share markets inched higher on Wednesday after a stunning reboot in U.S. tech stocks, while the dollar and benchmark government yields both ticked up ahead of a key U.S. Treasury auction and inflation reading later.

But gains were subdued after Tuesday's 20 percent surge in electric car doyen Tesla, 4 percent jump in the Nasdaq and biggest one-day gain for global heavyweights Amazon and Microsoft in well over a month.

Asia had bounced back from a two-month low as China's markets shrugged off their recent central bank policy tightening worries and Europe was helped early on by a new all-time high for Germany's DAX.

The dollar and bond yields ticked up too. Traders were focused on the U.S. bond auction and inflation data later, as well as Thursday's European Central Bank meeting where it is expected to respond to the recent jump in borrowing costs.

Mikhail Zverev, head of global equities at Aviva Investors, said Tuesday's wild moves in big U.S. tech underscored how volatile markets, which are increasingly dominated by super-sized passive funds, are likely to be this year as the world tries to reset after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The winds are blowing harder now. The world isn't a more dangerous place, a mild increase in interest rates is not a cataclysmic event... but there is now the big-herd mentality with a greater propensity for rotations," he said.

"They are moving more frequently, they are moving faster and they are leaving a trail of inefficiency," leaving markets vulnerable to big swings, he added.

Gains in Asian stocks overnight came after Chinese shares had fallen to their lowest levels since

mid-December the previous day on the prospect of tighter policy and a slowing economic recovery.

News that a \$1.9 trillion U.S. coronavirus relief package was nearing final approval had sparked a global spike in bond yields on Monday. That had pushed the Nasdaq more than 10 percent below its Feb. 12 closing high, confirming a correction for the index.

The yield on benchmark 10-year notes was at 1.540 percent, having peaked at 1.626 percent on Friday, after Tuesday's auction of \$58 billion in U.S. 3-year notes was well received.

Yet, many market investors remained on edge, with the next tests of investor appetite for government debt due later this week in the form of 10-year and 30-year auctions. "Although the bond market has steadied a bit, pressures will remain," said Naokazu Koshimizu, senior rates strategist at Nomura Securities.

"It has priced in future normalisation of the Fed's monetary policy, the Fed's policy becoming eventually neutral. But it has not yet priced in the chance of its policy becoming tighter."

Some investors see a real risk of an overheated U.S. economy and higher inflation on the back of the planned government spending boom.

U.S. consumer price data due at 1330 GMT is expected to show a slight acceleration in the overall inflation in February, with analysts expecting further gains in coming months due to base effects from a severe economic downturn in early 2020.

The speedier rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in some countries and the planned U.S. stimulus package helped underpin a brighter global economic outlook, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said on Tuesday, as it raised its 2021 growth forecast.

BANKING & FINANCE

## Adidas predicts strong rebound despite Reebok hit

BERLIN

GERMAN sportswear maker Adidas AG expects a strong China-led recovery in sales this year, though profit will be trimmed by costs associated with divesting its Reebok brand.

Preparing to presenting its 2021 outlook on Wednesday as part of its five-year strategy, Adidas said it has reopened 95 percent of its

stores after coronavirus lockdowns and expects 2021 sales growth rate in the mid-to-high teens, rising to as much as 30 percent in greater China, the rest of Asia and Latin America.

Adidas shares rose 3.5 percent by 0853 GMT, making them the strongest gainer on the German blue-chip index.

"The 2021 outlook appears broadly consistent with consensus

estimates once Reebok stranded costs are added back," said Jefferies analyst James Grzincic.

Rival Puma last month said it expects the financial impact from lockdowns to last well into the second quarter but that pandemic-driven growth in running should help to support a strong improvement after that.

Adidas reported fourth-quarter sales up by a currency-neutral 1

percent at 5.55 billion euros (\$6.59 billion) while operating profit slipped slightly to 225 million euros, ahead of the 5.47 billion and 202 million euros expected by analysts.

About half of its stores were closed in Europe in the period, but online sales grew 43 percent.

As part of its new strategy, Adidas will manage greater China as a separate market from the rest of Asia and it has integrated Europe,

Russia and emerging markets into a new Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) region.

For EMEA, Adidas expects sales growth in the mid-to-high teens, but only a high single-digit percentage in North America.

Net income from continuing operations is projected to rise to between 1.25 billion and 1.45 billion euros.

However, Adidas expects a hit

of about 250 million euros to operating profit from costs to make Reebok a standalone company, with a third of that in 2022 but none in 2023.

Adidas last month said that it plans to sell or spin-off the underperforming brand, 15 years after it bought the U.S. fitness label to help it compete with arch-rival Nike Inc.

## WORLD

## Saddened Queen Elizabeth will address Harry and Meghan's racism accusation

LONDON

QUEEN Elizabeth said on Tuesday the British royals were saddened by the challenging experiences of her grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan and promised to privately address revelations about a racist remark about their son.

Meghan and Harry's tell-all TV interview with Oprah Winfrey aired on U.S. television on Sunday has plunged the monarchy into its biggest crisis since the 1997 death of Harry's mother Diana.

In the two-hour show, Meghan accused Britain's royal family of raising concerns about how dark their son Archie's skin might be and ignoring her pleas for help while she felt suicidal.

Harry also said his father, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, had let him down and that he had felt trapped in his royal life.

"The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan," Buckingham Palace said in a statement issued on behalf of Elizabeth.

"The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. Whilst some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately. Harry, Meghan and Archie will always be much loved family members."

The Palace considered that this was a family matter, a royal source said, adding the royals should be given the opportunity to discuss the issues raised privately as a family.

The interview was watched by 12.4 million viewers in Britain and 17.1 million in

the United States, triggering a crisis to which the monarchy had to respond, media said.

It has proved divisive among the British public, with some believing it showed how outdated and intolerant the institution was, while others decried it as a self-serving assault that neither Elizabeth nor her family deserved.

"It could hardly be more damaging to the royal family, not least because there is little it can do to defend itself," The Times said in a lead article under the title "Royal Attack".

"The key to the monarchy's survival over the centuries has been its ability to adapt to the needs of the times. It needs to adapt again," The Times said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Charles made no comment when asked by a reporter what he thought of the interview while visiting a COVID-19 vaccine pop-up clinic in London.

A royal source had said Elizabeth, 94, who has been on the throne for 69 years, wanted to take some time before the Palace issued a response, saying it needed careful consideration.

A former senior royal aide said it was likely that the three most senior royals - the queen, Charles and Prince William, second in line to the throne and Harry's elder brother, would have held meetings with their private secretaries and communications chiefs to decide on their response.

"This is pretty important and they've got to judge it right," said the former aide, adding the queen would have had the final say.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth, Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex pose for a picture with some of Queen's Young Leaders at a Buckingham Palace reception following the final Queen's Young Leaders Awards Ceremony, in London, Britain June 26, 2018. File Photo

## TABLOID TORTURE?

In the interview, nearly three years since her wedding in Windsor Castle, Meghan gained sympathy in the United States by casting some unidentified members of the royal family as uncaring, mendacious or guilty of racist remarks.

Meghan and Harry have also had a torrid relationship with the British press, successfully taking papers to court on occasions, and have repeatedly questioned what they say is reporting tainted by racist overtones.

Harry said in the interview he did not know where to turn when faced with such troubling media coverage and felt hurt when his family failed to call out racist reporting.

He said the royal family had an unhealthy silent agreement with the British tabloids and that the family was paranoid about the media turning on them.

"There is a level of control by fear that has existed for generations," Harry said.

