



### TRANSPORT



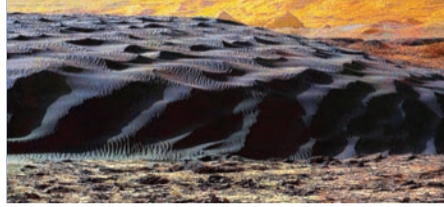
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# Backlash likely for not returning assets forms



The Guardian managing editor Wallace Mauggo (R, foreground) briefs Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (C) on newspaper production yesterday. The RC was on a familiarisation tour of The Guardian Limited and other IPP media establishments in the city. Others include Nipashe managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (L), IPP Director Joyce Luhanga (2nd-L), TGL acting general manager Srinivas Chintaluri (to the RC's left) and TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal (R). Story on Page 3, more photos on Page 4. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

OVER 100 leaders in the public service now risk losing plum positions, among other penalties, for failing to furnish the Ethics Secretariat with filled-in assets and liabilities declaration forms.

The deadline for the exercise elapsed on December 31 and no extension was sought for or granted.

Judge Sivangilwa Mwangesi, the chairman of the Ethics Commission, said yesterday that the secretariat will take legal measures against 187 public officials who have missed the deadline.

"Out of the 15,110 public leaders who fall under section 9(1) of the Public Leadership Code of Ethics Act No. 13 of 1995, only 14,923 had submitted their filled-in forms by December 31, 2020," he said in a statement.

Public servants who fall under this law include political appointees such as ministers and their deputies, regional commissioners and district commissioners, among other cadres.

The Act asserts that failure

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## Arise takes over 34.9pct of Rabobank NMB stake

By Guardian Reporter

A LEADING African investment company, Arise, has acquired a 34.9percent shareholding previously owned by Rabobank in NMB Bank Plc listed on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

The Capital Market and Securities Authority (CMSA) on December 28 approved the transfer of 174.5m NMB Bank Plc shares owned by Rabobank to Arise, a Norwegian foreign investment arm. The share transfer

process was finalised on December 31, with Arise Chief Executive Officer Deepak Malik saying that the conclusion of the share transfer is a milestone for Arise.

"The organization's core mandate is to partner with locally owned sustainable financial institutions to strengthen and develop effective, inclusive financial systems in Africa to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction.

"Tanzania is a key investment destination in Sub-Saharan Africa for Arise and we are excited about the collaborative partnership with NMB, which is set to further advance financial inclusion," he stated.

NMB Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna (pictured) said the successful completion of the share transfer is a testament of investors' confidence in NMB and the country at large.

"The collaborative partnership between Arise and NMB is envisaged to deliver

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## Ministry seeks views on robust cooperatives law

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government is gearing up to review the Cooperative Societies Act of 2013, with a view to making it more robust in its controls and thus more beneficial to farmers and not cushion corrupt officials.

To that end, a meeting involving key stakeholders is being organized to gather opinions on areas needing to be improved before the proposed changes are forwarded to the relevant authorities for further action.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda made this remark here yesterday at a



Hence if we cannot build up capability and continue to get unclean audit reports people will be discouraged

function to hand over five vehicles and 70 computers to the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC).

He said continuing the fight against theft and embezzlement in cooperative societies must be enhanced, apart from government efforts in returning cooperative unions' assets that were stolen.

"Cooperatives in earlier times experienced theft and embezzlement, but there a period in recent times where these acts were so rampant, public assets were being grabbed and no one knew their

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## Govt reviewing districts' waste removal contracts

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE government is rolling out a review exercise on solid waste management contracts between district councils and service providers, to strike off unqualified companies.

Ummu Mwalimu (pictured), the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) made the announcement here yesterday following

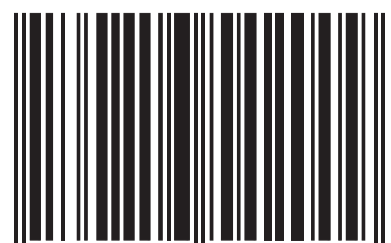


an impromptu visit at the city's main Majengo market.

She said the ministry had noticed that some district councils have contracted firms with no capacity to effectively collect and transport waste, leading to heaps of garbage in public service areas such as markets that become ticking time bombs for diseases.

"We will inspect all councils to assess if

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Water minister Jumaa Aweso (L) checks a defective water tap at Kirogo village in Rorya District, Mara Region, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

MINISTER for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Dr Faustine Ndugulile has challenged experts in the sector to come up with Tanzania's specific needs in line with global demands.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the minister said with clearly defined areas of focus in ICT training and mainstreaming, key sectors such as agriculture, health and finance are likely to see massive increase in productivity.

Dr Ndugulile who was speaking during the 14th graduation ceremony of the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) said there is need for more research to establish the real needs now that the world is talking of internet of things, artificial intelligence and block chain.

The minister hailed DIT for the developmental advancement it has made to be a centre for training for technology experts especially for venturing into livestock products processing.

## Minister for ICT roadmap specific for nation's needs

"The rate of innovation at the Institute is a great move in achieving economic development," he said.

He said the 0.5-percent contribution of the ICT to the national economy was not enough and there is need for more because the sector touches on all sectors from agriculture, health and others.

He says the innovation of the ventilation machine was a milestone step in addressing newborn deaths that the country faces.

Dr Ndugulile thanked the Institute for coming up with educational programs that were timely and would address challenges facing the country.

"It is impossible for a country to make big steps in economic development while depending on foreign experts. It is the expectation of president John Magufuli to see the country benefiting from technology."

He added that there was need to come up with a strategy where science and technology

will be part of the syllabus in early stages of education.

For his part, DIT Principal Prof Preksedis Ndomba about 1096 graduates have finalised their education this year. "DIT is committed towards ensuring that it goes with technological advances," he said.

According to him, DIT has entered 30 contracts with institutions both local and international contracts for exchange of knowledge.

The deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Prof James Mdoe said DIT has a role in ensuring that it nurtures experts who will help the country achieve its industrial economy agenda.

He said the ministry was now harmonizing innovative database for the country for future reference.

According to him, the ministry has also embarked on plans to teach its students to be able to write proposals on projects.

## Backlash likely for not returning assets forms

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to make declaration or making false declaration is tantamount to a breach of the code.

"Breach of the code shall result in any of the following, namely: warning and caution; demotion; suspension, dismissal; advising the leader to resign from the office to which breach relates; imposition of other penalties provided for under the rules of discipline related to the office of the leader and initiating action for the leader to be dealt with under the appropriate law," the legislation underlines.

The Act requires public office holders to, within 30 days of taking office, submit to the commissioner a written declaration, in a prescribed form, of all property or assets owned or liabilities owed as well as the same information on their spouses and

unmarried minor children.

Last month, President John Magufuli directed that public leaders falling under the Act must submit their assets declaration forms to the Ethics Secretariat before the deadline.

Speaking at the Chamwino State House shortly after swearing in Mwangesi to the post, Dr Magufuli reminded public officials that declaring assets is required by law.

However, the president discouraged filling declaration of assets online, as that could lead to information leakage.

"Public leaders that are obliged to fill the forms should download them, fill them and submit them physically to the Ethics Secretariat," he advised.

"We are not supposed to be that open. Hackers can change forms filled online and make them look different," he added.

## Ministry seeks views on robust cooperatives law

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whereabouts," he stated.

"We have one case in which TRA is demanding tax from a cooperative while in actual fact it was the tenderer who was supposed to pay," he said in illustration.

"Now you dig in cooperatives' records and you do not find the tenderer, hence the debt goes to the cooperative society and becomes a burden to farmers," he asserted, reiterating that the government will continue to wage war against embezzlement and theft "and no one will be spared."

Despite that embezzlement was going down it is still there, he said, noting that with cooperative societies failing to prepare their books of accounts, they are denied clean audit certificates.

In an audit report of 43 cooperative societies conducted by the Cooperative Audit and Supervision Corporation (COASCO) for the year 2019/20 shows that none of them received a clean audit

certificate.

"There is still a huge task in building up capabilities in the cooperatives. When you read COASCO audit reports, you will find them to be bad, showing weaknesses among officials who prepare them, he stated.

"Hence if we cannot build up capability and continue to get unclean audit reports people will be discouraged," he stated, pointing out that in regard to agricultural marketing cooperatives (AMCOS), among 3,374 that were audited, 34 received clean certificates, 169 were deemed suspicious, 605 unsatisfactory and 1,045 had unclean certificates. "We have great work to do," he emphasized, promising

to use the tally of information to sort out identified weaknesses, to boost performance in cooperatives.

In regard to reviewing the law on cooperative unions, the minister said the task is to restore people's confidence in the cooperatives, noting that the task

of reviewing the law has already begun. Dr Benson Ndiege, the Registrar of Cooperatives and CEO of TCDC, said the commission will continue waging war over complaints in the cooperatives, citing embezzlement and poor management.

TCDC plans to strengthen cooperative union offices countrywide and will ensure every region has an inspection vehicle before the end of this financial year.

"Yesterday, four vehicles costing 275m/- were bought using our internal resources, which will go to regional registrars for Dar es Salaam, Simiyu, Kilimanjaro and Njombe. We shall also send one vehicle to Kigoma Region due to the importance of oil palm production," he specified.

The commission has distributed 70 computers, among them 20 laptops, with 50 computers being provided by CRDB Bank and the rest purchased through internal funds, he added.

## Arise takes over 34.9pct of Rabobank NMB stake

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substantial operational, commercial, organisational and financial benefits with long-term market returns that go beyond stakeholders' expectations," she emphasised.

NMB is Tanzania's largest bank by assets on the basis of third quarter 2020 financial results data. Its total assets increased to a record 7.0 trn/- in the third quarter last year, up from 6.1 trn/- realised at the third quarter in 2019.

NMB is also reputedly the most profitable bank in Tanzania, having recorded an impressive 145bn/- net profit in the quarter ended 30 September 2020, up from 82bn/- registered in third quarter of 2019.

Malik was of the view that this long-term investment by Arise will support NMB's future growth aspirations and spur economic growth and Tanzania's prosperity through increased financial inclusion,

the growth of retail, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and agro-processing. "Arise will support the growth and development of NMB through providing, amongst others, access to international standards of best practice and expertise across an array of business areas.

"We are confident that this partnership will yield positive benefits for both NMB and Arise in the future," he asserted.

Arise is a leading Africa-centred investment company that partners with sustainable, locally-owned financial services providers in Sub Saharan Africa. The company was founded by several cornerstone investors namely Rabobank, Norfund, NorFinance and FMO, and currently manages assets of more than \$950m and is operational in over 10 countries. Rabobank is still part of NMB Bank plc owners through its shareholding in Arise.



Emmanuel Nyangi, a guide with Tanga Region's world-renowned Amboni Caves, shows domestic tourists around the historical site yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

## Zanzibar to formalise Shumba Port to bolster ties with Kenya

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR intends to formalize the Shumba Port to remove existing challenges and strengthen ties between the people of Mombasa and Zanzibar.

Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla made the remarks while addressing Kenya's Kwale County representatives who visited his Vuga Office yesterday.

He said the Zanzibar government will make relations in different sectors—Health, Agriculture, Tourism and Blue Economy continue to thrive for the betterment of people of the

two countries.

"Zanzibar is investing heavily in the blue economy due to the fact that the sector involves a large number of people," he said, noting that the government is determined to ensure that marine resources are wisely explored.

He also said that the Eight-Phase government is working hard to ensure that Zanzibar's get better social services as well as improving their livelihoods.

On security issues, the Second VP urged the Kwale County leaders to continue reminding their people of the need for them to follow the rules and regulations governing migration when getting

in and out of the Island.

Head of Kwale County delegation Mwepupheh Jackson Ngoro expressed his satisfaction on the way the Zanzibar government is operating; particularly on the way it dispenses social services to its people.

Mwepupheh said that Kwale County will continue to work with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through the Zanzibar House of Representatives to see the two sides' ties grow stronger.

The Mombasa-based Kwale County has been cooperating with Zanzibar through the Zanzibar House of Representatives for almost three decades now.

## Govt reviewing districts' waste removal contracts

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the contractors they have engaged to collect, store and transport waste, have the capacity to do so," she said.

"We want markets to be clean and safe for traders and their customers, along with the general public," she said, directing district authorities to put in place infrastructure for collecting, storing and transporting waste to prevent outbreak of diseases.

Accompanied by officials from the Environment Department at VPO, the minister expressed satisfaction with the state of the market surroundings, commending the city council.

After inspecting the market, she urged district councils to ensure that they provide

contracts to people with the ability to collect and transport waste, having the best equipment for the work.

"I have decided to come to this market without notice to check on the market surroundings, how the market manages waste. I am really satisfied with the state of waste management, as they store the waste that is being collected in one place," she said. "I now issue an order to all councils countrywide to ensure that they have special areas in the markets set aside for storing market wastes as they do here at Majengo."

The minister underlined the need for removal of waste collected and stored in the market on time, as the ministry will not tolerate councils where garbage

stays for more than one day. Prompt action will help protect the health of market users, she underscored.

The Environmental Management Act of 2004 and attached regulations require city, municipal and district councils to put in place effective systems and infrastructure for collecting, storing and transporting waste.

Dickson Kimaro, the city head of environment and solid waste management, promised to carry out the minister's directives.

The city authorities were challenged by the loss of equipment provided to employees and would procure other equipment to enhance efficiency in waste management, he added.



Japanese fisheries consultant Koji Hase (L) briefs Livestock and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul (R) on fishing at the Tanzania Fisheries Corporation offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Story on Page 6. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

# CHRAGG saddened by persons using PwD as beggars to earn money

By Guardian Reporter

THE Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) has been saddened over the violent behaviour of some people who have been turning Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) into street to earn money.

This comes a days after the deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office- responsible for people living with disabilities Umyy Nderiananga conducted an impromptu visit at Tandale area in Dar es Salaam and unearthed serious actions of abuse done of the PwDs.

In a statement availed in the media yesterday and signed by the commission's chairman Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaimu stated that all the actions were against human rights, laws and the country's Constitution of 1977.

"We join the government and stakeholders to strongly condemn these actions, persons with disabilities have all rights to live peaceful like any other human being, unfortunately there are some unfair people who have been taking advantage of their disabilities to abuse them or use them illegally to earn money, this should be fought by everyone," the statement read.

The commission urged responsible authorities to take stern legal measures against all the culprits.

"The commission is also calling on the government to continue identifying all people with disabilities with their needs so as to build a conducive environment through an empowerment system for them to be independent. More impromptu visits and inspections are needed in various areas so as to ensure that the group is well protected," it added.

The commission further urged the general public to ensure that they support the government's efforts by reporting incidents of violence towards PwDs in their localities.

"The public should also shun negative perception towards people with disabilities, majority of people see disabled people as nothing and cannot contribute anything in the society which is not true, this group can do wonders if well supported, so we should love and support them every time," the statement added.

The commission also called that more education should be extended to the public in every part of the country so as to enable them value every human being and cooperate to push the country's economic growth.

"CHRAGG will also continue strengthening efforts to ensure that rights of all people including persons with disabilities are protected."

# Dar es Salaam is growing rapidly - RC Kunenge

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge has said decisions to shift the country's capital to Dodoma have turned the city into a complete commercial hub with a number of economic opportunities.

Kunenge made the statement yesterday during an official visit at IPPmedia offices at Mikocheni in Kinondoni District. He said the government is working to promote the city's available business and economic opportunities to attract traders as well as buyers from neighbouring countries.

The RC added that the government is aware of the various challenges facing small

and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), adding efforts are ongoing to resolve them as well as empowering their businesses.

"We have been engaging in a number of initiatives including provision of education and loans to traders. We have in place some strategies for women empowerment whereas they are also capacitated with business management training," said the Regional Commissioner.

RC Kunenge noted that before providing loans, entrepreneurs are trained on business management to ensure they run their businesses professionally. So far, 930 women have benefitted from the training.

The government is also working

to eliminate red tape in issuance of business permits and creating a conducive environment for traders, he added. "We want traders to operate smoothly, without unnecessary delays in acquiring permits," he said.

He said that in the coming days, the authorities in the region will identify some of the traders who have benefitted with the ongoing training programme and loans. He said the aim is to encourage others to follow suit. "We want to recognize and empower them through our initiatives which targets both, small and medium entrepreneurs. We are also considering providing them with a tax relief," RC Kungenge stated.

The Regional Commissioner

urged city authorities officials to ensure discipline and adhere to their work ethics so they don't be part of the problems facing traders. He said the government has successfully improved policies and laws hence the need for leaders to ensure proper implementation.

At least 80 percent of the country's total revenues are collected in Dar es Salaam, according to the RC.

In Temeke District, Kunenge said the government has provided a women group with garbage truck to provide services and generate income. He said plans are to provide waste collecting vehicles to women groups in other districts.

# UCSAF urged to create simpler tech to expand communication services

By Guardian Reporter

THE Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Dr Faustine Ndugulile has called on the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF) to create a simpler technology that can be used to expand communication services in the country at a cheaper cost.

Dr Ndugulile issued the remarks during his visit at UCSAF offices under his ministry to speak with its board members, management and other workers.

Apart from its being an introductory visit, it also aimed to push for implementation of the new ministry's responsibilities.

He said as for now UCSAF was spending 350m/- to erect one communication tower in the country's non-business regions, national parks, forest reserves and border areas, adding the cost was huge, hence called for the Fund to come up with a simpler technology to send communication services in these areas.

He further said the Ministry should work together with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to research and find out the contribution by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the country's economic growth, as available

data shows that ICT contributes 0,5 per cent to the GDP while government institutions, the private sector and the public in general use ICT services widely.

He said the Ministry should finalise the preparations for the envisaged ICT law and improve the existing laws in the ministry's institutions and regulations thereof so as to go with the

pace in the technological changes in the world to boost revenue collection.

Justina Mashimba, UCSAF CEO said so far they have supplied communication services to 3,119 villages in 994 wards with 12,241,492 residents. She also pledged to work on the minister's directives in order to ensure many people enjoy communication services.

## APPRECIATION

**The late Prof. Matern Anaelly Victor**

*The Family of the late Prof. Matern Anaelly Victor of Mbezi Beach -Shule wishes to express sincere appreciation to all those who participated in one way or another in the illness and finally laying to rest of Prof. Matern Anaelly Victor, We would like to thank;*

*All relatives who supported the family in various ways;*

*The Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania, Prof. Bisanda, and all staff and students for their support throughout the whole period.*

*University of DSM staff and his former. B.Sc. Mechanical Eng. Classmates.*

*The High Commission of Tanzania in India for their assistance and support during illness and finally shipment of the remains home.*

*Exjim Bank of Tanzania for facilitation of transporting the body back home*

*Priests of the Bikira Maria Mama wa Huruma for the Requiem Mass in DSM.*

*Fr. Mrosso and Priests of St. Joseph church for Burial Service at Katangara Mashati Rombo.*

*Capital Television and Independent Television (ITV) for their support during the whole period; Last but not least all our friends; well-wishers and neighbors in Rombo; Kijrua Vunjo, USA, Arusha; Marangu, and Mbeya for their support and consolation.*

*There will be a requiem mass for the departed soul of Matern Anaelly Victor Massawe at Bikira Maria Mama wa Huruma Catholic Church at Mbezi Beach High School on Saturday 9/01/2021 6:30 am.*

*We welcome you all to join us in prayer and remembrance. May His Soul Rest in the Eternal Peace Amen.*

## TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### KEEPING AND MAINTAINING THE VALUE ADDED TAX ACCOUNT AND OTHER STATUTORY RECORDS

Pursuant to the wisdom of Section 89 of The Value Added Tax, CAP. 148 (henceforth "the VAT Act"), a Value Added Tax (VAT) registered person is mandatorily required to keep record of all accounts, documents, returns, and other records that are required to be issued or given under the VAT Act, or such other tax law. Specifically, Section 89(1)(d) of the VAT Act obliges a VAT registered person to keep the "Value Added Tax Account" that records, for each tax period, all the output tax payable by the person in that period, or the input tax credit the person is allowed in that period, and all the increasing and decreasing adjustments that the person is required or entitled to make in that period. Also, Section 35 of Tax Administration Act, CAP. 438 allows every taxable person to maintain documents in paper or electronic forms which enable an accurate determination of tax payable.

In our efforts to buttress the management of VAT, we have learned, with great concern, that some of the VAT registered taxpayers are not congruently abiding to the foregoing provisions of the tax laws, particularly, the compulsory upkeep of the Value Added Tax Account. It is one of the incommensurable schemes which potentially dwindles the timely collection and accounting of legitimate revenues of the Government. Against the foregoing background, this PUBLIC NOTICE, therefore, serves as a polite reminder to all VAT registered persons (to wit, the business entities and individuals) who have not been complying with these statutory requirements. Please, TAKE NOTE that failure to maintain and use the Value Added Tax Account and other statutory records, amount to breach of the applicable provisions of the tax laws, and the same are punishable as provided for in Section 77 of the Tax Administration Act, CAP. 438.

**"Together We Build Our Nation"**

**Issued by:**

**Dr. Edwin P. Mhede, Ph.D.**  
**COMMISSIONER GENERAL**

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**TO CLOSE THE COMPANY**

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IT UP THE COMPANY.

# Dar es Salaam RC tours IPP media outlets



IPP Director Joyce Luhanga has a word with Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge, who made a familiarisation visit to The Guardian Limited in the city yesterday.



