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Members of Parliament including Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment and People with Disabilities) and other ministers and deputy ministers, in visibly sombre mood in Parliament in Dodoma city yesterday shortly after National Assembly Speaker Job Ndagai announced that Muhambwe legislator engineer Atashasta Justus Nditije (born October 17, 1969) had died at Dodoma city's Benjamin Mkapa Hospital. Photo: PMO

# MPs aghast as accident takes life of Eng Nditije

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament yesterday mourned fallen Muhambwe constituency MP and former deputy minister Atashasta Nditije (52) eulogising him as a responsible leader and an important member of the Local Authorities Accounts Committee.

Suspending the parliamentary session, Speaker Job Ndagai said Nditije passed away as he was receiving treatment at the Benjamin Mkapa referral hospital in Dodoma.

"Nditije got in an accident on Wednesday 10 Feb 2021 at Nanenane area and was rushed to Dodoma regional referral hospital, before being transferred to the Benjamin Mkapa hospital for further treatment. He passed on Friday 12th February at 10.00am," he said, noting further that Section 173 of the Parliamentary Standing Orders empower the Speaker to suspend the parliamentary session until the following day, hence 9.00am today.

He urged MPs to exercise composure as  
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## NBS now preparing for next year's sixth population census

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PREPARATIONS for the 2022 Population and Housing Census by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are in full swing.

Acting Statistician General Sylvia Meku (pictured) said yesterday that NBS is working around the clock to ensure that the sixth national population census is well managed at the grassroots level.

Speaking during the opening of a two-day workers' council meeting, Meku who is the chairperson of the NBS Workers' Council called on employees make intense preparations for the census while it is still early.

"We should strongly prepare for the historic exercise that is eagerly awaited by Tanzanians and other stakeholders locally and internationally," she said.

Due to the importance of the housing and population census, NBS workers need all the cooperation, working spirit and diligence to ensure that the exercise is successful, she stated.

"It is important to ensure that  
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# Corrupt officials hamper investment flows - JPM

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed officials in the ministries of industry and trade and investments to work together to eliminate bureaucratic procedures that slow the speed of investments.

Speaking in Morogoro municipality where he launched a number of factories, the president told top officials in the two dockets to pull up their socks or risk being replaced.

He said the two ministries have been delaying investors intentionally by pursuit of bribes before approving projects hence benefiting at the expense of the nation.

Launching Mahashree Agro Processing (T) Ltd at Mikese area, the president read out the riot act.

"You find that an investor wants to put up a factory but officials from the ministries of industry and trade and of



**Do not hesitate to start a factory for fear of being branded shady. Whether you are employed, an MP or religious leader, if you have some money just open a factory**

investments delay the processes so that they are bribed. If they don't change I'll kick them out because what we want is results," he said.

The president said his government supports investors, appealing to Tanzanians even those with modest capital funds, to start factories and grow their businesses.

"Do not hesitate to start a factory for fear of being branded shady. Whether you are employed, an MP or religious leader, if you have some money just open a factory," he said.

The president said all Tanzanians must direct their energies and resources in starting factories to create wealth for themselves and in the process, create much needed jobs for other Tanzanians.

Launching the newly-built Morogoro market on Thursday, President Magufuli ordered all state officials who  
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# Sorrow grips Tanga as former minister Mwapachu passes on

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

A SOMBRE mood enveloped the city of Tanga yesterday after news broke out that former long-serving Tanga constituency MP Harith Bakari Mwapachu (pictured) had passed on.

Mwapachu, who represented the constituency for 15 years (1995-2010), also served as minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs under President Benjamin Mkapa.

The former parliamentarian and public



administrator died early yesterday at the Muhimbili National Hospital where he was receiving treatment, his family confirmed.

After the news spread, groups of mourners trooped to his residence to mourn with the family as others sat in groups and discussed his legacy at constituency and national level.

"He was passionate about industrialisation; with most factories functioning today established during  
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## PEACE AND SECURITY

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## RADIO DAY

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President John Magufuli cuts the ribbon to launch an Ace Leather Industries factory at Mahonda in Morogoro municipality yesterday. Left is the firm's managing director, Rostam Azizi, and (R) is Morogoro regional commissioner Loata ole Sanare. Photo: State House

## Sorrow grips Tanga as former minister Mwapachu passes on

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his tenure. He did very well as an MP," said Sulemani Jumaa, resident of Mikanjuni area in the city.

"He was especially talented in wooing investors; his period saw a surge in investments and the resultant job opportunities."

For Bikungu Mdoe, Mwapachu will be remembered for his keen interest in the affairs of women and youth, the groups he ensured they benefit from various

empowerment projects that have lifted thousands of residents in the region out of poverty.

Family spokesman Andrew Nkuzi said the body of the former MP and minister was scheduled to arrive in Tanga city last evening and was to be kept at his home in Mchukuuni Tangasisi ward.

He said after prayers at the residence, the body was to be transported to the deceased's home village of Pande, Kiomoni ward for burial today.

The CCM district secretary for ideology

and publicity, Lupakisy Kapange said the party will remember Mwapachu as an ardent cadre who mobilised support and served his constituents diligently.

Mwapachu also served as Minister for Public Safety and Security in early fourth phase cabinets. Before entering politics, he worked as general manager for Air Tanzania Co. Ltd, Director General of the Board of Internal Trade and Director General of the National Insurance Corporation, as his key career positions.

## MPs aghast as accident takes life of Ndiyiye

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they continue being updated on the funeral arrangements.

Bukene MP Selemani Zedi described the late Ndiyiye as a wise leader, even as his training was in the scientific field of engineering.

"I received the news on the death of Eng Ndiyiye with great shock. I was with him last week during meetings of the LAAC. He was a ranking member of our committee," said Zedi.

"Eng Ndiyiye was wise when he served as the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications during the 11th parliament, he was a responsive leader and ready to listen to anyone," he asserted.

The then Transport and Communication minister, Eng Isack Kamwelwe said the late MP was a hard worker and used to respond to all the questions asked by lawmakers during parliamentary sessions.

Eng Kamwelwe who is the current MP for Katavi said that Eng Ndiyiye was a good leader who loved to listen to the people and find solutions to their challenges.

The Minister for Defense and National Service, Elias Kwandikwa said: "It is a great loss; I worked with him when he was the Deputy Minister for Works."

Kwandikwa, MP for Ushetu, said he was among the first individuals to know about his accident on Wednesday and the first person to consult the Minister for Health, his family and the Director General of the Benjamin Mkapa referral hospital to ensure he receives the best treatment speedily.

"He only survived for three hours after the surgery at the Benjamin Mkapa referral hospital. We are thankful to the doctors for their effort and diligence," he stated.

Maswa MP Stanslaus Nyong'o said the late Ndiyiye was a friend to everyone who loved jokes.

Nzega Rural MP, Dr Hamis Kigwangala said: "You have gone too soon, I am crying for you. You were a good person and funny. You supported me in arguments in the National Assembly especially when I talked on improvement of the tourism industry."

The late Ndiyiye became the second MP of the 12th parliament to pass on after the death of Special Seats MP, Martha Umbulla who died on January 21st at the HCG hospital, in Mumbai, India.

He was born on October 17, 1969. He joined the legislature in November 2015 as Muhambwe MP, a Kigoma Region constituency, defeating ex-MP Felix Mkosamali (NCCR-Mageuzi).

IN 2017, he was appointed Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, a post he served until October 2020. During last year's general election, Ndiyiye managed to defend his legislative seat.

The late Ndiyiye held a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), graduating in 2013.

Between 2005 and 2008 he studied for the Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Telecommunications at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT).

He earlier sat for the Full Technician Certificate and General Course in Engineering at the Dar es Salaam Technical College from 1984 to 1990. Ndiyiye went for a Certificate in Computer Repair at the London School of management, from 2003 to 2004.

From 1991 to 2009 he worked for NIC (T) Ltd as electrical technician, senior electrical technician, assistant network administrator and telecommunication engineer.

He also worked for Radio Mlimani as telecommunication engineer in 2009 -2010 before joining ta consulting firm, the Association of Southern Electrical Contractors as technical director from 2010 to 2015.

The news on the death of the Muhambwe MP was shared for the first time in Parliament as Kalambo MP, Josephat Kandege sought the Deputy Speaker's guidance on the need to suspend the session following circulating information on the death of the MP.

Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson who was presiding over the session, said she was unable to make a decision since she was yet to receive official information on the MP's death.

As the session was proceeding, Handeni Rural MP, John Salu also sought the guidance saying the news on the death had already been shared in their official WhatsApp group.

"The person we are talking about was sitting next to me, so I feel that I can't continue with the debate until we get confirmation," he added.

## Corrupt officials hamper investment flows - JPM

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engaged in corrupt dealings in the project to cough up all the monies they received from genuine traders if they want to continue serving in their current posts.

The directive came after he learnt that government officials allocated themselves stalls at the 17bn/- modern market using

proxies and leased the same at a 30,000 profit per month to traders.

Civil servants at the Morogoro municipal council, the office of the regional commissioner as well as the district commissioner were the main beneficiaries of the government funded project and not traders as intended, the president intoned.

## NBS preparing for 2022 sixth population census

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demarcation of enumeration areas is 100 percent complete within the schedule to prevent delaying other census activities," she stated.

She told fellow NBS staff that President John Magufuli and the government as whole take the coming exercise with the importance it deserves, as the most important statistical profiling exercise that the country conducts periodically.

The government has fulfilled the promise of disbursing funds for the preparation of the 2022 census, she affirmed, calling on NBS units to cooperate with development partners, especially in processing funds and equipment for use in the census.

NBS directorates involved in census preparations must fully involve officials of other departments in NBS so that the national event taking place once in a decade goes smoothly.

The Acting Statistician General appealed to the NBS board of directors to see to it that with NBS preparing for the census, it is still obliged to conduct its other duties as usual, in which case other facilitation needs are likely to come up.

Dr Amina Msengwa,

chairperson of the board of directors, had earlier urged NBS workers throughout the country to work to creatively gather statistics in accordance with accepted standards internationally.

They have to maintain integrity at the work place, closely cooperate with each other and involve one another on matters relating to office work and budget, she stated.

"You should refrain from doing things by habit and instead learn to adopt new technologies given the need to improve the quality of statistics," she added.



**You should refrain from doing things by habit and instead learn to adopt new technologies given the need to improve the quality of statistics**



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi bids farewell to Islamic leaders shortly after prayers for late East African Muslim scholar Sheikh Sayyid Hussein Badawy at Mushawr Mosque in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Ministry charts strategies to control land conflicts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Livestock and Fisheries ministry has announced new strategies meant to end land conflict involving livestock keepers, pastoralists and other land users.

Speaking after a one-day meeting that brought together representatives of pastoralists and ministry officials, Livestock and Fisheries minister Mshimba Ndaki said the government is committed to end the ever occurring conflicts between pastoralists and famers among other land users.

He noted that his ministry in collaboration with ministry of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government as well as local authorities are working on the strategies to demarcate all

grazing land in the country.

Ndaki noted that the three partners have resolved to set a side budget for the purpose in the new financial, adding that the sector is considered one of the biggest sectors that can contribute immensely to national income.

"This sector should bring happiness to farmers and as a team in the ministry, we have resolved to end sufferings that livestock keepers in the country have been enduring," said the minister.

He cited Katavi region that has revealed plan to conduct valuation and demarcate a total of 400,000 hectares of land for grazing purpose for pastoralists and other animal keepers.

While acknowledging the increasing decrease of land the

country, the minister noted that without proper use of the existing land, conflicts will never end. He called livestock keepers to stick to directives on land use once the process is completed.

The second strategy, he said is to allow pastoralists lease land owned by the National Ranch Company Limited (NARCO) Sh 3500 per hectare per month. He also directed that at least 30 percent of the land NARCO is leasing out should be given to farmers neighbouring the ranch.

The minister also noted that some of the holding grounds belonging to the ministry should be leased to livestock keepers through NARCO. The same applies to parcels of land owned by ministry institutions like the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and others, but

not in use.

Minister Ndaki challenged the livestock keepers to also improve their land not just keep relying on the government for everything.

During the same meeting, the minister ordered that pastoralists who have leased NARCO land and have not paid the required lease fee by 15th February to vacate the premises immediately.

Earlier, NARCO board of directors' chairperson, Paul Kamiti announced that the government owned ranch is leasing grazing blocks at Sh 3500 per hectare.

Speaking after the meeting, Joshua Lugaso, Secretary General of the pastoralists association described the meeting as a healthy one and would help end problems pastoralists face.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa shares a light moment with Same West legislator Dr David Mathayo David (L) on the sidelines of a National Assembly session in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

## President Magufuli suspends CCM secretary for Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has suspended the ruling CCM's secretary for Morogoro Region Shaka Hamdu Shaka for allegedly soliciting and receiving bribes from various ward councilors in the area.

Dr Magufuli who also doubles as the national chairman of the ruling party, made the decision on Thursday when he was launching the Morogoro modern market (Chief Kingalu) which has been built at a tune of 17bn/-.

"The party's meetings will discuss the secretary on the corruption allegations; even the whole process of getting the Morogoro mayor was marred by corruption which is why we have decided to suspend the secretary to allow the party to discuss the matter," he said.

President Magufuli also warned the current regional mayor to change and avoid engaging in corrupt deals but rather work hard to serve the Morogoro residents.

On November 23, 2020, Morogoro mayor election for the first time was held and

Seifu Chomoka obtained 20 votes, Pascal Kihanga got 11 votes and Khamis Ndwata had 11 votes.

As the election results gave Chomoka the victory, two candidates with few votes appealed to the political committee and the central committee to challenge Chomoka's victory claiming that the victory was marred with fraud and later the central committee ordered for a re-run of the election.

The CCM central committee ordered another election to be held on January 12, 2021, where Seifu Chomoka got 21 votes and Pascal Kihanga got 20 votes, with Ndwata getting one vote.

The election was held for the third time where at this time Chomoka and Kihanga got 21 votes each, and their names were sent to the CCM national executive committee for a final decision.

The decision of the committee through the party's deputy secretary general-mainland, Roderick Mpogoro declared Pascal Kihanga as mayor of Morogoro municipality.

## ATCL to award its loyal customers

By Henry Mwangonde

AIR Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) has launched a system aimed at rewarding customers who frequently fly with the airline.

Speaking at the launching event yesterday, ATCL managing director Ladislaus Matindi said the move is part of the huge package of plans to revive the company and retain its lost glory.

The system dubbed 'Twiga Miles' allows customers to get points during each and every trip they make with the airline in which they are also registered.

"The points will be given to a customer whenever one buys a ticket or travels with ATCL and will be considered value for money which means the points will depend on the costs the customer has incurred," said Matindi.

Matindi said the system will categorize

rewards in sizes whereby there will be rewards named Twiga blue, Silvet Selous and the highest will be Gold Serengeti which will have 1,500 points.

According to Matindi despite Covid-19 pandemic, the number of local customers has increased from an average 4000 in 2017 to 6000 per month by December 2020.

In implementing the revival plan ATCL has entered agreements with Qatar Air, Air India and Rwandair to expand its connectivity network.

In his remarks, the Minister of Works and Transport Dr Leonard Chamriho who was represented by the Director of the air transport sector in the ministry Aron Kisaka said so far the government is satisfied with the way ATCL is doing.

He however encouraged the company to invest much on innovation and the desire to move with changing

technology. "This is the time for ATCL to come up with new way to make the sector grow especially the local market as the international air sector has been hit by Covid-19," he said.

In 2016, Tanzania developed programme to revitalize its national carrier which included purchasing six new aircraft between 2016 and 2018, payment of debts and provision of start-up capital, improvement and modernization of business.

The aircraft is part of Air Tanzania's plan to grow its operations across Africa as well as to international destinations.

Air Tanzania was established as Air Tanzania Corporation (ATC) on September in 1977 after the collapse of the regional East African Airways. Since then, the airline had been operating at a loss and depending on government subsidies.

## RC hails Mkuranga District for producing super-quality honey

By Guardian Correspondent, Mkuranga

COAST Regional Commissioner Eng Evarist Ndikilo has praised Mkuranga District Council for taking 10th position nationally for quality of its honey.

The RC's praise was conveyed by the Coast regional Forest Officer Felix Shayo representing the RC during the commemoration to mark the first year of "Bees are an opportunity; we Should Use it" programme held early this week at Mkuranga.

Reading the RC's speech, Shayo said the government in the region recognizes obstacles over environmental destruction, inadequate officials in the sector and working tools, the solutions of which were being sought.

The RC also instructed the Coast Region Administrative Secretary to supervise tree planting, environmental protection and formation of groups in order for the region

to score much higher position in quality honey production.

For his part, Mkuranga District Bees officer Asted Mpita said the Council's view is to have "Bees are an opportunity, we Should Use it" programme contribute in wooing tourists, and appealed to stakeholders to make many beehives.

Mkuranga District Executive Director Eng. Mshamu Munde said increase in forest areas was a sign of the campaign's achievements and pledged to develop forest areas with potential benefits.

Mkuranga district Commissioner Filbert Sanga praised the Council for organizing the event and giving it priority and called on it to be sustainable.

Sanga who was represented at the event by the DAS Veronica Kinyemi said the campaign should be developed to make the people understand the benefit of beekeeping, as an opportunity in self-employment.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

## 'Countries ought to unite to reverse environmental ruin'

THE Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Umyu Mwalimu, has said there is need for countries to tackle environmental degradation challenges collectively to make the world a better place for future generations.

For, environmental degradation on one side of the world could have serious repercussions in various parts of the world, including Tanzania.

The minister spoke in Dodoma on Tuesday while during a seminar to members of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry, Trade and Environment on International Agreements on Environmental Protection of which Tanzania is a member and the Office of the Vice President is coordinating its implementation.

She said the situation has led to the establishment of International Conventions on various environmental issues, with the aim of putting joint efforts to address emerging challenges and continuing to preserve the environment together as a world heritage for present and future generations.

The minister said that the challenges of environmental degradation do not recognize geographical, administrative, ecological systems, biodiversity and other environmental resources across the borders of one country to another.

"Our country is not an independent island. We have been supporting these efforts by ratifying these treaties and protocols, especially those treaties that we consider to be in the interest of our Nation and not an obstacle to the prosperity and sustainable economic and social development of the Nation," she insisted.

In addition, the minister mentioned the opportunities

available from the ratification of the agreements that include access to funds for the implementation of environmental protection and social welfare projects, opportunities for the exchange of experiences and expertise in specific issues related to environmental protection.

According to the minister, other opportunities include the availability of various materials and technologies that contribute to environmental conservation efforts and better production methods in bringing about sustainable development in the world.

For his part, the chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Industry, Trade and Environment David Kihenzile advised the Government to look at how best to eliminate the use of mercury for small-scale miners due to its impact on humans through the Minamata Convention.

Among topics covered during the session were International Convention on Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation Agreement, Minamata Convention on Mercury, The Convention on the Elimination of Desertification and Drought and the International Risk Management Agreements which are all coordinated by the Vice President's Office.

Mercury is a global pollutant with adverse effects to human health and the environment. Mercury is being used in Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) to recover gold.

Consequently, the Minamata Convention on Mercury (2013) requires parties to develop and implement National Action Plan on ASGM with the goal to reduce, and where feasible eliminate, mercury use and associated emissions and releases to the environment from ASGM.

A total of about 1.2 million

people are engaged in ASGM activities in Tanzania with an estimate of 7.2 million people (equivalent to 13 percent of the total national population) depending indirectly on ASGM.

Baseline situational analysis revealed that national mercury consumption by ASGM is about 13.2 to 24.4 tonnes per year. Inadequate capacity to control, unsafe use and poor management of mercury pose significant health, environmental and socio-economic risks to miners and neighbouring communities.

This National Action Plan (NAP) on ASGM (2020 - 2025) has been developed to meet the requirements of the Minamata Convention and serves as a national framework for fostering sound management of mercury in ASGM and where feasible eliminate its use and associated emissions and releases. It also addresses environmental, health and socio-economic challenges faced by ASGM.

## Tigray Region: Ethiopia out to restore order, rule of law in HoA

By Guardian Reporter

ETHIOPIA'S Ambassador to Tanzania has described the country's military campaign against Tigray Region as an apparatus to restore order and maintain the rule of law in the Horn of Africa.

Speaking in an interview last week, Yonas Yosef Sanbe said the region through the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has been carrying out attacks on the country's army in refusal to reforms initiated by the new Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

"The new government announced plans to unify the country by increasing the federal government's power and



Oh, how little some people care about road safety! This motorbike taxi rider chose to act illegally by carrying four passengers - and none of the five people with a helmet. Correspondent Sabato Kasika captured the scene at Kitunda in suburban Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

minimizing the autonomy of regional governments, but Tigray has openly resisted and instead launched attacks on the military," he said.

The envoy said already the new PM had shown a new dawn in the country's political history by releasing prisoners, journalists and other groups.

He said the reforms were recognized by majority of Ethiopians and international community which offered support.

"TPLF lost their dominance and the started launching attacks to maintain the status quo, the attacks were mostly on the National Defense Command in the northern part of Ethiopia,"

He said at several times they robbed equipment from the army move which prompted the government to launch the military campaign because it was threatening the sovereignty of the country.

According to the envoy, the calm has been restored in the area and that the government was now trying to rebuild what has been destroyed such communication infrastructure and many others.

Tigray, the northernmost region of Ethiopia, is home to the Tigrayan people who make up an estimated 6 percent of the country's population of more than 110 million. Despite its small numbers, the Tigrayan ethnic group has for almost three decades

enjoyed disproportionate power and influence in government affairs.

Tigray defied the federal government by deciding to hold parliamentary elections in September, even though general elections were postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic. Ethiopian lawmakers voted to cut funding to the region in October, a move that incensed Tigray leaders.

The region is one of 10 semi-autonomous federal states organized along ethnic lines in Ethiopia, and home mostly to the Tigrayan people who make up about 6 percent of Ethiopia's population of more than 110 million

## Women Legal Aid Centre: Employers ought to adhere to labour laws, rights

By Getrude Mbago

THE Women Legal Aid Centre (WLAC) has urged employers in the country to observe labour rights and laws when terminating contracts of their employees so as to maintain humanity and avoid unnecessary conflicts.

According to the centre, there are several employers who have been failing to comply with the provisions of the country's labor laws when terminating contracts which include denying to pay their employees required dues, something which is against human rights.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the training which brought together various to educate and remind them on various labour laws and rights, Consolata Chikoti, a legal officer from WLAC said there is a need for coordinated efforts to campaign for labour rights adherence at work places.

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

She however noted that there is a huge challenge in the employment industry where most workers in both the public and private sector are still ignorant in translating what is in their job contracts, something which later results into conflicts.

"We have recognized that most of the conflicting cases brought at the centre between employers and employees are caused by lack of

awareness on the legal statements put in the job contracts something that leads into misunderstanding and conflicts, so we have brought them here to educate them on the importance of reading their contracts well before signing them," she said.

According to her, the move is aimed to improve awareness and legal aid services for timely access to justice for women, youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

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

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

Bundi Clement from SBC Tanzania Ltd said: "I am sure that this training will increase awareness on labor rights to us who are working in formal and informal sectors so as to reduce the gender gap in employment and wages."

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



Tigo device manager Mkumbo Myonga (L) with Samsung Tanzania country manager Suleiman Mohamed when briefing journalists at the launch of the Samsung GalaxyS21 series of Smart phones held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## 'Issuance of loans to special groups has witnessed a rise'

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE deputy Minister in President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Government), Festo Dugange, has said issuance of loans to special groups—women, youth and people with disabilities (PWDs) by district councils increased to 42.06bn/- in the 2018/2019 from 26.1bn/- in the 2017/2018 financial year.

He said despite the many challenges, the government continues to improve issuance of loans at district level with

intentions of empowering citizens economically.

The deputy minister noted that the amount of loans offered to the special groups differ from one district council to another depending on their internal revenue collections. "The law requires district councils to use 10 percent of their internal revenues for issuance of loans to PWDs but the amount allocated for the purpose differs at each of the district councils," said Dugange.

He added that implementation of the Local Government Finance Act, CAP 290 which started in the

2018/2019 financial year resulted into more district councils improving issuance of loans to women, youth and PWDs. The amendment included adding of Section 37A which insists on issuance of the loans in each financial year.

Following introduction of the law, some 79 district councils have issued the loans by 100 percent whereas 54 district councils have implemented the Act by more than 85 percent.

He made the statement when answering a question posed by Special Seats Member of

Parliament, Zaytun Swai (CCM) who wanted the government to come to indicate the specific amount which district councils will set aside for provision of loans in every financial year. She was concerned that some district councils especially those in peripheral areas, have been allocating small budgets for the purpose.

Section 24 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act, CAP 290 suggests disciplinary measures against district executive directors who fail to issue the loans to the special groups.



Communications and Information Technology minister Dr Faustine Ndugulile briefs the Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee in Dodoma city on Thursday the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF). He is with his deputy, Kundo Mathew (L), and the committee's chairman, Selemani Kakoso. Photo: Communications ministry

## Tanzania picked to benefit from 6bn/- project in adding value chain to Lake Tanganyika fish

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has been picked to benefit from Euro 3m/- (8bn/-) project in adding the value chain to freshwater mackerel (migebuga) and dry sardines (dagaa) fished from Lake Tanganyika.

The project will be implemented in Kigoma Region for the period of five years and managed by Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) whereby small

fishermen will be given skills in bolstering production, and reduction of fish harvest loss before reaching markets.

Tanzania is among 10 countries out of 79 countries forming the African, Caribbean and Pacific (OACPS) picked to implement the project dubbed Fish4ACP to cost Euro 40 million through a special 11th European Development Fund (EDF11 for Intra - ACP Projects).

Other countries are Cameroon,

Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Sao Tome, Senegal Zimbabwe from Africa, and the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Marshall Islands from Caribbean and Pacific.

