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### National Pg 3

People urged to join CHF



### National Pg 4

TRA hailed for performing well



### National Pg 5

Namtumbo hospital receives 50m/-



### National Pg 6

Three children die in house fire



# Brigade revisits school fires in 2020 report on disasters, rescue

By Guardian Reporter

THE Fire Brigade and Rescue Force said yesterday that a total of 557 people died in various disasters including fire incidents in 2020.

Among those rescued during disasters, 818 suffered injuries, 570 being men and 247 women.

During the particular period, the total number of fire incidents was 1,925 causing deaths of 62 people noted as 45 men and 17 women. Fire incidents caused injuries to 74 people, of whom 52 are men and 22 women.

In its report circulated to the media in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the force said that it has continued to make precautionary inspections against fire disasters, educating the public as well as investigating the causes of fire disasters.

The fire brigade was also engaged in rescue operations in various areas including road accidents, floods, mining areas, pit latrine immersion, sweeping of people by rivers, dams, the sea and in other situations, the report noted.

The force has been taking

measures to investigate causes of disasters and educate the public on how to avoid mishaps and reacting to such incidents, it said.

"We have been engaging in provision of education to the public on how to minimize the repetition of disasters. The public is also instructed on how to handle fire outbreaks in particular," the statement noted.

During the year there were many incidents of fire in schools, with outbreaks occurring at about 44 schools resulting in deaths of pupils and destruction of school infrastructures and other personal properties.

Investigations by the Fire Brigade and Rescue Force revealed that most of the fire incidents, especially those in schools were caused by negligence and sabotage leading to electrical faults, the statement indicated.

"However, in regard to boarding schools we have discovered that students secretly charge their cellphones using live electric wires in dormitory ceilings, using

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Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, who is also the Chancellor of State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) confers a Doctorate of Philosophy in Medical Science to former President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein at the 16th graduation for SUZA held at Tunguu in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

### SAWMILL

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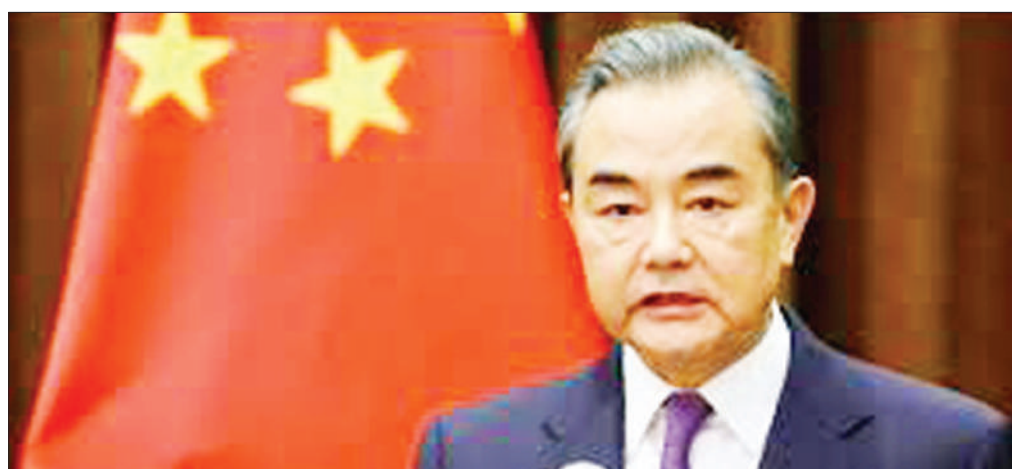
### EDUCATION

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### LAKE VICTORIA

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# Chinese foreign minister working visit starts Jan 7

By Henry Mwangonde

TRADE and industrial growth are expected to be the main discussion topics during the working visit of Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi in the country early next month.

Foreign Affairs and East Africa Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi told journalists yesterday that the trip comes a few days after phone talks between the presidents of the two countries Dr John Magufuli and

Chinese leader Xi Jinping (pictured).

The Chinese foreign minister whose proper portfolio is State Councilor for Foreign Affairs will visit the country from 7th to 8th January where he will meet and hold talks with President Magufuli at his Chato home in Geita Region.

The minister said that the trip was important as it will offer a platform for the two countries to discuss issues of trade and international affairs that are important to the two countries.

"China is our long time friend and has been with us in all times. The visit by the foreign minister will contribute to cementing the relationship which is now 55 plus years," he stated.

Issues expected to be discussed include investments in health, water resources, education and manufacturing in line with Tanzania's vision to be an industrial economy by 2025.

Prof Kabudi said the deep and long-standing Tanzanian-Chinese relationship continues to

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# Seed, grain initiative will benefit 100,000 farmers

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

OVER 100,600 smallholder farmers in 25 districts will be receiving grain and vegetable seed grants worth nearly \$400,000 (one trillion/-) to assist them combat the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through its new "Better Farms, Better Lives" initiative, Bayer, a life-science oriented multinational company will complement its current commitment to support smallholder farmers in Africa, by providing them with free hybrid corn and vegetable seeds.

"Smallholder farmers are essential to providing food security to billions of people, but the on-going COVID pandemic is placing extra challenges



**The programme flagged off in Arusha will be implemented in eight countries, namely Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zimbabwe**

on their ability to produce food for their communities and beyond," says Liam Condon, president of Bayer's Crop Science Division.

Also targeting to assist more than 700,000 small scale farmers across the country, Bayer's 'Better Farms, Better Lives,' program aims at providing assistance with market access to growers in line with Bayer's overall vision of 'Health for All, Hunger for None.'

The food security program was launched at Bayer Life Science Tanzania offices at Njiro suburb of Arusha City by Bob Shuma, executive director of the Tanzania Seed Trade Association.

The programme flagged off in Arusha will be implemented in eight countries, namely Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

It focuses on providing smallholder farmers with the assistance needed

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# 'Fertiliser body must use SGR to cut selling price'

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe (pictured) has directed the Tanzania Fertilizer Regulatory Authority (TFRA) to explore opportunities available with the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to reduce cost of fertiliser when it reaches smallholder farmers.

Bashe issued this directive in Dar es Salaam yesterday when visiting TFRA offices, citing high transport



cost as among factors for hiking the price of fertiliser.

"And one of the challenges is that we've been relying too much on road transport which is costly, despite that we have railway lines," he said, noting that when fertiliser reaches the Dar es Salaam port, the maximum cost of a bag is 38,000/-, but a smallholder farmer upcountry gets it at 64,000/-, an increase of 26,000/- per bag.

"This price has been contributed by transport costs and other handling charges. To farmers, this increases the cost of production, that's why it is high time for TFRA to come up with a solution that will make farmers get

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Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo (L) listens to the TIB Development Bank managing director Charles Singili (R) during a visit to the bank to learn about opportunities available that would catalyse investment activities in the country. Centre is TIB Development Bank chairperson, Dr. Maria Mashingo.

## Fifth batch of asylum seekers from Libya arrives in Rwanda

KIGALI

A group of 130 refugees and asylum seekers from Libya arrived in Rwanda on the night of Tuesday, December 29, becoming the fifth batch from the northern African country to be temporarily hosted in Rwanda.

The asylum seekers will eventually be resettled in other countries, according to an existing arrangement.

According to UNHCR, the global refugee body, the group is composed of 67 Eritreans, 48 Sudanese, 12 Somalians, two Nigerians, and one Libyan.

Visibly, majority of the latest

arrivals are youth, and a few couples who were with their little children.

Upon arrival at Kigali International Airport on Tuesday night, they were tested for COVID-19 and later accompanied to La Palisse Hotel Nyamata in Bugesera district from where they will wait for their results.

They will then proceed to the Gashora Emergency Transit Mechanism located in the same district, where they will be accommodated.

Since 2019, Rwanda has been receiving refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated from Libya, after being stranded there,

some for years.

The move is in line with the framework established through a tripartite agreement between the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR, and the African Union.

Under the agreement, Rwanda made a commitment to host African refugees trapped in Libya after their desperate efforts to make it to European countries were cut short.

In total, 515 refugees and asylum seekers have so far been evacuated to Rwanda and of these, over 200 got resettled in other countries - mainly in Europe.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Management, 131 were

resettled in Sweden, 23 in Canada, 46 in Norway, and 5 in France.

AGENCIES



**Visibly, majority of the latest arrivals are youth, and a few couples who were with their little children**

## Seed, grain initiative will benefit 100,000 farmers

FROM PAGE 1

to address additional challenges they may be facing as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the director noted.

To ensure maximum impact, Bayer is expanding its partnerships with governments, recognised NGOs and local organisations to provide accelerated access to agronomy services and knowledge, scale up existing and new value chain partnerships across Africa, he stated.

Klaus Eckstein, head of Africa Crop Science Division said that in line with the vision 'Health for All, Hunger for None,' Bayer is focused on providing smallholder farmers with the help they need to address immediate challenges while building resilience for the future. The company is working to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not turn from a health crisis to a hunger crisis, he declared.

In Tanzania, Bayer will collaborate with Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and with the Agriculture Council of Tanzania (ACT) to distribute 200 metric tons of Bayer's Dekalb corn and 100 tons of Seminis vegetable seeds brand, all valued at US \$493,500 to 25 districts, among them Meru, Songea, Iringa

and Kondo.

Laurent Perrier, managing director for Bayer East Africa Limited said that together with partners, the company aims to multiply the social and economic impact smallholder farmers can have in tackling poverty and hunger, improving health and livelihoods, and, ultimately, spurring economic development for communities and nations

Bayer is a global enterprise with core competencies in the life science fields of health care and nutrition. Its products and services are designed to benefit people by supporting efforts to overcome the major challenges presented by a growing and aging global population, the company says in its profile.

At the same time, the group aims to increase its earning power and create value through innovation and growth, on the basis of commitment to principles of sustainable development, it says, affirming that the Bayer brand stands for trust, reliability and quality throughout the world.

In fiscal 2019, the group employed around 104,000 people, earning 43.5 billion euros in sales. Capital expenditure amounted to 2.9 billion euros, while its research and development expenses totaled 5.3 billion euros.

## Brigade revisits school fires in 2020 report on disasters, rescue

FROM PAGE 1

water heaters and electric irons without due care, using candles during power outages as well as using oil lamps in areas without electricity," it stated

In order to minimize fire disasters, the brigade has agreed with the Tanzania Scouts Association to educate students on prevention of fire outbreaks, making the association part of voluntary fire fighters, it further noted, elaborating that the fire brigade has established 786 fire fighting clubs in primary and

secondary schools with over 34,000 members.

The force has in place strategies aimed at increasing firefighting equipment in installations in various regions and districts, along with refurbishing fire tenders and purchase of firefighting equipment.

"More education will continue to be provided to the public through the media, with television and radio programmes foremost to ensure the message reaches the widest sections of the public, it added.

## Chinese foreign minister working visit starts Jan 7

FROM PAGE 1

be characterized by significant trade, diplomatic exchanges and Chinese assistance and investment in Tanzania.

Tanzania remains one of China's principal African trading partners and assistance recipients. Tanzania and China have enjoyed a special relationship that dates back from the early years of independence, as Tanzania gradually soured its ties with Western countries over apartheid in South Africa, recognition of East Germany, unilateral declaration of independence in Southern Rhodesia (later Zimbabwe), building a rail link with Zambia to avoid using South African ports, where China built the road and rail link.

The relationship was cemented by Tanzania's role in getting China admitted to the United Nations General Assembly and then to the UN Security Council in place of Taiwan, traditionally a part of China that governs itself in alliance with Western powers.

Commenting on the visit, Chinese ambassador Wang Ke said the foreign minister will visit Tanzania and other African countries like Botswana, Senegal and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) at the start of the New Year.

Observers noted that scaling up the post-Covid-19 recovery effort for Tanzania and arrangements for supply of the Sinovac anti-coronavirus vaccine now authorized for use after being tested in various foreign countries will be key issues during the minister's tour of African countries.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks with Ruangwa district hospital workers in Lindi Region yesterday. Photo: PMO

## 'Fertiliser body must use SGR to cut selling price'

FROM PAGE 1

quality products and at affordable prices," he asserted.

He urged the authority to explore opportunities available in SGR by building warehouses in the major stations along the line, where the farm input will be transported by railway from the port to the nearest regional depot upcountry, and a small top up cost to take the fertilizer to nearby regions, districts and villages.

TFRA must this work out these modalities with the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) and the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) to see how best the two railway lines cheaply transport fertilizer.

"We want to see farmers get fertilizer at a cheaper price and using railway is the best option if we're to encourage farmers to increase fertilizer uptake in the country," the deputy minister underlined.

He urged the corporate

leadership there to be tuned commercially, seek out the commodity when prices are low in world market, not just purchasing at any time.

He said that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the price of fertiliser in the world market declined and I thus TFRA was supposed to import the quantities it needs at that time.

He also demanded that TFRA, the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) and the Geological Survey of Tanzania

(GST) to come up with maps on the availability of raw materials across the country to encourage investors to invest in the sector.

The move will reduce importation of agro-based raw materials for industries, he said, noting that at present 90 percent of fertiliser is imported.

TFRA executive director Dr Stephan Ngailo said that from 2016/2017 to 2019/2020, TFRA registered a total of 273 fertilizer types, and the number of dealers of fertiliser has gone up to 4,138

from 632 in 2016/17.

He said the use of fertiliser has increased from 296,036 tonnes in 2015/16 to 457,855 tonnes in the 2019/20 financial year, an increase of 54.7 percent arising from the introduction of the Bulk Procurement System (BPS) in fertilizer importation.

The high cost of supplying fertilizer to farmers is among setbacks thwarting the development of the agricultural sector since the price of fertiliser remains high,, he added.





Some passengers struggle to buy bus tickets at Moshi bus stand in Kilimanjaro Region for travelling to various destinations yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Geoffrey Mushi

## Govt purchases mobile sawmill machines worth about 200m/-

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE government has purchased two mobile sawmill machines worth over 200m/- to reduce loss of forest products and ensure value addition.

The machines have been bought through the Forestry and Value Chains Development Programme (FORVAC), a five year project which started in 2018 with funding support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland to a tune of 25bn/-.

The project is implemented by Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

Speaking recently in Ruvuma Region during the visit to the project, forest expert from the FORVAC programme, Alex Njahani said the machines will help to reduce loss of forest products such as timber and others.

The mobile sawmill machines imported from Norway, will be taken to Lindi and Ruvuma regions where the project for value addition to forest products is being implemented.

"We have decided to purchase the machines because they are capable enough to produce quality woods that add values in the market, contrary to other machines like chainsaw," he said.

National coordinator of the programme in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Emmanuel Msofe said: "With the machines we are likely to further develop the industry and create jobs for young Tanzanians."

Msofe added that once the technology is extended across the country, forest products will have more value and loss of woods and other forest products will be reduced. "We have three clusters including Tanga, Ruvuma and Lindi, the first machines will be allocated to Ruangwa, Liwale, Nachingwea districts in Lindi

Region," he said adding machines will be allocated to Namtumbo and Songea in Ruvuma.

Other clusters include, Nyasa, Mbinga, Tunduru, Kilindi, Handeni, Mpwapwa and Kiteto.

FORVAC is designed to stimulate forest value chain development on production of timber, charcoal and non-wood forest products.

According to Msofe, the machines will reduce the loss of forests which is now 469,000 ha per year.

Project coordinator for Ruvuma cluster, Marcel Mutunda said the machines will help to replace uncertified tools used to cut down trees like chainsaw that destroy the growth of the tree.

He said the mobile sawmill machines will ensure availability of best and quality woods.

A tree officer at Sautimoja village in Tunduru District, Ruvuma Region, Yusuph Kiangio said the mobile machines can produce many woods at a required standard and within a short time.

The mobile machines will reduce loss of wood by 63 per cent, and the expectations are to get 80 per cent of woods from a single log.

Kiangio further said that in Kilwa and Tunduru districts, the use of machines have resulted in increased revenue collections from 26m/- to 125m/- per year.

"Here at Sautimoja village, we have doubled the revenue collections to 85m/- from 40m/-", he added.

He said the machines can produce 250 pieces of woods per day compared to 25 pieces which were produced previously.

Sautimoja village executive officer, Philemon Dastan said the mobile machine has created a good number of job opportunities for the youth in the village and enhanced forest conservation activities.

## PM directs director to motivate people to join community fund

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed Ruangwa district executive director Frank Chonya to mobilise people in the district to join the Community Health Fund (CHF) to facilitate availability of quality and affordable medical services.

The PM made the remarks yesterday when he spoke to Ruangwa district hospital staff during his official tour in the district.

He said the government was in a process of establishing a

universal health coverage for all which will allow Tanzanians to receive services at affordable cost throughout the year.

"I direct you to ensure that the funds collected within CHF fund are well utilised and used as required because this is the gateway affordable services," he said.

The PM also directed the district medical officer to make a follow up to the provision of services because there were reports of some workers issuing insulting remarks to patients.

He said the aim of the fifth

phase government is to expand health insurance coverage to at least 50 per cent in the efforts to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (CHF).

The PM also addressed a public rally at Nachingwea in Ruangwa District where he promised to continue working with them develop the district.

PM Majaliwa said the government priorities were to ensure the availability of services such as water and health saying already there are many plans in place.

Apart from provision of

services the PM said the other area of concentration was to ensure improvement of economic prospects for the youth including establishing special funds for loans through constituency funds as well as agriculture.

The PM motivated the residents to involve themselves in activities that will generate income for their wellbeing.

"I will continue to administer the current system of loan issuance in local governments so that it benefits the youth by funding them.

## Natural resources retirees urged to unearth poachers

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

DEPUTY Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Dr Allan Kijazi has called on retirees from the ministry's various departments to work together with the people and become part of villagers to unearth all those engaged in wildlife poaching.

Dr Kijazi was speaking here early this week when closing a training seminar for officials who are about to retire from public service from the ministry's various institutions.

Dr Kijazi also called on the potential retirees to use the experience gained in the public service to educate the people in their areas about the importance of natural resources preservation.

"You should educate them from the experience you have gained in the ministry on various issues in preservation, especially wildlife preservation to ensure government strategies in natural resources preservation are realised," he added.

Dr Kijazi, who also doubles as TANAPA Commissioner for Conservation advised those intending to retire from public

service to abide by their training and exercise caution in the businesses they intend to engage in after retiring.

Mzamilu Kaita from the ministry's headquarters in Dodoma who represented those intending to retire thanked the ministry for the important training.

He also used the occasion to appeal to top ministry's officials to prepare their terminal benefits including letters of retirement so that they go through them for any shortfalls and amendments before they submit them to the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF).



Water minister Jumaa Aweso officiates a one day meeting attended by Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority senior officials and Dar es Salaam and Coast regions MPs aimed at strengthening relationship and to find solutions to challenges facing the sector. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING



#### INVITATION TO

#### STAKEHOLDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING PROCEEDINGS OF THE TASK FORCE ON TAX REFORM IN PREPARATION FOR BUDGET 2021/22

The proceedings of the Task Force on Tax Reform in preparation for Budget 2021/22 are scheduled to get underway in February 2021.

The Task Force provides a structured forum for discussion of various issues relating to tax policy and administration. This work has constituted a vital input to policy makers for a long time. It has helped to shape the country's tax regime and, through dialogue and analysis, facilitated an effective, transparent and efficient resolution of a number of issues.

The Task Force Secretariat will once again arrange a schedule of meetings with stakeholders for presentation and discussions in this financial year. The Government will take lead by giving an update of her policy objectives, agenda and challenges as well as an assessment of tax policy priorities for Budget 2021/22. This will provide participants with a broad context for this year's proceedings and motivate analysis and discussion on impacts of various proposals in depth.

The fiscal policy measures aim at improving business environment in order to attract investments and facilitating growth of small and medium business for sustainable economic growth; enhancing voluntary tax compliance; broadening the tax base; mainstreaming the use of ICT System in tax administration; strengthening enforcement of tax laws in order to address tax evasion challenges and minimize revenue leakages; and streamlining levies and fees in order to improve business and investment environment.

The Task Force invites the participation of officials from the Government, private sector, civil society, religious organizations, academia, research institutions and other specialists in public finance.

The submissions from interested parties should be in writing, stating clearly:-

- firm(s) organization(s) or association(s) being represented;
- The proposed changes in tax or non-tax revenue, including analysis of the sectors, regions or types(s) of taxpayers that would be affected;
- The projected impact on the economy and Government revenues in the year of implementation and outer years;
- The rationale and justification for the proposed revenue policy changes and, in particular, analysis of the means by which the proposal will help the Government achieve its overarching economic, fiscal and poverty-reduction objectives; and
- Where proposals entail a reduction in Government revenues (even in the short term only), there must be alternative proposals which set out explicit and credible measures consistent with the overall thrust of the Government's fiscal policies to offset the proposed revenue shortfall.

We are looking forward to having a productive exchange of ideas this year among stakeholders and the Government.

Submissions will be accepted from now until 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Please submit your proposals to the following address:

Secretariat, Task Force on Tax Reform (Policy Analysis Department- 2nd floor),  
Ministry of Finance and Planning,  
Treasury Square Building,  
18 Jakaya Kikwete Road  
P.O Box 2802  
DODOMA.

E-Mail: mathias.kadebe@hazina.go.tz or oliver.ndyali@hazina.go.tz

For more details/clarifications please call: 0713 694 895 or 0657 558 899  
Or visit our website: www.mof.go.tz

Doto M. James  
PERMANENT SECRETARY – MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING  
December, 2020



# Clerics praise JPM for ethics enforcement procedures

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA based Makedonia Missions Centre Church under Calvary Assemblies of God has congratulated President John Magufuli for his step calling on public officials to submit ethics forms that include statements of their assets and liabilities in accordance to Public Leadership Code of Ethics Act (No 13 of 1995).

The Church also called on public officials some of whom are in churches and mosques not to use their positions to conceal their properties in the shadows of their houses of prayer.

The praise was given here by the Church's founder, Rev Vincent

Malenda when speaking to the media as part of his New Year message.

"The issue of filling ethics forms was not new but it was forgotten by many public officials and continued enriching themselves illegally," he said.

"There are also some public officials who are in various houses of worship and have been using houses of prayer to oppress people who demand their rights."

He added that public servants must give general outlines of how they should behave, as well as specific guidance for handling issues like harassment, safety, and conflicts of interest.

He further said there are also religious leaders who use some of their followers in high government positions to harass some of church followers who demand their rights.

"I would like to appeal to religious leaders against using followers in high government positions in suppressing their rights, these should be pressured to ensure they maintain ethics in their positions," stressed Rev Malenda.

In regard to education, the cleric called on parents and guardians to ensure they prepare an enabling environment to send their children to the selected schools.



A cart pusher wades through shallow muddy water to hunt for potential customers at Sabasaba market in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

## THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



### DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

#### INVITATION FOR BIDS

COUNTRY: TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: SECOND WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROJECT

CREDIT NO.: IDA/59490, IDA/59500

CONTRACT TITLE: SUPPLY OF FAECAL SLUDGE VACUUM TRUCKS (MOBILE TRANSFER STATIONS)

REFERENCE NO.: TZ-DAWASA-196042-GO-RFB

Date: 31/12/2020

- The United Republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Second Water Sector Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply of Faecal Sludge Vacuum Trucks (Mobile Transfer Stations).
- The Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply of Faecal Sludge Vacuum Trucks (Mobile Transfer Stations). Delivery location is Dar es Salaam and delivery period is within six (6) months after signing the Contract.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, dated January 2011, revised in July 2014* ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, Procurement Management Unit, and inspect the bidding document during office hours i.e. 0800 to 1600 hours, Monday to Fridays inclusive, except on public holidays at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **TZS 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Tanzania Shillings) or its equivalent amount in freely convertible currency**. The method of payment will be by Direct Deposit or Telegraphic Transfer made to; Name of Bank: CRDB BANK; Account Name: DAWASA; Account Number: **01J1042996201**; SWIFT code: **CORUTZ TZ**. **Pay in slip should be submitted to be able to collect the bidding document** from the Secretary; DAWASA Tender Board; DAWASA Building; Dunga/Malanga Street, Opposite Mwananyamala Hospital; Dar es Salaam. The bidding document may also be delivered to interested bidders as a digital version (PDF) through e-mail upon payment of the aforementioned fee.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, 14:00 hours local time**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, 14:00 hours local time**.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of **TZS 100,000,000.00 or any equivalent amount in freely convertible currency** in form of irrevocable Bank Guarantee.
- The address referred to above is: Secretary, DAWASA Tender Board, Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority, DAWASA Building, Dunga/Malanga Street Opposite Mwananyamala Hospital, P.O. Box 1573 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Telephone: +255222760006/+255222760015. Fax: +255222762480

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY

## ZAECA reclaims 33.1m/- conned from people on promise of employment

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Authority (ZAECA) has reclaimed 33,130,000/- swindled from various people on promises of employment.