For the monarchy, which traces its history through 1,000 years of British and English history to William the Conqueror, Meghan's bombshell has been compared to the crises over the death of Diana and the 1936 abdication of Edward VIII.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson watched the interview, his spokesman said, but would not be making further comment on it.

Johnson said on Monday he had the highest admiration for the queen but

that he did not want to speak about the interview. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said her nation was unlikely to stop having the queen as head of state soon.

## 'TRAPPED'

Opponents of the monarchy said the allegations made by Meghan and Harry showed how rotten the institution was and that the Palace's public relations machine had created a distorted image of the royals.

"Now people are getting a much clearer picture of what the monarchy is really like. And it doesn't look good," said Graham Smith, head of Republic, a campaign group which seeks to abolish the monarchy.

Royal supporters cast Meghan, 39, an American former actor, as a publicity seeker with an eye on Hollywood stardom.

A YouGov poll found a majority of young people thought the royals' treatment of the couple was unfair, while half of older people said the opposite.

The gravity of the claims has raised questions about how the British monarchy, which survived centuries of revolution that toppled their cousins across Europe, could function in a meritocratic world.

Meghan, whose mother is Black and father is white, said her son Archie, who turns two in May, had been denied the title of prince because there were concerns within the royal family "about how dark his skin might be when he's born".

Agencies

## Xi's 'two sessions' messages point way for China at historic development juncture

BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping has pointed the way for China, which is at a historic development juncture, by expounding on a wide range of topics at this year's "two sessions," a key political event slated to close today.

The two sessions are the country's annual meetings of the National People's Congress (NPC) and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, participated in deliberations with national legislators and joined discussions with political advisors at the two sessions.

He took part in deliberations with other lawmakers from Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Qinghai Province, and attended a plenary meeting of the delegation of the People's Liberation Army and People's Armed Police Force. He also joined national political advisors from education,

medical and health sectors in a joint group meeting.

2021 marks a historic juncture for China as it embarks on a new quest for fully building a modern socialist country. Here are some key takeaways from Xi's speeches at the sessions that may provide insights into China's development trajectory.

## GREEN GDP

Xi has always stressed adopting "a holistic approach" to conserving mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes and grasslands. This time, he brought "deserts" into the picture.

Top-level design and comprehensive measures are needed to protect the eco-systems in mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, grasslands and deserts, said Xi, an NPC deputy himself.

Highlighting the concept of "green GDP," Xi said that maintaining a good ecological environment is of enormous value.

## ETHNIC UNITY

Xi stressed cementing the sense of community for the



Chinese nation.

He called for promoting standard spoken and written Chinese language and the use of state-compiled textbooks.

Efforts should be made to facilitate more comprehensive understanding of the Party's policies concerning ethnic groups, especially among young people, Xi said.

## PEOPLE'S HEALTH AS 'STRATEGIC PRIORITY'

Xi has stressed giving "strategic priority" to safeguarding people's health and focusing on tackling major diseases and problems that affect people's health.

The country's public health protection network should be fortified, and efforts should

be made to promote the high-quality development of public hospitals, he said, demanding comprehensive health care for the people at all stages of life.

The fight against COVID-19 has once again proved that prevention is the most economical and effective health strategy, Xi said, calling for reforming and improving the disease prevention and control system.

Xi also urged the preservation and development of traditional Chinese medicine and breakthroughs in core technologies in key areas, as well as more protection, care and support for health workers.

## QUALITY BASIC PUBLIC EDUCATION

On education, Xi said China must strive to build a high-quality and balanced basic public education service system.

He emphasized the socialist orientation in running schools, the non-profit nature of education and developing education that people are satisfied with.

Education is essential to

the country and the Party, Xi stressed.

He called for efforts to train more talents who can contribute to the country's high-quality development and high-level self-reliance.

Teachers are the central pillar of education, and strengthening the professional ethics of teachers must be a top priority, Xi said.

## HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT &amp; PEOPLE'S WELL-BEING

Xi noted that high-quality development is the general requirement for all aspects of economic and social development.

It will not only be the requirement for developed regions, but will also be the requirement that entails implementation by all regions, Xi said, urging each region to pursue high-quality development based on local conditions.

He urged efforts to integrate high-quality development with action in meeting people's aspiration for a better life.

## WHO: 1 in 3 women endure physical or sexual violence

GENEVA

NEARLY one in three women worldwide is subjected to physical or sexual violence during her lifetime, pervasive criminal behavior that has increased during the pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The UN agency urged governments to prevent violence, improve services for victims and tackle economic inequalities that often leave women and girls trapped in abusive relationships.

Boys should be taught in school about the need for mutual respect in relationships and mutual consent in sex, WHO officials said.

"Violence against women is endemic in every country and culture, causing harm to millions of women and their families, and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

Some 31 percent of women aged 15-49, or up to 852 million women, have experienced physical or sexual violence, the WHO said in what it called the largest-ever study, encompassing national data and surveys from 2000-2018.

A husband or intimate partner is the most common perpetrator and a disproportionate number of victims are in the poorest countries, it said. True figures are likely far higher due to under-reporting of sexual abuse, a heavily-stigmatized crime.

"These numbers are very shocking and really are sort of a wake-up call for governments to be doing much more to prevent this violence," report author Claudia Garcia-Moreno said. In some regions, more than half of women face violence at some point, she told Reuters, citing Oceania, sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia.

Countries with the highest prevalence include Kiribati, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Afghanistan, WHO data show.

The lowest rates are in Europe, up to 23 percent, over a lifetime.

Violence starts at an "alarmingly young" age, the WHO said. One in four adolescent girls aged 15-19 who have had a relationship have been subjected to either physical or sexual violence, Garcia-Moreno said.

"This is a very important and formative time in life. And we know that the impacts of this violence can be long-lasting and can affect physical and mental health and lead to unwanted pregnancies and other complications," she said.

Xinhua

## German vaccine official praises Russia's Sputnik V

BERLIN

RUSSIA'S Sputnik V vaccine has a chance to be registered in the EU, Thomas Mertens, head of Germany's Standing Committee on Vaccination, said in an interview with the Rheinische Post newspaper published yesterday.

"It is a good vaccine that will probably be authorized in the EU at some point. Russian researchers have a lot of experience with vaccinations," he said.

The Lancet medical journal published an article reviewing results of the third stage of Sputnik V's clinical trials in early February.

The article notes the highly positive performance of the jab, putting it among the most safe and efficient in the world. The shot efficacy stands at 91.6%, while the result for those aged over 60 is even higher, 91.8%. Moreover, 98% of all volunteers who had the Russian vaccine had the antibody response.

Germany has repeatedly stated that on the whole, it is ready to use vaccines produced outside of the EU, namely Sputnik V. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Health Minister Jens Spahn named the main condition for using the vaccine: it must be certified by the European regulatory body.



## All prefectures, counties in Tibet Autonomous Region connected to State grid

CHINA on Feb. 25 held a grand gathering at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty eradication and commend role models in that cause. The rural electricity department of the State Grid Tibet Electric Power Company was rewarded for its outstanding contribution to the poverty alleviation fight.

Since 2016, the State Grid Tibet Electric Power Company has invested a total of 49.4 billion yuan (\$7.64 billion) in power grid construction in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, where over 100,000 constructors overcame harsh conditions and com-

pleted the construction of four major grid projects - the Qinghai-Tibet power grid interconnection, Sichuan-Tibet power grid interconnection, central region of Tibet power grid interconnection project and Ngari power grid interconnection. The efforts have connected Tibetan households to safe electricity and offered strong support for the autonomous region to shake off poverty.