The project follows President John Magufuli's directives when inaugurating the 12th Parliament during which he directed the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African cooperation, via Tanzania's foreign embassies to ensure the fisheries sector

contributes to the national GDP, create job opportunities and reduce poverty.

Tanzania government via its Embassy in Belgium has applied for permission from the European Union (EU) to allow dry sardines (dagaa) from Kigoma to be sold in the EU market.

In the circumstances, one Tanzania firm has already entered into agreement to export 20 tons of the fish to Belgium every month.

## Tobacco demand down at world market - Bashe

By Felister Peter, Dodoma

THE outbreak of coronavirus and a global campaign to control the use of tobacco, the crop's demand at the world market has dropped by an average of 6 per cent in 2019 and 7 per cent in 2020.

However, the market for Tanzanian tobacco relies on demand and supply at the world market whereas the government continues to improve the tobacco marketing system to ensure transparency and competitive price.

Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe made the statement in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday when responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Hawa Subira Mwaifunga (CHADEMA) who asked the government plans to help Tabora tobacco farmers access the international market. She also suggested for the government to allow a free market for the crop.

"Currently, tobacco is sold through a free market system which allows tobacco buying companies to sign agreement with farmers before production of the crop. The system guarantees farmers of a reliable market as well as production of quality tobacco as they are also assisted with agricultural inputs," said Bashe.

The deputy minister added that private buyers purchased tobacco worth 12bn/- in the past season. He said the quality of Tanzania tobacco at the world market is unquestionable because farmers follow all the recommended best practices.

He said the government in collaboration with China is now conducting trials on four different

tobacco varieties namely—Yunnan 85, Yunnan 87, CS102 and CS297. He said the tobacco to be produced will be sold to China.

According to Bashe, efforts are ongoing to search for Tanzanian tobacco markets in Europe and Arabic countries. He said a lot have been done to encourage local buyers to purchase the crop from farmers whereas so far eight Tanzanian companies have been registered for the 2020/2021 agricultural season.

He said the companies have entered into contracts with farmers to buy a total of 17,000,000 kilos of tobacco, among them, 9,751,838 will be from tobacco farmers in Tabora Region. He said following government efforts in looking for the crops market, tobacco production in Tabora Region have increased from 16,000,000 kilos in 2019/2020 to 32,000,000 kilos in 2020/2021.

Responding to a supplementary question from Liwale Member of Parliament, Zuberi Kuchauka (CUF) who wanted to know the government plans to review the Cooperative Societies Act, 2013 to improve production and marketing of cash crops such as cashew nuts, the Deputy Minister said the ministry is working to review the act, adding it will later be brought in the Parliament for amendments.

"Currently, tobacco is sold through a free market system which allows tobacco buying companies to sign agreement with farmers before production of the crop. The system guarantees farmers of a reliable market as well as production of quality tobacco as they are also assisted with agricultural inputs"



Zanzibar's Youth, Information, Culture and Sports minister, Tabia Maulid Mwita (L), and her Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources counterpart, Dr Soud Nahoda Hassan, follow proceedings in the Zanzibar House of Representatives yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

# 'Manage land use better to avoid the destruction of water sources'

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has advised Water Basins authorities in Southern Highlands regions to fully supervise better land use to avoid conflicts between herders and farmers which greatly contribute to the destruction of water resources.

The call was given yesterday by the Mbeya Acting Regional Administrative Secretary Mwajabu Nyamkomora at a water sector's stakeholders' forum convened here.

Mwajabu said better land use will help to eradicate these conflicts and invasion of water sources because there would be special areas of farming and grazing without destroying the environment.

"One among the strategies to be implemented by this forum is to go out to educate our people on better land use as it will assist in making sure every Tanzanian gets his/her own area for conducting economic activities, as urban development contributes to invasion of water sources and environmental destruction," said Mwajabu.

Mwajabu also advised miners to be careful with their activities by adhering to laws governing environmental preservation, especially emission of chemicals to water sources.

The national Chairman of the Water Basins stakeholders' forum Nbogo Futakamba said water was equivalent to a human heart hence it needs great perspicacity

to protect.

The Director Lake Rukwa Basin Authority Eng. Grace Chitanda said the forum for the Basin's water users has contributed a lot in the fight against destruction of water sources.

She said among the stakeholders who assist in fighting destruction of water sources are water consumers' communities in Southern Highlands regions.

A stakeholder from Katavi Region, Veronica James said they have made great efforts to preserve water sources through water consumers' communities and that they were faced with various obstacles including lack of cooperation from village government whenever destroyers of water sources are identified.

# TCCP donates 115m/--worth ultrasound machine to ORCI

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Tanzania Comprehensive Cancer Project (TCCP) has handed over a state-of-the-art 3D ultrasound machine worth of 115m/- to the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

The donation is meant to strengthen the screening and early detection services for cancer patients in the country.

Speaking during TCCP Logo launch and handing over of the donation, TCCP director Sisawo Konteh said that the 3D ultrasound technology machine will contribute greatly in enhancing the quality of cancer care in the country.

"The state-of-the-art 3D Ultrasound Machine have the capacity to screen 80 people per day and detect whether they have cancer or not," noted Konteh.

He further noted that cancer continues to affect the lives of millions of people in the country and the disease burden can be effectively prevented and managed through appropriate continuum of cancer care which is still a challenge.

TCCP aims at reducing the burden of cancer morbidity and mortality in 13 districts of Dar es Salaam and Mwanza through an innovative public private collaboration, he stressed.

He further noted that the project will substantially scale up the quality of cancer care through increased capacity, improved infrastructure, expanded access to screening and detection services, establishment of partnership and

joint research agenda across all levels of health care services.

The project is expected to directly benefit approximately 1.7 million people through over 100 health facilities at all levels in the country, said Konteh.

For his part ORCI Executive Director Dr Julius Mwaiselage said that the number of new cancer patient recorded at ORCI has been increasing substantially over the year with 5529 cases documented in 2016 a marked increase from 5,244 cases recorded in 2015, 4,195 in 2014 and 3, 776 in 2013.

He further noted that most patients present with cancer are at advanced stages due to inadequate screening and early diagnosis.

ORCI conducts 43,200 radiotherapy session and 6,000 brachytherap services annually, he noted.

"ORCI faces chronic challenges ranging from a shortage of critical drugs for chemotherapy to poor working condition of the radiotherapy machines," he stressed.

He further noted that current efforts in addressing cancer care in Tanzania are not achieving the expected outcomes and the opportunity has risen for a more comprehensive and effective plan to address these challenges through innovative investment in health service delivery, education and research.

Its an honor to be part of TCCP to create substantial impact in the field of cancer Tanzania as the project has the potential to substantially scale up the quality

of cancer care through growing investments in health service delivery, education and research, he pointed.

"We are delighted and grateful for the state-of-the-art 3D Ultrasound machine provided by TCCP which will improve early detection services for Tanzanians accessing services at ORCI," noted Mwaiselage.

For his part Dr Omary Ubuguyu NDC Programme Manager and Acting Focal Person for National Cancer Ministry of Health said that cancer is a major public health issue that has reflected a dramatic rise in incidences and mortality.

"The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimates that cancer incidence in Tanzania stand at 42,060 cases/year 60% of which are women," said Ubuguyu.

He further noted that key health services are not easily accessible and there are major supply and performances issues.

Targeted interventions along the cancer continuum are needed to increase the quality and capacity of oncology services across the country, he said.

On behalf of the government, Ministry of Health and Dar es Salaam Region we are thankful for Agence Francais de Development (AFD) and Agakhan Development Network (AKDN) for funding tsh 38b/- TCCP project and for providing ORCI the state-of-the-art 3D ultrasound machine which will benefit life of many patients in the country.

# SADC develops tools to guide GBV response

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat, with the support of the European Union, is implementing the Support to Peace and Security in the SADC Region Programme (SPSS).

The SPSS Programme is, among other issues, aimed at enhancing capacity in SADC for gender-sensitive conflict prevention, management and resolution and for addressing the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence.

The SADC Executive Secretary's report for the 2019/2020 financial year notes that GBV continues to be a challenge for the SADC region in efforts towards achieving gender equality and promoting peace and security within the regional integration agenda. In the report, SADC Executive Dr Stergomena Tax said through the SPSS Programme, the Secretariat was developing tools to guide the regional response to GBV.

These tools include the Regional Sexual and Gender-based Violence Training Guidelines which will support capacity strengthening of frontline officers, especially law enforcement officers, at national level to ensure effective and efficient prevention and provision

of comprehensive GBV services. The Training Guideline is also intended to build awareness among key service providers on gender-based violence, its impacts and consequences.

The second instrument under development is the Regional Guideline on Developing GBV Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Referral Mechanisms. This Guideline is intended to provide member states with steps to follow in the development and implementation of the GBV SOPs and referral mechanisms in order to facilitate access to quality, timely and appropriate services for GBV victims/survivors.

The Regional Guideline describes essential services to be provided to GBV victims by the health, social services, police and justice sectors and it provides overall guidance on co-ordination of essential GBV services at national level.

In addition, the Secretariat is developing a Regional Inventory of sexual and gender-based violence legislation. This exercise also includes conducting a rapid assessment of GBV laws and policies with recommendations to Member States for addressing existing gaps.

The SPSS Programme

continues to support the wide dissemination of the SADC Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing GBV (2018-2030) across the region and undertaking public education and awareness raising interventions. In addition, one of the key result areas of the SPSS Programme is to further strengthen SADC's capacity to address issues of SGBV by training service providers, in particular law enforcement officers, on effective response to GBV.

Member states are also supported, based upon request, to review or develop their national GBV action plans. For example, Malawi was supported to conduct a national consultative forum to aid the review of the Malawi Action Plan on Ending Gender-Based Violence and to create a platform for discussing recommendations for review of GBV-related legislation. The programme also specifically targets engagement of parliamentarians as policy makers and advocates for change in the response to GBV. In particular, platforms are created for engaging parliamentarians in understanding GBV and the related regional policy instruments, including their participation in the development of the SADC GBV Model Law.



for a living planet

## Invitation to Tender: Marine Equipment & Gears

### For Mafia Island Marine Park – "MIMP"

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF TCO) is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- i. Conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ii. Ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable; and
- iii. Promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

2. WWF TCO through Marine Programme is implementing a five-year project titled "Strengthening Marine Protected Areas Management in Rufiji, Mafia and Kilwa District in Tanzania" with funding from the Blue Action Fund (BAF), which effectively started in August, 2019. One of the main work packages is "Improved management effectiveness of Mafia Island Marine Park – MIMP" which is work package number one (WP 1). WWF TCO intends to support the MIMP in achieving its conservation and management objectives through using part of project funds to procure various equipment and gears as categorized below:

TENDER CODE	TENDER DESCRIPTION
WWF/TCO/BAF/OT/FEB2021/LOT #01	Supply of Boat Engines; Two-Stroke outboard engines of different power (85HP and 115HP) with their associated set of remote-control cables.
WWF/TCO/BAF/OT/FEB2021/LOT #02	Supply of underwater cameras; Compact digital marine waterproof cameras.
WWF/TCO/BAF/OT/FEB2021/LOT #03	Supply of demarcation buoys; Sea surface open water demarcation equipment with associated accessories that include: yellow demarcation buoys, marine stainless-steel chains, marine stainless-steel swivels, marine stainless-steel Long D Shackles, and Fiber rope standard
WWF/TCO/BAF/OT/FEB2021/LOT #04	Supply of diving equipment; Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) diving equipment with accompanied items that include: Dive aluminum cylinders, Breathing control device (BDC) Aqualung of different sizes, complete regulators, standard diving weights, free size weight belts, free size masks, free size snorkels, fins/flippers of different sizes, wetsuits of different sizes and standard dive buoys/floats.
WWF/TCO/BAF/OT/FEB2021/LOT #05	Construction and Installation of sign board; A 3D Signage – double sided, LED Light type, with dimensions of 1.1mx3m.

2. WWF Tanzania Country Office, invites applications from competent, qualified, reputable, reliable and experienced local service providers preferably, wholesalers and distributors (for marine equipment & working gears) who are willing to submit their tender to supply as per the above tender categories.

3. All the above tender categories are independent. Interested bidders may request, obtain and inspect complete tender document for each category through the procurement email: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)

4. **Mode of application:** Interested applicants are required to direct their soft copy applications/bids only (as mostly staffs are still working from homes) to the procurement e-mail at [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org) Deadline for submission is 10am, Friday 26th February 2021. Address your applications to:

**Secretary,  
Procurement Committee,  
WWF Tanzania Country Office,  
Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni  
P.O. Box 62117, Dar Es Salaam.  
Email: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)**

- 5. WWF TCO reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.
- 6. Technical specifications will precede the financial.
- 8. Only successful candidate shall be contacted.

## Security firm launches vehicles with special surveillance systems

By Guardian Reporter

THE country's private security company-Garda World has launched modern vehicles which have special surveillance systems to provide more security during transportation of cash from one place to another.

The new vehicles offer banks and other financial institutions with guaranteed comprehensive cash management as they are equipped with several security gadgets and systems to ensure that the funds reach safely at the designated area.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam recently, GardaWorld general manager Eliuta Mwanjawike said that with the new service, financial institutions have nothing to worry when planning to transport cash.

He said that the new vehicles have special technology and systems which bar unauthorized personnel to access the funds or even if they try to run away with the vehicle, they will not be able to access the funds because the system will automatically lock the vehicle making it difficult for the criminal to also move out.

"The cars have been installed with systems to restrict any criminal trial, the funds will be accessed by authorized personnel only after reaching the target areas but no one else can do it on the way," he said.

Mwanjawike noted; "Every day, our world becomes increasingly complex. This is why more and more companies turn to GardaWorld for secure transportation and cash

management solutions, we are proud to announce this new service which provides quality and secured services to clients."

"We have been delivering comprehensive cash management solutions to the financial and retail sectors in Tanzania. Our solutions enable clients to focus on their core business and automate their cash processes, get an instant cash guarantee, eliminate risk and ensure fast cash settlements," he added.

According to him, whether someone is transporting cash or precious metals, the company's services help to achieve the person's or company's profitability goals while guaranteeing peace of mind.

"All of our truck transport solutions include full insurance coverage throughout transportation, adding an extra layer of security. Plus, our vehicles are energy-efficient to minimize our environmental footprint," he noted.

Norman Nyangasa, security manager at Absa Tanzania said: "We are happy to see Garda coming with this technology which would assure us with high security of funds transportation."

GardaWorld is a global leader in the security industry, offering a wealth of opportunity to individuals looking to gain experience and develop professionally in a growing industry.

The company also offers flexible schedules, diverse work assignments spanning multiple industries, and training and career advancement opportunities.



Amos Joseph (R), second master of Dar es Salaam's St. Anne Marie Academy, joins his students in celebrations yesterday shortly after receiving a trophy the school has been awarded by the Education, Science and Technology ministry for emerging top in Standard Seven final exam results for six consecutive years for Dar es Salaam Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Smallholder farmers in Ruvuma Region pocket 25bn/- from food crops in two seasons running

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

SMALLHOLDER farmers in Ruvuma Region generated more than 25bn/- after selling 12,234,757 kgs of food crops via Warehouse Receipt System during 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 seasons.

Ruvuma Regional commissioner Christina Mndeme said this week that during the period the farmers were also able

to sell 1,499,077 kgs of simsim that generated more than 1bn/- and 4,260,777 kgs of pigeon peas that earned them 2.585bn/-.

"Ruvuma Region is among the regions that have been implementing the warehouse receipt system, but we also have two other strategic crops - cashew nuts and coffee, which have been sold through the system," she added.

She said the system has benefited farmers by getting reliable markets and better prices for their crops and that farming activities for 2020/21 season were going on well.

In regard to fertilizer, the RC said the region, working together with Tanzania Fertiliser Regulatory Authority (TFRA) continue with the supervision for the availability of the input

to enable farmers produce sufficient food crops.

She however said up to November last year a total of 31,624 tonnes of fertilizer arrived in Ruvuma Region from 50,524.50 tonnes required.

Ruvuma Region is leading in the production of food crops after holding number one position nationally for two consecutive seasons - 2018/2019 to 2019/2020.



Work in progress on drainage system along a newly rehabilitated trunk road in Muleba District, Kagera Region, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has called for the strengthening of social protection for workers in the informal economy on the African continent.

In a report released yesterday by UNDP in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), noted that in sub-Saharan Africa, 82% of the inhabitants, a large proportion of whom work in the informal economy, do not have access to a social protection system. Informal employment accounts for 86% of total male employment and 92% of female employment in this region. It concerns nearly 90% of young people.

However, the UNDP notes that "in recent years, African governments have made efforts to put in place a range of contributory social protection schemes to cover workers in the informal economy. It also

## UNDP for boosting of social protection for workers in informal sector in Africa

presents several case studies from six countries that are pioneers in this area.

Tunisia's Ahmini program targets the approximately 500,000 women workers in rural areas who are engaged in low-paying activities as family workers or self-employed workers on their own account. They are therefore unable to pay fixed contributions, which are too high in relation to their income, or predefined contributions because of their irregular income. Since 2016, the Ahmini program ("protect me" in Arabic) provides them with access to health care, coverage against work-related accidents and a retirement pension. All this for a minimum contribution of 1 dinar (30 eurocents) with the objective of raising this sum to 20 dinars (€6.13) per month and per

beneficiary.

"Using social protection tools to combat inequalities in Africa"

In Rwanda, an Eja Heza "bright future" pension scheme has been offered since 2017 by the Social Security Council to 100,000 informal workers. Benefits are proportional to contributions paid (converted into a retirement pension when the member reaches age 55) and membership is voluntary.

In Zambia (88 percent of employment in the informal sector), the National Pensions Authority has since 2019 created the conditions for extending social protection to informal workers. It now benefits 18,000 people involved in several pilot projects affecting small farmers and self-employed workers in rural and urban areas.

While they represent so many models to be put in place on the African continent, all these initiatives are not enough, according to the authors of the report, who note the urgent need to "deploy innovative approaches on a large scale to increase coverage, while ensuring that emerging schemes are more financially sustainable by relying as much on employer and company contributions throughout the production chain as on worker contributions and public funding". They also call for "taking into account gender disparities in order to address inequalities in the labor market"

to consider social protection "as part of an integrated package of measures aimed at increasing incomes, enhancing their security and improving the quality of jobs".

## Female African scientists seen improving research and inspiring the next generation

By Special Correspondent

TIMED to coincide with the UN International Day of Women and Girls in Science on Thursday and to inspire more female students to study and work in science, the GCRF START grant has announced the results of its three-year project launched in March 2019.

To date, it has directly collaborated with nearly 50 young African research students and given access to almost 100 synchrotron beamline sessions. Over half of START's (Synchrotron Techniques for African Research and Technology) students are female scientists who are demonstrably changing perceptions and increasing the possibilities for women choosing long term research careers in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Prof Chris Nicklin, science group leader and principal investigator in the GCRF START grant programme: "Globally UNESCO figures show that only 30% of researchers are female and they occupy only 20% of STEM leadership positions. These figures are even lower in many countries in Africa underlining how important it is to challenge women's under-representation. Young female African scientists are vital both for their research and as role models and mentors for the next generation. So we are really delighted to see many of the young women we collaborate with through the START grant, making great strides and achieving some incredible results in the fields of structural biology and energy materials."

GCRF START is a collaboration between Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron, and higher education and research partners in the UK and Africa. It is funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council under the UK government Global Challenge Research Fund programme. It is enabling and inspiring researchers from this, and the next generation of Africans to choose careers in science and find African and joint UK-African solutions to some of the world's most pressing health and environmental challenges.

A key goal of the collaboration is to challenge the under-representation of women in science by providing access to world-class scientific facilities, funding, training, mentoring, and unique international collaborations. Great results have been achieved in a relatively short space of time because START scientists get access to specialist technologies and facilities not available on the African continent.

The GCRF START grant supports young scientists working on key Climate, Energy, Health, and Education challenges in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by building partnerships between world-leading scientists in Africa and the UK and enabling them to work together on research using synchrotron science.

One indicator of the success of the programme is how the tiny community of structural biologists in Africa has grown across South Africa including a whole new generation of women. Similarly, in energy materials, the gender factor has traditionally been a barrier, so having young women entering materials science is great progress. Additionally, all of these women participate in outreach and act as role models to inspire girls to choose STEM careers.

Two examples of female START successes are Gugulethu Nkala and Michelle Nyoni. South African Energy Materials PhD student, Nkala, is investigating new generation renewable energy storage systems in South Africa to help close the energy poverty gap. Nyoni, a chemistry lecturer in Zimbabwe, is studying energy materials to improve the performance of Lithium-ion batteries for portable electronics and renewable energy sources to make them affordable and improve their environmental footprint to tackle climate change.

Nkala: "Seeing a black girl in science, makes girls see that there is someone, just like them, who has gone this far. We are breaking barriers that make science seem unattainable, by being the link between science and society, made possible by funding bodies like the GCRF START grant."

# Public entities cheerful with GePG proving it's effective tool in scaling up revenue collections

By Guardian Reporter

PUBLIC institutions are pleased with the introduction of the Government Electronic Payment Gateway (GePG), which has increased efficiency and revenue in their workplaces as compared to the past.

So far, there are 682 institutions and district, municipal and city councils are using GePG—a centralized system, connected to all available electronic revenue collection channels for the process of facilitating electronic money transactions from the public to the government and vice versa.

Most of the institutions using GePG express satisfaction over the system, saying it have doubled their yearly collections.

For instance, since the introduction of the GePG system, the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) saved a large amount of money that was being used to pay service providers from various banks.

Speaking in Arusha at the just-ended training sessions for editors and other top media personnel targeting to raise awareness of the GePG system and its advantages, an official from TANAPA, Juma Kuji says that the agency was paying one percent of all the revenue they collect from the banks, which is between 1bn/- and 3bn/-yearly.

"But, now this remains a story of the past due to the use of the GePG system," Kuji said, adding that TANAPA started with one national park—Serengeti in 1959 and so far they have 22 parks across the country.

TANAPA's head of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) unit, Boniphase Mariki says that before getting into the system each security gate had its own account thus causing the agency to have close to 100 accounts, which was delaying access to bank reconciliation.

He adds: "After joining the GePG, TANAPA has only eight accounts of which four are for Tanzanian shilling currency, and four accounts belong to the US dollar currency, which enables the agency to solve many revenue collection challenges since all collections are managed by the GePG system."

Ndaki Titto, head of ICT unit at the Arusha Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (AUWSA) also attests: "After joining the GePG system in the 2017/18 financial year, the authority increased revenue collection from 1.2bn/- to 1.6bn/- per month."

Apart from increasing revenue collections, AUWSA customers have also benefited greatly because the system has allowed them to make payments through various channels including mobile networks, hence reducing inconvenience to its customers.

Dr Baraka Kichonge, the registrar at the Arusha Technical College (ATC), describes GePG system as a savior of public

spending as the system has put transparency in collections and thus increased integrity in the use of public funds.

Senior ICT officer and in-charge of GePG from the Ministry of Finance, Basil Baligumya says: "The government will continue providing support to its institutions to ensure that any systemic challenges are resolved in a timely manner."

"As the ministry, we're ready to continue to support you and we are grateful for your cooperation as well and we continue to encourage your billing systems to continue to improve so that we can continue to provide services in a way that is easier for people who pay for our services."

"After embarking onto GePG system, the Tanzania Forestry Services (TFS) for instance, has increased its annual collection from 95bn/- to 115billion/-," says Dotto James, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

According to him, the National Weigh and Scales Agency has also managed to more than double its yearly collections from the previous 1bn/- to the current 2.5bn/- after successfully implementing GePG.

It was also observed that the Tanzania Electricity Supply Company, on the other hand, jettisoned its collection agents, after getting onto the GePG, and under this new system, TANESCO has managed to save 38bn/- per year.

Director of Financial Systems of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, John Saus, unveils that so far 670 public institutions have been linked onto the GePG system which has made it easy and possible for the state to track all transactions regardless of where they are taking place in the country.

"The government no longer transacts with cash, only through control numbers and this has also necessitated the issuance of electronic receipts directly to clients' mobile phones," he says.

The government, through the Ministry of Finance and Planning and in line with the Public Finance Act 2001, implemented Electronic Payment Gateway in order to improve revenue collection management, the system, launched for the first time in 2017, intends to centralize revenue collection practices within the government and its institutions in addition to increasing visibility of the transactions at all stages of the collection.



**After embarking onto GePG system, the TFS for instance, has increased its annual collection from 95bn/- to 115bn/-**



By Correspondent Rose Mwalongo

# Community radio stations give voice to the voiceless - UNESCO

Day in Tanzania, I would like to pay tribute today to the unsung heroes, behind the mics, radio anchors who break the news on time making impact even in areas where others cannot.

For those of you who are not familiar with our country, let me remind you that Tanzania is a very huge country geographically with some of the areas being so remote amid lack of financial capacity for its natives to afford a television set or a newspaper. Despite its remoteness, its people still need to get important information on diseases outbreaks, weather updates, information on fishing, civic education and all the health updates for them to progress, and that is where community radios become handy.

As we celebrate 110 years of the radio it is wise to ponder over how life would have been, especially in rural areas, had it been that there were no radios to inform us.

In Tanzania, the radios especially community radios have been the best information source and mouthpiece for rural citizens informing them on natural disasters, best farming practices, curbing harmful traditional customs, as well as creating public awareness on civic and voters' education, disease outbreak, refugees' issues including climate and cross border issues. Radios remain to be the most affordable mode of communication for the less privileged compared to newspapers or TV, as all one needs is a battery or solar power

to listen to it. Radio is a device that one can go with to the farm, to fish, to communal gathering, and anywhere else you need a companion.

As we commemorate this day, let us support our all radios as we certainly need the microphone to help us make decisions that inform our daily lives, every day.

To our radio anchors, journalists, and producers, today we honour you. Keep up the good work and remember you are the eyes and the ears for all. In working to achieve the 2030 sustainable development goals, you play a key and vital role in ensuring that no one is left behind.