ZAECA Deputy Director for Investigations and Operations Makame Khamis Hassan said 58 people were swindled in this way by people who impersonated themselves as public officials and promised of employment in

various government departments and institutions, including the health and oil and natural gas sectors.

"After receiving these reports ZAECA conducted investigations and was able to reclaim the money from the connen," he said.

He said already ZAECA has returned the money to the owners and called on Zanzibaris to understand that government vacancies are not items for sale.

He cautioned them to stop the habit of paying bribes in

expectation of employment, as this, he said, was a crime by law.

He called on them to abide by the laid down procedures governing employment in the government and its institutions.

He said the government has a special procedure through it relevant organs to deal with employment issues.

He also called on all the people not to stop cooperating with ZAECA whenever they discover there is fraud when pursuing government services.

## Iramba DC praises TRA for great work in tax collection

By Guardian Correspondent, Iramba

THE chairman of Iramba District tax advisory committee who is also the Iramba District Commissioner Emmanuel Luhahula has praised the district's Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) manager Novline Munuo for great accomplishments on tax collections.

DC Luhahula's gave his congratulatory remarks on Tuesday this week at a tax advisory meeting at Iramba District headquarters in Kiomboi town.

The meeting was attended by various members including the district TRA manager, Iramba West Member of Parliament Mwigulu Nchemba, District Administrative Secretary Sango Sangoma and other government officials.

Luhahula said when the TRA manager came to the district there were only four Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFD) machines but within a short time they increased to 86 which is 96 per cent increase.

However, the DC called on TRA in the district to increase efforts in revenue collections saying many development projects implemented by the government are funded from taxation.

He said increase in revenue collections will also increase basic social services provision adding that paying taxes was a patriotic duty.

Speaking at the meeting, the Iramba West MP who is also the Minister for Constitutional and Legal affairs Mwigulu Nchemba said paying taxes was a necessary contribution as provided by

the laws for both citizens and foreigners.

In regard to issues of estimates, Nchemba called on TRA to make sure it acts fairly by examining businesses and services provided because higher tax estimates on the tax payer could result in business closure and lose all potential taxes.

"If you charge them fairly they will know it is their duty to pay and can pay, but just tell them the fifth phase government under President John Magufuli loves all tax payers and business people, hence they should be encouraged to pay," said MP Nchemba.

He said tax is the backbone of any nation hence the TRA should mobilise itself well to ensure business people pay taxes without grudges.

## Jafo wants Dodoma authorities to improve education performance

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State, President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government Selemani Jafo has directed authorities in Dodoma Region to come up with effective strategies to improve education performance in both primary and secondary schools.

According to him, most of the districts in the region have been performing poorly in the examinations, something which needs more innovative initiatives to address the challenge.

Jafo made the directives when he inspected the progress of construction of Mtemi Mazengo Model School located in the city.

"Performance of this school in national examinations is not satisfying, it is very poor compared to other regions, and

we have witnessed other regions improving every year. So go and come up with plans to address the challenge," he said.

He explained that the region has built better infrastructure and created conducive teaching and learning environments, so it is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that they apply innovative methods to help children study hard and thus perform well in their exams.

Doto Gombo, councilor of Ipagala ward assured the minister that he will work collaboratively with the area's leaders and teachers to ensure that the Mtemi Mazengo Model School becomes one of the top ten best schools in the next year's national examinations.

A representative of Dodoma Regional Commissioner, Dr Suleiman Serera said that the

region has already put in place strategies and will supervise them to ensure that it improves performance as directed by the minister

Earlier, the Dodoma City executive director Joseph Mafuru said that the council received a total of 706m/- in the 2018/19 fiscal year for the construction of the Model School.

"The council also added 241.9m/- to ensure that the school is completed well to serve better the pupils, it has now been registered and in June this year it had 660 pupils from nursery to Standard Six who came from five best schools of Ipagala B, Chaduru, Igahala, Mlimba C and Medeli," he elaborated.

Mafuru said that by next year, the school will have the capacity to accommodate 725 pupils.





Some farmers show up to collect cashew nuts seedlings produced by the National Service camp in Manyoni District, Singida Region yesterday. Story on Page 6 Photo: Correspondent Valentine Oforo

## Youth from 22 countries compete in final round of first AfriCAN Code Challenge

By Guardian Reporter

YOUTH from 22 African countries are waiting with bated breath as the final round of judging in the inaugural AfriCAN Code Challenge 2 takes place.

According to Olajide Ademola Ajayi, Africa Code Week Global Coordinator, the engagement by youth has been inspiring throughout the challenge.

“Despite the pandemic disrupting schooling for hundreds of millions of kids across Africa, the continent’s youth have stepped up to share their vision for the future of education. While there can ultimately be only one winner, the quality of entries at the inaugural AfriCAN Code Challenge inspire hope and optimism about Africa’s future, one shaped by the largest youth population in the world.”

Launched by SAP Africa Code Week [4] for the first time this year, the AfriCAN Code Challenge is a pan-African coding competition where youth aged 8 to 16 were tasked with coding a game using the Scratch programming language to answer the question: “How will your tech change the future of education?”

Youth were able to enter alone or in teams of up to five people, tapping into a wide range of essential skills from problem-solving and coding all the way to teamwork and communications. Each entry had to include a two-minute YouTube video showing how the game works and why it should win.

In total, 40 countries participated, with over 100 project videos submitted. The top three entries from 36 countries made it into the continental final, with 22 countries making it to the final judging stage. The winner will be announced in January 2021.

According to Claire Gillissen-Duval, Director of EMEA Corporate Social Responsibility and Co-founder of Africa Code Week at SAP, “African youth are highly creative and community-oriented, and have a key role to play in building a safer and better future for the continent. By encouraging learners to

## East Africa seeking to revive port operations on Lake Victoria

By Special Correspondent

TANZANIA, Kenya and Uganda are seeking to revive connected ports and maritime operations on the shared waters of Lake Victoria. Experts say the three East African neighbours could generate up to \$60 billion in trade annually.

A water bus is seen cruising on Lake Victoria. It is the main mode of transport for those who live on the Islands. It transports hundreds of people and their property on a daily basis.

“This thing is so nice and the reason is one; it doesn’t have a lot of accidents like the road; secondly, it is cheaper,” says Elisha Otieno, a passenger.

It carries people from Luanda K’otieno to Rusinga Island and back again every 2 to 3 hours.

Water buses help keep the wheels of the regional economy turning. “According to the people we have spoken to, there are many opportunities that Lake Victoria dishes out in terms of water transport but are yet to be tapped by the three African countries.”

Otieno adds: “These people would have put something that walk to all the three East African countries.”

Even though there are many motorboats in the lake, ships are almost non-existent. And few that can be spotted are considered permanently docked.

For people like 60-year-old Tom Mboya, such pictures serve as a reminder of the old good days.

Until the late 80s, ships carrying cargo would arrive at the then vibrant Kisumu port.

“It was really, really blossoming. All the stuff from Uganda like cows, mangos and fish from Tanzania were ferried,” says Tom Mboya, Naturalist.

Produce was destined for local markets and beyond to Asia, Europe and America.

“Cargo from abroad, imported things, all the way from Kenya into Uganda and Tanzania headed for places like Rwanda and other places. It was serving much more than the three countries,” Mboya adds.

But for years, ships that docked along the Kisumu port have been dormant.

Chairperson for Kisumu Branch, Kenya National Chamber of Commerce Israel Agina submits: “The biggest blow came when Kenya Railways stopped operating and that affected business at the port. Many people started to opt for the road transport via Busia and Malaba border.”

innovate at an early age, we hope to inspire them to become change-makers and help find solutions to challenges in their communities, nations and beyond.”

The 22 countries that made it through to the final round are Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

# Namtumbo District Hospital receives 50m/- worth full blood picture equipment

By Guardian Correspondent, Namtumbo

NAMTUMBO District Hospital in Ruvuma Region has received a full blood picture equipment (Hematology Analyser) worth 50m/-.

The facility has been donated by Mantra Tanzania Limited to facilitate operations at the hospital.

The hospital needed the essential equipment to function well and was handed over by Mantra Managing Director, Frederick Kibodya to Ruvuma Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Steven Ndaki on behalf of the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Christine Mndeme.

The handing over was done at the Namtumbo District Hospital in the presence of the Namtumbo District Commissioner and Namtumbo District Council staff.

The donation was part of the continuation of the fundraising

Namtumbo Selous Marathon that was held in November 2017 and November 2018 and a dinner that aimed at raising funds for the construction of the Namtumbo District Hospital.

In addition to being the main sponsor of the two marathons and fundraising dinner, Mantra contributed more than 60m/- in cash for the initial construction of the maternity ward at the District Hospital.

According to Kibodya, the donation will greatly improve the efficiency of blood test at the district hospital.

“This instrument is very important for the hospital as it can analyse more parameters to characterize disease detection and monitor blood cells in patients, with speed, accuracy and precision,” he said.

Donation of the hematology analyzer goes hand in hand with the donation of a borehole to the district hospital. The borehole cost 19.5m/- and will help ease

water shortages at the hospital and improve sanitation.

Mantra Tanzania owns the Mkuju River Project in Namtumbo District of Ruvuma region in southern Tanzania and owned by ROSATOM, a Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation. Rosatom, is the only company in the world that has the resources and competencies to offer energy solutions across the nuclear supply chain, including assets in design, construction and operation of nuclear power stations, uranium mining, conversion and enrichment, supply of nuclear fuel, decommissioning, spent fuel storage and transportation, and safe nuclear waste disposal.

Rosatom also engages in the production of equipment and isotope products for the needs of nuclear medicine, scientific research, and materials science, the production of digital and various innovative products.

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### Supplier Registration / Prequalification Notice Britam Insurance (Tanzania) Limited

(Incorporated In Tanzania on 26th June 1998 Under The Companies Act)

Registration Number 34259

Britam is a leading diversified financial services group listed on the Nairobi Securities Exchange. The group has presence in seven countries in Africa namely: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, Mozambique and Malawi. The group offers a wide range of financial solutions in Life Assurance, General Insurance, Health Insurance, Retirement Planning, Asset Management and Property. These solutions enable our customers to protect, grow their wealth and achieve their financial goals every step of the way.

Britam Insurance Tanzania Limited hereby invite interested suppliers and service providers with suitable capabilities to be prequalified for provision of various services for the period 2020 – 2022. The Company has Branch, Broker and Agent network all over the United Republic of Tanzania.

This registration/ prequalification exercise relates to provision of services in Tanzania, their financial goals every step of the way.

Britam Insurance Tanzania Limited hereby invite interested suppliers and service providers with suitable capabilities to be prequalified for provision of various services for the period 2020 – 2022. The Company has Branch, Broker and Agent network all over the United Republic of Tanzania. This registration/ prequalification exercise relates to provision of services in Tanzania.

Interested eligible bidders should apply by submit the following documents/information in a sealed envelope clearly indicating the category of service applied for not later than 31st Dec 2020.

1. Company registration certificate
2. Regulators License
3. Company profile
4. VAT certificate where applicable
5. TIN Certificate
6. Evidence of working with top 10 insurers in the Market signed by the CEO
7. Qualification of Management, operations and key staff
8. Pricing and fees charging methodology
9. Facilities available where applicable
10. Referral letters from three previous companies

#### PROPOSED PREQUALIFICATION CATEGORIES

Category No.	Services Description
BRT/2019-21/1	Provision of Windscreen Fitters' Services
BRT/2019-21/2	Provision of Vehicle Towing and Recovery Services
BRT/2019-21/3	Provision of Valuation Services - Property
BRT/2019-21/4	Provision of Valuation Services - Motor Vehicles
BRT/2019-21/5	Provision of Risk Surveyor Services
BRT/2019-21/6	Provision of Motor Vehicle Assessment Services
BRT/2019-21/7	Provision of Marine Cargo Surveillance Services
BRT/2019-21/8	Provision of Insurance Investigative Services for General Business
BRT/2019-21/9	Provision of Debt Collection Services
BRT/2019-21/10	Provision of Motor Vehicle Repair Services - Garages -From all major towns in Tanzania
BRT/2019-21/11	Provision of Loss Adjuster Services
BRT/2019-21/12	Provision of Insurance Forensic Services
BRT/2019-21/13	Provision of Hospital/Healthcare Services
BRT/2019-21/14	Provision of Auctioneering Services
BRT/2019-21/15	Provision of Scrap Collection & Salvage Buyers
BRT/2019-21/16	Legal services Provision of damaged vehicles/savages storage facilities
BRT/2019-21/17	Provision of Designing and creative services
BRT/2019-21/18	Provision of printing and scanning facilities services
BRT/2019-21/19	Provision of renovation services
BRT/2019-21/20	Provision of manual file retrieval, archiving and document storage services

Category No.	Consultancy Services
BRT/2019-21/21	Provision of Information Security, Cyber Security Solutions, Consultancy and Support Services
BRT/2019-21/22	Accident Specialist Doctors
BRT/2019-21/23	Provision of Customs bonds Cancellation services
BRT/2019-21/24	Provision of Maintenance of hardware and software services
BRT/2019-21/25	
BRT/2019-21/26	Provision of IT Portal Services
BRT/2019-21/27	Provision of payment solution Services
BRT/2019-21/28	Provision of IT Portal Services

Completed prequalification documents should be submitted in plain sealed envelope clearly indicating the category description and reference number being applied for and should be deposited in the tender box Head office of Britam Insurance (Tanzania) limited, PPF Tower 4th floor, Ohio Street, Garden Avenue during normal working hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs 100,000/- for each category by Bankers Cheque payable to Britam Insurance(Tanzania) Limited, or cash receipted at the office. Please note that any document submitted without an official receipt will be rejected. Or sent by post to:-

Chief Executive officer  
Britam Insurance (Tanzania) Limited  
P.O.BOX 75433  
Dar es Salaam

Current suppliers and service providers are required to participate in order to be considered. The deadline for participation in the prequalification exercise is 31st Jan 2020at 1700hrs EAT. Britam Insurance (Tanzania) Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications to the prequalification either in whole or in part.



## JKT in partnership with TARI produce at least 300,000 cashew nut seedlings

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Singida

THE National Service (JKT) in partnership with the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) has produced at least 300,000 cashew nut seedlings in efforts to assist farmers in Singida Region to cultivate the strategic economic cash crop.

Inaugurating the event to sell cashew nut seedlings to the farmers yesterday in Manyoni District, the head of Makutupora JKT, Lt Col Festo Mbanga said the national service has well prepared to ensure for vast cultivation of the crop in the country.

He said the National Service already established 500 - demonstration farms of cashew nuts within the district as part to sensitise the farmers to adopt cultivating of the crop.

"Since when the government made public its quest to revive and improve the production of cashew nuts in the country, we (JKT), decided to join the effort through the production of relevant seedlings," he said, adding that the National Service will continue strategising and implementing diverse interventions to advance mass cultivation of the prestigious crop in all regions where it is flourishing.

Currently, Tanzania produces 315,000 tonnes of cashew nuts in a year, which is very low.

So far, already 20 regions have been selected for the major cashew nuts production with the aim being to sensitise farmers to start cultivating in special groups, under larger block farms.

In Singida Region two districts of Manyoni and Itigi and in Kongwa District (Dodoma) farmers have already formed

groups and started growing major joint farm blocks.

"The block farming system is more effective in allowing the government to smoothly and timely provide the farmers with much-needed inputs and other vital extension services, including training over recommended cashew nuts agronomic practices," according to national coordinator for cashew nuts Geladina Mzena.

She expressed that the major focus is to ensure Tanzania bounces back and compete highly in the world cashew nuts market, against giant producers like India, Vietnam, Brazil, and Ivory Coast.

"Through cooperation with TARI - Naliendele the Cashew Board of Tanzania (CBT) we opened more than 35-hectares of cashew nut plantation in Manyoni District, Singida Region.

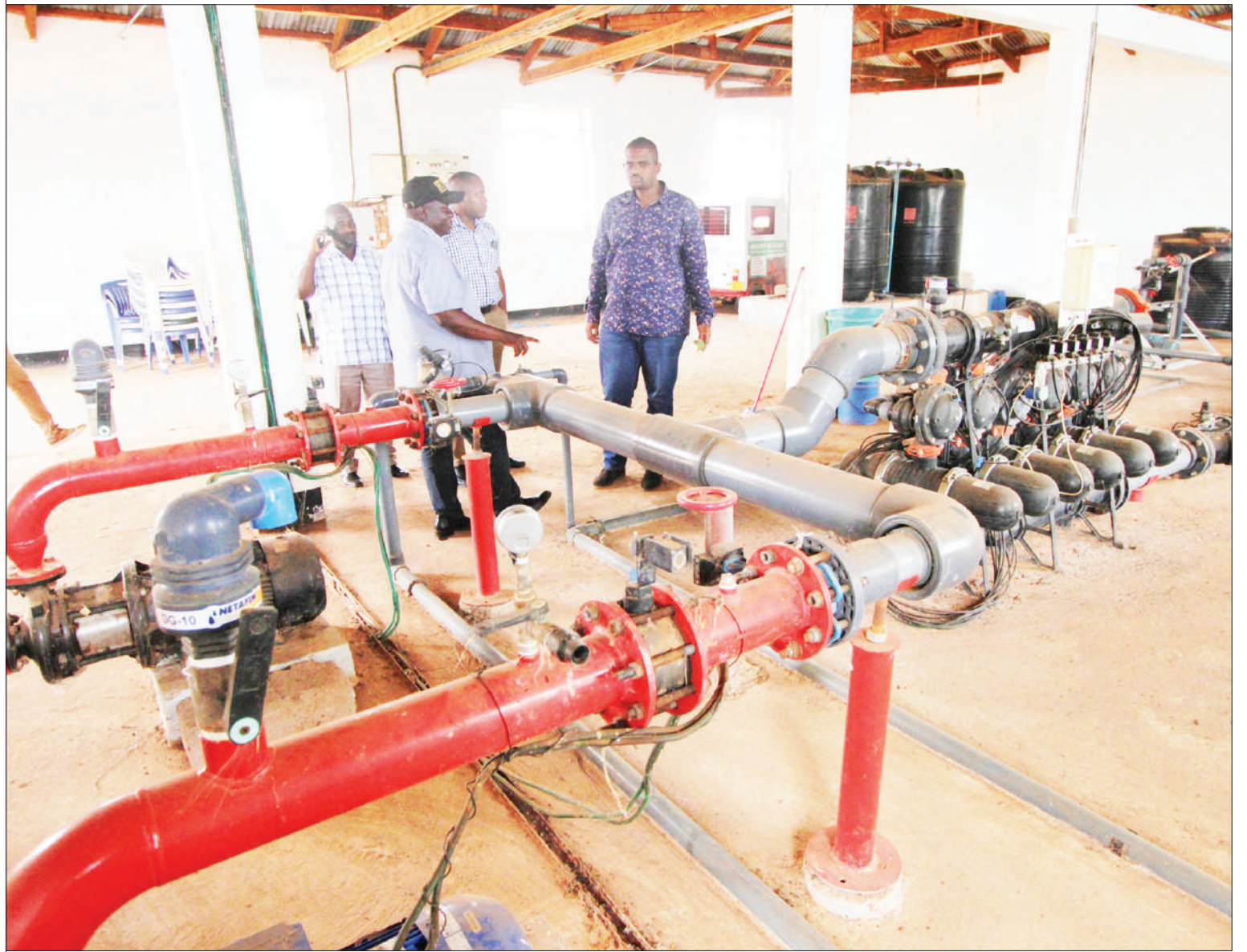
According to the director of crop development, Nyasebwa Chimagu, the development was part of a series of plans by the government to initiate large block farms for all strategic - economic crops across the country.

Singida farm, he said had already begun with at least 945 cashew nuts seedlings projected to produce a total of 13 tonnes in a period of three years to come.

With good pace so far attained by TARI through the innovation of a total of 54 improved cashew nut seedling varieties, he projected that the country's cashew nut cultivation was very promising.

Ray Mtangi, head TCB for the central zone, said the board was continuing to impart the farmers in all regions with good farming methods

He said there was a need to continue capacitating farmers to produce high-quality cashew nuts in order benefit from good prices in the world market



Deputy Minister in the President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance Deogratius Ndejemi (R) together with grapes farmers inspect irrigation water pump at Chinangali II in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

THREE children have been reported dead in different fire incidents in Uvinza District, Kigoma Region, police said yesterday.

Regional Police Commander, James Manyama told journalists here that the first incident occurred on December 27th around noon at Mpanzi area in Nyarugusu village, Kasulu District.

He named the deceased as two-year girl, Yumwema Festo, three months old Enifa Festo—and a

## Three children perish in fire incidents in Uvinza District

one-year-girl, Rose Kessy.

Elaborating, the commander noted that Yumwema Festo and Enifa Festo died while sleeping inside their home at Nyarugusu village. He said parents of the children who are refugees from Burundi fled to an unknown destination soon after the

incident.

Manyama said that Rose Kessy died yesterday when rushed to the hospital after she was rescued by Good Samaritans when fire broke out at their home on December 29th.

"Fire broke out at their home when her mother went to fetch

water at a nearby borehole," said the commander noting that fire started in the kitchen before spreading into the house.

Manyama said that bodies of the two siblings have been preserved at Nyarugusu health centre while Rose's body was preserved at Nguruka health centre.



One of the beneficiaries of Improved Community Health Funds (CHF) in Kyela District council (L) receives his CHF card donated by Ibhasa group to support people in need in Mbeya Region yesterday. More than 662 residents were issued with the CHF cards. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

More than 3m/- has been used to buy health insurance from the Improved Community Health Fund (CHF) for 662 people from vulnerable groups in Kyela District, Mbeya Region to enable them access free medical services in dispensaries, health centres, district hospitals up to Mbeya regional referral Hospital.

The money was raised by Ibhasa Festival 2020 Group from Kyela indigenous residents living in various areas inside and outside the country to assist people in vulnerable groups in health and education sectors.

Ibhasa Festival 2020 Deputy Chairman, Edo Mwamala

## Charity group registers over 600 Kyela residents in CHF

said the group made great contribution in assisting the people of Kyela in health and education during the last two years.

He said in 2020 they decided to buy health insurance for people in vulnerable groups.

Nicolaus Mwangomo, a Member of Ibhasa Festival 2020 Committee said one of the Group's strategies was to assist people in education and health and appealed to other

stakeholders to contribute towards their CHF plan.

He appealed to the government to improve the environment in health provision via CHF, just as it was for people with other health insurance funds.

Charles Mwakilema, who was registered in CHF by Ibhasa Festival 2020 thanked the group for the assistance saying the plan was a savior to them as he will be assured in accessing health services.

Presenting CHF cards to some of the beneficiaries, Kyela District Council Executive Director Ezekiel Magehema said Ibhasa Festival 2020 has made great contribution in assisting the community in the District, and added that so far CHF registration has reached 20 per cent.

He said health insurance funds have made great contribution to the council's revenues attaining 49 per cent of its revenues.

## Kalemani cautions dishonest officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemani has threatened to fire officials of the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (TANESCO) who are said to demand for more payments to connect customers with electricity.

Dr Kalemani insisted that customers are only required to pay 27,000/- for power connections.

He was speaking here recently during his meeting with TANESCO officials and employees based in Mwanza city. The meeting was aimed at discussing on how to further improve services as well as ensuring that all customers requesting for the service are connected on time.

"There have been complaints from customers who have been told to pay extra cash apart from the indicative price set by the government. I also informed some unfaithful officials who have been selling poles or charging extra costs to customers staying 30 meters from the poles; this is unacceptable, all customers must get the services at similar cost," he noted.

He said the government is determined to connect all the villages that are still in the dark starting early February next year whereas contractors under the Rural Energy Agency (REA) will soon be dispatched across the country to start executing the power projects which see all the villages countrywide connected to the main grid.

The minister directed all TANESCO zonal, regional and district managers to make sure that all the villagers in Mwanza Region are connected with electricity within 18 months. He added that power connection

to villagers would boost help to reduce poverty as they will be capable of establishing income generating activities.

He urged the managers to cut power services to all the customers with unpaid monthly bills regardless of being government institutions. He insisted that power should only be restored to institutions that have settled their bills.