Local workers in Tibet were employed more than 1.47 million times in total in the construction of power grid projects, which helped them increase income by nearly 1.32 billion yuan. The company expanded the income for the group

by 293 million yuan in 2020 alone.

At the end of the last year, the Ngari power grid interconnection, a project with an investment of 7.4 billion yuan, was put into service, connecting Ngari Prefecture to the country's state grid. By then, all 74 counties and prefectures of the autonomous region had been connected to the state grid, which largely boosted the livelihood improvement and development of nearly 380,000 farmers and herdsmen in 16 counties along the project.

As the final region connected to the state grid in Tibet Autonomous Region, Ngari used to be trapped by power shortage, which

limited the development of the prefecture that boasts rich tourism and industrial resources.

The director of the rural electricity department of the State Grid Tibet Electric Power Company He Longshou introduced that he was once reminded by the front desk of a hotel in Ngari to charge his devices during the daytime, as the power would go off at night, during a business trip to the prefecture.

"The frequent blackouts not only led to high operation cost of hotels, but also prevented them from expanding their business," said Dawa Putri, manager of a hotel in Saga County, Shigatse.

As an important transit along the National Highway 219, Saga enjoys prospering tourism, and there are many hotels in the township. However, all the hotels must prepare backup generators in the county that relied solely on hydro-power.

As a result, they had to suffer not only unstable voltage, but also a fuel cost that might run up to one or two thousand yuan per day.

As the Ngari power grid interconnection project came into service, power supply is no longer a problem, and the cost of hotels dropped drastically. Many owners of hotels in the county are now planning to expand their business.

In a factory that processes tsampa, a Tibetan staple foodstuff made from roasted barley flour in Rutog village, Ngari, all production procedures are now powered by electricity, including cleaning, frying, grinding and packaging.

"Being connected to the state grid, our factory now has more stable production and a lower cost," said Phuntsog Tsering, head of the factory.

At present, over 30 local people with physical disabilities and from impoverished households are working for tsampa, Tibetan incense and wool processing factories in the village.

People's Daily



## John Kerry in Brussels to renew US-EU climate cooperation

BRUSSELS

JOHN KERRY, the United States' Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, on Tuesday underlined the cooperation between the US and European Union (EU) on the fight against the climate crisis during his visit to Brussels.

Kerry (pictured) stressed that the world is facing not only a climate crisis but also "a moment of the greatest opportunity that we've had since perhaps the industrial revolution to build better to renew ourselves and our economies."

He described the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland in November this year as the last opportunity for the world to come together and "build on Paris (Agreement)."

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the European Green Deal and Commissioner for Climate Action Policy, hailed the comeback of the US climate action.

He said the EU and the US would be working to make a success of Glasgow, though it will be quite an effort to



"convince other major players in the world to do the right thing."

Kerry attended the weekly European Commission College meeting, where the commission's president Ursula von der Leyen recalled that Joe Biden, on his first day in office, announced the US return to the Paris Agreement. The EU member states agreed in December to cut the bloc's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 from 1990 levels.

So far, half of the G20 members, such as Japan, China, South Korea or South Africa, are already committed to achieving climate- or at least carbon neutrality by 2050 or soon after.

Xinhua

## Rwanda begins vaccinating inmates against COVID-19

KIGALI

THE Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) and Rwanda Correctional Services has begun inoculating elderly inmates and those with underlying diseases against COVID-19.

The vaccination started on Tuesday at Nyarugenge prison in the capital city of Kigali, where 2,077 inmates are set to be inoculated, and the authorities plans to extend the vaccination to all inmates aged 60 and above and those with underlying health conditions in prisons across the country. Commissioner General of Rwanda Correctional Services George Rwigamba told journalists at Nyarugenge prison.

A total of about 12,000 inmates are expected to be inoculated in the coming days, Rwigamba said, adding that the vaccination for inmates was a welcome move as ensuring social distancing measures in prisons is a challenge. The RBC on Tuesday said the vaccination among commercial motorcyclists and cyclists, as well as local security guards in Kigali has also started.

Rwanda Last Friday launched countrywide inoculation against COVID-19 of priority groups, including health personnel, frontline workers and those older than 65 years or with underlying health conditions, after receiving AstraZeneca-Oxford and Pfizer vaccines through COVAX Wednesday. It later extended elderly people eligible for inoculation to those older than 60-year-old as more vaccines become available.

More than 200,000 people regarded as priority have been vaccinated, according to Monday's figures from RBC. As of late Monday, Rwanda has recorded a total of 19,659 cases, with 17,911 recoveries and 268 deaths.

## Egyptian president says inauguration of new capital to mark 'birth of new state'

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said on Tuesday that the inauguration of the New Administrative Capital (NAC) and the relocation of the government's headquarters to the new city will mark the "birth of a new state" of Egypt.

Sisi's remarks came during a symposium in Cairo honoring the martyrs of the armed forces. "There will be a birth of a new state by inaugurating the new capital," said the Egyptian president, reiterating that the inauguration will mark "a declaration of a new republic." Sisi hoped that the inauguration will be done later this year if no delay would be caused due to the fight against COVID-19.

Being built some 45 km east of the traditional capital Cairo since 2015, on an area of 714 square km, the new capital is planned to accommodate 6.5 million people, starting with half a million in the first stage, making some space in the congested and overpopulated Cairo that is home to about one fifth of the country's 100 million population.

It will also be home to most government buildings including the cabinet headquarters and ministries, in addition to the parliament, and is



expected to accommodate in the first stage from 40,000 to 50,000 government employees that are planned to be increased to 100,000 three years after inauguration.

The government also expects the NAC to create around 2 million job opportunities. China State Construction Engineering Corporation (CSCEC) is currently building a 20-tower business district in the NAC, including the 385-meter-high Iconic Tower that is expected to be the tallest building in Africa upon completion.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said on Monday that trial operation of government buildings in the new capital will start in August through gradual relocation of employees, expecting the inauguration of the NAC to be held by the end of the year.

Xinhua

# UK envoy summoned for 'didactic arrogance'

CAROLINE Elizabeth Wilson, the United Kingdom's ambassador to China, was summoned by a chief official with the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of European Affairs on Tuesday to receive a solemn protest about her recent improper signed article published on social media.

She was asked to thoroughly reflect on her duties and responsibilities, put her position in the proper place and do more things that are conducive to the development of bilateral relations, the ministry said in a statement.

In her article, Wilson (pictured) said foreign media organizations, instead of targeting China only, are overseeing both their own governments and the Chinese government.

After some foreign media had been sanctioned for groundless reporting, Wilson issued the article to defend them, deliberately confused slander in news with supervision on news and she, on a selective basis, turned a blind eye to foreign suppression of Chinese media, the Chinese official said.

The article is full of didactic arrogance and ideology-related prejudice, it subverts black and white and adopts double standards, the official



said.

It drifts away from the duties of diplomats and the mission of diplomatic agencies, and the article triggered great discontent among the Chinese public, the official noted.

The Chinese government and its people never oppose foreign media themselves but those erroneous moves of producing fake news and viciously attacking China, the Communist Party of China and the Chinese political system with excuses of "freedom of the press" and "freedom of speech", the official said.

In another development, renowned filmmakers John Pilger, Oliver Stone and Ken Loach have signed an open letter calling for Britain to reverse a decision last month to revoke the license for Chinese broadcaster CGTN.

