



**BUSINESS** Bunge panel pleased with EPZA drive in industrial development

CRDB empowers women with business marketing, financial management skills

Be in groups to benefit from gov't loans, young graduates challenged

Power bills rise to Sh1bn in March on fuel levy hike

Nigerian telcos take on banks over USD service fees

### National Pg 3 Z'bar Heritage ministry performance



### National Pg 4 Crackdown on substandard meat shops



### National Pg 6 Deployment of drones to fight desert locusts



# 1.24trn/- plan to ensure power to 1,974 villages

By Guardian Reporter

A total of 1,974 villages yet to get electricity will be connected to the national grid in the second round of the third phase of the national rural electrification project which kicked off yesterday.

Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemari said at a launching event at Ugaka Village in Igunga District, Tabora Region, that the project will cost 1.24trn/- and will be implemented in 18 months from now in all regions.

Every district will be provided with a contractor to implement the project so that it is completed in time, as opposed

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has a quick word with Khoja Shia Ithna Shari community member Munir Daya (2nd-R) moments after the latter led a delegation in talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Looking on are Kampala-based Alhaji Shabir Najafi (3rd-R), the community's chairman for Africa, and vice chairman Aunali K. Khaifan. Photo: Zanzibar State House.

## US avails \$8m for refugees' upkeep

By Guardian Reporter

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) yesterday handed a food consignment and other cash contribution all valued at \$8 million (over 18bn/-) to the United Nations food relief agency, the World Food Programme (WFP), as food relief for refugees living in Tanzania.

The US Embassy said in a statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the consignment and the cash donation were handed to WFP at the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) premises as critical food assistance for refugees living in Nduta, Mtendeli and Nyarugusu camps in Kigoma region.

Sarah Gordon-Gibson, the WFP country representative expressed gratitude to US generosity and continued support. "This support reflects US commitment to continue assisting nearly 220,000 Burundian and Congolese refugees who solely rely on WFP's food assistance," she stated.

Part of the donation will be used to procure food locally from smallholder farmers and hence it represents a good investment in the local economy, she said.

US Ambassador Donald Wright officiated at the ceremony, also attended by Nsato Mssanzya, a senior official of the refugees department in the Ministry of Home Affairs, as well as TPA Director General Elihuruma Lema.

USAID provides direct food assistance and also funds WFP to provide emergency food supplies to refugees and asylum-seekers in the camps, where procuring locally and regionally sourced commodities is included in the funding arrangements.

USAID is the largest donor to the WFP's work to avail food supplies to refugee camps in Tanzania, the statement noted, indicating that the \$8m contribution includes \$6m in cash for commodity procurement in the local market, and \$2m towards

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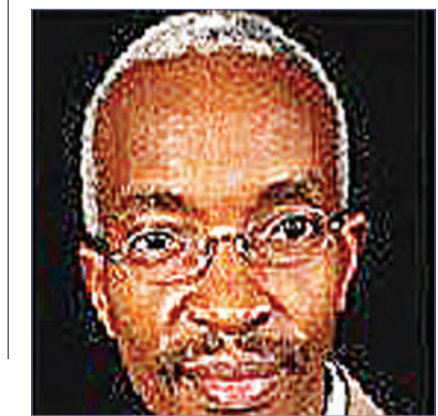
### HEARING LOSS Page 3



### GOLD MARKET Page 4



### INVESTMENTS Page 6



## VP: Time essential in 6.1bn/- water project

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday directed the Ministry of Water to supervise the implementation of the 6.1bn/- water project to supply clean water in Muheza town and neighboring villages.

Laying a foundation stone for the implementation of the project at Kilapula village in Muheza District of Tanga Region, the VP said the ministry and other responsible authorities must ensure that it is completed on time and to required standards.

"We want our people to access enough clean and safe water for development," she stated.

Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga-UWASA) executive director Geoffrey Hilly had earlier said that

**"We want our people to access enough clean and safe water for development"**

insufficient water sources in the region was a major challenge.

He said that once completed, the project will be a huge relief to the residents, labouring for years to access water services.

The actual demand for water among residents of the region stand at 5,190 cubic meters per day while current production is placed at 1,445 cubic meters, in which case the project will address this challenge and

bring a huge smile to the residents, he said.

He said that the fifth phase government set aside enough funds in the 2016/17 fiscal year to facilitate the implementation of the project and eradicate water blues in Muheza District.

The project will be implemented in two phases, the first stage involving installation of water pipes from Pongwe in Tanga city to Kitisa area in Muheza, he said.

Koberg Construction Co. Ltd of Dar es Salaam is collaborating with Hussein and Co. of Tanga and Tanzania Steel Pipes of Dar es Salaam during the first phase, valued at 3.5bn/-, he stated.

Peritus Exim Private Ltd shall implement the second phase valued at 2.6bn/-, where

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## SUA initiative seeks to spur graduates in farms

By Guardian Reporter, Morogoro

A NEW programme seeking to woo more of the country's educated youth into agriculture has been launched with a focus on value addition and commercial agriculture. Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda yesterday launched the 'business model' strategy designed to encourage graduates into commercial farming as a business venture.

The plan coordinated by the Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Coop-

**"We need intense agricultural transformation to spur industrial investment, raising farmers' incomes and national income in general"**

erative (SUGECO) is part of the institution's strategy to ensure its graduates engage directly to spur transformation in the agricultural sector.

"I appeal to financial institutions in the country to provide soft loans to achieve the implantation of the business model plan by attracting many young graduates," he said, noting that the strategy will place more skills in agro-sector activity and contribute to the country's industrial development.

"We need intense agricultural transformation to spur industrial investment, rais-

ing farmers' incomes and national income in general," the minister asserted.

As for now agriculture contributes one-third of the gross domestic product, while gainfully taking up well over two-thirds of the population, which makes it difficult to free the farmer from poverty, he stated.

He praised SUA for creating SOGECO as its contribution was huge in the agricultural sector.

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## 1.24trn/- plan to ensure power to 1,974 villages

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to earlier practice where a contractor was given a series of regions, thus causing delays in completion of the projects.

He said there would be no extension of time for contractors failing to meet the deadline, but revoking the contract and being referred to court according to the law.

He stressed that rural dwellers pay 27,000/- connection costs in villages and watch out for connen, whether it is unfaithful officials or fake technicians, who would be demanding copious amounts for the service.

Contractors must introduce themselves to district and regional officials before starting work, enter into agreement on the time schedule for implementation of the work in their respective areas to enable district and regional authorities to closely monitor

progress in each district, the minister directed.

Contractors must similarly make sure that all work not requiring special expertise is assigned to residents of the area or near the various districts as to enable them to benefit from the projects.

Dr Kalemari also pledged to construct a small power substation in Igunga District to beef up power supply.

The minister held a meeting with Isanzu villagers in Nzeza District, where he told them that the contractor for power distribution in the district has already been picked and would start work at any time as the funds were available.

Regional Commissioner Philemon Sengati appealed to people in the villages still not getting power to grab the opportunity and get power connected to their homes.

The government wishes t



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan inaugurates a water project at Kilapula-Pongwe in Tanga Region yesterday. She is on an ongoing tour of the region. Photo: Correspondent Oscar Kasimiri

## SUA initiative seeks to spur graduates in farms

FROM PAGE 1

“The plan will bring benefits in crop production and make the country competitive in world markets, as well as taking the farmer out of poverty,” he said.

He praised authorities in Nzeza, Kibiti and Liwale districts for working together with SUGECO, setting aside areas for the plan's local implementation. “The government will continue working together with all stakeholders to ensure it is implemented country-wide,” he declared.

For his part SUGECO Managing Director Revocatus Kimario said the business model aims to uplift value chain integration to crops farmed by members of the cooperative, to bring them into line

with market needs.

“Our aim is to bring essential services to farmers in one area to simplify the procurement of various needs and serve individual farmers on account of infrastructure challenges,” the director noted.

Yohana Tewa, a SUA graduate and SIGECO beneficiary said the plan will solve challenges of crop markets, transforming agriculture to feature more strategically in solving unemployment problems.

SUGECO has become part of the drive that pulls graduates to commercial farming, enabling those who already started to develop themselves economically and plan for the future, the participant added.

## VP: Time essential in 6.1bn/- water project

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water pipes will be installed from Mowe water treatment plant in Pande, Tanga city to Pongwe.

Upon completion, the project will improve access to water in Tanga to

65 percent of total needs from the current 35 percent, thus stimulating social and economic activities, he said. To further strengthen the availability of water in the region, the government is working to implement another project to pump water

from Pangani River, commencing next month.