"No one will blame you for cutting electricity services to these institutions, they have not paid their monthly bills for long," he said cautioning some dishonest workers from pocketing some power payments from city customers.

Dr Kalemani wondered as to why the city has a total of 150,000 registered customers only while the company receives new power connection requests every day.

He added: "You must also train your service providers especially those in the customer care department to ensure improved services.

TANESCO Manager in Mwanza Region, Eng Felix Olang said they have improved power services although they still owe their customers over 2bn/-.

Inaugurating the 12th Parliament in the country's capital in November this year, President John Magufuli boasted to have facilitated power connection to some 9, 570 villages in the past five years, saying only 2,018 out of 12,228 total villages had access to electricity when he took over the presidency.

However, the number of customers connected to the main grid has reached over 2.766 million, up from 1.473 million, an increase of 1.293 million new connections.



# UN moves to end world's largest peacekeeping mission in Sudan

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

THE UN Security Council reached a decision this week to wind up the African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in Darfur, Sudan.

UNAMID is currently the biggest peacekeeping Mission in the history of UN peacekeeping.

Dr Ashraf Eissa, the spokesperson of UNAMID, where Rwanda has more than 1,000 peacekeepers said that the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2559 on the situation in Darfur and instructed UNAMID to cease its operations in Darfur by December 31 2020.

"The Council gave a period until 30th June (2021) to enable the Mission to repatriate its troops and personnel followed by a liquidation period where a small team can dispose of assets and complete the closure of the Mission," he said.

"This means UNAMID's last patrol will go out on 31st December and after that there are no mandated activities other than drawdown followed by closure."

According to the spokesperson, details on the drawdown are yet to be set by the UN but they are in the pipeline.

UNAMID troops came from Rwanda, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Tanzania.

When, in August 2004, just 10 years after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, Rwanda deployed its first contingency to a peacekeeping mission, it was under the auspices of the then

African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). The latter was mandated to curtail the humanitarian catastrophe that was boiling in Darfur. Rwanda's first contingent of 155 troops was also the first boots on the ground for the new peacekeeping mission.

Later, a new hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping mission was formally approved by the Security Council Resolution 1769 on July 31, 2007, to bring stability to the war-torn Darfur region of Sudan while peace talks continued.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

Currently, Rwanda is the third largest UN troop-contributing country in the world.

Rwanda has deployed more than 6,000 military and police personnel to different peacekeeping missions in the world.



**This means UNAMID's last patrol will go out on 31st December and after that there are no mandated activities other than drawdown followed by closure**



Kawe MP Josephat Gwajima (3rd-L) receives briefing from Mivuoni Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation manager Felchesh Kimaro during his visit to inspect Salasala water project in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Special Correspondent

THE Norwegian government will continue its support of the Farm to Market Alliance, helping to ensure that agricultural markets work better for hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia.

The Farm to Market Alliance is an alliance of six agri-focused organisations, collaborating to develop a sustainable and profitable agricultural sector in Africa. It does so by addressing the major challenges smallholder farmers face, supporting their transition to commercial agriculture.

The Alliance's global members are the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), Bayer, Rabobank Group, Syngenta, Yara and the World Food Programme

## Farm to Market Alliance secures additional public funding from Norwegian government

(WFP).

The Farm to Market Alliance works to build resilient value chains by bringing together the public and private sectors to leverage the knowledge, experience and infrastructure of agriculture experts. The Norwegian government have committed NOK150 million (US\$17 million) over 3 years in support for the Farm to Market Alliance.

Africa is recognised as the future breadbasket of the world, but the continent is still a net-importer of food. The Farm to Market Alliance's mission is to develop a sustainable and profitable agricultural sector in Africa.

Farmers in Africa have

been subject to a range of barriers preventing them from transitioning to commercial farming. To address this, the Farm to Market Alliance takes a demand-led approach in servicing smallholder farmers and the surrounding ecosystem, thus providing a holistic value chain solution.

"The private sector has a critical role to play in the worldwide movement to end hunger - we will never achieve our goal without their support. The Farm to Market Alliance is a unique collaboration that supports the growth of agricultural markets and works with smallholder farmers to help them find buyers for their produce - enabling them to earn

a sustainable living and support their families," said Executive Director of the World Food Programme, David Beasley.

The announcement of continued funding to the Farm to Market Alliance comes at a time when access to food is deteriorating for millions of people, threatening both food security and peace in vulnerable regions.

"In the middle of the COVID-19 crisis we are also facing a hunger crisis. We must rebuild more resilient and fair food systems after the pandemic, and the Farm to Market Alliance is uniquely positioned to help us achieve that goal," said Yara's President and CEO, Svein Tore Holsether.



Standard 7 pupils and their parents looking for names of selected pupils to join secondary schools in 2021. The names had been pinned up on specific display boards in Dodoma municipal council yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

CAIRO

## Egypt gives priority to cooperation with Nile basin countries - minister Abdel

EGYPTIAN Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Abdel Aati has said bilateral cooperation with all African countries, including Nile basin states, is one of the basic axes of Egypt's foreign policies in light of potentials Egypt enjoys in the fields of human cadres and technical expertise in the water resources domains and other fields.

The minister's statements came during a meeting with his ministry's officials including engineers in charge with Nile water sectors to follow up cooperation with African countries.

Abdel Aati pointed out to cooperation in carrying out development projects benefiting

the citizens of African countries and achieving sustainable development in the aftermath of serious challenges besetting the continent including overpopulation in some African countries as well as the spread of poverty, illiteracy and diseases.

Abdel Aati described cooperation with African countries as a model to follow between Egypt and sisterly African states.

The water resources minister said a number of cooperation projects were carried out with some African countries during the past years where his ministry established dams and solar

energy-operated subterranean drinking water stations.

He added that seven dams were established in Uganda, 180 subterranean water wells were dug in Kenya, 75 others were dug in Uganda, 30 were dug in Tanzania, 10 were dug in Sudan's Darfur and 6 in South Sudan's Juba along with a water lifting station in South Sudan.

Minister Abdel Aati added that his ministry delegated experts to Guinea Conakry to conduct studies for establishing a dam and a hydroelectric project.

He added that his ministry carried out numerous projects in the fields of clearing water canals

and waterways to develop African communities, improve the living conditions of Africans, create job opportunities, develop fishing farms and protect African citizens from diseases.

The minister added that training courses are being organized to train African cadres on the management and use of underground water, pointing out that 100 trainees from Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Zambia, Malawi, Cameroon and Burkina Faso received training courses and scholarships

## Africa selected to pilot UN-funded project to reduce illicit financial flows

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA has been selected to pilot a United Nations-funded project to reduce illicit financial flows. The pilot by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) support the project, which is aimed at helping the region achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the next decade.

UNCTAD and UNODC said the framework, adopted this week, was arrived at through collaborations with international organisations and national tax, customs and statistics experts.

The framework identifies four main types of activities that can generate IFFs - illicit tax and commercial activities, illegal markets, corruption and financing of crime and terrorism.

The measures will also be extended to Asia and the Pacific from next year, as part of a global war against IFFs to promote peace, justice and strong institutions, as reflected in target 16.4 of the SDGs. According to UNCTAD's Economic Development in Africa Report 2020, stopping illicit capital flight would cut in half the annual financing gap of \$200 billion with an estimated \$88.6 billion reported to leave the continent illegally.

"This is a major achievement in the work to combat illicit financial flows and a big step towards better transparency. We cannot tackle IFFs without statistics that help us understand the magnitude, channels and types of IFFs," said UNCTAD chief statistician Steve MacFeeley in a statement.

He added: "Now, for the first time, we have an agreed upon definition of illicit financial flows for statistical measurement. Next,

we will prepare guidance for pilot countries to help them assess the types of IFFs relevant in their context, review data availability and select best methods to measure IFFs in line with the conceptual framework."

Lack of consistent statistics on IFFs causes uncertainty about the size and trends in illicit flows, how and where they originate and their impact on development. IFFs can markedly differ across countries and regions, and lack of a common framework makes their measurement impossible.

Every year, organised crime, trade in illegal goods, and illegal or illicit tax and commercial practices generate billions of dollars in illicit flows. This includes proceeds of crime that are channelled abroad, often to safe havens. These funds may also be laundered and reinvested in legal markets, or they may originate in the legal economy and be illicitly transferred abroad.

UNODC's chief of research and trend analysis Angela Me underscored inter-agency collaboration when addressing tricky development challenges like IFFs.

"Illicit funds that are moved across countries secretly divert significant amounts of resources with harmful effects. These funds are a drain on measures to improve living conditions and tackle poverty," said Me.



**Illicit funds that are moved across countries secretly divert significant amounts of resources with harmful effects**



THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## TIB can aid institutions loan SMEs, with risk fund facility

**N**EWLY appointed Minister of State in the President's Office (Investments) Prof Kitila Mkumbo has embarked on the difficult task of mobilizing funds to assist small and medium enterprises to obtain working capital. He has lately called on the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB) to come up with a plan on how best to assist small and medium entrepreneurs increase their capitals as a way to boost their potential contribution to economic growth. He discussed with experts there but ready formulas weren't that clear.

The minister was on a familiarization and brain storming at TIB headquarters, to widen opportunities for local and foreign investors, definitely aware of the burden that the bank has been carrying to assist public sector investments short of capital. And even for the small scale investors that the minister seeks to find assistance, there is already a large number of banks and other financial institutions, the problem being the need for collateral as a basis for loans. The minister gave examples of collective enterprises like large urban markets, where obviously the land can't be owned by an individual, so other formulas are needed.

One incontestable point that the minister raised was that 'there is a lot of money outside the formal sector,' but that it demands a push by some sort of capital infusion, especially at the level of targeted agricultural activity. He mentioned that 'what happens in the streets is mainly agriculture, as 60 percent of trade involves agriculture, a situation that shows we cannot develop agriculture

without these people,' that is, traders. That is where he cited an example of Ubungo agricultural crops market in the city, which each year accommodates hundreds of thousands of traders, momentarily and in a more habitual manner, that is.

From what the minister said and what his hosts remarked later, it is unclear if they were on the same wavelength as to the potential of significant investment potential in such areas, though he was convinced that 'there is big business in there,' referring to the need for infrastructure, while the whole issue of capital remained in place. TIB Managing Director Charles Singili said investments that can assist them are those focused on infrastructure, to ease challenges to conducting business if they are located in a particular area. Here another case came up, that of furniture dealers at Keko area, also in Dar es Salaam.

If the impression that TIB officials will have remained with is that investments in infrastructure is all that can be done for small entrepreneurs and especially in the crop sector is infrastructure, the minister's visit would not really have yielded fruits. It appears a meeting point is needed between infrastructure (which is a general issue and not just for investors), and obtaining capital that obviates direct presentation of collateral. That is why TIB can move in that direction not with individual small entrepreneurs as that would not suit its business model; but if various financial institutions make arrangements with TIB for back up capital relating to risks involved in a special facility, probably with Treasury margins and say so.

## Why transforming our food systems is a feminist issue

**G**ENDER equality, also known as sexual equality or equality of the sexes, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making, and the state of valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.

Gender equality is the goal, while gender neutrality and gender equity are practices and ways of thinking that help in achieving the goal. Gender parity, which is used to measure gender balance in a given situation, can aid in achieving gender equality but is not the goal in and of itself. Gender equality is more than equal representation, it is strongly tied to women's rights, and often requires policy changes. As of 2017, the global movement for gender equality has not incorporated the proposition of genders besides women and men, or gender identities outside of the gender binary.

UNICEF says gender equality "means that women and men, and girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men, be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike."

On a global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices against women and girls, including sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, gender wage gap, and other oppression tactics. UNFPA stated that, "despite many international agreements

affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence."

As of 2017, gender equality is the fifth of seventeen sustainable development goals (SDG 5) of the United Nations. Gender inequality is measured annually by the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Reports.

In countries where women are most marginalised, discriminated under the law and where gendered norms prevent women from owning property and resources, people are also the hungriest. This is because gender equality and food systems are intertwined.

However, too often, we only focus on the roles that women play in production, processing, trading of food and in making decisions about consumption and purchase of food at household level.

A just and equitable food system will require the recognition of women as farmers, with rights to the land they cultivate, technologies that reduce the drudgery of agriculture and policies that ensure women can make a living wage from agriculture

And while this is important, we must also focus on whether the food system as organised is just and equitable and whether it promotes the empowerment and livelihoods and health of women and girls.

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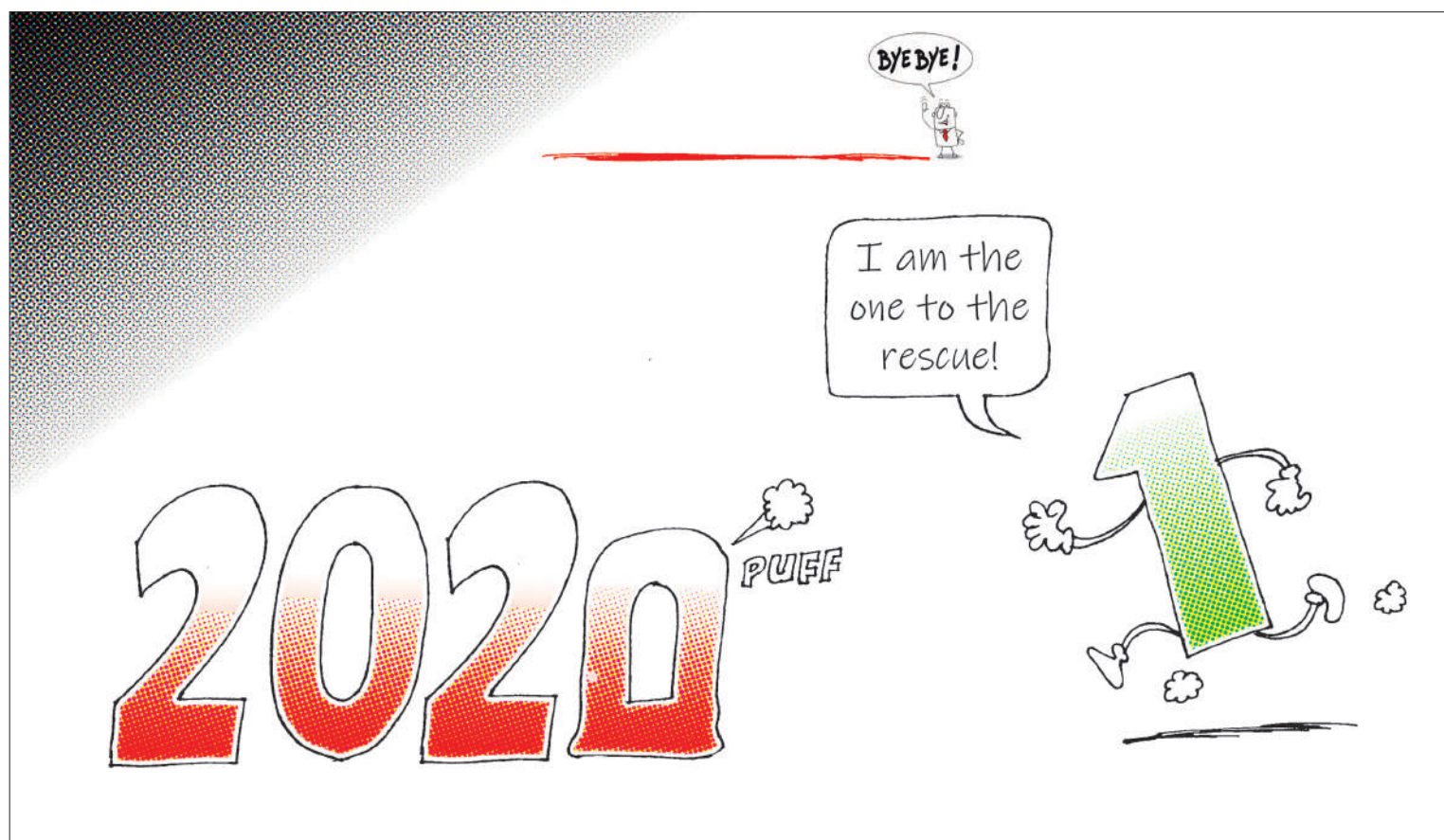
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By Special Correspondent

**A**S reported, Donald Trump has approximately 74 million votes with 232 votes from the Electoral college while Joe Biden has approximately 81 Million votes with 308 votes from the electoral college.

On 20th January 2021 Outgoing President Trump must hand over power to incoming President Biden or be declared a rebel.

Outgoing President Trump will never accept to be a rebel. Hence contrary to the claim of his supporters he must be getting ready to leave the white house at the right time.

No President on earth would want to be evicted by security personnel from a state house that is public property.

The lessons of the US elections are clear. Outgoing President Trump is a Billionaire. His money did not save him from losing the

## The final count and the lessons of the US elections



presidency. Biden had a woman of African, Asian and Caribbean origin as his running mate but did not deter more than 80 Million voters from voting for him, the

largest vote count in the history of the US. He and his wife are above seventy but young people went to the polls to vote for him to get rid of Trump who also had the

second largest votes that a loser ever had in US Elections.

This confirms that Elections are mere tools to determine legitimacy in managing the affairs of a country that is free from a monarchy which provides for hereditary rule. Where the might of the people determine who is at the head of a government no one should brag in being at the top. The might that lifts you up to the sky is the same might that brings you down to the ground. Hence if one is a wise leader under a democracy one must refuse to be lifted to the sky. One must remain connected with the earth. As the old saying goes he that is down fears no fall.

By Special Correspondent

**A** recent poll finds that only 14 per cent of African Americans and 24 per cent of Hispanics trust that a COVID-19 vaccination will be safe and effective.

The remainder, who constitute more than 20 per cent of the U.S. population, harbor uncertainty or distrust about the shots. Many other Americans share the same doubts, a dangerous situation as the new vaccines represent our clearest path out of the deadly pandemic.

Anti-vaccination activists also have tried to spread misinformation through social media. To counter these misgivings, the Ad Council has partnered with an organisation of universities, philanthropies and government agencies known as the COVID Collaborative to raise \$50 million for a public education campaign -- one of the largest on record -- aimed at overcoming fears and doubts about COVID-19 vaccination.

Distrust of the vaccines also must be addressed by their makers and the Food and Drug Administration, which needs to be completely transparent with the data from the drug trials. That way, medical professionals can reassure themselves that no corners were cut during the rapid development process, and they can learn exactly what the expected efficacy and side effects will be for each vaccine.

To stop the spread of COVID-19 by vaccination, epidemiologists say a vaccine should be taken by

## On COVID-19 Vaccine!



80% of the population. With some polls indicating that more than half of the population is doubtful that a vaccine will be safe and effective, that goal is going to be out of reach unless the Ad Council and related efforts are successful in changing minds.

That will not be easy. There is a natural tendency in the black community, with good historical reasons, to distrust authority. As University of London researcher Rob Brotherton, author of "Suspicious Minds," has said: "Given that most conspiracy theories allege that authorities and institutions like the government or the medical establishment are not to be trusted, it is entirely understandable that such theories resonate among communities with long histories of being marginalized and mistreated by those very institutions."

It will not be enough to have a few prominent African Americans, such as professional athletes, do public service ads. There also must be outreach to trusted figures in each black community, such as ministers and elected officials. U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., would be a natural leader of any such effort, given his prominence and credibility. The organizers of the planned campaign, particularly in South Carolina, should seek his advice.

The effort to build confidence in the vaccines got a boost last week when former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton said they would take a vaccine when it becomes available and are willing to be filmed doing it. Their example could help allay some fears.

The most recent poll that revealed the scope of distrust

or uncertainty among black and Hispanic Americans was conducted by Langer Research for the COVID Collaborative, the NAACP and Unidos US, a leading Hispanic advocacy group. Similar Pew Research Center polls also found blacks far more wary of a vaccine, but in an optimistic sign, people of all races are growing more comfortable with the idea than they were two months ago.

"It's not having a vaccine that saves lives, it's actually people getting vaccinated," Harvard School of Public Health Dean Michelle Williams told The Washington Post.

Professor Howard Koh of the Harvard School added that doctors need to know more about the development process for the vaccines, which work differently than traditional vaccines. "A doctor who can't commit to a vaccine personally may find it difficult, if not impossible, to advise their patients to do so," Dr. Koh told the Post. It's crucial, he said, for companies developing vaccines to publish full results from clinical trials as soon as possible to persuade physicians that the vaccine is safe.

Those words ring particularly true after drugmaker AstraZeneca recently acknowledged a mistake in the vaccine dosage received by some of its study participants.

Building trust in the safety and efficacy of the new vaccines will be critical to the success of any COVID-19 vaccination campaign.



BEIJING

As the year 2020 comes to a close, the world is still struggling to handle the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic as well as the deep economic recession caused by massive lockdown measures.

Risks and uncertainties will undoubtedly remain in the coming new year, as mounting protectionism, bullying practices and anti-globalization sentiment add to the challenges facing the world. This year, described by many media reports as “the worst year ever,” has witnessed enormous losses and endless pain. Yet, when the world is tottering in the dark, good things are also happening, giving hope, courage and confidence to people around the world to make it through the ordeal. After months of fight against the coronavirus, the global community has reached consensus that the pandemic should be coped with in a rational and scientific way and vaccines should be distributed accessibly and equitably. Countries worldwide have also demonstrated their will and determination to work together to defeat the deadly virus, revitalize the world economy and promote multilateral cooperation.

**GROWING HOPE OF ENDING COVID-19**

Sandra Lindsay, an ICU nurse in New York City, the United States, received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 14, when this once-in-a-century pandemic had killed over 1.6 million people worldwide. A common New Year wish of the international community is to end the pandemic at an early date.

Hope lies ahead. Since the onset of the pandemic, scientists around the world have been taking joint actions and working around the clock to fast track the development of effective vaccines for the benefit of all.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of Dec. 16, 222 COVID-19 candidate vaccines were being developed worldwide, with 56 of them under clinical trials.

# In 2021, world awaits new dawn after long dark night



“I have never seen the global scientific community respond to an emergency like I have seen them respond this year,” said Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of Lancet. With more positive news from vaccine trials, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said “the light at the end of this long, dark tunnel is growing brighter.” Facing the pandemic, one key lesson the human race has learned is that the only way to beat the virus is to have a rational attitude, take decisive and science-based measures and stand together as closely as they can. Compared with the panic and disorder at the beginning of the outbreak, countries across the world have gradually established scientific pandemic prevention systems. With the public gaining a deeper understanding of the pathogen, the foundation for the anti-COVID-19 war is expected to grow more solid.

From the World Health Assembly to the G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit on COVID-19, countries around the world, with the coordination of the WHO, have also committed themselves to forging a joint line of defense against the virus to better share knowledge, ex-

perience and resources, a vivid manifestation of the fact that people are increasingly interdependent and share a common destiny.

China, the first country to put the novel coronavirus under control, has launched its largest global humanitarian aid since 1949 and promised that Chinese COVID-19 vaccines will be provided as global public goods. Having been playing a key role in the global pandemic fight, China will offer more help to the world in the new year.

**NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL GROWTH**

Under a strict national lockdown, the shopping carnival, which was expected to come with the Christmas and New Year holiday, did not appear in Germany as the coronavirus continued spreading in the European country. Flights were suspended, businesses closed, supply chains disrupted... With an estimated 4.4-percent plunge in 2020, the global economy is experiencing what might be the worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression. However “dismal” as the year is, Ben May, director of Global Macroeconomic Research at Oxford

Economics, still looks forward to “new lease of life for the world economy.”

Amid the raging pandemic, various countries have launched unprecedented fiscal and monetary stimulus plans to prevent a more serious crisis, which offers opportunities for job creation and economic transformation. “The worst has been avoided, most of the economic fabric has been preserved and could revive quickly,” Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its latest economic outlook. Meanwhile, the pandemic has accelerated the process of digital globalization by advancing scientific and technological innovation and facilitating the transformation of production and business models, which is widely seen as a boon to productivity.

After the downturn, the global economy will rebound strongly by 5.2 percent in 2021, the International Monetary Fund has predicted. As the only major economy that achieved positive growth this year, China, the world’s second largest economy, has entered a phase of high-quality development and will maintain its firm commitment to opening its market wider and being actively

engaged in global cooperation. “The deepest economic crises are also crucibles for new economic thinking,” a report of the Financial Times said. The global public health crisis will be a constant reminder that human beings need to reflect on the relationship between economic growth, human life and the ecological environment.