Agencies

## China's successful poverty reduction campaign example to world

CHINESE President Xi Jinping announced on Feb. 25 that the country has achieved a "complete victory" in its fight against poverty, with the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line all lifted out of poverty, and all its 832 poverty-stricken counties and 128,000 poor villages removed from the poverty list.

China has eradicated regional poverty and accomplished the arduous task of eliminating absolute poverty, creating another "miracle" that will "go down in history," Xi said at a gathering held in Beijing to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honor its model poverty fighters.

The remarkable achievements of China in reducing poverty marked a new chapter in the history of mankind's fight against poverty and opened up new horizon for the development of human society.

China's poverty alleviation campaign is an important force driving the global poverty reduction process, and the Chinese history is indeed a history of how the Chinese nation has fought against poverty.

Under current standards, China has freed 770 million impoverished rural residents from poverty since it started implementing the reform and opening-up policy in 1978.

According to the World Bank's international poverty line, the county is responsible for over 70 percent of the global reduction in poverty since late 1970s.

When poverty alleviation remains a daunting challenge across the world and the gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen in some countries, China has met the poverty eradication target set in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule, winning widespread praise from the international community.

It is globally recognized that China's performance over the last four decades in raising hundreds



Pan Hongxia (left), a woman who returned to her hometown in Weishi county, central China's Henan province, to start her own business, picking tomatoes in a greenhouse of hers. (File photo)

of millions people out of poverty is "an unparalleled success", said Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

China's experience in reducing poverty has served as a useful reference for the efforts of various countries to realize their poverty reduction goals.

Based on its national conditions and following the law of poverty reduction, China adopted a series of unconventional policies and measures and established a whole set of policy, work and institutional systems, blazing a poverty reduction path and forming anti-poverty theories with Chinese characteristics.

The poverty reduction process in China has fully demonstrated the original aspiration and mission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to put people first and always work for the well-being of the Chinese people, the Party's successful practices in blazing a poverty reduction path with Chinese characteristics based on the country's national conditions, as well as the sense of responsibility of the Party to contribute more to humanity and build a better world.

China's successful experience in fighting poverty is valuable, and its practices should be brought to

Laos, said Bounnhang Vorachith, General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee and President of Laos, after seeing with his own eyes how China was reducing poverty during his field visits to once-impoverished villages in central China's Hunan province and east China's Fujian province.

While fighting poverty at home, China has injected confidence and strength into the poverty alleviation cause of the entire humanity.

The country has been an important promoter of global poverty reduction undertakings. It has actively carried out global cooperation on poverty reduction to perform international responsibilities for poverty alleviation and try its best to help other developing countries fight poverty.

China has helped reduce poverty and improve people's livelihood in other developing countries by aiding them in constructing rural public welfare facilities, sharing experiences of agriculture management, and promoting technology transfer.

It has offered help to more than 120 developing countries in the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Millennium Development Goals.

People's Daily

## Russian media watchdog demands Facebook restore access to Russian media posts

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology, and Mass Media (Roscomnadzor) has demanded Facebook restore access to TASS, RBC, and Vzglyad materials.

"Roscomnadzor has issued a comment to Facebook administration demanding access be restored to information posted on official accounts of the Russian mass media Vzglyad, RBC, and TASS," the watchdog said on its Telegram channel.

It also stressed that Facebook's actions "violate key principles of free dissemination of information, unimpeded access to it and can be described as an act of censorship."

The watchdog reminded that infringement on the right to free access to information is punishable by an administrative fine of up to one million rubles (13,450 US dollars) and of up to three million rubles (40,350 US dollars) in case of recurrent offence.

According to earlier reports, Facebook blocked a TASS post about the detention of supporters of a Ukrainian radical youth group in Russia's Voronezh as "fake" news. The post was written on the basis of an official press statement from the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Investigative Committee. TASS insists that it put the information correctly and plans to request Facebook explanations on the matter.

Agencies

# 'Shoot till they are dead' - Some Myanmar police say fled to India after refusing orders

CHAMPHAI, India

WHEN Tha Peng was ordered to shoot at protesters with his submachine gun to disperse them in the Myanmar town of Khampat on Feb. 27, the police lance corporal said he refused.

"The next day, an officer called to ask me if I will shoot," he said. The 27-year-old refused again, and then resigned from the force.

On March 1, he said he left his home and family behind in Khampat and travelled for three days, mostly at night to avoid

detection, before crossing into India's northeastern Mizoram state.

"I had no choice," Tha Peng told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday, speaking via a translator. He gave only part of his name to protect his identity. Reuters saw his police and national ID cards which confirmed the name.

Tha Peng said he and six colleagues all disobeyed the Feb. 27 order from a superior officer, whom he did not name.

Reuters could not independently verify his or other accounts gathered near the Myanmar-India border.

The description of events was similar to that given to police in Mizoram on March 1 by another Myanmar police lance corporal and three constables who crossed into India, according to a classified internal police document seen by Reuters.

The document was written by Mizoram police officials and gives biographical details of the four individuals and their account of why they fled. It was not addressed to specific people.

"As the Civil disobedience movement is gaining momentum and protest(s) held by anti-

coup protesters at different places we are instructed to shoot at the protesters," they said in a joint statement to Mizoram police.

"In such a scenario, we don't have the guts to shoot at our own people who are peaceful demonstrators," they said.

Myanmar's military junta, which staged a coup on Feb. 1 and deposed the country's civilian government, did not respond to a Reuters request for comment.

The junta has said it is acting with utmost restraint in handling what it has described

as demonstrations by "riotous protesters" whom it accuses of attacking police and harming national security and stability.

Tha Peng's is among the first cases reported by the media of police fleeing Myanmar after disobeying orders from the military junta's security forces.

Daily protests against the coup are being staged across the country and security forces have cracked down. More than 60 protesters have been killed and more than 1,800 detained, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, an advocacy group, has said.

Reuters has not been able to confirm the figures independently.

Among the detainees is Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who led the civilian government.

DOZENS FLEE

Around 100 people from Myanmar, mostly policemen and their families, have crossed over a porous border into India since the protests began, according to a senior Indian official.

Several have taken shelter in Mizoram's Champhai district bordering Myanmar, where Reuters interviewed three Myanmar nationals who said they had served with the police.

As well as his ID cards, Tha Peng showed an undated photograph of him wearing a Myanmar police uniform. He said he joined the force nine years ago.

Tha Peng said that, according to police rules, protesters should either be stopped by rubber bullets or shot below the knees. Reuters could not verify police policies.

But he was given orders by his superiors to "shoot till they are dead," he added.

Agencies



Yanga's coach Juma Mwambusi.

## Yanga leadership to clamp down on inefficient players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AFTER parting ways with head coach Cedric Kaze and entire technical bench, Yanga's leadership has vowed to dismiss any of the outfit's players whose performance will be unconvincing.

The Burundian tactician was shown the exit door on Sunday alongside his backroom staff after their Vodacom Premier League match against Polisi Tanzania held in Arusha, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

Immediately after the match which took place at Sheikh Amri Abeid Kaluta Memorial Stadium, Yanga released a public notice saying they have gone separate ways with Kaze and his assistants.

Other members of the technical bench who have been relieved of their duties are assistant coach Nizar Khalfan, fitness coach Edem Mortotsi, goalkeeping coach Vladimir Niyonkuru and the club's security officer Mussa Mahundi.

According to the club's Chairman of the Technical Committee Dominick Albinus, the draw with Polisi Tanzania, coupled with the team's first defeat of the season to Coastal Union last Thursday, forced the team's management to crack the whip by offloading the entire technical bench.

He disclosed: "As you have seen, results stamped by the team were not convincing and the technical bench is the responsible department to deal with that, as such, the concerned sides came up with decision to let go the whole technical staff."