Reports show that about 57 percent of Tanzania's population has access to an improved source of safe water, while about 34 percent of the population has access to improved

sanitation. Under these circumstances, the poor, particularly women and girls spend a significant amount of time seeking water from ponds or rivers, risking wild animal attack at the source or along the way, studies indicate.

## Mozambique loses latest round in London ‘hidden debts’ case

MAPUTO

Mozambique has lost the latest round of a court case in London, where the British judges ruled that the London High court was not the appropriate jurisdiction for Mozambique's complaint against the Abu Dhabi based group, Prinvest.

Last Thursday, the appeals court ruled that the case should go to arbitration - which means it accepted the claim by Prinvest that the correct jurisdiction is the International Arbitration Tribunal in

Switzerland.

The court thus overturned the initial ruling (by Justice Waksman) who argued that the English courts were competent to hear the case.

The legal battle between the Mozambican government and Prinvest arises from the scandal of Mozambique's “hidden debts” - a term referring to the loans of over two billion US dollars made in 2013 and 2014 by the banks Credit Suisse and VTB of Russia to three fraudulent Mozambican companies, Proindicus, Ematum (Mozambican

Tuna Company) and MAM (Mozambique Assets Management).

The loans were only possible because the banks carried out no due diligence on the three companies, which had no business record and were effectively run by the Mozambican security service, SISE, and because the Mozambican government of the day, under President Armando Guebuza, issued illegal loan guarantees, in violation of the 2013 and 2014 budget laws, and of the Mozambican constitution. Massive corruption was involved

in the loans, as was admitted by the three Credit Suisse managers who negotiated them, Andrew Pearse, Detelvina Subeva, and Surjan Singh. These three people were among those charged by American prosecutors, who took a close interest in the case because the US financial system had been abused, and US investors were swindled. According to the prosecutors, at least 200 million dollars of the loan money was diverted into bribes and kickbacks.

AGENCIES



Donald Wright (R), the US Ambassador to Tanzania, speaks at a ceremony at the Dar es Salaam Port on Monday at which the United States through USAID contributed US\$8 million to the World Food Programme to provide food assistance to refugees in camps in northwestern Tanzania. With him are Nsato Msanzya (2nd-L), Assistant Director of Settlements and Camp Management with the Refugee Services Department of the Home Affairs ministry; Sarah Gordon-Gibson (3rd-L), the WFP Representative in Tanzania; and Dar es Salaam Port Director Elihuruma Lema. Photo courtesy of US Embassy

## US avails \$8m for refugees' upkeep

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yellow split peas supplies, already procured and received at the port. WFP distributes monthly rations consisting of cereal, pulses, salt, vegetable oil and fortified maize meal, including specialised nutritious foods for vulnerable pregnant women and nursing mothers, along with children under five. Ambassador Wright said at the ceremony that the US government was proud of the life-saving impact the contribution will have in vulnerable communities. “The U.S. government supports the protection of refugees, asylum seekers, conflict victims, stateless persons and vulnerable migrants in

Tanzania and around the world. We recognize Tanzania's long-standing efforts as a host country to refugees and asylum seekers, and strongly encourage the Government of Tanzania to ensure that the humanitarian needs of all vulnerable migrants in Tanzania are met,” he stated. WFP won the Nobel Peace Prize last year as the world's largest humanitarian organization, saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change, the statement added.

## ‘Somalia and Kenya’s sea border dispute threatens regional stability’

GENEVA

Hearings started at the International Court of Justice on Monday for a maritime boundary dispute between neighbours Kenya and Somalia. However, Kenya refused to take part in the oral proceedings and the court will only examine written evidence provided by Nairobi.

“The court regrets the decision of Kenya not to participate in the oral proceedings,” said presiding ICJ Judge Joan Donoghue in The Hague.

The dispute centres on the maritime boundaries between the two

Horn of Africa neighbours, with some 100,000 square kilometres contested, approximately the size of Iceland.

Lawyers acting for the Kenyan government had blamed difficulties preparing for the case, which Somalia filed at the ICJ in 2014, and raised concerns about using video-link.

The court decided to carry out hybrid hearings, allowing four representatives of each party in the courtroom, given the Covid-19 pandemic, and refused requests to further delay the case.

Kenyan authorities submitted a

175-page “position paper” for consideration before Monday's hearing and asked to be allowed to address the court, before the start of proceedings. The judges denied these requests.

Somalia claims a maritime boundary that runs equidistant or on a median line from the corresponding land border, while Kenya asserts a parallel line of latitude extending out from the land border.

Kenya proclaimed that boundary in a 1979 decree by former President Daniel Arop Moi, claiming fishing rights over natural resources

from the water, seabed or subsoil.

A ruling on the disagreement could help determine the rights to exploit oil and gas resources in the area, with Kenya having licensed blocks in the disputed maritime area, and the Somali government then following suit, licensing those same blocks.

“Oil companies cannot predict what the final outcome of the boundary will be,” said Constantinos Yiallourides, an expert on maritime boundaries at University of Aberdeen.

“The dispute may in fact lead to a

change of jurisdiction in which case their exploration and exploitation will not be guaranteed,” added Yiallourides.

Lawyers for Somalia have argued that the country was unable to previously object about the contested area due to instability and the “near total disintegration” of the state caused by years of civil war.

Both Kenya and Somalia are signatories to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and if they cannot come to a negotiated settlement, a third party such as the ICJ can carry out a boundary delimitation, to decide where the water border lies.

Maritime boundaries are made up of different components, which can often make such disputes tricky, especially when oil and gas concessions are involved.

“This is a very complicated issue, we're talking about both the territorial sea and the limitations of continental shelf both within 200 nautical miles and beyond,” said Kai-Chieh Chan, a researcher at Paris II Panthéon-Assas University, who has written about the case at the ICJ. AGENCIES



Silvanus Okudo (R), a wildlife officer with the Natural Resources and Tourism ministry, sheds light on the damage he said stray elephants have been causing to the environment at Naiti village in Monduli District yesterday. He was briefing Wildlife Department head Antonia Raphael (2nd-R) and Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute senior researcher Hamza Kija (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Infrastructure Committee directs ministry to increase ICoT budget

By Guardian Reporter

PARLIAMENTARY Infrastructure Committee chairman Selemani Kakoso has called on the Ministry of Works and Transport to allocate adequate funds to enable the Institute of Construction Technology (ICoT) have reliable infrastructures and able instructors in order to increase the number of craftsmen and technicians in the country.

He said such experts will increase achievements in construction projects that will fully satisfy the country's industrial economy concept.

Speaking soon after inspecting the institute at Morogoro, Kakoso said for the nation to attain its goals it would be better to prepare many experts in the technician cadre to supervise big development projects.

"We have many projects implemented by the government that cost a lot of money but those who benefit more are experts with the qualifications and many are foreigners," he said.

He also instructed the government through the Ministry to increase more equipment at the Institute as well as refurbishing its infrastructures to enable both students and instructors receive adequate training at the facility.

Earlier, the Minister for Works and Transport Leonard Chamuriho said the ministry has merged the former Morogoro Works training Institute (MWTI) and Mbeya's Appropriate Transpor-

tation Technology Institute (ATTI) to one robust institute (ICoT) to provide courses in construction, and electrical machinery.

For his part the Ministry permanent secretary dealing with the construction sector Elius Mwakalinga assured the Committee the Ministry will improve ICoT budget as well as increase the number of experienced instructors to cater for the needs of the job market.

Speaking before Committee Members, ICoT Principal Eng Mahmoud Chamle said more than 109 workers were needed at the Institute to enable it operate with success.



**We have many projects implemented by the government that cost a lot of money but those who benefit more are experts with the qualifications and many are foreigners**

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# Governments deaf to hearing loss - WHO

By Special Correspondent

ONE in four people across the world – nearly 2.5 billion – could face some degree of hearing loss by 2050 with at least 700 million requiring access to treatment and rehabilitation, a World Health Organization (WHO) report warns.

The first World Report on Hearing predicted that in 2050 the highest number of people with some degree of hearing loss is likely to be found in the WHO Western Pacific region – which includes Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam – with nearly 760 million, and the South-East Asia region – which includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Indonesia – with nearly 660 million.

The report emphasised the urgent need for initiatives to prevent and tackle hearing loss by funding and widening access to ear and hearing care services.

"Investment in ear and hearing care has been shown to be cost-

effective," and governments can "expect a return of nearly US\$16 for every US\$1 invested," the WHO said in a press statement launching the report recently.

Ear and hearing-related treatment is currently not integrated into the national health systems of most countries and human resources are often lacking, according to the report. It said 78 per cent of low-income countries have less than one ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist doctor per million population and 93 per cent have less than one audiologist per million population.