**NEW JOURNEY FOR MULTILATERALISM**

The year 2020 has seen rising protectionism and hegemony that have severely disrupted global solidarity against the pandemic, while a voice that rejects unilateralism and the Cold-War mentality, and champions multilateralism and cooperation has taken shape globally. The unprecedented crisis has sounded an alarm bell that the global architecture for public health should be further strengthened and countries must make joint concerted efforts and fight together for their common interests. If mankind has learned anything from the pandemic crisis, it is that multilateralism matters, said Ruqayya Alblooshi, a scholar from the United Arab Emirates.

The pandemic has once again made people realize that the world is a community of a shared future. Only through consultation, cooperation and coordination can international challenges be resolved. Any unilateral and bullying practices, or clamor for “economic decoupling,” is against the trend of globalization, and will not gain popularity. In the face of the common challenges in the post-pandemic era, there are growing hopes that countries worldwide will forge a stronger partnership to strengthen win-win cooperation, promote economic integration and keep the global supply chains running well so that the world economy will be brought back to the track of robust growth as soon as possible.

As called for by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, there is a need for an inclusive and networked multilateralism, in which the United Nations family, international financial institutions, regional organizations, trading blocs and others work together more closely and more effectively. The world has arrived at another crossroads, and China will, as always, continue to be a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order. No matter how dark the night is, the sun will always rise. As long as countries around the world join their hands in good faith, an even brighter future could be within reach. **XINHUA**

# 2020 in review, China pursues green growth despite COVID-19

BEIJING

The year 2020 witnessed a series of remarkable moves in China’s history, including a 10-year fishing ban along the Yangtze River, a total ban on importing solid waste, and the conclusion of a three-year action plan on fighting against air pollution.

China has put ecological protection at the heart of its policy considerations and made notable achievements in pursuing green growth this year, even in the face of the great pressure of navigating the COVID-19 slump.

These efforts indicate an evolving landscape of environmental conservation and regulation in China, as the world’s second-largest economy explores a sustainable development path in which economic growth and environmental protection can move forward hand-in-hand.

With environmental issues emphasized in the tone-setting annual economic meeting in mid-December, as well as Chinese leadership’s proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, efforts on green economic growth are expected to secure an important position in China in 2021 and beyond.

**YANGTZE RIVER FISHING BAN**

In January, China started a 10-year fishing ban in key areas along the Yangtze River, a move that is widely regarded as a major step for the country in fighting the depletion of biological resources and the degrading of biodiversity in its “mother river.”

Starting from 2020, the ban will be observed in 332 conservation areas in the Yangtze River basin and will be expanded to all natural waterways of the river and its major tributaries from no later than Jan. 1, 2021.

Fishing will also be prohibited on the natural waterways of large lakes connected to the Yangtze, such as the Dongting Lake and Poyang Lake, for 10 years starting from no later than Jan. 1,



2021.

The ban is estimated to affect more than 110,000 fishing boats and nearly 280,000 fishermen in 10 provincial-level regions along the river. The Chinese government has promised to provide social security services, financial support and vocational training for fishermen to help them find a new way of earning a living after bidding farewell to boats and nets.

China also passed a law on Saturday to strengthen its protection of the Yangtze River. The Yangtze River Protection Law, China’s first legislation on a specific river basin, will take effect on March 1, 2021.

**SOLID-WASTE IMPORT BAN**

Once the world’s biggest recipient of overseas trash, China announced in November that it would institute a sweeping ban on all

imports of solid waste starting on the first day of 2021, with the dumping, stacking and disposal of waste products from overseas on Chinese territory also banned.

China began importing solid waste as a source of raw materials in the 1980s, and for years it has been the world’s largest importer. With a growing public awareness of environmental protection and the country’s transition to greener economic growth, China started phasing out imports of solid waste in 2017.

The country’s continuous efforts at reducing imported solid waste have achieved tangible results, with the amount imported plunging 41 percent year on year to 7.18 million tonnes by mid-November. Last year’s imports stood at 13.48 million tonnes, down from 22.63 million tonnes in 2018.

**CUTTING CARBON EMIS-**

**SIONS**

China has spearheaded the global fight against climate change by mapping clear action plans and realizing its goals step by step.

Statistics from a white paper on China’s energy development show that by 2019, carbon emission intensity in China had decreased by 48.1 percent compared with 2005, exceeding the target of reductions in carbon emission intensity by 40 to 45 percent between 2005 and 2020.

During the Climate Ambition Summit, China announced new goals on addressing climate change, namely, lowering its carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by over 65 percent from the 2005 level, peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality before 2060.

To that end, controlling carbon emissions has been

included in China’s top policy priorities for 2021. The country will formulate an action plan for peaking carbon dioxide emissions before 2030, and offer support to areas with favorable conditions to enable them peak the emissions ahead of schedule, according to the annual Central Economic Work Conference recently concluded in Beijing.

**BOOSTING NON-FOSSIL FUELS**

As the world’s largest energy producer and consumer, China has made great efforts to cap its coal consumption and reshape its energy consumption structure, shifting it to a low-carbon and eco-friendly energy.

Preliminary calculations show that in 2019, the consumption of clean energy accounted for 23.4 percent of total energy consumption, an increase of 8.9 percentage points over 2012. Coal consumption accounted for 57.7 percent of the total, down 10.8 percentage

points from that in 2012.

China looks to further improve its energy structure by tapping the potential of various types of renewable energy, including solar energy, wind energy, biomass, geothermal and ocean energy.

It has promised to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 25 percent and bring its total installed capacity of wind and solar power to over 1.2 billion kilowatts by 2030.

**WAR ON AIR POLLUTION**

The Chinese government declared a war on air pollution and formulated a three-year action plan in 2018 aiming at bringing back blue skies, listing a series of specific goals for the country to reach by 2020.

This “battle for blue skies” has yielded encouraging results. Official data show that, after three years of continuous efforts, the average PM 2.5 concentration in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region and surrounding areas in autumn and winter was reduced by 32.7 percent, while the number of heavy air pollution days plunged by 62 percent from 37.4 to 14.1.

The progress on addressing air pollution resulted from a slew of tough measures. Residents in northern China have been encouraged to give up their stoves and switch to natural gas or electricity for winter heating. Many steel mills and coal-fired power plants, major emitters of air pollutants, were closed or underwent renovations to ensure low-pollution emissions.

The country also led the world in promoting the use of new-energy vehicles. China owns the largest number of buses powered by clean energy worldwide, with more than 1.6 million tonnes of fuel saved every year. The number of new-energy buses in China has more than tripled over the years, rising from 116,300 in 2015 to 409,700 in 2019.

**XINHUA**



# 2020 in Hong Kong, a year of hardship and hope

## HONG KONG

A big homemade meal, a quick shopping tour replete with face masks, and a long video call with his family in Italy, Fabrizio Goldoni's Christmas was prudent but pleasant in Hong Kong amid the COVID-19 epidemic.

But Goldoni could hardly remember how he spent the festivities last year. "I can't recall any celebrations. As violent incidents became a daily routine at that time, I don't think I was in the mood," the Italian expatriate, 59, said.

The global financial hub known for safety and freedom was gripped by social unrest in 2019 and continued to witness sporadic but still serious violence in the first half of 2020. For many, the memories were still fresh: huge crowds of rioters lighting subway entrances on fire and vandalizing shops, Molotov cocktails being hurled in the air, and innocent residents being beaten up.

Not only did ordinary people live in fear but the economy was severely battered due to the disturbances.

In popular shopping districts including Causeway Bay and Mong Kok, shops and restaurants were often forced to close in fear of being trashed by rioters, Tsoi Chung-kin, chairman of the Retail & Wholesale Trades Employees Association, said.

"When rioters went on the rampage on the streets, people dared not leave their homes, let alone go shopping," Tsoi recalled, adding that tourists also opted against Hong Kong in case they were caught up in the upheaval.

Hong Kong's GDP registered the sharpest-ever decline of 9.1 percent



in the first quarter of this year, and jobs were lost at a worrying pace in a wide range of sectors from catering to aviation.

To make matters worse, the COVID-19 epidemic broke out and dealt another heavy blow to Hong Kong.

As pessimism was beginning to prevail, a turning point came in the form of the national security legislation being introduced mid-year.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's top legislature, passed the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on June 30.

The law takes aim at acts and activities endangering national security and has had a strong deterrent effect on violence and vandalism.

"You could almost feel on the day it (the law) was implemented that there was a sense of calm and restoration brought back to the city... and it (Hong Kong) has become more peaceful," Daniel Szuc, an Australian national living in Hong Kong for 22 years, said.

Szuc said it was a huge relief for him to see "very limited, almost zero, violence or disruption to the day today" and know that "people can get on and enjoy their lives again in Hong Kong without such troubles."

A safe and calm life gradually resumed.

"In this long-awaited peace, people can do business, go to work and go shopping without fear," Tsoi said, adding that although retailers still bore the brunt of COVID-19, the society has been put back on track and local consumption is gradually

recovering.

The economic recession improved significantly during the July-Sept. period, with the GDP decline narrowing to 3.5 percent.

As long as the epidemic is under control and Hong Kong remains safe and stable, the economy will hopefully regain traction next year, Paul Chan, financial secretary of the HKSAR government, said earlier this month.

That traction will largely come from the Chinese mainland, the only major economy expected to register positive growth this year.

Thanks to the mainland's support, Hong Kong succeeded in retaining its competitiveness under "one country, two systems" and continued to thrive as an attractive global financial hub in 2020.

Nucleic testing professionals and medical materials from the mainland assisted in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus in Hong Kong. Mainland businesses made a major contribution to the Hong Kong stock exchange setting a new record in IPO fund-raising since 2010. In spite of travel curbs, burgeoning livestreaming e-commerce brought more Hong Kong products to mainland consumers.

When delivering the 2020 policy address in November, HKSAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam unveiled even more favorable measures from the central government to help Hong Kong's revival from the economic downturn, in particular the support for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development.

By further integrating into the broader landscape of the national development, Hong Kong will have a more stable environment, embrace enormous opportunities, and gain sustainable growth impetus, analysts said.

Eric Ching, 39, has a dream to realize in the Greater Bay Area, one of the most open and economically vibrant regions in the country.

As the president of the Hong Kong Youth E-commerce Advancement Association, Ching aims to help 10,000 Hong Kong e-commerce businesses tap into the Greater Bay Area market in the next five years.

His team has trained hun-

dreds of young people under his e-commerce incubator program this year. One of the trainees has accumulated 140,000 followers on video-sharing app Douyin, which is also known for livestreaming e-commerce.

The e-commerce sector will be a practical and reliable starting point for the tech-savvy youth to stretch their wings in the Greater Bay Area, Ching said.

Goldoni also believes that Hong Kong has a vital role to play in the Greater Bay Area and has remained confident in Hong Kong's future.

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the businessman traveled between Hong Kong and the mainland almost every week to visit factories and meet partners. After nearly a year stranded here, he cannot wait to strengthen business links and seek new opportunities in the mainland's rapidly-evolving markets.

Starting a career here in trade and finance 28 years ago, Goldoni experienced Hong Kong's return to the motherland in 1997 and witnessed its continued prosperity over the past two decades. After all these years, it is the freedom, stability and opportunities that have made him decide to stay in Hong Kong.

"If Hong Kong had continued to see riots, I would have left for sure. But as peace returned, now I can see a future for this city," he said.

XINHUA

By Ferial Haffajee

The Covid-19 second wave crashed like a tsunami into South Africa just as the country exhaled into the holiday's annual festive season. As a cumulative one million people were tested and diagnosed this week, doctors, nurses and other health workers reported that the system risked being overwhelmed.

In key metrics the second wave is higher than the first, with test rates climbing to one in three positives of swabs taken. The government acted last night (December 28) as President Cyril Ramaphosa announced an Advanced Level 3 lockdown as the wave becomes generalised and deaths rise.

Here are your frequently asked questions following a Cabinet briefing led by Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma.

### Can I travel? Can I get home from the holidays?

You can travel internationally except to the countries that have banned South Africans after identifying the new Covid-19 variant (501YV2). You have to have a valid test (not older than 72 hours) showing you do not have Covid-19 and adhere to other restrictions in the country you are visiting. There is no restriction on interprovincial travel but you can't travel during the curfew between 9pm and 6am. Curfews are used to make law enforcement easier, and you will need a permit as an essential-service worker to travel between these times.

### Can I get together with family and friends?

This is very confusing. Dlamini-Zuma says no: When asked on December 29 she said all social gatherings, including family gatherings, are prohibited. According to the regulations, cinemas, theatres, casinos, museums, galleries, archives, gyms and fitness centres, restaurants, auctions and professional sports venues are allowed to have gatherings. These rules do not say you have to attend only with members of your immediate household. For venues that continue trading there is a limit of 50 guests inside and 100 outside, regardless, it seems, of the size of the venue. Gyms, for example, appear to have

## Get ready for a hellish two weeks: Here's the lowdown on Advanced Level 3



negotiated a Level 1 agreement where the number of members is based on the size of the facility, but now the general limit for indoor venues is 50 people. If it's a small casino, museum, gallery or other place the size will determine how many people get in since it is likely to be fewer than 50. Best to call ahead and check.

### What can't I do?

A helluva lot. The addendum to the regulations specifically excludes night vigils, after-funeral gatherings, social gatherings, nightclubs, bars, taverns, shebeens and similar establishments, along with beaches, dams, rivers and lakes in hotspots. Here's the full list: Public parks, including public and recreational facilities, and public swimming pools are included here. You or a family member can't be initiated or attend a post-initiation practice (such as imigidi) or attend a

sporting event, although there are a few exemptions.

### Can I drink?

Of course - anything non-alcoholic and only if you stocked up on alcohol or know your way around a fermented pineapple. Alcohol sales and on-site consumption sales are prohibited. Data show hospitals and clinics in hotspots are crowded with alcohol-related trauma cases when every bed and oxygen mask or ventilator is needed for Covid-19 patients.

This covers wineries, micro-manufacturers, wine farms and the like.

You can't transport alcohol unless it is pure alcohol to produce sanitisers, disinfectants or soaps, for export purposes or from manufacturing plants to storage facilities, or from licensed premises for safekeeping. Police Minister Bheki Cele warned restaurants and cafés

that he was onto dop being served in teapots, and advised owners to stick to rooibos tea or risk losing their licences.

In effect, alcohol sales are banned again, although there is a lacuna in the regulations about whether this also applies to licensed resorts or hotels or B&Bs.

### What does mandatory masking mean for me?

Just wear the mask! If you want to know why the new law says:

"The wearing of a face mask is mandatory for every person when in a public place, and any person who fails to comply with a verbal instruction by an enforcement officer to wear a face mask commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine or a period of imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment."

Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said magistrates are meeting to set the fine amount.

"If you don't [wear a mask] you will definitely be arrested," said Cele. And he means it - South Africa arrested more people than most other nations during the first hard lockdown. "Most of you will have criminal records. If you don't respect this there will be consequences," said the minister, who always sounds like he was born for a police state rather than a democracy. Someone, please tell the minister it's a health emergency not a state of emergency.

This is the only time you are allowed not to wear a mask when you are outside your home:

"... a person who undertakes vigorous exercise in a public place, provided that the person maintains a distance of at least one and a half metres from any other person, and subject to directions on what is consid-

ered to be vigorous, issued by the Cabinet member responsible for health," say the regulations.

Luckily, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize did not enter the arena of "roast-chicken and open-toed micro-management" and said he will leave the definition of "vigorous exercise" to you, although he added that a walk is probably not "vigorous exercise". You have to do exercise physically strenuous enough to leave you a little breathless to take off your mask when outside your home. Otherwise, mask on.

For the next two weeks, from December 29, you also may not go to a church, mosque, synagogue or temple or other religious gatherings, according to Dlamini Zuma.

Can I be evicted if I don't pay rent or have my home demolished?

No. But if your landlord is angry he or she can approach the Rental Housing Tribunal. The Red Ants cannot rip up your shack in the next two weeks.

What about the people who use public transport who must return from holiday or go back to work?

Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula will have to issue directives to ensure this is done safely, with long-distance taxis and buses restricted to no more than 70% capacity. Trips under 200km can fill to 100% provided everybody on board is masked.

(Good luck with that - my investigation tally reveals zero masked taxi drivers spotted in 2020 so far.)

Airlines were packed to the rafters during the early holiday season (or you had to pay a king's ransom to keep a free seat next to you), so Mbalula could issue directives about this too, although the regulations don't say anything about planes and trains.

It's going to a hellish two weeks - a suitable end to the unprecedented challenges of 2020 and a bumpy landing into 2021. By December 29, Mkhize reported there were 11,256 people in hospital with Covid-19, with 3,543 on oxygen and 604 on ventilators. He said the majority of South Africa's districts are in Covid response phase, which is defined as an increase of 20% in cases compared with the previous seven days.

Advanced Level 3 applies for the next two weeks after which the national Coronavirus Command Council will review the Covid-19 status. It is now regarded as an exponential and exploding outbreak.

DM



# Mwakabungu: A female leader who kept things going despite the pandemic outbreak

By Correspondent Jenifer Gilla

**F**IKA Mwakabungu is the director of curriculum training at the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) who managed to maintain her work performance during the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

Telling her story, Mwakabungu says that during the months from March 16, when the first patient was confirmed to end of June 2020, she struggled to ensure continued operations.

Early July 2020, Tanzania declared a coronavirus free state, making it first in Africa.

"I used to conduct online meetings and make frequent calls to the over 20 staff in my department. The pandemic outbreak did not affect my job although it was a bit challenging due to technological problems," she narrates.

According to her, most workers were worried of being infected with the respiratory disease, the thing that reduced their working morale.

"I faced difficulties in encouraging my staff to continue working and maintain their morale. I was always insisting on them to adhere to the protocols of hygiene as well as guidelines provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO), says Mwakabungu.

The director reveals that the COVID-19 pandemic has given massive insights into how the role of technology can radically shift to adapt working processes in challenging times.

"Not everyone was competent of using the internet for online meetings, some experienced difficulties to 'log in' while others had poor network coverage in their



areas, thus failing to effectively follow up the meetings," Mwakabungu adds.

### Testing positive for COVID-19

According to Mwakabungu, some institute employ-

ees including her were tested positive for the disease.

The situation led to TIE management resolving to reduce working hours and ordered some staff to work from home to control new infections.

"When told by the doctor that I was infected with coronavirus, I was not shocked, but my biggest worry was what if I infect my staff and family members. I isolated myself for two weeks and adhered to all the medical

treatment as instructed by the doctor," she says.

At the office, all the staff were issued with guidelines to protect themselves from contracting the new virus by wearing face masks, washing hands with soap

and running water or using alcohol-based hand rubs.

A report by the Women Journalists Support Fund (IWJMF) states that women faced economic and psychological consequences during the pandemic outbreak.

It said that despite all the challenges that women faces during Covid-19, their presentation in the media is still limited.

In Kenya, for example, out of all the corona-related information written, men sources were used three times more often than women.

### Leadership

Mwakabungu's dream is to become the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, boasting to have held various leadership positions in government offices.

From 2008 to 2009 she was personal assistant to Executive Secretary at National Examination of Tanzania (NECTA), from 2009 to 2012, she worked as the head teacher at Mandaka Teachers College while in 2012 she was appointed as assistant director of education training in the department of teacher education, Ministry of Education until 2014 she holds the role she has so far.

"I am thankful that my husband supports me in every move I make. I decided to take my children to boarding schools so that I can concentrate with my doctorate studies," says Mwakabungu, noting she is expected to receive her PhD degree in June next year.

She wants to be the minister to work on the many challenges facing girls towards achieving their educational dreams as well as ending sexual corruption at colleges and higher learning institutions.

## African malaria deaths set to dwarf COVID-19 fatalities as pandemic hits controlling efforts - WHO warns

By Guardian Reporter

EXCESS malaria deaths caused by pandemic driven shortfalls in prevention and treatment efforts will probably dwarf direct deaths from covid-19 in sub-Saharan Africa, the World Health Organization has warned.

Progress against malaria—dramatic in the first decade of this century—had already stalled since 2016 as foreign donors drifted away. But 2020 is likely to be the first year in decades to see an increase in deaths, WHO warned in its 2020 World Malaria Report.

About 1.5 billion malaria cases and 7.6 million deaths have been averted since 2000, WHO estimates. But annual case numbers in sub-Saharan Africa have been unchanged since 2016 at about 230 million, and this year the region will fall far short of milestones set by the World Health Assembly in 2015.

"It's likely that excess malaria mortality is larger than direct covid-19 mortality," said Pedro Alonso, director of WHO's malaria programme. Malaria killed 409,000 people in 2019 and 411,000 in 2018, most of them babies and toddlers in sub-Saharan Africa. A 10% disruption in access to antimalarial treatment could lead to 19,000 additional deaths there this year, WHO warned. More plausible disruptions of 25% or 50% in the region could result in an additional 46,000 or 100,000 deaths, respectively. The total number of covid-19 deaths recorded so far in sub-Saharan Africa is just under 30,000, of which more than two thirds occurred in South Africa.

Peter Sands, executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, said at a meeting presenting the new WHO report, "The global health world, the media, and politics are all transfixed by covid-19 and yet we pay little attention to a disease that is still killing over 400,000 people every year, mainly children. This is a disease we know how to get rid of—so it is a choice that we don't."

Aid agencies fear that sub-Saharan African children, the people least likely to be killed by covid-19, will be those most harmed by it in the long term. Many African governments have imposed string restrictions



Exim Bank's senior customer service officer Farida Chambo (R) hands over a mobile phone to one of the bank's weekly winners of the 'Chanja Kijanja na Exim MasterCard' campaign, Krushant Buhecha of Dar es Salaam. Along with other prizes the grand prize winners of the campaign may opt to receive various prizes including cash for school fees for a child as well as all school supplies or all-expenses paid trips to Serengeti National Park or travel to the beautiful island of Zanzibar with his or her partner. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

during the pandemic. Unlike Arabic speaking north Africa, most sub-Saharan countries have seen far fewer than 1000 direct deaths. But the indirect damage the pandemic has wrought is likely to persist for years.

More than 50 million children lost free meals because of school closures, which in many cases have persisted for months and continue today. At least 250 million have been pushed out of school, and there is almost no online learning, a deficit that is likely to impact the region's earning power for decades to come.

The pandemic caused the first economic recession in modern African history—usually the continent posts high growth rates—and most of the 50 million people it has driven into extreme poverty are aged under 18. While the average G20 citizen has had \$1652 (£1238; €1371) in coronavirus relief, the average sub-Saharan African has received \$38.

Africa's relative youth and inaccessibility continues to protect it from the pandemic's worst direct effects. "It's clear the second wave is here on the continent," said

John Nkengasong, director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last week. But, he added, "We're not seeing hospitals being overwhelmed."

Africa CDC hopes to begin vaccinations in the second quarter of 2021, said Nkengasong, although the cold storage requirements pose a special challenge. Vaccinating 60% of the population would cost about \$12bn, he estimated.

"Africa is neglected when drugs are available," he said. "The worst thing for the continent is for covid-19 to become an endemic disease."

## UN finds Netherlands violated human rights of stateless child

By Special Correspondent

THE Netherlands violated a child's rights by failing to acknowledge that he was stateless and eligible for international protection, a UN committee has found, urging the country to change its legislation.

In its first ever decision on the right of children to acquire nationality, the UN Human Rights Committee determined on Tuesday that by registering the child as "nationality unknown", the Dutch authorities had violated his right to international protection and also to seek a nationality.

The case involves a boy named Denny, born in the Dutch city of Utrecht in 2010 to a Chinese mother who was trafficked to the Netherlands in 2004 at the age of 15 and forced into prostitution.

She escaped four years later, but since she herself had been abandoned at birth, she was not recorded in the civil registry in China and has been unable to obtain Chinese citizenship for herself and unable to provide proof of Denny's nationality.

She was also unable to provide proof that her son was without a nationality, as required by Dutch law to be registered as stateless and apply for international protection. So he was registered as "nationality unknown".

With no hope of getting further support from the Dutch authorities, Denny and his mother filed a petition to the UN committee in 2016.

They are living in a centre for refused asylum seekers with young children, under a permanent threat of deportation, the committee said in a statement.

"States have the responsibility to ensure that stateless children under their jurisdiction who have no possibility to acquire any other nationality are not left without legal protection," a committee member, Shuichi Furuya, said in the statement.