"We expect to have new technical bench within one to two weeks and I believe that the incoming coach will have a bit of time to oversee his squad as the league is due to be paused to

give way for the FIFA international break," he said.

He said that they have communicated with players and informed them why the leadership took the decision to fire the technical bench.

"We told them (players) why we took the decision to fire the bench and it came about because the results were not good and if the trend continues, then the players will also be held accountable," he said.

Albinus insisted that letting go of the coach and members of technical bench was one of the ways to solve challenges facing the club.

"It was an agreement amongst ourselves and everyone knew we needed to get good results but what we have been getting recently is discouraging," Albinus said.

Kaze, who had only handled Yanga for five months, having replaced fired Serbian Zlatko Krmpotic, has taken to his social media pages to voice his pride in leaving the team in the first position on the top flight table.

He wrote: "It was a pleasure to work with you during these five months. Patience is virtue. 18 league games, 10 wins, seven draws and one loss."

He stated: "Four games in Mapinduzi Cup tournament and we were the event's winners. I leave Yanga on the first place and that is my pride. Wishing you all the best. This is just a goodbye."

Kaze called on the Yanga management to have patience in their pursuit of the top flight title.

He left the team top of the table with 50 points from 23 games.

However, four draws and a defeat from last six games has seen them fail to widen the gap with age-old rivals Simba SC, who are second with 45 points from 19 games.

## Yanga members must temper expectations, especially now



Yanga

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THESE were almost no positive takeaways for Yanga from Sunday's one-all draw with Polisi Tanzania in Vodacom Premier League tie.

The away draw was another poor showing for both the players and head coach Cedric Kaze.

Despite Polisi Tanzania playing with 10 men for the last minutes, Yanga never fully took control of the game, as the team did so many times during its dominant run to begin the season.

They actually went on to concede a last minute equaliser.

The sense of mental frailty that plagued the team for the better part of last season has apparently returned, and it is having a seriously detrimental effect on the entire squad.

A dismal return of seven points out of possible 18 points in the second round, the team have lost confidence and momentum.

Whether the blame for the team's current poor run of form should be attributed to the players or the technical

bench is still up for debate, but there is clearly a problem that needs to be fixed.

It seems obvious now that Yanga are simply not at the same level as Simba, and that it will take some time for the Green and Yellow to reach that level.

This means, unfortunately, that supporters should temper their expectations for the rest of the season.

Currently sitting top of the table but with four more games played than Simba who are five only five points behind, Yanga know the chase for the league crown is all but gone.

Simba can go seven points clear at the top if they win their games in hand.

Best case scenario, Yanga will have an easy ride to clinch the second spot and a chance at winning the Federation Cup—wishing for anything more than that would just be unrealistic.

Pointing this out might have angered the supporters who had dreams of reclaiming the Vodacom Premier League trophy this season but at the moment many will nod in agreement.

Before the season started,

after spending big on new signings, an overconfident Yanga leader boldly claimed, the league title is all but sealed.

He went as far as he should be personally asked if the team doesn't win the league title at the end of the season.

He basically guaranteed fans the club would win the title. Big promise comes with big expectations.

The reality was shoved aside, completely ignored. Yanga have many new players—most of them foreigners—who were forced into the starting XI without a real pre-season, making the transition a bit difficult.

The squad still needed time to gel, and doing so while navigating the already-crowded, constantly-changing fixture list will be a serious challenge.

These were mitigated factors that could have been used to temper fans' expectations.

Although not related to the football world, it is said that one of the biggest reasons that George Bush did not return to power for a second consecutive term was because he had over-promised during the campaign

that got him elected in the 1988 United States presidential election.

During the campaign for the 1988 election, the former US President had promised to impose 'no new taxes'.

However, circumstances did not allow him to stay true to his words and he increased taxes when the country was going through a recession in 1990.

Other than the Ross Perot factor, this was a major reason that resulted in George Bush losing out to Bill Clinton in the 1992 presidential election.

The campaign and term of former President Bush should be a lesson for all football administrators that they should never over-promise to fans.

If you want to build trust with fans, then you must keep your promises. The best way to ensure this is by making promises that you can realistically fulfill.

In Yanga's case, the biggest issue is unrealistic expectations that came as a result of over-promising.

Fans who are pregnant with big expectations can't tolerate a continued stretch of bad performances.

## Transit Camp FC coach to receive intensive care

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

FIRST Division League (FDL) side Transit Camp FC's goalkeepers' coach, Salehe Tendega, is still in critical condition and he therefore had to be transferred to a special care unit of Dar es Salaam's Muhimbili Hospital Orthopedic Institute (MOI).

Tendega suffered serious head injuries in car accident

his team faced in Nzega District, Tabora on March 8.

The motor vehicle was carrying players and some of the team's officials on their way back to Dar es Salaam after playing the FDL match against Mwanza's Alliance FC at Nyanzaga Stadium on March 6 and won 3-1.

Transit Camp FC further lost the team's legal instructor, Idd Mikongoti, who passed away.

A spokesman for the Muhimbili Orthopedic Institute (MOI), Patrick Mvungi, said Tendega was taken to the hospital at 9pm and he was placed in an emergency unit as he had suffered serious head injuries.

"It is true that Tendega has been brought to the hospital and taken to the emergency room due to his condition and we are planning to take him to the Moi Special Intensive Care

Unit (ICU) for further treatment," he disclosed.

Transit Camp FC posted on the club's Instagram network, stating: "The club would like to inform the players that on March 8, our convoy of players and officials crashed in Nzega areas involving a cargo truck and a car, which consisted of our leaders as well as players."

The statement stated: "As a result of the accident several injuries were found along with the death of one person and the injured are continuing receiving treatment at the hospital."

"In addition, the club would like to clarify some of the rumours that have spread in some media outlets, that brother Salehe Tendega has not died but he is one of the casualties involved in the accident."

"Tendega is our goalkeepers' coach and not the goalkeeper as some reports suggest."



## JICA donates baseball equipment to Tanzania's schools

By Guardian Reporter

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteer program, commonly referred to as the 'JOCV', started its operations in Tanzania in 1965 and by last month, more than 1,600 Japanese volunteers had been dispatched to work in various sectors and areas of the country.

The program is supported by the Japanese government and is aimed at assisting developing countries to enhance their social and economic development with emphasis on self-reliance for sustainable change.

The volunteers are mainly

dispatched to work in different professional fields such as education, health, industry, vocational training, local government and sports (karate, judo and baseball).

The history of baseball in Tanzania began in 2012 when a JICA Tanzania staff, who had vast and exceptional knowledge and skills in the sport, introduced it to the country.

He also had the eagerness and enthusiasm to disseminate the sport's skills to Tanzanian youngsters, having previously done so in Ghana.

As a start, he firstly introduced the sport to the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and

Sports and, thereafter to the Ministry of Education, targeting secondary school students.

Based on this preliminary collaboration, a number of JICA volunteers were dispatched to the country to introduce the sport to various parts of the country.

Moreover owing to the positive response from various stakeholders, JICA dispatched to Tanzania a Senior Japanese volunteer baseball instructor in 2017 to the Tanzania Baseball Softball Association (TABSA) which is affiliated to National Sports Council (NSC).

From those humble beginnings, the sport gradually grew and was disseminated to many people

in the country who received it positively.

Based on this positive response several competitions were conducted including the annual baseball tournament (Tanzania Koshien), which brought together several schools.

The tournaments were held at Dar es Salaam's Azania Secondary School's baseball ground which was constructed through the support of Japan government.