The African region fared slightly better with 56 per cent of all countries having fewer than one ENT specialist per million of population.

By integrating ear and hearing care into primary health care, using strategies such as task sharing and training, inadequate human resources can be overcome, the report said, adding that early medical and surgical treatment, rehabilitation and the use of hearing aids and

cochlear implants are valuable.

Nearly 60 per cent of hearing loss in children can be prevented by measures including immunisation against rubella and meningitis, improvement in maternal and neonatal care, and screening for otitis media (middle ear inflammation).

"In adults, noise control, safe listening and surveillance for ototoxic medicines (medicines used to treat serious infections but can also damage the ear) together with good ear hygiene can help maintain good hearing and reduce the potential for hearing loss," the report noted.

Anil Lalwani, director of the division of otology, neurotology, and skull base surgery at Columbia University, in the US, says "the absence of ready access to hearing health across the globe is a modern travesty of monumental proportions".

"Though hidden, its devastating consequences are all too apparent in economic hardship, employability, cognition and quality of life. We must act, and we must act now," he

said, adding:

"We need to make hearing health accessible and affordable. The use of community health workers can improve accessibility while cheaper effective technology will improve affordability."

Kaukab Rajput, consultant physician in audiovestibular medicine at Great Ormond St Hospital Foundation Trust, London, recommends "regular hearing tests like people having their sight checked at least yearly".

"Early intervention and optimisation would minimise the impact of hearing loss, and as technology progresses the stigma and hesitation to use hearing aids or implants will become things of the past," he said.

Shantanu Panja, consultant ENT specialist at Apollo Gleneagles Hospital, in Kolkata, India, says hearing screening should be mandatory at birth and included in routine school health check-ups. "It should be an integral part of geriatric or senior citizen care as well," he recommends.

According to Panja, more screening and hearing solutions events should be undertaken.

## Dr Mwinyi not happy with Tourism and Heritage ministry performance

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi says the Tourism and Heritage ministry has to change because he is not satisfied with the running of the tourism sector considering that the Isles economy very much depends on the sector.

Dr Mwinyi gave the observation Monday this week when he met with Tourism and Heritage ministry officials at a special meeting to receive performance reports from ministers and Permanent Secretaries on directives given to them at the time they were sworn in late last year.

Dr Mwinyi said to a very large extent the Isles economy depended on tourism but still there were so many issues that have not been going right.

He said among efforts very much needed was to concentrate more on advertising the tourism sector in order to achieve the intended goals.

He said the meeting aimed at fixing the sector's operations hence, he added, there was every reason for the ministry to change to ensure tourism attains the intended goals in strengthening Zanzibar's economy.

In regard to heritage sites, President Mwinyi explained the need for instituting special procedures for them that perform more than it was at the present, as the sites were among tourist attractions contributing to the ministry's revenues.

He also stressed the importance of electronic revenue collection, the step that will help in plugging revenue loss in the sector.

In regard to Zanzibar Stone Town buildings, Dr Mwinyi stressed for the ministry to find investors to invest in some of the selected buildings as well as to refurbish the town's infrastructures to become the Tourist Stone Town

He said it would be better for the

history to be preserved and for those who invaded tourist sites should be removed.

For her part, the Chief Secretary, Eng. Zena Ahmed Said explained on the need for the ministry to refurbish Stone Town's infrastructures.

Earlier the Tourism and Heritage minister Lela Muhammed Mussa congratulated Dr Mwinyi for the pace in serving the people of Zanzibar to ensure they attain development without discrimination over political affiliation, religion, colour or tribe.

She said among her ministry's priorities for the coming five years - 2021-2025 - include the creation of new tourist attractions and strengthening the existing ones to attain the goal of having 850,000 visitors, as well as increasing the number of days for them to remain in the country from four to nine days by 2025.



Ubungo district commissioner Kisare Makori (gesturing) makes remarks at a district-level meeting on reservations relating to the implementation of World Bank-supported water sector projects. It was held at Kibamba in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent






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**SUPPLY OF TRAUMA IMPLANTS, SPINE, TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT, TOTAL KNEE REPLACEMENT AND THEIR INSTRUMENT SETS AT MINISTRY OF HEALTH SOCIAL WELFARE ELDER, GENDER AND CHILDREN ZANZIBAR**

### Invitation for Tenders

Date: 15th March, 2021

1. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has set a fund for Ministry of Health Social Welfare, Elder, Gender and Children intends to apply part of the proceeds of the said funds for eligible payment under the frame work contract of supply of Trauma Implants, Spine, Total Hip Replacement, Total Knee Replacement and Their Instrument Sets for Mnazi Mmoja Hospital.
2. The Ministry of Health Social Welfare, Elder, Gender and Children now invites sealed tenders from eligible National Suppliers of Trauma Implants, Spine, Total Hip Replacement, Total Knee Replacement and Their Instrument Sets for Mnazi Mmoja Hospital.
3. Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive procedures specified in the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Asset Act, 2016 section 68 and is open to all Tenderers.
4. Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Procurement and Disposal Management Unit (PDMU), at The Ministry of Health Social welfare ,Elderly, Gender and Children P.O.BOX 236 Makumbusho Road Mnazi Mmoja Zanzibar from 8:00am up to 3:30pm local time, on Monday to Friday inclusive except on public holidays.
5. A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 100,000/= .Payment should be by Cash, to the Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ) account number 0707968000
6. All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender security of Banker's cheques in the amount of Tanzania Shilling Twelve Millions and Five hundred thousand (TZS, 12,500,000) only or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Tenderers.
7. All tenders in one original with two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address below PDMU office at Ministry of Health Zanzibar at or before Wednesday, 14th April, 2021 at 10:00 am Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Ministry of health at conference room.
8. Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.

**SECRETARY OF TENDER BOARD  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH SOCIAL WELFARE, ELDERLY  
GENDER AND CHILDREN  
ZANZIBAR**

## Vaccination key to recovery from pandemic, expert says

By Special Correspondent

THE ability of African countries to flatten the COVID-19 curve, strengthen the resilience of health systems and hasten economic recovery hinges on greater uptake of the vaccine, Githinji Gitahi, Global CEO and director-general of Amref Health Africa has said.

Gitahi said that mass immunization will boost other public health measures aimed at containing the pandemic in the continent.

"Whereas these measures of wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands are important and critical for keeping down the force of transmission, vaccination

becomes the critical intervention which actually improves the immunity of people and overtime makes sure the virus is stopped in its tracks," Gitahi said.

He said that inoculating a critical mass of African citizens against the virus will enable countries to relax stringent public health interventions and pave the way for the full resumption of economic activities.

Statistics from Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate the continent had 4.03 million COVID-19 cases as of Sunday while fatalities stood at 107,582.

According to the Africa CDC, 28 African countries had by March 9 received COVID-19 vaccines. Inocula-

tion targeting high-risk groups like health workers, teachers and security personnel has already kicked off in 16 African countries, according to Africa CDC.

Gitahi said that the widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccines in Africa remains a challenge amid cut-throat demand globally, budgetary constraints, logistical hiccups and limited manufacturing capacity in the continent.

He said that vaccine equity that featured prominently at the just concluded Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC), should be at the heart of the continent's quest to contain the pandemic.



**Brenda Msangi (R), CEO of Dar es Salaam-based CCBRT Hospital, briefs Parliamentary Social Services and Community Development Committee chairman Stanslaus Nyongo (L, in tie) and members at the facility's offices yesterday on the newly built modern theatre for maternal and new-born health services. Photo: Guardian Correspondent**

## Traders at Vingunguti abattoir in Dar report losing 400kg of meat in crackdown by TMB

By Guardian Reporter

MEAT traders at Vingunguti Abattoir in Dar es Salaam say they have incurred a loss of over 400kgs of meat following crackdown early this week by the Tanzania Meat Board (TMB) that saw seizure of meat sold in heaps.

On Monday TMB prohibited selling meat in heaps in all areas outside the Vingunguti abattoir on reasons that the practice was hazardous to the health of consumers.

Following the incident, the Ministry of Livestock and fisheries rescinded the order until the time the building of a new butchery at the area was completed.

In the meeting that brought together cooperative officials, the government and meat traders, the chairman of the association of livestock and their products, Joel Meshack said among its agendas for discussion was the issue of meat packaging for meat buyers from the butcheries.

He said traders have to be patient on the project for building a new butchery that is yet to be completed, and added that the area originally allocated for the purpose was small as the number of meat traders have in-

creased substantially.

Dar es Salaam City Livestock Department Head Andrea Majaliwa appealed to traders to be calm when the butchery stalls were being built and that as for now they should continue with their normal activities.