ITV programmes coordinator Pius Paul (L) briefs RC Kunenge on the station's operations.



RC Kunenge shares a jovial moment with EATV presenters while being shown around the station.



EATV/EA Radio managing director Regina Mengi welcomes the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner to the 'twin' outlets.



Radio One/Capital Radio deputy director Abdallah Mwaipaya (C) briefs RC Kunenge on the outlets' operations.



RC Kunenge is shown around The Guardian Ltd printing wing.



Radio One/Capital Radio director Deogratias Rweyunga (L) briefs the Dar es Salaam RC on the outlets' operations.



ITV/Radio One managing director Joyce Mhaviile has a quick word with RC Kunenge. Photos: Selemani Mpochi



## 3.5bn/- needed to pump clean and safe water in Kyela Town

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MORE than 3.5bn/- is needed to solve the chronic water shortage in the towns of Kyela and Kasumulu in Kyela District in Mbeya Region.

Residents of the two towns have been struggling to access the service and in turn, they ended up relying on unreliable water sources, a situation that puts them at risk of contracting water-borne diseases.

According to a survey carried out by the Mbeya Regional Water and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya-WSSA), the reliable water sources for the two towns is found in Busokelo Council in Rungwe District.

Executive Director of Mbeya-

WSSA, Eng Ndele Mengo, said the source is reliable and has the potential to serve the two towns as well as the surrounding villages.

"We're currently seeking funds for the implementation of the project and that if we get the money from the Central government we'll complete the project within the next 18 months and the people will start getting services," he said. "This water is clean and abundant. The water source was built several years ago and now it just needs to be improved and start delivering water to the people," said Mengo.

"We've done a feasibility study and we're convinced that the source meets the needs of the people of the two towns for the

next 20 years and we'll continue looking for other reliable sources," the official said.

Kyela MP Ally Mlaghila said the project was important in addressing the water crisis in the district, noting that water availability is the district's biggest challenge.

He said the people have been spending a long time looking for the service in rivers and wells whose safety is sometimes insecure, tasking responsible authorities to work on the project as soon as possible to get rid of this problem.

Some residents of Kyela District said they have been suffering from water-borne diseases because of drinking contaminated water.



Universal Communications Service Fund CEO Justina Mashiba (R) presents a project implementation report to Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on is the ministry's Permanent secretary, Dr Zainab Chaula. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

POULTRY keepers have been called upon to weigh their products in weighing machines before sale to ensure profitable business.

The remarks were given by Mary Mwangoka, a senior livestock researcher from Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) based in Mpwapwa mid this week during a visit at the centre by journalists and researchers organised by Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Mwangoka said many poultry keepers have been selling their chicken by estimating the weight, the practice that deny them of higher profit.

## Poultry owners urged to sell their chickens more gainfully

She said it was now time for them to change and develop themselves economically.

"Selling chickens by estimating weight makes poultry business hard, if they want to enjoy the market they should adopt the practice of weighing them before sale," she said.

"You find many chickens sold at between 8,000/- and 10,000/- but you find the same chicken sold at 15,000/- at the markets, the money which the poultry keeper ought to get," she added.

She said in the research done involving 157 chickens discovered

that if a cock's length is measured by a tape measure, its weight can be correctly estimated, whereas for a hen, it is its width that can determine its correct weight.

Mwangoka added that poultry keepers are supposed to abide by these measurements that would ensure them to arrive at the correct weight of their livestock, instead of costly weighing scales.

"We appeal to the government to introduce the practice of selling chickens by their correct weight, and poultry owner should stop being swindled by unscrupulous middlemen," added Mwangoka.

## Dawasa fires Chalinze water project contractor, citing failure to deliver

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (Dawasa) has terminated the contract with Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (OIA) Pvt Ltd, which was executing the Chalinze Water Project for failing to deliver the project on time.

Dawasa executive director, Cyprian Luhemeja revealed this yesterday during a visit by Kibaha Rural MP Michael Mwakamo who visited Ruvi Juu water treatment plant where he held talks with Dawasa Chalinze and Wami staff as well as inspect water projects.

"We have got another contractor-Afcons to go on with the 3rd Phase of the Chalinze

water project, who has been tasked to accomplish the project within eight months," he said, adding that the contract is next week expected to start working on the site.

According to Luhemeja, Chalinze residents should expect to have access to clean and safe water by August this year. The project was to be completed in 2017 but delayed due to the former contractor's failure to deliver despite giving him more time to accomplish the long-awaited project.

The contractor was tasked to install nine pumps—four at the water source, four for clean water, and one at the booster station, "but he failed to do so."

He added that the project is expected to serve 67 villages in Chalinze and that it will help the people of those villages to stop using water from wells and use tap water which when the project is completed will be cheaper.

Eng Luhemeja urged the new contractor (Afcons) to accomplish the project on time as Dawasa won't hesitate to sack him if he goes against the terms of the contract.

The project is being funded by the Exim Bank of India

In 2017, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa instructed the former minister for Water Gerson Lwenje to suspend the contractor for failing to complete the project on time.

## Gekul urges youth to go for fish farming to raise income

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries deputy minister Pauline Gekul has challenged youth to massively engage in fish farming to generate income as well as meet the country's demand.

She said the government is determined to improve the fishing sub-sector through establishment of fish ponds. She said the demand for fish products keeps increasing while production has remained low in almost all the Rivers and Lakes.

Fishing is mostly carried out in the Indian Ocean, Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika and Lake Nyasa.

Gekul made the remarks on Wednesday during her tour at a fish farming company—Bigfish in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania produces about 336,821 tonnes of fish per year, against a demand of 731,000 tonnes.

The country imports about 24,000 tonnes of fish per month worth Tsh56 billion (\$25 million),

most from China, Vietnam and other states around the Indian Ocean.

The deputy minister added that plans are underway to come up with regulations and guidelines for fish farming with the aim of protecting and empowering farmers. "We want to empower youth through construction of fish ponds and training on modern fishing methods," said Gekul adding that fish farming is likely to improve their welfare within a short period.

She said that when inaugurating his campaigns for the 2020 general election, President John Magufuli said the fifth phase government will create eight million jobs in the next five-years, pledging to build a modern, inclusive, competitive economy embracing needs of Tanzanians of all walks of life.

According to her, fishing is among the sectors expected to create a number of jobs. She said through groups youth can access loans at district councils through monies earmarked for special

groups—women, youth and the disabled.

She said the government is aware of the challenges facing fish farmers including lack of fingerlings and feeds.

The deputy minister directed the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) to work on the challenges to enhance the sector's growth.

Gekul was concerned that fish farming through ponds would likely reduce illegal fishing as well as ensure availability of fish for processors.

Data from the ministry indicates that in 2019, the demand for fingerlings was 40 million, but the country's capacity was to produce 18 million fingerlings.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nation (FAO) the consumption of fish in Tanzania is approximately 8.2 kilogrammes per year while the UN food agency recommends every individual to eat 20.3 kilogrammes of fish annually.



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)/ REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI): SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS GOODS 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 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 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:

##### Supply and Delivery of Various Goods

Reference Number	Goods Description
GGME01042	Supply & Delivery of Nuts, Bolts, Washers & Screws
GGME01074	Supply & Delivery of Mercedes Benz Spares
GGME01075	Supply & Delivery of Tadano Spares
GGME01076	Supply & Delivery of Hardware Consumables
GGME01041	Supply and Delivery of Medicine (Medical Items)

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

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

#### III. GENERAL INFORMATION REQUIRED

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

1. Details of business presence in Tanzania
2. 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:
    - 2.1 For privately owned companies, a list of all the owners, their nationality and respective percentage ownership of your organisation.
    - 2.2 For publicly traded companies, a list of all shareholders holding more than 5% with details of their nationality and percentage ownership.
3. 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.
4. 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:

1. Supply Reliability – Prospective Bidders to indicate the approach they will adopt to ensure Quality of the goods supplied, particularly in the Mining Sector.
2. Capability – Prospective Bidders to give details of their capability regarding the provision of goods to similar size of clients as GGML. (At least 3 reference letters from existing customers are required)
3. 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.
4. 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 22 January 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=

## Relief as investor gives 500 acres of land to villagers in Morogoro

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

A MOROGORO-based investor has released 500 acres of land to 171 Likonde villagers in Morogoro District to address the long-time conflict in the area.

The investor—Prof Martin Shem who is dealing with dairy farming in the area released part of his land to the villagers despite that the fact that he has rights of ownership since 2005.

The meeting to hand over the piece of land was attended by the Morogoro Regional Police Commander Fortunatus Muslim, district officials, and villagers.

Speaking at the meeting, the investors said that the move to release part of his farm is meant to create peace and harmony in the area as the 171 residents encroached his farm of about 2700 acres ten years ago.

He said that the move is also meant to fulfill the directives made by Land, Housing and Human Settlements Development Minister, William Lukuvi when he visited the area in October 2019. The minister directed

Morogoro District's land officials to make clear demarcation of the area. "I was also told to release this piece of land to villagers so that peace and harmony continue to thrive in this area and this is what I did," he said.

Assistant Regional Land Commissioner, Frank John, said the delay of land demarcation and distribution of the land to the 171 encroachers at farm number four delayed due to land surveying equipment.

Morogoro District Commissioner, Bakari Msulwa, commended the investor's decision to take away part of his land and give it to people who were in need of that land.

"This is a very recommendable efforts taking into account that the survival of such people depend on agriculture to earn a living," DC Msulwa said, lauding Prof Shem for extending his support to the education sector by building two classrooms and a police post in the village.

He called on other investors to emulate the spirit of supporting communities around their investments.



Simanjiro District councillors take oath of office earlier this week. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## Join cooperative unions to benefit from loans, beekeepers counselled

By Guardian Reporter

BEEKEEPERS have been advised to form and join cooperative unions to benefit from services offered by the associations including loans.

The advice was made by the Assistant Commissioner for beekeeping Hussein Msuya when he opened a conference by the Tanzania Beekeeping Development Organisation (TABEDO) in Dodoma.

Msuya said after removal from the registrar's book of companies that were not helpful to beekeepers, Tabedo decided to meet with members and form a committee that will now evaluate beekeeping Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) and other organizations in the sector. "We do not understand the status of such companies now we want to form a committee that will oversee the operations of all registered AMCOS," he said.

Msuya appealed to the members to

cooperate with the team because it is aimed at developing the sector so that it contributes to economic development.

He said the industrial development agenda won't be a reality if there will be no strong participation of beekeepers who will push for capital and production increase.

The chairman for TABEDO Rudia Issa said they are ready to work with the new committee to form unions which will address challenges facing beekeepers in the country.

He said if every beekeeper is empowered enough joining cooperative unions would benefit them, including giving them loans in financial institutions then provide them with reliable markets.

One of the members of TABEDO Lemiona said she stopped keeping bees and remained a buyer because of the drop in cooperative unions but she has decided to rejoin after a strong plan by the government to revive the sector.

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has said Zanzibaris should not fear dismissals of public employees because those being dismissed were those embezzling public funds for personal use.

Dr Mwinyi gave the remarks Tuesday this week soon after opening Matale CCM branch in Chonga District South Pemba Region.

He said what was needed is for public funds to be spent on public activities as there were many challenges facing the people including water, health and others, hence if embezzlers are not dealt with, there would be no development.

He stressed that his aim was to instill discipline in the financial spending in order to make development strides and praised CCM members for supporting those efforts.

He also praised CCM members for the huge victory in the election last year,

## Sacked officials were public funds embezzlers - Mwinyi

as well as congratulating them for the construction of the Matale CCM branch.

He said the elections was over hence what remains was for all the people to work hard to attain development, adding to achieve that three things were needed - peace, unity and accountability.

He also assured CCM members and other Matale residents that he will work on their request for a tarmac road and a health centre.

He also said he will also respond to their other requests for the provision of a computer, 80 chairs and four chairs for use in the conference hall as well as five sewing machines for use by a women's group at the branch.

He said the Phase VII Zanzibar Government has mobilized itself to bring in development and stressed that

many factories were on the way which will cater for the job opportunities pledged during the election campaign.

CCM Deputy Secretary general for Zanzibar Abdalla Juma Mabodi said CCM members will continue supporting President Mwinyi in his efforts to bring development.

Earlier, in the statement read on behalf of Matale CCM members, Matale Branch Secretary Mohammed Ali Bakari said the construction of the branch begun on August 8 last year and cost 83m/- upon completion.

At the same event Matale Branch members praised the area's businessman Khamis Yussuf Hamad aka Khamis Matale, for sponsoring the building in collaboration with other CCM members.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 2100039, 2100040, 2100042

National Consultants on Agricultural Statistics Plan I (ASSP I)  
Assessment and Formulation of ASSP II

Please be informed that FAO Representation in Tanzania has posted the below vacancies on the FAO Recruitment website found in the link below:

**National Consultant on ASSP I assessment and formulation of ASSP II- for the Crops sub-sector (2100039)**

[https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao\\_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100039&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=](https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100039&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=)

**National Consultant on ASSP I assessment and formulation of ASSP II- for the Fisheries sub-sector (2100040)**

[https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao\\_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100040&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=](https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100040&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=)

**National Consultant on ASSP I assessment and formulation of ASSP II- for the Natural Resources sub-sector (2100042)**

[https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao\\_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100042&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=](https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2100042&tz=GMT%2B01%3A00&tzname=)

Interested candidates can visit the recruitment website and complete their profiles online.

**Only applications** received through the recruitment portal will be considered. Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

**Closure date: 20 January 2021**

If you need help, or have queries, please contact:  
Careers@fao.org

**DTB** DIAMOND  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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We would like to inform our customers and the general public of a scheduled system maintenance exercise on Sunday 24th January 2021.

Below banking services will be unavailable during this period.

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- POS Merchants



We regret any inconvenience resulting from the system maintenance. However we expect all services to be available across the branches and Alternative channels on Monday 25th January 2021.

NB: Sunday Banking branches will be closed,  
Customers are advised to make prior arrangements.

**By Management**

**Diamond Trust Bank (T) Limited.**

# The Guardian

FRIDAY 8 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Chinese-Tanzania links vital with global interdependence

**T**ANZANIA is hosting a high-profile guest from the People's Republic of China in the person of Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Of course, this isn't the first time he has been in Tanzania as during his early days in the post he accompanied President Xi Jinping made a visit to Tanzania in March 2013.

This goes a long way to show that Tanzania holds pride of place in Chinese foreign policy just as China is more than a friend to Tanzania, but an ally and a key role model.

The two countries are in the thick of the fifth decade of cordial links which started with China's recognition of the Zanzibar Revolution early in 1964, as a number of the revolutionary intellectuals in the Isles were familiar with key leaders and thinkers in the Chinese liberation struggle, capped by a revolution on October 1, 1949.

As African countries stabilised in the first decade of independence and their voices were increasingly being heard in the United Nations General Assembly, one of the points the progressive camp was making was with relation to China - that it merited UN membership.

It is this aspect of China's diplomatic history that cemented the country's relations with Tanzania - with Tanzania's Ambassador Dr Salim Ahmed Salim playing a pivotal role in bringing about consensus that the People's Republic of China replace Taiwan at the UN and in the UN Security Council.

In the mid-1970s, China completed its landmark 'freedom railway' (Tazara) project linking Tanzania and Zambia, so that the landlocked latter country was no longer forced to shirk its

role in the liberation movement by relying on ports in apartheid South Africa.

In the 1980s, as China was reforming, soon Africa started its reforms as well, further diversifying and strengthening the links. There are currently daunting challenges at the global level that require assurance and coordination as to what comes next in the global agenda, as well as laying out feasible strategies for what should be done.

One such aspect is with regard to foreign investment and another is cooperation in tackling global issues of mutual interest, where the issue is less the bilateral arrangements but the linking up of voices to shape a global trajectory of diplomacy generally.

Therefore, clearly plenty exists for the visiting Chinese dignitary and his hosts to talk about.

In addition, there is a special situation in the world where African countries are battling to recover from the effect of Covid-19 disruptions in commerce and investments, as well as seeking assured supplies of effective vaccines that are being generated around the world, China included.

In the past few months as well African countries have raised the agenda of halting debt repayments to developed countries to put up more resources in strained public health needs and other areas.

This appeal has so far resonated with multilateral financial agencies rather than at a bilateral level, and hence the need for more intense consultations.

There is also a measure of cultural convergence between China and Tanzania, especially at the level of higher education.

Exposure to how other systems work shall improve brainstorming at the local level while rectifying any mistakes that will likely arise.

## Report on accidents involving long-haul drivers good, but...

**S**OIOLOGISTS, media practitioners and public authorities alike have a new bone to chew on the regulation of road traffic and the war against road crashes following a report unveiled by a top police official.

Traffic Police Commander Wilbrod Mutafungwa blamed mistresses on routes frequented by long-haul lorry drivers in upcountry regions and nearby countries for the spate of road accidents involving trucks.

Police report, in part, that the drivers in question are exhausted from such factors as their intermittent visits to mistresses.

Mutafungwa made remarks to this effect to the media when unveiling a report prepared after a month-long investigation on the ins and outs of truck drivers before finishing their journey on the Tanzania-Zambia border town of Tunduma.

He said that most long-distance drivers ferrying goods to neighbouring countries maintain multiple lovers stationed at several truck stops, a factor that contributes to road crashes owing to impaired driving.

He said it has been established that instead of resting in guest houses at service centres before moving on to their destinations, many of those behind the wheels of trailers and lorries go to their lovers' premises from one station to another - and it is evident that drivers seek to cut corners financially.

The reason is that truck drivers, much like commuter bus drivers tend to be young people and thus

have their libido more active than elders or middle-aged superiors at their workplaces.

It is true that there is an element of fatigue tied up with hanky-panky on the route, but fatigue as such is a different matter, assuming that the drivers they stop at night and continue early morning.

Drivers of long-distance commuter buses are pressed in their work schedules and, like the truckers, they don't have luxurious contracts about work, off-duty hours and allowances.

The report has it that eagle-eyed officers interested in the private itineraries of truckers at work were baffled at how the drivers jumped from one woman's house or rented room to another and still hoped to drive safely for hundreds of kilometers thereafter.

Mutafungwa said the drivers tended to over-indulge in romance with different women while on duty and this led to a rise in road crashes, the major explanation being exhaustion.

Though this looks plausible, in a strict research context it can't be called a cause as there is surely need to establish a relationship between supposed exhaustion and such accidents.

What was more salutary in the report is that, other than having private resting places with female hosts, an aspect of behaviour exhibited by the truckers is excessive drinking at the various stopping centres. The drivers park the vehicles, proceed to an eatery that serves alcohol, and drink excessively before proceeding to a woman's house.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

### Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
General line: 0745700710  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com  
epaper.ippmedia.com



## New potato variety could be game-changer for farmers in East Africa

By Tadessa Daba

**I**MAGINE being a potato farmer in Ethiopia, Kenya or Nigeria. On a small piece of land, which you depend on for food and income, you have spent months planting, weeding and watering.

Up to twice a week, you manually spray your field, sometimes with limited equipment - or hire someone to do it, spending much of your income on fungicides to avoid crop diseases.

And yet within a week of cold and humid weather, your entire field has been destroyed by late blight, a disease that wipes out a whole one-third of potato yields worldwide.

But there is a solution. Researchers from Uganda's National Agricultural Research Organisation Uganda and the International Potato Centre have developed a variety of potato which is resistant to the disease. Using new molecular techniques, they transferred late-blight resistance genes into the popular East African potato variety Victoria.

The new variety, known as 3R Victoria, is almost identical to the variety farmers now plant in Uganda - one crucial difference being that it contains three genes from a potato relative that provide it with complete resistance to the late blight pathogen.

To me as a biotechnology researcher working in East Africa, this breakthrough is particularly exciting. Potatoes are an important staple crop in the region, and this new variety is poised to boost yields dramatically, while reducing the need for fungicide use.

In Uganda, where about 300,000 smallholder households grow potatoes for subsistence and income, the disease can destroy as much as 60 per cent of a farmer's potato crop, which translates into annual losses of approximately US\$129 million.

In Ethiopia, an estimated 1 million farmers already grow potatoes, and up to 70 per cent of arable land is suitable for the cultivation of the crop.

Potatoes could be the key to fighting malnutrition. One billion people across the world consume them, making them the third most important food crop globally after rice and wheat.

Potatoes provide a low-fat source of carbohydrates, with a



quarter of the calories of bread. In addition, potatoes and root crops can offer a significant advantage over other staples like rice and wheat.

This is precisely in that they can produce more food with less land and water as well as offer huge potential when it comes to improving productivity. They are also produced locally and do not suffer from international trade fluctuations.

As Africa works to beat hunger and move towards self-sufficiency in food, the role of potatoes should not be underestimated.

### Breeding a better potato

Currently, smallholder farmers have no option but to use fungicides up to once every three days to control late blight. The cost of these chemicals is estimated to make up 10 per cent to 25 per cent of the total harvest value. Not only does their use shrink farmers' incomes but it can also have harmful effects on humans and the environment.

The 3R Victoria variety eliminates the need for fungicides. This means that farmers could save money and have a much better chance of getting a full harvest every year. With a reduced risk of diseases, it also means that they could grow crops during the heavy rainy season, when late blight is most prevalent.