Happy World Radio Day to all listeners, anchors and all well-wishers in the world!



# 92,926 households issued with community health fund cards

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

A total of 361,530 people from 92,926 vulnerable households in 85 district councils across 25 regions in the country have been issued improved Community Health Fund (CHF) cards, enabling them to get treatment anywhere in the country.

The President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Government) (PO-RALG) partnered with Pact Tanzania to support orphans and vulnerable children through the USAID Kizazi Kipya project.

The health fund offers insurance that covers the costs

of general health services, including child health services. USAID Kizazi Kipya has therefore subsidized the first year of premiums worth a total of 4,672,864, 800/-.

Speaking at the event to hand over the health insurance cards to recipients at the Local Government Training Institute (LGTI) in Hombolo, the deputy minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr Festo Dugange said that the improved community health fund is a crucial service because it enables the beneficiaries to access health

services. He said the beneficiaries can access the services at dispensaries, health centers and district hospitals across the country.

The deputy minister explained that the government is committed to ensuring that all people and communities have access to healthcare despite financial difficulties. "Sometimes people do not have money at all the time of sickness but having the CHF card will enable them access health services in a timely manner," he said.

He commended the initiative of Pact Tanzania through the USAID

Kizazi Kipya project saying, "Pact Tanzania continues to set a high bar for providing services to those challenged by marginalization and poverty".

He called on all health workers in the country to ensure that all the households issued with health insurance cards and all other people with health insurance cards get quality services.

The deputy minister called on regional and district commissioners to strongly oversee improved community health fund and encourage more people to register.

The director of Health Services at the President's Office

Regional Administration and Local Government, Dr. Ntuli Kapologwe, while speaking at the event said, "The 4.6 bn/- support from Pact Tanzania in addition to helping children from the vulnerable households will also help improve provision of health services like purchase of drugs and equipment".

Ally Kebby, project manager at HPSS on his part termed the event a historic one as many vulnerable households were enrolled in the CHF system.

He said the CHF has taken a long stride and it is really encouraging to see the number of people who register every day, attributing the

success to regional and district officers.

Kebby noted that the fund touches all levels of people in the society, stating that some 1.5 million people throughout the country got health services using the improved community health fund between November and December, 2020.

"HPSS will continue providing public education on the importance of having CHF" he said, thanking Pact Tanzania for the big effort to reach the vulnerable households. He noted that about 60 percent of population is on dire poverty add need such support.

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

## Roadmap for post-pandemic food crisis in Africa crucial

**T**OP-NOTCH experts from six continents last unveiled what has been described as "ambitious roadmap" to rescue fractured food systems in Africa and other parts of the world.

The road map was unveiled during a webinar organised by the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research (CGIAR), global partnership that unites international organisations engaged in research about food security, through its research programme on climate change, agriculture and food security.

The report entitled Actions to Transform Food Systems under Climate Change came as a response to a sobering UN warning issued last year of an impending "global food emergency" induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

The launch featured more than a dozen farmers and influential food and agriculture voices speaking live in a global "relay" from Ethiopia, Australia, Vietnam, India, Mali, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, Colombia, and the US.

Imelda Bacudo, the advisor on Food Security and Climate Change for the 10-country Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), was one of the speakers.

"We felt the effects of this pandemic far earlier than many other regions and quickly moved to mobilise resources and policy changes," a statement quoted Bacudo as saying. "It's clear that dealing with the food impacts of these external shocks requires action far beyond the food and agriculture sector. And that kind of cross-sector collaboration remains a challenge, at the regional and national level."

Rikin Gandhi, the CEO of Digital Green, said: "In Ethiopia and India, with COVID-19 and a desert locust outbreak spreading just as the cropping season is getting underway, digital technologies are enabling extension agents and farmers to stay connected."

Gandhi said: "It means they can share data and insights from the field that can be critical to overcoming these twin challenges."

Ambassador Seyni Nafoussi from the Republic of Mali said: "There are many proven approaches to making our food systems far more resilient to external shocks, but they have not been implemented at an adequate scale to provide rural communities with the support they need."

According to the press release issued by CGIAR, the UN was especially concerned about food systems in places like sub-Saharan Africa that prior to the pandemic were reeling from a surge in droughts and floods -- and where global heating is likely involved in East Africa's ongoing battle against locust swarms.

The experts that combined expertise in the fields of agriculture, food security and climate change in their report issued an 11-part plan to reset the post-pandemic food systems.

It recommends avoiding expansion of agricultural land spanning 250 million hectares (617.7 million acres) of tropical forests and 400 million hectares of wetlands, enable markets and public sector actions to incentivize climate-resilient and low emission practices, bringing 200 million farmers into appropriate markets by 2030 through increased profitability and market development.

## How COVID-19 is affecting global response to AIDS, TB and malaria

**T**HE COVID-19 pandemic is having a serious impact on the most vulnerable communities worldwide and threatens progress on HIV, TB, malaria, vaccination and other areas of health.

Scientists have predicted a surge in HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria deaths in low- and middle-income countries due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but add that this toll can be reduced by prioritising the most critical services, such as timely diagnosis and treatment for these diseases.

According to the modeling study, published in the journal *The Lancet Global Health*, low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) could see HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria deaths increase by as much as 10, 20, and 36 percents respectively over the next five years due to the disruption of health services caused by the pandemic.

However, the researchers, including those from Imperial College London in the UK, said maintaining core services for HIV, TB, and malaria could largely mitigate the broader health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They explained that these services specifically include maintaining access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV, timely TB diagnosis and treatment, and early resumption of the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs) for preventing mosquito-borne malaria spread.

The scientists also cautioned that their study aimed to quantify the potential scale of the impact of COVID-19 and to guide how it could be minimised, rather than provide precise estimates. In countries with a high malaria burden and

large HIV and TB epidemics, even short-term disruptions could have devastating consequences for the millions of people who depend on programmes to control and treat these diseases.

However, the knock-on impact of the pandemic could be largely avoided by maintaining core services and continuing preventative measures. Based on the results, the researchers said well managed, long-term suppression measures could avert the most COVID-19 deaths.

But if these interventions are not well managed, they could cause people to stay away from hospitals and clinics and force public health programmes to be cancelled, leading to a large spike in deaths from other major infectious diseases that had been coming under control, the scientists explained.

Using models simulating the spread of HIV, TB, and malaria they estimated the additional impact on health that could be caused in different settings, either by COVID-19 interventions limiting routine programme activities or due to pandemic overburdening the health system.

The findings, according to the researchers, suggest that the impact of the pandemic varies according to the extent to which interventions against COVID-19 cause long disruptions to activities. They said it also depends on how successfully those measures reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and avoid the health system being overwhelmed. In the case of HIV, the scientists said the greatest impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is likely from interruption to the supply and administering of ART, which may occur during times of high health system demand.

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## Revoke patents, subdue COVID-19 pandemic and deliver global justice

By Benny Kuruvilla

**U**N Secretary-General Antonio Guterres wrote on Twitter: "We must get to work to make sure the vaccine is available to everyone, everywhere. With this pandemic, none of us are safe until all of us are safe."

As the pandemic spills into its second year, the WHO tracker lists eight COVID-19 vaccines already in public use. Several others are awaiting regulatory approval. This is unprecedented in vaccine history and with effective international coordination, it presents the global community with a real chance for both pandemic and economic recovery in 2021.

Instead, however, the world is on the brink of a 'catastrophic moral failure' on vaccine distribution, to use the words of WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Countries are mired in a stalemate of 'vaccine nationalism', with the rich world having secured contracts to vaccinate their entire populations thrice over by the end of this year, while 85 poor countries will not get vaccine rollouts until early 2023, if at all.

This hoarding of vaccines by rich countries for profit constitutes 'vaccine apartheid', which not only grants rich countries an unjust privilege but also naively approaches the pandemic as a national or regional problem, despite its obviously global nature.

And as a recent study showed, vaccine nationalism could cost rich countries alone USD 4.5 trillion because of its global economic interlinkages.

### European hypocrisy

But even with the imbalance already strongly in its favour, the European Union lashed out at pharma giant AstraZeneca when the company announced it would be delivering fewer than half the world's population -- will be lucky if they can vaccinate even 10 per cent of their populations by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, a large majority of poor countries -- most of the world's population -- will be lucky if they can vaccinate even 10 per cent of their populations by the end of the year.

In October 2020, South Africa and India moved a proposal at the WTO for a TRIPS waiver on patents, industrial designs



and trade secrets that restrict access to vaccines and medicines or manufacturing of medical products essential to combat COVID-19.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, argued in November that the best strategy against the virus was geopolitical cooperation -- not competition. Yet her ongoing fiasco with AstraZeneca has exposed the EU's hypocrisy -- as the EU threatened to invoke the same emergency provisions on behalf of Europeans that the EU are currently opposing for citizens of the global South.

At the international level, rich countries and pharmaceutical corporations hide behind the innocuously named but disastrously enforced regime of 'intellectual property'. Since its inception in 1995, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) has arguably been the World Trade Organisation's weakest link.

While TRIPS paradoxically advanced corporate monopoly rights, the rest of WTO agreements exhorted competition, deregulation and free trade.

### AIDS: the global health crisis of the 1990s

When the HIV/AIDS epidemic was raging in the late 1990s, the prevailing cost of patented antiretroviral (ARV) drugs was over USD 12,000 per patient, per year. South African president Nelson Mandela led a worldwide revolt for access to affordable, lifesaving ARV drugs by overriding TRIPS provisions and launching a frontal attack on big pharma. In response to this call, the Indian generic drug manufacturer Cipla stunned the world in February 2001 by introducing a drug to fight AIDS at less than USD 1 per day.

Buoyed by this victory,

developing countries fought off US and EU opposition in pushing for the November 2001 Doha Declaration on TRIPS, which underlined the right to public health and access to medicines.

Two decades and another global health crisis later, a similar script is being played out by the same set of actors.

Publicly funded innovation In October 2020, South Africa and India moved a proposal at the WTO for a TRIPS waiver on patents, industrial designs and trade secrets that restrict access to vaccines and medicines or manufacturing of medical products essential to combat Covid-19.

The proposal has now gained heft with sponsorship by Kenya, Pakistan, Venezuela, Egypt and Bolivia, along with the endorsement of nearly 100 countries at the WTO. The WHO, UNAIDS and several UN special rapporteurs are also backing the waiver.

Just like twenty years ago, a powerful cabal of rich countries led by the EU, US, UK and Japan are blocking the waiver. They argue that a waiver on patents will undermine innovation and that the TRIPS already offers flexibilities for public health.

The waiver can play a critical role in rapid expansion of vaccine supplies.

Both these arguments are flawed.

A study of 210 drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) between 2010 and 2016 showed that public funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was the greatest contributor to research and innovation.

A more recent study showed that governments have allocated at least €88bn to Covid-19 vaccine companies in 2020, demonstrating the marginal

role of corporate funding in innovation.

### Rich countries should support the TRIPS waiver

Developing countries have long argued at the WTO that stringent provisions in the TRIPS have made it virtually impossible to use the existing flexibilities, and any attempt to invoke flexibilities results in arm-twisting and retaliatory trade pressures from powerful members such as the EU and US.

The waiver can play a critical role in rapid expansion of vaccine supplies. Given that the expertise to manufacture the AstraZeneca vaccine is reasonably widespread, production can be expanded in firms across the developing world.

In India, its production has been licensed only to the Serum Institute of India, which is struggling to keep up with demand. It is a scandal that while AstraZeneca is charging the EU less than USD 2 per dose, Thailand -- a far poorer country -- is being charged around USD 5 per dose. Locating production domestically will also help countries to bring down costs substantively.

If the US and EU are serious about contributing to a cooperative global effort on vaccines, they should support the waiver proposal when it comes up for discussions at the WTO on 4 February.

The pandemic is a global problem that requires a global solution, not a few national ones. It is of the utmost importance that all countries take quick and decisive action to put people and health before profits. Only then can we defeat this pandemic.

Benny Kuruvilla heads the India office of Focus on the Global South, an Asia-based think tank providing analysis and building alternatives for just social, economic and political change.



## My end of mandate reflections – AU youth envoy -2

By Aya Chebbi

THE 2nd Pan-African Youth Forum marked a crucial milestone to set the stage for meaningful youth engagement. During this forum, I facilitated an inclusive non-hierarchical assembly in an open space with 500 youth.

It was at this Forum that the chairperson of the AUC launched the 1 Million by 2021 which impacted the lives of millions of youths in education, employment, entrepreneurship and engagement.

To further this engagement, my office pioneered the celebration of Africa Youth Month starting from Africa Youth Day (2019 and 2020), and this has now become an annual (November) celebration at the AU.

We also ensured that the AU became more accessible to young people with disabilities through the provision of sign language interpretation at our events.

We consistently advocated the expansion of tools and networks to involve youth movements and groups who ordinarily might not be allocated a seat at a regular AU event.

I was able to provide space for more radical voices like La Lucha of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Aswat Nisa of Tunisia to amplify their discontent and concern to the AU leadership as well as ambassadors, ministers and commissioners.

Despite drawing upon youth networks to reach vulnerable youths through, for instance, sending internet data to youths in refugee camps, it is clear that a barrier to youth inclusivity is the digital divide and youth access to online spaces. Closing the digital divide should be a key priority moving forward.

Eight: We rooted for the protection of youth rights in consultation with young activists on the ground especially during the Sudan Revolution, #ZimbabweLivesMatter among other countries.

During Human Rights Day (December 10), the President of Botswana endorsed the plea I made to African leaders to respect and protect the rights of the youth, especially peaceful protesters. This particularly would need more advocacy to enforce the African Youth Charter and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Nine: We were tasked with the responsibility of creatively and innovatively bringing the AU closer to African youths. Over the last two years, we have taken some bold approaches leading to massive impact.

We tapped into a new youth constituency in the fashion industry through Silencing the Guns Outfit Challenge to leverage on the Pan-African Fashion Initiative and grow awareness and action for the AU theme of the year. I made sure to showcase the designs of the winners at every possible occasion.

Through the first ever virtual Africa Solidarity Concert, a partnership between the AU Commission and the All Africa Music Awards, we engaged youth in the creatives and music industry to raise funds for Covid-19 Response Fund.

Ten: During Covid-19, we utilised the power of social media and technology to convene 54 Virtual AU Youth Consultations Series on Covid-19 with a total of 6,000 participants in dialogue with African leaders and decision makers.

This led to the publication of Africa Youth Lead Policy paper "Facts & Figures of Africa Youth Agency, Challenges and Recovery Roadmap on Covid-19" and its dissemination through the Wilton Park policy dialogues.

#AfricaYouthLead became a popular hashtag among African youths during the pandemic and reached over 19.5 million people with over 111.5 million in potential impact online.

Through the African Youth front on Coronavirus, we also engaged 18 of Africa's largest youth networks and national youth councils, which made the AU the first intergovernmental institution to create a high-level policy space for youth to contribute and co-lead the response to the pandemic.

We provided online social media advertisement grants by Twitter to these youth organisations worth a total of \$30,000.

But the achievements made in this exceptional journey would not have been possible without the trust of AUC Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat in engaging innovatively, thus paving the way for my office to carry out such an important mandate with the young people.

There was also the continued support for the youth agenda by AU commissioners and special envoys, all of whom took a leap of faith on OYE's different and radically new ideas to translate them into meaningful youth programmes.

I was surrounded by leaders who were open to be challenged, to collaborate and co-create.

My gratitude to all AU departments, directorates, divisions, organs, Regions Economic Communities, Liaison offices, AU staff and technical professionals who have a wealth of expertise, who opened their doors to incorporate new fresh youth perspectives and who have made tremendous contributions to our mandate over the last two years.

I have enjoyed collaborations especially with APRM (African Peer Review Mechanism) during the First International Youth Symposium in Chad and COMESA during the joint COMESA-AU/AGA project on Youth Engagement in Democratic Governance and Socio-economic Development.

Agencies

### JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA HABARI, SANAA UTAMADUNI NA MICHEZO



INNOCENT LUGHA BASHUNGWA (MB),  
WAZIRI WA HABARI, UTAMADUNI, SANAA NA MICHEZO

### KAULI YA MHESHIMIWA. INNOCENT LUGHA BASHUNGWA (MB), WAZIRI WA HABARI, UTAMADUNI, SANAA NA MICHEZO JUU YA MAADHIMISHO YA SIKU YA REDIO DUNIANI, 13 FEBRUARI, 2021.

#### "DUNIA MPYA, REDIO MPYA"

Ninafuraha kuwasalimu wote katika tasnia ya utangazaji hususani ninaposhiriki kwa mara ya kwanza katika maadhimisho ya siku ya redio duniani. Ninafurahi kuongana na wadau wa utangazaji kwa njia ya redio katika maadhimisho haya ya siku ya redio duniani. Maadhimisho ya mwaka huu Februari 13, 2021 yanabebwa na kauli mbiu isemayo "Dunia Mpya, Redio Mpya"

Tanzania inaungana na dunia kuazimisha siku ya redio duniani, ambayo iliisawia na Shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la Sayansi Elimu na Utamaduni (UNESCO) mwaka 2011 na kutangazwa na Umoja wa Mataifa mwaka 2013. Tunapoadhimisha siku hii tunaangazia mchango wa redio katika kuwafikia watu wengi, kutoa elimu, kuburudisha na kutoa mchango katika maendeleo ya kiuchumi kwa Taifa.

Katika kipindi cha awamu ya tano, Tanzania imepiga hatua kubwa katika kuwafikia wananchi wengi kwa njia ya redio kwani vituo vya utangazaji kwa njia ya redio vimeongezeka kutoka vituo 106 mwaka 2015 hadi kufikia vituo 193 Disemba 2020. Vilevile tumeshuhudia mabadiliko ya teknolojia ambapo kwa sasa kuna njia nyingi mbadala za kupokea matangazo kwa njia ya redio zikiwemo miundombinu iliyosimikwa ardhini, intaneti au satellite. Haya yamekuwa mageuzi makubwa ya utangazaji ukilinganisha na kule tunapotoka.

Kama nilivyosema awali, maadhimisho ya mwaka huu yamebepwa na kauli mbiu ya "Dunia Mpya, Redio Mpya", inayosisitiza matumizi ya teknolojia katika tasnia ya utangazaji kwa njia ya redio. Kauli mbiu hii pia inaangazia suala la mabadiliko katika namna ya utangazaji, ubunifu na kuunganisha jamii kupitia redio. Utangazaji kwa njia ya redio umekuwa na nguvu ya kipekee katika kuleta watu pamoja, kutangaza sera na mipango ya Serikali, kuhamasisha maendeleo ya jamii na pia kukemea uovu. Matumizi ya teknolojia yatawezesha uharaka na urahisi wa matangazo kufika umbali mrefu na kwa watu wengi.

Uhitaji wa Utangazaji kwa njia ya redio umeongezeka kwa kasi na kufanya masafa yanayotumika kurusha matangazo ya redio kuwa haba. Uhaba wa masafa ya redio umeonyesha wazi kuwa kuna haja pia ya kufikiri njia mbadala ya utangazaji wa redio kwa kuhama kutoka kwenye mfumo wa analojia kwenda dijitali. Ikumbukwe kuwa bado matangazo ya redio ya FM yako kwenye mfumo wa analojia ambao unachangamoto ya uhaba wa masafa ya kutangazia. Taasisi nyingi zisizo za kiserikali (NGO), za kidini na Halmashauri za Wilaya zimeona uwepo wa hitaji la kuwa na redio ili ziweze kufikia jamii kwa haraka na kuwashirikisha masuala ya maendeleo na kijamii au ya kiroho.

Kwa kuona ongezeko la uhitaji, maandalizi ya awali yameanza ili tuweze kuhama kutoka kwenye utangazaji wa analojia na kwenda kwenye mfumo wa dijitali. (Digital Sound Broadcasting) ni mfumo ambao utaondoa changamoto ya uhaba wa masafa ya kutangazia na kuweza kukidhi hitaji kwenye soko la utangazaji kwa njia ya redio. Pia utatoa fursa ya uanzishwaji wa vituo vipya vya redio hasa maeneo yenye uhaba wa masafa. Mfumo huu mpya utawezesha uzalishaji wa maudhui na kuleta ushindani kwenye soko ili kuwa na maudhui yanayokidhi mahitaji ya sasa na ya baadae ambayo yatakuwa yanazalishwa ndani ya nchi ili kuakisi utamaduni na tunu zetu za taifa.

Sheria ya Huduma za Habari Na. 12 ya Mwaka 2016 imetungwa katika mfumo unaotekeleza haki na wajibu wa vyombo vya habari. Vyombo vya habari viko huru katika kutafuta, kuhariri na kuchapisha au kutangaza habari ikiwa ni sehemu ya utekelezaji wa haki yao ya kikatiba (ibara ya 18, Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, 1977) lakini pia ikiwa ni kutekeleza haki za kimataifa za uhuru wa habari (kwa mujibu wa Tamko la Haki za Binadamu, 1948, Mkataba wa Kimataifa Kuhusu Haki za Kisiwa na Kiraia, 1966 na Mkataba wa Afrika Kuhusu Haki za Binadamu na Watu, 1981). Lakini Sheria pia imetungwa katika muktadha wa kutambua kuwa haki hizo pia zinaendana na wajibu ambao vyombo vya habari vinapaswa kuubeba.

Kifungu cha 19 cha Mkataba wa Kimataifa wa 1966 kinaanisha ukomo wa uhuru wa habari ikiwemo wanahabari kutotakiwa kuandika habari za kashfa, kuhatarisha usalama wa nchi, amani ya nchi, aya ya jamii na maadili ya Taifa. Aidha mikataba ya kimataifa pia inataka vyombo vya habari kulinda haki ya usiri na utu. Katika kutekeleza hili Sheria hii imeweka makosa mbalimbali na adhabu kwa wanahabari si kwa nia ovyo ya kuzuia haki za binadamu za wanahabari bali kutekeleza matakwa haya ya sheria za kimataifa ambazo zinawapa wanahabari wajibu wa kulinda haki nyingine za raia na usalama wa nchi.

Sheria pia katika kifungu cha 67 ilitoa kipindi cha mpito cha muda wa miaka mitano, ili wale wasio na sifa ya kuanza ngazi ya Diploma waweze kujitendelea. Kipindi hicho cha mpito kinamalizika Disemba, 2021. Nawasahi wanahabari wote tundelee kujitendelea kitaaluma na kufikia kigezo hicho ili pindi utekelezaji wa sheria ukianza kusiwe na usumbufu wowote.

Kupitia Wizara ya Habari, Utamaduni, Sanaa na Michezo napenda kuwahamasisha watanzania kuchangamkia fursa ya matumizi ya teknolojia katika kuwekeza kwenye sekta ya utangazaji hasa kuanzisha vituo vipya vya redio, kubuni maudhui mapya yanayoendana na soko la Tanzania na kimataifa, kutumia vituo hivi kukuza mahusiano ya kibiashara na kijamii na kupanua soko la ajira kwa vijana.

Mwisho niteo rai kwa redio zote zilizosajiliwa nchini kufuata maadili ya utangazaji, kufuata sheria na kuhamasisha umoja wa kitaifa. Tutumie teknolojia katika kuboresha, kukuza na kusaidia tasnia ya utangazaji kwa njia ya redio kuwa chombo cha amani, umoja na mshikamano.

ASANTENI SANA

### JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



#### UJUMBE WA SIKU YA REDIO

DUNIANI 13.02.2021



MHANDISI JAMES M. KILABA,  
MKURUGENZI MKUU- TCRA

#### KAULI MBIU 2021: "ULIMWENGU MPYA, REDIO MPYA"

Redio ni chombo kikuu cha mawasiliano duniani. Urushaji wa matangazo ya redio ulianza mwaka 1920 na hadi kufikia Mwaka 1950, nchi nyingi duniani zilikuwa zimeanza utangazaji rasmi kwa njia ya redio.

Tanzania inaungana na dunia kuadhimisha siku ya redio duniani ambayo huwa inasheherekewa kila siku ya tarehe 13 Februari. Siku hii iliisawia na Shirika la Umoja wa Mataifa la Sayansi, Elimu na Utamaduni (UNESCO) mwaka 2011 na kutangazwa na Umoja wa Mataifa mwaka 2013. Redio ni chombo kikubwa kinachotumiwa na watu wengi zaidi duniani, chenye uwezo mkubwa wa kuunganisha wananchi kuwa wamoja, lakini pia ni chombo kinachosimama kama uwanja wa sauti zote kusikilizwa na kuwakilishwa. Hadi kufikia mwezi Desemba Mwaka 2020, Tanzania ina jumla ya vituo vya redio 193 kutoka vituo 106 vya redio mwaka 2015. Ongezeko la vituo limeongeza wigo wa kuwafikia wananchi na kuleta ushindani kwenye soko la maudhui.

Kwa mujibu wa Umoja wa Mataifa, dhumuni la kuadhimisha siku ya redio duniani ni kutoa elimu kwa jamii kuhusu umuhimu wa Utangazaji kwa njia ya redio. Vilevile kuhakikisha kuwa kunakuwa na ushirikiano mkubwa baina ya vyombo vya Habari, ufikaji wa taarifa kwa wananchi na kukuza mitandao na ushirikiano wa kimataifa kati ya watangazaji.

Kauli mbiu ya siku ya redio duniani mwaka huu ni "Dunia Mpya, Redio Mpya" (New World, New Radio) ikisisitiza kuwa dunia ya sasa inatakiwa iendane na teknolojia mpya katika tasnia ya utangazaji kwa njia ya redio ili kukidhi haja na mahitaji ya jamii. Kauli mbiu hii imebepwa na dhamira ya kuwa na Mabadiliko (evolution), Ubunifu (innovation) na kuunganisha jamii (connection). Dhamira ya mabadiliko inalenga kuelimisha kuwa dunia inavyobadilika na redio nazo zinapaswa kuchukua mfumo tofauti na madhubuti ili kukidhi ubora na uhitaji wa kizazi kilichopo na kijacho. Dhamira ya ubunifu inalenga kuelimisha kuwa dunia inavyobadilika na redio zinatakiwa kuendana na mabadiliko kwa kubuni na kutumia teknolojia mpya zilizo soko ili kufanya redio iendelee kuwa chombo kinachounganisha watu, lakini pia kufikia watu wengi kadri inavyowezekana. Dhamira ya kuunganisha inalenga kuonyesha kuwa redio ni chombo kinachounganisha jamii kwa kiwango kikubwa kwa kuwa kina wigo mpana wa wasikilizaji ikilinganishwa na njia zingine za utangazaji.