"The right to nationality ensures concrete protection for individuals, in particular children."

The committee pointed to official Dutch statistics showing that as of September 2016, 13,169 children under 10 were registered in the country as having unknown nationality - many of them born in the Netherlands.

The committee called on the Netherlands to review its decision of Denny's application to be registered as stateless, and his application to be recognised as a Dutch citizen.

It also called on the country to provide Denny with compensation, and to review its legislation on the matter, and asked for details on what measures had been taken within 180 days.

The team of 18 independent experts monitors whether countries adhere to their human rights commitments, but does not have enforcement powers.



**Aimee Stephens (7 December 1960 - 12 May 2020)**

American transgender activist Aimee Stephens was fired from her job in 2013 when she told her boss that she planned to transition to female. She then sued the former employer for sex discrimination. The case was the first major transgender rights case to receive a full hearing in the US Supreme Court, in 2019. One month after her death, the Supreme Court ruled that federal law prohibits employment discrimination against LGBTQ workers.

**Albert Uderzo (25 April 1927 - 25 March 2020)**



Legendary French illustrator Albert Uderzo was the co-creator and writer of the much-loved comic books featuring the exploits of Asterix the Gaul. He created the famous stories - about the adventures of Gaulish warriors fighting the Roman Empire - with his friend René Goscinny from 1959 onwards. The books have sold 370 million copies worldwide, in dozens of languages, and several stories have been turned into cartoons and feature films. His legacy continues as the series runs on under new ownership.

**Andrew Mlangeni (6 June 1925 - 21 July 2020)**



Mlangeni was a South African political activist and anti-apartheid campaigner who, along with Nelson Mandela and others, was imprisoned at the end of the famous Rivonia Trial. He spent 27 years in prison on Robben Island. After his release in 1989 and South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, Mlangeni served in Parliament

# Death has hung heavily over 2020. Here we pay tribute to some well-known people who died this year 2020

from 1994 to 2004, and then again as a member of the National Assembly from 2009 until 2014, after which he retired.

**Bill Freund (6 July 1944 - 17 August 2020)**

Described as one of the grandmasters of South African economic historiography, William (Bill) Freund was a remarkable and prolific scholar. He was a professor emeritus of economic history at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and his research interests included African urban history and African and South African political economy and economic history. He had just finished work on his autobiography, *Bill Freund: An historian's passage to Africa*, which is due to be published in May 2021 by Wits University Press.

**Bill Withers (4 July 1938 - 30 March 2020)**

Three-time Grammy winner Bill Withers released just eight albums before walking away from the spotlight in 1985, but he left an indelible mark on the music community and the world at large. Songs like "Lean On Me", "Grandma's Hands", "Use Me", "Ain't No Sunshine" and "Lovely Day" are part of Western popular culture and have been covered many times, by musicians such as Adam Levine and Shawn Mendes, among others. While many of his biggest hits were first recorded in the 1970s, they have proven to be timeless favourites.

**CT Vivian (30 July 1974 - 17 July 2020)**

Reverend Cordy Tindell (CT) Vivian was an American civil rights activist. He worked alongside Martin Luther King Jr and later led the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Vivian was active in sit-in protests in Peoria, Illinois, in the 1940s and met King during the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott - a demonstration spurred by Rosa Parks's refusal to give up her seat to a white passenger. Vivian became an active early member of the group that eventually became the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

**Carl Reiner (20 March 1922 - 29 June 2020)**

Carl Reiner was an American writer, producer, director and actor who was part of Sid Caesar's legendary team and went on to create *The Dick van Dyke Show* on television. Reiner, the father of filmmaker and activist Rob Reiner, won nine Emmy awards, including five for *The Dick van Dyke Show*. His most popular films as a director included *Oh God*, starring George Burns, in 1977; *The*

*Jerk*, with Steve Martin, in 1979; and *All of Me*, with Martin and Lily Tomlin, in 1984. In later years, Reiner was an elder statesman of comedy, revered and respected for his versatility as a performer.

**Daniel arap Moi (2 September 1924 - 4 February 2020)**



Former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi was an autocratic leader who ruled for more than 20 years. He succeeded in keeping Kenya relatively stable compared with many of its neighbouring countries at the time, working for regional peace. However, the economy regressed under his watch and he failed to tackle intensifying poverty and widespread corruption.

**Chadwick Boseman (29 November 1976 - 28 August 2020)**

Actor Chadwick Boseman came to prominence playing real-life figures - baseball great Jackie Robinson in 2013's *42* and soul singer James Brown in 2014's *Get on Up*. However, his leading role in the Marvel superhero movie *Black Panther* is what he will be most remembered for. Boseman's untimely death shocked the world. The impact *Black Panther* and Boseman had on culture cannot be overstated. The film was the first superhero movie to be nominated by the US Motion Picture Academy for its Best Picture Award - and earned six other nominations and won three. Boseman presented to the world an image of a powerful and thoughtful African man, the leader of a thriving African nation and a superhero willing to race into whatever battle he felt was worth fighting, no matter the odds. Accepting a Screen Actors' Guild Award in 2019, Boseman said the film had changed what it meant to be "young, gifted and black".

**David Dinkins (10 July 1927 - 23 November 2020)**

The first African-American mayor of New York City, David Dinkins

was elected in 1989 after two high-profile racially charged cases had played out under the previous mayoral stint of Ed Koch. Early in Dinkins's administration, a newly freed Nelson Mandela made New York City his first stop in the US, in 1990. Dinkins had been a long-time outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa.

**Benjamin Mkapa (12 November 1938 - 24 July 2020)**



A former president of Tanzania, Benjamin Mkapa was committed to fighting AIDS and is credited with much of the country's success in its response to HIV. In 1999, he declared HIV a national disaster and spearheaded the country's national response by establishing the Tanzania Commission for AIDS. He also formed the Tanzania Parliamentary AIDS Coalition (TAPAC) in 2001, which united high-level politicians in responding to the disease.

**Dawn Lindberg (14 April 1945 - 7 December 2020)**

Dawn Lindberg was founder and chief executive of the Naledi Theatre Awards, one of the biggest and most prestigious theatre awards in South Africa. With a career spanning over five decades as a singer, actress and theatre director, Lindberg started out in show business after graduating in fine arts from Wits University in the early 1960s. In 1962 she met her husband and long-time partner in music and theatre, Des, and they formed the folk duo Des & Dawn. In 1973 the couple staged the musical *Godspell*, a groundbreaking multi-racial show in South Africa.

**Denis Goldberg (11 April 1933 - 29 April 2020)**

Denis Goldberg was a lifelong supporter of the ANC and became a member of the armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, when it was formed in 1961. Goldberg was the only white defendant to be convicted alongside Nelson Mandela and others

in 1964 for resisting apartheid. He spent 22 years in prison. On his release in 1985, he went into exile in the UK, but returned home to South Africa after the abolition of apartheid. In later years, he was a critic of the corruption that came to define much of Jacob Zuma's presidency of South Africa.

**Diego Armando Maradona (30 October 1960 - 25 November 2020)**

Argentinian soccer player Diego Maradona is generally regarded as the top footballer of the 1980s and one of the greatest of all time. Renowned for his ability to control the ball and create scoring opportunities for himself and his team, he led club teams to championships in Argentina, Italy and Spain and he starred in the Argentine national team that won the 1986 World Cup.

**Dr Victor Bernard Holland (28 March 1943 - 19 April 2020)**

South African physician Dr Victor Holland grew up in the years just before the start of National Party rule and apartheid. Mark Heywood writes that "his life and profession as a doctor was blighted by racism and inequality but it also forged a life-long approach to equality in medicine and health". Holland was rejected by Wits University's medical school as he was classified as "non-white" and completed a BSc degree at Bellville College (now the University of the Western Cape), the institute of higher learning set aside for "coloured" people. In 1963, he was accepted at the medical faculty of the otherwise largely racially segregated University of Natal (now the Nelson Mandela School of Medicine). As a physician, Holland spent many decades as head of general medicine wards at Coronation Hospital and Helen Joseph Hospital. He developed a specialisation in gastroenterology.

**Eddie Van Halen (26 January 1955 - 6 October 2020)**

Pioneering guitar player Eddie Van Halen's hard-rock band emerged from the Sunset Strip music scene in Los Angeles in the early 1970s to stand at the top of rock 'n' roll for a decade. Van Halen was born in Amsterdam in the Netherlands on 26 January 1955 and studied classical piano after moving to the US in the 1960s. After switching to guitar, he and his older brother Alex, who took up the drums, formed bands that would eventually become Van Halen in the mid-1970s, with lead singer Roth and bassist Michael Anthony.

**Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah (16 June 1929 - 28 September 2020)**



Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah ruled the oil-rich Gulf Arab state Kuwait from 2006 and oversaw its foreign policy for more than 50 years. He was dubbed "the dean of Arab diplomacy" for his efforts to restore relations with states that backed Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf War, when Kuwait was invaded by Iraqi forces. The emir also often acted as a mediator in regional disputes, including the ongoing diplomatic stand-off between Saudi Arabia and its allies and Qatar.

**Fikile Ntshangase (1955 - 22 October 2020)**

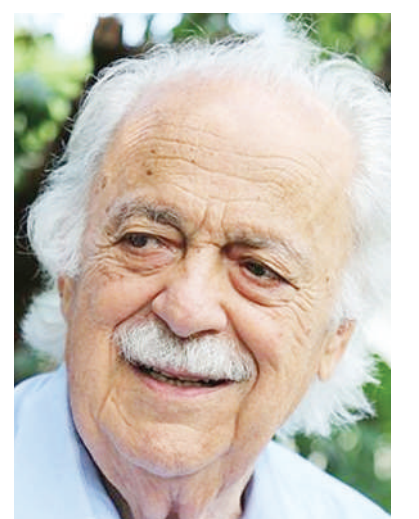
South African environmental and anti-mining activist Fikile Ntshangase was the vice-chairperson of a sub-committee of the Mfolozi

Community Environmental Justice Organisation (MCEJO). MCEJO has been challenging in court the further expansion of a large coal mine at Somkhele in KwaZulu-Natal by Tendele Coal Mining. It has been alleged that Ntshangase was assassinated because of her ongoing fight against the mining activities.

**Fred Willard (18 September 1933 - 15 May 2020)**

Prolific comic actor and master of mockumentaries, Fred Willard starred in *Modern Family*, *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Waiting for Guffman* and *This Is Spinal Tap*. Willard was nominated four times for Emmy Awards, three of them (in 2003, 2004 and 2005) for playing Hank in the television series *Everybody Loves Raymond* and the fourth in 2010 for his recurring role as Frank Dunphy in *Modern Family*. Willard's character received a loving send-off during *Modern Family*'s final season with a January 2020 episode that revealed his death.

**George Bizos (14 November 1927 - 9 September 2020)**



South African lawyer George Bizos played a critical role through the years of Nelson Mandela's incarceration, both professionally and as a family friend. The Nelson Mandela Foundation reported that Mandela said Bizos had "behaved like a brother" to him while he was in jail. "He looked after my family, after my children, advised my children and he made me feel that, although I'm in prison, my affairs are being looked after by a man I know and trust." Bizos was also a vital conduit for messages between Mandela and the external ANC leadership.

**George Hallett (30 December 1942 - 1 July 2020)**

Acclaimed Cape Town photographer George Hallett spent considerable time in self-imposed exile from 1970, mostly in Europe, before returning to South Africa in 1995. Before his official return, he followed and documented Nelson Mandela on the presidential campaign trail of the country's first democratic elections in 1994. Hallett was born in District Six, but his and many other families were forcibly removed before the infamous demolition of the suburb. He received acclaim for his images of the destruction of District Six, as bulldozers razed a vibrant community whose presence had been deemed illegal under apartheid's Group Areas Act. Hallett also designed the covers and took the photographs for the *African Writers Series*.

**Gita Ramjee (8 April 1956 - 31 March 2020)**

Professor Gita Ramjee was a renowned HIV researcher who specialised in HIV prevention for women. Ramjee joined the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) in 1996, where she was at the forefront of HIV prevention research. She rose to become chief specialist scientist and director of SAMRC's HIV Prevention Research Unit, where she managed large-scale phase 3 trials in HIV prevention. She also oversaw the development of SAMRC's clinical trial unit.

**Hosni Mubarak (4 May 1928 - 25 February 2020)**

Former president of Egypt Hosni Mubarak spent three decades in office before a popular uprising swept the country. His legacy is marked with corruption, poverty and unemployment. In 2012, Mubarak was sentenced to life imprisonment over the deaths of some of the 900 protesters who were killed by security forces during the 2011 uprising. The conviction was overturned and he was freed in March 2017.

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00164 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start.

3 LETTERS: ICE, LAY, BOY  
4 LETTERS: FINE, EASE, NEST, ABEL, TACO, AGED  
5 LETTERS: MEANT, EASEL, EMBED, DIENE  
6 LETTERS: ADRIFT, YEMENI, EUNUCH, MEAGRE, MEKONG, MILAN,  
7 LETTERS: PENGUIN  
8 LETTERS: LIBERALS  
10 LETTERS: FREE LOADER

CLUES: Across  
1 profession of being a journalist  
5 Chief city of Togo  
7 present food to someone  
8 make suitable for a new use  
10 place in a particular position  
11 Paris is her Capital city  
13 be absolutely sure about something  
15 milk and milk products collectively  
17 physically dependent on a particular substance  
19 a chair  
20 work requiring little skill and lacking prestige

Down:  
1 named after Julius Caesar  
2 the whole community of Muslims  
3 a yearly court of record held by the lords of certain manors  
4 appreciate to the full  
6 Garden of Adam and Eve  
7 distribute over a wide area  
9 small bomb thrown by hand  
12 a traditional Japanese inn  
14 the color of milk  
16 a sphere of activity  
17 say something in order to obtain an answer  
18 a barrier constructed to hold back water

WORD-FIT SOLUTIONS

C L A V E T R A D E T A N G A N Y I K A  
C L F O R E I E E U A  
F B L E P O R T S M E E L N A I K A  
F Y E A R N E E E D E M O N A  
C H A S E A C L E T A N R S T Y  
P H A S E S T S H A D O W E  
A A E S A A  
O N I L T H E M E L A M P Y A R D S  
M E A N D E R S A C R E A T I O N I  
A L O E S I C E N T V  
T K R A K E N E M D E X T E R T

CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

1 JOURNALIST  
5 LOMBE  
7 BREAD  
8 ADAPT  
10 POSITION  
11 PARIS  
13 SURE  
15 BUTTER  
17 DRUG  
19 CHAIR  
20 MENIAL

1 CAESAR  
2 MUSLIMS  
3 COURT  
4 FULLY  
6 EDEN  
7 SPREAD  
9 BOMB  
12 INN  
14 MILK  
16 SPHERE  
17 ANSWER  
18 DAM





Thursday 31 December 2020

# Capital markets regulator endorses Rabobank's share transfer in NMB Bank

By The Banker Reporter

A record 174,500,000 or 34.9 percent of shares owned by Netherlands based Robobank in NMB Bank Plc have been officially transferred to Arise B.V. Capital Market and Securities Authority on Monday this week approved the transfer to Arise B.V. which is an investment platform and leading African investment company (holding company), backed by reputable cornerstone investors.

Commenting on the share transfer, NMB's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna said the successful completion of the share transfer is a testament of investors' confidence on the institution and the country at large. "The collaborative partnership between Arise and NMB is envisaged to deliver substantial operational, commercial, organizational and financial benefits with long-term market returns that go beyond stakeholders' expectations," Zaipuna said.

Arise is an investment consortium established in 2016 by Norway's state-owned private equity



NMB Bank Plc's board chairman, Dr Edwin Mhede (L) congratulating the bank's CEO, Ruth Zaipuna upon her confirmation earlier this year.

company, Norfund, Dutch development bank, FMO and Dutch multinational financial services company, Rabobank.

The CMSA approval means that Rabobank is still part of NMB Bank Plc ownership through Arise. It aims at growing sustainably locally

owned financial institutions and markets with strong potential, with NMB and Tanzania being one of the preferred investment destinations in Sub Saharan Africa.

"The CMSA approval comes after Rabobank had lodged its share transfer request and received nec-

essary regulatory approvals from responsible regulatory authorities in the country," Zaipuna noted.

NMB is Tanzania's largest bank by assets and profitability according to third quarter results of this year with total assets reaching a record 7trn/- up from 6.1trn/- for a corre-

sponding period of 2019. It is also the most profitable bank in the market having recorded an impressive 145bn/- net profit in the year ended 30 September 2020, which was up from 82bn/- registered in third quarter of 2019.

"Undoubtedly this long-term investment by Arise will support NMB's future growth aspirations and spur economic growth and the prosperity of Tanzanians through increased financial inclusion, and the growth of retail, small and medium size enterprises and the agriculture sector," the bank's chief executive noted.

NMB has 225 branches, over 8,000 agents (Wakala) and more than 700 ATMs across the country and is represented in all districts of Tanzania backed by over four million customers who are served by over 3,400 staff members. The bank is listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange with its other shareholders being Treasury with 31.8 percent and minority shareholders who include individuals who share the remainder.

# Kenyans take the reins in top firms

NAIROBI

Some of the executive changes this year took place at the country's biggest companies where Kenyans took the reins, breaking a long-running tradition of appointing foreigners seconded from other subsidiaries.

Safaricom, East African Breweries Limited (EABL), BAT Kenya and Kenya Airways appointed new leaders - Peter Ndegwa, Jane Karuku, Crispin Achola and Allan Kilavuka respectively. Retirement is a unique factor at insurance group Britam where long-serving chief executive Benson Wairegi is stepping down at the end of this month when his successor will be named.

Pressure to improve performance saw CIC Insurance hire Mr Patrick Nyaga, a former finance and strategy director of Co-op Bank, as its CEO. A similar goal led to a boardroom purge at electricity distributor Kenya where half of the non-executive directors were forced out.

In a rare move, agricultural firm Kakuzi was forced to shake up its boardroom including the appointment of billionaire investor John Kibunga Kimani to appease the local community that has accused the firm of long-running human rights abuse.

Mr Ndegwa took the mantle at Safaricom on April 1 from Michael Jo-



Allan Kilavuka (left) was confirmed as Kenya Airways CEO after Sebastian Mikosz resigned. Jane Karuku (centre) was named EABL managing director, becoming the first Kenyan woman to lead the brewer. Peter Ndegwa became the first Kenyan to lead Safaricom PLC, East Africa's biggest company.

seph who was holding the post temporarily following the death of Bob Collymore. He becomes the first Kenyan to lead the telco since it went public in 2008. Mr Joseph, who remained on the telco's board as a non-executive director, recently took the additional role of chairman to replace Nicholas Ng'ang'a who retired.

Mr Ndegwa said his vision is to make Safaricom a technology company by expanding the breadth of its services. He is also on the verge of shepherding the company's first cross-border expansion with a bid for one of

Ethiopia's telecommunications licences.

EABL announced that Ms Karuku will take over from Andrew Cowan on January 1, 2021. She became the first Kenyan to lead the brewer in more than a decade. The changes followed Mr Cowan's promotion to the post of managing director for beer and spirits giant Diageo's Africa regional markets.

Mr Achola, also a Kenyan, will take the reins at BAT on January 1, 2021, replacing Beverley Spencer-Obatoyinbo. The appointment marks a comeback for Mr Achola who had previously worked at the cigarette manu-

facturer for 19 years before exiting in 2017.

Greatest challenge

Mr Kilavuka was confirmed as Kenya Airways' chief executive on February 27, filling a vacancy left by his predecessor Sebastian Mikosz who resigned ahead of his contract expiry and later took an appointment at the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as senior vice president for member and external relations.

Mr Kilavuka faces the greatest challenge of any CEO of the national carrier, with the Covid-19 pandemic adding to the company's problems including underfunding, strategic missteps and labour unrest.

Mr Wairegi is leaving Britam after 40 years, ending one of the longest tenures among Nairobi Securities Exchange-listed firms. He is credited with the listing of the firm on the NSE in July 2011, helping its founders, including Jimnah Mbaru and Peter Munga to reduce their stake, earning hundreds of millions of shillings from the disposals.

Turnaround artist

Mr Nyaga joined CIC on June 22 with a mandate of turning around the insurer's performance which has recently been defined by losses and indebtedness.

# New US administration could cast a keener eye over Bitcoin

NEW YORK

It's been a tough year by all accounts. But for Bitcoin, 2020 has been marvellous. The cryptocurrency almost quadrupled, surpassing \$20,000 for the first time as it notched record after record.

The diehards cheered it as an inflation hedge in an era of unprecedented central bank largesse. Wall Street veterans from Paul Tudor Jones to Stanley Druckenmiller blessed it as an alternative asset, adding to the rally. And companies like MicroStrategy and Square moved cash reserves into crypto in search of better returns than near-zero interest rates deliver.

While none of those reasons for buying Bitcoin align with its origins as an alternative to fiat currencies, they do point to a growing acceptance of crypto as an asset class of its own. And that has the zealot-



Bitcoin.

like community taking yet another victory lap in their quest for legitimacy.

"What's happening now - and it's happening faster than anyone could ever imagine - is that Bitcoin is moving from a fringe esoteric asset to the mainstream," said Matt Hougan, chief investment officer

of Bitwise Asset Management. "If it's going mainstream, there is just so much money on the sidelines that is going to have to come in and establish a position that it leaves me very bullish for 2021."

But with Bitcoin capturing greater attention, it could also garner further scrutiny from regulators,

says Guy Hirsch, managing director for the US at online trading platform eToro. "Despite this meteoric rise, there are some storm clouds on the horizon," he said, including the fallout from several last-minute actions by the outgoing Trump administration, among others.

Devotees say that in some ways, the pandemic-ravaged year proved the perfect environment for the digital coin. Warnings of rampant money-printing by global central banks - some of which started to reveal their own interests in digital assets - sparked fears of eventual inflation, while interest rates dipped to rock-bottom lows. That's thrust some investors to chase returns and hedge with cryptocurrencies, pushing its price past \$28,000 from around \$7,200 at the start of January.

Predicting where it will go is a fraught exercise. Many left the coin for dead after its 2017 rally result-

ed in a crash the following year, a stretch of time sometimes referred to as the "crypto winter". But it's surged more than 300 per cent in 2020 and many investors say it could continue to gain next year. A Deutsche Bank survey found a majority see it ending 2021 higher, with 41 per cent of participants projecting a target between \$20,000-\$49,999 and 12 per cent seeing it crossing above \$100,000, according to Jim Reid, a strategist at the firm.

What else is on the radar? To Meltem Demirors, chief strategy officer at digital-asset manager CoinShares, there are some concerns about what the incoming Joe Biden administration might mean for the crypto space.

"Generally, I think we have had challenges with the Dems - they prefer more regulation, more oversight," Ms Demirors said. "I am a bit worried about the direction things

are trending", especially around antitrust lawsuits and an erosion in internet privacy. Still, the industry has some allies, said Ms Demirors, including North Carolina's Patrick McHenry and Ohio's Warren Davidson, who she says have been advocates for the preservation of consumer financial privacy. Going forward, many strategists and investors say the industry could see more scrutiny and tighter regulation with Mr Biden in the White House.

Of course, a lot will depend on who fills key positions within the administration. Janet Yellen, who's been nominated to serve as Treasury secretary in Mr Biden's administration, has in recent years cautioned investors over Bitcoin, saying it was a "highly speculative asset" and "not a stable store of value". A representative didn't immediately return a request seeking comment.

# Intra Energy fundraising for gold project in Mozambique spurs 85 per cent share rise

MAPUTO

Intra Energy (IEC) shares have spiked 100 per cent this morning as the explorer commences fundraising efforts for its gold project in Mozambique. IEC will offer up shares in its unlisted Mauritian subsidiary, Intrafrican, via a private placement to support the Minas do Lurio Gold project.

An accompanying investor presentation reports the small-cap is pursuing US\$2.5 (approximately A\$3.3 million) to advance exploration activities in the relatively untouched Lurio Belt and upgrade to a production licence.

More specifically, IML anticipates funds will be used for aero-magnetic survey work, drilling, sampling, a survey of dredging locations and a geological resource report to support the eventual licence application.

There are hopes to source a further US\$3.5 million (around A\$4.7 million) via a second tranche, with an upcoming third tranche for an unconfirmed amount. Initial trenching and sampling has been completed at Savanne, with additional gold-bearing areas identified in close proximity, according to the company.