This is no mean feat. With each field destroyed by late blight, food security suffers. This year

especially, Africa's ability to feed itself is threatened by a double whammy of human and crop diseases: coronavirus and late blight. According to the United Nations, Covid-19 is expected to push millions more people into hunger.

But bioengineered crops can only be rolled out in countries with regulations in place and with adequate funding.

In sub-Saharan Africa, Ethiopia and Nigeria have already started benefiting from bioengineered crops. In Nigeria in particular, a pest-resistant cowpea variety is improving yields by up to 20 per cent.

But many other countries are missing out. Since the 1990s, bioengineered crops have generated an estimated US\$186 billion in higher yields and extra production. Yet these benefits have been concentrated in six countries, none of them in Africa, largely owing to on-going regulatory debates about whether they can be cultivated.

As in other parts of the world, the deployment of biotech crops keeps generating discussions on safety, environmental impact and the social consequences of modern agriculture. These concerns must be addressed through constructive dialogues, information sharing, and by the building of trust among partners.

There are many potential explanations for this lack of supportive regulations. These

vary from country to country according to capacity, appropriate legislation and political will.

This compounds the challenge of developing a coherent regional framework. The future lies in building partnerships between research organisations with technology capacities and national agricultural institutes to develop bioengineered crops adapted to local conditions. Working closely with farmers and other stakeholders will build the trust necessary to foster adoption of new bioengineered varieties.

But with additional funding and regulation, crop scientists in national agencies, international organisations and universities could expand trials in East Africa and beyond and help farmers implement this solution, which multiple regulatory agencies worldwide have endorsed as safe. Africa has many opportunities to grow more food on less land while safeguarding the environment, thus effectively protecting millions of its citizens from going hungry.

However, for this to come to fruition, African governments need to be open to new, scientifically proven technologies - among them bioengineered crops - and use them appropriately.

**Tadessa Daba is Director for Agricultural Biotechnology Research at the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research.**



# Journalism's obligation to democratic practice extends beyond the runoffs

By Lauren Harris

GEORGIA voters have just been back to the polls to decide which candidates would represent the state in the US Senate - and, by extension, which party would control Congress for the next two years.

National media outlets have meanwhile just declared Reverend Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, the winner of his race against Kelly Loeffler, a Republican.

As of now, the race between Democratic challenger Jon Ossoff and Republican incumbent David Perdue remains too close to call.

Congress and the Vice President have been due to meet in order to formalise Joe Biden's election to the presidency - ending, one hopes, a two-day span that includes some of the nation's most significant democratic operations as well some of the most brazen efforts to undermine them.

The events of the past week are only Americans' most recent reminder that democracy is not inevitable, and that the media play an enormous role in the continuing fight toward its full realisation.

Journalism's role in the Georgia runoff began long before this week; faced in November with the inevitability of a January runoff, the media responded with a barrage of service journalism - explainers on the mechanisms and origins of Georgia's runoff, information on Georgia voter registration - as well as drawing attention to the stakes.

Local newspaper front pages throughout Georgia have emphasized the national importance of the election; reminded readers of voting hours; noted, in select cases, lower numbers of early ballots than reported in November; or offered voting guides to help voters navigate the process.

The availability and volume of good information is critical to any election. However, as recent years have made distressingly clear, the availability and volume of disinformation is also extremely



powerful.

Efforts to undermine democracy's function have been rampant, particularly - though not exclusively - during the past several months.

On top of the disinformation targeting individual voters in Georgia, the president and other Republican officials leveraged the power of a fragmenting information system to amass support for baseless claims of fraudulent election results, tethering the election in Georgia to the foundations of a parallel universe in which the president had been maligned.

Last weekend, reporters revealed - to Georgia and to the nation - that President Trump had pressured Georgia's Secretary of State to overturn Biden's November win in the state, and linked his claims to conspiracy-riddled websites.

Media outlets have just reported the president's efforts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence to overturn the November election results in Congress - a

power the Vice President does not actually possess. That news likely reached some Georgia voters even as they headed to the polls, and its impact was felt as Congress gathered shortly later.

The media cannot take for granted that American democracy is unbreakable, nor can it assume that unencumbered participation in democratic institutions has ever been the country's status quo.

Runoffs in Georgia have roots in voter suppression aimed at Black voting blocs, as numerous outlets have detailed.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution published a particularly deep dive into the runoff election's history, including an unsuccessful 1988 lawsuit, brought by former state Representative Tyrone Brooks, which "alleged that the system violated the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act by diluting Black voting strength".

Though the conclusion of the Georgia runoff and the certification of Joe Biden's presidency are both near at hand, the events

surrounding both events are sobering reminders that democracy - the idea itself, as well as the mechanisms that enact it - is an ongoing effort.

Journalists' work to ensure that effort - to reveal the flaws and failings and threats, both overt and less apparent, that jeopardise it - is never done.

There is much more on the Georgia elections and the end of the Trump era, including the fact that a few weeks before yesterday's runoff election, Facebook turned off a ban on political ads in Georgia.

Drawing on data from 58 Facebook users in Georgia, The Markup reported a marked shift towards more partisan news feeds.

"For the first half of the month, the most commonly appearing election-related content came primarily from news outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, CNN, and the Atlanta Journal-Constitution," wrote Corin Faife.

Once Facebook enabled political advertisements, however, "just over

one-third of the most commonly appearing domains were partisan campaign sites buying ads, including WrongForGeorgia.com, an attack site targeting the Democratic candidates; and DeserveBetter.org, an attack site targeting the incumbent Republican senators".

Hamilton Nolan, CJR's public editor for the Washington Post, considers that outlet's performance over the past four years and its path forward at a time when significant numbers of American voters have no confidence in its reporting.

"News outlets can deliver accurate information to the public," Nolan writes, adding: "They cannot grab the public by the throat and shake it out of a misguided belief in politically motivated lies."

Though the answer might be "corny, pat, and unexciting", Nolan writes, the best response to animosity and polarising fragmentation may be for the press to simply keep doing its job.

For New York magazine, Olivia Nuzzi wrote about the unusual bond shared by reporters in the White House Press Corps who weathered the strange and challenging circumstances of the Trump administration.

"The process was essentially more democratic than ever before, since leaks came from everywhere and came to anyone skilled or lucky enough to find them, their status in the news hierarchy often secondary to their ability to actually understand how the place operated," Nuzzi wrote.

Three Vietnamese journalists have meanwhile each sentenced to more than ten years in prison each under a law that bans the production of "distorted information" about the government. The Committee to Protect Journalists has condemned the ruling.

For Vulture, Nicholas Quah outlines the messy aftermath of the New York Times' response to revelations that a critical source for its "Caliphate" podcast had fabricated much of his account.

"We're looking at a case study that highlights a risk that's ever-present for a journalistic institution labouring for power, prominence and survival in the ruthless contemporary media landscape, where its attempts to expand power also have the capacity to cut into the very fundamentals of modern American journalistic culture," Quah writes.

CJR

## Sir Brian Urquhart: Embodiment of the UN

NEW YORK

Sir Brian Urquhart, who died on January 2 at the age of 101, served the United Nations in high posts for four decades, beginning in the organization's earliest days.

Celebrated for his diplomatic skills and his creative organizing abilities, he has often been seen as the embodiment of the UN and its most respected civil servant. After his retirement he lived in New York City, advising Secretaries-General, giving lectures, and writing articles and books. He often appeared at UN-related functions, well into an advanced age.

I heard him quip once, when he had reached the age of eighty-five, that he had become a holy relic, brought out on occasion to add gravity to the proceedings. In reflecting on his death, we should learn from his self-awareness and his skepticism about relics - and we should take his words to heart. The uncritical worship of Urquhart is not a useful activity, even in such a moment.

The UN is understandably seeking to spotlight him, to treat him precisely as a relic in hard times, as a way to celebrate the organization's history and rally support for its work. But we should see Urquhart as he really was, shortcomings as well as achievements, not as some invented icon from a falsely idealized past.

Urquhart was born in England and trained in two of the most prestigious institutions of the British education system - Winchester school and Oxford University. His was a recruitment path of those who were expected to take important positions in finance and government

and to act as managers of the British Empire.

He left university early and enlisted in the army in 1939 at the outset of World War II, joining British intelligence and apparently serving in various secret service capacities throughout the conflict. Late in the war, at the age of just twenty-five, he participated in postwar planning operations at the highest levels of government, including plans for the newly-created United Nations.

Urquhart's talents were recognized. He was soon brought into the small cadre of top British civil servants assigned to staff the upper echelons of the UN. He is credited with working diligently and effectively to establish the new organization, aided by a keen intellect and a self-effacing humor. When the UN got under way in 1945, he was only 26 and already in a high and influential position.

However "internationalist" Urquhart's work may have been, his perspective on the world was very different than how we might see things today. He was deeply influenced by conservative British values about the international order and Britain's place in it.

This included a strong anti-Communist commitment, skepticism about calls for colonial independence, and a determination that the world would be safer in the hands of the great Anglo-Saxon partnership. At the top of the world body, he worked closely with hard-nosed US nationals, including Ralph Bunche, and he shared much with them, including quite likely an ongoing secret service connection.

Though Urquhart was working in a global political context, he



Expressing his deep sadness over Sir Brian's passing, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres offered his condolences to the family of the "legendary long-time United Nations official" as well as to his "legions of admirers within and beyond" the UN. Photo: UN

had little sense of the personality and geography of the colonial world - "cultural ignorance" says one definitive book on the Congo conflict. Urquhart later confessed that he didn't know where Congo was located when he first arrived as a key representative of the Secretary General.

"I didn't even know which side of Africa it was on," he said later, "I thought it was on the Indian Ocean and I was much surprised to learn that it was on the Atlantic." Though responsibility for the Congo crisis is shared by many others, Urquhart participated in the dangerous mindset of decision-makers in Washington, London and New York that led to tragedy. He was an influential voice and he helped shape policy that produced awful results.

The Congo crisis saw the first, step towards the militarization of UN peacekeeping. Urquhart is often credited with setting up the earliest peacekeeping missions in the 1940s

and 50s, operations that involved interposition of very lightly-armed UN forces between two sides in a conflict. He deserves praise for this.

But in the early 60s, under pressure of the crisis in the Belgian Congo, peacekeeping went off the rails, setting a dangerous precedent that continues to this day. Urquhart must be held partly accountable for this negative development.

In Congo, the Western powers sought to rein in the country's first Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba. A militarized UN peacekeeping force was formed and deployed into the resource-rich territory in response to Lumumba's own pleas for assistance.

As it turned out, the UN proconsuls showed little respect for the elected government. Urquhart was part of the inner circle around Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld that promoted the ouster of Lumumba, the one leader who might have held the country together.

Urquhart and the UN top brass knew almost certainly that the CIA

was working all-out in this regime-change operation, bribing Congolese politicians and even (we now know) seeking to poison Lumumba. Sadly, the UN failed to prevent the nightmare outcome. Congolese army leader Joseph Mobutu seized power with US backing and long ruled over a broken land.

Lumumba was brutally assassinated by Congolese enemies not long after his ouster, a process for which the UN also bears indirect responsibility. Tragically, the bloodshed did not stop there. Secretary General Hammarskjöld himself was later to die in an attack on his airplane, while he sought to broker a Congo peace.

Urquhart, who was an admirer and friend of Hammarskjöld, later played the loyal guardian of the secrets. He constantly rejected substantial evidence that the Secretary General had been assassinated - not killed in an unfortunate air accident as the official story insisted.

In his noted biography of Hammarskjöld and his many lectures and articles on the subject, Urquhart (more than anyone) closed off serious discussion and investigation of the crime for nearly six decades. The hand of the Western secret services in this infamous murder is now increasingly clear. Did Urquhart know the truth?

Urquhart was a tenacious player in the game of survival at the top of the UN. While Secretaries-General came and went and other top staff faded away, he continued his grip on the top posts. That meant that he had to please the most powerful countries, of course, but it also meant that he had to know how to work diplomatically with all the member

states and to keep his friendships among the senior staff too. His wit and his understatement helped him survive in the UN's complex personal and national rivalries and to maintain friends in every quarter.

During Urquhart's many active years of retirement he wrote widely on the reform of the UN. The Ford Foundation gave him a special post to carry out this work and to burnish his image. He was certainly extremely knowledgeable on the UN's inner workings, as was his principal collaborator, the radical Irishman Erskine Childers.

Many observers like to point to these writings, especially the three books they wrote together, as a sign of Urquhart's more enlightened, "multilateral" and democratic views when free from the constraints of UN office. While he did mellow in later years, it should be said that he never abandoned his basic conservative persona.

The progressive current in the books, their bid for a more "democratic" UN, is due almost entirely to the influence of Childers, who complained bitterly in private at the brakes that Urquhart put on their work and the traditionalism that Urquhart brought to the project. Urquhart deserves our thanks, though, for allowing Childers, here and there, to propose inventive and far-sighted ideas.

Much will of course be said about Urquhart's intelligence, his diplomatic skill, and his many positive accomplishments. We would do UN history a disservice, however, if we do not see him (and the early UN) as they really were - not as relics of an idealized past but as real, often-flawed actors in a contested and still unfinished drama.

AGENCIES

# Covid-19 has boosted reader revenues, reminding us why they really do matter

By Peter Houston

ALREADY trending upwards for many publishers, reader revenue growth has been spurred on by lockdown audiences desperate for news and with lots of time on their hands.

The pivot to reader revenue began way before 2020's pandemic, but coronavirus lockdowns have proved to be a significant boost to subscriber-based business models. And the collapse of almost every other publishing income stream - newsstand, advertising, events - has guaranteed the reader's place in future business planning and publisher hearts.

Digital subscriptions are the headline act, with more than one news brand posting record gains in this otherwise awful year. But the surprise guest on 2020 balance sheets will be print subscriptions - for those that still sell ink on paper.

In May, Buzzfeed was reporting: "Subscriptions to glossy magazines are up, sales of publications focusing on puzzles or content for children are soaring, and websites capitalising on hundreds of millions of amateur cooks, bakers and gardeners stuck at home are seeing record traffic."

The challenge for 2021 will be retention. How will publishers keep hold of subscribers brought in by a crazy-fast news cycle, the challenges of home schooling and the claustrophobic boredom of being made to stay home?

## What happened in 2020?

The media industry's coverage from this year has been focused heavily on 'trend acceleration'. It's no different in reader revenue, and publishers that had already gone big on digital subscriptions reaped the rewards in 2020.

As the rapidly developing global health crisis unfolded, people were desperate for information that they could trust. And, confined to their own homes with time to kill, many turned to established media brands.

All the usual news suspects, from the New York Times to The Guardian, The London Times, The Financial and The Telegraph posted significant read-

er revenue gains this year.

Interestingly, most of the leading publishers brought their coronavirus coverage in front of their paywalls. Slightly counterintuitive you might think, and some argued that it was the wrong thing to do.

However, the move, as well as being socially responsible, paid off in additional subscriptions for those with must-read coverage - with The Atlantic gaining record traffic and 36,000 new paying customers in just four weeks.

"It's the content that drives subscriptions," Marc Isler, CRO for Swiss media group Tamedia, reported for its quarterly Global Digital Subscriptions Snapshot (Q3 2020). Tamedia reported 37.5 per cent growth in subscriptions with Isler citing deep-dive coronavirus content as a key driver.

In the UK, digital publishers' subscription revenues were up by almost 20 per cent in the first three months of 2020, according to a study by the AOP and Deloitte. This is despite some publishers offering heavy discounts to take advantage of record traffic numbers and record numbers of visitors hitting paywall thresholds.

"It seems obvious in retrospect that parents were looking for something to keep their children occupied and engaged. So The Week Junior became, for all those children who were suddenly not at school anymore...something a lot of parents felt that children would enjoy." That was a comment by Anna Bassi, Editor in Chief of The Week Junior.

However, the big plot twist in the 2020 subscriptions blockbuster is that print has done way better than anyone could have expected.

In the first couple of months of the crisis, Conde Nast reported that subscriptions to publications like the New Yorker, Vanity Fair and Architectural Digest had hit record levels.

New US subscribers in March and April were twice what they were for the same period in 2019. And the company recorded print subscription growth globally, across Europe and from China to Russia. New subscription orders for Conde Nast's UK titles were up by an incredible 420 per cent year-on-year.



Magnetic, a marketing agency for consumer magazine media, reported a slew of success stories mid lockdown. The Week Junior from Dennis posted 7,250 new subs in April; Hearst's new subscriber acquisitions doubled year-on-year; and TI Media and Immediate Media both reported subscription increases of between 200 per cent and 300 per cent.

In one week, at the end of April, Bauer saw the number of new subscriptions purchased online up over 160 per cent compared with the same period in 2019.

Previous market research has shown that 66 per cent of people claim that their passions help them through difficult times to explain the rise in magazine subscriptions. That certainly ties in with the reported interest in specialist hobby content during lockdowns and may be a sign that future subscription marketing efforts will hit the passion play hard.

Beyond standard digital or print subscriptions that swap content for cash, publishers took the opportunity, in 'unprecedented times', to ask their audiences to contribute in other ways.

Virtual events, webinars for the most part, were almost exclusively free-to-air prior to 2020. But cash-strapped publishers began charging this year and many have met with some success.

Ticket prices are lower than in the real-world, but costs are lower too and reach is greater. There is also the added benefit that attendance versus registration for paid events is higher and that plays well with sponsors.

E-commerce has also given publishers the opportunity to monetise their audience base. From Cosmo's wine launch to Buzzfeed's new sex toy, media brands have partnered with producers to put their names on products that they can recommend to readers.

For smaller publishers, newspapers and magazines hit hard by Covid-19, the generosity of their readers has been a lifeline. Some sold branded merchandise, and some asked for donations.

## Where are we now?

Coming to the end of 2020, reader revenue has been firmly re-established as a major revenue line by publishers

that once eschewed subscriptions for advertising revenue sold off the back of free, controlled circulation.

Equally, quality content is back. No publishers would ever admit that they put content second, but now there is evidence that publishing organisations are actually investing in content again to support their subscription development efforts.

Media leaders from the FT's John Ridding to The Telegraph's Nick Hugh have placed the secret of their subscription success at the feet of their journalism. None has put it more simply and possibly with more authority than Mark Thomson at the New York Times: "The single biggest thing we did... was to invest in our newsroom and invest in our journalism. And I still think the reason we have had more luck than many other news organisations is that we've invested in journalism; rather than firing journalists."

If we've learned one thing from 2020 it has to be that people search for quality content in times of trouble and when they find it, they'll pay.

"Readers simply have more time now. They can't go out on weekends or

in the evenings, so instead they opt for 'high-quality magazines,'" says Wolfgang Blau, former Chief Operating Officer and President at International, Condé Nast.

## What will happen next year?

The quest to discover exactly what media mix readers will pay for will continue apace. Major players will fight to secure their share of the subscription revenue pie.

Having just achieved 7 million subscribers, The (not failing) New York Times will push on towards its 10 million subscriber target. Others will chase smaller, but no less ambitious, goals.

The challenge for all will be to retain the new names acquired this year off the back of unusually high levels of anxiety, downtime and discounting. Developing reader routines will be central to the efforts of many; making 'reading your content' a habit.

To this end, many publishers will look to newsletters and podcasts to keep reader engagement high. Alternative paid-content plays like one-to-one messaging services between journalists and readers will be more common in 2021, although just how much money publishers can expect to make from either is a matter of debate.

Others are examining subscriptions versus membership, deciding if the introduction of a strong community element will keep people paying.

On the downside the hoped-for disappearance of anxiety-inducing elements like Trump, Brexit and Covid-19 may remove some of the public's motivation to pay for trusted news. And if subscription fatigue kicks in, subscriptions signed in the midst of the pandemic could be the first to go.

But realistically, even if Trump actually takes himself off to play golf and we get an effective Covid-19 vaccine, there's more than enough uncertainty and misinformation in these turbulent times to keep discerning audiences paying for quality content.

• **Extract from What's New in Publishing newsletter - Media Voices' Media Moments 2020 report.**

# Impact of COVID-19 on media practice: Incredible solutions for incredible times

By Kevin Slimp

As I write this piece, vaccines are beginning to make their way to first responders in the US, the New Year has begun, and maybe, just maybe, the world is seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

In the past, I often wrote New Year columns with predictions for our (media) industry in the upcoming years. If you went far enough back, you would see some doozies, including PDF files becoming the method of choice for advertisement distribution (it replaced FedEx in 1994); the Zip drive overtaking Syquest cartridges as the storage device of choice (1994); and InDesign overtaking QuarkXPress and PageMaker as the design application of choice (1999).

Among others: newspapers would turn to online journalism, using video audio and more (2000); editorial workflow systems would become commonplace at newspapers (2007); pocket-size camcorders would be used by most reporters in the future (2008); and newspapers would not - as predicted by some - be disappearing in the next ten years (2009).

More: JC Penney was making a big mistake by moving away from print advertising (2012); Gannett and Gatehouse would merge before 2020 (2014); and remote/home offices will become 'normal' at newspapers (2014).

Yet more: metros would suffer more than community papers in the 'digital future'



(2016); Joey Young would have success starting newspapers in Kansas (2016); and newspapers owned by venture capital groups would lose stock value and readership (2019 in an interview with the Washington Post).

This year, however, being a bit different from the years which have preceded it, I would like to take a look back - about ten months, give or take.