Such events were supported by the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Embassy of Japan, a Japanese Non-Government Organization and JICA.

Considering that baseball is a

new sport in Tanzania, its further development faces a number of challenges including the lack of the necessary sports equipment for the same.

Based on this reality some Japanese nationals have come forward to donate, on several occasions, some equipment through JICA Volunteers, through a world program called 'Smile for All in the World'.

The 'Smile for All in the World' program provide items requested by related groups in assigned countries or locations of JICA volunteers.

It is special because it enables Japanese citizens to participate closely in international

cooperation.

The JICA and volunteers serve as a bridge that connects Tanzania people with Japanese citizens.

This year the Japanese people have also decided to donate the baseball equipment to TABSA as their contribution towards the promotion of baseball in Tanzania.

The handing over ceremony of such equipment, to be held at Azania Secondary School's ground, will be held on March 11, 2021.

The gears include 38 pieces of baseball gloves, 284 baseball balls, 19 sets of wooden baseball bats, three pairs of baseball shoes and two sets of catcher protector.

## Man Utd face AC Milan in Europa League battle of recovering giants

LONDON

MANCHESTER United and AC Milan meet in the Europa League last 16 on Thursday in a battle of European royalty, with both clubs showing signs of revival.

With 10 Champions League titles between them, United and Milan were once feared across Europe for their swashbuckling play and financial muscle.

But both clubs have lost their lustre in recent years, making their first meeting since 2010 an intriguing affair.

In a sign of the drop in standards at Old Trafford and the San Siro, the 11th encounter between two of the world's most historic teams will be their first outside the Champions League knockout stages.

United, 20-time English champions, have not won the Premier League since Alex Ferguson's last season in charge in 2013.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side are unlikely to end that drought this season as they trail leaders Manchester City by 11 points with 10 games left.

Sunday's impressive 2-0 win at City was a sign United are at least heading in the right direction at last after losing their way under several of Ferguson's successors.

Calling for United to build on that success, Solskjaer praised his side's energy levels.

"We are going to do everything we can to keep the performance levels up every day," he said.

"I feel we are a better team to 12, 16, 18 months ago. We have improved massively. We are more robust, resilient and there is more personality in the team. That is what I like."

The most recent of Milan's 18 Serie A titles came in 2011, with a sixth-place finish last term earning a return to Europe after a one-season absence.

That was a small step in the right direction for Milan, who have not played in the Champions League since 2014.

- Ibrahimovic return? -

Milan's gradual improvement under boss Stefano Pioli has taken them to second in Serie A this term.

The seven-time European champions are six points behind leaders Inter Milan -- a 3-0 defeat against their city rivals in February was a significant blow to their title aspirations.

AFP

## Pirlo: Juventus project continues after UCL exit

TURIN, Italy

JUVENTUS coach Andrea Pirlo insists his project in Turin is still in its early days and will continue despite his side crashing out of the UEFA Champions League at the last-16 stage on away goals against 10-man Porto on Tuesday.

Juventus won 3-2 after extra-time on the night, but they were knocked out of the Champions League at the same stage as last season after a 4-4 aggregate draw. That was despite playing against 10 men for much of the game after Porto's Mehdi Taremi was sent off in the 54th minute.

Their failure to reach the quarterfinals was remarkably similar to last season's away-goals exit to Lyon, with manager Maurizio Sarri sacked at the end of the campaign despite winning a ninth straight Serie A title for Juve.

For all their domestic dominance, Juve have won just two European Cups compared with Italian rivals AC Milan's seven.

Champions League glory is what the club craves, but Pirlo is adamant his journey as coach is just beginning.

"I don't know if Sarri was sacked for being eliminated from the Champions League," Pirlo told Sky Sport Italia.

"I am the Juventus manager at the moment and I will work for a larger project, which goes beyond this season."

"This season is only the beginning of this project. We have young players who are growing game after game. The young players have played with desire and self-denial. We cannot say anything to them, they have given their all."

After falling behind in the first half to a Sergio Oliveira strike, a double from Federico Chiesa, either side of Taremi's dismissal, seemed to set Juve on their way to victory but they could not find a crucial third goal, leaving the sides all square after normal time.

Pirlo's side continued to press in extra-time, but one free-kick, through the wall, from Oliveira condemned Juve to their fate, despite Adrien Rabiot scoring a third for the Italian side soon after.

The blow leaves Juve just Serie A glory to play for -- and they trail leaders Internazionale by 10 points.

"I'm not happy to have to work with full weeks without European games, I preferred to go on in the Champions League," Pirlo said.

"To forget this elimination will take a few days but then we will have to look forward and try to move up the [Serie A] rankings."

"We are still in March."

(Agencies)

# What Laporta being elected means for Messi, Barcelona's debt, squad rebuild

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

LIONEL Messi is scoring goals for fun, Ronald Koeman is successfully reconstructing FC Barcelona's first team, the Blaugrana dramatically overturned a 2-0 deficit against Sevilla in early March to reach this season's Copa del Rey final and so, as Joan Laporta starts his first week as Camp Nou president since he vacated the role in 2010, there's little wonder he's surrounded by a temporary state of heady euphoria.

But during that first full week (back) in the job, Messi, Koeman & Co. will be eliminated from the Champions League in the round of 16 for the first time since 2007; the Dutchman still doesn't know whether he'll be asked to fulfill the second year of his coaching contract; Messi may not declare whether he's leaving or staying until the season is over; the club's previous president, Josep Maria Bartomeu, appeared in court last week after a night in prison, pending corruption charges, and the club is suffering under the crushing weight of massive short-, mid- and long-term debt.

Therefore, that euphoria is likely to be as durable as friendships quickly made when you win a few thousand euros on the lottery -- effervescent and fun in the moment, but evaporating the moment that reality bites.

So what lies ahead of Joan Laporta Estruch, a 58-year-old lawyer who, in his first spell as president, brought a phoenix-like resuscitation of his club from the ashes of what he inherited in 2003, is a period of the most intense, threatening, demanding and no doubt entertaining, dealing, statesmanship, corporate aggression, debt renegotiation and football empire rebuilding imaginable. And simply because the Catalan is a messianic character whose every breath exudes a heady tonic of confidence and bravado, the words "potential failure" shouldn't automatically be excluded from that list of what's in store for the new Caesar of Camp Nou.

To assess what the 30,000+ Barca socio-members who voted for him (out of 55,000 total votes cast) will get from their new "Presi" when the euphoria dies down, plus what's in store for the coach, the superstar the books and Laporta, let's break it down.

### Who is Laporta, and how did he get here?

If you let Laporta tell it his way, he's the kid who fell in love with Johan Cruyff when the Dutchman moved to Camp Nou from Ajax in 1973, an era in history where Spain was still a dictatorship and Catalunya (where Barcelona exist) felt like an unloved, oppressed north-eastern province. Laporta will talk about how Cruyff choosing Barca over Madrid instilled pride and brought international



Laporta won over 55 percent of the vote to be named Barcelona president for the second time, after a successful tenure from 2003-2010. (Agencies)

attention to the Catalan capital; it felt, Laporta once told me, like the city had genuinely claimed a significant win over the hated Dictator General, Francisco Franco, who had oppressed and banned Catalan language and culture since the 1930s.

Laporta will talk about kids in the playground, him included, combing their hair the "Johan way," trying to mimic every flick and turn his aesthetic majesty produced for club or country. From that day to the present, Cruyff gave Laporta purpose.