Company structure and ownership is set to undergo a reshuffle as a result of the private placement. Intrafrican's interest in the Minas Do Lurio Gold Project is currently held via another unlisted Mauritian company, Intra Minerals.

Intrafrican will lose its status as a wholly-owned subsidiary of IEC following the placement, however IEC is expected to retain its controlling interest. Further details can be found in the company's investor presentation. Shares have rocketed up 85.7 per cent following the announcement and are trading at 1.3 cents apiece at 11:13 am AEDT.



# Mkombozi Bank seeking 15bn/- through rights issue for growth

By Henry Mwangonde

EYEING expansion to take banking services to the majority of Tanzanians, Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc has launched a rights issue share sale aimed at raising 15bn/- to meet compliance requirements and growth needs.

Through the exercise which will enable existing shareholders buy over 20.6 million shares, the Dar es Salaam based Catholic Church will increase its share capital from 9.5bn/- to 24bn/-. Speaking at the launch of the shares in Dar es Salaam this week, the bank's Managing Director, Respige Kimati said the exercise will give its existing shareholders the right to subscribe to newly issued shares in proportion to their existing holdings.

"We intend to increase our capital to expand our presence in the market by investing in technology and agent banking which we believe will facilitate efficient service provision," Kimati said. He said the money expected to be raised through the exercise, will also enable existing shareholders increase their stake in the bank with some 20,615,272 new shares on offer.

"A single share will be sold at 750/- which is a 25 percent lower than the market price and will only be available to the bank's shareholders who were on our registers by 10th November 2020," he added. The bank has 11 branches countrywide.

Commenting on the latest move, the bank's board Chairperson, Professor Marcelina Chijoriga said Mkombozi's capital by November stood at 9.5bn/-. "This is aimed at expanding our coverage



Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc's board chair, Professor Marcelina Chijoriga speaks at a past event.

countrywide and provide good services to customers as part of financial inclusion drive," Prof Chijoriga said.

She explained that increased

capital will also be utilized to expand the bank's presence upcountry by investing in new physical branches. MKCB was established in 2009 as an initiative of the Tanzania Episcopal

Conference with the main objective of serving and supporting the emerging Tanzanian middle class and businesses community.

# Mr Discount defies Covid-19 to maintain prices control

By The Banker Reporter

DESPITE challenges being posed by the novel coronavirus outbreak, hyper and supermarket chain, Mr Discount has maintained a low prices policy during the entire year.

The department shops owner which marks three years of operations in the country said the Covid-19 pandemic has presented challenges but they have managed to maintain their policy of offering discounted and affordable prices across all their range of products available at outlets in Dar es Salaam.

"Mr Discount's policy is that we want people to get the best price at our shops than at any other place because we want our business to be like the name itself, Mr Discount, meaning we are the cheapest," Managing Director, Khalid Salim said in Dar es Salaam earlier this week.

Salim said their department shops have garnered great popularity among consumers for providing excellent service and maintain affordable price of high quality products setting the bar high with a slogan, 'We are the cheapest,' which has indeed given a competitive edge against other retailers from countries like Kenya and South Africa.

He said Mr Discount Hyper and Supermarket upholds the tag line 'All under one roof,' hence reaches out to all classes of people in meeting their demand at a fair price. "We have currently offered



Inside a Mr Discount supermarket in Dar es Salaam.

that consumers should benefit before the end of this year and Christmas. We have back to school scheme which targets students

who will get discounts on school products such as stationeries, bags, shoes and their daily necessity that will keep them going throughout

the year," he added.

Established in December 2016, the supermarkets chain has maintained its status in the market

# World Bank appoints CAK boss to advisory role

NAIROBI

The World Bank has appointed the Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) Director-General Wangombe Kariuki to the Advisory Panel. The competition boss will be advising on the World Development Report (WDR) 2021.

CAK said in a statement Monday that Mr Kariuki "will be part of distinguished thought leaders from across the globe contributing to the seminal annual publication which will be themed Data for Better Lives." The WDR, which has been produced since 1978, provides in-depth analysis

and policy recommendations on important aspects of development and serves as a reference point for, among others, policymakers, governments, civil societies, scholars, and multilateral organisations.

"WDR 2021 will focus on opportunities and challenges of

data to improve the lives of poor people in low- and middle-income countries, while trying to find a balance between data's potential to improve lives and the risk of misuse," CAK said.

Mr Kariuki has an MSc in Competition and Economic Regulation from City University,

London. He has served on the COMESA Competition Commission Board and is a founder member and first chairman of the African Competition Forum (ACF). He has also served as a commissioner in the East African Community Competition Authority.

# Rwanda's green investments have generated 150,000 green jobs

KIGALI

There are multiple business opportunities in environmental conservation which have so far created more than 144,000 green jobs from the 44 green projects funded by Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA) with thousands of other green jobs created by other green investments over the past eight years.

In 2008, Rwanda banned plastic bags and in 2011, Rwanda introduced the national Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS). This was followed by the establishment of a green fund, in 2012 with aim to mobilize domestic and international climate finance, and secure sustainable financing to support projects toward the implementation of the green growth strategy.

These measures that started 10 years ago have played a role in creating green jobs and as more investments are made. Teddy Mugabo Mpinganzima, The CEO of Rwanda Green Fund explained that over the past eight years, the fund has mobilized \$188 Million from both domestic and foreign financing sources.

"The funded projects are implemented by public institutions, private sector and Civil Society Organizations/NGOs," she said. The higher portion of the funding, she said, went to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and has created many jobs.

This includes jobs in ecosystem rehabilitation, sustainable land management, integrated water resources management, sustainable mining and quarrying, sustainable forest management as well as promotion and protection of biodiversity.

The other two funding windows, she said, include research and development and technology transfer and implementation as well as environment and climate change mainstreaming. "These mainly focus on renewable energy, pollution management, water storage, conservation and irrigation technologies, agro-forestry, waste, urban planning and others," she said.

The green investments have established 21,964 hectares of land against soil erosion and protected 27,889 hectares of watershed and water bodies. "112,295 people were supported to cope with the effects of climate change and 73,651 households accessed off-grid clean energy," she noted adding that the initiatives reduced 93,604 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Plastic bags ban and green job creation  
Telephore Mugwiza, The Director of Industry at the Ministry of Trade and Industry said that there are over 10 paper packaging industries and over five plastic waste recycling companies across the country. Doing Business has learnt that each of the companies has created over 200 green jobs in direct and indirect jobs along the value chain.

"We have about 60 permanent employees and over 45 casual workers. We have more than 10 firms that supply raw materials across the country and these employ many others from waste collection to supply. Many jobs have also been created in the supply chain of products we produce from plastic bags recycling," said Denise Mukarutete, the Human Resources Manager at Eco-Plastic Company in Nyarugenge district.

Amon Ndarifite, The Recycling Department Manager at Electromax Industry in Huye District said that they employ more than 50 workers and others who are casual workers. "There are workers in the collection and supply of plastic waste. The jobs are also in the supply chain of finished products," he said.

Leon Nduwayeze, The Managing Director of Agro-Plast that recycles plastics in Kicukiro District said with between Rwf400 million and Rwf500 million investment, over 50 permanent green jobs have been created.

"We have another 100 workers that we employ depending on when there is a lot of work. We also work with 11 youth companies who collect the plastic waste that we recycle and each employs at least five people. There are many workers in the collection and supply chain. We buy a Kilogramme of plastic waste at between Rwf250 and Rwf350," he said.



Teddy Mugabo Mpinganzima, CEO of Rwanda Green Fund.



# The stock market has a solution for Simba, Yanga financial woes

By Godwin Semunyu

SOCCER goes down to the roots of Tanzania's history. Through the soccer fields in Jangwani and Kariakoo, the late Mwalimu Nyerere and the Tanganyika African National Union comrades converged with locals during the freedom fighting days.

In Tanzania, whether you are a sports fan or not, you are somehow expected to support either Simba or Yanga. A friend of mine once joked that we are first Tanzanians, then we mention our tribes, followed by our support for either of the two teams. I see no lie. Each club is estimated to enjoy a fan base of between 15-20 million followers, one of Africa's biggest.

However, with all their mighty brand prowess and lucrative fan bases, Simba and Yanga are still living in a world of financial dependency and relying heavily on funds from sponsors and donors in exchange for advertisements and endorsements.

Leveraging on their brands' equity, they are undoubtedly the, 'advertising heavens' to most local businesses. Perhaps that is their blessings in disguise. As a result, the clubs have developed a tendency of over-reliance on sponsors and individual benefactors, with minimal revenue alternatives, a recipe for the rise of a solo voice, with financial muscles, to take the helm. It is not an entirely bad situation as it has worked perfectly



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elsewhere. However, the downside to this situation is that it lacks a going concern and sustainability. When the dominant voice stumbles, so does the entire institution. Yanga

fans learnt the hard way when their previous benefactor stepped down abruptly. Within three months, they went from being one of the wealthiest clubs in East Africa to a club pleading for fans' contributions to pay salaries.

A few months back, Simba's main sponsor pressed the panic buttons when he tweeted a decision to quit the club, following a stint of bad results. Though the decision was reverted afterward, the fans had already feared the worse.

Lack of sustainable revenue streams that act as shock absorbers leaves the clubs vulnerable in any mishaps. History has shown that over and over again. The government has instructed the two clubs to embark on the ownership model where shares are distributed into 51 to 49 percent with the majority ordinary fans owning 59 percent and a strategic investor(s) holding the remainder.

This opens up doors for the clubs to start trading shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange and generate instant capital to fund operations and growth. Apart from investing in squad and training facilities, the clubs could also venture into income-generating tributaries like bonds or short-term fixed instruments to guarantee working capital.

The move will also amplify the fan bases as many will jump at the opportunity to own a part of their beloved clubs. Furthermore, as a publicly listed company with mandatory transparency practices, the clubs will win many supporters' trust to turn them into active members, hence garner annual membership fees.

Merchandise, TV rights and kit sponsorship are football clubs' major cash-cows. With unbalanced books and a desperate need for funds, the clubs naturally lose ground negotiating deals with advertisers. Nevertheless, by becoming financially stable, the clubs will have the upper hand and detect terms.

For instance, the clubs could opt the modern way of kit sponsorship, where multiple advertisers are accommodated. Recently, English Premier League club, Arsenal, signed with Rwanda a three year kit sponsorship deal worth USD39 million to have a 'Visit Rwanda' ad on their sleeves.

Mind you, Arsenal already had five years kit deal with Emirates Airline worth £200m (USD 280m) for the front part of the jersey and around £300 million five years deal with Adidas for the company's logo on the top left corner, of the same jersey.

It should be clearly stated that floating shares is one thing, but inspiring investors' confidence is an entirely different ball game. To achieve that, the clubs will have to be appropriately structured and professionally managed. The clubs also need to invest smartly in the playing squads to get favourable results; game results are an essential driver of the share prices.

In England, for instance, where most Premier League clubs are listed, studies have revealed that share prices react asymmetrically to game results. The negative effect being greater and quicker for losers than the positive impact for winners. This is because losing is a stronger predictor of future losing (and hence lower financial performance) and vice versa.

The optimal point is, if the two clubs, which command the support of close to 30 million Tanzanians, are to make a significant leap forward, financial independence is of the essence. But since mobilizing capital the old way has proved to be a daunting task, floating shares is the only light at the end of the tunnel.

Send your comments to gsemunyu@epicpr.co.tz.

# World's richest banker made \$16bn after a brush with death



Graph showing performance of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited in comparison to other banks.

MUMBAI

If it weren't for a cricket accident Uday Kotak probably wouldn't be where he is today. If it weren't for a cricket accident that almost killed him, Uday Kotak probably wouldn't be the world's richest banker.

A ball that hit him in the head and led to an emergency surgery pushed a 20-year-old Kotak to abandon his dream of becoming a professional player. After a brief stint at the family's cotton-trading business, he went on to pursue his MBA at the prestigious Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai before starting out in finance in 1985 at the age of 26. Kotak, now 61, has a fortune estimated at \$16 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

While India has been grappling with a shadow-lending crisis, his Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. has been able to rise through the crowd, gaining investors' trust by starting to slow lending to riskier sectors more than two years ago and keeping good corporate governance. When the coronavirus pandemic added to the industry's woes by eroding borrowers' ability to repay, the firm was one of the first to raise capital to fortify its balance sheet, helping boost investors' confidence that it will

be among the biggest winners as the nation emerges from its Covid-induced recession.

The strategy paid off: As lenders have plunged globally, Kotak Mahindra Bank shares are up 17% this year, the most among Indian peers, and Kotak just gained an extension to his chief executive officer term for another three years. A representative at the firm didn't respond to requests for comment.

"As far as I'm concerned, becoming the world's richest banker is only a proxy for Uday being one of the world's smartest bankers," said Anand Mahindra, the chairman of Mahindra Group in Mumbai, whose tie up with Kotak back in 1986 led to the firm's name. "More importantly, he's understood that what makes a bank sustainable and durable is not just smart strategies but unassailable governance."

Kotak's company stands out in a country where lenders have some of the world's bad-loan ratios in the world. Trouble for the firms started brewing in 2015, when India's regulator initiated a massive audit that unearthed hidden souring loans. That led to a shadow-banking crisis that constrained the broader economy and further hurt asset-quality scores and profits.

Pedestrians stand in front

of a Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. branch in Mumbai, India, on Saturday, April 21, 2018. Kotak Mahindra is scheduled to announce fourth-quarter earnings on April 30. Kotak Mahindra Bank, though, was able to adapt. It reduced lending to small and medium companies and unsecured individuals. Its shares rallied more than 24% in each of the past three years.

While its bad-loan ratio has risen in 2020, it ranked as the second lowest among peers, with its capital-adequacy score being the highest. The nation's second-largest lender by market value reported an unexpected 27% profit surge in the quarter ended Sept. 30.

The firm got another boost last month, when the central bank proposed increasing the ownership limit for founders, effectively reducing the risk that Kotak will be forced to dilute his 26% stake in the lender as previously demanded by the Reserve Bank of India.

Kotak, a native of the western state of Gujarat, set up an investment company in 1985 with a 3 million rupee loan (\$41,000) from family and friends and partnered with Mahindra the following year. The firm, which started off discounting bills, later expanded its loan portfolio, got into stock brokering, investment banking, insurance and mu-

tual funds. It converted into a lender in 2003 after getting the RBI's nod.

The financier has been Kotak Mahindra Bank's CEO since its beginning and gained more control of it in 2006 by ending a partnership of more than a decade with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. He rose through the ranks by keeping strong underwriting practices and avoiding lending to riskier sectors, focusing instead on expanding collateral-backed loans for farm equipment, mortgages and vehicles, according to Deepak Jasani, head of retail research at HDFC Securities Ltd.

While the RBI just approved the extension of Kotak's CEO term - despite earlier proposing to put a cap on the tenure of top executives at private banks - investors are starting to wonder what will happen after he hands over the reins.

Unlike many family-owned enterprises in India, Kotak has avoided enrolling family members into the lender's board or at top executive positions. That helped maintain investors' and depositors' confidence in a country where the lack of corporate governance and transparency has already brought down three banks and pushed two shadow lenders to bankruptcy in less than two years.

# Coinbase suspends trading of XRP cryptocurrency amid US probe into Ripple

NEW YORK

The world's third-biggest cryptocurrency XRP plunged in value by more than 25 per cent on Tuesday after a major exchange suspended trading in the digital asset.

Coinbase, the world's second-biggest crypto exchange by volume, said on Tuesday it will suspend trading of XRP after the US Securities and Exchange Commission last week accused Ripple Labs and its top executives of conducting an unregistered securities offering. The US regulator effectively classified XRP as a security, subjecting it to a much stricter set of regulations governing how it is sold and traded. The move potentially has implications for other cryptocurrencies.

"We will continue to monitor legal developments related to XRP and update our customers as more information becomes available," Paul Grewal, Coinbase's chief legal officer, wrote in a blog post announcing the suspension. "Trading will ... be fully suspended on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 10am Pacific Standard Time." The cryptocurrency trading platform said the suspension will not affect customers' access to XRP wallets, which will remain available for deposits and withdrawals after trading is suspended.

XRP dropped in value by 27.7 per cent to \$0.21821 on the Luxembourg-based Bitstamp exchange by 2.25pm on Tuesday. The third-biggest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation has fallen in value by 66 per cent since its most recent high on November 24. Bitstamp has suspended trading in XRP for US-based customers, as have the OKCoin and Beaxy exchange, among others.

"Coinbase and OKCoin are suspending trading and custody given the SEC news. This situation is not likely to be sorted out any time soon and exchanges want to be on the safe side, asking customers to redeem borrowed value," said

Charles-Henry Monchau, chief investment officer of Geneva-based online bank Flowbank. "Other exchanges might follow suit, but some such as [Luxembourg-based] Bitstamp might suspend XRP only in the US. This explains the massive pullback as investors are forced to deleverage," he added.

Arshad Khan, co-founder and chief executive of the Abu Dhabi-based Arabian Bourse cryptocurrency exchange, said decisions on whether to suspend trading are governed by the rules and regulatory authorities in locations where bourses operate.

"Suspension of trading also has a negative effect on investors who are holding open positions. Market integrity and investor protection are two important verticals for any exchange and a perfect balance is required to be maintained between these two verticals," Mr Khan told The National. According to the lawsuit filed by the SEC last week, Ripple raised \$1.3 billion from investors and traders in cryptocurrency markets over seven years through the sale of XRP, without submitting the proper documentation required for such sales.

The SEC's complaint also alleged that Chris Larsen, Ripple's co-founder, and chief executive Brad Garlinghouse personally profited to the tune of \$600 million by selling their XRP coins during price upswings. The complaint alleged that the pair failed to register their offers and sales of XRP or satisfy any exemption from registration.

In his response via a blog post, Mr Garlinghouse called the SEC suit "an assault on crypto at large". "In this case, XRP is a proxy for every other 'alt-coin' in the space. From there, you have a snowball effect; this isn't good news for any market maker, exchanges like Coinbase etc. This sets a terrible industry-wide precedent for any company working with a digital asset," he wrote.



The virtual currencies of XRP (previously known as Ripple), Bitcoin, Ethereum and Litecoin.

**BANKING&FINANCE**



## WORLD

## Africa's virus capital risks becoming vaccine laggard

By Bloomberg

South Africa, which has Africa's worst recorded coronavirus outbreak, may have to wait months to receive its first vaccines even as other countries race to roll out the shots.

The government only expects vaccines that it paid a deposit to secure from the World Health Organization's Covax program to arrive in the second quarter of 2021, according to President Cyril Ramaphosa. The wait bodes ill for a country that's confronting a new more virulent strain of the virus, record new infections and a populace that's increasingly eschewed social distancing.

Talks with drug companies about supplementing South Africa's Covax allocation are ongoing, Ramaphosa said in an address Monday night, in which he announced the re-imposition of several restrictions aimed at curbing the pandemic's spread. It's unclear when or whether those shots will be made available, with several wealthy nations having already prepaid to pin down most of the initial production.

"With a lot of advanced purchasing of vaccines, it will be hard to jump the queues in trying to secure earlier vaccine doses," said Stavros Nicolau, an executive at Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Ltd. and head of the health work group at Business for South Africa, an alliance of the nation's biggest business groups that's known as B4SA.

The government only expects vaccines that it paid a deposit to secure from the

World Health Organization's Covax program to arrive in the second quarter of 2021, according to President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Solidarity Fund, which was established to support the government's pandemic response and is backed by some of the country's biggest companies and richest individuals, paid the initial 283 million rand (US\$19.3 million) Covax deposit. It will cost a total of 2.7 billion rand for South Africa to secure its full allocation of six million doses from the facility -- sufficient to cover about 10 percent of the population.

South Africa's biggest labor group said the government's vaccine roll-out program does not inspire confidence. "More so when other countries across Europe and the Americas have begun mass vaccinations, the Congress of South African Trade Unions said in a statement. "We cannot afford to allow South Africans to die because of state lethargy."

It has called on the government and the private sector to produce a plan to ensure all South Africans are vaccinated during 2021.

While the government wants to secure alternate supplies immediately, affordability remains a major constraint, and the efficacy of a number of potential shots remains unproven, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize said in an online briefing on Tuesday. The pandemic has exacerbated state funding constraints, with the central bank expecting the economy to contract 8% this year.

The Democratic Alliance, the main oppo-



President Cyril Ramaphosa

sition party, called on the government to reprioritize its spending and redirect a 10.5 billion rand bailout earmarked for the bankrupt national airline toward paying for vaccines. The money could be used to inoculate as many as 23 million people based on current costs and exchange rates, it said in a statement.

Discovery Health, the nation's biggest medical insurer, said it's in talks with the government to secure access to vaccines and funds have been ring-fenced to provide the shots to its members when they become available.

**'Reasonable Expectation'**

"Given there are only two vaccines that have received emergency-use approval at this stage and the time required to ramp-up vaccine manufacturing, it is difficult to accurately project timelines at this stage," Ronald Whelan, Discovery Health's chief commercial officer, said in an emailed response to questions. "Some time in the second quarter of 2021 would likely be a reasonable expectation."

More than 5.1 million vaccine doses have been administered in 22 countries, according to data collected by Bloomberg. South Africa, which has recorded more than 1 million Covid-19 infections so far, needs to join their ranks as soon as possible, according to B4SA.

"We will do whatever is needed to ensure that the requisite vaccine supplies are secured and distributed as a matter of extreme urgency," said Martin Kingston, who heads the group's steering committee.

Agencies

## EU looks to new chapter in ties with UK as Brexit deal is signed

BRUSSELS

WITH a call for both sides to look forward to a new chapter in their relationship, European Union (EU) chiefs signed the Brexit trade deal agreed with Britain and sent the text off to London yesterday for Prime Minister Boris Johnson to add his signature.

Against a backdrop of EU flags, top EU officials signed the treaties struck on Dec 24 to preserve Britain's tariff and quota-free access to the bloc's 450 million consumers.

"It is of the utmost importance for the EU and the United Kingdom to look forward, in view of opening a new chapter in their relations," the bloc said in a statement, calling for joint action on climate change and international affairs.

A British Royal Air Force plane was due to take the documents to Johnson before returning one copy to Brussels with a signed copy bearing the bloc's golden stars on the blue leather folder.

The UK formally left the EU nearly a year ago and the new partnership agreement will regulate ties from Jan 1 on everything from trade to transport, energy links and fishing.

After both sides have signed, the deal will be in place until the end of February, pending final approval by the European Parliament that would make it permanent.

EU lawmakers are to debate the treaty - the result of months of negotiations that often came close to collapse - later yesterday. The British parliament will also debate, and is expected to pass, the deal.

Agencies



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, left, and European Council President Charles Michel show the signed EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement at the European Council headquarters in Brussels, yesterday. (AP)

## FBI report indicates Beirut blasts caused by 500 tons of ammonium nitrate - PM

BEIRUT

LEBANESE caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab revealed on Tuesday that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) indicated in a report that Beirut's blasts were caused by 500 tons of ammonium nitrate, instead of 2,750 tons as stated in previous reports.

"Where have the 2,250 tons of ammonium nitrate gone?" Diab asked during a discussion held at the Grand Serail with reporters. "Who is the owner of the ship that brought the nitrates, how did it enter Lebanon and who allowed it to enter Lebanon?"

Did security services know about it?" Diab kept asking. Diab said that the Higher Defense Council held 20 sessions this year, and none of the security agencies informed him of the presence of the ammonium nitrate at the port, where two huge explosions on Aug. 4 caused at least 200 deaths and around 6,000 injuries while leaving 300,000 homeless.

A team of FBI and French investigators participated in the initial investigations into the explosions, which the Lebanese authorities announced were caused by 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate stored in one of the port's warehouses since 2013.

Diab noted that if there is an indictment against him in the case, it should be sent by the judicial investigator through the parliament, according to the constitution.

He said that he was first informed of the presence of TNT, which was highly explosive, then a report followed stating that chemical fertilizers were stored in the warehouse for about 7 years. He assured that when he received a final report on July 22, he forwarded it to the relevant ministers to deal with the matter.

Fadi Sawan, the judicial investigator in the Beirut's port explosions, has formally charged Diab and former ministers Ali Hassan Khalil, Ghazi Zeaiter and Youssef Fenianos over negligence in the case.

Khalil and Zeaiter requested the dismissal of Sawan due to a breach of the constitution, claiming that they have a parliamentary immunity that requires the approval of parliament before taking any judicial action against them.