Redio kama chombo kikuu cha kwanza cha mawasiliano yanayofikika kwa jamii kubwa zaidi, imepitia mabadiliko mbalimbali. Mabadiliko haya yanaweza kushuhudiwa na vifaa vilivyotumika kunasa sauti (recording), kuduru (dubbing) na kuandaa matangazo (production). Hivyo basi mfumo wa uandaaji wa vipindi na utangazaji imepitia hatua mbalimbali hususani katika kipindi hiki ambapo bado teknolojia ya analojia inatumika katika kurusha matangazo ya Redio za FM. Natambua kuwa hatua kubwa imefikwa kwenye studio za kuandaa vipindi ambapo vifaa vyote vinavyotumika kwa sasa vinatumia teknolojia ya dijitali. Mnyororo wa Utangazaji kwa njia ya dijitali utakuwa umekamilika kama Studio na Mitambo ya kurushia matangazo (transmitters) ya FM vyote vitakuwa vya kidijitali. Mitambo hii inakabiliwa na changamoto ya uhaba wa masafa hivyo kushindwa kukidhi mahitaji ya soko. Kwa kutambua hili TCRA imeshaanza maandalizi ya awali ya kutumia mitambo ya kurushia matangazo ya kidijitali ili kuondoa tatizo la uhaba wa masafa.

Kutokana na mabadiliko makubwa yanayofanyika katika chombo hiki kikuu cha mawasiliano; Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania (TCRA) iliona kuna umuhimu mkubwa wa kuhifadhi teknolojia na mabadiliko ya vifaa vilivyotumika katika kufanya mawasiliano ya utangazaji. Hivyo, mnamo mwaka 2015, Mamlaka ya mawasiliano Tanzania ilianzisha Makumbusho ya Mawasiliano kwa lengo la kukusanya, kuweka kumbukumbu, kuhifadhi, kuonyesha na kutoa elimu kwa jamii kutokana na mabadiliko ya teknolojia za mawasiliano mbalimbali ikiwemo mawasiliano ya utangazaji wa redio.

Katika kuadhimisha siku hii muhimu ya redio, TCRA inaendelea kuikumbusha jamii hasa watoa huduma za utangazaji wa redio kwenda sambamba na kasi ya mabadiliko ya teknolojia ya utangazaji. Aidha kuuwa kwa teknolojia kumefanya kuwepo na njia nyingi mbadala za kupokea matangazo ya redio ambapo miundo mbinu iliyojengwa ardhini ndio pekee iliyotumika kutangazia. Kwa sasa Majukwaa ya intaneti na satellite yanatumika kuwafikia wananchi kwa njia ya utangazaji wa redio. Kuuwa kwa intaneti kumepokea matangazo mengi ya redio kurushwa kwa njia ya mtandao. Aidha, TCRA inakaribisha watoa huduma kwa mfumo wa utangazaji wa redio kwa njia ya kidijitali (Digital Sound Broadcasting); mfumo ambao utatoa fursa nyingi katika uanzishwaji wa vituo vipya vya utangazaji hasa maeneo yenye uhaba wa masafa kwenye mfumo wa sasa na analojia. Pia mfumo wa kidijitali utongoze wigo wa kuzalisha maudhui mbalimbali na hivyo kuiwezesha nchi yetu kuwa na maudhui ya kutosha yanayozalishwa ndani ya nchi (local contents) na kuwa na matangazo yenye sauti yenye ubora sana.

Pili, ubunifu katika kutayarisha vipindi vya redio ni muhimu sana katika sekta hii yenye ushindani mkubwa. Ni muhimu kwa watoa huduma kuhakikisha wanakuwa na watangazaji mahiri na wenye elimu na sifa zinazotakiwa; lakini pia wabunifu katika uzalishaji wa matangazo. Aidha, ni vyema vituo vya redio kuzingatia maadili ya Taifa na kuhakikisha matangazo yanazingatia vigezo vya leseni zao.

TCRA inatoa wito kwa jamii kutembelea Makumbusho ya Mawasiliano ili kuona uhafidhi wa teknolojia za mawasiliano ya utangazaji uliofanywa na Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania kwa lengo la kuibwa hisia na kutoa motisha kwa jamii kuweza kubuni mbinu nyingine pamoja na kuboresha vifaa vingine vitakavyoleta tija katika tasnia ya utangazaji wa redio ili kuboresha upatikanaji wa mawasiliano ya redio kwa haraka, urahisi na uhakika zaidi.

Kupitia maadhimisho haya ya siku ya redio duniani, ni vyema jamii yetu kutambua umuhimu wa redio na hivyo kuweka msisitizo kuitumia redio kama chombo kikuu cha Mawasiliano, katika kutoa elimu mbalimbali na pia kuburudisha. Hali kadhalika, kupitia siku hii ya redio duniani jamii yetu itambue juhudi zinazofanywa za maboresho ya utangazaji kwa njia ya kidijitali hivyo kupelekea kuboresha usikivu mzuri wa matangazo ya redio, kuongezeka kwa redio hasa redio za kijamii, kuongezeka kwa wataalam na taasisi zinazotoa taaluma za utangazaji, kupanuka kwa wigo wa biashara kupitia matangazo ya biashara na kuongezeka kwa idadi ya wasikilizaji.

Radio ni chombo muhimu cha mawasiliano, tukitumie katika kujitelea maendeleo.

Mhandisi James M. Kilaba  
Mkurugenzi Mkuu, TCRA

# Seven new predictions for a post-Covid-19-pandemic world -2

By Emma Rose Bienvenu

**T**HOSE buying insurance will disproportionately choose cheaper plans with high deductibles and bare-bones coverage. This will make the more comprehensive plans that older, less healthy Americans need prohibitively expensive.

The US population is aging fast, and 75 per cent Americans aged 65 or older live with multiple chronic health conditions. This means that the share of Americans unable to afford quality coverage will quickly become untenable, eventually ending the country's failed 50-year experiment trusting market incentives to provide for its critical health care needs.

A two-tiered system will replace it, in which those who can afford to buy private insurance and receive exceptional, concierge medical services will do so, while some version of "Medicare for All" administered by the federal government provides for the needs of everyone else.

By dissociating health coverage from employment, this will make US labour markets more efficient, boost small business formation, and dramatically improve the health outcomes of Americans in the long term.

Four: Pandemic monitoring will mark a new era of mass digital surveillance. The United States' failure to contain Covid-19 - and the relative success of East Asian countries like Taiwan and South Korea - brought about the twin realisations that pandemic readiness is both critical to national security and virtually impossible without sophisticated digital tools.

As public institutions, businesses and individuals brace for the next pandemic, the scale and scope of digital surveillance will dramatically increase, permanently recasting the balance between privacy and public safety.

The expansion of mass digital surveillance will be felt most quickly in the workplace. To ease the safe return to work, employers will use tools like IBM's "health pass" - a blockchain-based registry of biometric information - to verify employees' vaccination status, and wearable health trackers to remind employees to socially distance at work, monitor for signs of disease, and contact-trace efficiently in the event of an outbreak.

Gradually, businesses will begin to track the identity, inoculation status and potential disease state of everyone on their premises.

In the longer run, biometric passports will become standard entry requirements in all kinds of crowded public spaces, creating a record of every individual who enters or exits an office, school, airport, museum, concert hall or sports stadium.

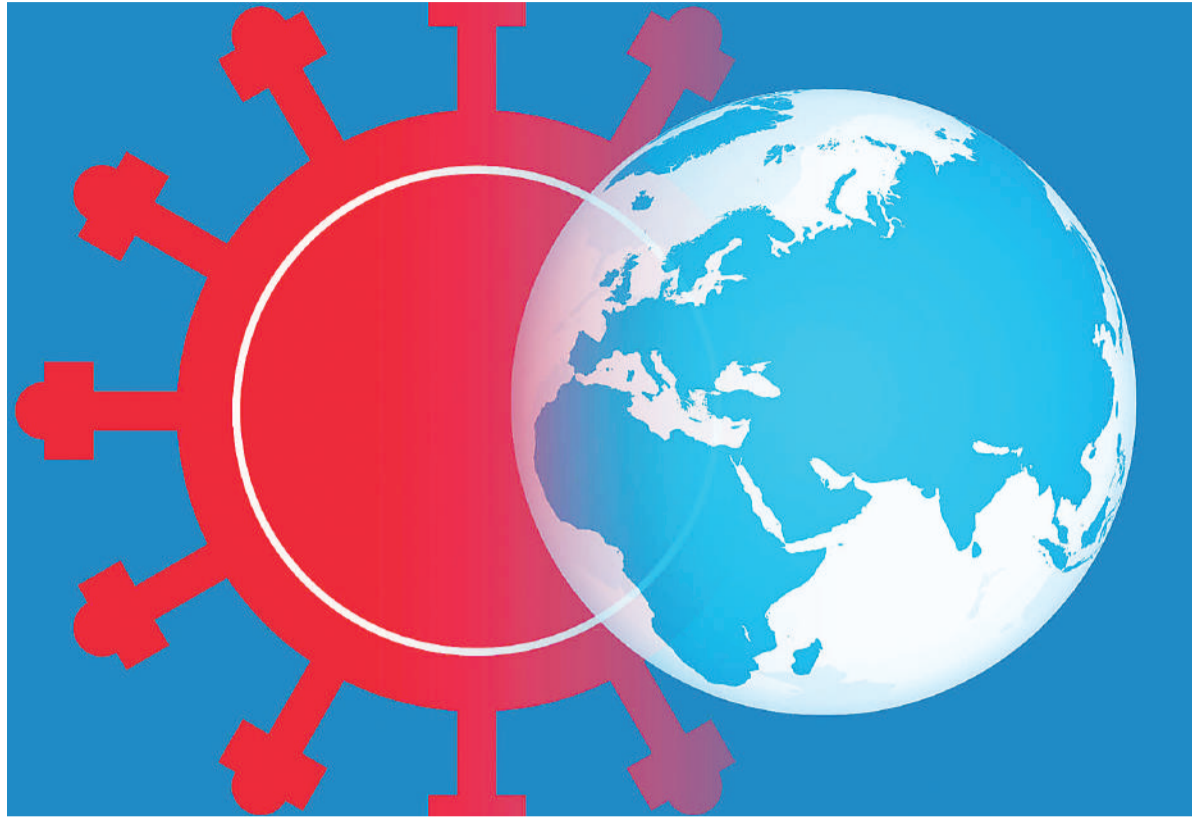
While the mass adoption of wearable health trackers will drive significant improvements to population-level health, it will also create vast, highly individualised datasets on users' preferences and behaviour.

Wearables collect real-time data on users' sleep, physical activity, heart rate variability, and more. For the record: Halo, a health tracker developed by Amazon, records its users' speech and tracks the tone of their voice.

These datasets harbour rich predictive signals, which advertisers and political groups will use to target their messaging with unprecedented specificity.

As they learn to nudge purchase decisions or voting behaviour to serve commercial or political objectives, mass biometric surveillance could chip away at not only our privacy but also at democracy itself.

Five: The dawn code wars will put lives - not just data - at stake. The hackers we know and fear - those who steal payment information, knock websites off-line, or spy on enemy governments - have historically operated only in



the digital world.

However, unlike traditional computers, networked drones, power grids and medical devices have chemical and kinetic functions that affect us in direct, material ways. In connecting our insulin pumps, automobiles and nuclear reactors to the internet, we provide hackers with billions of poorly secured entry points to our off-line lives.

This creates two critical vulnerabilities. First, networked objects can be attacked remotely. With embedded medical devices increasingly brought online, even hearts can be hacked.

In 2016, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirmed that St. Jude Medical's implantable cardiac devices contained vulnerabilities that hackers could exploit to trick the devices into administering improper pacing or fatal defibrillations.

Second, attack tactics against networked objects operate at scale, since a security flaw in one networked object will generally exist in all devices of its make and model.

In other words, we shouldn't just worry about a political figure being assassinated after a successful hack of their pacemaker; rather, we should worry about the mass casualties that would result if all US pacemakers were hacked, all at the same time.

Back in 2012, US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta invoked the spectre of a "cyber Pearl Harbour." Organisations should not wait for one before they begin to mount a defence.

No country is more networked, and

therefore more vulnerable, than the United States; our accelerated transition to a remote-first, automated economy will exacerbate that vulnerability, as the harms of cybercrimes increasingly redound in our off-line lives. Businesses and lawmakers will need to learn to view cyber threats on par with natural disasters, pandemics or terrorist attacks - and take steps to protect their organisations accordingly.

Six: The perceived overreach by finance and tech giants will spur a decentralised technology revolution. Efforts by tech companies to moderate online speech have attracted controversy for over a decade. But in early 2021, two sets of heavy-handed interventions by tech and finance giants sparked off a new debate that could transform the modern internet.

The first came in the aftermath of riots on Capitol Hill in early January, when a coordinated crackdown by Big Tech on extremist political speech ignited furious allegations from the right of politically biased moderation decisions. Weeks later, a group of retail investors used Reddit forums to coordinate a short squeeze of Melvin Capital, costing the hedge fund giant an estimated \$3.75 billion.

Robinhood, TD Ameritrade, and other industry giants reacted by preventing retail investors from opening new positions in Reddit-hyped securities, barring them from participating in the ongoing market run-up.

To many, both sagas illustrated that, as a practical matter, a handful

of corporate giants at various chokepoints in the internet ecosystem have become the unelected, unaccountable arbiters of what happens online.

This realisation will unleash a flood of interest and investment in decentralisation. Much like bitcoin offered payment solutions free from banks' control, distributed encrypted networks will emerge as the permissionless, privacy-protective alternative to the centralised internet ecosystem.

Content moderation will be decentralised first, as incumbents increasingly embrace models that "pass the buck" on moderation decisions to a wider community of users.

Banking and finance will follow, with cryptocurrencies and decentralised finance platforms like Uniswap gaining traction with an increasingly mainstream audience.

Eventually, network infrastructure will also be decentralised as more and more individuals and groups seek to limit their vulnerability to censorship or control by tech giants.

As hardware solutions for hosting distributed networks become cheaper and more user-friendly, the ownership of a decentralised node will function much like owning a bond - hosts will front the capital to purchase the node, receiving in exchange a low-volatility, crypto-denominated yield paid out in regular intervals.

The proliferation of permission-free, decentralised systems will have dramatic second-order consequences. They will enable borderless peer-to-peer transactions that need not

rely on centralised intermediaries, and will create forums for open, censorship-proof discussion that no corporation or autocrat can control

It will also transform most internet-based business models: without centralised institutions acting as chokepoints in the system, enforcing intellectual property rights on the internet - and monetising online content - will become enormously challenging.

Seven: Wealth and income inequality will continue to spiral, bringing universal basic income into the mainstream. It was clear by the spring of 2020 that Covid-19 would place the heaviest burden on those least equipped to bear its weight.

Months later, an even grimmer picture has emerged, in which the economy of the rich appears to have wholly decoupled from the economy of everyone else. The strong are stronger, the big are bigger, and the weak have become weaker, have folded their small businesses, or were bought out.

Low interest rates and lavish stimulus spending sent markets soaring over the past year, enriching those who already owned financial assets. Meanwhile, the US lost 40 million jobs in a short ten weeks, with nearly 40 per cent of households earning \$40,000 or less - including at least one member who was laid off or furloughed.

These gaps will continue to widen. More than a quarter of Fortune 500 company CEOs predict that their workforce will never return to pre-pandemic levels, and 70 per cent of companies with annual revenues exceeding \$500 million expect technological disruption to affect more than a quarter of their workers by 2025.

By 2030, Amazon plans to fully automate its warehouse operations. Driverless cars and trucks will erase millions of jobs in transportation, while human armies are gradually replaced with swarms of autonomous drones.

As deep-fake software improves, it will eventually replace actors and traditional movie production. Meanwhile, the ravages of climate change will exacerbate existing inequalities, as vulnerable individuals and communities are most exposed and most harmed by air pollution, heat waves, failing crops, and rising oceans.

Many of the newly jobless will enter the gig economy, where they will earn less money with little or no benefits. Others will permanently exit the workforce such that even as headline unemployment rates fall, the ranks of working-age adults reliant on the state will swell.

The inequalities this will create could sow new seeds of insurrection. Nevertheless, if America's business and political leaders rise to meet the moment, they could also pave the way for permanent changes to the social contract.

Calamities expand the Overton window, making bold progressive policies previously thought to be impossible seem suddenly within reach.

The forced experimentation with direct cash transfers to citizens in response to this pandemic has expanded people's understanding of what their governments can do to support them. As the economy reels from the pandemic-driven shock and braces for looming technological disruption, universal basic income (UBI) will emerge as a defining policy issue of the coming decade.

How governments should fund these fiscal outlays remains an open question. Scaling up global cooperation on the fair apportionment of taxes levied on multinational corporations would be a good start.

Tax increases are also inevitable, though they must not come at the cost of sustained economic growth - however unevenly distributed - if countries are to produce enough taxable income to support the programme.

**Agencies**

## China, EU enjoy bright prospects in economic, trade cooperation

By Niu Ruifei, Han Shuo,

**C**HINA'S foreign trade with the EU totaled 4.05 trillion yuan (\$620 billion) in the first 11 months of 2020, an uptick of 4.7 percent from a year ago, making China the largest trading partner of the EU.

As of November last year, China received actual investment of \$117.98 billion from 27 countries in the trade bloc, and invested over \$80 billion the other way around. These figures well explain the resilience and potential of China-EU economic and trade relations.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has placed huge impacts on international air transport market, the Air France-KLM, the largest airline company in Europe, still expanded their cargo transport business thanks to the stable growth and market demand of the China-EU trade.

At present, there are two cargo flights of the group flying between China and Europe, carrying food, electronic equipment and garments from Europe, as well as medical supplies, smart phones, toys, and computer hardware from China.

Toon Balm, General Manager of Air France KLM, Greater China, said China is an important market of the group that enjoys huge cooperation potential. The country was the first to control the pandemic and resume work, and has basically recovered its domestic aviation market, which injected confidence for Europe to expect a recovery of its market.

China-Europe freight trains made 12,400 trips last year, carrying over 1.13 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), up 50 percent and 56 percent from a year ago, respectively. A total of 9.31 million pieces of anti-pandemic supplies weighing 76,000 tonnes were transported, which forcefully advanced anti-pandemic cooperation between China and countries and regions along the rail lines, and played an important role in stabilizing global industrial and supply chains.

Terespol, a border town in Poland, is the first stop of the China-Europe freight trains after they enter Europe. Its mayor Jacek Danieluk said the town has benefited a lot from the joint construction of the Belt and



Five hundred vehicles manufactured by Chinese carmaker AIWAYS are shipped to Europe from Shangrao, east China's Jiangxi province, May, 23, 2020. (File photo)

Road Initiative and the China-Europe freight service. The cargo service is expected to bring more investment to the countries along its routes, and Terespol looks forward to further deepening cooperation with China, he added.

An investigation by the EU Chamber of Commerce in China found that the pandemic didn't discourage European enterprises from investing in China. Eighty-nine percent of the European respondents said they would stay in China, and 2/3 considered the country as one of their top 3 investment destinations. Many European enterprises were expanding their investment in China, the investigation said.

According to Fabrice Megarbane, president of the

North Asia Zone of beauty giant L'Oréal, L'Oréal China secured a business growth of 20.8 percent in the first three quarters of 2020, and all its divisions saw their market share rise, especially the e-commerce and high-end cosmetics sectors. The robust performance in the Chinese market also helped the group secure positive year-on-year growth in the third quarter, he said.

Megarbane noted that China has a gigantic consumer group, which has created favorable conditions for the rapid development of digital economy. L'Oréal China is now a new innovation hub of the group, and its successful practices in the Chinese e-commerce market have been incorporated into the group's training sessions, offering references for the group to do business in other

markets.

Some Chinese enterprises also enhanced their investment in Europe. Chinese battery manufacturer SVOLT Energy Technology is expected to invest 2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) to build a battery plant and a research center in Germany. The plant, upon completion, will produce power batteries for 300,000 to 500,000 electric vehicles each year and create 2,000 jobs. Expert Stefan Di Bitonto with economic development agency Germany Trade and Invest said the investment from the Chinese firm will promote synergetic development of the industry, offer more job opportunities and enhance the international competitiveness of the German auto industry.

China's Lenovo also announced to establish a new manufacturing facility in Ullo, Pest county of Hungary. The manufacturing facility will be mainly used to produce desktops and make data research. Anita Lukács, Lenovo country manager for Hungary said as the company's business grows in the global market, the new manufacturing facility will better meet the demands of European clients.

Chinese and European leaders on Dec. 30 last year jointly announced that the two sides had completed investment agreement negotiations. The "balanced, high-standard and mutually beneficial" investment agreement demonstrated China's resolution and confidence to promote high-level opening-up, and will provide greater market access, higher level of business environment, stronger institutional guarantees and brighter cooperation prospects for mutual investment. The treaty will also greatly boost world economic recovery in the post-pandemic era, and enhance the international community's confidence in economic globalization and free trade.

**People's Daily**

## UN initiative, Ecobank Foundation work to prevent chronic malnutrition among children in Africa and protect human capital

By Special Correspondent

UNITLIFE, the United Nations initiative dedicated to fighting chronic malnutrition through innovation, and the Ecobank Group's Foundation—the pan-African banking group with operations in 33 countries across the continent—announce the launch of the “Make the Connection” campaign, which aims to raise awareness and

funds to prevent chronic malnutrition in Africa.

144 million children under the age of 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition worldwide. The prevalence is highest in Africa, where as many as 24 African countries have rates above 30%. In other words, 1 in 3 African children do not eat a diet that meets their nutrient needs during the first 1,000 days of their lives. As a result, they

face life-long consequences affecting their physical growth, cognitive development and immune systems.

The disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic to countries' health systems and the global economy have exacerbated the malnutrition crisis in Africa. Nutrient-rich foods such as vegetables, fruit and animal-sourced foods have become less accessible and

less affordable for millions of families.

“Everywhere in Africa, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a disastrous effect on people's income and ability to access nutritious foods. The Standing Together for Nutrition Consortium projects that an estimated 1.2 million additional children in Sub-Saharan Africa will be stunted in 2022 compared to 2019 due to interrup-

tions in nutrition services and increased household poverty. It is imperative that we shine more light on chronic malnutrition in these challenging times. UNITLIFE is excited to partner with the Ecobank Foundation to raise awareness and funds to fight this disease”, says Assia Sidibe, Head of UNITLIFE Secretariat.

Ecobank is supporting the communication efforts of the

campaign and bringing the necessary expertise to set-up the fundraising mechanisms. Carl Manlan, Chief Operating Officer, Ecobank Foundation explains: “At the Foundation, our aim is to create a positive impact on the lives of people across Africa. Supporting UNITLIFE helps us achieving our mission. We are glad we can contribute to allowing a healthier and more prosper-

ous future for children in Africa.” The “Make the connection” campaign stands in line with the ongoing global effort to mobilise additional resources for development and contributes to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, especially SDG2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.”

## Food systems must change to promote healthy choices in fight against obesity

By Busani Bafana

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on people with obesity and noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes. The pandemic has underlined the importance of the food environment and healthy food intake. It has shown the urgent need for effective policies to make sure that everyone can get enough nutritious food - and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Africa, nearly 70% of diabetes cases are undiagnosed. Of these, 90% are type 2 diabetes cases. Obesity is a key risk factor for developing type 2 diabetes. Between 1975 and 2016, southern Africa saw the world's highest proportional increase in child and adolescent obesity - an alarming 400% per decade.

Ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks contribute to rising rates of obesity and diet-related diseases. Unhealthy, processed foods are now frequently consumed in low- and middle-income countries. This is largely due to the low prices, food types, availability and marketing strategies employed by large corporations.

Healthier food options are relatively expensive and unaffordable in low- and middle-income countries. This influences people to steer away from healthier options. Companies market these convenient, palatable, yet unhealthy foods aggressively, and aim their marketing at children. It's not always possible to choose healthier products, especially in rural areas.

Supplying ultra-processed products is very profitable for the companies concerned. These products have low production input requirements, a high retail value and an extended shelf life. Often the responsibility for preventing noncommunicable disease is put on individuals. But the corporate food industry creates a food environment that gives rise to obesity.

COVID-19 has brought new urgency to the need to repair food systems that put profits before public health.

A recent report by the organisation Global Health Advocacy Incubator highlights how food and beverage corporations used the COVID-19 pandemic as an

opportunity to promote their ultra-processed foods to vulnerable populations around the world.

The report includes over 280 examples from 18 countries of the food industry undermining healthy food policy efforts. This was done through lobbying to classify (unhealthy) ultra-processed foodstuffs as “essential products” during the pandemic.

They also improved their brand image through providing financial and other support to needy communities, frontline workers, food banks, and small businesses while still marketing unhealthy products and pushing against healthy food policies.

A shift in the food systems is urgently required. Interventions to achieve this must include policies that promote healthier food choices. These include imposing taxes on food that is high in sugar, salt or saturated fat (unhealthy fat); regulating food labels; and restricting marketing of unhealthy products. Policies must also support people in making healthier food choices, for example through subsidies.

### Healthy food policies to consider

Globally, there has been a push for healthy food policies to curb the obesity pandemic. African countries have been slow to adopt policies like these.