Covid-19 was a new term to most of us. Newspapers were having to quickly learn how to produce papers and find advertisers during a pandemic. It seemed like the sky was falling quickly, and there might be no way to keep it from crashing down on our industry.

In a piece I wrote in March 2020, I made three suggestions for newspapers searching for straws to help them

stay afloat: find ways to bring in new revenue through your traditional newspaper; find ways to use tools to bring in new revenue; and look for tools to help your advertisers to bring in business and help them stay in business.

I wasn't blowing smoke. I was going through similar emotions as my newspaper friends and clients. The speaking business - where I made

approximately half my income - was gone, with no return in sight.

My publishing company, focusing on study groups and churches, saw an immediate 80 per cent drop in sales. We had to find ways to bring in new revenue, while continuing to publish books, even if it meant losing money on them in the short term. And we had to find ways to help our readers, because we need them to return when the pandemic is over.

My businesses followed those three suggestions, first by continuing to create books. For my speaking/consulting clients, I've been fortunate to be able to work with them virtually throughout the pandemic.

Secondly, at my publishing company, we formed two new divisions to create new revenue. One didn't work out. The other has become our major source of revenue.

At newspaperacademy.com, we began rolling out classes to help newspapers make needed changes because of the pandemic.

Thirdly, the publishing company created a new continuing education division to help our readers, which brought in revenue and allowed them to complete their CEU (Central European University) requirements online.

I've seen community newspapers doing incredible things to make it through this pandemic period intact. I know local owners who have bought

nearby papers before they could be shuttered by owners located in other states.

I've seen publishers start new publications, offer free advertising to businesses that were at risk of closing - knowing that they would need these advertisers' business after the pandemic has passed - and come up with other creative ideas to serve their customers and advertisers.

To sum up the past ten months, I would say that it's no accident that most newspapers are alive and kicking, even if they aren't all thriving, as we begin 2021.

I'm not sure if my (or anyone else's) speaking business will ever go back to 100 (or even 20) or more cities per year. I also doubt if my company's book sales for all of this year will match sales in January and February 2020.

I'm willing to bet, however, that the work we've done to provide services during this extraordinarily uncommon year will pay off in the years to come. I'm proud to be associated with community newspapers.

• **A gxpess report. Kevin Slimp is founder of newspaperacademy.com and the University of Tennessee Newspaper Institute. In 2017, he founded Market Square Publishing. Despite the changes brought on by Covid-19, he still keynoted several newspaper conferences virtually last year.**



## Govt praised for helping tea investor secure strategic harvesting machines

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

THE government has been commended for supporting and facilitating the Njombe-based tea investor to secure 16 tea harvesting machines.

Briefing reporters touring tea growing areas in the southern highlands of Tanzania on the company's progress, Farm Manager of Kibena Tea Com-

pany, Michael Nyansembe described the support as a demonstration of the government's genuine determination to promote and increase investments in Tanzania.

The manager said it is increasingly becoming evident that the current government wants to see a thriving industrial economy in Tanzania because, he said, it is giving in-

vestors unreserved support to their initiatives.

"Last season we fell short of our production target by 52 percent. To increase production and quality of our product, the company decided to increase harvesting machines from one to 16. We have secured these machines with full facilitation and support of the government. In the end these

machines will improve the quality of Tanzanian tea as a whole," he said.

The manager told reporters that worldwide investment money is hard to come by because investors make lots of considerations before releasing funds.

"The DL Group of companies has chosen to invest heavily in Tanzania's tea industry after

weighing many options. On significant option is that Tanzania now has an attractive pro-investment environment. The government deserves to be congratulated on this position," he said. DL Group is based in Kenya but owns tea estates and factories in Tanzania.

The manager said the government's determination to build an industrial economy is now evident to investors partly because of the government's decisive push to change the mindset of civil servants so that they consider investors as strategic agents of fast economic reforms that will spur economic growth, increase jobs for the youth and improve the lives of the people as a whole.

He said Kibena Company has 730 hectares planted with tea, adding that in the 2020/21 season the company expects to harvest 11 million kilogrammes of tea. The company has added another 300 ha this season, he said. Last week Mufindi-based Itona Tea Factory Engineer Basil Mhongole told the same reporters that the government is serious implementing the national industrialisation agenda because, he said, it is supporting investors in implementing their projects. He said the government supported their company in securing machines valued at 10bn/- that are adding value to Tanzanian tea and making it competitive in local and foreign markets. Itona tea estates are also owned by DG Group of Companies.

He congratulated the government on the steps it is taking to promote industrial investments, explaining that the machines the company has installed will not only add quality to Tanzanian tea but will also increase income of out-growers in host communities.

## Swift action needed to make sure humans and wildlife know peace

By Correspondent Emmanuel Rubagumya

IN the evening of October 31, 2020, a secondary school teacher, Rogers Wilson from Kwangu secondary school in Kwakoa ward of Mwanza District, Kilimanjaro Region was trampled to death after a herd of elephants invaded the village.

The elephants came from Mkomazi National Park.

The Director of Wildlife in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in Tanzania, Dr Maurus Msuha confirmed the incident assuring that the elephants would be soon driven out of the area.

This was not the first time as in October 2019, four people were killed while seven were injured by rampaging elephants in Toloha and Ngulu villages in Mwanza district.

Effects are far reaching. Whenever attacks like these happen, people lock themselves in their houses for fear of these wild animals, reducing working hours, hence impacting their economy. The pressure on family members is obvious in cases where bread winners are killed.

"They are killing us, please help," a villager, Sauda Kwayu was quoted recently when reacting to an incident where a colleague was killed by an elephant.

Reports of elephants and other wild animals such as monkeys, crocodiles and hippos wreaking havoc on villages, destroying food crops and residential areas are now regular news.

The challenge is not unique to Tanzania as reports shows that over 100 people are killed by elephants each year in India while over 200 people have been killed by the big animals in Kenya over the last 7 years.

With the third largest elephant population in the world, the potential of this challenge to grow in Tanzania is huge. The country's elephant's number is estimated at 42,871, according to the Great Elephant Census of 2016.

Experts cite various reasons toward increasing human wild animal conflicts. Some of them are global warming and environmental destruction that drive



wild animals out of their habitats to areas inhabited by humans.

Multiplication of wild animals due to successful conservation efforts also contributes to the problem. Increasing population that leads to humans encroaching on wild animals' habitats for agriculture and other activities lead to conflicts with animals.

Another reason is that many costs of conservation are borne locally, particularly by poor communities, while benefits accrue globally.

Emmanuel Stephens, a researcher based in Katavi Region said that as long as humans and wildlife continue to interact, conflict is inevitable and this calls for a need to develop strategies which offer a balanced and systematic way to mitigate harmful effects to endangered species while still meeting needs of the local communities.

In the case of elephants, he notes that the most commonly advocated methods include use of beehive fences and chili fences.

"These methods provide extra benefits to the farmers for instance bee

products (honey and wax) and extra chili can be sold to generate alternative source of income which compensate at least partially for crop damage," he added.

Dr Sayuni Mariki-Mrita, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Wildlife Management at the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) said that sharing costs and benefits of conservation with those affected mostly by wild animals can greatly help in reducing human wild-animals conflicts.

"The direct benefits should outweigh the costs. This will increase tolerance and enhance human-wildlife co-existing," Dr Sayuni who is one of the leading researchers in the field advises.

However, the researcher adds that using proven workable mitigation measures to reduce negative impacts may not be enough, but the careful assessment of each method is important for understanding its effectiveness, gaps in knowledge on its usage, and the specific contexts where it is appropriate to deploy.

The researcher notes that

empowering communities to initiate and manage mitigation for their resources and themselves, and to increase their resilience to wildlife impacts is crucial while communities bordering protected areas should be encouraged to adhere to wise land use planning that meets the needs of people and wildlife in a sustainable way.

Also equally important in reducing such conflicts are proper management of buffer zones, and restoration and management of wildlife corridors.

Raising awareness among communities (children and adults) on how they can empower themselves to reduce the negative consequences of living alongside wildlife is important.

The National Human-wildlife Management Strategy (2020-2024) approved by the government in October 2020 is commendable. Also appreciated are efforts by the government to develop the National Priority Corridor Action Plan to support the regulations on wildlife corridors, buffer zones and dispersal areas.

## Working to ensure every child in Zanzibar is protected

By Guardian Reporter

DESPITE strides by the government and stakeholders to eradicate violence, there are still a number of children in Tanzania who report experiencing violence and abuse with many of them failing to receive immediate support.

According to government statistics collected from the police, about 1,091 abuse and violence-related incidents were reported to various police stations in Unguja and Pemba in 2017/2018, compared to 2,449 incidents that were reported in 2016/2017.

In efforts aimed to ensure that children on the Island remain safe from any kind of abuse and thus fulfill their dreams, Save The Children is implementing a Child Protection System strengthening programme in Zanzibar reaching a number of families.

The project focuses on ensuring that communities are aware of all forms of child abuse, protection services are available, and that effective coordination and referral mechanisms ensure convictions of perpetrators. It has benefited thousands of children in the Isles by supporting them access their rights and justice.

One of the victims and beneficiaries of the project, Juma (not his real name) is a teenager aged 14 residing in Zanzibar. He was abused by a number of strangers some years ago thus affecting his dignity.

Speaking recently when officials from Save the Children visited some of the beneficiaries, Juma said he has passed through several rapes and defilement acts implemented to him by his playmates at the beach before getting help from authorities and child rights stakeholders on the island.

"I remember when I was at the age of six, my parents separated, my father went to live with our aunty where he took me and my older brother by force to go to live with him, which is when I started experiencing the bad side of my life," he says.

Juma says his father fell into drunkenness, he started coming home late without even caring if they had eaten anything.

"He was always fighting with our aunty (his sister). I remember I had already started school, our father didn't even care about buying us basic needs for school or even food, and when life became so hard my older brother decided to go back to our mother," he adds.

He went on to say that, "he continued to tolerate such a difficult life but a few years later he dropped out of school and started to be a street child with no direction.

"I was forced to live that life because no one cared for me, I was spending much time along the ocean fishing to get something to eat, that is where my life was ruined completely, some strange young people started to abuse me."

Juma says that he was sedated before being abused. "Due to a stressful life I was experiencing, I then decided to go back to my mom, who then worked to ensure that I get justice. The case is currently in the hands of legal organs and I hope all the perpetrators will be given strong punishment," he says.

The young boy, who is currently living happily after being supported by stakeholders including Save the Children, would like to become a successful entrepreneur in Zanzibar.

"I thank God, I am now receiving psychological service at the One-Stop Centre (Mkono Kwa Mkono Centre) at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, I have recovered, and I am sure that I will fulfill my dreams of becoming a successful entrepreneur," he adds.

Suhailla Abdulla Salim, a community social welfare officer at the Mnazi Mmoja One Stop Centre (Mkono Kwa Mkono Centre) acknowledged that cases of child abuse were on the rise in Zanzibar but with various initiatives carried out by the government and stakeholders, predicted that the challenge will be eradicated.

According to her, the centre has been there to support victims of violence including children who have been raped or defiled.

"This centre has all-important workers including, social workers, police without uniform, medical personnel, and counselors who provide health, legal and psychosocial services to survivors of violence 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Encouraged by the results and the government support, Save the Children has supported the establishment of 5 other Centers at the Chake Chake, Micheweni, and Wete hospitals in Pemba and Makunduchi and Kivunge hospitals in Unguja.

Suhailla further noted that the culture of silence in Zanzibar has been a major hindrance in the fight against child abuse.

She blamed some parents for not reporting to the police incidents of torture and physical assault.

Dickson Megera, child rights governance officer at Save the Children says, the fight against violence against women and children needs collective efforts from the government and stakeholders.

He acknowledged that children in the Isles are facing several challenges including violence.

Megera says that during the three-months of Covid-19 school closure (March to June, 2020), many children faced a lot of abuse acts including rape and defilement, which affected them psychologically and physically.

He says that in efforts aimed to ensure that the children remain safe in Zanzibar, Save the Children has been working closely with the government and other partners to promote child protection and child rights governance.

"Operating during the Covid-19 period is somehow difficult but we all work to ensure that children continue to live peacefully with their rights being respected. Save the Children strengthened efforts by educating the public, including children, on how to protect themselves from contracting the pandemic's infections," he says.

According to him, during the school closure period, a total of 451 children on the island were trained on Covid-19 preventive measures as well as reporting children's violent acts.

Globally, one in four children suffers physical abuse, nearly one in five girls is sexually abused at least once in her life, and every five minutes a child dies as a result of violence, according to UNICEF.

# Is high tech a danger to humanity?

STOCKHOLM / ROME

Oh, Lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz.

My friends all drive Porsches, I must make amends.

Worked hard all my lifetime, no help from my friends.

So, oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz.

Janis Joplin, 1970

COVID-19 has made several of us aware of the frailty of our bodies, the certainty of death and how valuable health, companionship and compassion are. Such insights are not uncommon in poor societies where a person's main and perhaps only asset is her/his body and what s/he is able to do with her/his hands. However, wealthy and privileged people are surrounded by, dependent on, and even integrated with an ever more sophisticated technology, which increasingly, for better or worse, is separating us from what human existence has been for thousands of years.

Once technology has made its entry into the human sphere; from fire and wheels, to printing presses, trains, radio, aircraft, TV, the Internet, sophisticated weaponry and ... cars, everyone's life, even unprivileged ones, has changed to an extent that it is difficult to fathom. For example, cars were invented as an effective and comfortable means of transport, but they soon became so much more.

Our cities, the entire landscape, has utterly been changed to accommodate motor vehicles. An ongoing change that has been far from accomplished. I have been stuck in endless traffic jams in places as different as Kinshasa and Bangkok. Traveling by car through Europe has become a nightmare with hordes of enormous trucks clogging traffic everywhere and menacing lives and limbs of other road users, whose lives already are at



risk by the behaviour of reckless drivers. Each year approximately 1.35 million people are killed on roadways around the world, meaning that each day more than 3,700 people are killed in clashes involving cars, buses, motorcycles, bicycles and trucks. Traffic accidents are currently the leading cause of death for children and young people 5-29 years of age. Not counting the millions of persons becoming seriously maimed for life.

Motor vehicles fill the atmosphere with smog, carbon monoxide, and other toxins, something that on top of the damage wrecked to the entire biosphere is especially troubling since this poisonous air leave tailpipes at street level, where humans and animals breathe the polluted air directly into their lungs.

Don't get me wrong - I own a car and it has given me an unprecedented freedom and brought me to places and experiences I would neither had the time, nor the possibility to reach without my car. Nevertheless, advancing age and the COVID-19 pandemic, which I assume is to a great extent caused by our manipulated natural environment and

advanced communication means, have made me think of how amazingly fast, mind changing and even dangerous technological change has become.

In my youth, a telephone was a device with a round number dial, which through landlines was hooked up to switchboards. An interurban call could be both cumbersome and expensive. Nowadays a telephone combines cellular and mobile computing into one, small unit that takes photos, shows the person you are talking to, stores and provides a wealth of information, tells you where you find yourself and within a second, and at a low cost, connects you with people anywhere in the world. How could I even dream about this in the 1990s when I first encountered a mobile phone?

It all started 1957, when an Egyptian engineer named Mohamed Atalla proposed a metal-oxide-semiconductor (MOS) process, based on the use of silicon. In 1983, the first commercially available handheld mobile phone was introduced and in 2014, worldwide mobile phone subscriptions had grown to over seven billion; enough to provide one

for every person on Earth. In 2019, the majority of smartphones released have more than one camera, are waterproof and unlock using facial recognition, or fingerprint scanners. I own a much simpler device, but it has become an integrated part of my life. Friends and family become upset if I don't carry it with me.

The car took longer time to become what it is now, approximately a hundred years. However, like the smart phone it has in many parts of the world become an integrated part of an individual's life and personality. When I more than twenty years ago visited a relative in Miami I found there were no sidewalks and how I during my morning strolls felt how her neighbours suspiciously watched me, brooding behind their curtains, or while mowing their implacable lawns. A pedestrian! It must be a shady character, even if he is reasonably well-dressed.

A friend of mine living in the USA once told me he was going to invest his hard-earned money in a new, luxurious car, even if he actually could not afford one. When I asked why he made such a stupid investment, he replied: "I have to be able to look my children straight into their eyes. I do not want them to be ashamed of having a loser as a dad. A bastard who cannot even afford a proper car."

There is no way of avoiding the fact that the car has become part of "Western mentality". Pixar Animation Studios have made highly successful films, *Cars 1, 2 and 3*, about humanized motor vehicles, and horror book writer Stephen King has written several captivating novels about demon cars possessing their owners. The UK author J.G. Ballard wrote a disgusting novel, *Crash*, about symphorophilia, a form of pathological car-crash fetishism where humans and cars intermingle in an inseparable manner.

A comfortable, beautiful car may envelop us in soothing comfort and impart a sense of well-being and confidence, as in Bruce Springsteen's *Pink Cadillac*:

I love you for your pink Cadillac.  
Crushed velvet seats.  
Riding in the back,  
Oozing down the street.  
Waving to the girls,  
Feeling out of sight.  
Spending all my money  
On a Saturday night.

Quite a number of American songs pay homage to the freedom of Open Highways, rides into the wilderness and freedom of the unknown. However, this does not prevent

such rides from being journeys mixed up with anxiety, and perhaps even fear. Springsteen again - *Stolen car*:

And I'm driving a stolen car  
On a pitch black night.  
And I'm telling myself I'm gonna be alright  
But I ride by night and I travel in fear  
That in this darkness I will disappear.

Accordingly, cars have for many become incarnations of more or less hidden desires, as well as part of their personality. The main technological surrogate and an easy manner for obtaining life-affirming adrenaline rushes and endorphin kicks might still be car driving, preferably in luxury vehicles and at a high speed. A pleasure that for commercial reasons often has become associated with sex. Advertisements and popular culture tell us that luxury vehicles attract sexual partners and enhance our personal prestige.

In 2019, almost 92 million motor vehicles were produced worldwide, with China, Japan, and Germany as the largest producers of private cars and commercial vehicles. An estimated 1.4 billion cars and trucks are currently moving on the roads of the world, every year consuming more than a thousand billion litres of fossil fuel.

However, a paradigm shift might lie ahead. Self-driving and electrical cars will with all probability take over the roads and consumers may be inclined to choose more environmentally friendly means of transportation than expensive and prestigious luxury cars. European car manufacturers have discerned a trend among young consumers indicating that several of them like to purchase small, eco-friendly vehicles, or prefer to use common means of transport instead of owning a car of their own.

However, this does not mean that humanity will be liberated from its possibly fatal dependence on technology. In order to survive we have to be aware of the dangers this mentality implicates for the survival of our biosphere and thus human life. If we had been better intellectually equipped, more morally oriented, we might have been able to use our sophisticated technology for better purposes. Now it seems to threaten us instead, as though we were stuck in a car while traveling at high speed towards a final accident, a crash. A dangerous and incomprehensible world.

AGENCIES

# Stand tall, UN humanitarians

LETHBRIDGE, Canada

Most people around the world were glad to see the back of 2020: From the devastating bushfires in Australia to the plagues of locusts through East Africa stretching across Arabia to Pakistan, extreme weather, melting ice sheets at the poles, and Covid-19 that still engulfs the globe.

But 2021 threatens to be even worse than 2020: The economic impact of lockdowns, inward-looking, wall-building governments with self-interest trumping internationally agreed values. And then to quote David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme: "We could be facing multiple famines of Biblical proportions" and "We're on the Titanic and the iceberg is ahead". He was referring, of course, to the world's hotspots in Africa and Asia. But like the pandemic, we're all in this together. No one is safe till everybody's safe. We live in a totally interdependent world.

But how prepared is the world for the year ahead? Not very well, is the short answer. The change of the Administration in the U.S. will not close the gaping hole it has torn in world order. Despite a last-minute Brexit trade deal, Europe is still unravelling. Russia is no longer a major actor on the international stage. But China marches on relentlessly, implementing its traditionally long-term plans.

And what of the United Nations: the UN Charter to which nations subscribed after World War II to preserve peace, as well as the organizations they created to make the



world a better place for all? Don't expect any change from recent years in the Security Council, the UN's principal organ to prevent war and armed conflict. Governments are preoccupied with domestic issues. 2021 is not the time they will want to see a shift in world order, nor start tackling the fundamental change required to bring that about.

On the humanitarian front, the Norwegian Nobel Committee seemed to be pushing the envelope in awarding its 2020 Peace Prize to the World Food Programme. For more than 50

years, WFP has been combating global hunger. And it has certainly contributed to bettering conditions for peace in conflict areas. But to declare that it has it been acting as the "driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict" is a bit of a stretch. Yes, it was the "driving force" in the 90s with Operation Lifeline Sudan, before South Sudan became independent. And it has been the "driving force" in Yemen since the outbreak of civil war in 2014. But what about the numerous other armed conflicts that are raging in Africa, Asia and Latin America?

And what about the other parts of the UN System that were established to deal directly with war and armed conflict, including its cause and effect: the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees? And then there's the UN Special Rapporteurs and the army of Special Representatives of the Secretary General who are assigned to conflict

countries to lead UN action. Well, nothing has happened to that part of the UN System to suggest that any significant change is on the horizon. But each conflict situation is different and so are the actors involved. Individuals are always the ones that can make a difference, so surprises are always possible.