The Public Prosecutor's Office suspended on Dec. 17 the investigations into the port's explosions pending a decision on the dismissal request. Lebanese authorities have arrested 25 people related to the explosions after the investigations, including senior officials at the port and customs.

Xinhua

## US detects first case of COVID-19 variant as Biden offers gloomy vaccine outlook

WILMINGTON, Del./DENVER

THE first known U.S. case of a highly infectious coronavirus variant discovered in Britain was detected in Colorado on Tuesday as President-elect Joe Biden warned it could take years for most Americans to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at current distribution rates.

Biden's prediction of a grim winter appeared aimed at lowering public expectations that the pandemic would be over soon after he takes office on Jan. 20, while putting Congress on notice that he wants to significantly increase spending to expedite vaccine distribution, expand COVID testing and help reopen shuttered schools.

Biden (pictured), a Democrat, said about 2 million people have received the initial dose of one of two newly approved two-dose vaccines, well short of the 20 million that outgoing Republican President Donald Trump had promised by year's end.

"The effort to distribute and administer the vaccine is not progressing as it should," Biden said in Wilmington, Delaware. At the current rate, "it's going to take years, not months, to vaccinate the American people."

Shortly after Biden's remarks, Colorado Governor Jared Polis said his state had discovered the nation's first known case of the highly infectious coronavirus variant B.1.1.7, which was originally documented in the United Kingdom. Scientists there be-

lieve the variant is more contagious than other previously identified strains of the SARS-CoV-2 variant but no more severe in the symptoms it causes.

It has also been detected in several European countries, as well as in Canada, Australia, India, South Korea and Japan, among others.

Polis said in a statement the infected patient was a man in his 20s with no recent travel history who is currently in isolation in Elbert County, a semi-rural area on the outskirts of the greater Denver metropolitan area.

"Public health officials are doing a thorough investigation" and the individual has "no close contacts identified so far," Polis said, adding that the state had notified the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Colorado State Laboratory scientists confirmed the UK variant after noticing that a diagnostic test sample was missing a key gene signal, prompting them to sequence the patient's viral genome. This revealed eight mutations specific to the spike protein gene associated with the British variant, Polis said in his statement. The Denver-based online news outlet ColoradoPolitics.com, citing Elbert County's public health director, later reported that a second suspected case of the variant was under examination there.

**RACING THE VIRUS**

Although experts believe the newly approved COVID vac-



cines will be effective against the British variant, the emergence of a more highly transmissible strain of the virus makes a swift rollout of immunizations all the more critical.

Biden's goal of ensuring that 100 million vaccinations are administered by the end of his 100th day in office would mean "ramping up five to six times the current pace to 1 million shots a day," Biden said, noting that it would require Congress to approve additional funding.

Even at such an ambitious rate, it would still take months for the majority of Americans to be vaccinated, he said, adding that the situation may not improve until "well into March."

Biden also said he plans to invoke the Defense Production Act, which grants the president emergency powers to order expanded industrial output of key materials or products on grounds of national security, to accelerate production of vaccine supplies.

**Trump has invoked the law during the pandemic.**

To reopen schools safely, Biden said Congress would need to provide funding for purposes such as additional transportation, so students can maintain social distancing, and improved ventilation in school buildings.

Congress also needs to fund more diagnostic testing and help pay for protective equipment for healthcare workers, Biden added.

Trump defended his administration's record after Biden concluded his remarks.

"It is up to the States to distribute the vaccines once brought to the designated areas by the Federal Government. We have not only developed the vaccines, including putting up money to move the process along quickly, but gotten them to the states," he said on Twitter.

Trump, who contracted COVID-19 in October, has often played down the severity of the

Agencies

## Chang'e-5 lands in North China, concludes epic lunar round trip

CARRYING around 2 kilograms of lunar samples, China's Chang'e-5 safely landed at its designated landing area in Siziwang Banner, North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region around 2 am Thursday, bringing the craft's epic round trip between Earth and its celestial neighbor located some 380,000 kilometers away to a perfect conclusion.

According to the China's National Space Administration on early Thursday morning, the spacecraft's safe landing marks the successful completion of the country's first ever lunar material retrieving mission.

The CNSA said in a statement provided to the Global Times on Thursday morning that the retrieved re-entry capsule of Chang'e-5 will be transferred by air to Beijing, where it will be opened and the lunar sample container it carries will be taken out.

The CNSA will hold a hand-over ceremony to pass on the lunar samples to the ground application system, kicking off relevant work on storage, analysis and research of samples from outer space.

The parachute opened when the craft was some 10 kilometers above ground.

China has now become the third country to successfully bring lunar materials back to Earth after the US and the Soviet Union.

The Chang'e-5 has now completed the last part of the 11-stage moon mission, which has seen many firsts in the country's aerospace history, such as the first-ever takeoff from the lunar surface, and the first rendezvous and docking at the lunar orbit, bringing a triumphant end to one of the most complex and challenging explo-

rations in China's aerospace history.

Looking back at the targets set for the mission by its developer, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp, it is safe to say that Chang'e-5 has lived up to people's expectations in a steady manner. Its achievements include technological breakthroughs that have advanced China's aerospace industry, the country's first-ever sample-retrieval mission from an extraterrestrial body, and finally, a perfected moon exploration system that lays the foundation for future manned tasks and other deep-space projects.

Song Zhongping, an aerospace expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times that the mission "has paved the way for the next stage of exploration: application-oriented space pro-

jects."

"Now that China's moon exploration project has come to a perfect ending and gained plenty of experiences, China can focus its energy on making use of the resources on the moon," Song said.

It also verified a new unmanned, robotic approach to exploring space, which can allow men to travel to farther celestial bodies at reduced cost and risks, observers noted.

**Promise delivered**

Shortly after Chang'e-5's launch, Chinese netizens dug up an article published in 2005 by the People's Daily, which laid out plans for the entire Chang'e-series - orbiting, landing, and sample retrieval, while specifying that the missions were

expected to be completed in 2020.

Fifteen years later, the timetable in the newspaper has finally been met. "It's hard to believe that our distant and unrealistic fantasies have come true, and the dream we lived in has become a reality," a netizen on China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo said in awe.

"The most distinctive feature and biggest advantage of China's aerospace industry is that we develop our missions step by step, and this has not drifted away from the original goal set decades ago thanks to a stable government and continuous policy," Wang Ya'nan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, told the Global Times on Thursday.

China's future Chang'e-6 mission is expected to automatically collect lunar samples for analysis and research, and hopefully carry international payloads on board.

Global Times



## From poverty alleviation to rural vitalisation, China ushers in new stage of rural development

BEIJING

BUILDING on a major victory in poverty alleviation, China is ready for a new stage in agricultural and rural development. The country is shifting its focus of rural work to all-round rural vitalization.

Solving issues related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers is the top priority for the Communist Party of China (CPC), Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed.

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the two-day annual central rural work conference, which closed here on Tuesday.

### A HISTORIC SHIFT

Efforts must be made to promote the efficiency and quality of the agricultural sector, make rural areas suitable to live and work in, and ensure that farmers are affluent and well-off, he told the meeting.

With China at a historical juncture of marching toward its second centenary goal, the task of consolidating and extending the achievements of poverty

alleviation, pushing forward all-round rural vitalization and accelerating the modernization of the agricultural sector and rural areas is a major issue essential to the overall situation that deserves the high attention of the whole Party, Xi noted.

Consolidating the foundation for agriculture, rural areas, and work relating to farmers is "the ballast" for the country to tackle the changing situations and open up new prospects, he said.

After a victory in poverty alleviation is scored, China should push forward the rural vitalization in an all-round way as "a historic shift" of the focus in its work concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers, Xi stressed.

The CPC Central Committee has decided to set a five-year transition period for counties that have shaken off poverty, and gradually shift the policy focus toward comprehensively promoting rural vitalization, Xi said.

Efforts should be made to ensure food security and strengthen food production year by year, he said, emphasizing that the country must retain a "red line" of 1.8 billion mu (120 million hectares) of arable land.



Chinese President Xi Jinping

Xi underlined better using and conserving black soil and speeding up breakthroughs on core and key agricultural technologies. He also urged promoting the supply-side structural reform in the agricultural sector.

### MORE VIGOROUS MEASURES

Xi stressed the need to strengthen top-level design, adopt more vigorous measures and pool more strength to advance rural vitalization, a task no less challenging than poverty alleviation.

To that end, seven measures will apply. They include speeding up rural industry development to bring farmers more benefits, strengthening intellectual and moral standards, preventing and controlling pollutions in rural areas, accelerating reform in key fields in rural areas, prioritizing rural infrastructure facility construction, facilitat-

ing integrated urban-rural development to achieve tangible results, and strengthening and improving rural governance.

The conference was chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, who is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Other Chinese leaders present at the meeting included Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, and Han Zheng.

Xi's speech elaborated on the importance of promoting rural vitalization and speeding up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas in an all-round way, Premier Li Keqiang said.

Vice Premier Hu Chunhua, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, emphasized an effective transition from consolidating poverty alleviation outcomes to achieve rural vitalization.

The meeting also discussed a draft document on comprehensively advancing rural vitalization and accelerating the modernization of agriculture and rural areas. *Xinhua*

## Russia set to work out new 'security equation' with US, says Lavrov

MOSCOW



MOSCOW is ready to work out a new 'security equation' in talks with Washington, which will take into account all strategic stability factors, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with TASS.

"When the global situation continues to deteriorate, we want Russia and the US, [as countries] bearing special responsibility for maintaining international security, to sit down at the negotiating table to come up with a new 'security equation' that will take into account all strategic stability factors and modern military technologies," he underscored.

Lavrov underlined that Russia is waiting for the next US administration to determine its approach to the future of the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) and the arms control negotiations in general.

"New START remains the last international law instrument to mutually limit the nuclear missile potential of the two largest nuclear powers and make activities in this sphere predictable and verifiable," the minister highlighted.

"I remind you that it expires in February next year. We have repeatedly expressed readiness to extend this treaty without any preconditions, leaving it as is, by up to five years.

It would make it possible to maintain the current level of transparency in the strategic ties with the United States."

Agencies

BUENOS AIRES

## Argentina Senate votes to legalise abortion

ARGENTINA became the first major country in Latin America to legalize abortion when the Senate voted early on Wednesday to allow it through the 14th week of pregnancy, in the face of opposition from the influential Catholic Church.

The fiercely contentious vote - passed with 38 in favor, 29 against and one abstention - came after a marathon debate that began at 4 pm (1900 GMT) on Tuesday.

As the result was read out, a crowd of thousands erupted in cheers outside the Senate building in Buenos Aires, waving the green flags that represented their campaign as green smoke rose above the crowd.

"We did it sisters. We made history. We did it together. There are no words

for this moment, it passes through the body and the soul," tweeted Monica Macha, a lawmaker with President Alberto Fernandez' centre-left ruling coalition which supported the law.

The ruling could set the tone for a wider shift in conservative Latin America where there are growing calls for greater reproductive rights for women.

Across the region, abortions are available on demand only in Communist Cuba, comparatively tiny Uruguay and some parts of Mexico.

"Adopting a law that legalizes abortion in a Catholic country as big as Argentina will energize the struggle to ensure women's rights in Latin America," said Juan Pappier, a se-



Pro-choice activists celebrate after the Senate approved a bill to legalize abortion outside the Congress in Buenos Aires yesterday. AFP

nior Americas researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"Although there will certainly be resistance, I think it's fair to predict that,

as it occurred when Argentina legalized same sex marriage in 2010, this new law could have a domino effect in the region." Until now, Argentine law has only allowed abortion when there is a serious risk to the health of the mother or in cases of rape.

Pro-choice groups argue that criminalising abortion harms women from the most vulnerable groups who they say are instead often forced to seek dangerous illegal abortions.

Argentina's powerful Catholic church argues the practice violates the right to life. Argentina is the birthplace of Pope Francis.

A change in the law was narrowly defeated in a Senate vote in 2018 after being approved in the lower house, but the latest bill was the first to have the backing of the ruling government.

Agencies

## China's retail sales to grow 4-5 percent in 2021 - blue paper

CHINA released a blue paper on economic outlook for 2021 on Monday, saying the total retail sales of consumer goods are expected to grow 4 to 5 percent in 2021 on a yearly basis. Meanwhile, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences estimates that China's economic growth will be about 7.8 percent next year.

In 2021, China's major economic indicators will continue to recover with the growth of products and industries expanding, and industrial and supply chains will be basically stable.

The blue book was jointly released by three research institutes under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Social Sciences Academic Press.

It is expected total retail sales of consumer goods in the fourth quarter of 2020 will achieve a growth rate of around 3 percent year-on-year, and the annual consumption scale will be close to the level of the same period last year.

Deng Yu, senior analyst at Bank of Communications, is optimistic about consumption growth. "It's expected that the growth rate of consumption will rebound to around 13 percent year-on-year in 2021, and industries severely affected



A staff member organizes the fruits at a supermarket in Renhuai City, Southwest China's Guizhou Province on December 15. File Photo

by the epidemic will recover significantly," Deng told the Global Times on Monday. Li Xuesong, deputy director of the Institute of Industrial Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that China's economy will grow by around 7.8 percent year-on-year in 2021, due to the low base of economic growth this year and uncertainties at home and abroad.

"The forecasts for next year are quite different, with some institutes saying growth could be more than 10 percent. Our forecast for 2021 may be subject to adjustment due to unexpected changes in the epidemic next year," Li added.

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the process of international economic structure adjustment. China has successfully controlled the epidemic, making it the first major economies to return to positive economic growth, which provided impetus and support for the global economic recovery, and also provided a solid foundation for the recovery of domestic consumption market, the blue paper reported.

The blue book points to a further recovery in Chinese economy in 2021. International organizations have recently raised their forecasts for global economic growth in 2021, with expectations for China's

economic performance significantly better than the global average.

The GDP growth forecast for China in 2021 is 8.2 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund. The World Bank forecasts 6.9 percent and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development pegged its forecast at 6.8 percent for China's growth.

"China's economic growth will be significantly faster than that of the global economy. In particular, China's economic growth will reach double digits in the first half of 2021, and China will continue to be the world's leading economy," said Deng. *Global Times*

## Take virus as wake-up call, experts tell world

TORONTO

Experts from the World Health Organization and public health schools warned on Monday that the world has more to learn on countering the prospect of COVID-19 persisting as a health threat, let alone on how to cope with the next pandemic.

David Heymann, a professor at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom, said the novel coronavirus may remain as endemic in the future. No matter what people do today, it will continue to spread despite vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, he said.

"We have to learn to live with this and use the tools we have in the best ways possible," he said at a virtual press briefing by the WHO.

Bruce Aylward, a senior adviser to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said "the virus is telling us that we are not prepared", citing the fact that second and third waves of infections are spreading in different regions of the world.

"While we are better prepared, the real question is, are we prepared for the next one?" he said. "We are not fully prepared for this one, let alone the next one."

Mike Ryan, executive director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme, said that the pandemic has been very severe as it spreads around the world quickly.

"But this is not necessarily the big one," he said. "This is a wake-up call... We need to get ready for something that will be even more severe in the future."

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, noted that countries that had traumatic experiences with similar pathogens such as those causing SARS (se-

vere acute respiratory syndrome), MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) and Ebola have used that experience to build a public health infrastructure.

She said these countries, which may not all have been high-income ones, have acted "aggressively, comprehensively, using an all-of-government, all-of-society approach and really tackling this".

Tedros said it was important that authorities step up genomic sequencing worldwide to ensure that new variants of the coronavirus are detected as the pandemic takes its toll.

### Travel restrictions

New variants detected in Britain and South Africa that appear to be more infectious have caused concern and triggered a fresh round of travel restrictions this month.

Tedros said: "There will be setbacks and new challenges in the year ahead for example, new variants of COVID-19 and helping people who are tired of the pandemic continue to combat it."

Globally, there were more than 81.3 million confirmed cases and more than 1.77 million deaths as of Tuesday, according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University in the United States.

Four cases of a coronavirus variant first reported in the UK have been found in Canada, raising concerns across the country. After the first two cases of the variant were found in Ontario on Saturday, two more were discovered in British Columbia and Ottawa.

The Public Health Agency of Canada said all the cases have been connected to travelers from Britain. Officials first reported that the two cases were linked to community spread, but after further investigation, they announced on Sunday that a couple had been in contact with someone who had recently returned from the UK.

Agencies

## China strives to advance ecological civilisation with world

PROTECTING endangered animal and plant resources and keeping ecological balance concerns the existence and development of mankind, and is also an important indicator that measures the civilization progress of countries and nations.

The development of an ecological civilization is attached with high importance in China, and is used to guide the country's development. China is making coordinated efforts to advance biodiversity governance and actively promoting international cooperation on wildlife protection, so as to jointly build a shared future for all life on Earth and chart the course for global ecological civilization.

Adenia angulosa, Striga asiatica and Zehneria japonica, these ob-

scure terms are all important findings by Chinese researchers from the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center. In November this year, they once again discovered a new plant species in a forest in western Kenya, which was believed to bear significant importance for rebuilding the phylogenetic framework of the species' genus.

The Sino-Africa Joint Research Center is the first major comprehensive science and education organization co-established by China and Africa. Five years ago, the center, together with the National Museums

of Kenya, jointly started the compilation of the Flora of Kenya. It was the first time for Chinese scientists to compile a flora for a foreign country. The project is expected to take 10 to 15 years and record over 7,000 plant species in Kenya.

The research is an arduous task, as scientists have to go deep in the mountains and forests, where they are facing not only poor transportation, but also possible attacks by large wild animals.

"Even the small ticks are a big trouble. Tick bites were found on the bodies of the researchers every time they

finished field work," said Wang Qingfeng, an expert from the Sino-Africa Joint Research Center.

The center has blazed a new trail for the exploration of plant diversity in Africa, said African researcher Geoffrey Mwachala with the National Museums of Kenya. Africa enjoys diverse plants which are of unique value for research, the continent is also limited by the lack of relevant professionals and technologies, the man added. The Chinese assistance to help Kenya launch stud-

ies and researches is of huge significance, as many findings have filled the research gap of plant resources in East Africa, he told People's Daily.

Fruitful results have been achieved since the center was established 8 years ago. It initiated 40 joint research programs, launched 60 major field investigations with African partners, published 8 academic works, and released 321 research papers. Besides, it also cultivated 222 African post-graduate students, and trained over 600 management personnel and pro-

fessionals.

The center also actively cooperates with Zimbabwe and Madagascar to implement demonstration systems of wildlife protection, launching scientific research with local scientists in nature reserves and major areas that house diverse species.

Munesu Munodawafa, Permanent Secretary of Zimbabwe's Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, remarked that China has offered firm support for Zimbabwe's biodiversity studies and wildlife protection, which has ush-

ered in a new era for Africa's wildlife protection.

When it comes to the cracking down on illegal trade of wildlife, China is also calling for international cooperation and joint efforts from all sides, making important contribution to the protection of global ecological civilization.

Two years ago, 30 global internet firms, including Chinese companies, co-established the Coalition to End Wildlife Trafficking Online with the International Fund for Animal Welfare. Members of the coalition deleted over 300 million pieces of information about illegal animal trade in the past two years.

People's Daily





Simba SC's players participate in a recent training in Dar es Salaam to prepare for domestic and continental competitions. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

## 2021's Mapinduzi Cup Organizing Committee releases tournament fixture

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE next year's Mapinduzi Cup tournament's Organizing Committee has released the event's fixture, with Tanzania's soccer big guns Simba SC and Yanga, which constitute sides which will compete in it, being put in separate groups.

The competition is expected to officially start on January 5 next year after Simba SC, Yanga and Namungo FC confirmed their participation in the showpiece in writing.

Simba SC and Namungo FC, who are taking part in the CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively, will have their matches in the Mapinduzi Cup played once their return leg ties in the CAF competitions had taken place on January 5.

The committee has divided the teams into three groups with Group A consisting of Yanga, Namungo FC and Zanzibar's Jamhuri while Simba SC are in Group B with the tournament's defending champions Mtibwa Sugar and Zanzibar's Chipukizi.

Group C is comprising Azam FC and Zanzibar Premier League (ZPL) powerhouses, Malindi and Mlandege.

Simba will open their campaign in the tournament on January 7, in which they will take on Chipukizi, while Namungo FC will play Yanga the following day.

Yanga will first lock horns with Jamhuri on January 5, there will be two more encounters the same day involving Mtibwa Sugar and Chipukizi.

Zanzibar's age-old rivals, Malindi and Mlandege, will lock horns on January 6

next year.

Azam FC will face Mlandege on January 8, while Namungo FC will play another match against Jamhuri on January 9.

The final group matches will be played on January 10, when Simba will confront Mtibwa Sugar, whereas Azam FC will wind up with a match against Malindi.

The competition's finals will take place on January 13, when champions will be awarded silverware, gold medals and 15m/- in cash prize, runners-up will be presented with 10m/- in cash prize and silver medals.

A total of eight officials making the Mapinduzi Cup tournament's Organizing Committee were announced recently. The committee consists of members from Zanzibar and Mainland Tanzania.

They are, among others, Hassan Mussa Ibrahim, Salum Issa Ameir, Rajab Iddi, Khamis Mwinjuma, also a Member of Parliament for Muheza Constituency, Jerry Muro, Salama Jabir and Ali Saleh.

The officials were announced by the Permanent Secretary for Zanzibar's Ministry of Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Omar Hassan 'King' on behalf of the ministry's boss, Tabia Maulid Mwita.

Hassan encouraged soccer enthusiasts in Zanzibar to turn up in big number in the competition's matches, given the competition seeks to celebrate the Isles' Revolution.

Various musicians are set to perform in the next year's competition's games.

## Fatigue let Majimaji FC's players down in Federation Cup tourney, says coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MAJIMAJI FC's assistant coach, Gabriel Zacharia, has stated that fatigue led to his players' failure to showcase solid performance in the club's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s third round game against Simba SC, which took place in Dar es Salaam last weekend and had the former conceding 5-0 loss to the latter.

Zacharia noted his players did not have much time to rest heading into the clash, he disclosed they slept late at night as they entered Dar es Salaam at 6pm due to an accident they were involved in on the way.

The coach said they had been out of Songea since Friday last week, but they arrived in Dar es Salaam on Saturday at 6pm, with his players lacking time to rest and the situation contributed to the loss.

He stated: "First of all I congratulate my players for their commitment, but my players had a problem with not getting enough time to rest."

"This is all due to the fact that our players are inexperienced. Majimaji are a great team, but the players are

young and inexperienced, but we also did not have time to rest when we made it to Dar es Salaam," he disclosed.

He moreover congratulated Simba for the victory, claiming they deserved to win.

With Simba having posted the win, some of the side's members and fans disclosed they were impressed by Majimaji's winger, Ismail Mussa, who showcased impressive performance in the match played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium.

Speaking after the match, Mussa said dedication, working hard in training and willingness to effectively execute instructions issued by his coach have helped him make the most of his potential.

He said: "We respected Simba, they are a great team. We lost because we played against a great team, my ability to display my potential has come about because of dedication and hard work, listening to the coach, I'm doing this so I can get another chance to play because football is my job."

Simba, the ASFC's defending champions, for that matter, made it to the fourth round.

## NSC surprised by federations' failure to present next season's schedules

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE National Sports Council (NSC) has said it is surprised by the slow pace of performance by sports associations and federations in Tanzania in submitting the latter's schedules and plans for next year to the council.

The NSC Information Officer, Najaha Bakari, said so far there is no any association which has submitted the schedules and strategies for national teams for 2021, as per directives presented by Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Hassan Abbas.

Abbas had issued the directives when he opened a seminar for information officers for various sports associations, federations and clubs on how to execute their duties, insisting the associations should present their schedules and strategies before today.

The training was organized by Malya Sports Development College's Dar es Salaam Campus.



National Sports Council (NSC) Information Officer, Najaha Bakari.

He stated the government has identified that national teams falter in international events because of, among other reasons, failure by sports associations and federations, which manage the sides, to cooperate with the government in facilitating the squads' preparations.

According to Abbas, the sports associations strive to seek funds or the teams' preparations, a situation which ultimately contribute to the squads' poor performance.

He disclosed he has therefore issued the directives, insisting the associations should submit the schedules and strategies to NSC prior to December 31 (today).

The NSC, he stated, will later submit the schedules to the ministry, which will find out how the sports federations will implement their schedules in 2021.

Najaha stated despite the order having been issued by the Permanent Secretary on December 7, there is no sports association

which has submitted its schedules and strategies for next season.