"We shall make sure that within two months all traders will get areas for selling meat at the abattoir, as for now, just continue with your business while observing cleanliness," he said.

Dar es Salaam Municipal mayor Omar Kambilamoto said he was sad to hear about the incident as the abattoir was collecting 100m/- per month before President John Magufuli stopped levy payment at the areas in September 2019.

He said the president gave the directive to give room for the major refurbishments of the abattoir.

Ilala District OCD Adam Maro who participated in the meeting said: "TMB head is the right person to answer how was the confiscated meat was destroyed, where, and the law that spells out how to destroy it," and confirmed that the operation was conducted but the police's duty was only to maintain peace and security during the operation.

## 'Involve stakeholders to control fires in Mt Rungwe Natural Reserve Forest'

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE Parliamentay Lands, Natural Resources and Tourism Committee has instructed the government in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region to make sure it involves stakeholders in averting fires in Mt Rungwe Natural Reserve Forest to protect its ecosystem.

The instruction was given early this week during the Committee's visit at the Forest Reserve managed by Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

TFS's report showed that the Forest Reserve has been plagued by frequent fire incidents. The Committee's Chairman, Aloyce Kwezi called on Rungwe District Commissioner Julius Chalya to employ state organs to control the fires to reduce government's costs towards the protection of the Reserve.

He said apart from using state organs, the government should also involve village officials surrounding the Forest Reserve on reason that they were the ones living much closer and easy to encourage them to participate.

He called on all people living around the Reserve to participate in environmental protection and avoid rampant tree cutting or setting fires as the Reserve Forest was important to their lives.

Rungwe DC Julius Chalya confirmed that the Forest Reserve was frequently plagued by fire incidents but claimed that among the challenges they face was the poor state of road infrastructures leading to the Forest.

## Gold sales increase at in Kahama gold market

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

FOUR months after the visit by the Minerals minister Doto Biteko at Mwime Gold market in Kahama municipality, gold sales have greatly increased.

Gold sales at the market increased from 6.3 kgs per month last December to 26 kgs now.

This was revealed early this week by Kahama Resident Mining officer Ernest Maganga when addressing reporters in his office on government efforts to increase income through the gold markets established and challenges they face.

Maganga said the situation was attained after his office educated miners, adding that the current average is one kilo of gold is sold per day at Mwime Gold Market in Kahama Municipality.

He said in addition his office has begun efforts to ensure all mining pits in the area receive registration.

He said all gold processing centres were being registered free of charge.

And the Minerals ministry has provided all services to gold production areas including Segese and other places.

Maganga added that in order to ensure gold market increase, they decided to establish markets at Segese and Mwabomba in Ushetu and Msalala districts and stressed on miners to protect themselves against disasters at the mining sites.

He also cautioned over employing children in the mining business as it was against the country's laws.

In regard to gold smuggling he said education was being provided to all miners against the crime and called on them to use the established gold mines that are scattered around the area.

# Quality of Services at Regional Hospitals has been improved dramatically

The quality of services at Regional Referral Hospitals (RRHs) has improved dramatically through a technical cooperation project between the Government of Tanzania and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). Through that project the Tanzanian people are now benefitting from enhanced quality and efficient services from those hospitals

This article is intended to introduce to Tanzanians one of the most important cooperation activities between the two nations of Tanzania and Japan through JICA. The cooperation project referred herein is called the "Technical Cooperation Project for Strengthening Hospital Management for Regional Referral Hospitals in Tanzania" (hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Referral Hospital Management Project" [RRHMP]).

On 9th & 10th February, 2021 officials from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGC) and managers from the RRHs gathered in Dodoma to share the achievements of the project since its commencement 5 years ago in 2015. In addition, the officials also looked at the good practices which were performed at the RRHs and also explored the secrets behind the successes of such hospitals.

## Hospital Management: the key for provision of quality and safe healthcare services

Hospital management practices are strongly related to the quality and safety of hospital patient care and productivity outcomes. In that regard, in order to have quality services, all health professionals need to work under a comfortable and a hygienic environment with a positive mindset. Moreover, in order to have good quality hospital services the following elements should be in place: appropriate medicine should be in stock, waste management should be properly done, the skills of health workers should be regularly checked and strengthened, patients' waiting time should be reduced etc. All these are essential factors which contribute to the improvement of the quality of health care in hospitals and can build up the reputation of the concerned hospitals. Once the reputation of the hospital grows, this will result in the increase in the number of patients visiting the hospitals and hence increase hospital revenue. Once the revenue increases, the hospitals can allocate such budget to improve the environment of the hospitals. Therefore, strengthening hospital management capabilities is an important strategy for improving healthcare delivery performance and the overall health system.

## Issues in Hospital Management at regional level in Tanzania before the project started

Although a number of efforts were made to reform the health sector prior to 2009, the RRHs have continued to face numerous challenges. Since the termination of the hospital reform program in 2009, there has been limited investment in promoting hospital management to prepare such hospitals to

assume decentralized roles and expanded autonomy. Through a baseline survey of the project, the following managerial issues have been identified and reported:

- Weak knowledge of hospital management and poor skills exhibited by hospital management team members
- Low quality and unsafe practices in medicine distribution (improper application of Infection Prevention and Control measures, poor linkage to patients' needs and satisfaction etc.)
- A shortage and mismanagement of health resources
- Many shortcomings in human resources management

## The start of the Regional Referral Health Management Project (RRHMP)

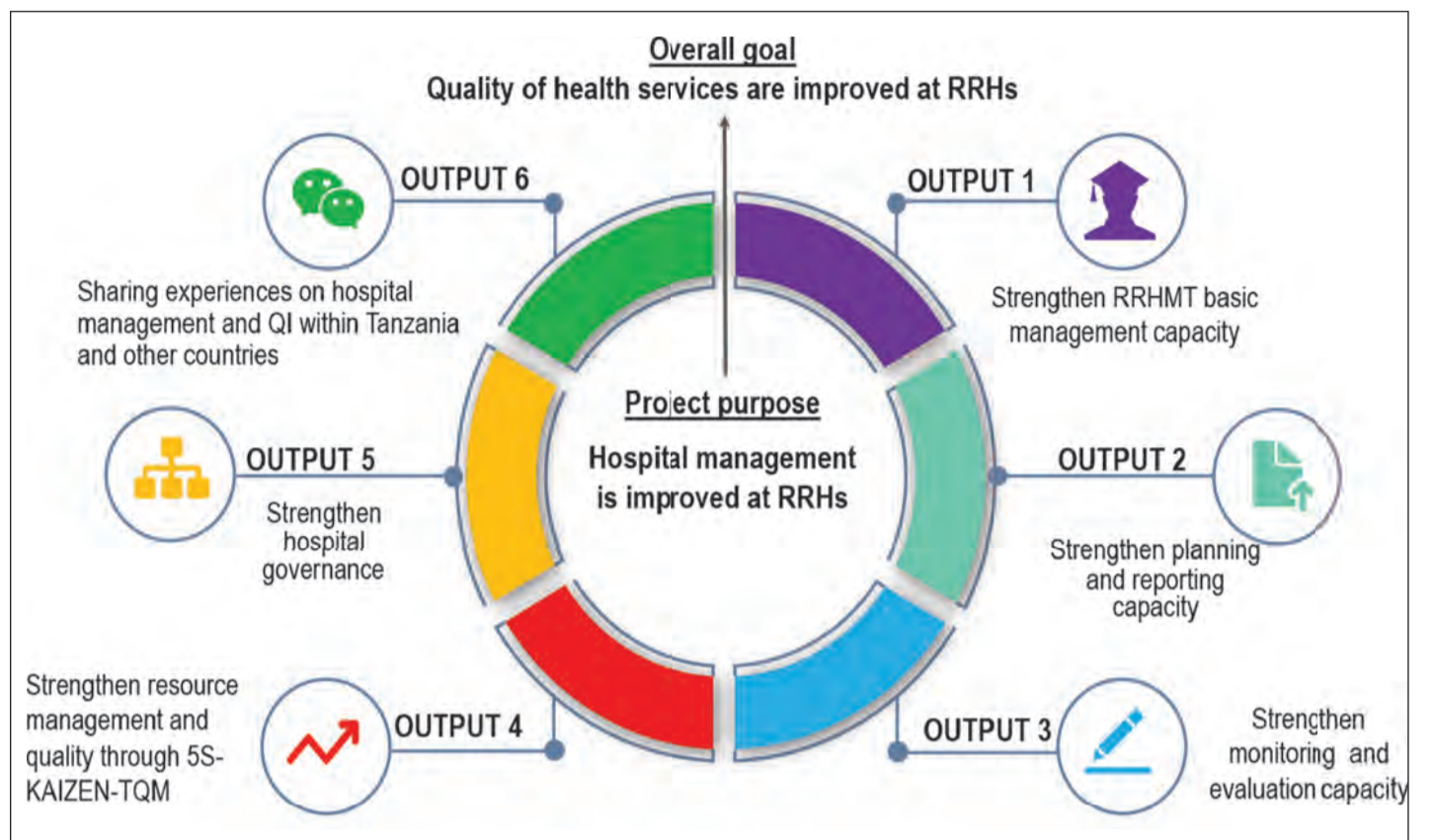
Strengthening the hospital management of the RRHs has been addressed by the Government of Tanzania since the onset of the health sector reforms which have continually been implemented through the Health Sector Strategic Plans (HSSP). In the third strategic plan, the Government of Tanzania set eleven implementation strategies, and strengthening the referral service was clearly mentioned in Strategy 2. Likewise, in Part 5 (Service Delivery) of the fourth plan from 2015-2019, the government was committed to strengthening RRHs by focusing on improvements in the quality and safety of care and management.