But South Africa introduced a Health Promotion Levy in 2018. It aims to give manufacturers an incentive to reduce the sugar content of drinks. It also seeks to discourage excessive consumption by increasing the price of these products. Mexico imposed a tax on sugar sweetened drinks in 2014.

This has resulted in a 6% reduction in purchases of sugary drinks and replacement with untaxed beverages (predominantly plain water) - specifically among lower income households who likely have poorer health outcomes.

The implementation of the tax is an acknowledgement that corporates have manufactured conditions that cultivate malconsumption resulting in poor nutrition and noncommunicable disease.

Governments should also introduce labelling that helps consumers to identify food with high quantities



of salt, saturated fat or sugar. Chile introduced a set of linked policies, including warning labels and marketing controls. The result was that companies reformulated products to improve their health profiles.

But taxes and labelling interventions won't be enough to stem the tide of obesity and noncommunicable diseases. Food policies must also make healthy food more accessible.

Subsidies can lower the price of healthy foods. This will help put healthy food within reach of poorer people. Prices can be changed through a combination of taxes on unhealthy products and subsidies on healthier alternatives.

In Finland, a subsidy of milk protein rather than milk fat resulted in more consumption of low fat milk and a reduction of cardiovascular diseases over time. A fruit and vegetable subsidy in the US Special Sup-

plemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children led to increased - and sustained - fruit and vegetable intake.

The best policies are those that create positive changes in the food, social and information environments. A policy cannot be adopted in isolation; for the biggest impact they need to be part of a set of mutually reinforcing and supporting actions. Chile is one country that has taken steps like this to create an enabling environment.

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa should regulate the food industry better to protect against industry interference that harms the population. Policies that restrict marketing to children, provide clear labelling and tax unhealthy foodstuffs should be the start. The revenue raised from these taxes could be used to subsidise the cost of healthy foods. The Conversation

## Temperatures in northern Africa likely to rise between February and April despite La Nina

By Kiran Pandey

NORTHERN Africa to record temperatures higher than normal during February-April despite La Nina

Temperatures in equatorial and northern Africa are likely to remain above normal through April despite La Nina cooling conditions prevailing since August 2020, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has said.

The region is projected to get warmer despite La Nina persisting during February-April, said the Global Seasonal Climate Update.

Southern Africa may get unusually high precipitation, said the UN weather agency. East Africa is also likely to be wetter or close to normal conditions in the south and west and drier in the north and east.

This sounds an alarm bell for farmers in east African nations, especially Kenya and Ethiopia, who are fighting a severe locust infestation brought on by heavy rainfall and Cyclone Gati.

One-third of cropping households and nearly half of livestock-rearing households in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia lost grazing pastures and crops to desert locusts between October to December 2020, according to a Regional Desert Locust impact assessment in by Food Security and Nutrition Working Group released last month.

Parts of Greater Horn of Africa and parts of central Africa are likely to be drier than normal, WMO said.

The forecast also said west-



ern, central and eastern Asia, southern half of North America and all except the northern parts of South America will see temperatures climb above normal between February and April 2021.

Southeast Asia, Australia, northern region of South America and islands in Melanesia should be prepared for unusual high rainfall, said

the update.

Drier-than-normal conditions are likely over much of western and central Asia.

La Nina, which refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, is one of the major drivers of the Earth's climate system. It comes with changes in winds, air pressure and

rainfall in the tropics.

It has the opposite impact on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warming up of ocean surfaces.

But, along with these two phenomenon, the North Atlantic Oscillation, the Arctic Oscillation and the Indian Ocean Dipole are other key drivers of climate, said WMO in its statement.

Above-normal precipitation over much of the northern hemisphere is likely. The 'ongoing negative Arctic Oscillation' observed since December 2020 will be responsible for this rather than La Niña.

Apart from natural occurrences, human activities that increase carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration in the

atmosphere are also responsible for the rise in temperature.

The Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii projected in January 2021 that the atmospheric CO2 concentration is likely to exceed 417 parts per million (ppm) - a 50 per cent increase from 278 ppm since the start of widespread industrial activity in the 18th

century.

“Along with La Nina and El Niño, human activities are also a key driver of climate change responsible for rising global temperatures, worsening extreme weather and complicating disaster prevention and management,” cautioned WMO Secretary-general, Petteri Taalas in his response to the forecast.

# Transition to digital economy must ensure access to those in the digital gap

By Samira Sadeque

IT is crucial to ensure that any transition to a digital economy has mechanisms in place that are non-digital to avoid “double exclusion”, according to Shahrashoub Razavi, director of the social protection department at the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Razavi spoke with IPS following an ILO panel addressing the issue of social protection and the transition to a green and digital economy – a side-event of the ongoing United Nations 59th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD).

Razavi moderated Wednesday’s “Social protection floors for a just transition to the green and digital economy” panel, which hosted social protection advisers and labour directors from different countries.

An important topic during the panel was how social protection systems could have helped societies cope better with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Social protection floors can reduce vulnerabilities and it can protect those impacted by a digital and green transformation,” Adrian Hauri, the deputy permanent representative of Switzerland to the UN, said during the opening remarks.

Aileen O’Donovan, the social protection policy lead at Irish Aid, pointed out that there has been a massive rise of social protection responses under the pandemic. More specifically, 209 countries implemented or announced 1,596 social protection measures by end of November 2020.

“It’s critical now more than ever to invest in social protection systems,” she added.

O’Donovan further highlighted the importance of taking into account the most vulnerable communities when discussing social protection systems – especially those affected by climate change.

“Our commitment is really around reaching those furthest behind and we know that those who are most vulnerable are also vulnerable to the impact of climate change,” she said. “So it’s really critical to ensure that social protections are effectively designed to take into [account] mitigating climate impact and supporting adaptations.”

O’Donovan concluded by saying it was important to make use of the current momentum.

“The momentum is really behind social protection systems, so it’s really about – how do we take this further and sustain this momentum to build much more resilient communities?” she asked.

But questions remain about the possibility of a successful transition to a digital economy in a world where there’s a glaring digital divide – one that has become even more pronounced under the pandemic.



Marcia Julio Vilanculos, pictured here in this dated photo with her baby, was one of the participants of a digital literacy training course at Ideario innovation hub, Maputo, Mozambique a few years ago. IPS

“The digital gaps are concerning and if social protection transfers rely entirely on digital mechanisms then they are likely to exclude those without adequate access to such technologies,” Razavi told IPS when addressing these concerns. “It is important therefore that non-digital mechanisms are also available for those who would otherwise face a double exclusion (ie those without adequate digital literacy and access to the internet, mobile phones,

etc.)”

Ambassador Valérie Berset Bircher, a member of the labour directorate at the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs, told IPS that the pandemic affected workers differently, based on social protection systems in place in different countries.

“For countries like Switzerland (high-income countries), which have a long-standing social protection system in place, we were able to extend the sys-

tem to cover more categories of workers and to extend the duration of the protection,” she said. “But of course in other parts of the world, countries were not able to invest sufficiently in stimulus packages and therefore were not able to protect jobs and wages.”

At the panel talk, she highlighted the need for a “human-centred approach to the future of the world” – one that would prioritise investing in job skills and social protection, and making sure

all workers are protected and can benefit from changes in the labour market.

Bircher, who is also the head of the Swiss delegation to the current session of the CSocD, elaborated what the “human-centred approach” entails.

“It means investing in the institutions of the labour market and adopting policies that promote an enabling environment for sustainable enterprises, economic growth and decent work for all,” she said. “Our main objective is to ensure the highest possible participation in the workforce and a good quality of employment, including in the digital age.”

She highlighted the importance of designing a social safety net that would be accessible to everyone, and added that flexible labour market regulation, well-functioning social partnership, and active labour market policies would be crucial for structural change.

But some challenges remain to be addressed.

“Going forward, a big question is how effectively they can turn these temporary measures into proper programmes anchored in policies and laws and backed by adequate financing,” Razavi told IPS. “This is a big challenge in the context of major economic disruptions and falling taxes and other government revenues.”

Despite these questions, Razavi says the social protection responses are “a silver lining” to the crisis.

“If there was a silver lining to the crisis, it was the way in which it mobilised governments to put together social protection responses, sometimes from scratch with no existing systems and programmes,” she said. **IPS**

## Foreigners celebrate Chinese New Year in post-epidemic Wuhan

WUHAN

FRENCH doctor Philippe Klein has worked in central China’s Wuhan for seven years, but this was his first year to celebrate the Spring Festival in the city.

Klein did not have an emotional connection with the locals in years past, but now everything has changed. “Maybe because of the pandemic, now I have more and more solidarity with Wuhan people,” he said.

Klein raised his glass for a New Year’s toast during a reunion dinner with his family, Italian professor Sara Platto and her son Matteo, Israeli blogger and entrepreneur Raz Galor, and their friends in Wuhan. This bittersweet moment marked the end of the group’s six-day “adventure” to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

While immersing themselves in the exciting preparations for the coming Year of the Ox, the expats got the chance to experience the reignited spark of the city once hit hard by COVID-19

### FESTIVE VIBES

With red banners and lanterns hanging on every street, Platto and her son Matteo strolled along Hanjie Street to buy some new clothes for the new year. Meanwhile, Klein drove to the supermarket close to his home to pick up a bottle of wine and was accompanied by Wuhan local Zhong Weiwei, a construction worker who helped build Leishenshan Hospital, a makeshift structure designed to house COVID-19 patients.

Festive vibes spread throughout the supermarket with joyous songs playing, discounted goods on display and plenty of colorful decorations dangling from the ceilings. After having their health codes checked and temperatures measured, Klein and Zhong queued to buy the wine and Chinese spirits.

The bustling scene caused the two new friends to recall how hard the last Chinese Lunar New Year was. Wuhan was in an unprecedented lockdown and was facing the tough task of curbing the transmission of the novel coronavirus.

The 57-year-old Frenchman refused to evacuate from Wuhan despite all the uncertainty, the fear and the pain from being separated from his family who flew back to France. “I am a doctor. It’s my duty to help people here,” he said.

At the peak of Wuhan’s epidemic, Klein received a permit which enabled him to move freely in the city to treat patients at their homes. “It was unforgettable. I remember driving alone with nobody else on the roads but the ambulances,” he recalled.

Zhong also stayed in the city and did not return home for his family reunion. Instead, he decided to join the workforce which was responsible for building the two makeshift hospitals for COVID-19 patients.

“Last New Year’s Eve, all I did was slurp a bowl of instant noodles and hurry back to work.” Zhong also went on to explain how he slept for no more than three hours a night for weeks on end. “The feeling that our country was in danger and the mutual goal and determination everyone had to build the hospital fueled and encouraged me.”

More than 40,000 construction workers across the



Wuhan local Zhong Weiwei (R) helps French doctor Philippe Klein shop for the Spring Festival in Wuhan, central China’s Hubei Province, Feb. 3, 2021. (Xinhua)

country like Zhong completed the job of building two hospitals in two weeks, providing 2,600 beds for severe and critical COVID-19 patients.

“Zhong is the real hero of this adventure,” said Klein. “It was really important to bring such a hospital in this pandemic, and they did it very quickly. I think the rest of the world will never forget this,” he said.

Thanks to a series of swift and effective measures put in place, Wuhan has not reported new locally transmitted COVID-19 confirmed cases since May 18, 2020.

As the Chinese New Year is just around the corner, the homes of Wuhan residents are once again filled with the shuffling noises of mahjong tiles, belly laughs and the tantalizing fragrance of home-cooked dishes and local delicacies.

### SOLIDARITY & JOINT EFFORTS

Galor on the other hand was back in Israel during last year’s Chinese New Year, and he was in no mood to partake in his usual hotpot-eating tradition. Instead, he was busy gathering medical supplies to be sent from his motherland to the hospitals in Hubei.

He also had his hands full with another important task: fighting the anti-Chinese discrimination in the media.

The Beijing-based Israeli at that point felt compelled to produce content “to make audiences more aware of the scientific situation rather than a cultural situation where people are blaming others and being discriminatory.”

“We need more positivity and less hate and blaming,” he said.

During that dark period, Li Jing, an illustrator in Wuhan, was one of the locals who contracted the virus and was admitted to a temporary hospital.

“I was transferred to a makeshift hospital, which used to be a gymnasium. Before I got there, I thought it was going to be in a bad state and they would have a lack of medics. But it was the opposite, it was really great,” said Li.

She also recalled how the doctors and nurses took good care of the patients, and how every patient was given the appropriate care.

As Li was recovering, she began to draw cute pictures of doctors and patients going about their daily routines and published her artwork on various social media platforms, which was met with a positive response.

“Her artistic skills are amazing, but what impressed me more is her pure optimism in the face of danger,” Galor said.

“She was under a lot of uncertainty in the peak of the pandemic, and despite all of this, she managed to find a beam of light in herself to make the situation a bit more positive,” he added.

For Platto, an Italian professor at Jiangnan University, last year’s Spring Festival was also one she will never forget. “When the lockdown in Wuhan began on Jan. 23, it was Matteo’s birthday,” she said.

The mother-of-one had to act quickly and changed her son’s birthday plans. She ended up buying a cake and they moved the party from an in-person event at home to online – potentially making it one of the first online birthday parties amid the pandemic.

During the months-long lockdown, Platto relied heavily on deliverymen for her daily necessities and groceries. “While we stayed safe at home, deliverymen were risking their lives every day to deliver food and provisions to hospitals and the rest of the city. They are the heroes of this pandemic,” she said.

Back then, Platto would never have imagined that

one year later, she would be shopping for clothes and groceries with one of these heroes, now her new friend, Peng Zilong.

Last year, Peng, a 30-year-old deliveryman, volunteered to bring meals and daily essentials to hospitals across Wuhan, and this year he decided to stay in the city. Due to the workload during the Spring Festival holiday, not everyone could go home.

To continue to combat the epidemic, Chinese people have been encouraged to stay where they are during the Spring Festival this year. Data from Wuhan Tianhe International Airport showed that the number of passengers traveling in and out of the airport has dropped by more than 60 percent compared with the same period in 2019.

“I think Chinese people’s ability to sacrifice their own good for others is quite obvious, not just in Wuhan, and even now people sacrifice themselves by not going home, which is something that they want so much,” Galor said.

### A REBORN WUHAN

Having gone through so much during the peak of the battle against COVID-19, Wuhan people rose to the challenge and worked together to overcome many obstacles in their path. But what lies ahead for these foreigners and locals, and what are their Chinese New Year wishes?

As the epidemic waned, Li quit her job as an illustrator and became a full-time artist. “There was a moment when I was in the makeshift hospital, where I suddenly felt reborn,” said Li.

“I then realized that I have so many messages I want to communicate and so I hope I can spend more time creating art that will bring a smile and strength to others,” she added.

Zhong and Peng, who are both self-professed workaholics, would like to spend more time with their loved ones. “I realized how little time I’ve spent with my family and I wish to have more time with them in the new year,” said Zhong.

Both Klein and Platto developed a deeper connection to Wuhan during the crisis and they now fully embrace the city they call their second home.

“My relationship with the city is like a friendship. During the pandemic, the lockdown, I decided to stay here. Therefore, my friend [Wuhan] became family, and that is what I feel about Wuhan now. It’s like family,” said Platto.

In July 2020, the professor published a book titled “Buongiorno, Wuhan” to share her son’s experience during the epidemic as a way to introduce the city to her readers.

“I really would like people outside of China to really see what Wuhan is, not relating Wuhan to the virus, but to appreciate the city for what it really is,” Platto said.

Klein echoed Platto’s sentiments. “I hope that human beings won’t remember Wuhan as the city of the virus, but the city who fought the virus and won against the virus with solidarity, courage and intelligence,” he said. **Xinhua**

## VALENTINE'S DAY

## Filthy rich Kenyans keep romance alive

## NAIROBI

WHO would pay Sh1.5 million or Sh350,000 for a hotel room to celebrate Valentine's Day in a pandemic? Well, a few wealthy Kenyans who want to mark the day with generosity that their romantic relationships can last.

Luxury spending has been expected to be low, but high-end hotels and restaurants are seeing a rise in bookings. High-end consumer goods and services are seemingly proving resilient this Valentine's Day, despite the Covid-19 pandemic as more plan to spend on restaurants and spas, luxury handbags, fine jewellery, or cashmere sweaters. At the Villa Rosa Kempinski in Nairobi, Judy Matengo, the Director of Sales says the presidential suite which goes for Sh1.5 million a night has already been booked.

"What we're doing now is making the final touches," says Ms Matengo. Demand for the room has always been high, owing to exclusivity and exquisite furnishings and this year, even in an economic downturn, it is no different.

"The guest booked it weeks in advance. Being the only room of its kind, every guest afterward left disappointed, having missed out on it," she adds. Besides the hotel room, Villa Rosa's spa rooms have been busy.

"The spa has been extremely busy. Self-care spending has increased and a change of environment is good for one's soul," says Ms Matengo, adding that lunch and dinner reservations

now stand at 60 and 70 percent respectively.

The picture is not so gloomy considering that the hotel industry was the worst hit during last year's lockdown and closure of borders, that high-end restaurants moved their molecular gastronomy techniques to the back burner, switching to simple takeout dishes and home deliveries to stay afloat.

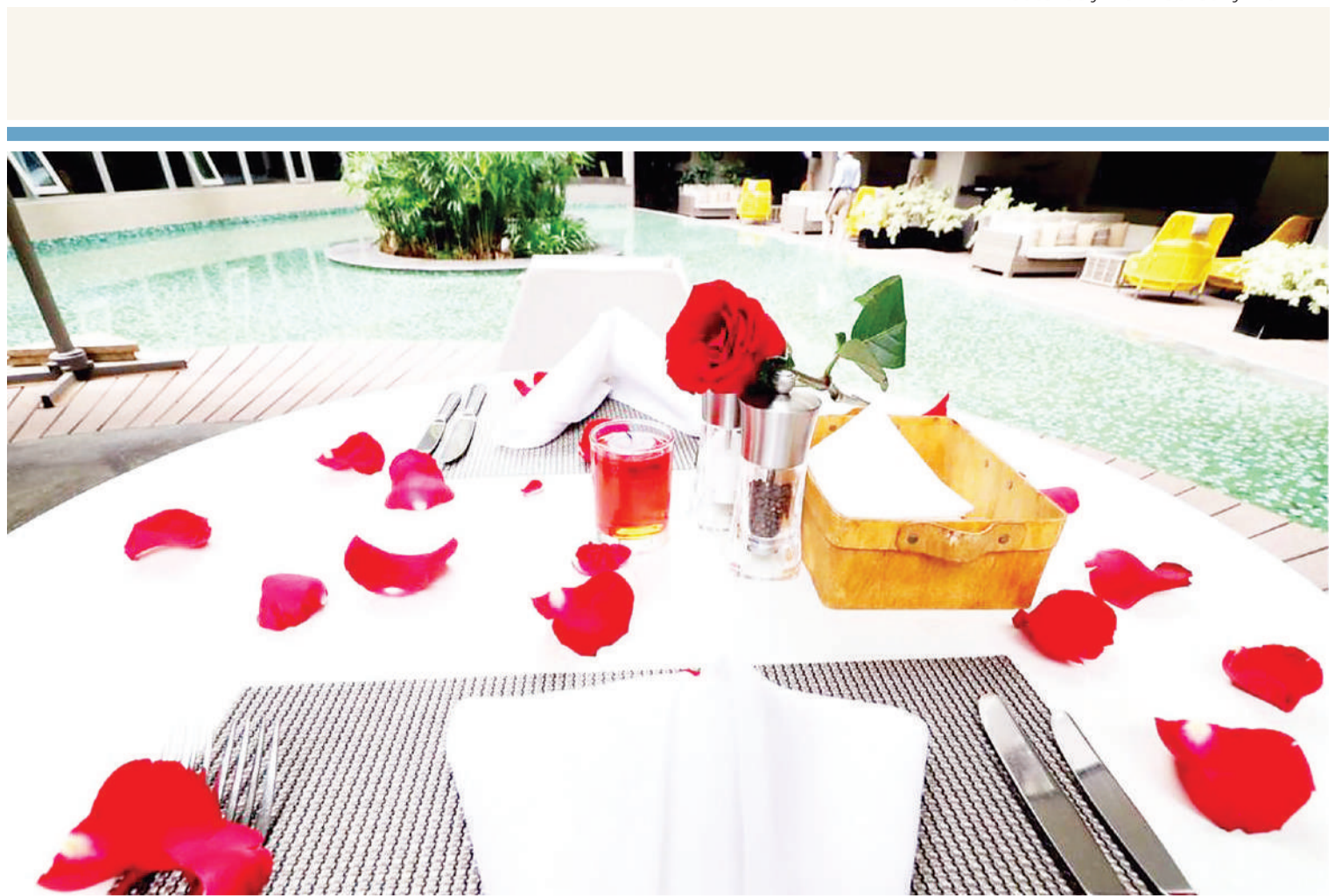
At Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi, the staff are also sprucing up the presidential suite which goes for Sh383,300 (\$3,500) per night on Valentine's Day. It is the exquisitely design with hand-made Henry the 16th furniture imported from Italy, and with a view of the Nairobi National Park, that is appealing to couples.

"Valentine's Day is a hallmark day especially this time because it's an opportunity for lovers to show each other that no matter what may come, their love will stand. It is a chance to celebrate their love weathering the pandemic storm," says Ghulam Samdani, the Group CEO of Ole Sereni.

Like most hotels, they are betting on couples looking to book staycations, lunches and dinners. One of the day's offerings – Lunch at the Sky Lounge – is already fully booked. "It's popular for those who want to have a day out with good food, great entertainment and love in the air," he says, adding that staycations will be booked last minute. "It's just how it works."

## Different strategy

Radisson Blue Hotel and Residence



A table set up at Radisson Blu - Arboretum for Valentine's brunch, on February 9, 2021.

Nairobi Arboretum also expects brisk business during this Valentine's weekend. Theirs is a different strategy. Instead of marketing the lunches and dinners exclusively for couples, they have included the children in Valentine's deals to woo more families. Randy Ngala, the marketing and communications manager of Radisson Arboretum argues that children deserve love and a change of scenery too.

The hotel perhaps bore the biggest brunt having opened in 2019 right before the pandemic hit. Designed with one and two-bedroom self-catering apartments, the hotel survived on hosting customers attending baby and bridal showers, and small Covid-19 weddings. "We had between two to three weddings per month. Such activities are what kept us afloat," Mr Ngala says.

"Celebration is a big part of our culture. People are still looking to shake off the cabin fever. Therefore, this Valentine's will be no different," he adds. The intimate couple's only dinner is restricted to only 60 couples compared to 150 pre-Covid.

So far, 60 percent of the dinner seats have been reserved. He is optimistic about getting last-minute staycation guests streaming in on the D-day, given the experience he had last year. "The apartments are fully furnished. All one needs to come with is a change of clothes. You can cook for yourself. If not, you can join us for Valentine's dinner," says Mr Ngala.

Yves Rocher, a cosmetics and beauty company, has also adopted a different strategy. It is targeting women looking to buy themselves a Valentine's gift. "We want women to love and treat themselves this season. Our new perfume, the Mon Rouge, is a perfect gift to get yourself. It is captivating," says Marianne Muigai, the Yves Rocher brand manager in Kenya.

During lockdown, she says they noticed that demand shifted to skin care products. "Because of staying at home, women took time to pamper their skin. Demand for face masks, scrubs and cleansers was high," she adds.

## Different Valentine's

Last year at a time like this, people

bought flowers, chocolates and had dinner dates to celebrate Valentine's Day, without keeping a distance or wearing a mask. But now masks are mandatory and many couples will be booking hotels where they are unlikely to come into contact with another human – except for chefs and butlers.

And this kind of luxury comes at a high price, but it is worth it. "You get your limousine driver to pick you up from home, a private butler, chef, an entertainer of your choice. Access to the room is via a private lift, reducing Covid-19 risks," Ms Matengo of Villa Rosa Kempinski says of what will accompany the Sh1.5 million Valentine's Day deal.

In May 2020, when Covid-19 was perhaps at its peak, the average bed occupancy rate at Villa Rosa Kempinski stood at 10 percent. By September, it had improved to 24 percent as restrictions eased. "Then we started getting guests from countries such Turkey, Russia and Dubai," she says.

To keep the guest numbers up, they introduced the 'white-glove services' to instill confidence in their clients that the hotel is super clean. For those opting for spa treatments, they can ask their masseuse to wear gloves during a massage. For Ole Sereni, they say this Valentine's is different because they have had to mix it with the three Covid-19 safety measures: masks, social distancing and hygiene.

## UPBRINGING

## Local storybook invites children on a journey of faith and bravery

## JOHANNESBURG

CHRISTIAN the Lion Cub loves telling stories more than any other animal in the Rainbow Forest. He hasn't yet found his roar, but his stories are so good, the other animals gather around each day to hear him speak.

They are proud to be a part of the Rainbow Forest when they hear his stories. Christian's parents always tell him that he is unique in all the forest, and Christian loves his animal friends for this same reason.

There is Mila the firefly, shy and unassuming but with a light that comes from deep within. There is Zeb, or Zebulun, the zebra, a few stripes short of a zebra crossing, but crazy fun to be with. There is Kimba the kangaroo... something of a prima donna but dear to Christian.

This locally-written book is the work of Johannesburg-born writer Heather Djunga, who has progressively developed the character of Christian the Lion Cub and written about his adventures since her son, Christian (8), was a year old.

A series of adventures

Djunga tells Parent24 that readers are

encouraged to journey with the inquisitive, personable cub through the Rainbow Forest in a series of adventures, each of which offers its fair share of wisdom, playfulness and humour. The lessons in the narrative point to greater truths, which both adult and children readers can draw from, and which she has woven into the narrative, as they bear witness to her own life experiences.

"When my son was born, I wanted to write a story for him which would hold the essential truths I had learned on my own journey. I wanted to write a story which wasn't about lofty wisdom but offered truth through the eyes of a child, since the Lord tells us that the children have something special to teach us about how they consider Him," she explains.