She said they are aware that there are many federations that are, next year, set to field squads in inter-national tournaments but they are surprised so far there is no sports association which has heeded to the directive.

"The Permanent Secretary made it clear that he issued the directive after identifying one of the reasons why our national teams are not doing well interna-

tionally, which include a tendency by some of the associations and federations, which manage the squads, to treat the teams as their own," she said.

"He also stated that all plans and schedules for national teams should be submitted to the NSC on December 31 this year, the NSC will later submit them to the government so that we know how to start the season, but so far I'm sorry to say that we have not received any strategy," she said.

She also called on the associations and federations' leaders to soon heed to the directive, insisting the government does not entertain procrastination.

President John Magufuli had recently stated that the government will continue to improve the sports industry, which is now growing rapidly.

He also said that the government will start allocating a small amount of money to prepare the country's national teams that will be preparing for various international competitions in order to do well in the events.



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC.

## Hillary, Kapalata return to KMC FC's training

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

KINONDONI Municipal Council (KMC) FC's players, Abdul Hillary and Hassan Kapalata, who were nursing injuries, have regained fitness and joined their teammates to prepare for the team's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) encounter with Mbeya City FC set for this weekend.

Kapalata and Hillary were not with their team for about a

month due to the injuries, they, their side stated, have now recovered and will start playing for the squad in the coming games. The squad's other player, Hassan Kabunda, was also nursing injuries but he has now returned to training.

The forward was injured in a league match against Simba and missed out KMC FC's encounters with Ihefu FC and JKT Tanzania.

The outfit's left fullback,

David Bryson, as well did not turn out for the team in league matches as he was playing for the national U-20 team, Ngorongoro Heroes.

Other players who have not been able to return to training, include Kenny Ally, Andrew Vincent and goalkeeper, Rahim Sheikh, given they are nursing injuries.

Vincent suffered an injury in the game against Simba and he thus played for a short time in

the game against Ihefu FC.

The KMC FC will play Ihefu FC at Sokoine Stadium in Mbeya on January 2 and the former are training well in an effort to ensure that they perform well in the game.

The KMC FC trounced Ihefu FC 4-0 in the league's first phase duel.

The Dar es Salaam side is currently placed eighth in the VPL's standing with 21 points from 17 matches.



## Laporta believes he can convince Messi to stay

BARCELONA, Spain

FORMER Barcelona club president Joan Laporta has a simple pitch in his attempt to get reelected to the post. According to Laporta, he is the best chance Barcelona has of convincing Lionel Messi to stay put at Camp Nou.

Laporta is one of a handful of candidates vying to become Barcelona's next president in an election by club members called for Jan. 24.

Besides having successfully led Barcelona a decade ago, Laporta's strongest asset to win over voters is his relationship with Messi, whose future with the club is in serious doubt.

"I hope to convince Messi to stay a few more years with us so that this beautiful story he has at Barca can continue," Laporta told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"I have the honor to have the credibility of the player," Laporta said. "When we meet, Messi always is telling me that 'you always did what you said you would,' and this is something that I am very proud of and I don't want to lose."

Laporta knows Messi from when he took over the club as its young president in 2003. A teenage Messi had recently joined the Spanish club after leaving Argentina with his family.

At the start of his stint as president, Laporta chose the equally inexperienced Frank Rijkaard as his first coach, and brought in Ronaldinho, Samuel Eto'o and Deco to team up with in-house talents Carles Puyol and Xavi Hernandez. Messi quickly moved up through Barcelona's youth teams and joined the top squad in 2004. The team took off and won two Spanish leagues and the club's second European Cup in 2006.

When that team began to falter, Laporta made another bold move by replacing Rijkaard with the untested Pep Guardiola and selling Ronaldinho. Guardiola retooled the team around Messi, Xavi and Andres Iniesta, sparking the most glorious period in club history.

Laporta could not run for a third consecutive term in 2010. He tried to unseat Josep Bartomeu in a 2015 election, but Bartomeu won with the team coming off a triple sweep of the Champions League, Spanish league and Copa del Rey - the last peak of greatness for the club.

Bartomeu resigned in October when faced with the possibility of being ousted in a no-confidence motion supported by thousands of club members furious after the team's poor performances and the club's bad financial situation. Barcelona suffered a historic 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals in August, and its soaring debt forced the club to practically give away veteran stars like Luis Suarez to slash its salary burden.

The big worry, however, is what Messi will do now.

Messi stunned Barcelona in August when he said that he wanted out. The club, however, resisted, and he backed down - at least for the time being. He has played as hard as ever these past months with the team still having ups and downs as new coach Ronald Koeman tries to work in younger players to rejuvenate the side.

Messi's contract expires next June, meaning he is free to negotiate with other clubs as of Jan. 1. However, Messi said on Sunday that he won't make a decision on his future until the end of the season.

Barcelona will remain under a caretaker board, which lacks powers to sign contracts, until February when the newly elected board takes over.

Laporta said that despite having maintained what he called "informal" talks with Messi over the years, he has yet to make the player a formal pitch.

"I would like to be president of football club Barcelona, look at the accounts, know perfectly what the possibilities are that we have to give him an economic proposal," Laporta said. "But for me the economic proposal with Messi is not the most relevant thing. (.) The most important thing is to propose him a very competitive team because Leo wants to win championships."

There are seven other declared candidates, but the field will be narrowed down by a signature-gathering process. Just over 2,250 signatures are needed to get one's name on the ballot. Around 110,000 club members will have the right to vote.

Since leaving the club, Laporta has maintained his work as a lawyer, but also dabbled in politics. He spent 2010-12 as a member of Catalonia's regional parliament, supporting the independence of the wealthy northeast region.

The Catalan separatist movement Laporta backs has generated deep political and social divisions in Spain. Still, Laporta said he would ensure that Barcelona would "integrate different ideas and ways of thinking" for its fans who do not agree with his politics.

Now, at age 58, Laporta is convinced that his record of having guided the team through thorough overhauls not once, but twice, should be enough to put him back in power.

"I can bring back the joy to Barcelona's fans because I have the experience of having already done so," he said. "I have the commitment and preparation required to take the decisions the club needs."

Seventeen years since he first celebrated becoming president by spraying Cava on his cohorts, Laporta has some gray hairs, but he still knows how to make Barca fans snicker by poking fun at their top rival.

AP

## Looking back on a year in soccer unlike any other

By Leander Schaerlaeckens

IT has been, well, a year. Soccer was disrupted more significantly than at any time since World War II as a pandemic shook the sport's shaky economic foundations. The European Championship was postponed. We lost Diego Maradona and a raft of other luminaries. And chances are fans won't fill stadiums fully in most parts of the world until the summer, if not later.

But soccer happened nevertheless. And some had better years than others. Normally, we would declare winners and losers in a piece like this, but everybody is a winner for getting through this foul year, and there are no losers.

Besides, the biggest winner of all is Marcus Rashford anyway. The Manchester United striker not only blossomed into one of the world's best forwards but twice shamed the British government into extending free meal programs for school children, becoming the face of the fight to eradicate hunger in kids. But that had little to do with the game itself.

So here are Yahoo Soccer's 10 gainers and also-rans of 2020 for things that actually involved soccer.

**Gainer:** Bayern Munich

At the start of the year, Bayern was in crisis. It looked old and sated and had sunk as low as seventh place in its campaign to win an eighth straight Bundesliga title. But by Aug. 23, Bayern hadn't lost in 30 straight games under new manager Hansi Flick, claimed the second Champions League-Bundesliga-DFB Pokal treble in its history and rejuvenated its side. As a new year dawns, Bayern once again sits firmly atop its perch, looking ahead to future years of dominance.

**Also-ran:** The sport as a whole

It was no great secret that most soccer clubs lived close to the financial abyss. As it got ever more expensive to compete, teams began taking bigger risks, spending more and more of their revenue on transfer fees and salaries. When, suddenly, matchday income evaporated for months on end due to the pandemic, the financial shock was such that it put a host of clubs in existential danger. Even the richest teams like Barcelona had to ask players to forgo or defer salary while laying off or furloughing staff. The income lost this year will be counted not in millions but billions and the repercussions will reverberate.

**Gainer:** Jose Mourinho

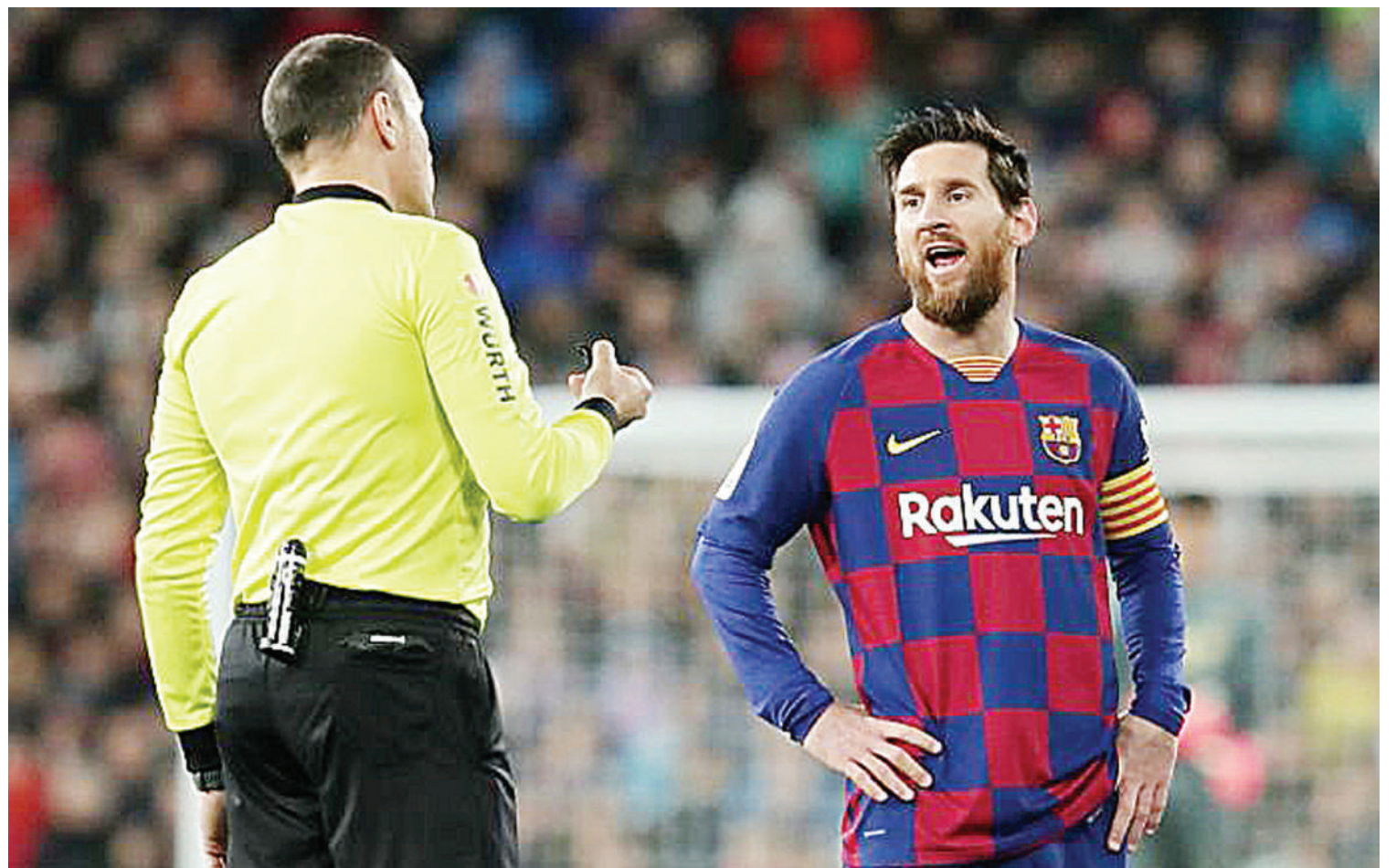
When the once-special Tottenham Hotspur in November of 2019, he was seen as a manager past his prime joining a team in slow decline.

**Gainer:** Liverpool

For a while, there was talk of abandoning the 2019-20 season altogether, even though the Reds had the Premier League title more or less sewn up for months already. They were champions all but mathematically. And now it looked like a once-in-a-century pandemic could rob them of their first title in three decades. But the season was restarted and although its record-setting pace slowed, Liverpool still posted one of the highest points totals of



Liverpool waited 30 years (and a couple additional months thanks to COVID-19) to finally lift the English top flight trophy again. (Agencies)



Lionel Messi is still amazing. His 2020 was not. (Agencies)

all time.

**Also-ran:** The fans

In dribs and drabs, fans have returned to stadiums around the world. A few thousand here. A few hundred there. In some countries, they had to be barred again as cases spiked in the fall. Even with some of them back, it isn't the same. We've become accustomed to seeing empty stadiums, empty stands covered with tarps or filled with cutouts or awkward CGI fans. It's going to be a long time. And that's to the detriment of the people who love the game and want, above all else, to see it in person. Soccer is diminished as both an experience and a TV product without them.

**Gainer:** Manchester United

When the once-special Tottenham Hotspur in November of 2019, he was seen as a manager past his prime joining a team in slow decline. But by the summer, he had lifted Spurs from 12th place to sixth in spite of a series of catastrophic injuries to its star forwards. An Amazon docuseries renewed Mourinho stardom and the ongoing season has even seen Tottenham flirt with competing for the title, including a thumping 6-1 victory over the last club to fire Mourinho in 2018, Manchester United.

**Also-ran:** Lionel Messi

After two decades at the club that nurtured

him, the world's greatest-ever player was ready for a new challenge. He had certainly done plenty for Barcelona. And he believed that he was free to go, even with a year left on his contract. After all, he had an out clause after the season. So, following Barca's humiliating 8-2 elimination at the hands of Bayern in the Champions League quarterfinals, he exercised it. Ah, but the clause expired at the end of May and it was now August, Barca said, forcing Messi to stay even if it might have violated the spirit of his contract. He opted against a costly and lengthy legal tussle. But the entire thing left a bad taste in his mouth as he has caught on to the club's ongoing chaos in the last years of his career.

**Gainer:** USMNT

Yes, OK, sure, the U.S.

men only played four times all year. But they went undefeated? And that's not the point anyway. The point is that a raft of national teamers continued to climb the ladder in the European club game. Sergio Dest earned a transfer from Ajax to Barcelona. Weston McKennie escaped Schalke for Juventus. Gio Reyna broke into the first team at Borussia Dortmund. Christian Pulisic firmed up his place with Chelsea and earned the No. 10 jersey. Tyler Adams made the Champions League semifinals with RB Leipzig. All of this accrues nicely to the national team.

**Also-ran:** Barcelona

The 2019-20 season was the club's first campaign since 2007-08 that it won no trophies at all, punctuated by that aforementioned 8-2 loss to Bayern. Things only

got worse from there. Messi wanted out. Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu was ousted. The club turned out to be broke. And the squad is broken beyond repair. It's little wonder that under new manager Ronald Koeman, who pushed out pricey veterans but wasn't given the money to replace them, Barca already appears to be out of the title race.

**Gainer:** Christine Sinclair

It was at the start of the year, on Jan. 29, but in an Olympic qualifier against Saint Kitts and Nevis that day, Sinclair scored her 184th and 185th international goals. That tied and then surpassed the USA's Abby Wambach and her world record for international goals - among women and men. It took Sinclair 35 more games than Wambach got, but then the Canadian strik-

er never had anything close to the same supporting cast and team dominance.

**Also-ran:** Arsenal

Briefly, there was a revival under new manager Mikel Arteta. But the eighth-place finish in 2019-20 was still the club's worst since 1994-95. The Gunners did win the FA Cup, but then they were also ignominiously bounced from the Europa League in the round of 32. And eighth place would feel pretty good right about now, as Arsenal slums it in 15th with a team that can't defend, attack or really do anything else you would expect from a Premier League juggernaut.

Leander Schaerlaeckens is a Yahoo Sports soccer columnist and a sports communication lecturer at Marist College. Follow him on Twitter @LeanderAlphabet.

### Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

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**EATV THURSDAY**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msoi Kifaani (r)  
13:30 Kaili Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Waganga Ulimba (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 SSEELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 SalamaNa

**TONIGHT @ 9:00**

**SalamaNa**

"SalamaNa" is our new show in which Salama has a chat with interesting people from different spheres of influence in our society. You will be entertained, educated and amazed.

Every Thursday at 9pm

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planef Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Simba SC issues reasons for Mkude's suspension

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) defending champions, Simba SC, has stated the club's midfielder, Jonas Mkude, has been suspended by the outfit because of, among others, committing a series of offences which include heavy drinking.

The gifted midfielder was, on December 28, indefinitely suspended by his outfit and he is expected to be presented to the side's disciplinary committee to answer charges against him.

Mkude has played 10 matches out of Simba SC's 14 games in the VPL.

In the 10 matches he has played, he has featured in Simba SC's starting line up in nine outings and came from the bench in one.

According to reports issued by an anonymous source, the midfielder is said to have drunk heavily before his team had taken on Zimbabwe's FC Platinum in the first leg of the CAF Champions League's first round, which took place in Harare a week ago and ended with Simba losing 1-0.

The source stated: "Mkude has been in the habit of drinking excessively even before a difficult and crucial match, despite warnings he has repeatedly made the same mistake in Nigeria and in Zimbabwe."

"His allegations are currently being investigated and he will be called to respond to them."

Simba SC will be seeking to get the better of FC Platinum in the CAF Champions League's first round's second leg, slated for January 6 at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, and progress to the competition's group stage.

Qualification for the group stage of the premier continental club competition will be sealed by Simba SC, should the outfit beat FC Platinum by more than two goals next week.

Mkude has been with the club since 2012 and he is currently one of the longest serving players in the squad.

The midfielder had previously played for the side's youth setup, which was then managed by Suleiman Matola, who is currently the side's assistant coach.

## Mtibwa Sugar and Namungo FC players earn debut call up to Taifa Stars



Taifa Stars' head coach, Ettiene Ndayiragije (R), and his assistant, Suleiman Matola, assess the team's recent training which took place in Dar es Salaam.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League's Mtibwa Sugar's youthful keeper, Abdultwalib Mshery, and Namungo FC's left fullback, Edward Charles, are some of the players that have earned debut call up to Tanzania's senior national team, Taifa Stars, which will take part in the next year's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, to be played in Cameroon.

Taifa Stars head coach, Ettiene Ndayiragije, on Tuesday, announced a provisional squad consisting of 30 players who will enter camp to shape up for selection of the final squad that will participate in the CHAN finals.

The squad was announced on Tuesday evening to put the team's silence to an end as some countries, whose teams have sealed a place in the showpiece, have begun traveling to Cameroon ready for

final preparations for the finals.

Neighbouring country, Uganda, have, for instance, been camping for some weeks to shape up for the showpiece.

The CHAN finals will be held in the West Africa nation early next year.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) recently said Taifa Stars' squad will enter camp on January 20, 2021 to prepare for two international friendly matches against DR Congo.

Ndayiragije has left out Yanga's number one goalkeeper, Metacha Mnata, and Azam FC's keeper, David Mapigano, in the provisional squad.

The tactician has replaced the duo with Biashara United keeper, Daniel Mgore, and Mshery (Mtibwa Sugar), who will be joined by veterans, Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC's Juma Kaseja and Simba SC's Aishi Manula.

Other players are Shomari Kapombe (Simba SC) Israel Mwenda (KMC FC), Charles (Namungo FC), Yassin Musta-

pha, Bakari Mwamnyeto (Yanga), Aggrey Morris (Azam FC), Erasto Nyoni (Simba SC), Carlos Protas (Namungo FC), Said Ndemla (Simba SC), Baraka Majogoro (Mtibwa Sugar), Yusuf Mhulu (Kagera Sugar).

Ayoub Lyanga (Azam FC), Feisal Salum (Yanga), Rajab Athuman (Gwambina FC), Ditram Nchimbi (Yanga), John Bocco (Simba SC), Deus Kaseke (Yanga), Lucas Kikoti (Namungo FC), Farid Mussa (Yanga), Adam Omary (JKT Tanzania) and Dickson Job (Mtibwa Sugar) also make the list.

Ndayiragije has moreover included five players from youth team, including Abdulrazack Hamza (Mbeya City FC U-20), Khelfine Salum (Azam FC U-20), Samwel Jackson (Ihefu FC U-20), Omari Omari (National U-17 team) and Paschal Gaudence (Azam FC U-20).

The announcement of the squad comes in line with the government's insistence on selection of young players for the team in order to see to it

the side puts good performance in various tournaments.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, issued the call after holding a recent session to listen to views issued by former soccer players and coaches.

He said the government was determined to make improvements by seeing to it the country restores its glory in major competitions.

"Our session is aimed at getting ideas and advices, where are we stuck? You should advise us so we can see to it our national team restore its glory," he said.

Bashungwa said despite the fact that the sports industry has been doing poorly, the government has been struggling to take various measures, including making law reforms in line with changes' pace.

"In 1967 the government made legal improvements in sports, seeing to it sports gain professional status, the number of Tanzania's players earning professional contracts outside the country has been rising and now we have reached 54 players for all sports, including football, according to government's statistics," he said.

The ministry's Deputy, Abdallah Ulega, said the meetings will be sustainable as the government is determined to get good results.

"We recognize that a large percentage of the former players are still alive and they are engaged in sports, we will continue to hold meetings with them as they are icons," he said.

Former Yanga and Taifa Stars' player, Ally Mayay, called on the government to establish a system for grooming children in variety of sports at the right age.

"The cost for teaching children should be reduced to enable parents to take care of their children," the veteran noted.

## Communities urged to value sports for people with disabilities

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE society has been asked to support efforts made by people with disabilities, especially in the sports sector, so that the latter can too take advantage of various opportunities that are available in the sector.

Image Consultation Company's Marketing and Events Coordinator, Martha Kambo, issued the call in Dar es Salaam after the completion of a recent wheelchair basketball championship organized by Tanzania Basketball Federation, which was held in the city.

The championship took place at Don Bosco courts, Upanga, bringing together teams made up of players with disabilities.

The tournament featured two teams, Pangani and Azania, in the men's category, and as many teams, Overland and Image, in the women's category.

National Sports Council (NSC)'s official, Milinde Mahona, graced the tournament's climax, representing the body's Acting Secretary General, Neema Msitha.

Palestine's Embassy in Tanzania's representatives were also present in the event's closing ceremony.

Winston Thomas took home the championship's Most Valuable Player (MVP) prize in the mens category, the women category's MVP prize went to Ashura Sadick.

Thomas was also the top scorer of the men's tournament, whereas Mwajabu Athuman emerged as the women



Dar es Salaam's wheelchair basketball players, who took part in a recent championship which took place in the city, pictured with representatives of Palestine's Embassy in Tanzania and National Sports Council (NSC)'s official after the completion of the event. PHOTO: NASSIR NCHIMBI

showdown's top scorer.

Martha said that the festival aimed at not only bringing together people with disabilities, who play basketball, but also reminding the community that people with disabilities are also very important in the community.

Due to the fact that her firm is engaging in various events carried out by several people, Martha stated they felt it was good for them to return the benefits to people especially the ones with disabilities that have always been left behind.

"The sports events, which bring together people with disabilities, have not been given priority, so, we felt this is the first opportunity for us to show Tanzania that it is a sector that needs to be uplifted," she disclosed.

"The sector should be carefully supervised as people with disabilities

need to be helped and promoted in sports," she said.

"You have all seen the standards of the teams that competed today, the teams also went to Kenya to participate in a tournament ended as second runners-up, so, these people are very important in our sports in Tanzania and they can scale great heights in sports if we give them enough co-operation," she noted.

This year's Miss Tanzania pageant's second runner-up, Priscion Lyimo, who also attended the ceremony, said that sports for people with disabilities are good as they give them an opportunity to expand and see their worthiness.

The games, according to Priscion, boost people with disabilities' confidence, helping them feel they are not different from their able bodied

sports persons.

She stated it was good that basketball fans turned up at the championship in large numbers and that uplifted the basketballers with disabilities' spirit.

She was adamant the players can achieve lots of success in the sport, if they are empowered.

Lake Group Company's Human Resources and Administration Officer, Wilfred Massano, who was as well one of the event's attendees, said his company, which sponsored the championship, has been coming out to promote people with disabilities' participation in sports as the latter also have their dreams in sports.

Massano stated people with disabilities, therefore, have to be fully supported by various stakeholders with a view to achieving the dreams.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