The action plan was committed to improving the quality of services at RRHs by improving hospital management, introducing quality improvement activities through the implementation of the Total Quality Management Framework, establishing quality improvement units in those hospitals and strengthening hospital governance through the Hospital Advisory Boards. To achieve the goals set out in the action plan, the Ministry of Health launched a technical cooperation project called, the Regional Referral Hospital Management Project or "RRHMP" for short.

## Objectives of the Regional Referral Hospital Management Project (RRHMP)

The project started in May 2015 with the main objective of strengthening the hospital management capacity of 28 RRHs which are operated as secondary levels of public hospitals in 26 regions in the country. Specifically as explained in Figure 1 below the project purpose was to ensure that "hospital management is improved at the RRHs". And to achieve that objective, six outputs were expected to be achieved by the project by strengthening certain areas as follows:

- 1) Basic hospital management capacity of the Regional Referral Hospital Management Team (RRHMT),
- 2) Planning and reporting capacity of the RRHMT,
- 3) Monitoring and evaluation of hospital performance,
- 4) Resource management and quality management capacity,
- 5) Hospital governance, and
- 6) Sharing of good quality management practices.



Hospital staff at External Hospital Performance Assessment



## RRHs are showing tremendous improvement in hospital management

Based on the evaluation of the project activities, there are several outcomes and good practices which have been confirmed at the RRHs as follows:

### 1) Establishment of education and training mechanism for hospital managers of RRHs

311 hospital managers have been trained on hospital management and quality management through Basic Hospital Management Training (BHMT). This training course was developed particularly to capacitate RRH managers. The participants of the training course learned the basics of a hospital manager, hospital operation planning, quality and safety management, resource (financial, human resource, commodities etc.) management. Knowledge and skills obtained from this training course are well utilized to operate those hospitals by RRHMT members.

### 2) Improvement of revenue collection through costs reduction

Appropriate financial resources are required to operate and manage the hospitals. The financial resources that are provided from the government may not be enough to provide hospital services demanded by clients. The Regional Referral Hospital Management Teams (RRHMT) have been working to reduce costs and expenditures at the designated

hospitals. In addition, those Teams have also endeavored to reduce mistakes pertaining to health insurance in order to receive proper refunds. Based on the efforts mentioned above, many RRHs succeeded to increase revenue collection two to three times compared with the amount of revenue collection in 2015/2016.

### 3) Improvement of hospital performance

In order to provide quality and safety of hospital services, public hospitals carry out in-hospital supportive supervision on a regular basis and receive an External Hospital Performance Assessment from the Ministry of Health once a year.

Looking at the trend of the assessment score, the level of performance of the RRHs has been improving year by year with the efforts of each hospital as the average score of External Hospital Performance Assessment has been improved from 65.1% to 77.4. Moreover, decreased standard deviation from 9.8% to 7.5% indicates that the level of the performance of many such hospitals has been raised and tended to be standardized.

As can be observed from this assessment result, the RRHs are making efforts to create a hospital where patients feel safe and receive quality hospital services.

### 4) Improvement of patient safety and satisfaction

Improving quality and patient

safety is the key to patient satisfaction. Therefore, the project has emphasized the importance of improving the quality of healthcare services and patient safety. As a method, the 5S-KAIZEN-TQM approach was introduced to all RRHs and disseminated within such hospitals. Currently, all RRHs have introduced the 5S approach to improve their work environment and hospital environment, and 89% of such hospitals are practicing the KAIZEN approach (problem solving process) to improve their work processes and hospital functions.

Recently, JICA has developed an audiovisual material for strengthening Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) through the 5S-KAIZEN-TQM approach (it is available on YouTube <https://youtu.be/m44h0dkrNc0>). In the audiovisual material, Tanzania is featured as a good example.

## The way forward

The RRHs have reached a step closer to the reach Total Quality Managed-hospital status having improved their basic hospital management capacity. However, there are still some more areas related to the quality and safety of healthcare which need to be improved and strengthened. Such areas include: effective clinical audits and incident reporting system. Since the RRHs are now strengthened we believe they can start focusing on those areas in the near future.



KAIZEN Training



Before and after of KAIZEN approach implementation at the same location



## African experts urge deployment of drones in war on desert locust

By Guardian Reporter

INTERNATIONAL experts on migratory pests have urged countries in the Horn of Africa region to fast-track registration and deployment of drones to boost the fight against desert locusts.

Director of the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) Stephen Njoka said that drone technology is better placed to boost the war against the voracious pests in the region.

"The deployment of drones is a key breakthrough in surveillance of the locusts, even though they are yet to be useful in spraying due to their limited load capacity," Njoka said during a virtual briefing.

He said that satellite imaging and computer based applications are

an indispensable tool in pest management.

The greater Horn of Africa region is currently facing one of the worst infestations of desert locusts, triggering crop losses and worsening food insecurity.

Programme officer with African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), Daniel Willy called for a regional coordinated approach and harmonized regulations for emergency registration of pesticides in managing desert locusts.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that in Ethiopia alone, more than 200,000 hectares of cropland have been damaged by desert locust, resulting in loss of over 356,000 tonnes of grain.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (gesturing) has a word in Dar es Salaam yesterday with residents of Nzasa in Kijitonyama ward, Kinondoni District, in seeking to resolve a long-standing dispute over land ownership and use. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

## Policy inconsistencies, poor research slow young farmers in Africa

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

IT is not every day that a young farmer registers success in his enterprise and vows this is what he will do for the rest of his life. Yet this is the story of Lihle Moyo, a 27-year-old farmer from Gwanda, about 160km south of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city.

With little to no experience in farming, Moyo says he took over his father's plot and turned it into a thriving poultry, cabbage, tomato and onion farm two years ago as an experiment.

"I had just finished college and had nothing to do, no source of income," Moyo said.

He pooled resources with assistance from siblings working outside the country to finance the installation of a borehole, water storage tanks, a generator and initial start-up capital for the project on his father's eight hectares of land.

His success is outstanding in a country where farming has proven to be a headache for local farmers, especially in the aftermath of the country's much criticised land redistribution programme that saw Zimbabwe morph from

net food exporter to dipping into its scarce forex reserves to import grain.

"Not many young people I know are interested in farming because where are they are going to get start-up capital," said Moyo on being asked why other young people like himself have not been too eager to take up farming.

While commercial farmers in Zimbabwe previously received agro-loans from banks, financial institutions have been reluctant to lend to farmers who benefitted from the land reform exercise citing lack of collateral and security for farmers.

The same has plagued young farmers who, like Moyo, have land but are failing to access bank loans despite government touting farming as the final frontier that will guarantee the country's food security needs.

Farmers are therefore expected to source their own resources despite the government launching schemes that provide free inputs such as seeds and free fertiliser.

"Even if you get these free things, you still have to think about how you are going to maintain your farm. And in any case one still has to con-

tend with the fact that not every young farmer wants to plant maize. We want to try other things," Moyo said.

Other aspiring young farmers such as 30-year-old Dumisile Gumpo, also from Gwanda, have given up on large-scale farming ambitions.

"I am only farming now on my parents' land because of the rains," Gumpo said. "After the rains, it means I will wait again for the next rainy season," he said.

Gumpo plants traditional staples that include maize, pumpkins and peas.

"I would love to do farming all year round but I don't see how when I have no cash to venture into other things such as poultry or even installing a borehole," he said, expressing the frustration of many young farmers in Zimbabwe.

To make matters worse, the Gwanda region where the two young farmers are based is well-known for illegal mining activities whose promise of instant riches have attracted thousands of young people from across the country.