That this rumbustious, colourful and voracious Catalan somehow transformed himself from an adoring kid, gazing in awe at a foreign superstar, into Cruyff's friend, lawyer and someone who successfully restored the great man's importance to FC Barcelona during the final 12 years of his life, before he succumbed to cancer in 2016, is already a warning to Laporta's enemies and opponents. Of which there are many.

Things seem to happen around Laporta -- special, unusual things. Educated in a priests' college, he originally intended to become a missionary. Abandoning that position, he was expelled from the college because he rebelled against a physics teacher who'd suspended his entire class during the first part of an academic year. Laporta's "Robin Hood" retort was to acquire some test answers and share them with all his classmates.

Nor did Spain's compulsory military service, back when Laporta was young, manage to squeeze the rebel out of this man with a cause. Posted 2,600 km (1,600 miles) south of Barcelona in Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, instead of near his home city, he complained that the army was serving its recruits camel meat and he was punished with two weeks' solitary confinement.

The best story from his larger-than-life youth is that with a couple of months still to serve in the army, Laporta decided to go AWOL with a girlfriend on holiday to Egypt. Returning refreshed and ever further from his missionary fervour, he expected harsh punishment, only to find that his pals in military service had, somehow, conned their senior officers regarding Laporta's absence by roaring 'Present!' in various voices whenever his name was announced at the morning roll-call.

For all those of you who support a club owned by some billionaire foreigner, or by someone who feels that listening to or caring about the club's life-long fans is unnecessary, what Laporta managed to do with the dominating passion of his life must make you bilious with anger.

When, in 1996, President Josep Nunez and Vice President Joan Gaspart combined to let imbecility reign, summarily sacking Cruyff as Barcelona coach (with one match remaining that season), Laporta, then 33 years old, was so furious and so energised by the injustice, that he formed an active protest group ("Elefant Blau," or "Blue Elephant").

But consider this for "fan power." Within seven years, his activist opposition had earned him the Camp Nou Presidency and precisely nine years, 364 days after Cruyff was sacked, Laporta, as president, sat in the Stade de France watching the team he and his board had assembled, with Cruyff acting as their unpaid "Professor of Football," win only the club's second Champions League trophy via a 2-1 defeat of Arsenal. He went from zero to hero, quite literally, in unbelievably rapid time.

What followed after 2006 was a constant, compressed, explosion of boom and bust, the pendulum swinging crazily from one extreme to another.

Ronaldinho and Frank Rijkaard, the principle architects of the first Laporta "boom" era, lost their way, both professionally and privately. Messi, Andres Iniesta and Xavi flowered and began to mark out their places in the club's all-time pantheon as, under the influence of Txiki Begiristain, Pep Guardiola was appointed and Barcelona's first 'Trebble' was won.

Meanwhile, former friends and allies deserted Laporta's board in

once-revered "La Masia" youth academy -- are ready for action.

Yet the aggregate 10-2 home thrashings by Real Madrid, Juventus and PSG in the Champions League this season, on top of the brutal humiliation by Bayern Munich in last year's Champions League quarterfinal, indicate that astute, highly specific purchases of established quality, experience, athleticism and power are paramount. They need direct reinforcements in defence, at centre-forward, at the tricky "pivot" role in midfield (the deep-lying playmaker) and left-back at bare minimum -- perhaps also at centre-half, too.

Laporta is now the man charged with steering Barcelona away from their calamitous €1.1bn (\$1.3bn) global debt, paying or delaying the short-term debts of some €750m (\$890m), and doing it while simultaneously renewing the (expensive) contracts of Dembele, Ilaix Moriba and Mingueza, buying a clutch of four or five top talents -- including his dream ticket of Erling Braut Haaland -- and also both convincing and paying Messi to stay.

On paper, it's an impossible, Herculean task, but impossible isn't a word in Laporta's vocabulary. If you don't want to see one of the few fan-owned, non Petro-dollar clubs on its knees for a generation, you need to care about whether Laporta does or doesn't prove to be the right president amid a profound crisis.

### What does Laporta's win mean for Messi and the squad?

For the squad, there will be improvements no matter what. However he manages it -- and I'd not be at all surprised if Laporta has a pre-arranged, nine-figure credit line aimed at staunching immediate existing debt repayments, renewing crucial contracts and making star signings -- Laporta will treat it as a primary task to make Barcelona competitive in Europe again. And, based on the green shoots this season, Spanish champions by 2022 at latest.

Messi's future, however, is a different ball game. Sunday's jigsaw of media images and soundbites -- Barcelona's captain taking his son to the Camp Nou to vote in the presidential elections, Laporta's pre-election promise that a vote for anyone else was likely to reduce the

chances of Messi staying, and the new president's claim that Barcelona's superstar then called to congratulate him on Sunday night -- all hint that it's not going to be "adios, then" to their magical Number 10.

But, of course, it's not that simple. There's no question that both Manchester City and PSG still want to acquire Messi, and they'll produce persuasive, lucrative offers. If you've been watching the greatest player in Barcelona's history over the past few months, certainly since December/January, you can't fail to have noticed that he's energised, happy, involved and scampering around again. His interplay with Griezmann, Dembele, Martin Braithwaite, De Jong, Jordi Alba and, most particularly, Pedri, whom he treats somewhere between a little brother and a winning lottery ticket, has been superb.

Perhaps most startling of all is the fact that Koeman, not a man known for his diplomacy or love of "star player" culture, has unquestionably won respect and a good training attitude from the best player he's ever coached or played with. Which is quite a list. If Koeman's staying with Laporta as president, there are well-selected new talents on the way and a decent financial offer available (thanks to new credit) that Laporta has brokered, then almost all the criteria needed to make Messi happy and ambitious will be fulfilled. Draw your own conclusions.

### What is the biggest issue Laporta faces in the job?

The list is long. But whether you, personally, think the biggest issue is Barcelona's debt, Messi's future, rebuilding a tired team, choosing whether it's time to retain Koeman as manager or bring Xavi back to the club from Qatar, rebuilding or renovating the slightly crumbling Camp Nou... here's my take.

Laporta is the man who put the hutz In chutzpah and the "swag" in swagger. Even when he stripped to his underpants in Barcelona airport to protest at the security guards insisting on him going through the scanners over and over again (something he now admits to regretting), Laporta is Mr. Charisma. He's bright, persuasive, connected and handsome, and his resume reads well. He's enormously ambitious, too.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# Azam FC faces struggling Ihefu FC in VPL today

## SPORT

**Pirlo: Juventus project continues after UCL exit**

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## Paralympic athlete heads to Tunisia

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S Paralympic athlete Sauda Njopeka departs for Tunisia today, where she will compete at the World Para Grand Prix athletics meet slated for next week.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) president Tuma Dandi said the Para athlete will be accompanied by her coach, Bahati Mgunda, to the event which gets underway on March 21.

He said before battling it out in the qualifying event, Njopeka will attend classification.

The trip to Tunisia, Dandi stated, has been sponsored by the government of Japan through Nippon University, while Tanzania's government, through National Sports Council (NSC), has paid for the visa, COVID-19 test and uniform for the athlete and the coach.

"Our athlete departs today for Tunisia where she will compete at the 2021 World Grand Prix which will be used as qualification tournament for Tokyo Paralympics, we thank the government through NSC and the government of Japan through Nippon University for paying air ticket, accommodation and other expenses for the athlete and the coach," he said.

The Acting NSC Secretary General, George Msonde, described Njopeka as an athlete with a vision and he said the council is confident that the athlete will qualify for the Tokyo Paralympics slated for August 24-September 5.