Faith is a practical thing

Djunga believes faith is a practical thing which can be a part of everyday life, and hope can become something real and attainable if we understand we are not alone, as Christian learns on his adventures.

"So much is changing in the world, but there are many things that haven't changed since I started writing the book. For example, the introduction of the chap-



The adventures of Christian the lion cub hard cover book

ter which I wrote on hope (right at the end of the book), was written in 2013 but its words still ring true," she reveals.

Djunga describes how Christian the Lion Cub's great dream is to reach the top of the Great Mountain, but he somehow

never quite gets there. There are all kinds of things to overcome, including the dinner birds which his mom sends out to call him home for dinner in the evenings.

Learns through his adventures

In one of the adventures Christian gets stuck at the top of a tall tree in the Valley of Giant Oaks, she shares, and in another, he walks through the rain to consult with a wise turtle in a quest to find 'the golden rule' and in all the excitement of the day, somehow doesn't make it to the mountain.

Still, the cub learns through his adventures that the beauty and thrill of life isn't just in the destination but also the journey, and he realises all the wonder of the Great Mountain is already in his heart - as his roar, which he yields to at the end of the book, when circumstances become such, that he has to be braver than he has ever been and become the lion he was created to be.

As the book's sleeve description reads: "It isn't that Christian sets out to roar one morning, when he stands up on his log podium to share with his friends. Roaring is actually the last thing on his mind, but something has disturbed him in the night and he has to let the others know."

## NUTRITION

## Vegan or Mediterranean diet - which is better for weight loss, cholesterol?

## CAIRO

A body of existing evidence shows that following a Mediterranean diet has many health benefits such as improving blood pressure, achieving weight loss and controlling cholesterol.

Vegan diets are also known as being beneficial for health in general and promoting weight loss - but the two diets have never been compared to establish which one of the two is most effective. This led a team of researchers to run a randomised crossover trial in order to compare the effectiveness of the two diets.

"Previous studies have suggested that both Mediterranean and vegan diets improve body weight and cardiometabolic risk

factors, but until now, their relative efficacy had not been compared in a randomised trial," study author Hana Kahleova confirmed.

The study involved 65 overweight adults who were assigned to either a Mediterranean diet or a low-fat vegan diet for a period of 16 weeks. The Mediterranean diet was in line with PREDIMED protocol, which means it was characterised by the consumption of vegetables, fresh fruit, legumes, nuts, seeds, certain white meats, low-fat dairy and fish.

The low-fat vegan diet (75% of energy from carbohydrates, 15% protein, and 10% fat) consisted of vegetables, grains, legumes, and fruits. Participants of both groups attended classes to equip them to appropriately prepare their food, as well as teach them how to maintain their diets when trav-

elling or eating at restaurants.

## Weight loss, body fat and cholesterol levels after 16 weeks

After 16 weeks on the diets, it was found that participants who followed the vegan diet had better outcomes than those following the Mediterranean diet. Participants of the vegan diet saw a six-kilogram average decrease in body weight, compared to no average change in those on the Mediterranean diet.

Those on the vegan diet also lost about 3.4kg of body fat and saw a greater reduction in LDL cholesterol. The researchers expressed that a possible reason why the Mediterranean diet was not as helpful with weight loss was due to the inclusion of fatty fish, dairy and oil.



Joanna Bichsel, Kasha Founder and CEO.

## ENTERPRISING

# How female duo is making a mark in Kigali's home décor industry

KIGALI

WITH the Covid-19 pandemic and measures to curb it, many across the city are spending more time at home. This has led some to seek ways to improve their homes to make them more appealing. Two young female graduates, Allen Ingabire and Paulette Mpano, driven by their passion for nature have found a business opportunity therein in interior and home décor.

It all started with their love for plants; how they transform spaces and their versatile capacity to act as herbs and medicine. This, they say was fascinating to them and through research, they came to understand that this could be developed into a business. They ultimately saw potential in this field after discerning that it was a few people who had ventured into this type of business.

The more they talked to people about this idea, the more they were pushed and motivated to go for it. That's how Ivy Bliss Murugo was born. Their idea was to invest in something that would allow people to explore the beauty of nature in their homes and offices. They also desired to contribute towards the fight against climate change.

For three years now, the young entrepreneurs have had their focus on landscaping, indoor and outdoor decorations, where they sell potted plants, do gardening, designing and advisory in this field. Their products are made through a combination of different materials from different

vendors to come up with finished designs.

"To elaborate on this, we work with potters who make the pots, nursery owners to get plants and what we do is come up with an Ivy Bliss potted plant, or buy plants somewhere and plant them in someone's garden," they say.

Their first design project When it was all still an idea, Ingabire, (the founder) had a conversation with the CEO and co-founder of Akilah institute, Elizabeth Dearborn Hughes, about what she was going to do in the future since she had just graduated (from Akilah), as she recalls.

"I explained to her the idea of starting a plant business in Kigali. Two months after the conversation, Elizabeth challenged me to provide 70 potted plants to all Akilah staff. It was a huge first order and we were not prepared. We did not see it coming but we accepted the challenge. We had pots made, searched for plants and everything else that goes into a well finished product and delivered as agreed." They also sell potted plants and do gardening for clients.

And though, there are so many things they did not understand about plants, running a business and working with different vendors, their project ended up being a success, they say, adding that the money they made from this project became their capital and that it has been a fun journey since then. They have since learnt a lot from the job.



Allen Ingabire and Paulette Mpano.

For example, they now understand that to be a great designer, one needs passion coupled with constant learning. "This industry evolves a lot and it requires someone to really be on the lookout for what's trending. We don't call ourselves great designers or landscapers but we hope that one day we will be. What we most love about our job is the satisfaction that comes with doing what we love and seeing the expected results come to reality," the girls share.

Even though they say they don't have full time employees, they delight in the ability to create occasional opportunities for talented potters, plant nursery owners, carpenters, and gardeners. That makes them feel like they are contributing to their community.

"We also love that our business gives opportunities to our clients to explore what more they can do in their homes and offices that was not there in the last few years. To us, plants give a new life to any place.

They grow, heal, bring peace and warmth into our homes which can inspire how we live daily. On top of that, we live in an era where people spend more time at home especially with the Covid-19 outbreak. People want something that keeps their mind busy outside of work, something that is relaxing and brings satisfaction."

The feedback they have been getting since the first

lockdown is the satisfaction and serenity that the plants offer; watering them and seeing them grow day by day-people embark on a journey with them and grow together.

## Their inspiration

When making or choosing designs, the duo says they look at what is durable, attractive to the eye and matches the space they are working with. This is how they mostly find what designs, plants or pots they use on a particular house/project.

"Usually, it depends on the space we are working on, whether it's outdoors or indoors. We also consider clients' preferences, along with many other factors. We then come up with tailored proposals, sometimes we work with clients who don't know what exactly they want; for them we share proposals and try to sketch for them so that they envision what the finished product will look like."

They have learnt that many clients are not familiar with knowledge about plants, for example they don't know what plants go inside, what needs full sunlight, what doesn't like water, or what you can't have when you have babies around because of toxicity. That's why they give all the required advice to clients before they embark on any project.

## Designing trends

In Rwanda, indoor plants are the new thing and they stand out because they bring life and beauty into spaces, the girls say. They also noticed that the trend of hanging plants on walls or wood boards has been picking up lately.

"Not so long ago, people only planted plants in gardens and no one thought that some could be hung on walls, or placed on wood boards or even bring them inside. I think all these great innovations are coming and they give us an opportunity to help people have them in their homes." So far, their business has been a success with clear optimism for their business to grow and become the leading and go-to-plant guru for Rwanda and other countries.

Nonetheless, their journey hasn't been without hiccups. For them, it was the constant fear that they will fail or that nobody was going to buy their product or service.

They however trusted their guts and hopped on this journey. The other challenge is; they are both full time employees at other companies which makes it a little challenging to fully concentrate on this business. "Also, some people in Rwanda do not comprehend our business and it could be a challenge to penetrate the market. There is a limitation of what plants are available in the region. That makes it hard to provide different plants to different clients." On the other hand, their cash flow currently only allows them to work with occasional employees which sometimes is a challenge when they have big or urgent orders.

They nevertheless look to the future with hope to expand their line of business. "One of the businesses we have started working on is gifting. We started with a pilot phase by creating gift hampers during the festive season and we received positive feedback.

We intend to share more about ourselves and what we do so we can continue growing in this market."

## ACTIVISM

# Woman who teaches children to read and write isiZulu and English via WhatsApp

DURBAN

A Durban University of Technology alumni has taken teaching language out the box by implementing a WhatsApp group where she gives lessons on reading and writing in isiZulu and English to children. The 30-year-old language practice graduate, Gloria Thandekile Mngadi, has used innovation and creativity to have an impact on children, this even during a global pandemic.

"Ingosi yabantwana is a story telling group. It's where I am educating children through story telling. I am educating them about preserving language and to also know the languages, isiZulu and English. At school, in the English class you don't get a chance to interpret in your own language," she said this week.

Mngadi said Covid-19 taught her to think of more innovative and impactful ways to teach children the importance of preserving their language as Africans. Mngadi, who



Gloria Thandekile Mngadi teaches English and isiZulu through WhatsApp.

hails from Ndwedwe, started the WhatsApp group called Ingosi Yabantwana, which means Children's Session, where she teaches little children how to read and write isiZulu and English.

Seeing that most people moved to online learning during lockdown, she conjured the idea of WhatsApp classes, saying they were "a lot cheaper and accessible to the disadvantage communities." "My plan is to teach them at an early age, as language is the core of life and can open lots of opportunities.

We use language in our daily lives. We also host face-to-face tutorial and monthly reading sessions," she said. Mngadi, who obtained her National Diploma in Language Practice at DUT in 2015, said she began offering the language services while she was still a student there.

## Encourage

She was selected to be an Isi-

Zulu tutor, where she taught and encouraged fellow students to love and preserve their mother tongue. Speaking about her journey at DUT, Mngadi said she was blessed.

"I learnt a lot from DUT, especially being a Language Practice student. My highlight was attending the Friday Poetry sessions at Steve Biko campus.

I used that platform to sharpen my poetry and writing skills. One of my achievements was being chosen to be a language tutor for isiZulu, teaching students isiZulu."

She also wrote her first children's book while still at DUT titled uMimi noZuzu Esikoleni, which was published in 2015. Last year, she also released a poetry anthology book.

Through her foundation, the Gloria Thandekile Mngadi Foundation, she is also providing sanitary aids to her neighbouring communities during this difficult time of Covid-19. In both her company and foundation, Mngadi said her main challenge was obtaining funding.

## STUDY

# Researchers discern link between coffee consumption and lower heart failure risk

MARYLAND

THE risks and benefits associated with coffee consumption have long been debated in research papers, making coffee a controversial topic in studies of health and medicine.

A recent study gives reasons as to why having an occasional cup of your favourite brew might not be that bad for you, and especially your heart. "While smoking, age and high blood pressure are among the most well-known heart disease risk factors, unidentified risk factors for heart disease remain," said Professor David Kao, senior author of the study.

In order to investigate how risk

factors for heart disease may be decreased, Kao and his colleagues conducted an analysis across three well-known heart studies: the FHS (Framingham Heart Study), CHS (Cardiovascular Heart Study), and the ARIC study (Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities). Findings were published in Circulation: Heart Failure, one of the American Heart Association's journals.

Behavioural and dietary factors The researchers used machine learning to identify risk factors associated with heart disease and found that marital status, red meat consumption, whole milk consumption, and coffee consumption all influenced outcomes related to heart



A cup of coffee is good for your heart.

disease. They found that across all three studies, an increase in caffeinated coffee consumption was associated with a reduced long-term risk of heart failure.

## One, two or three cups a day?

The researchers categorised participants' coffee consumption accord-

ing to whether they drank one cup, two cups or three cups per day, and found that while one cup did not make a significant difference to heart failure risk, two cups decreased the risk of heart failure by

30%. They also found that drinking decaffeinated coffee had the opposite effect (Framingham Heart Study), as it appeared to increase the potential risk of heart failure.

"While unable to prove causality, it is intriguing that these three studies suggest that drinking coffee is associated with a decreased risk of heart failure, and that coffee can be part of a healthy dietary pattern if consumed plain, without added sugar and high-fat dairy products such as cream," said Penny M. Kris-Etherton, chairperson of the American Heart Association's Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health Council Leadership Committee.

Kris-Etherton went on to say: "The bottom line: enjoy coffee in moderation as part of an overall heart-healthy dietary pattern. Also, it is important to be mindful that caffeine is a stimulant, and consuming too much may be problematic - causing jitteriness and sleep problems."

FESTIVE

PARIS

THERE'S a champagne for every special occasion and mood, and rosé happens to be the one that epitomises the mood for the 14 February. Guess there's a reason rosé rhymes with Valentine's Day, after all.

And maybe... we're realising after all these years that a French kiss has nothing to do with locking lips, but perhaps everything to do with sipping champagne. So here, we share our top recommendations and the sweet talk to accompany your sipping.

If you've already bought your weekend stock, don't fret. While you may not be able to buy a bottle after this afternoon, you can still order and enjoy it while you dine at your restaurant of choice at any point leading up to and on - V-Day.

Moët Rosé is known for its radiant colour, intense fruitiness and seductive palate. It's a spontaneous, romantic expression of the Moët & Chandon style, distinguished by its bright fruitiness, seductive palate and elegant maturity. So whether you're out and about or celebrating at home this year, this is romantic sipping at its most glamorous.

A sophisticated sip for rosé champagne enthusiasts, Moët & Chandon Nectar Imperial Rosé is a regal choice for Valentine's Day. Expect a medley of berries (strawberry, raspberry, redcurrant) and peaches on the nose and champagne connoisseurs may also notice subtle notes of menthol. This wine's balanced palate combines structure, smoothness and freshness. Perfect for sipping the night away with loved ones and friends.

Best champagnes for every budget

FOX 10's Ty Brennan was live at Bevmo to find the best kinds of champagne for every price point. Plus, a way to pop open the bubbly without making a mess. If you like a side of history with your glass of bubbles, consider a bottle of Veuve Clicquot Rosé.

In 1818, Madame Clicquot (also known as the Grande Dame of Champagne) created the first known blended rosé champagne - lively, effervescent, with bursts of fruit. Madame Clicquot took over the Clicquot family house after the early death of her husband, Veuve Clicquot founder Philippe Clicquot.

# There's a rosé champagne for every kind of date this Valentine's Day

The history of this rosé champagne, combined with its aroma of fresh and dried red fruits, makes for an alluring sip. Full bodied and deliciously fruity, with intense flavours of juicy ripe strawberries and cherries, Veuve Clicquot Rosé is the ultimate expression of Madame Clicquot's ingenious and audacious spirit.

Created expressly for mixology, Veuve Clicquot Rich Rosé is a bold, versatile champagne designed to allow champagne fans to create their own playful drinking experience - and awaken the Clicquotologist... in anyone. Perfect for a playful Valentine's experience.

Supported by cellar master Didier Mariotti, specialist mixologists selected ingredients that added a unique twist and magnified the signature notes of the wine. Veuve Clicquot Rich Rosé is best enjoyed over ice with fresh ingredients, including lime, pineapple or ginger.

Archives revealed that Ruinart shipped the first rosé champagne over 250 years ago. The exuberant red-fruit flavours make this rosé champagne one of the finest even now. It's excellent quality remains the essential feature of the production of this delicate wine to this day. Expect a sophisticated rosé with an intense aromatic profile, perfect to complement



Moët & Chandon champagne.

Valentines dinner à deux, in - or out.

A bolder expression of its iconic blanc champagne, the 2006 rosé maintains the intensity characteristic of Dom Pérignon, with intriguing aromas of dark spices and

candied fruit, and smoky accents. Rose gold, coppery, deep hue.

With air, the initially creamy, rich nose gives way to notions of soft, freshly-baked rye crumb and dried blood orange peel. The palate opens with a certain juiciness and fills the senses with its fine mousse.

For the hedonists among us who endeavour to savour every sip and create bold gourmet experiences, Krug Rosé will surprise you, as it replaces a good red wine at the table with brio. Inspired by the dream of the fifth generation of the Krug family to conceive a rosé champagne that did not yet exist, and one that could be re-created each year, it's a delicate blend of wines of the year with wines from selected plots of the House's vast reserve library.

This is then completed with traditionally macerated Pinot Noir to add structure and spice and a rest of around seven years in Krug's cellars gives Krug Rosé its refined elegance

and character. And now for a quick lesson on the art of rosé, because you will be talking with your valentine, right? We hope. So here's a bit of French 'savoir faire' to impress your Valentine:

There are several fundamentals that swiftly increase your knowledge of Champagne and most importantly, give you the ability to understand what you should be selecting. The IG-ready hues you find in Rosé Champagne can come from two separate sources or a combination of both: Leaving the juice of red grapes to macerate on their skins for a brief time to extract pigments (natural red colouring). By the addition of a small percentage of red wine - from the Champagne region - during blending.

Region

Champagne is a region of 34 000 hectares roughly 150km North East of Paris. The vineyards in the region are referred to as Crus and are mostly named after the closest village, such as Ay, Bouzy Cramant and Verzy. Each vineyard has a quality rating for the grapes from the respective vineyard.



## ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

### RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



#### SATURDAY PROGRAMME

<b>05.00 AM</b>	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA
<b>06.00 AM</b>	AMKA NA BBC
<b>06.30 AM</b>	NIPASHE
<b>06.50 AM</b>	COMMERCIALS
<b>07.00 AM</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>07.15 AM</b>	NEWSPAPERS REVIEW
<b>07.30 AM</b>	KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI
<b>09.00 AM</b>	WATOTO SHOW
<b>10.00 AM</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>10.03 AM</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>10.15 AM</b>	MIWANI YA MAISHA
<b>11.00 AM</b>	MTAA WA MAGOMA
<b>13.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>13.10 HRS</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>13.30 HRS</b>	CHAGUO LAKO
<b>15.00 HRS</b>	MUZIKI NA MICHEZO
<b>16.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>16.03 HRS</b>	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
<b>16.15 HRS</b>	MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO
<b>18.00 HRS</b>	BONGO TEN
<b>19.30 HRS</b>	SPOTI LEO
<b>20.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN
<b>20.15 HRS</b>	CHEMSHA BONGO
<b>21.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>21.03 HRS</b>	WEEK END SHOW I
<b>22.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
<b>22.15 HRS</b>	WEEK END SHOW II
<b>23.00 HRS</b>	NEWS BRIEF
<b>23.03 HRS</b>	WEEK END SHOW III
<b>01:00-05:00HRS</b>	MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO

### FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



SATURDAY	
<b>07:30-10:00HRS</b>	<b>DK 90 DUNIANI</b>
<b>10:00-11:00HRS</b>	<b>KADOGOO</b>
<b>11:00-13:00HRS</b>	<b>BONGO HITS</b>
<b>13:00-14:00HRS</b>	<b>DW RADIO</b>
<b>14:00-16:00HRS</b>	<b>ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO</b>
<b>16:00-18:00HRS</b>	<b>ALIYEVUMA</b>
<b>18:00-21:00HRS</b>	<b>BUZUKI TIME</b>
<b>21:00-22:00HRS</b>	<b>SPOTI</b>
<b>22:00-00:00HRS</b>	<b>ALIYEVUMA(marudio)</b>
<b>00:00-01:00HRS</b>	<b>HALI HALIS(marudio)</b>
<b>01:00-05:00HRS</b>	<b>DAKIKI 90(marudio)</b>
<b>05:00-07:00HRS</b>	<b>ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO(marudio)</b>

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	20:00	21:05	22:00	23:00	23:30	00:30	02:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	10:30	11:15	12:15	13:45	16:00	16:20	17:00	18:00	18:15	19:00	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:30	22:10	00:30		
<b>SATURDAY 30 Jan</b>	Habari	Dakika 45	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	Habari	The Base	Al Jazeera	DWTV	Habari	Al Jazeera	Watoto wetu	Shika Bamba 5	Mjue Zaidi rpt	Chetu ni chetu rpt	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	Igizo: Mtego	Shamsham za Pwani	Jiji Letu	Korean drama: Hwarang	Jungu Kuu	Shika Bamba	Habari	Art and lifestyle	ITV TOP 10	Isidingo rpt	DWTV		
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	HABARI	Kumekucha	6:00	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Isidingo	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera		
10:00	Shika Bamba 5	10:30	Mjue Zaidi rpt	11:15	Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:15	Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	13:45	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	16:00	Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:20	Igizo: Mtego	17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Korean drama: Hwarang	19:00	Jungu Kuu	19:30	Shika Bamba	20:00	Habari	21:00	Art and lifestyle	21:30	ITV TOP 10
22:10	Isidingo rpt	00:30	DWTV	<b>TUESDAY 2 Feb</b>	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:30	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Isidingo	10:00	Watoto wetu rpt	10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	
<b>SUNDAY 31 Jan</b>	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	7:00	Habari	8:00	Al Jazeera	8:55	Habari za saa	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30	Isidingo	10:00	Watoto Wetu rpt	10:30	Jungu kuu rpt	10:55	Habari za saa	11:00	The Base rpt	11:55	Habari za saa	12:00	Al Jazeera	
12:35	Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini rpt	14:00	Tamasha la michezo	15:30	Mwangaza	16:30	ITV Top 10	17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00	Jiji Letu	18:15	Mapishi	18:30	Matukio ya wiki	19:30	Igizo: Mtego	20:00	Habari	21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:05	Mizengwe	21:30	Mjue Zaidi	22:14	Bongo Movie: Kivuli	00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin
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## WORLD

## Anti-Trump Republicans face major challenge in launching third party

WASHINGTON

A group of former Republican officials considering a new center-right political party to counter former President Donald Trump's influence would face steep challenges in shaking up a U.S. political system that has favored two-party rule throughout its history.

Reuters exclusively reported on Wednesday that more than 120 Republicans - including former elected officials, along with former administrators under Trump and former presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush - met virtually on Feb. 5 to discuss forming a third party or a new center-right faction.

Two of the most prominent anti-Trump Republicans in Congress - Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois - rejected the idea of a breakaway party in statements to Reuters on Thursday. Other Republican critics of Trump expressed similar skepticism - arguing a third party would accomplish little beyond splitting the votes of conservatives and helping Democrats get elected.

The resistance to a third party among some of Trump's toughest Republican critics underscores the extreme difficulty of such a political revolt. Such an effort would require walking away from the Republican Party's massive political infrastructure - staff, money, connections and data on donors and voters - that would take years if not decades to build

from scratch.

An upstart party would also have little chance of succeeding without a charismatic leader who could capture the loyalties of millions of disaffected voters, said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist who was a senior advisor to the Republican primary campaign of Marco Rubio, a Senator from Florida, in 2016.

"If somebody was going to start a third party that was going to gain some traction, it would be Trump" and not his opponents, said Conant.

Kinzinger joined the Feb. 5 video conference of the anti-Trump group and spoke for about five minutes, a spokeswoman told Reuters. But the congressman wants to "reform the party from within," she said. He has recently formed a new political action committee to support Republican primary challengers running against pro-Trump House Republicans such as Matt Gaetz, of Florida, and Marjorie Taylor Greene, of Georgia.

A spokesman for Cheney told Reuters in a statement that she opposes "any effort to split the party," saying it would only make it easier for Democrats to enact policies that conservatives oppose.

Both Cheney and Kinzinger were among just 10 House Republicans, a small minority, who voted to impeach Trump on a charge of inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

A more likely outcome of an anti-Trump movement would be for centrist Republicans to try to purge Trumpism from within its own



Rep. Liz Cheney

ranks, said David Jolly, a former Republican congressman from Florida who recently quit the party in protest of Trump and declared himself an independent.

A party of center-right conservatives could never create a broad enough coalition to win national elections, Jolly said. And Trump has effectively undercut his more moderate opponents among Republican voters, he said, by ridiculing them as "Never Trumpers" and "RINOs" (Republicans in Name Only).

"It's just impossible to escape the 'never Trump' label," he said. Others argue it would be much harder to wrest power over the Republican Party from Trump.

"Let's not kid ourselves; we are not going to change this party," said Jim Glassman, a former undersecretary of state under George W. Bush. Glassman gave a five-minute presentation on the Feb. 5 call advocating for a new party. Any effort to reclaim

the party would be "a soul-deadening slog," he told participants.

He told Reuters on Thursday that he sees the Republican Party as now thoroughly in thrall to Trump - and beyond repair.

"I thought, if Trump lost by 7 million votes, there may have been a chance to do that," he said in an interview. "But events since the election have made clear that's not going to happen."

Asked on Wednesday about the discussions for a third party, Jason Miller, a Trump spokesman, said: "These losers left the Republican Party when they voted for Joe Biden."

## SPLIT ON STRATEGY

Glassman believes there are enough Republican donors who are disgusted with Trump and willing to finance a new party. He believes a new conservative party could also attract maybe one fifth of Republican voters who disapprove of Trump, along with some independents and Democrats. Further, he said, running third-party candidates in House and Senate races would force the Trumpist candidates to tack to the center in general elections and temper the shrill partisanship of those races.

Many people at the Feb. 5 virtual gathering agreed with Glassman. In a poll of participants, about 40% of those in attendance supported creating an entirely new party, according to one source with direct knowledge of the discussions. About 20% favored creating a faction within the party, and an equal number supported creating a faction outside the party, though it remained unclear exactly how such an independent faction would operate.

Agencies

## BBC World News banned from broadcasting in China

BBC World News has been banned from broadcasting in China, after the nation's broadcasting regulator said on Thursday it had made serious content violations.

The National Radio and Television Administration, which is also known as the NRTA, said in a statement BBC World News had violated regulations governing radio and television management, and rules about overseas satellite television channel management in its China-related reports.