What is largely misunderstood by the general public is that whatever the UN and its agencies are involved in, be it conflict resolution or famine relief, they are never fully in the driving seat. They're

the foot soldiers, given their marching orders by the member states. And for the work that they do, they're funded by and are accountable to the member states. So, at a time when governments don't want to shift the goalposts, major forward momentum by the UN System would not normally be in the cards.

But there are other significant forces at play here. First, in a growing number of countries, the general public are ahead of their governments. People do not want to see a child dying of starvation, no matter where that child is from. Public opinion can quickly be mobilized to cause cash-strapped donor governments to increase contributions to help deal with the effects of natural disasters in a stricken country. Second, the media play a vital role, not just in sensitizing the general public to the problem, but also in exposing overly stingy donor governments and inept aid organizations in addressing it adequately. Government representatives in developing countries are often reluctant to admit the seriousness of a natural disaster or the risk a civilian population face by armed conflict. A free press remains the world's best watchdog.

Third, it's disquieting that there seems to be a growing number of UN officials that are reluctant to speak up, and sound the alarm when danger signals appear. "Why are some such scaredy-cats?", a colleague who just returned for a famine-struck area asked me recently? He knew exactly what he'd seen and what it meant for the population in the months ahead. But his seniors were nervous to admit it, lest it upset the government officials with

whom they worked. It can be dangerous when well-paid senior UN humanitarian officials are unwilling to speak up and sound the alarm to prevent insipient situations from turning into disasters. The underlying problem may be the proliferation of short-term Uber-style contracts that UN staff are hired on these days. Many don't want to run the risk of offending anyone for fear of losing their job. For the UN to work effectively, its staff must be able to stand up for UN principles, speak up when need be and do their jobs with impunity. They need to be playing a supportive role right at the forefront of the action. UN humanitarians must stand tall.

So, in 2021 the humanitarian agencies may well take the lead in upholding the reputation the UN System still enjoys in some parts of the world. David Beasley and his World Food Programme will certainly be in the spotlight. On preventing hunger from being used as a weapon of war, WFP's progress will be slow and uneven. The dynamics of each conflict are different and so are the actors involved. Don't expect widespread results soon. But WFP has been rising to the challenge and delivering the goods for over 50 years. Forging a closer relationship with the UN's political, peacebuilding, human rights and refugee agencies will be crucial to the new challenge. But in the difficult years ahead, the Norwegian Nobel Committee's decision to award the 2020 Peace Prize to WFP may be just what the UN System needs to make life more tolerable for the millions still caught in the crossfire of war.

AGENCIES

# ECOGRAF SAYS EPANKO GRAPHITE MINE TO OPERATE UNDER EQUATOR PRINCIPLES

## Kenyan coastal community beats lead polluter in court

### MOMBASA

It was touted locally as one of the biggest campaigns of the decade when, in 2016, Kenyan environmentalist Phyllis Omido took up the fight against lead poisoning by a lead-add batteries recycling smelter in Owino Uhuru slum, in the coastal city Mombasa.

Omido, 42, went to court on behalf of the slum's 3,000 residents and, four years later, on 16 July 2020, the court ruled in their favour, awarding \$12m to those affected by the lead poisoning. The money was to be used for their medical treatment and compensation for deaths that resulted from the poisoning.

The government was to pay within 90 days for failure to enforce environmental regulations and measures on the company - Metal Refinery EPZ. Opened for business in 2007, it was not until 2014 that the factory was permanently closed.

However, the attorney-general and the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) filed an appeal against the ruling. In the appeal application, NEMA stated that their budget was not large enough to pay for the clean-up of the slum, while the attorney general's office said it is dissatisfied with the ruling as the liability of compensation, clean-up and treatment of the residents should be taken up by the smelting company and not the government.

### Campaign against appeal

But Omido is not relenting, and has launched a campaign against the government's appeal. Through her organisation, the Centre for Justice, Governance and Environmental Action (CJGEA), the initiative is also expected to raise funds for medication and treatment for those experiencing the effects of the lead poisoning.

"As we wait for the appeal, we have victims hospitalised, those living with conditions like kidney and liver failure and many children with skin diseases. All this is as a result of the lead poisoning," said Omido.

Omido says that the campaign has so far raised \$1,000. The ruling on the government's appeal is expected on 17 February 2021. "There is nothing that can be done following the appeal application by NEMA and the attorney general's office. Everything — the slum clean-up, treatment of the sick — will have to wait until the ruling on the appeal is made," said Omido. Omido, who led a campaign to close the smelting factory in 2014, worked through CJGEA to bring the case to court in 2016, seeking compensation and justice for those affected by the lead poisoning in the Owino Uhuru slum after several failed attempts to negotiate and settle with the government and other entities involved.

### Human rights contravened

In her 2020 ruling, Justice Anne Omollo observed that the Owino Uhuru community's rights to a healthy environment, clean and safe water, and life had been contravened and therefore the government and the smelting factory should pay the compensation.

NEMA, the government agency responsible for the environment, and the lead smelting company were ordered to clean up the slum — the soil, water and waste — for any remaining lead poison. Failure to do so would result in a fine of \$7m to CJGEA to organise and coordinate the clean-up.

In 2015, the Kenyan Senate Committee also conducted a study on lead poisoning in the slum and found that there were indeed signs of lead in the environment and that children showed visible symptoms of lead poisoning in blood tests. The senate then concluded that the environment was not fit for human settlement and recommended that the government should deal with the poisoning and conduct the clean-up of the slum.

"When we realised that the government agencies had no knowledge on environmental clean-up of lead poisoning, we brought in experts from America to train state agencies on how to clean up lead poisoning in the environment," said Omido.

Li Fung, a senior human rights adviser with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), says the 2020 landmark judgement by the court was a victory for the community, environmental human rights defenders like Omido, and for environmental justice in general.

"OHCHR is continuing its support to Phyllis [Ms. Omido] and her organisation," says Fung. "It is important that we act to uphold and defend the civic space for these human rights defenders to continue their vital work."

### By Property Watch Reporter

A proposed US\$60 million Epanko Graphite Mine in Ulanga District of Morogoro Region will operate under strict global environmental standards christened, 'Equator Principles.'

In a recent reports, Australian based EcoGraf Limited is making progress towards securing a senior debt financing for Epanko Graphite Mine with positive feedback from a presentation of the KfW IPEX-Bank debt financing proposal to the government in August last year. The Australian company's local subsidiary which runs Epanko is TanzGraf.

The company which seeks to manufacture battery components in Australia for electric vehicles global market, further stated that the government's due diligence processes have commenced with a view to preparing an internal submission for formal approval.

"Although the year has been challenged by the major disruptions caused by Covid19, the company has made significant progress advancing the debt financing for both developments," said EcoGraf Managing Director, Andrew Spinks.

Spinks added, "We are introducing a third pillar of value through the innovation of utilising the company's purification process to recover carbon anode material. Our management team is working hard to secure a combined debt financing of US\$95m which will transform the company's prospects."

He further noted that the value proposition of recycling strategy, combined with the vertically integrated business developments using the company's proprietary purification process is significant and more importantly matches the new European Union legislative changes.

"The board and management would like to take the opportunity to wish all shareholders a safe Christmas and looks forward to advancing the company's development in the New Year," Spinks assured.

Meanwhile EcoGraf Limited said battery graphite manufacturing facility is making encouraging progress in relation



An illustration of EcoGraf's battery graphite manufacturing facility at Kwinana in Australia.

to securing approvals for a US\$35 million debt funding arrangement for the new Kwinana development in Australia.

The company said a development report, independent market study, updated financial model, feasibility and engineering studies have been provided for lender analysis and EcoGraf is working with the lenders through the approval process.

"In parallel, work is being undertaken to finalise the EPC contract, feedstock supply contract, operations and main-

tenance arrangements and the early works program that will facilitate commencement of the detailed engineering design works," the company said in its report dated December 2020.

The report said EcoGraf also remains confident of finalising further sales and offtake arrangements as discussions advance with existing customers in Europe and Asia. The proposed 20,000 tonne per annum facility will manufacture battery anode products for export to Asia, Europe and North America using

a superior, environmentally responsible purification technology to provide customers with sustainably produced, high performance battery anode graphite, the company stated.

A proposal is being finalised to undertake engineering design works for a containerised pilot plant supported by the recent positive results of up to 99.8 percent carbon achieved during testing with potential European customers on the recovery of high purity carbon anode material from battery black mass.

## AfDB approves funding for mini-grid advancement in Africa

### ABIDJAN

The African Development Bank (AfDB) earlier this month approved a \$7m grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) for technical assistance in setting up the Africa Mini-Grid Market Acceleration Programme (AMAP), which aims to boost energy access in remote regions and enhance climate resilience throughout Africa.

AMAP will include three core components: the implementation of a new and standardised framework for national-scale mini-grid acceleration programmes (MAPs) in four countries, the design and enhancement of financial de-risking solutions, and support for knowledge, innovation, and skills development activities, including the continuation of the bank's Green Mini-Grid Help Desk website.

### Promoting energy access

"Mini-grids are an integral and increasingly important feature of the energy access solution, not just in terms of providing lights to households, but also in ensuring that underserved populations have access to productive uses of energy to power, inclusive and green economic growth. AMAP underscores the African Development Bank's commitment to strengthening Africa's mini-grids industry, which we see as a key driver for accelerated energy access, climate resilience, and a green post-Covid-19 recovery," said Dr Kevin Kariuki, the AfDB's vice president for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth.



Solar panels are seen at a farm in Mbale, Uganda.

AMAP's overarching aim is to transform the scale of public and private investments in renewable energy mini-grids throughout Africa,

including such initiatives as the Green Mini-Grid Market Development Programme, the Nigeria National Electrification Project, and the DRC Green

### Mini-Grid Programme.

Reducing GHG emissions AMAP's initial phase in four countries is expected to lead to 880,000 new electricity

access connections providing modern energy access to over 4 million people, over 80MW of renewable energy-based generation; the creation of 7,200 full-time jobs, of which 1,800 are anticipated to be held by women, reductions of over 6.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) in lifetime greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and the facilitation of an estimated \$650m of public and private investments in mini-grids.

AMAP is strongly aligned to the ambitions of the Bank's New Deal on Energy for Africa as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). Aaron Leopold, CEO of the Africa Minigrad Developers Association, said, "Mini-grids are a fundamental but under-supported element of Africa's energy future."

To achieve SDG 7 (target on energy), the sector must be radically scaled up, and to do this, a holistic and broad-spectrum support programme informed by industry needs is required to bring governments, investors, and of course the mini-grid sector the kind of support that can facilitate fast and efficient progress. For these reasons, AMDA is excited to see AfDB working to bring mini-grid investments in Africa to the next level."

## TANELEC LIMITED INVESTS IN EXPANSION TO SERVE AFRICA'S ELECTRICITY MARKET

By Property Watch Reporter

**A**S Tanzania and East Africa moves to ensure that the majority of the people especially those in rural areas have access to electricity, Tanelec Limited is investing heavily in expanding and modernising its production plants.

Tanelec Managing Director, Zahir Saleh said in a recent report that the heavy investment will create employment opportunities covering a variety of skills from technicians to graduate engineers as well as providing business opportunities for local suppliers and service providers.

"Tanelec does complete manufacturing of transformers in Arusha, it is not just assembling of components that we buy but also convert our raw materials into the finished products. We also have the capability to engineer all our products in-house," Saleh said.

He said currently, Tanelec's transformers and switchgears are supplied to Tanesco and to private sector customers in Tanzania but also exports to Burundi, DR Congo Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia.

The Tanelec MD said despite being a unique company in the domestic market, his management is constantly improving products and services through innovation. "We need to strive for continuous improvement because our competitors are all trying to be



Higher voltage transformers being manufactured by Tanelec Limited at its Arusha factory.

better at what they do with regards to quality, pricing and reducing order to delivery lead times," he added.

In the East Africa Region where less than 50 percent of the population has access to electricity with rural areas being

worse off at less than 10 percent compared to around 95 to 100 percent in developed countries, the market for electrical equipment is readily available.

"Our East Africa governments and utilities are working hard to improve these statistics

within the financing constraints that often prevail. We must do our best to be the preferred supplier of products with the ever increasing competition we see as more and more people recognize Africa as having the most future potential compared

with any other continent," Saleh noted.

Tanelec's list of products include: distribution transformers at all ratings up to 5,000 KVA and 36 Kilo Volts, Low and medium voltage switchgear, and it has as service and repair division. The company also has the capability to repair products made by other manufacturers with the possibility of repairing transformers for a maximum of 50 percent of the cost of buying a new unit.

Tanelec's Business Development Manager, Michael Kariithi backed his CEO by saying that more and more customers are recognizing the benefits of servicing their Tanelec products rather than waiting for a failure to occur.

"Through regular servicing carried out by our specialist team, the life expectancy of these products can be significantly extended," Kariithi said noting that as the largest manufacturers of transformers in East and Central Africa Region, Tanelec transformers represent around 75% of turnover.

The company has been producing transformers at their plant in Arusha since 1981 with an ISO 9001:2015 international quality accreditation and ISO 14001:2015 environmental standard accreditation.

## Botswana extends licence of Karowe Diamond mine by 25 years

GABORONE

Botswana has extended the mining licence of the Karowe Diamond mine by 25 years to 2046, as the high-value mine owned by Lucara Diamond Corp prepares to convert from open-pit to an underground operation, the company said on Tuesday.

Karowe, the only independent diamond mine operating in Botswana outside of the De Beers stable, is known for digging up large high-value stones such as the 1,758 carat Sewelō stone in 2019 – the second-largest diamond ever mined – and the 1,109 carat Lesedi La Rona in 2015.

"The receipt of our mining licence renewal and extension to 2046 is an important milestone for the Karowe underground expansion project, paving the way for the completion of a supplemental debt financing and full project sanction later this year," Lucara Diamond President and CEO Eira Thomas said in a statement.

Works have begun to turn the Karowe open pit mine into an underground operation, a project that is expected to double the mine's life span and produce 7.8 million carats over 20 years and \$5.25 billion in gross revenue over that period.

"The company continues to explore debt financing options for the underground expansion for those amounts which are expected to exceed the company's cash flow from operations during the construction period. The company anticipates financing to be in place by the second half of this year."

The underground expansion programme has an estimated capital cost of \$514 million and a five-year period of development, with first ore anticipated from underground in 2026. Karowe produces an average of 300,000 high-value carats each year and contributes to Botswana's total national diamond exports, the country's top foreign exchange earner.



"The company continues to explore debt financing options for the underground expansion for those amounts which are expected to exceed the company's cash flow from operations during the construction period. The company anticipates financing to be in place by the second half of this year."

## NIS seeks tenants' phones from landlords under new law



Parliament buildings in Nairobi.

NAIROBI

Landlords and property owners will be required to keep a registry of tenants under a proposed law that is likely to raise further concerns about surveillance by State security agencies. The tenants' registry, which can be made available to the State, will contain personal details such as names, postal addresses, phone numbers and e-mails.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) lobbied the National Assembly's Administration and National Security committee to include the requirement of the registry in the Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Amendment Bill.

Landlords will also be expected to conduct due diligence or background checks on their tenants to include their employment station and home country to allow easy tracking. The Bill is headed for second reading in the National Assembly.

Although the tenants' registry is fronted as a weapon against drug lords, it will provide the NIS and the police

with background details of the nearly five million Kenyans that lease home and office space.

Property owners in breach of keeping the records and conducting background checks on their tenants face a fine of Sh1 million or two years in jail in the legal changes that will raise privacy concerns.

"Every owner, occupier or persons concerned with management of any premises, shall keep a register in his premises and shall enter the name and address of every tenant and occupier who occupies the premise," said the committee in amendments to the Bill. "The rationale of the new section is to provide for landlords and owners of buildings to conduct due diligence on their tenants and occupiers of their premises."

According to the 2019 Population and Housing

Census, 4.66 million households reported living in rented dwellings. The push for a tenants' registry comes at a time when the State is seeking to boost its surveillance of communications that it believes could breach national security.

A separate Bill before Parliament is amending the Official Secrets Act of 1968 to make it compulsory for anyone who owns a mobile phone or a communication gadget to provide information on persons and data that the State is pursuing for national security breaches. Kenyans face a fine of Sh1 million for refusing to disclose SMSs, emails and WhatsApp messages that the government believes breach national security if Parliament adopts the proposed law.

Besides introducing the Sh1 million fine, the Bill seeks to clarify terms used in the current

law that was passed over 50 years ago to reflect the changes that match trends in the telecommunications industry.

For example, the proposed law introduces 'telecommunications apparatus' that will replace 'telegrams apparatus' – a term that was used before the widespread use of text messages, WhatsApp and emails. Intelligence operatives are increasingly using secret surveillance programmes to spy on emails and social media activity, and collect data on telephone calls. Crimes that are considered a threat to national security include smuggling of drugs and weapons like guns that are shipped in from neighbouring countries entangled in civil wars.

Lawmakers have also backed a number of new sections to be inserted in the Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances (Control) Amendment Bill to enhance penalties of the offences of trafficking narcotic drugs. The MPs agreed with majority of NIS recommendations that will heavily punish property owners who allow their premises to be used as stations for manufacture and trading in drugs.

Tenants, landlords and property managers face a fine not less than Sh20 million or a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years or both if their premises are used for drugs manufacture and trading.

The committee chaired by Kiambaa MP Paul Koinange wants the Bill amended to have a law enforcement officer or a public officer who works at various exit and entry points face a Sh20 million fine or 20 years in prison for aiding trafficking of narcotics.

## CONSTRUCTION

# HANA UNIT BUYS SEATTLE OFFICE TOWER FROM SKANSKA FOR \$669M

## SEOUL

The Korean appetite for outbound investment remains healthy, with Hana Alternative Asset Management having closed out 2020 with one of the year's largest acquisitions of a single US property asset.

The fund management division of Seoul-based Hana Financial Group in late December acquired a 95 percent interest in 2+U, a 38-storey office and retail tower in Seattle, for \$669 million. The Korean firm invested in the commercial project just over one year after Swedish developer Skanska, which is the seller of the stake, had completed the central Seattle tower and fully leased its space to tech-centred tenants including a unit of SAP and Dropbox. In a statement, Skanska said the 2+U sale marks the largest single-property real estate transaction in the US since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ending the year on a bold note "Skanska is pleased to be partnering with Hana on 2+U," said Murphy McCullough, executive vice president for Skanska USA Commercial Development's Seattle market. "Hana is a well-respected profes-



Skanska's Seattle Office Tower.

sional organisation that has a long history of owning top tier Class A+ office buildings in international markets. They are well positioned for the future and will help shape

and refine what 2+U will become for the community, our city, and our tenants."

Following the closing of the deal, Hana immediately began property manage-

ment operations at 2+U – so named for its location at Second Avenue and University Street in Washington state's largest city – in conjunction with US-based Hines. Skanska will remain involved in the 2+U project following the recapitalisation, according to the statement.

Skanska describes 2+U as a retail, office and arts-and-culture project in the heart of downtown Seattle. Just steps from the Seattle Art Museum and the city's waterfront attractions, the 703,000 square foot (65,311 square metre) complex is lifted 85 feet (26 metres) off the ground at the highest point to create an outdoor urban village situated under the building, Skanska said.

The development includes 686,000 square feet of office space, 17,000 square feet of retail/culture space and 24,000 square feet of covered outdoor space, with office floor plates of 18,000-

30,000 square feet. At the stated consideration, Hana is paying just less than \$1,002 per square foot for its slice of Seattle's tech sector.

Anchored in Seattle Tech Survey software provider Qualtrics, wholly owned by German software giant SAP, leases 275,000 square feet of office space across 13 storeys at 2+U after designating Seattle as its co-headquarters (along with Provo, Utah) in 2017. The office portion of the project is known as Qualtrics Tower as part of the leasing deal.

Qualtrics, which helps firms measure, understand and improve the ways their customers and employees experience products, services and their roles inside companies, has room for 2,000 employees at the 2+U space. Other tenants at 2+U include Seattle-based coffee seller Caffe Ladro, tech firms Dropbox and Indeed.com, and flexible workspace provider

Spaces.

Koreans carry on For Hana, the 2+U deal marks the continuation of a trend that saw South Korea lead Asia Pacific in cross-border property investment in 2019, when the country's investors spent \$17 billion on real estate outside their home region.

Hana kicked off the wave, spending €12 billion on European property assets in the year before last. The shopping spree included the KRW 1.3 trillion (\$1.1 billion) purchase of The Squire office building in Frankfurt from Blackstone at the end of 2019, adding Germany's largest office building to Hana's portfolio.

In September of this year, Hana was chosen as the preferred bidder for 2+U at a price of about KRW 800 billion (\$680.4 million) with an expected annual yield of about 7 percent, South Korea's Pulse News reported.



The Abu Dhabi Golf Club complex and the Westin Hotel were sold to an unnamed financial buyer for Dh108m.

## Aldar Properties sells Abu Dhabi Golf Complex and Westin Hotel for Dh180m

## ABU DHABI

Abu Dhabi's Aldar Properties is selling the Abu Dhabi Golf Club Complex and the Westin Hotel to an unnamed financial buyer for Dh180 million.

The sale price was a 13 per cent increase on the price the company paid for the asset as part of a wider deal with Abu Dhabi's Tourism Development Company two years ago. The complex also includes 46,542 square metres of residential development land.