Experts have noted that youth agriculture has failed to take off in Africa because

of policy inconsistencies by governments and poor research on the needs of young farmers.

According to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), there are about 1.2 billion people aged between 15 and 24, with 600 million residing in rural areas globally.

IFAD has noted that especially in the midst of COVID-19, the "re-invention of the agricultural sector is indispensable today," and young people are going to be at the centre of that revolution.

The Enhancing Capacity to Apply Research Evidence (CARE) project sponsored by IFAD and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) runs the Policy for Youth Engagement in Agribusiness and Rural Economic Activities in Africa.

The project seeks to understand the factors influencing youth engagement in agribusiness and rural farm economies among other areas of focus.

Researchers, however, are wary that there has been little traction in driving youth participation among African countries.

"Policy makers, govern-

ment agencies, and other stakeholders need to come up with incentives that will attract youth involvement in agriculture practices if CARE-IFAD goals are to be realised," said Esther Kwaamba, an agricultural economist at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

"From research, the trends are the same among youths. They are not involved in agriculture because of lack of finance, access to land, poor infrastructure and agriculture machinery being expensive," Kwaamba said.

While IITA says there is need to increase "youth engagement in profitable agriculture and agribusiness is critical for sustainable development," young farmers such as Moyo and Gumpo find themselves in a position where they have to teach themselves the ropes while they go.

"I have no business model, I just do what I think needs to be done. For example with the poultry project, I lost a lot of chicks when I first started because I had no clue about the business of raising chickens," Moyo told IPS, exposing the difficulties many farmers face in a country where

inflationary pressures have pushed many business to the ground.

While Zimbabwe has in the past distributed youth economic empowerment loans, Moyo says it has always been difficult to access these loans as farming is not seen as an enterprise that guarantees immediate returns.

"We have seen in the past young people being given loans but even for any project it has always been hard to get anything from government imagine telling them about your big ideas about farming," he said.

Experts say the problems for young farmers are far-reaching as there remains a dearth of informed approaches to the youth involvement in agriculture.

"There is lack of youth-specific research-based evidence to inform the design of youth-relevant policy and development programmes," said agro-economist Dr. Shiferaw Fekele, in a presentation to CARE Intermediaries training focusing on youth research youth in Africa.

"There is need for more scholarly research to explore well-informed business opportunities in agriculture,"

Feleke said.

A better approach to addressing this, according to Feleke, would be to have "youths researching youth" because "youths have a better grasp than anyone else of their peers' real needs, aspirations, challenges and perspectives on agriculture".

This rings true for Moyo and Gumpo, whose experience could well be a pointer for other youths on what needs to be done to attract more young people to farming in a country where tens of thousands of university graduates are without jobs alongside unskilled young people who leave school without hope of gainful employment.

"There is a need to strengthen the capacity of young Africa scholars in generating, appraising and disseminating evidence based-results and also strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to use evidence-based approach in policy development related to youth empowerment," Feleke said.

The CARE project is already working with young researchers to inform the future action plans of national government that will lead to better youth policies.

## IFC steps up African investments

By Special Correspondent

THE World Bank's private sector development investor has backed multiple projects in the SME sector across Africa.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, has made investments in a range of organisations across Africa, aiming to stimulate progress in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) and start-up sectors.

IFC has backed Savannah Fund, which provides seed funding to start-ups in sub-Saharan Africa, with a particular focus on female entrepreneurs. Savannah's fund raising generated a total of USD 25 million, with USD 3 million coming from IFC and a further USD 500,000 from the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), which is also part of the World Bank Group. This will initially go to businesses in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, with further investments in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Ghana all possibilities.

Companies in the fintech, logistics, e-commerce, agritech, healthcare and education sectors are the main recipients. Nairobi-headquartered Savannah Fund invests between USD 50,000 and USD 1 million in early stage technology start-ups in sub-Saharan Africa.

Managing partner Mbwana Alliy, who co-founded Savannah fund with Paul Bragieli, said in a statement: "Savannah Fund II will continue its long-term mission to partner with ambitious founders building start-ups that will scale across Africa. We're especially bullish on start-ups that have the potential to scale beyond the continent and that can expand into Silicon Valley and emerging markets like South East Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America."

Alliy continued that entrepreneurs, particularly female business founders "are a key part" of the fund's investment strat-

egy. IFC regional director for Southern Africa and Nigeria, Kevin Njiraini, added that "early-stage funding is vital to enable more of Africa's emerging and growing tech founders to grow their businesses and fuel the transformation of Africa's internet economy" and that the move would enable entrepreneurs to access that funding.

IFC has also invested in Adumo, a South African fintech business, headquartered in Sandton, Johannesburg.

Adumo, an independent payment processor, will be able to make its services cheaper for SMEs which until now have depended on cash transactions. The company currently operates in 13 countries around the continent, owning fintech operations, Sureswipe, Ikhokha and Pan African Payments.

Adumo chief executive Paul Kent said: "The pandemic and associated impact on consumers and businesses are transforming the face of the payments industry with interest in cashless payment services at an all-time high. The funds we have raised from our new equity partners will help us roll out new payment innovations and purpose-based lending services to support consumers and retailers as they navigate an uncertain 2021."

IFC will provide up to USD 15 million in preferred shares. Sérgio Pimenta, IFC's vice president for the Middle East and Africa, commented that the investment would help SMEs "tap into the digital economy, which is more important now than ever before".

"Digital payments are often the first step for a small business to build a credit history, which opens the way to access further financial services such as financing to grow the business," he continued. "Supporting small businesses to access finance and financial services affordably and sustainably is a priority for IFC because of their potential to not only grow the economy but also create jobs."



Juma Mbwana, a locality official in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam Region, pictured yesterday showing a well allegedly polluted with effluent from a nearby factory but from which residents of the area commonly draw water for various uses. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# Tarime councillors want HIV and Aids statistics published

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

TARIME District councillors in Mara region want the publishing of statistics of all people who were tested for HIV in their report to enable them to discuss the issue.

They said when HIV/Aids statistics are published it becomes easy to know which areas have higher HIV prevalence and those with low prevalence to enable various stakeholders to provide education to the people on how to protect themselves from the disease.

The councillors were speaking at the weekend with the chairman of HIV/Aids committee chairman who is also the vice chairman of Tarime District Council, Victoria Mapesa when tabling the committee's report for the Second Quar-

ter of FY 2020/2021 at the council's meeting here.

The councillors said the report was deficient for not including statistics on HIV/Aids.

Reading the report to the councillors, Mapesa said activities conducted including celebrations to mark World HIV/Aids Day by conducting HIV testing, conducting circumcision to men, testing for cervical cancer on women and blood donation.

In regard to condoms, he said Population Services International (PSI) provided 37,152 condoms for the district.

After reading the report Kwihancha Ward councillor Ragita Mato faulted it for not including statistics of HIV testing for men, women and pregnant women and for those on ARV drugs.

"We also do not know statistics for sexually transmitted diseases including syphilis and gonorrhoea. The testing is mentioned without giving any statistics that would have enabled us to know their prevalence in the district," Mato said.

For his part Gwitiryo Ward Councillor, Nashon Mchuma said through various sittings they were told they were not supposed to be shown the statistics as they are secret and queried why should they be secret?

Acting Tarime District Medical Officer Joseph Ngowi said HIV statistics can be found at dispensaries, health centres and Tarime District Hospital and that areas with high HIV/Aids prevalence were Nyamongo, Sirari and Nyamwaga.



Arusha/Manyara regional postmaster Athuman Msirikale (C) takes Communication and Information Technology minister (R) Dr Faustine Ndugulile around the Arusha city main post office yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza



## ASA MICROFINANCE (TANZANIA) LIMITED A Company for Poverty Alleviation

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ASA Microfinance (Tanzania) Limited, incorporated under the Companies Act 2002 (No. 93819) of Tanzania and an affiliate of ASA International ([www.asa-international.com](http://www.asa-international.com)), one of the largest microfinance companies in the world. We are hereby inviting qualified citizens of Tanzania to be part of our team for the following positions. ASA Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer who requires dynamic, loyal and committed young men and women who have passion for people's socio-economic development to fill in the following positions for immediate appointment.