The breaches went against requirements for news reporting to be true and impartial, and undermined China's national interest and ethnic solidarity, according to the statement. "As the channel fails to meet the requirements to broadcast in China as an overseas channel, BBC World News is not allowed to continue its service within Chinese territory. The NRTA will not accept the channel's broadcast application for the new year," the regulator said.

Agencies

## EU says ready to work with Biden team to settle trade rifts

WASHINGTON

THE European Union on Thursday acknowledged a move by the new US government to refrain from imposing additional tariffs on EU goods in a long-running dispute over aircraft tariffs, and said it was ready to work to resolve trade disputes.

The US Trade Representative's office on Thursday said it had agreed with US industry that it was unnecessary to revise existing tariffs on European goods at this time, refraining from changes that would have been possible during a periodic review.

The move came a day after USTR said it looked forward to working with European allies to resolve a 16-year-long battle over subsidies provided to Europe's Airbus and its US rival Boeing Co.

Asked about Thursday's decision, an EU spokesman said, "The EU is ready to engage with the new US administration on the basis of the EU-US agenda for global change we adopted on December 2. Our aim is to find solutions to our ongoing trade disputes, including on Airbus/Boeing."

The American Italian Food Coalition, which represents more than 450 Italian companies, manufacturers and trade groups, said the move would give both sides time to work out a solution.

"The Biden Administration appropriately hit the pause button on another carousel round of tariffs," it said.

Officials from the EU and Britain are keen to work out a deal with the administration of President Joe Biden, but talks are on ice until Biden's pick as top trade negotiator, Katherine Tai, is confirmed in her job by the US Senate. That could take several more weeks, with a confirmation hearing not yet scheduled.

Envoys from Britain and the European Union on Monday stressed their willingness to resolve the aircraft subsidies dispute. EU Ambassador Stavros Lambrinidis said Brussels had proposed a six-month suspension of tariffs on both sides to allow for negotiations. Britain, which is no longer part of the EU but is part of the Airbus consortium, has said it is also willing to lift tariffs, possibly unilaterally, as a goodwill gesture.

Agencies

## Italy's 5-Star votes for Draghi, opening way for new govt

ROME

MEMBERS of Italy's 5-Star Movement voted on Thursday to back Prime Minister designate Mario Draghi, opening the way for the former European Central Bank chief to take office at the head of a broad government of national unity.

In an online ballot, 59.3 percent of 5-Star supporters heeded a call from party leaders to support the new administration, despite the fact it includes some of their arch foes and will be headed by the sort of technocrat they have previously decried.

After coalition infighting brought down the last government, President Sergio Mattarella called on Draghi, one of the most respected institutional figures in Italy, to form a new cabinet to tackle the coronavirus health crisis and economic meltdown.

Having secured the endorsement of almost all Italy's political parties, Draghi is likely to present his list of ministers to Mattarella on Friday and unveil his policy programme next week in parliament.

Confidence votes in both houses enabling him to take office will be a formality. However some lawmakers from the 5-Star, which was born in 2009 as an anti-system, anti-euro party, have threatened to oppose Draghi regardless of the online ballot.

Agencies

## China, US should work together for better shared future - envoy

WASHINGTON

THE United States and China should work together for a better shared future in the spirit of the Ox, a zodiac animal which symbolizes stamina, energy and dedication in Chinese culture, Chinese Ambassador to the United States Cui Tiankai said Thursday.

"In a few hours, we will ring in the Year of the Ox," Cui (pictured) said at the 2021 Chinese New Year Online Reception and Symphony Concert streamed online on Thursday evening local time.

"In the Chinese culture, the Ox symbolizes stamina, energy and dedication," Cui said, adding he hopes that "we will show

the spirit of the Ox and work together for a better shared future, for the Chinese and American people and people of the whole world."

Calling on the two countries to "defeat COVID-19 with the stamina of the Ox," he said that "we will never forget that the Chinese and American people have supported each other and held on together during the pandemic."

"I believe as long as we persevere, guided by science and humanitarianism, we will overcome the pandemic together not too far from now," he added.

"Second, let's bring about post-pandemic recovery and growth with the energy of the Ox," said Cui.



"China will stay committed to the win-win strategy of opening-up and economic globalization, and work with the United States and other countries to inject confidence and energy into

the global economy," he said. "Third, let's pool our strength and wisdom for a better future with the dedication of the Ox," said the ambassador.

Countries need to put aside differences and act with a sense of responsibility and solidarity to tackle an array of global challenges, such as communicable diseases and climate change, he said. Cui noted that 2021 also marks the 50th anniversary of Henry Kissinger's first secret visit to China and Ping-Pong Diplomacy.

Over the past five decades, the two countries have risen above ideological differences and Cold-War confrontation and made great strides in their relations, he said.

"This has not only positively impacted both countries, but also changed the whole world. As we bid farewell to the past year, we should more look to the future, and work together to realize the sound and stable development of China-US relations," he said.

"In the Chinese zodiac, the Ox is a most auspicious and prosperous animal sign," he said, expressing his best regards to his fellow compatriots in the United States and all American friends.

Thursday's concert was presented by China's Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra and guest musicians from the United States and Japan.

Xinhua

## 'Sailing Nun' to help steer Church course with key Vatican job

ROME

SISTER Nathalie Becquart, 52, who Pope Francis appointed last week to a key Vatican post, is an accomplished seafarer who loves using nautical images to illustrate her views of life, faith and the role of women in the Roman Catholic Church.

"I find myself sailing in the middle of the ocean towards a new adventure," she said of her new position.

Becquart, a member of the Xaviere Missionary Sisters, was appointed joint number two of the Synod of Bishops, a department that prepares major

meetings of world bishops held every few years.

She will become the first woman to have a right to vote in the assemblies, something many women and some bishops have called for.

Catholic media have called her appointment "historic" or a "revolution" because of its possible long-term ramifications.

"This is a very brave sign and a very prophetic choice by Pope Francis," she told reporters on Wednesday. "I also hope this points to a concrete change."

Women have participated as observers and consultants in past synods but only "synod



fathers", including bishops and specially appointed or elected male representatives, could vote on final positions sent to the pope. He then writes his own document.

"What I am discovering at the

Vatican is that you need a lot of patience," said Becquart, who has worked as a consultant in the synod office since 2019.

"Many tasks and roles are not always easy. It's like when you are in the open sea - you have storms but you also have wonderful moments and incredible landscapes," she said.

## Sister Skipper

Becquart doesn't mind being called "The Sailing Nun". Before she joined the Xaviere Sisters, she learned to sail as a girl on the Atlantic coast of France, becoming a skipper and taking part in many regattas.

Agencies

## Central China's Henan province boosts consumption of products from Xinjiang under pairing assistance

"THANKS to the officials from Henan province, all my Hami melons were sold out. I'm really grateful to them," Wang Denghao, a farmer in Hongshan village, Nanhu township, Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, told People's Daily joyfully, adding that he plans to continue growing Hami melons in the next year.

Nanhu township has a Hami melon planting area of 14,500 mu (about 966.67 hectares), and produces about 30,000 tons of Hami melons a year. Last year, nearly 4,000 tons of these fruit were sold to central China's Henan province, which has been helping promote sales of products from Xinjiang through China's "pairing assistance" program designed to channel financial and personnel support to

less developed regions.

Zhao Hongyuan, deputy head of Hami melon association of Nanhu township, considered the pairing assistance from Henan really helpful. "The province has carried out promotional activities both online and offline to help us sell products and we don't need to worry about the sale of our Hami melons at all," Zhao said.

Besides Nanhu township, other areas of Xinjiang have also benefited from the pairing assistance from Henan.

The 13th division of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps in Hami city sold 4,793 tons of high-quality grapes and more than 20,000 tons of late-maturing organic Hami melons to Henan province last year.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, agricultural and sideline products of Hami city encountered poor sales for a time last year, which added pressure on local people for shaking off poverty as planned.

The problem became worse during the harvest season when a large number of fruits appeared on the market at the same time, which made growers extremely anxious.

In June 2020, members from Henan province for pairing assistance in Xinjiang carried out studies and surveys in the fields and mobilized all the officials dispatched to Xinjiang in tackling the challenges posed by the pandemic to fruit growers.

"We should try to sell more Hami melons

to Henan and other areas," said Guo Zhiyong, deputy director of the bureau of agriculture and rural affairs of Hami and one of the 10th batch of officials sent from Henan province to Xinjiang under the "pairing assistance" program.

In early July 2020, the forward command post of Henan province for pairing assistance in Xinjiang cooperated closely with Communist Party of China (CPC) Hami municipal committee and the municipal government, launching a live-streaming event for stimulating the consumption of products from Xinjiang in Henan province.

Relevant enterprises running businesses such as shopping malls, supermarkets, and wholesale markets in Henan province were

all encouraged to promote products from Xinjiang via livestreaming during the event.

In addition, by tapping into various resources and advantages, officials sent from Henan to Xinjiang brought in an amount of orders in a short time. They were frequently seen helping purchase fruits in the fields and send out goods.

"I perform comic dialogues and dramas. I never thought I could one day be a part of a livestreaming show," said Fan Jun, a traditional Chinese opera master in Henan. In response to the province's call for support for Xinjiang's development, Fan has volunteered to perform in Xinjiang every year during the past nearly 10 years.

People's Daily



# China's Spring Festival travel slumps amid virus curbs

BEIJING

THE number of people who travelled in China ahead of Lunar New Year plummeted from two years ago as coronavirus restrictions curbed the world's largest annual domestic migration.

The seven-day celebration, which kicked off on Thursday, is China's most important national holiday and is usually marked by big family reunions. Millions of workers traditionally travel - sometimes thousands of kilometres from Beijing and other major cities - to their hometowns in remote regions.

Data from the Ministry of Transportation, Chinese internet giant Baidu Inc and travel analytics firm ForwardKeys showed a sharp drop in the percentage of the country's 1.45 billion population who travelled this year.

With some 48 million more people expected to stay put in 36 major cities this year compared to years past, according to the commerce ministry, utility companies and movie theatres are preparing for heightened demand.

Ministry of Transportation data showed a 70 percent drop in the number of passenger trips across the country in the two weeks leading up to Lunar New Year, compared with the same period two years ago. Travel during last year's holiday period, dur-

ing the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak, was also disrupted.

A travel index published by Baidu Inc based on GPS data from its users showed a 41 percent fall in travellers compared with 2019.

Flight bookings for the two weeks prior to the holiday stood at 32.8 percent of the equivalent period in 2019, while tickets issued during the holiday period were just 14.7 percent of the 2019 level, according to travel analytics firm ForwardKeys.

Chinese tourists showed more interest in near destinations and focused more on safety in travel consumption in 2020, according to a recent report by Chinese travel service and social-networking platform Mafengwo. Short-distance travel registered the fastest recovery from the COVID-19 setbacks within the tourism industry since the second quarter of last year.

Metropolises' outskirts and neighboring cities, such as Beijing's Yanqing district and Tonglu county in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, became tourists' top choices for such trips.

The Chinese government in January urged people to abandon travel plans following fresh COVID-19 outbreaks, leading local governments to impose strict quarantine measures. Some areas relaxed their stance in recent days, triggering some last minute bookings,



A vendor wearing a face mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus selling sugar-coated haws on a stick on her bicycle as worshippers offer prayers outside the closed Yonghegong Lama Temple during the first day of the Lunar New Year in Beijing yesterday. (AP)

particularly for Sanya, a popular holiday destination in the South China Sea.

## STAYCATION CONSUMPTION BOOM

Logistics firms, energy producers and entertainment providers like restaurants and cinemas have been preparing for greater numbers of people who have stayed in the major cities.

Pre-sales of movie tickets for the holiday period stood at 1.463 billion yuan (US\$226.67 million) as of Feb 11, just beating the 1.458 billion yuan recorded in 2019, according to data from Dengta, a box office data tracker run by Alibaba Pictures.

China's State Grid expected the peak load in eastern China would

increase about 18 percent over the holiday period this year, compared with 2020, while in northwestern and southwestern China it would rise 10 percent.

China Southern Power Grid estimated the peak load in southern regions would be up 14 percent from last year, as some industrial plants are expected to resume operations earlier than normal years.

Xinhua

Australia faces life without Google as bill gets key nod

By Bloomberg

IMAGINE a world without Google, the search engine so pervasive it's the starting point for more than five billion queries a day. That's the reality facing Australia, where the tech giant is threatening to unplug its homepage in a standoff with the government.

Google opposes a planned law that would force the company and Facebook Inc to pay Australian publishers for news content. The Internet juggernaut's ultimatum to local lawmakers - change the legislation, or else - has left a digital vacuum hanging over a nation that essentially knows just one way to navigate the web. Google runs 95 percent of Internet searches in Australia.

Potential fallout from the spat goes far beyond Australia for Alphabet Inc-owned Google, whose dominance of global advertising has made it a target for watchdogs worldwide. If the company backs down in Australia, the pay-for-news law risks becoming a template for jurisdictions including Canada and the European Union that are following the quarrel and keen to shorten Google's lead.

But disabling what is arguably the world's most famous website would hand all of Australia to rivals, including Microsoft Corp's Bing and DuckDuckGo, which have failed to dislodge Google as the gateway to the web. These search-engine competitors would suddenly have a playground for development and a foothold to advance on the global stage.

Software-engineering student Patrick Smith exemplifies Australia's Google dependency. The 24-year-old from Canberra said he sometimes racks up 400 Google searches a day to help with his studies, catch up on news and look up recipes. Smith said his browser from the previous day shows 150 searches - in the space of just five hours. **Agencies**

# UK economy slumps by record 10% in 2020 after COVID-19 hit

LONDON

BRITAIN'S coronavirus-ravaged economy suffered its biggest crash in output in more than 300 years in 2020 when it slumped by 9.9%, but it avoided heading back towards recession at the end of the year and looks on course for a recovery in 2021.

Official figures showed gross domestic product (GDP) grew 1.0% from October through December,

the top of a range of economists' forecasts in a Reuters poll.

This makes it likely that Britain will escape two straight quarters of contraction - the standard definition of recession in Europe - even though the economy is set to shrink in early 2021 due to the effects of a third COVID lockdown.

"As and when restrictions are eased, we continue to expect a vigorous rebound in the economy," said

Dean Turner, an economist at UBS Global Wealth Management.

Britain's economy grew 1.2% in December alone, after a 2.3% fall in output in November when there was a partial lockdown, pointing to greater resilience to COVID restrictions than at the start of the pandemic.

That left output 6.3% lower than in February before the start of the pandemic, the Office for National Statistics said.

However, the Bank of England forecasts the economy will shrink by 4% in the first three months of 2021 because of the new lockdown and Brexit disruption.

It thinks it will take until early 2022 before GDP regains its pre-COVID size, assuming vaccination continues at the current rapid pace, which outstrips the rest of Europe's. Many economists think recovery will take longer.

"Today's figures show that the economy has experienced a serious shock as a result of the pandemic, which has been felt by countries around the world," finance minister Rishi Sunak said.

Sunak, facing the heaviest borrowing since World War Two, said he would continue to focus on protecting jobs when he sets out a new annual budget on March 3.

Agencies

# China to curb food waste by legislation

By Xu Jun, People's Daily

Food waste is more and more becoming an issue of the Chinese society as life quality gets better and better nowadays. However, apart from moral condemnation, there was no way to punish the practices of food waste in the past.

Thanks to a draft law on preventing food waste deliberated by the 24th session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee on Dec. 22 last year, there is now a legal basis to bring wasters to book.

According to the law, the providers of catering services shall remind customers of not wasting food by posting conspicuous anti-food waste signs or verbal explanation, and guide them to order food based on actual demand.

Enterprises with canteens shall enhance inspection during meal time and timely rectify food waste practices. For online food delivery platforms, conspicuous reminders shall be displayed to guide consumers to order food in accordance with their actual needs.

Similar provision is also made to regulate the tourism industry. Tour service providers shall guide tourists to dine in a civilized and healthy manner, according to the draft law. Tour

agencies and tour guides must remind tourists to order or fetch food in accordance with their actual needs.

According to the draft law, catering service providers can charge consumers who waste too much food for waste disposal. Catering service providers may face a fine ranging from 1,000 yuan to 10,000 yuan (\$1,196) if they encourage or mislead consumers into ordering excessive quantities of food which causes waste, and refuse to rectify the problem after being warned by market supervision departments, according to the draft law.

In recent years, speed eating shows enjoyed huge popularity on Chinese social media platforms. What's behind the bizarre videos is a profit chain.

Those who film these videos might be invited for endorsements after they go viral. Many of these videos are actually edited, and the eating influencers would also induce vomiting after filming.

These videos not only spread unhealthy dietary habits, but also waste food.

The Cyberspace Administration of China said in an announcement last September that its local branches, in a month-long activity aiming to clamp down on speed eating



A staff member with the administration of market regulation in Lianyungang, east China's Jiangsu province teach a lesson about cereals to primary school students, Aug. 31, 2020. File photo

shows, punished 338 livestream platforms and shut down over 74,000 webcasts. In addition, 105,000 accounts were banned and 13,600 punished.

The draft law stipulates that shows or audio contents that encourage food waste shall be banned. Online video and audio content providers must remove relevant contents and even stop their services in cases of gross violation.

According to the law, TV stations, as well as online video and audio content providers may face a warning from authorities and cyberspace administrations and be requested to rectify if they make, broadcast or transmit shows or audio contents that encourage food waste. Violators who refuse to correct the prob-

lem will be fined from 10,000 yuan to 100,000 yuan. In addition, they may be requested to suspend relevant businesses and held accountable in accordance with the law.

The draft law clarifies that the food and strategic reserve administration shall enhance food storage and management. They also need to implement food storage, transport and processing standards with relevant departments of the State Council.

Catering service providers shall also use big data and other technologies to analyze and predict the needs of consumers, and manage food purchase, transport and storage in science-based manners to prevent and reduce waste.

People's Daily

# Russia says ready to cut EU ties if hit with painful sanctions

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said Moscow is ready to sever ties with the European Union if the bloc hits it with painful economic sanctions, according to extracts of an interview posted on the ministry's website yesterday.

Relations between Russia and the West have come under renewed pressure over the arrest and jailing of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, which has sparked talk of possible new sanctions.

Three European diplomats told Reuters on Thursday that the European Union was likely to impose travel bans and asset freezes on allies of Russian President Vladimir Putin, possibly as soon as this month, after France and Germany signalled their willingness to move ahead.

Pressure for sanctions has grown since Moscow infuriated European countries last week by expelling German, Polish and Swedish diplomats without telling the EU's foreign policy chief, who was in Moscow for a visit. Paris and Berlin now say there must be a response.



Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov was asked in an interview whether Moscow would now move towards cutting ties with the EU itself.

"We proceed from the fact that we're ready (for that). In the event that we again see sanctions imposed in some sectors that create risks for our economy, including in the most sensitive spheres," Lavrov said.

"We don't want to isolate ourselves from global life, but we have to be ready for that. If you want peace then prepare for war," he said.

## Navalny in court

Navalny returned to court on Friday for a trial on slander charges he calls politi-

cally motivated. He was jailed last week for almost three years for parole violations he said were trumped up.

In the slander case, Navalny stands accused of defaming a World War Two veteran who took part in a promotional video backing constitutional reforms last year that let Putin run for two more terms in the Kremlin after 2024 if he wants.

Although the charge, if proven, is punishable by up to two years in jail, his lawyer has said that Navalny cannot face a custodial sentence because the alleged crime was committed before the law was changed to make it a jailable offence.

Agencies

# Experts say Xi-Biden call bodes well for potential China-US cooperation

BEIJING

The telephone conversation between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, bodes well for potential cooperation between China and the United States, experts from across the globe have said.

Xi on Thursday morning took a phone call from Biden on the eve of the Lunar New Year.

The two presidents wished each other good fortune in the Year of the Ox, and had an in-depth exchange of views on China-U.S. relations and major international and regional issues.

Jon R. Taylor, professor and chair of the Department of Po-

litical Science and Geography at the University of Texas at San Antonio, said the phone call is "encouraging."

Noting there are differences between the two sides in several fields, Taylor said, "it's important to understand that they also talked about a variety of areas for potential cooperation."

Regarding the conversation as "the first step" in a long process to stabilize China-U.S. relations and to slowly improve bilateral engagement, Taylor said, "it's a welcome start



People watch the Chinese Lunar New Year parade in Manhattan's Chinatown of New York City, the United States, Feb. 9, 2020. (Xinhua)

given the past four years of (former U.S. President

Donald) Trump's increasingly antagonistic lan-

guage and actions toward China."

Similarly, Xulio Rios, director of the Observatory of Chinese Politics in Spain, said the high-level telephone conversation will help the two sides move in the same direction.

To stabilize bilateral relations and avoid strategic misjudgement, China and the United States should respect each other's core interests and broaden the cooperation agenda, said Rios. Criticizing the former U.S. administration's hegemonic obsession that

has led to a stalemate situation, Rios called on the Biden administration to outline a possible alternative for U.S. relations with China.

"The fact of the two leaders having a phone call is a good thing" because "relations between the two countries are very important," said Ali el-Hefny, Egypt's former ambassador to China and former deputy foreign minister.

Despite some differences that are to be expected, China and the United States have a lot

of interests in common, el-Hefny said, adding that "it is important for the United States and China to overcome differences through constant dialogue, consultation and communication."

"History has witnessed the importance of Sino-U.S. cooperation," Chairman of the Sino-American Aviation Heritage Foundation Jeffrey Greene said.

"The proven history of friendship and cooperation dramatically demonstrates that by working together our two countries can overcome any obstacles and achieve any goals and successfully work together to benefit all the world," Greene said.

Xinhua

# SPORT



Ivo Mapunda Sports Center's owner, Ivo Mapunda

## Parents urged to support girls' participation in soccer

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

PARENTS have been asked to give girls a chance to make the most of their talent in football, should they find out that the children have what it takes to excel in the game.

Former Yanga, Simba and Taifa Stars' goalkeeper, Ivo Mapunda, issued the call in Dar es Salaam yesterday, emphasizing that, many girls have great ability to play football but it fails due to their parents not giving them a chance.

Mapunda, through its Ivo Mapunda Sports Center in Dar es Salaam, has acknowledged that the response of girls is different from that of boys.

Mapunda said, at her current four-year-old center, she has a total of 21 young people aged 5-16 but not more than five females.

"I really want to have as many female

players as I used to be.

Nowadays sports is a job and a very big job. Parents should let the girls come and teach us," he said.

"Parenting a girl when she grows up with a talent is not right, and the concept of saying football is hooliganism has passed away and the basic premise is for the parent to take care of the child and tell him or her good and bad things as a child," she said.

At the same time Mapunda said, as his center manages more children within four years they have managed to release one player Fredrick Mgata who plays for the Mbeya First Division League team.

"This Mgata came knowing that we added extra items but the younger ones come and you find him paying but he doesn't know it is our responsibility to make sure he knows and fulfills his dreams," he said.

## Tokyo Olympics: Mori is leaving but gender issues remain

TOKYO

YOSHIRO Mori resigned Friday as the president of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee following sexist comments implying women talk too much.

"As of today I will resign from the president's position," he said to open an executive board and council meeting. The board was expected to pick his successor later on Friday. Mori was appointed in 2014, just months after Tokyo won the bid to host the Olympics.

"My inappropriate comments have caused a lot of chaos," he said. He repeated several times he had regret over the remarks, but also said he had "no intention of neglecting women."

Mori's departure comes after more than a week of non-stop criticism about his remarks earlier this month. He initially apologized but refused to step away, which was followed by relentless pressure from television pundits, sponsors, and an on-line petition that drew 150,000 signatures.

But it's not clear that his resignation will clear the air and return the focus to exactly how Tokyo can hold the Olympics in just over five months in the midst of a pandemic. The Olympics are to open on July 23, with 11,000 athletes and 4,400 more in the Paralympic a month later. About 80% in recent polls in Japan say they want the Olympics canceled or postponed with clear support about 15%.

Early reports said the 83-year-old Mori had picked 84-year-old Saburo Kawabuchi, the former president of the governing body of Japanese soccer and a former player himself. He played for Japan in the 1964 Olympics.

Kawabuchi is even older than Mori and will raise the issue of why a woman was not appointed.

This is the center of the entire debate that Mori triggered over gender inequality in Japan and the absence of women in boardrooms, politics, and sports governance.

Women are also largely absent in leadership roles at the organizing committee.

Kawabuchi indicated on Thursday he had been contacted by Mori and would accept the job if offered. But he said later he might not be the appropriate choice and seemed to be withdrawing.

Japanese media immediately pointed out there were three qualified women – all athletes and former Olympians and at least a generation younger – who could fill the job.

Kaori Yamaguchi won a bronze medal in the 1988 Olympics in judo. Mikako Kotani won two bronze medals in the 1988 Olympics in synchronized swimming. And Naoko Takahashi was a gold medalist in the marathon in the 2000 Olympics.

Seiko Hashimoto, the current Olympic minister and a former Olympian, has also been mentioned as a candidate.

Mori's remarks have put the spotlight on how far Japan lags behind other prosperous countries in advancing women in politics or the boardrooms. Japan stands 121st out of 153 in the World Economic Forum's gender equality rankings.

Koichi Nakano, a political scientist at Sophia University in Tokyo, characterized Japan as a country still run "by a club of old men." But he said this could be a watershed.

"Social norms are changing," he wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "A clear majority of the Japanese found Mori's comments unacceptable, so the problem is more to do with the lack of representation of women in leadership positions. This sorry episode may have the effect of strengthening the call for greater gender equality and diversity in the halls of power."

Though some on the street called for Mori to resign – several hundred Olympic volunteers say they are withdrawing – most decision makers including Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga stopped short of this and simply condemned his remarks.

A comment a few days ago from Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda seemed to move the needle.

## SPORTS

## With Kim Poulsen back, give him Ngorongoro Heroes for an uplift

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

NEWS that former Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen is coming back to guide the side in its current travails is welcome, much as no one can write a blank cheque on what comes next.

The returning coach is the younger Poulsen to Jan Poulsen, who preceded him at the national team coaching job while Kim took on the junior national side, Ngorongoro Heroes.