"We are very pleased to have successfully conducted the sale of this luxury hospitality complex, a testament to our team's ability to create value through active management, despite challenges to the hospitality and tourism industry from Covid-19," Jassem Busaibe, chief investment officer of Aldar Properties, said.

Aldar Properties, the UAE's biggest listed property developer with \$10 billion in assets and a 75 million square metre land bank, said the sale of the complex is in line with its asset management strategy of pursuing profitable exits from investments and re-deploying the capital elsewhere. "We will continue to pursue opportunities for significant growth and further diversification of the Aldar Properties portfolio," Mr Busaibe said.

The Abu Dhabi Golf Club hosts the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship, which has been part of the PGA European Tour since 2006. It houses an 18-hole championship and a nine-hole garden course, which is licensed and has a technical service agreement with Troon International. The Westin Abu Dhabi Golf Resort and Spa is a five-star hotel with six restaurants,

172 rooms, conference facilities and a spa. The hotel was built in 2011.

Earlier this month, Aldar Properties also sold two district cooling companies to Abu Dhabi's National Central Cooling Company, known as Tabreed, for Dh963m. Following publication of its third quarter results in November, when it reported an 8 per cent increase in net profit to Dh416m on the back of a 30 per cent jump in sales to Dh2.1bn, chief financial officer Greg Fewer told reporters the company can use its strong balance sheet to take advantage of potential market disruption. "If you look historically through our history here in the Abu Dhabi real estate sector, times of crisis and dislocation always give rise to opportunities for corporate action or combination," he said.

## Controversial Gisenyi modern market in Rwanda gets new investors

## KIGALI

The first phase of Gisenyi modern market, which has stalled for 11-years due to sustained disputes between the district and investors could be completed in with six months. This follows an agreement between the district and a new investor—Rubavu Investment Company Ltd—officials said.

Gilbert Habyarimana, the Mayor of Rubavu District, has disclosed that under the agreement, the investor is responsible for completing construction of the multi-billion facility. After construction, he added, the parties will then discuss a detailed shareholding arrangement.

The construction of the market—which started in 2010—was supposed to be completed in 2013 by ABBA Ltd but stalled following a tender dispute. The dispute triggered the cancellation of the project contract between the district and the investor. This was after members of the district council exposed tender irregularities in the project.

According to available data, at least Rwf1.3 billion had been spent on the construction works by the time the project was stopped. In 2015, Police in Rubavu District arrested seven officials of the district procurement committee over corruption in the tendering process.

The cancellation of the project forced the contractor- ABBA Ltd- to seek court redress in 2014. However, court ruled in favour of the district and handed over the project document on February 7, 2017, effectively kicking out ABBA-Ltd.

Habyarimana told The New Times that last week district signed an agree-

ment with Rubavu Investment Company Ltd to complete the first phase of the market within six months before embarking on the second phase. "The company will move to the second phase," he said.

Based on new valuations, the mayor said, the first phase will be completed at a financial outlay of Rwf2.7 billion. Previous construction works plus land acquisition is valued at Rwf2.18 billion, according to the new valuation. "The infrastructure will boost business and create jobs in this district. It will also boost investment in the city," Habyarimana.

Rubavu Investment Company Ltd, the mayor says, has earmarked Rwf2 billion for investing in completing the first phase of the project. The official says that the second phase will require a financial outlay of Rwf8 billion, which may mean approaching other investors for equity, debt or both.

"Citizens should now be hopeful that the first phase will be completed in six months," assured Jeannette Kayumba Nyota, the president of the Private Sector Federation in Rubavu District. Mayor Habyarimana said that there is also a plan to build a new Bus Park in Rubavu city. "We are in the expropriation stage," he said.

The bus station will be built by Jali Investment Ltd and is estimated to cost Rwf8 billion. "We are also upgrading urban roads. There is also a big project to triple water supply besides Rubavu substation completed to increase electricity supply besides Methane gas project," he said adding that there are also Kivu belt roads and hotels along Lake Kivu going on.



Construction works of Gisenyi Modern Market in Rubavu at the cost of Rwf1 billion were supposed to be completed in June 2013.

## WORLD

# US Congress certifies Joe Biden's win after US Capitol clashes

WASHINGTON

HOURS after hundreds of US President Donald Trump's supporters stormed the US Capitol in a harrowing assault on American democracy, a shaken Congress yesterday formally certified Democrat Joe Biden's election victory.

Late on Wednesday houses of Congress resumed their work on certifying Biden's Electoral College win, with debate stretching into the early hours of yesterday. After debate, the House and Senate rejected two objections to the tally and certified the final Electoral College vote with Biden receiving 306 votes and Trump 232 votes.

The outcome had never been in doubt, but had been interrupted by rioters - spurred on by Trump - who forced their way past metal security barricades, broke windows and scaled walls to fight their way into the Capitol.

Police said four people died during the chaos and 52 people were arrested.

One woman died after being shot during the mayhem, Washington police said, although the circumstances were unclear. Three people died due to medical emergencies, said Metropolitan Police Department Chief Robert J. Contee.

The FBI said earlier it had disarmed two suspected explosive devices.

Rioters forced their way past metal security barricades, broke windows and scaled walls to fight their way into the Capitol, where they roamed the hallways and scuffled with police officers.

Some besieged the House of Representatives chamber while lawmakers were inside, banging on its doors. Security officers piled furniture against the chamber's door and drew their pistols before helping lawmakers

escape.

Police evacuated lawmakers and struggled for more than three hours to clear the Capitol of Trump supporters, who surged through the halls and rummaged through offices in shocking scenes of chaos and mayhem.

Hours later, both houses of Congress resumed their work on certifying Biden's Electoral College win, with debate stretching into the early hours of Thursday. It quickly became clear that objections from pro-Trump Republican lawmakers to Biden's victory in battleground states would be rejected overwhelmingly, including by most Republicans.

The assault on the Capitol was the culmination of months of divisive and escalating rhetoric around the Nov 3 election, with Trump repeatedly making false claims that the vote was rigged and urging his supporters to help him overturn his loss.

The chaotic scenes unfolded after Trump, who before the election refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he lost, addressed thousands of supporters near the White House and told them to march on the Capitol to express their anger at the voting process.

He told his supporters to pressure their elected officials to reject the results, urging them "to fight".

Trump came under intensive fire from some prominent Republicans in Congress, who put the blame for the day's violence squarely on his shoulders.

"There is no question that the President formed the mob, the President incited the mob, the President addressed the mob. He lit the flame," House Republican Conference Chairwoman Liz Cheney said on Twitter.

Republican Senator Tom Cotton, a lead-



US President-elect Joe Biden

ing conservative from Arkansas, called on Trump to accept his election loss and "quit misleading the American people and repudiate mob violence."

Both houses of Congress resumed their debate on the certification of Biden's Electoral College win on Wednesday evening.

It quickly became clear that objections from pro-Trump lawmakers to Biden's victory in battleground states would be rejected overwhelmingly, including by most Republicans, and that the election results would be certified.

"To those who wreaked havoc in our Capitol today - you did not win," Vice-President Mike Pence said as the session resumed. "Let's get back to work," he said, drawing applause.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called the invasion a "failed insurrection" and promised that "we will not bow to lawlessness or intimidation".

"We are back in our posts. We will discharge our duty under the Constitution, and for our nation. And we are going to do it tonight," he said.

## 'Reckless behaviour'

The shock of the assault on the Capitol seemed to soften the resolve of some Republicans who had supported Trump's efforts to convince Americans of his baseless claims of fraud.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, one of Trump's staunchest allies in Congress, rejected an effort by his fellow Republicans to object to election results in hopes of setting up a commission to investigate Trump's unsubstantiated allegations of election fraud.

"All I can say is count me out. Enough is enough," Graham said on the floor of the Senate. "Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are lawfully elected and will become the president and the vice-president of the United States on Jan 20."

The Senate rejected by a 93-6 vote Republican objections to the certification of Biden's victory in the battleground state of Arizona, ensuring their defeat. The House of Representatives, controlled by Democrats, also rejected the move by a 303-121 vote.

The Senate also rejected an objection to the certification in Pennsylvania on a 92-7 vote. A majority of the House also rejected the objection.

Republican Senator Kelly Loeffler, who lost her re-election bid in one of two Georgia runoffs on Tuesday that secured Democratic control of the Senate, said she had planned to object to Biden's certification but had changed her mind after the events of the afternoon.

"I cannot now in good conscience object to the certification of these electors," she said.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser ordered a citywide curfew starting at 6 pm (2300 GMT). National Guard troops, FBI agents and US Secret Service were deployed to help overwhelmed Capitol police, and Guard troops and police pushed protesters away from the Capitol after the curfew took effect.

## Aid teams frustrated in Niger, Ethiopia

NAIROBI

AID workers are being hampered in their efforts to help people during the conflicts in Niger and Ethiopia's Tigray region, with a second wave of the coronavirus compounding the problems.

According to the United Nations, the conflicts in the two African countries have forced thousands to flee their homes and the insecurity is frustrating efforts by humanitarian organizations to access the displaced people.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said on Monday that so far more than 222,000 people have been internally displaced due to the recent conflict in the Tigray region, in addition to the 100,000 people displaced before the conflict.

While humanitarian access into some areas of Tigray has slightly improved recently, the UN agency said it remains critically challenged by insecurity and bureaucratic constraints throughout the region.

Its initial assessment findings indicate a dire humanitarian situation throughout the region, with poor access to services and limited livelihoods as well as an urgent need for shelter, food, nonfood items, water and hygiene.

Additionally, health facilities in major cities are working with limited supplies, and sometimes none at all, with a lack of health workers. Many centers outside major cities have stopped operating.

Despite the challenges, the UN continues to engage with the government of Ethiopia and other parties for the safe passage of humanitarian personnel and supplies to all parts of Tigray.

In Niger, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said an estimated 1,000 people have been displaced due to the attacks on the villages of Tchamo Bangou and Zaroumadareye.

Further attacks feared

Additionally, people fearing further attacks are also fleeing areas around the two villages.

Armed groups carried out the raids on the two villages on Saturday, killing at least 100 people and injuring 25 others.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or UNHCR, those who have been displaced are trying to reach Ouallam, a town around 90 kilometers north of Niamey in southwestern Niger. Most of them are making the journey on foot.

The UN agency said that, together with its partners, it has been providing humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced people. The pandemic is complicating the humanitarian response.

"We are preparing to assist the people with essential care, shelter, and protection, but also psychological support to help them overcome the horror they have experienced," Alessandra Morelli, the Niger representative of the UNHCR, said in a statement on Monday.

Agencies

## US should cease and desist provoking China over Taiwan

BEIJING

THE United States is once again provoking China over Taiwan question with the State Department declaring R. Clarke Cooper, the assistant secretary for political-military affairs, to deliver remarks during a U.S.-Taiwan political-military dialogue yesterday.

This is a violation of three China-U.S. joint communiqués which allow no official exchanges of any form between the United States and Taiwan. Beijing has made it crystal clear that the Taiwan question is the most important and

sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations, and the one-China principle is the political foundation of the bilateral relationship.

Challenging China's red line on the Taiwan question is not only unwise but also dangerous. On the one hand, playing the Taiwan card is toxic to China-U.S. relations, as the act seriously damages China's national interests and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs.

On the other hand, playing the Taiwan card is toxic to cross-strait peace and stability. Official exchanges be-

tween the United States and Taiwan have dangerously emboldened separatist forces on the island, risking pushing the region into further confrontation.

The current U.S. administration is in its twilight days. It should refrain from irresponsible acts like this and leave a clean slate for the next administration.

Provocations like this, based on the selfish interests of certain politicians, mean the next administration will inherit nothing but mess and obstacles. That would leave one of the world's most important

bilateral relations in worse shape.

Since taking power, the Taiwan Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority has been attempting to deceive and mislead the residents of Taiwan, provoke and escalate cross-strait confrontation, undermining cross-strait relations, as well as peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. These acts are doomed to fail.

Taiwan separatists need to give up their fantasy of counting on foreign intervention to keep China permanently divided, and understand that Washington is merely using

the island as a pawn in its power play against China.

They also need to stop daydreaming about using politics and the military -- or whatever Thursday's dialogue entailed -- to buck the historical trend towards reunification.

Both the DPP and Washington should understand clearly that Beijing will never compromise on its core interests. China has the resolve, full confidence and sufficient capability to thwart any form of interference by external forces and the separatist acts of "Taiwan independence."

Xinhua

## Work on Sarmat ballistic missile nears completion – Putin

MOSCOW

WORK on the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile goes on actively and is now nearing completion, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday.

"Work on the Sarmat pro-

ceeds actively, and is now at the final stage. As for Poseidon [an unmanned underwater vehicle - TASS], work goes on well. Work on a missile with a nuclear global-distance system also proceeds as scheduled," he said at his annual news conference.

According to the president, work on other weapon systems that was announced in his state-of-the-nation ad-

dress also proceeds as scheduled. "Some of them - the Kinzhal and the Peresvet laser weapon - have been put into service," he said.

The RS-28 Sarmat is a Russian advanced silo-based system with a heavy liquid-propellant intercontinental

ballistic missile. It has been in the process of development since the 2000s to replace the R-36M2 Voevoda ICBM. It weighs about 200 tonnes and has a throw weight of around 10 tonnes. The Sarmat is capable of breaching any existing and future missile defenses.



## China becomes largest destination in Asia for foreign students

AS China has carried out increasingly closer exchanges and cooperation with various countries in education during the country's 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), more and more international students are being attracted to the country, making it the most popular destination in Asia for foreign students.

According to relevant statistics, the number of international students in China exceeded 440,000 in 2016, rising to 492,200 in 2018.

Many foreign students have decided to study in the country because of the charm of Chinese culture and their desire to know more about the country.

The idea of studying in China came to Han Maoyu, a young man from Nigeria, at the end of his sophomore year when he started to learn

Chinese at the Confucius Institute at Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Nigeria. Han found that the more he learned the language, the stronger his desire to gain more knowledge about the country grew.

After unremitting efforts, Han received a scholarship from the Confucius Institute, realizing his dream of studying in China. In 2017, Han became a student of the postgraduate program of international Chinese language education in Nankai University in north China's Tianjin municipality.

Over the past three years, Han has been working hard at the university, as all of the schoolmates he knows are excellent, according to the young man.

Because of his outstanding performance,

Han became the only foreign student among 10 students who were awarded the honorary title "Student of the Year 2018 of Nankai University." He also won the national championship in the second "Chinese Language Teaching Idols" Summer Camp.

Han is now a doctoral student majoring in international relations at Nankai University. He said he hopes to contribute to the bilateral exchanges, friendship, and cooperation between China and Nigeria as well as the development of the two countries.

Ke Luhan, a young man from the U.S., majored in Finance at the University of South Florida before studying in China. At first, he took Chinese classes merely out of curiosity, but after taking the courses for two semesters, Ke became fas-

inated by the unique Chinese characters as well as the country's splendid culture and long history, with a drive to continue learning the language, according to the young man.

Applying to study Chinese as his second undergraduate major, he decided to study in China after graduating from the University of South Florida.

In 2018, Ke showed his love for the Chinese language, his knowledge about Chinese culture, and his understanding of China's development in the 17th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students where he won the championship in the American division. In September of the same year, Ke came to Beijing to study for his master's degree at the University of International Business and

Economics.

While studying at the university, Ke, as a witness of China's rapid development, started to think about working in the country after graduation. The idea became reality in the last month of 2020, when he secured a job in video planning.

The programme is aimed at showing China to foreign friends, Ke shared, adding that although the job has nothing to do with his major in finance, he likes it very much.

Unlike Han and Ke, who chose to study in China because of their interest in the country's profound culture and long history, Uzbek student Wu Di was attracted to China by its fast economic development, scientific and technological progress.

People's Daily



# With eye on US ties, S. Arabia leads pack on Gulf detente

DUBAI

SAUDI Arabia will move faster than its allies to reconcile with Qatar, sources familiar with the matter said, aiming to impress the incoming Biden administration by ending what the West sees as a parochial dispute that benefits only mutual foe Iran.

The rapprochement reduces potential points of friction between Riyadh and a US government sure to be less forgiving than outgoing President Donald Trump, who has consistently protected the kingdom from criticism of its human rights record.

In a move that cast the kingdom as a force for stability in a turbulent region, Saudi de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman chaired a summit on Tuesday that declared an end to the bitter rift in which Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt have boycotted Qatar since mid-2017.

The kingdom said at the gathering that all four states had agreed to restore diplomatic, trade and travel ties with Doha under a US-backed deal, but the three sources said the other three nations had been pressed to sign a general declaration and were likely to move more slowly, as deep divisions remain.

"Saudi Arabia is way ahead of the others, who could drag their feet," said one source familiar with the matter. "The declaration was kept general to ensure all parties signed it."

The UAE, Bahrain and Egypt have yet to announce specific measures to rebuild ties, severed over allegations that Qatar supports terrorism, a charge that Doha denies.

Each of the three countries has had their own differences with Qatar.

The UAE and Egypt both resent Qatar's support for Islamists, especially the Muslim Brotherhood, the world's oldest Is-



A handout picture provided by the Saudi Royal Palace on January 5, 2021, shows from left to right: Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Nawaf al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Omani Deputy Prime Minister Fahd Bin Mahmud, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, Dubai's ruler and UAE Vice President Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and Nayef al-Hajraf, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) posing for a picture before the opening session of the 41st Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit in the northwestern Saudi city of al-Ula. (AFP)

lamist movement, which they see as a political foe. Bahrain, an arch critic of Iran, is uneasy about Qatar's even-tempered relations with Tehran and the kingdom also has a territorial dispute with Doha.

The Trump administration has for over a year been pressing for a resolution, particularly reopening airspace to Qatar, to bolster efforts to contain Iran. But a deal had proven elusive despite US and Kuwaiti mediation efforts.

White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and other officials made a renewed push with the support of Prince Mohammed, the source said, handing Trump another diplomatic win after normalisation deals between Israel and several Arab states.

"We wanted to get it done before the end of the term," a senior Trump administration official to Reuters. "I expect the same level of compliance as Saudi Ara-

bia," the official said of other boycotting nations.

## Scoring points

Saudi Arabia is currently the only one taking active steps to reopen its airspace and borders to Qatar and restore diplomatic ties, the three sources said.

For Riyadh's allies, the third informed source said, it will be very hard to retreat from Tuesday's announcement, but may also be difficult to move forward fast and that some view the deal at the summit as "a starting point rather than the finish line".

Saudi Arabia, which lobbied hard for Trump's maximum pressure campaign against foe Iran, has come under international scrutiny over its human rights re-

cord following the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Kashoggi and over the ruinous Yemen war.

For Prince Mohammed, seen by critics as an unpredictable leader, his push for detente with Qatar appeared aimed at showcasing him as a statesman seeking regional stability.

President-Elect Joe Biden has said he would take a harder line against the kingdom, an oil exporting giant and major buyer of American arms, over those issues.

Diplomats in the region and analysts have said Riyadh's push for Gulf detente was largely aimed at positioning Riyadh as a valuable US partner at a time of regional tensions with Iran.

An internal Israeli Foreign Ministry memorandum seen by Reuters

said that for Saudi Arabia, Tuesday's summit presented an opportunity to put forward a "conciliatory image" vis-à-vis Washington, while Qatar had scored the biggest gains.

"But it can be assumed that the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain will scrutinise Qatar's conduct through a magnifying glass before they expand reconciliation measures with it," it added.

## Pressure

The UAE, which has largely extricated itself from Yemen and forged ties with Israel last year, is not expected to face the same kind of pressure as Riyadh from a Biden administration.

It remains at cross purposes with Qatar and Turkey over Libya and the Muslim Brotherhood, also key issues for Egypt.

Senior Emirati official Anwar Gargash told Al Arabiya TV on Tuesday it would take time to rebuild trust and that the agreement established "foundations" to end the row. The boycotting nations had set Doha 13 demands, including closing Al Jazeera TV, shuttering a Turkish base, cutting links to the Muslim Brotherhood and downgrading ties with Iran.

A US official has told Reuters that under the deal, Qatar would suspend legal cases linked to the boycott. Qatari officials have insisted any resolution must be based on mutual respect of sovereignty, including foreign policy.

"The thaw may do little to dampen competition between Qatar and the UAE, and their respective allies in regional hotspots," said Elham Fakhro, senior Gulf analyst at International Crisis Group.

Agencies

## Recurrent violence displaces over 100,000 Ethiopians since July 2020 - UN

ADDIS ABABA

MORE than 101,000 people have been displaced due to violence in Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz regional state since July 2020, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said Wednesday.

"Between end of July 2020 and 04 January 2021, more than 101,000 people were displaced by violence from Bullen, Dangur, Dibate, Guba, Mandura and Wombera woredas (districts) of Metekel zone in Benishangul Gumuz region," the UNOCHA said in its situation report published on Wednesday.

Due to "the deteriorating security situation in the zone, humanitarian access and lifesaving assistance to the 28,000 returnees and 101,000 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) are challenging," it said.

It also noted that the regional government has been providing limited lifesaving assistance since July 2020 using armed escorts.

Clusters at sub-national level have been mapping resources but so far insecurity has not allowed transporting staff and commodities to affected areas.