He also affirmed the government's commitment to sports for all people.

"We are very delighted that our athlete is going to Tunisia to attend the event which will be used as qualification for Tokyo Paralympics, it is our hope that Njopeka will perform well and earn qualification for the Paralympics," he said.

Previously, TPC through the committee's Secretary General Ramadhan Namkomveka told The Guardian that they have selected athletes who will attend qualification tournaments for Tokyo Paralympics.

The athletes are drawn from Para athletics, Para Powerlifting and Para swimming.

Namkoveka said Ignatus Mtweve, who was accompanied by coach Saleh Hussein from Zanzibar, competed at the just ended Dubai 2021 World Para Athletics Grand Prix 12th Fazza International Athletic last month but he failed to reach the qualifying time.

He also disclosed that there are other five events which will be used as Tokyo Paralympics' qualification tournaments.

They will be held in Colombia, England, Thailand, Georgia and United Arab Emirates.

However, TPC has opted for Dubai where the committee will send three power lifters and coach for the qualification event which is expected to take place from June 16-21.

The committee stated it is looking for sponsors to help them financially and materially to see to it the three power lifters head to Dubai.

He said the sponsorship will cater for air fare to and from Dubai, accommodation and COVID-19 testing in Dubai.

Namkoveka said three Para swimmers will attend classification and qualification. He said there are two events, one of which will be held in Sheffield, United Kingdom from April 8-11, and four days later there will be a two-day event in Lewisville, Dallas, USA.

He said TPC is waiting for confirmation from IPC on the World Para Swimming Championships, which will take place in Australia.

The TPC official, however, lamented on lack of resources to enable domestic athletes to attend the qualifying and classification events.

He noted: "Our aim is to see to it that we are sending our qualified Paralympic athletes to Tokyo Paralympics, we don't want to depend on wildcard, but the challenge is that we don't have financial power to send our athletes to qualifying and classification events."

"We are appealing to companies, organizations, stakeholders and individuals of goodwill to support us so as we can realize our dream of having many Para athletes at the Tokyo Paralympics on qualification card, not wildcard," he said.

BY Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

**A**ZAM Football Club will today host Ihefu FC in a fixture, which is among the 24th round of this season's Vodacom Premier League matches, at the Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Ihefu FC will be coming out firing on all cylinders, given the squad is in quest of league survival.

George Lwandamina, Azam FC's head coach, noted his players are ready for their Vodacom Premier League match against Ihefu FC which is expected to be played at their venue at Mbagala.

The first match between the two clubs was played in Mbeya, with Ihefu FC losing 2-0 to Azam FC, the former thus will be eagerly looking to get revenge in today fixture.

Lwandamina pointed out he



Azam FC

knows there will be a lot of competition on the field due to the battle for league safety as well as quest for collecting maximum points but he believes everything will be fine for his side.

"The players are all right and they realize that at the moment the second round the competition is huge so they will enter the field in search of victory to achieve the goals we have set," he stated.

Azam FC enter this clash after coming from another frustrating 0-0 draw away to Mwadui FC at the latter's backyard Mwadui Complex in Shinyanga on March 6 this year.

The hosts will be without their top

scorer, Prince Dube, who is expected to stay out of action for two weeks due to an injury he picked in the match against Mwadui FC.

Dube, who has eight goals in the Vodacom Premier League, sustained a hamstring injury on the 25th minute of the fixture.

According to Azam FC doctor Mwanandi Mwanemwa, the forward will be out for two weeks before returning to the field.

He stated: "Dube will be out for a week whilst receiving care and treatment and next week he will start light training to get back to normal state."

"After completing those two weeks off the field he will be tested again to see if he is fit to either return to competitive matches or wait again, but our fans should not be afraid, everything will be fine," Mwanemwa said.

Zuber Katwila, Ihefu FC head coach, noted winning on the pitch is most important.

"We need victory in our matches to get positive results, the competition is intense and we are fighting to be at our best so as to be safe from relegation and gain more momentum," he said.

Katwila's squad will be visiting Azam Complex after losing two straight league games at home against league's high fliers Biashara United and league debutants Gwambina FC.

Ihefu FC, positioned 16th in the league's standing with a total of 20 points, meets Azam FC which sits third in the top flight with 41 points, with both having featured in 23 games.

Azam FC's number one goalkeeper, Ugandan Martin Kigonya, and Ihefu FC's goal tender, Deogratius Munishi, are both new entrants to their sides, having been roped in during the December mini transfer window.

This will be another entertaining clash at Azam Complex, which holds 10,000 people.

The venue has been recognized by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and it is used by Namungo FC to battle it out in the CAF Confederation Cup matches.

## Upanga SC B cricketers win DC T20 Cup Division B title

By Guardian Reporter

UPANGA Sports Club's B team have made successful return to action in domestic cricket, lifting this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup Division B's top honour with a four-wicket win over Lions Youths in the final, which took place at Annadil Burhani oval last weekend.

Lions Youths, consisting of junior players groomed by the Lions Cricket Club, batted first in the clash, notching 107 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 20 overs.

Top order batsman, Abubakar Selemani, had the best innings given he ended two runs short of a half century, which consisted of eight fours.

His exploits were instrumental in the side's ability to end the innings with the respectable score.

Selemani, slotted in at number three, made up for a somewhat frustrating outing the outfit's opener Faisal Gothey experienced.

Gothey failed to make his presence felt, making his way back to the pavilion in the very first over, as he was caught by Upanga SC B outfit's Himanshu Darji from Rinkesh Patel bowling.

Yusuf Abdulhaleem, who opened the innings with Gothey, executed several good knocks and chipped in with 18 runs which included a four.

The side's remaining promising players were relatively below par, given they could not last long at the crease.

Adil Ayub formed a solid stand with Amaan Sameer to close the innings with bat in hand, notching eight runs not out and one run not out respectively.

Darji mercilessly tormented Lions Youths' batting unit, ending his spell



Upanga SC B cricket squad's players pictured with a trophy after the completion of this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup Division B's tournament final, which saw the outfit face Lions Youths in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Upanga SC B team won by four wickets. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

with three wickets and leaking 10 runs in four overs.

Skipper Zahir Patel chipped in with notable contribution, as he took two wickets and leaked seven runs in three overs.

Needing 108 runs to post victory, Upanga SC B team had to knuckle down to the victory, notching 109 runs for six wickets in 18 overs.

Skipper Zahir, Manoj Thakkar, Hardik Patel and Sadaf Saifee catapulted their squad to the win with no nonsense batting displays.

They got off to a good start, given Thakkar, who opened the innings, posted 15 runs.

Fellow opener Saifee was a bit more aggressive, as he notched 25 runs. They were to some extent pegged back with top order batsman Amiri Sadiki's early exit, with the performer posting six runs.

Zahir, nevertheless, saw to it they are in control of the innings, as well as confidently pushing for the victory, posting 18 runs.

Much as Shivan Kamania could not last long at the crease, as he was dismissed with five runs to his name, they were unperturbed by the performer's early exit.

Rinkesh Patel and Himanshu Darji smoothly made certain their squad's

victory, posting six runs not out and nine runs not out respectively.

Selemani and skipper, Shamir Hameer, posted two wickets apiece in their team's bowling spell.

Although they lost the match, Lions Youths garnered praise from Upanga SC B team for showcasing spirited performance.

The match further witnessed a sportmanship gesture shown by Upanga SC B squad's skipper Zahir who opted to get back to the pavilion after he was caught by Lions Youths' wicket keeper, Abdulrazak Sameer, although the former was not given out by the clash's umpire.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