#### Position: Chief Finance Officer (CFO) - 01 Post

##### Job Responsibilities:

- Oversee the monthly, quarterly and annual financial statement preparation and analysis and ensure the financial statements are prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and company policies.
- Provide advice and counsel to direct reports, senior managers and others relating to broad scope of responsibilities noted above. Provides financial analysis to a wide range of assignments, often under tight deadlines, to support numerous business processes and initiatives.
- Ensure the company-wide implementation of superior accounting, financial reporting and financial processes and internal controls. This includes developing appropriate processes, procedures and tools to ensure that deficiencies are identified and corrected in a timely fashion.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the accounting system, so that it reflects an accurate assessment of the operating revenues and expenses of the organization.
- Ensure compliance with all Federal / Government regulations, including taxation.
- Evaluate on an ongoing basis the purchasing system in coordination with department heads so that acceptable controls, approvals and time frames are responsive to the requirements of the organization and generally accepted accounting principles.
- Serve as a key member of the senior leadership team providing leadership and input to management peers regarding the financial implications of all major business decisions.
- Manages annual operating and capital budget process, through review with senior management and Board. Assists with the annual business planning process.
- Directs insurance portfolio for all property and casualty insurance, workers compensation, employee health and welfare benefit programs, player disability and contract guarantee insurance, etc.
- Manage relationships with bankers, auditors and league officials, as appropriate.
- Responsible for cash management system, including daily cash management and cash forecasting.
- Other duties as assigned.

##### Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum bachelor's degree in accounting, Finance, or related subjects.
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a MUST.
- MSc/MBA will be an added advantage.
- Minimum 7 years professional experiences as CFO or relevant role is a MUST.
- Preferably Experience in working with NGOs/Financial Institutions/Banks/Consultancy firm.
- In depth knowledge of corporate financial law and risk management practices.
- Excellent knowledge of data analysis and forecasting methods.
- Proficient in the use of MS Office and financial management software (e.g., SAP).
- Ability to strategize and solve problems.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills.
- An analytical mind, comfortable with numbers.

#### Position: IT & MIS Manager - 01 Post

##### Job Responsibilities:

- Give support to all branch operations related with system and IT infrastructures.
- Support all branch mobile transactions need for M-PESA Operations.
- Give support, advice and solutions to the tablet problem that might arise to staffs (Loan Officers) during performing office activities.
- Visit branches for monitoring making sure all ICT policy are followed and maintained accordingly.
- Assist the department of IT with overall responsibilities of ASA Microfinance (Tanzania) Limited to diagnose and resolve problem with printers, copier's fax-machines and networks.
- Perform system diagnosis, repair and updates to ensure data integrity and reliability of automated task.
- Interface with users (responsible staff) to identify computer related needs and provide approval software/hardware support. Assist in typing.
- Ensure anti-virus software is always updated and sharing necessary information with users (staffs) potential risks.
- Provide help desk and on-site technical support of both hardware and software.

- Provide necessary instruction/information to the staff (accessing computers) on the use of computer application and system.
- Ensure routine backups are performed as outlined by the back-up and restore manual.
- Generate various reports as required and as may be instructed.
- Ensure day to day administrative activities are undertaken to maintain database in a full operational stable state.
- Undertake system monitoring and turning to ensure optimum performance.
- Assist in preparing and maintaining relevant systems documentation including creation of policy.
- Reviewing and maintaining efficient and effective database back-up procedure to enable the provision successful and accurate backup so that any data can be restored quickly and efficient.
- Maintain adequate security of data by implementing, monitoring and audit appropriate secure policy.
- Installing AMMS software, visiting branch, resolving IT related problem when it arises.
- Actively contributing and participating in all disaster recovery processes.
- Assist the staff in identifying and implementing system improvements.
- Administer database platforms and associated systems efficiently and effectively to ensure ASAMTL is meeting its business requirements and goals.

##### Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Minimum Graduate in Information Technology, Computer Science, or similar relevant field.
- Previous working experience as an IT for 3 years.
- Previous experience in help desk support will be an advantage.
- In-depth knowledge of a variety of IT systems, databases and applications.
- Familiarity with TCP/IP protocols and LAN/WAN configuration.
- Hands-on experience with troubleshooting and repairing complex IT issues.
- Any relevant additional certification (CompTIA Network+, CompTIA Security+ etc.) will be an advantage.
- Well conversant with Ms Office Package, Excel

#### Position: Loan Officers (LO's) - 100 Posts

##### Job Responsibilities:

- To build and maintain a substantial and high-quality loan portfolio.
- To conduct members recruitment and screening.
- To orient clients to the particular loan products and services.
- To make groups in all working days in a week, minimum Total clients will be 350.
- Make a regular contact with the groups and clients in field.
- To process loan applications, verify client's income generating activities (IGA) and other related.
- Collect instalments from the clients in groups on regular basis and on time.
- To manage loan disbursements and monitor & collect loan repayments.
- Verify client's Guarantors house and other necessary documents.
- To provide quality and good customer service to clients.
- To accomplish day by day activities as required.
- To accomplish all the documentations for the day as required.

##### Academic Qualification & Experience Requirements:

- Diploma/ Advance Diploma/bachelor's degree/Masters.
- Experience is not required but will be an added advantage.
- Willing to work in field level.
- Willing to relocate.
- Ability to work independently at minimum supervision.
- Sensitive to operational risks, self-initiative and decisive with high standard of integrity.
- Ability to work efficiently in a team environment and to demonstrate good negotiation skills.
- Good oral and written communication skills.

**Remuneration:** Attractive salary package will be offered relating to competencies and experiences.

##### General Requirements for Applicants of All Posts.

- Application Letter.
- Curriculum Vitae enclosing details of Work experience, skills and with postal and telephone contacts of Three Referees.
- One passport size photograph attached in CV.

##### Mode of Application

Applicants who consider himself/herself competent with the above-mentioned position, please send your application to [recruitment@asatanzania.com](mailto:recruitment@asatanzania.com) before 1700HRS on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Only short-listed candidate will be contacted for interview. No phone calls are allowed for inquiry. No allowances will be admissible for interview.



TUBERCULOSIS FOUNDATION  
To eliminate TB

#### KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against tuberculosis (TB), still the deadliest infectious disease in the world. KNCV is an international center of expertise for TB control that promotes effective, efficient, innovative and sustainable tuberculosis control strategies in a national and international context. We are an organization of passionate TB professionals, including doctors, researchers, training experts, nurses and epidemiologists. We aim to stop the spread of the worldwide epidemic of TB and to prevent the further spread of drug-resistant TB.

#### ASCENT Project Background:

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation (KNCV) leads the ASCENT (Adherence Support Coalition to End TB) project, the new Unitaaid-funded 3.5 year project that will implement digital adherence technology (DAT) interventions in five key countries (Ethiopia, the Philippines, South Africa, Tanzania, and Ukraine) in order to enable innovative new patient-centered, optimized TB care pathways for all types of TB (DS-TB, DR-TB, LTBI) and support the growing global momentum towards the use of these technologies.

#### KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation is looking for.

#### Regional Technical Officer (one position): serve two regions Arusha and Manyara, duty station Arusha.

As a Regional Technical Officer, you will support the implementation of the ASCENT project activities in the region. You will provide first line technical support to the health facility in-charges and the first point of contact for regional health management team. You support the project with the planning and facilitating of all trainings and workshops.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have a relevant degree in public health, project management, IT systems, or another related field. Experience in implementing and/or use of digital technology solutions. You have affinity with digital technologies and experience providing technology support and/or background in IT. Experience working with a wide range of stakeholders at local community, district, and regional levels is a must. Knowledge on TB and experience working on health-related projects is preferred. You are a strong communicator to partners & stakeholders at all levels.

#### Research Assistant (two positions), Duty station Mwanza and Manyara

A Research Assistant's work will be diverse. You will be collecting facility data into electronic database. You will administer surveys and questionnaires to patients- and health provider and perform basic data analysis, monitor study activities, and study related data centrally and at participating health facilities. You will carry out other operational research activities, as part of the ASCENT project to enhance evidence-based decision-making.

#### Who are we looking for?

You have at least a bachelor's degree or an equivalent qualification. Preferably a graduate of health science courses (e.g., Nursing, Public Health, etc.) or any research-oriented degrees (e.g., Statistics, etc.) You have demonstrated experience in field data collection (through surveys or key informant interviews) and/or coordination. Experience in electronic data entry using electronic platforms (e.g., RedCap, ODK, etc.). Proficiency in using at least one of the following research related software: R, Stata, SPSS, SAS, Espino or MS Excel for quantitative analyses and NVIVO for qualitative analyses. You are willing to do regular field visits and coordination for project sites. Knowledge on health research implementation is considered as an added advantage.

#### What do we offer?

- A full time (40 hours) fixed-term contract for a year, with the intention to extend the contract;
- An informal work atmosphere in an international environment where initiative is appreciated;
- A highly motivated team of experienced, self-driven colleagues.
- The salary is dependent upon education and relevant working experience;
- KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation has its own HR Manual.