The Ethiopian federal government is in the process of establishing an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in the Metekel zone to coordinate the humanitarian response to the IDPs, the UNOCHA noted.

In recent years, deadly inter-communal violence has taken place in the Metekel zone, eventually killing hundreds of civilians. *Xinhua*

## Poverty-stricken regions embrace digital job opportunities like outsourced customer service

THE development of e-commerce is injecting vitality into China's poverty reduction and rural revitalization efforts.

Enterprises and the government are working together, dynamically integrating technology, education and employment through customer service phone calls and logistics express orders, allowing more people to connect with the digital age.

On November 11, when the "Singles' Day" shopping festival started, He Lina stared at the constantly rising transaction volume on the e-commerce platform on her computer screen. When the customer hotline rang, she kindly and skillfully answered customers' doubts. She took 105 calls that day, and was congratulated by colleagues, customer service trainers and new trainees. That month, her salary went straight to 10,000 yuan (\$1,526).

He never thought she could easily lose the label of a housewife in a remote mountain village.

In May, China's first "customer service county" landed in He's hometown, Xunwu county in East China's Jiangxi Province, a state-level impoverished county that once had 65 poor villages and nearly 30,000 poor households. Xunwu authorities built customer experience centers, and enter-



A farmer promotes his peanuts on a livestreaming app in Hebei Province.

prises provided digital service personnel training, which not only offered consumers with better shopping experience, but also provided employment opportunities for rural youth.

New customer service staff joined the business through the major online shopping platforms like Taobao and Tmall. The calls from all over the country have brought new hope to this small county that was once underdeveloped.

In the past, He once found a job with a monthly salary of 2,000 yuan in a training institution, which went bankrupt over the COVID-19 epidemic this year. Even though life was poor, He was hesitant to leave her hometown for a job as she worried about her elderly parents and young children.

But now, after He joined the customer service recruitment

and training program jointly launched by Alibaba Group and the Xunwu county government, she said her life has been colorful. "Just working in my hometown, I can take care of my family. In addition, I learned a lot of e-commerce knowledge in the customer experience center, where I also had a window to communicate with the outside world," said He.

The customer service training in Xunwu county has been carried out for nine sessions training courses, which has created 200 new direct employment opportunities and also driven more than 2,000 people to increase their income by digital means, including disabled people from poor families, military veterans, and food delivery workers who once worked in other cities.

"In this trend of employment, more young people are choosing to stay in their hometown, not only for a job, but also for the realization of self-worth. Their passion has brought new vitality to a county that was once heavily hollowed out and also brought new opportunities for the development of China's entire e-commerce industry," Ge Xinxian, commissioner of poverty alleviation program from Alibaba Group, told the Global Times. According to the Ministry of Commerce, online retail sales in poverty-stricken counties reached 239.2 billion yuan in 2019, up 33 percent year on year, boosting employment and income for 5 million farmers in poor areas.

With the further development of China's "Internet Plus," more e-commerce enterprises have a stronger sense of social responsibility.

Best Group, for example, launched its Agricultural Excellence Plan in 2018, which aims to help farmers expand the popularity of local agricultural products and provide convenient sales and transportation methods. By September 2020, more than 7.75 million kilograms of agricultural products had been sold under the plan, which earned profits of more than 63 million yuan.

Global Times

## Russian experts warn of nuclear arms race

MOSCOW

NUCLEAR trains were once considered a relic of the Cold War.

Russia seemed to put more hopes of restarting nuclear negotiations with the next US administration, as RT described President-elect Joe Biden as "a supporter of nuclear de-escalation" But now the secretive locomotives could be set for a comeback, carrying warheads around Russia in a move that could set Moscow on a collision course with Washington, Russian experts said.

In comments carried by the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper, Russian military expert Alexey Leonkov outlined how the Sovietera project could be reborn.

He said the deployment of train-based intercontinental ballistic missiles might be Russia's next step amid escalating nuclear tensions with NATO. The deployment is sure to raise hackles in the United States, which would see this kind of project as a threat to its missile defense system.

In the era of the Soviet Union, railway missile networks were developed with the intention of ensuring warheads could be transported easily around the country and go unnoticed by Western satellites and surveillance systems.

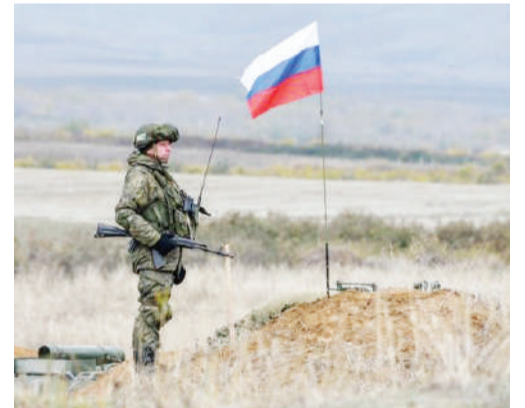
By contrast, land-based launchers and those in underground silos are far more easily tracked and monitored, Leonkov said.

Difficult to detect, the system became a key area of focus for bilateral negotiations with the US after the dissolution of the USSR, and the trains were banned under the START II treaty, signed in 2005.

The New START treaty that replaced it has more limited provisions on mobile missiles, potentially opening the door to the scheme being resurrected.

## 'Effective response'

Vladimir Evseev, a strategic weapons specialist and veteran of Russia's missile forces,



Russian peacekeeper patrols at the check point outside Askeran

told Russian state news agency RIA Novosti that he believed the deployment of a new model of railway-based nukes would be "the most effective response to the strategic threat posed by the growth of NATO military bases near Russia's borders". He added that if Russian military chiefs gave the go-ahead, the system could be revived within three to five years. It was previously reported that development was underway on the project, but officials were said to have halted work in 2017.

Russian channel RT said tensions between Russia and the West have risen in recent years over warheads stationed near the country's European borders.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov warned in December of the possibility of a nuclear conflict between Russia and the US as the latter kept "sharing" nuclear weapons with its European allies.

But Russia seemed to put more hopes of restarting nuclear negotiations with the next US administration, as RT described President-elect Joe Biden as "a supporter of nuclear de-escalation".

The New York Times reported on Sunday that Biden's incoming national security adviser Jake Sullivan said the new administration would move quickly to renew the last remaining major nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

# Expectations running high on China amid daunting global challenges

BEIJING

AS the year of 2021 begins to unfold, the world is standing at a critical juncture with the cataclysmic COVID-19 pandemic continuing to wreak havoc across the globe.

Against such a challenging backdrop, China has embarked upon a new 15-year endeavor to build itself into a "modern socialist country" under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which celebrates its 100th founding anniversary this year. With the world striving to tackle the pandemic, economic woes, climate change and various other global challenges, more and more solution-seekers are looking to China for inspiration and insight.

## BOOSTING COOPERATION FOR

## SHARED FUTURE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ravage the world, humanity has borne witness to the CPC's commitment to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind. Abbas Zaki, a member of Palestinian Fatah Central Committee and commissioner for relations with Arab countries and China, said China has repeatedly called for joint efforts to combat COVID-19. "While doing a good job in its own fight against COVID-19, China has attached great importance to anti-epidemic cooperation with developing countries," said Zaki, commending China

for safeguarding global public health.

Noting that Laos and China are comprehensive strategic partners, Kingphet Mongkhonvilay, a senior official from the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, said that in the early days of the pandemic, Laos provided assistance for China, while China later returned the offer with large amounts of epidemic prevention materials. "The mutual support stands as an example of building a community with a shared future for mankind," he said. During their interviews with Xinhua, foreign scholars agreed that China's success against this once-in-a-

century pandemic has shown the way forward. "China has taken the lead in stepping out of the pandemic's shadow and reopening its economy," said Faruk Boric, a China expert in Bosnia and Herzegovina. "It bolsters the morale of the whole world."

Argentine economist and China expert Gonzalo Tordini said that the Chinese government and its people have demonstrated to the world "outstanding achievements obtained by orderly and persistent efforts to combat COVID-19."

To help developing countries plagued by the pandemic, China has pledged

to make its vaccines a global public good, both accessible and affordable. Noting that China was the first country to identify and largely defeat COVID-19, Dr. G. Weerasinghe, general secretary of the Communist Party of Sri Lanka, said China has been providing technical assistance for other countries and actively supporting the World Health Organization's COVAX program, which aims to ensure equal access to COVID-19 vaccines for all participating countries. "The CPC's genuine commitment and dedication to a community with a shared future for mankind is proven beyond doubt through the

COVID-19 pandemic," he said.

## EXPANDING OPENING-UP FOR WORLD RECOVERY

The year 2021 is crucial to China as the first year of the country's 14th Five-Year Plan. The nation is set to achieve its first centenary goal within the set time frame - the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

It is set to embark on a journey toward the second goal: to fully build a modern socialist country by mid-century. The year 2021 also marks the 20th anniversary of China's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Facing daunting economic challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of protectionism and anti-globalization, China has unveiled its "dual circulation" development pattern, where internal and external markets can reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

This new development paradigm "fully demonstrates the determination of the CPC and the Chinese government to continue opening up to the outside world," said Ezzat Saad, director of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs. "It has shown that instead of closing its door, China will share its development achievements with the world," said Saad.

Xinhua

The  
Guardian

# SPORT

## NIC to sponsor 2021 Goba Hills Marathon

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE National Insurance Corporation (NIC) has yesterday announced to be the main sponsor of this season's Goba Hills Marathon, which will take place at Goba Secondary School grounds, Ubungo in Dar es Salaam on January 30.

The Goba Hills Marathon is held under Goba Road Runners (GRR) Club.

With the theme of 'Run, Save the mother and child life', Goba Hills Marathon 2021 will focus on improving mother and child life and especially within Ubungo Municipal by improving dispensaries and health centers and more on expectant mother's wards.

This is a second time for the Goba Road Runners Club to host Goba Hills Marathon after hosting a successful marathon which was held in February last year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam while announcing the sponsorship, NIC's Managing Director, Eliherema Doriye, said the corporation is extremely proud to be the main sponsor of Goba Hills Marathon 2021.

"This is a great opportunity for us to partner with Goba Road Runners Club to sponsor Goba Hills Marathon 2021 after a successful 2020 season. Our aim is to put in place long term development plan in sports sector in our country."

"It is our pleasure that through Goba Hills Marathon this will be achieved," Doriye said.

He disclosed the NIC has entered a three-year sponsorship contract with the GRR Club to back the marathon.

He said the institution has this year handed

over 25m/- to the club to host the race, which is now officially known as NIC Goba Hills Marathon.

Doriye added: "Nowadays sports are no longer leisure activities, they are a source of employment to our youth. To achieve this, we need a strong investment, which with our partnership with GRR Club will develop a plan so that after the event we can have some players whom we can develop and invest on them for the future participation on national and international athletics."

He noted: "Coming to sponsor Goba Hills Marathon as an insurance company aims at reminding Tanzanians and players in general the importance of insurance in sports sector."

"When a player gets injured while on duty—whether short or long time injury—he or she needs to continue living his life, NIC offers such package to players and therefore we call players to insure with us for better of their future," said Doriye.

He added: "NIC's experience on insurance sectors goes back 57 years ago and have a reach to all regions within our country."

"We offer 24 different services and products and we work in a very short time to solve our customer's claims. This is an opportunity for Tanzanians to come and get served by NIC."

Speaking at the same event, Goba Road Runners Club's Chairman, Benson Luoga, said that Goba Hills Marathon 2021 will consist of 42.2km race, 21.1km race, 10km Corporate Run and 5km race (Family Run).

Luoga said 30,000/- has been set as registration fee for participation, noting registration is now open as participants have already started registration process through GRR Club's website, www.grr.co.tz.



Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s Marketing Director, Mark Mugisha (R), speaks to a cross section of golfers from Lugalo Golf Club when the firm announced sponsorship for this year's Waitara golf tournament at the club in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Standing (2nd R) is the club's Chairman, Michael Luwongo, followed by club's skipper, Japhet Masai. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Johnnie Walker Waitara 2021 golf tournament rescheduled

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

GOLFERS from various parts of Tanzania are raring to go following the announcement of a new date for the Johnnie Walker Waitara golf tournament, which will take place at Lugalo Golf Club course in Dar es Salaam.

About 150 top golfers are set to battle for supremacy in this year's tournament, slated for January 21, courtesy of the world's number one blended Scotch whisky, Johnnie Walker.

Marketed and distributed by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky was first produced in Scotland 200 years ago, growing in bounds to stand out from the crowd of its peers globally.

The tournament had earlier been slated to take place in December last year.

Lugalo Golf Club's Chairman, Michael Luwongo, stated that everything is now ready for the grand competition.

"We are happy and proud to announce that preparations are at an advanced stage. We would like

to express our sincere appreciation to our main sponsor, Johnnie Walker, which has enabled us able to organize one of the greatest golf tournaments in the country in recent years," Luwongo said.

He noted that SBL has been sponsoring competitions hosted by Lugalo Golf Club for a long time.

He pointed out the company is a worthy partner in the growth of golf and indeed the development of the sports sector in the country.

The Waitara golf tournament is held every year and its main objective is to honour General (rt) George Waitara's contribution to the sports sector in Tanzania by initiating the golf course at the Lugalo Military Barracks in Dar es Salaam.

Serengeti Brewery Spirits Marketing Manager, Lumuli Minga, said the brand was proud to be associated with such a progressive tournament that is gaining popularity in the country rapidly.

Lumuli said that Johnnie Walker brand will remain committed in supporting sports in the country and golf in particular.

"Johnnie Walker is a brand that believes in progress, forwardness, quality, resilience, perseverance and keeping the commitment. Just like many golf players will attest, these are some of the qualities that enable them to make it in the game," Lumuli said.

She added: "SBL, through its world class-whisky Johnnie Walker, is proud to be the main sponsor of this year's Waitara Golf Tournament. Our support to this tournament demonstrates our solid commitment to supporting the development of sports in the country."

According to Lumuli, the sponsorship has coincided with John Walker's 200-year anniversary celebrations of the brand age since its inception, an additional rider to the brewer's keenness to partner with the Lugalo Golf Club so as to celebrate the whisky's bicentennial in style.

"As such, in marking these celebrations in Tanzania, Johnnie Walker has decided to partner with like-minded brands and organizations such as Lugalo Golf Club. We are aware that although

the main tournament is happening in Dar es Salaam at Lugalo golf course, the competition is indeed both national and international because it has attracted some of the best golfers from inside and outside the country."

Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky brand came into existence when John Walker, an ordinary Scottish businessman, started his grocery business in Ayrshire and used varieties of single malts, blending them together to make his whisky tastier and eventually, he found a new blended whisky which 200 years later is a global market leader.

The SBL has established itself as a genuine lover of sports in the country. The firm is also the main sponsor of Tanzanian senior men's national soccer team, Taifa Stars, through its multiple-award-winning beer brand, Serengeti Premium Lager.

It too made history in 2018 by becoming the first company ever to sponsor Mainland Tanzania Women Premier League, courtesy of its Superbrands-winning light beer, Serengeti Premium Lite.



National Insurance Corporation (NIC)'s Managing Director, Eliherema Doriye(L), pictured with Goba Road Runners Club's Chairman, Benson Luoga, in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the announcement of the corporation's sponsorship for this year's Goba Hills Marathon, which has been scheduled for January 30 in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Tanzania's Taekwon-do players win plaudits in Kampala training

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

TANZANIA'S Taekwon-do players participated in the game's seminar and grading session, which took place in Kampala, Uganda last weekend.

The Taekwon-do players, led by Tanzania Taekwon-do Federation (TTF)'s president, Said Kennedy, and the sport's coach Moses Mwanyilu, participated at a black belt seminar and grading.

The training was conducted by Master Niklas Enander from the International Taekwon-do Federation (ITF) on January 3.

The seminars began on December 28 and Tanzania's Taekwon-do players participated in the training on from January 2-3.

Mwanyilu stated: "It was a proud moment for us as one of our players, Navraj Singh Mair, the youngest red belt holder in East Africa, participated in the training with several black belt holders who are older than him."

He noted: "Mair was the youngest to do the tuls with them."

"He has been graded red international belt, showing his skills in Taekwon-do and will soon start to work his way to getting black belt."

The delegation's other member was Taekwon-do player, Davinder Singh Mair.

"Mair has good potential in the sport, he just needs to work a little on his stances," Enander, who is also East Africa Taekwon-do Federation's patron, disclosed.

Mair turned nine in November, 2020 and the youngster, Mwanyilu stated, is dedicating his free time towards the sport.

The youngster expressed his gratitude to his parents, grandparents, the coach and Tanzania for moulding him into what he is today.



Tanzanian Taekwon-do player, Navraj Singh Mair (L), the youngest red belt holder in the sport in East Africa, pictured with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Taekwon-do Federation's president, Teddy Salum, during a black belt seminar and grading in Kampala, Uganda recently. The seminar was conducted by Niklas Enander from the International Taekwon-do Federation (ITF). PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Simba SC locks horns with Chipukizi in Mapinduzi Cup tourney

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

SIMBA SC has set its sight on triumphing in this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition, with the outfit set to take on Zanzibar's Chipukizi in the event's tie, which will take place in the Isles today.

The Dar es Salaam side has booked a place in the group stage of 2020/21 CAF

Champions League, knocking FC Platinum of Zimbabwe out of the event's first round on Wednesday.

Simba's match against Chipukizi had previously been slated for yesterday, only to be rescheduled by the Mapinduzi Cup Organizing Committee, given the former played the continental club tournament's match against FC Platinum on Wednesday.

According to reports, Simba have made their way to Zanzibar with two new players that are going to be used in the tournament with the aim of assessing their performance.

Should the two players be approved by Simba SC's head coach, Sven Vandebroek, the duo will be the side's last signings.

Vandebroek's first signing in the

mini transfer period was midfielder, Taddeo Lwanga, a Ugandan player who is currently waiting for his work permit.

Simba, the three-time champions of the Mapinduzi Cup, hope to make the most of the competition in Zanzibar after losing 1-0 to Mtwara Sugar in the final of the previous season's tournament.

Simba will miss players including

Erasto Nyoni, Said Ndemla, Aishi Manula, Shomari Kapombe and skipper John Bocco in the Mapinduzi Cup competition.

The five players have been selected for the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, which is shaping up for this year's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, which will take place in Cameroon this month.

This year's Mapinduzi Cup tourna-

ment kicked off on Tuesday, two opening matches were played in the day, defending champions Mtwara Sugar beat Chipukizi 1-0 in the opener, which took place at at Amaan Stadium.

In the day's second clash, the previous season showdown's semi-finalists, Yanga, registered 0-0 draw with Zanzibar's Jamhuri at the same venue.

## Of mice and men: Keeping track of Ronaldo and co

LISBON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo and his Portugal team-mates may be surprised to learn the video and data analysis their coaches use was devised by scientists who used it to track the behaviour of mice, monkeys and human eye movements.

Ruben Saavedra, the Spanish CEO of Metrica Sports, says it is not a stretch to transfer the use of data to track the behaviour of mice and rats to the task of tracking "movement of players on the pitch".

Saavedra and Argentinian co-founder Bruno Dagnino - who studied the eye movements of monkeys and humans - found they shared more than an interest in science when they were studying for their PhDs in the Netherlands.

"We had two things in common: as Barcelona and Argentina fans, Lionel Messi was an easy link, and we were the only people on our courses who loved football," Saavedra told AFP in an interview.

"There are lots of nerds in science who do not have other hobbies and so he and I could talk football, which was nice."

The final part of the puzzle was complete with another Argentinian, Enzo Angilletta, who had a video production company.

Togther they developed a system that integrates data with video analysis, which had been done only manually before. By marrying data and video they created what its developers call a "workflow of football analysts".

"Presenting graphs and raw data was not enough for clubs," said Saavedra. The process is unusual in that it analyses technical skills and positioning during matches, rather than simply measure distance covered.

"Thus, the national teams of Portugal and Paraguay, and clubs as far afield as Melbourne Victory and Santos in Brazil have benefited from the video and data analysis product, with the top clubs paying more 100,000 euros (\$122,000) a year.

Thanks to that level of income, Metrica have been able to produce a free plan, Play Basic, a version of the analysis tool which is available to download for free to anybody.

It has already attracted a diverse clientele from academies in Africa to amateur players and coaches from rugby union, cricket and ice hockey.

"A few years ago we had to have cameras in stadia but it has evolved," he said.

"Now we can track any game on

any video with our new technology.

"We are working to automate the manual work in acquiring the data so it will be affordable for some clubs, who now can only dream of having it."

Saavedra likes to think of Metrica Sports as a "mini-Tesla", the electric car company, beginning with a high-end expensive product which can then be used to channel funds into the development and launch of a more affordable one.

"I like saying we follow the kind of model Tesla followed even if they are a huge company compared to Metrica.

"The first clients fund investment and development of technology which benefits them and at same time allows us to develop new technologies to cut costs.

"Making this technology accessible to teams like Stockport County or academies in Vietnam was possible because we partnered with the elite clubs first."

- Click of a button -

However, while the price may stay at six figures for the elite clubs and national sides, the amount of time saved on the weary eyes of their respective video analysts is immeasurable.

"It was a very manual process before and this saves them tonnes of time," said Saavedra.

"Previously, a video analyst would sit and pause the match at every instance he wanted recording, that could take four or five hours to watch the whole game.