He created a respected outfit out of an earlier fledgling side, and to a certain extent this contribution hasn't been drained of its impact in the side's performance.

It was during a time when the presidency was acutely concerned with national team performance as well as laying the framework for continuous creation of dependable national team players, by 'investing' in the junior national side.

As Tanzania still has a distance to go before scaling the upper reaches of competitive African football, reactions may have been mixed as to what Jan Poulsen and then Kim Poulsen achieved in their respective tenures.

In addition, there is incessant bureaucratic chicanery when it comes to paying hired coaches in the soccer body, unless 'Big Brother' is watching, coaches are made to run helter skelter.

The fact that Poulsen has accepted taking up this offer implies that he has received assurances against that sort of shenanigans in the conduct of his assignment, thus being able to focus on the work, and being bothered by intricacies in having his techniques work.

Otherwise the coach spends precious time having to negotiate with a recalcitrant official, and that would have to be done each passing month once an officer is sure nothing will go against him when he puts up such roadblocks.

Even without hearing a word from Poulsen on what has transpired, it is adequate that there is a new environment and changed attitudes.

That will of course help to propel the professionalism expected of the national team organization and administration of the technical bench, when there are no complaints



Former Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen.

from the coach or his staff on payments, or shenanigans attached to procedure of payment, etc.

It also means that the Danish coach comes back reinvigorated, and with the benefit of experience of having led both the senior and junior national sides in the past, and having put years of reflection on his techniques during that period, and what he would do if he was still on the job.

It is what the ruling camp in America calls 'building back better.'

Incidentally there is something of soccer kinship between Denmark and Tanzania around the Poulsen clan name, as there is an international Danish team player who at some point wished to play for Tanzania, but owing to dual citizenship restrictions that wasn't possible.

There are other figures in local entertainment to have been heard in the past, which suggests that there is a sort of implantation at the social level, the kind of affinity that is known as 'people to people relationships.'

With more accommodating citizenship rules consonant with 21st century mobility and connections, such persons could play greater roles here.

This return to quasi-professionalisation of national side coaching - in the sense of seeking out a well versed coach from outside the country and not just across the border for a notable regional club coach like Etienne Ndayiragije - has substantial potential.

Still it ought not to be pegged to specific achievement, for instance the reasoning that the former coach was terminated for a poor showing in the African Nations Championships (for home-based players).

The results, winning 1-0, losing 2-0 (the worst result) and also losing 2-1 aren't the sort of results to actually have to sack the coach, ostensibly for poor performance. Especially if he reached the qualification itself the need for removal is even less warranted, as the finals are a more difficult phase of any tourney than the qualifications.

The case for a more recognizable coach existed

but the moment was disappointing, as no coach entering tournament finals is sure of reaching the quarterfinals.

The fact that Taifa Stars were not humiliated in the finals was adequately dignifying.

What though can be made out of this step is the supposition that had it been Poulsen who took the team to the finals, he could have guided it in a more skilled way to obviate the defeats and put up a better score sheet, such that we could qualify for another stage.

Yet this formulation commits the 'if' fallacy that is all too common in trying to rebuild events to suit a certain perspective, as the side which we hit 1-0 would also have its 'ifs' which remained undone, and thus Taifa Stars exploited them.

The others could by and large have other 'ifs' that, well attended, could have widened the score against, presumably, a particularly weak team in the tournament.

It all depends on who is making that assessment, and the aura around it.

## Coastal Union out to notch good results in home matches



Coastal Union's players jubilate after the outfit's player scored during a Vodacom Premier League tie with Azam FC in Tanga mid this week.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

COASTAL Union made good use of their home venue after beating Azam FC 2-1 in a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) match, which took place in Tanga on Wednesday.

Following the victory, Coastal Union's coach Juma Mgunda said his squad's success came about because of strategy put in place to ensure that they do not drop points in home matches in the second phase.

Coastal Union goals were scored by Haji Ugando through a spot kick on the ninth minute and Hamad Majimengi on the 54th minute.

Center back Daniel Amoah scored Azam FC's goal on the 36th minute.

Four of Azam FC players missed the highly competitive match.

In the VPL's first phase tie pitting Azam FC against Coastal Union,

which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam, the hosts posted 2-0 victory.

The Wednesday victory for that matter was sweet revenge for Coastal Union's loss to their opponents.

The four Azam FC footballers, who missed the game include forward Obrey Chirwa that had picked an injury in VPL game against Simba on February 7.

Left fullback Emmanuel Charles was as well not in action because he suffering from malaria.

Defender Abdul Omary Oscar did not take part as he is nursing thigh muscle injury.

Midfielder Frank Domayo, who had sustained a knee injury, will be out for a month treating the injury.

The results place Coastal Union ninth in the VPL table having collected 23 points after 19 matches,

Coastal are currently two points below

sixth-placed Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

Azam FC coached by Zambian George Lwandamina remains with 33 points after 19 matches.

The squad is six points behind VPL defending champions Simba SC that has 39 points from 17 matches and Yanga with 44 points from 18 matches.

In another VPL match which took place on Wednesday, Kagera Sugar were forced to a 1-1 draw by Gwambina FC of Mwanza region in Kagera.

Attacker Yusuf Mhulu opened the scoring for Kagera Sugar on the sixth minute before Meshack Abraham equalized for Gwambina on the 90th minute.

Kagera Sugar have 23 points after 19 matches and moved to the eighth place, while Gwambina has 20 points after 18 matches and remains 15th.

## Man City eye Spurs revenge as Liverpool face Leicester test

LONDON

RAMPANT Manchester City will relish a shot at revenge against Jose Mourinho's Tottenham on Saturday while fading Liverpool face a tricky trip to Leicester hoping to benefit from a rare week off.

City hammered Liverpool 4-1 at Anfield last weekend to open up a five-point lead over second-placed Manchester United at the top of the table with a game in hand.

Pep Guardiola's men have not tasted defeat in 22 games in all competitions, since they faced Tottenham in November.

Victory for Mourinho's men that day took them top of the table and eight points clear of City. But there has been a 22-point swing between the sides since as Spurs have tumbled down to eighth.

Once fierce rivals vying for superiority at Barcelona and Real Madrid, a 25th meeting between Guardiola and Mourinho comes at a time of contrasting fortunes for two of the world's most-decorated coaches.

Mourinho is under pressure after a run of four defeats in five games, while Guardiola is targeting an unprecedented quadruple of trophies.

City set a new English record of 15 consecutive victories for a top-flight team by reaching the FA Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday.

"It means and shows how special these players are," said Guardiola. "In this toughest period, in the Christmas and winter time, to do what we have done so far is quite remarkable."

A big week for City could go a long way to securing a third league title in four years. They visit Everton for their game in hand on Wednesday and then travel to Arsenal next weekend.

"The important thing is the way we are still playing and our consistency," added Guardiola. "We are just thinking of the next one and we have an incredibly tough week ahead of us."

Leicester test for Liverpool  
Jurgen Klopp admitted the height of Liverpool's ambitions was now finishing in the top four to guarantee Champions League

football next season.

The Reds have won just three of their past 11 games, culminating in their collapse late on to City.

A stubborn injury crisis has left the defending champions looking physically and mentally drained, so a rare midweek off due to their early exit from the FA Cup may come as a blessing ahead of their visit to the King Power.

Leicester sit third and are determined to avoid the mistakes they made last season, when they let a promising position slip in the final months of the campaign to finish fifth.

The Foxes will be boosted by the return of talisman Jamie Vardy after the 34-year-old made his first start since groin surgery against Brighton in the FA Cup in midweek.

Liverpool centre-backs Ben Davies and Ozan Kabak, signed on transfer deadline day, could feature after Klopp opted not to throw them in at the deep end against City.

Baggies bounce for Man Utd?

If Manchester United are to have any chance of keeping the title race alive, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men must snap out of a slump in which they have won just one of their past five games without the need for extra-time.

United could not ask for more inviting opponents this weekend, with West Brom showing no signs of a revival since Sam Allardyce's appointment in December to maintain their top-flight status.

The Baggies have conceded 24 goals in their past six home games and are 12 points adrift of safety, in 19th spot.

### Fixtures (all times GMT)

**Today**  
Leicester v Liverpool (1230), Crystal Palace v Burnley (1500), Manchester City v Tottenham (1730), Brighton v Aston Villa (2000)

**Tomorrow**  
Southampton v Wolves (1200), West Brom v Manchester United (1400), Arsenal v Leeds (1630), Everton v Fulham (1900)

**Monday**  
West Ham v Sheffield United (1800), Chelsea v Newcastle (2000)

AFP

## Leicester reaping benefits of Rodgers reign as Liverpool suffer familiar fall

LONDON

NEARLY two years on from the appointment of Brendan Rodgers, Leicester are again threatening to break the glass ceiling of the Premier League's traditional "top six" to reach the riches and prestige of the Champions League next season.

The third-placed Foxes lead defending champions Liverpool by three points ahead of Saturday's crucial meeting between the sides at the King Power.

Rodgers can sympathise from personal experience with Jurgen Klopp's struggles to halt a rapid slide in standards at Liverpool.

The Northern Irishman was sacked in October 2015, just over a year after he came within three games of ending the Reds' long wait for a league title.

Klopp succeeded where Rodgers failed, romping to the title last season. However, the German has suffered a similar fall due to the loss of a talismanic presence on the field.

Despite the presence of Steven Gerrard as captain, it was Luis Suarez who was the inspiration of Liverpool's title challenge in 2013/14. Once the Uruguayan departed for Barcelona, they plunged to sixth the following season. "You can always think we could have been better or done things differently but it was just how it evolved. We had set an expectation that we could challenge but then we lost a world-class player and even though we were very much all about the team, Luis was very much part of that," Rodgers told The Guardian ahead of his return to Anfield for the first time with Leicester last season.

Liverpool have experienced a similar fate this season since Virgil van Dijk suffered cruciate ligament damage in October. The Dutchman's absence has been compounded by season-ending injuries for fellow centre-backs Joe Gomez and Joel Matip.

Klopp's men have won just three of their last 11 games to exit the FA Cup and fall 10 points behind Premier League leaders Manchester City, who also have a game in hand.

Sitting between the two clubs that have dominated English football for the past four seasons are a Leicester side moulded by Rodgers into consistent challengers for the Champions League places.

- Restored reputation -

Rodgers, 48, arrived in the Midlands having restored his reputation in two-and-a-half years with Celtic.

The seven domestic trophies he won in Scotland were decried by some given the Hoops' financial advantage over the competition, but Celtic's struggles this season show it is not as easy to wipe the board as he made it look.

The Celtic support were stung by the timing of his departure, just months before they would secure an eighth consecutive league title. But Rodgers could see the potential talent in a Leicester squad that had gone backwards under Claude Puel.

## Zambians wary of Moroccans as they defend remarkable home record

JOHANNESBURG

ZAMBIAN club Nkana will this weekend defend a record of never losing at home in 63 CAF matches, with coach Kelvin Kaindu warning that Moroccan opponents Tihad Casablanca must not be underestimated.

Tihad are a second-division club who qualified for the CAF Confederation Cup by winning the Throne Cup, the premier knockout competition in the north African kingdom.

"There are no minnows in the Confederation Cup," said Kaindu. "Tihad are there on merit and we know how clubs from the southern Africa often struggle against those from the north."

Here, AFP Sport highlights five of the 15 playoff first legs scheduled for Saturday and Sunday in the African equivalent of the UEFA Europa League.

### Nkana v Tihad

Nkana debuted in Africa 38 years ago, drawing 2-2 with Mbabane Highlanders from Swaziland (now eSwatini) in the African Cup of Champions Clubs, forerunner to the CAF Champions League.

Since then they have also hosted Confederation Cup, African Cup Winners Cup and CAF Cup matches and never lost – a record not even 20-time CAF title winners Al Ahly from Egypt can match.

The Zambian outfit came closest to winning a CAF competition in 1990, losing on penalties to JS Kabylie of Algeria in the Cup of Champions Clubs final.

### Enyimba v Rivers

This pairing of clubs from the southeastern Nigerian cities of Port Harcourt and Aba ensures the most populous country in Africa will have a representative in the group stage.



Zambian club Nkana pose before a CAF Confederation Cup playoff in the Ivory Coast two years ago. (Agencies)

But it also means that the original four-club Nigerian challenge for Champions League and Confederation Cup glory will be reduced to just one with Plateau United and Kano Pillars already eliminated.

Former African champions Enyimba must be wary of Rivers' Godwin Aguda, the Confederation Cup Golden Boot chart-topper with five goals from four matches.

### Kotoko v Setif

There are seven former African champions among the 30 playoff hopefuls and two, Asante Kotoko of Ghana and Entente Setif of Algeria, were drawn together in a clash of clubs lacking CAF match practice.

Kotoko won and lost Champions League ties reduced from two legs to one because of coronavirus regulations and scored only once in 180

minutes before being demoted to the second-tier competition.

Setif did not even get a chance to play in the Confederation Cup as they received a bye, then a walkover when Chadians Renaissance failed to turn up in N'Djamena for their home fixture.

### Sfaxien v Kigali

The silver lining for CS Sfaxien of Tunisia after being ousted from the Champions League was a place in a competition where they have excelled, reaching four finals and winning three.

Sfaxien boast a potential match-winner in Fires Chaouat, whose five goals made him the joint leading scorer in the Champions League after the qualifying phase.

Kigali squeezed into the playoffs thanks to two away-goal victories and rely heavily on Nigerian Aoubakar

Lawal for goals.

### Buffaloes v Etoile

This is a match for the romantics with Young Buffaloes of eSwatini and Etoile Sahel of Tunisia inhabiting far apart rungs of the African football ladder.

Buffaloes rank among the also-rans on the continent and qualified for the playoffs despite not winning any of four matches in the Champions League before dropping to the Confederation Cup.

Etoile are the only club to have won all five current and former CAF competitions and nine titles places them fourth behind Ahly, fellow Egyptians Zamalek and TP Mazembe from the Democratic Republic of Congo among the most successful.

AFP

## Ibrahimovic, Ronaldo, Messi lead the way for older players still getting it done

By Gabriele Marcotti, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

SERIE A's top scorer, with 16 goals, is Cristiano Ronaldo, who turned 36 last week. Just behind him, you'll find a trio of players on 14: Romelu Lukaku, 27 years old, is the baby of the three, Ciro Immobile is 30 and Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a venerable 39 years old.

Ordinarily, this is when you'd cue up jokes about Serie A as a retirement league, a place where aging poachers keep banging in goals, aided by the supposedly slower tempo and the equally geriatric defenders. It's a stereotype – and a lazy one at that – but it's based on the fact that in the past decade the league's scoring charts have been topped by a 33-year-old Antonio Di Natale, a 38-year-old Luca Toni, a 31-year-old Edin Dzeko and a 36-year-old Fabio Quagliarella. But look around the scoring charts in Europe's top leagues and you may notice something unusual.

The top goal scorer in La Liga, Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez, is 34 and the guy right behind him, Lionel Messi, is 33, just like the guys who are fifth and sixth in the scoring charts: Karim Benzema and Jose Luis "El Comandante" Morales. (Sitting in eighth is another 33-year-old, Iago Aspas.) In the Bundesliga, 32-year-old Robert Lewandowski leads the way, and in the top 10 you'll find 31-year-old Thomas Muller and 32-year-old Lars Stindl.

The Premier League, of course, is a bit more youth-oriented, though if last year's top scorer, 34-year-old Jamie Vardy, hadn't been limited to 16 starts this campaign, he might be challenging league leader Mohamed Salah, 28, who has five more goals than he does.

Compare this year's scoring charts in England, Spain, Germany and Italy to those 20 years ago, and you'll count 14 over-30s in the top 10 today compared to eight in the 2000-01 campaign. (And, actually, the number of 30-year-olds in the top 10 in Italy has declined, from five to three.) Older players are scoring more often, and there are a number of fairly evident reasons behind this trend.

The first is pretty obvious. Advances in medicine and sports science have prolonged players' careers. It's not just Ronaldo, with his 142 reps in 45 seconds, or chilling (literally) at -200 degrees centigrade (-328 degrees Fahrenheit) in the cryogenic chamber he keeps at home, plenty of rank-and-file footballers take better



Ronaldo and Messi are still incredibly prolific in their 30s, not just because of their individual excellence but because of the ability to have superb teams around them. (Agencies)

care of themselves. And just as important, advances in surgical procedures and medical techniques mean that injuries that were once debilitating, if not career-ending, can sometimes leave players even stronger than before.

Another factor skewing the numbers is the presence of Ronaldo, Messi and – a rung or two below them – players like Suarez, Lewandowski and Ibrahimovic. The first two are G.O.A.T. candidates, blessed with so much ability (and the work rate and professionalism to squeeze the most out of it) that it's not a surprise they are going strong well into their 30s. Lewandowski is the third leading goal scorer in Bundesliga history (and he'll likely be second come the end of the season), Suarez is the only player not named Cristiano or Lionel to have scored 40 goals in a single season in the past 20 years in a top-four league and, well, Zlatan

is Zlatan. He broke the 500th goal in club football last weekend. He's comfortably in the top among those who played in the last half-century, alongside Messi, Ronaldo, Pele, Romario and Gerd Muller.

We often note how lucky we are that Messi and Ronaldo are contemporaries, but it's equally true that there haven't been many periods in history that have featured so many bonafide scorers of the same generation.

There are probably two other factors at work here and they're related.

One traces its roots to the Bosman rule, the court judgment in 1995 that made it illegal for teams in the European Union to place limits on the number of foreign players they could field or sign. Maradona, for example, had to play with at least eight Italian players during his heyday at Napoli. Inevitably, his supporting cast wasn't going to be as talented or as tailor-made as

it might have been if the club could have signed whomever they liked to round out the team. Couple this with the effects of polarisation we've seen over the past two decades – the gap between the handful of super-clubs that can outspend everybody and the rest has increased like never before – and the current generation of scorers has benefited like no other.

Simply put, the teams they play for are stacked to a degree rarely seen in history: they win more and score more, which translates into better numbers for the forwards.

There are other factors tied to this, which are more tactical in nature. If many teams played with two central strikers in the past, today most have a single offensive terminus, which naturally results in more opportunities. Furthermore, many of the players mentioned above are largely spared from defensive duties off the ball, whether it be pressing or tracking back.

(Not everyone, though. Benzema and Lewandowski in particular maintain a high work rate when not in possession – and it'll be interesting to see to what degree this continues as they approach their mid-30s; a year or two worth of extra mileage can make a big difference.) Then again, most play for top sides who have the bulk of the possession anyway and, therefore, there's less to do in terms of running around and defending, not to mention the fact that you spend most of your time closer to the opposing goal.

Longevity manifests itself in other positions too – though, apart from goalkeeper, it's not quite as prevalent. They're not goal scorers, so we can't necessarily measure their contribution as easily in terms of numbers, but there are plenty of notable players in their mid-30s contributing regularly at the highest level.



# SPORT

Zambians wary of Moroccans as they defend remarkable home record

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Lions Castilla's batsman (R) showcases his prowess during this year's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup tournament's Division B match between the squad and TCA Dar Combine team, which took place at the Annadil Burhani's oval early this week. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

## All set for 2021 TCA T20 Super League

By Guardian Reporter

THE much awaited 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Reliance Insurance T20 Super League is now set to start in Dar es Salaam tomorrow, with four teams participating in it.

Atif Salim, TCA information officer, stated the showpiece, financially backed by Reliance Insurance Company, will come to a close on March 7.

The four sides, according to the official, are Ngorongoro Titans, Serengeti Giants, Tembo Warriors and Kilimanjaro Aces.

Salim said two matches have been slated for tomorrow. According to him, Kilimanjaro Aces will lock horns with Serengeti Giants in the opening clash.

Tembo Warriors will confront Ngorongoro Titans in the day's second match, to be played in the afternoon.

The showpiece is a continuation of the domestic cricket body's efforts to raise the standard of the game at the domestic level.

Meanwhile, Upanga Sports Club's cricketers have stretched their winning run in Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) T20 Cup tournament's Division B, commanding eight-wicket victory over TCA Academy team in a clash, held in the city recently.

The clash's eventual winners, boasting of plenty of experienced players, have therefore become strong contenders for silverware in the tournament.

The youthful TCA Academy batted first and were skittled for 54 runs in 15 overs, with Colly Ambogo and John David turning out to be the playes with meaningful contribution. The top order batsmen posted 10 runs apiece, whereas the remainder of the squad's batsmen failed to live up to expectations.

They experienced a wobbly start, given opener Abubakar Juma was dismissed without a run to his name after executing a few knocks.

John, who opened the innings with Juma, managed to showcase his resilience for a few overs, ending with the 10 runs.

An early exit of Sayan Vijay Jobanputra, slotted in at number three, saw the team's efforts to boost the score suffer yet another blow.

Ambogo did all he could to boost the squad's confidence with good knocks, only to be sent back to the pavilion by Rinkesh Patel once the youthful batsman had brought his score to double digits.

Shashi Kumar had most wickets during Upanga Sports Club's turn with the ball, ending with three wickets and giving away 16 runs in four overs. Sadaf Saifee and Hardik Patel as well had good spells, given they took two wickets apiece.

With a modest target of 55 runs in their sight, Upanga Sports Club cricketers effortlessly got down to successful chase for two wickets in 8.1 overs.

Although Manoj Thakkar that opened the innings was dismissed with mere 10 runs, his exit did not frustrate the team's chase, given fellow top order batsmen helped the team wade off TCA Academy's challenge. Hardik had good knocks given he notched 11 runs not out. He formed an unbeaten stand with Shivan Kamania, who stepped at the crease after Jignesh Dondia's dismissal, to help their squad post the victory.

Dondia notched six runs, Kamania ended with five runs not out.

The DC T20 Cup tournament, hosted by the regional cricket body, Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC), under the auspices of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), gears towards boosting effort to develop the game at the domestic level.

## Ngorongoro Heroes will excel in Africa U-20 Cup of Nations, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA'S U-20 football squad 'Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach, Jamhuri Kihwelu, has disclosed he is optimistic the team will perform well in this year's Africa U-20 Cup of Nations tournament in Mauritania.

Kihwelu noted Ngorongoro Heroes' participation in three friendly matches before heading for the competition gave him chance to notice his team's weaknesses and work on them.

He stated he knows he is up for a tough competition despite some of football stakeholders at the domestic level taking the competition lightly. "We will play with teams that are regulars in this tournament, that's why I congratulate my players for participating in friendly matches," the coach disclosed.

Kihwelu has also received midfielder, Maurice Abraham, who got Ngorongoro Heroes' call up but he failed to head to the squad on time given he was on trials in Serbia.

The squad was set to jet off to Mauritania yesterday for the finals which kick off tomorrow.

Ngorongoro Heroes are in Group C of the showpiece with Morocco, Gambia and Ghana.

The national U-20 team on Wednesday posted 3-2 win over Vodacom Premier League outfit, Namungo FC, in a friendly match at Azam Complex, in Dar es Salaam.

Ngorongoro Heroes' goals were scored by Kelvin John, who scored a brace, on the sixth and 26th minutes, and Abdul Suleiman on the 81st minute.

Namungo FC's goals were scored by Adam Salamba on the 75th and 87th minutes.

The friendly was used by Namungo FC to put the outfit's players in good shape before heading to Angola to lock horns with Primeiro de Agosto in the CAF Confederation Cup play off first leg in Luanda tomorrow.

As for Ngorongoro Heroes, the friendly was a final preparation before traveling to Mauritania to participate in the Africa U-20 Cup of Nations.

Ngorongoro Heroes have been paired against Ghana, Gambia and Morocco in the showpiece, which will take place from February 14 to March 4.

The side will open the tournament with a fixture against Ghana on February 16, before taking on Gambia on February 19 and concluding group stage match with a date against Morocco on February 22.

## TFF terminates coach Etienne Ndayiragije's contract with Stars



Etienne Ndayiragije

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has confirmed the termination of senior national team "Taifa Stars" head coach Etienne Ndayiragije's contract.

The Burundian was appointed to replace Emmanuel Amunike of Nigeria, who was let go after the squad's poor show at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Egypt in 2019.

Taifa Stars finished without a point after losing all three matches against Algeria, Kenya and Senegal.

"Tanzania Football Federation has reached into an agreement to terminate Etienne Ndayiragije's contract as the head coach of the national team, Taifa Stars," the body stated in a statement.

"The two parties have agreed to part ways after holding consultation talks together."

"TFF would like to thank coach Ndayiragije because of what he did and achieved with Taifa Stars. We

would like to wish him the best in his future endeavours."

"TFF would announce the new coach once the recruitment process is over," the statement noted.

Ndayiragije has left his position after Taifa Stars struggled in the recently concluded African Nations Championship (CHAN) in Cameroon.

He helped Taifa Stars qualify for the tournament, which is meant for players playing in their own domestic leagues.

He guided the squad past Kenya and Sudan on their way to the 2021 CHAN edition.

Ndayiragije is one of the most experienced regional coaches having handled Vital' O of Burundi, and Tanzania outfits, Mbao FC, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC and Azam FC.

At Vital' O, he won Burundi's Premier League title as well as the FA Cup before he crossed the border to take over at Mbao FC of Tanzania in 2016. He did not stay for long at Mbao FC as he was appointed by KMC FC whom he helped qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in their history when they finished fourth in the Mainland Premier League.

With the good record at KMC FC, he was approached and later appointed by Chamazi-based club, Azam, he helped the club participate in CAF Confederation Cup.

He was named the Taifa Stars' head coach, acting on an interim basis initially, from Azam FC.

He helped the national side reach the group phase of the FIFA World Cup qualification after eliminating Burundi in the preliminary stage.

Danish Kim Poulsen is understood to be a clear candidate to replace the Burundian.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV FRIDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wakilisha (r)  
16:00 Ujenzi (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Skonga  
19:30 EATV SAA !  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Friday Night Live  
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Plane! Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 Friday Night Live

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