"With Metrica Sports, they simply click a few buttons and that same work is done in two or three minutes."

Saavedra uses an example of a coach telling two defenders never to be further than a specific distance from play.

"We can write an algorithm that shows every moment when they are further away than they should be as directed by the coach.

"They can see the lines showing distance, red for further, yellow for closer, just at the click of a button."

The process is unusual in that it analyses technical skills and positioning during matches, rather than simply measure distance covered.

Saavedra's enthusiasm reflects his lack of regret at ditching neuroscience despite studying it for 14 years.

"I say football used to be my hobby and neuroscience was my job," he said.

"I flipped that and it is awesome."

AFP

## Ozil's Arsenal future to be resolved in days - agent

LONDON

MESUT Ozil's agent Dr Erkut Sogut has told ESPN that the player's future is expected to be finalised in the next 10 days with the midfielder undecided over his next move.

The 32-year-old is free to talk directly to overseas clubs after entering the final six months of his £350,000-a-week contract with Arsenal and has attracted interest from the United States, Turkey, Asia and Qatar.

Reports in Turkey on Wednesday suggested he was on the brink of signing a three-year contract with Fenerbahce but no agreement is close with any club.

Fenerbahce are one of several interested clubs along with MLS side DC United, whose interest was first reported in the U.S. back in August 2019, but negotiations are not yet at an advanced stage.

"We were not allowed to talk legally before Jan. 1 so now we are just starting to look at the options with the numbers and details," Sogut told ESPN in an exclusive interview.

"I can't talk about the clubs directly because it would be unprofessional but generally, there is six months left on the contract and it is nothing unusual that we will talk to people about different opportunities and try to find the best option for Mesut.

"He might stay at Arsenal un-

til the summer but he might go. Mesut's priority is to stay but you never know in football, things can change very fast. For the moment, we are just checking all the options for January and the summer.

"If we want to leave in January, I need to talk to Arsenal. If we sign for the summer, we don't need to. That's the situation. In the next seven to ten days, it will be a little clearer as now the transfer window is open, things can move faster."

Ozil has not played for Arsenal since March 7 having been left out of the club's Premier League and Europa League squads by manager Mikel Arteta.

The World Cup winner started Arteta's first 10 Premier League games in charge after replacing Unai Emery as Gunners boss in December 2019 but has not been considered since refusing to take a 12.5% pay cut along with the majority of the first-team squad after failing to receive information over how the money would be spent.

Ozil has since donated a greater amount to helping London charities including social project "Ozil's Warmer Winters" which aimed to provide 50,000 healthy meals and 10,000 gift packages to people in need over Christmas.

Arsenal confirmed to ESPN that they were not actively involved in discussions with any clubs regarding Ozil at this point.

(Agencies)

# Man United losing Carabao Cup semi is a huge missed opportunity

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer said before the Carabao Cup semifinal with Manchester City there could be "no excuses" if Manchester United did not reach the first final of his reign, and he is right. The 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford will feel a huge missed opportunity for the Norwegian, who knows how important it is to lift his first trophy as manager. The wait goes on.

United kicked off with a full-strength team and on a run of form that has seen them reach the top of the Premier League table. City, meanwhile, were without key players including first-choice goalkeeper Ederson and a recognised centre-forward, yet it was Pep Guardiola's team who were able to reach their fourth successive Carabao Cup final. It is now 1,533 days since they lost a tie in this competition - here against Jose Mourinho's United in October 2016.

For Solskjaer's United, it is a fourth straight semifinal exit after losing three last season. He will not want his team to become perennial nearly men, even if there is noticeable progress from when United lost to City in the Carabao Cup semifinals a year ago.

"We played against a very good Manchester City team, they played well," said Solskjaer afterward. "When they

play well you have to play very well to beat them. We were just lacking that little bit.

"We're getting closer. This is a much better version of United than a year ago in those semis. It's not psychological [losing in four semifinals]. Sometimes you meet good teams in the semis. We met, at the moment, City are probably the best team in England."

There can be no arguments about the result.

City's stand-in keeper Zack Steffen was called on to make one significant save from Bruno Fernandes in the eighth minute, but otherwise the United States international had a front-row seat to a slick performance from the visitors. Ilkay Gundogan and Phil Foden both had goals ruled out for offside inside 25 minutes, and in between Kevin De Bruyne thundered a shot off the inside of Dean Henderson's post.

Even after John Stones had bundled in his first goal since the 2018 World Cup to give City the lead in the second half, Henderson needed to make two fine saves - one throwing himself towards the top corner to keep out Riyad Mahrez - to keep United interested. Fernandinho ended that seven minutes from time with a shot that skidded into the corner from 20 yards.

On a freezing night in Manchester,

it was a cold reality check for United ahead of a crucial week for their budding title challenge with trips to Burnley and Liverpool.

For City, the past week has been a timely reminder of their quality. They have had their training ground closed because of a coronavirus outbreak and their numbers depleted, but in the past four days have still managed comprehensive victories at Stamford Bridge and Old Trafford. Guardiola said this week he expects the best teams to find more consistency during the second half of the season, and City appear to be clicking into gear just at the right time.

Victory here was achieved without Ederson, Kyle Walker, Aymeric Laporte, Rodri, Bernardo Silva, Ferran Torres, Gabriel Jesus or Sergio Aguerro in the starting XI. Of those in the team, Ruben Dias, a one-time United target, was immense in protecting Steffen, who had to deal with only two shots on target all night.

"The team is ready and it was an outstanding performance," said Guardiola, who dedicated the result to City legend Colin Bell, who died on Tuesday. "We dipped a little bit in the second half, we were tired after the game at Stamford Bridge, but when the team has this mentality they can do some-

thing incredible. It's not the Champions League, but four times in a row to reach the final, I'm so impressed.

"It's about the consistency. We didn't have a proper preseason and that's why we need a little bit of time, but I think we are already there."

In contrast, United conceded two sloppy goals, both of which came from set pieces.

"Manchester City can score many great goals," said Solskjaer. "You can accept that. When you concede two simple set plays, it's very disappointing. Just not good enough in those moments.

"We didn't create enough big chances. They didn't either. We didn't have the extra finesse we've had in the games lately. We weren't good enough today."

United find themselves at a crucial juncture in their season. Bounce back quickly against Burnley and Liverpool and this result will be forgotten in a wave of title talk. A couple more disappointing results and a campaign that looked promising would seem to be unravelling.

The next week is another opportunity for Solskjaer. After slipping up against City, he will not want to miss another.

ESPN

## Why have Arsenal sent William Saliba on loan again?

BY JAMES OLLEY, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC



ARSENAL manager Mikel Arteta has faced a barrage of questions during a difficult season to date, but the one asked with arguably the greatest urgency by disgruntled fans is: where is William Saliba? As of Monday night, the answer is "on loan at Nice," meaning it will be at least two years after signing for the Gunners before Saliba plays a first-team game.

At a cost of approximately £27 million, he is the joint-10th most expensive signing in the club's history, and one pre-ordained by supporters as the answer to longstanding defensive issues. Yet after arriving at the club in July 2019, he was sent back to Saint-Etienne for a further year before being left out of Arteta's Premier League and Europa League squads with the Gunners boss citing a need for Saliba to undergo a "transitional year" prior to commencing his Arsenal career.

A second loan move back to Saint-Etienne collapsed at the end of the summer transfer window amid a row about paperwork, and Nice have this week stepped in to offer hope of a brighter 2021 for the 19-year-old. The Allianz Riviera will be Saliba's home for at least six months - reports in France suggest that deal could be extended into the 2021-22 season if beneficial to all parties - leaving Arsenal fans facing an even longer wait to see whether Saliba can ever live up to the hype.

**But how exactly has it come to this?**

It's difficult to underestimate the number of unforeseeable challenges Saliba has faced since Arsenal edged out Tottenham for his signature in the summer of 2019. Things had happened extremely fast even by that point: Saliba signed his first professional contract just a year earlier and made his debut in September 2018, the first of just 17 senior appearances before finding himself at the centre of a north London transfer battle.

During a trip to a fair in Paris, Saliba bumped into Arsenal midfielder Matteo Guendouzi, who helped convince him to join the Gunners in a deal that would see him return continue his development by returning to Saint-Etienne for the 2019-20 season. Sources close to the player describe him as "level-headed" and "generally unflappable," but what followed was enough to test the sternest of souls. He underwent an operation on adductor muscle injury, which delayed his return to action until September, and a promising run of form was curtailed firstly by a metatarsal fracture in November and, later, the spread of COVID-19 across Europe, which brought Ligue 1 to a premature end in April with 10 games to play.

Saliba confirmed the promise many believed he possessed during 12 League appearances, demonstrating his poise by committing just two fouls in 991 minutes of action despite the further upheaval of Saint-Etienne head coach Ghislain Prigent - the man responsible for giving Saliba his debut - being sacked eight games into the season, replaced by former Leicester boss Claude Puel. The year 2020 would also contain a family be-

game of the season. Saliba had started 16 matches; if he'd started a 17th, it would trigger the £2.5m payment unless a compromise could be reached. It wasn't.

An Arsenal spokesman insisted back then that the primary dispute was over Saliba's medical treatment and therefore, the financial aspect was not discussed in any great detail. At that point, Saliba was telling friends that he was targeting a place in Arsenal's first team for the 2020-21, having inherited the No. 4 shirt in a squad whose lack of quality at centre-back had become acutely obvious. But then he started training at London Colney.

Unai Emery was Arsenal head coach when Saliba signed for Arsenal. The decision to immediately loan him back to Ligue 1 was recognition he needed more experience of competitive top-level action, but Mikel Arteta, who replaced Emery as manager in December 2019, was expected to make him a central component of his new-look team, buoyed by ending the 2019-20 season with an unexpected FA Cup Final victory over Chelsea.

Saliba spoke almost no English when he signed for the club, but he quickly set about improving his language skills while also naturally gravitating to the French-speaking players in the squad, chiefly Alexandre Lacazette. Growing up as an Arsenal fan with vivid memories of past French grandees Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry, Saliba was determined to make his mark. However, Arteta and his coaching staff quickly formed the view that Saliba was still some way off the required level.

This is a view met still with consternation in France, especially in light of many Arsenal players underperforming in what was (until the past 10 days) the club's worst start to a season since 1974. How can Shkodran Mustafi get a game and Saliba can't?

Yet sources have told ESPN that there are many at Colney who believe Saliba has plenty to learn in his positioning and has been found wanting by the intensity of Arsenal's training matches. While he developed a reputation at Saint-Etienne for executing tackles with good timing and stepping out to win the ball, there are concerns the higher pace of play leaves

him vulnerable too often and caught out of position.

Although an imposing figure at 6-foot-3, Saliba needs to improve both physically and in the air. Sources have told ESPN there are several players in the squad who agree with the view that it's too soon to expose him to regular Premier League football.

More savage assessments include the suggestion he needs to drop down a division - Arsenal briefly discussed a loan move with Watford and Norwich before the deadline passed - but Arteta delivered the most withering judgement of all when he decided against registering him for Premier League and Europa League action. A loan back to Saint-Etienne failed at the 11th hour, with both clubs blaming the other as they missed the deadline; it left Saliba in limbo, with him playing just twice for the under-21s. His final appearance came in a 3-0 defeat at AFC Wimbledon in the EFL Trophy on Dec. 9. Saliba was sent off, his second yellow card earned for an over-zealous tackle.

Whatever doubts exist over Saliba's ability, surely he would have held his own in - and benefitted from - games against Irish minnows Dundalk, Molde or Rapid Vienna. The Gunners won all six Group B games despite heavy rotation even as their domestic form began to wane. But Arsenal's recent uptick in results, with three consecutive victories against Chelsea, Brighton and West Brom, have eased the pressure on Arteta, revalidating his conclusions on a range of issues including Saliba's readiness. And so, instead of bowing to pressure and finding a place for Saliba in the squad, one of the first acts of this January window was to send him on loan to Nice, with sources insisting the Gunners believe the player who signed a £40,000-a-week contract until 2024 will still come good in Arsenal red.

The reaction among Arsenal fans on social media was predictably volatile and divisive, perhaps only marginally dampened by the club's decision to confirm the news a minute into UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson's live television address on Monday informing the country of a third national lockdown. Maybe that was a coincidence. But another round of "Where's Willy?" isn't ideal for anyone.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Man United losing Carabao Cup semi is a huge missed opportunity**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

## Former Chaneta chairperson Anna Bayi passes on

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S sports fraternity has faced a blow, as former chairperson of the country's netball association (Chaneta), Anna Bayi, passed away in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday night at Hindu Mandal Hospital after a short illness.

One of Bayi's family members said Anna, a wife to athletics legend Filbert Bayi, was taken to the hospital after complaining of pains.

The member, who opted for anonymity as he is not the family spokesman, said Anna's burial ceremony and other arrangements will be announced soon.

"We are so saddened by Mama Bayi's death, she was our family's pillar, it is very painful for us to lose her at this time," he said.

The late Anna will be remembered in domestic netball circles as the sport's passionate administrator.

It was during her time as Chaneta chairperson that the country was ranked on the International Netball Federation (IFNA).

The country was on the 10th position



in the IFNA World Ranking and it was placed third in Africa's ranking.

Tanzania also for the first time hosted the African Netball Cup tournament and Anna was then serving as Filbert Bayi netball team's Director.

Filbert Bayi netball team were a force to reckon with in netball in Tanzania as the team assembled some of the best players in the country.

The squad also had other netball professional players from neighbouring countries.

Malawian Marry Waya, who was once one of top netball players in the African continent, was the Tanzanian team's head coach.

## Bwalya, Luis Miquissone delight as Simba SC magnificently crushes FC Platinum

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN a dominant Wednesday afternoon of football, Tanzania's Simba SC dismantled Zimbabwean side, FC Platinum, 4-0 in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League first round's return leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Simba SC took the lead through Erasto Nyoni, who scored from the penalty spot in the first half before Shomari Kapombe added a second to put them ahead in the aggregate score.

They would kill off the game when Larry Bwalya set up John Bocco who put the results beyond any doubt. Clatous Chama wrapped up things for the squad in the added on time.

The results put Simba SC through to the CAF Champions League's group stage for the second time in three years.

Here is how the club's players, who played in the Wednesday clash, have been rated:

### Aishi Manula - 7

He was not tested all that often by some wayward FC Platinum shooting but he performed well when he was asked.

### Shomari Kapombe - 7

He defended his flank with authority as always. His afternoon was capped off impressively when scored the goal that swung the tie in Simba SC's favour.

### Paschal Wawa - 7

A solid performance yet again from the veteran Ivorian defender. Nothing fancy, just got in the way and got the ball out of danger zones whenever FC Platinum managed to penetrate.

### Joash Onyango - 7

He showcased some excellent defending to cover for others. Typically put in a shift off the ball, completing four interceptions and clearances. He was once or twice a bit forgetful in his pressing duties though.

### Mohamed Hussein - 6

He did not really put a foot wrong defensively, winning ground duels he contested. He could not really get out of his own half to make an impact up the other end.

This was a match that his end product was not up to scratch. He needs to address that.

### Erasto Nyoni - 6

His lack of mobility does restrict him a great deal these days. He was tidy as ever in possession and played some clever

balls.

### Said Ndemla - 6

A game of hits and misses for Ndemla. He moved the ball forward smartly. He did end up creating one big chance and was involved in the build-up to Erasto Nyoni's opening goal.

### Larry Bwalya - 8

He put a brilliant performance at the heart of Simba SC's midfield as he helped as he helped control proceedings and direct traffic to the sides key playmakers.

### Clatous Chama - 7

He opened up play expertly in the build-up to Bocco's goal. He was involved in two goals including a brilliant move that ended with him being brought down for Simba's second penalty of the day.

### Chris Mugalu - 6

He stayed very central but did not get too many shots at actions. He led the line well despite not getting decent chances.

### Luis Miquissone - 8

Yet another impressive showing by Miquissone, despite the fact that he did not either score a goal or provide an assist.

Miquissone, though, provided a much-needed injection of energy in the final third, bringing something different to the table as compared to the others around him.

The Mozambican drove at the FC Platinum defenders at every given opportunity and engineered several openings as well.

On another day, he might have found the back of the net but on Wednesday he was twice denied by the woodwork. As always, he did not shy away from defensive duties.

### Substitutes:

Ibrahim Ame (replaced Ndemla on the 60th minute) - 6

He added some defensive solidity. It would have been nice to see him come on earlier and play centrally.

Meddie Kagere (replaced Mugalu on the 75th minute) - n/a

He barely registered as a presence as he was unlucky to have been hit on the nose a few minutes after coming on from the bench and was unable to continue with the game.

John Bocco (replaced Kagere on the 88th minute) - n/a

He came on way too late but settled the game as a contest with a simple tap in to make it 3-0 for his outfit.

# Simba SC, Namungo FC to discover CAF club tourneys' opponents today

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Simba will discover their 2020/21 CAF Champions League group stage's opponents today.

The draw for the CAF Champions League group stage will be held at CAF headquarters in Cairo, Egypt at 12:00 GMT (15:00 local time), the African football governing body announced on Tuesday.

The 16 teams that have qualified for the stage are divided into four groups, with each being made up of four clubs.

Simba, who progressed to the CAF Champions League group stage for the third time in their history after beating Zimbabwe's FC Platinum 4-1 on aggregate on Wednesday, are in the third pot with Sudan's Al Hilal, Angola's Petro de Luanda and MC Alger of Algeria.

There is a possibility that Simba could meet African champions Al Ahly, TP Mazembe and AS Vita Club again after playing each other in the same stage and the quarterfinals in the 2018/19 campaign.

The Pot 1 has the four top teams in Africa, according to the CAF rankings, Al Ahly of Egypt, Morocco's Wydad Casablanca, Espérance de Tunis from Tunisia and Tout Puissant Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Last year finalists Zamalek of Egypt are in Pot 2 alongside Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, AC Horoya of Guinea and DRC's AS Vita Club.



Simba SC's fullback, Shomari Kapombe (up), negotiates his way past FC Platinum's winger, Perfect Chikwende, when the sides met in the 2020/21 CAF Champions League first round's return leg at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Simba won 4-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

The Pot 3 is made up of Kaizer Chiefs of South Africa, Sudan's Al-Merreikh, Algerian outfit CR Belouizdad, and Teungueth of Senegal.

The group phase kicks off in mid February and runs until April. The top two sides in each group advance to the quarterfinals, which starts in April. Mamelodi Sundowns will target their second

continental star to make them the most successful team in South Africa.

According to a statement on the CAF's official website, the draw for the CAF Confederation Cup's play offs will also be held at the same event.

Continental debutantes, Tanzania's Namungo FC, will learn who they face in the last hurdle before the group stage.

The draw for the play offs of the CAF Confederation Cup pits aggregate winners from the first round of the second-tier continental club competition against losing teams from the first round of the CAF Champions League.

Namungo have qualified for the play offs of the CAF Confederation Cup after posting a 5-3 aggregate victory over Sudan's

Al Hilal Obeid.

Namungo FC forced a 3-3 draw with 10-man Al Hilal Obeid in the second leg of the first round at Al-Hilal Stadium on Tuesday.

The first leg matches of the play offs have been fixed for February 14 and the return leg taking place on February 21 with the aggregate winners progressing to the competition's group stage.

# Simba SC coach hails squad's victory over FC Platinum

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has made it to the 2020/21 CAF Champions League's group stage for the second time in three years, wrapping up a 4-1 aggregate win against Zimbabwean side, FC Platinum, in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

Simba were calm and composed, sticking to their game plan to become the first Tanzanian team to qualify for the money bracket stage for the third time after overcoming a 1-0 deficit with a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

Erasto Nyoni put Simba ahead from the penalty spot on the 40th minute before Shomari Kapombe added the second on the

61st minute.

John Bocco grabbed the third for the hosts in added on time and Clatous Chama made it 4-0 with seconds left to the final whistle.

Speaking afterwards, Simba SC's head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, could not contain his joy.

He described his side's triumph over FC Platinum and the consequent qualification for the group stage as the best moment of his life.

He disclosed: "This is a lifetime thing. In life time you don't have much of this moment. It makes you proud, happy although one moment I had a heart attack. I think their striker had a big chance to equalise or make it 2-1. That was



Simba SC's head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck.

the only moment I died on the bench."

"For all the 89 minutes I am proud of everything they showed. Maybe not a lot of chances, we moved the ball, we were dominant in the first half. We handled the pressure in the second half. This was a great performance for my team. It gives us an enormous boost to go into the group stage with a big smile and enjoy it," he noted.

"I think in the first half my offensive players were good at handling the ball. Once it was 2-0, I have to give a compliment to my defense because the pressure came from many crosses but in the end we calmed the game again. I think we played a ma-

ture game, controlling the game."

Simba SC joins defending champions, Al Ahly, and finalists, Zamalek, from Egypt, Senegal's Teungueth, Al Hilal and Al Merreikh of Sudan, AS Vita Club and TP Mazembe of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Tunisia's Espérance as teams to have qualified so far for the group stage.

Kaizer Chiefs and Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa, Angola's Petro de Luanda, Guinea's AC Horoya, CR Belouizdad and MC Alger of Algeria, Morocco's Wydad Casablanca and Senegal's Teungueth have also booked a place in the premier continental club competition's stage.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

LET'S PAMPER TEACHERS AS SCHOOLS OPEN!