#### Application and Information

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WEDNESDAY 17 MARCH 2021

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

## Indeed, demands by Mbeya bus drivers on competition not valid

A WELL known regional commissioner has been on the news again, this time telling commuter bus drivers that they risk licence forfeiture if they don't return to work rapidly, in the wake of a wrongful demand by striking bus drivers. They demanded that the regional authorities remove motorcycles and tricycles from city centre operations so that buses make good profits, a demand that sounded strange to many ears around the country. Yet it appears there was ground for it in Mbeya as they are used to that kind of arrangement, since in earlier days motorcycles and tricycles were plying routes outside the centre.

Chalamila made no bones about his total rejection of the demands of commuter bus drivers, simply putting them on notice that they risked losing their licences if they continue with the strike.

The drivers want the situation to go back to 'normal,' where they have a monopoly of transporting passengers within the city centre zone, and tricycles and their two-wheel cousins migrate outside the city. The trouble is that this view is out of time, as during the general election last year the CCM candidate promised informal sector traders to be free to work anywhere, without being molested.

This is the position the RC explained when he said the decision not to bar tricycle 'Bajaj' vehicles from operating in the city centre was taken on the consideration that it has provided employment to a good number of youths.

In that case the commuter bus drivers wanted a situation where groups of traders have a monopoly of hearing with municipal authorities in particular, often also having commuter buses among them, to pass unfair regulations

that commuter buses solely operate in central areas, pushing tricycles and motorcycles to the periphery.

The drivers thus wanted to go back to 'business as usual,' shouting about it.

There was a situation in the city of Dar es Salaam where motorcycles were not allowed into the city centre for a few years. Still the reason wasn't to reduce the competition with commuter buses but the security of those working in affluent and quiet sections of the city centre, for instance people coming out of bank branches or corporate staff leaving office at late afternoon or evening hours, or arriving early in the morning.

Muggers would be lying in wait at some corner, pull the bag from them and fly out on a two wheel, and the victim would have no numbers of the motorcycle or idea of its occupants, left in disarray.

In legal language such a situation is known as force majeure, circumstances over which the police and the public authorities are powerless to control, in which case it is tackled by regulatory innovation, to exclude a whole category of operators from the city centre.

Some were being allowed when they have special identification numbers, and any applicant for such identification would have to produce a referee who attests to the police and the city authorities that the motorcycle rider will pose no danger to the public if allowed to operate. Mid last year motorcyclists were again allowed to operate, but business is less brisk now. It follows that allowing motorcyclists to operate in any part of the city be it daytime or at night is the normal situation. It can only be altered under exceptional circumstances; it isn't the case in Mbeya.

## It will pay to address issues relating to migration governance differently

WHILE the topic of migration once was a low priority for African governments, it has gained traction as a strategic policy area for the continent over the past decade.

Part of this interest stems from a growing acknowledgment that migration is a main driver of development and must be addressed more comprehensively.

But it also derives from an increase in European Union (EU) migration-related investments in the region, especially since 2015, and the establishment of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF). As a result, many African states have now integrated migration as a main dimension in their national development strategies and mainstreamed it across policy domains such as health and education. Perhaps more importantly, in countries such as Mali and Morocco, immigration has moved into the public sphere and is now a topic that can influence electoral outcomes.

In recent years, much of the conversation around Africa and migration, particularly from a European perspective, has been on curbing flows from Africa, based on the widespread sense that demographic growth in the continent will inevitably lead to an exodus towards EU countries. But a closer look at the reality of migration flows from and within Africa points to a different picture. Projections by the United Nations and research institutes indicate that migrants from sub-Saharan Africa are likely to represent at most 3 per cent to 4 per cent of the population in the global North. By contrast, 71 per cent of the migrants born in sub-Saharan Africa remain there. Therefore, the common perception that Africa is mainly a migrant-

sending continent is misleading and underestimates how critical intra-continental migration flows are to African countries, in terms of economic development, social dynamics, and security trends.

As with other places around the globe, African initiatives aimed at enhancing migration's potential to aid economic development and that recognize it as a cross-cutting phenomenon that must be addressed across policy portfolios are increasingly common at national, regional, and continental levels.

The African Union (AU) in 2018 updated its Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018-30) to cover areas including labor migration, migrants' rights, internal migration, and migration data management. And in December of the same year, all but two African countries (Algeria and Libya) joined 152 other UN member states in endorsing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, which sets out the first international policy framework on migration and calls for a multi-sectoral approach to migration management.

While these actions are promising on paper, questions remain about the extent to which they will translate to more effective migration management. A number of challenges have made it difficult to move from policy design to implementation, including lack of migration data, capacity, and resources. Moreover, as these policy changes bring about a reorganization of how African states manage migration, with an increasing number of actors involved in migration governance, more efforts are needed to coordinate with stakeholders at all levels, in and out of government.

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## Impact of 'currency devaluation' adverse on the Ethiopian construction industry

By Sebagadis Abay Meressa

THE construction industry in Ethiopia has been experiencing a major boom in the past two decades, expanding by 16% in 2018 alone, and accounting for 15% of the country's economy.

The growth of the sector owes much of its success to the government's ambitious infrastructure development plans. Major investments by the government in social housing, roads, higher learning institutions and dams have been driving the industry with the sector projected to outgrow that of neighboring countries by 2025.

The construction industry is also the largest employer in Ethiopia providing full-time and part-time job opportunities for millions of people. It is also arguably the only sector in the Ethiopian economy that has been able to offer massive job opportunities, not only to skilled laborers, but also to thousands of unskilled young men and women who have been migrating over the past decade from the rural to urban areas in search of better livelihoods.

African Development Bank Group's Economic Outlook for 2019 accounts for much of Ethiopia's industrial growth to developments in the construction sector. In line with this, the sector is not only a catalyst for Ethiopia's economic development but also it plays an essential role in ensuring inclusive economic development and equitable wealth distribution.

The construction sector plays the most prominent role in ensuring the reach of public services to the most remote parts of the country. A good example of this is, perhaps, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam that is not only expected to provide electric power to much of the nation's needy but also stands as a unifying icon and pride of the nation. We can therefore say, the success or failure of this industry will have direct repercussions on the wellbeing of scores of stakeholders and the economy at large.

Although promising, the industry is now struggling to cope up with multiple internal and external challenges. Some of its internal challenges include recurrence of cost overrun, delay in delivery, poor productivity, weak project management



capability, poor work ethics and discipline, poor health and safety practices, and poor capacity building trends.

Some of the external challenges that the industry has been facing lately include inflation, delay in the provision of LC permits from banks, delayed payment by public employers, and unwarranted and recurrent scope revisions in the issue during the course of the project implementation phase.

Another external element that significantly affects the sector's competitiveness is the devaluation of the Ethiopian currency that took place on October 11, 2017. While a currency devaluation is known to affect the performance of the construction industry in all parts of the world, the effects are even more heightened in countries like Ethiopia that are known to be highly dependent on the import of various materials from abroad. This phenomenon naturally leads to the prevalence of cost overruns in production and delays in delivery.

According to the findings of a comprehensive research that was initiated and sponsored by the Ethiopian Constructors' Association, the immediate impact of the enacted currency devaluation scheme on the prices of construction inputs (material, equipment and machinery) showed an average increment of 33% and a rise of 20.45% on the overall costs of building construction projects.

As a contractual remedy that is usually put in place in standard construction contracts to curb the downsides of currency devaluation and other Force Majeure events

on prospects of undergoing construction projects, contractual clauses that entitle contractors to compensation for unexpected costs that they may bear during the transpiration of such events. However, in the event of the entailing currency devaluation scheme, there seems to be no interest on the sides of employers to entertain such expeditions even though the applicable contracts indisputably situate them to do so.

The reluctance of public entities and project owners to provide appropriate compensations to contractors for the losses that they sustained due to currency devaluation, exacerbated by the persistent downsides of the internal and external factors of the industry, has ultimately affected the capacities and performances of the major operators of the Ethiopian construction industry.

Again, because of the major role the industry plays in the Ethiopian economy, its failures - as well as its gains - should not be left to the discretion of some less informed regulators and actors. For obvious reasons, contractors cannot operate on losses and hence they will ultimately be compelled to downsize their workforce, will be unable to pay salaries, cannot discharge their contractual obligations, or/and unable to pay taxes or bank loans.

The failure of the construction industry is therefore likely to have a major impact on the national economy. It is therefore important that policymakers and government bodies of the country take decisive remedial actions to address the consequences of the currency devaluation event in the sector.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the Ethiopian currency has also been significantly 'devaluated' over the past year with 1 dollar being exchanged for over 40 birr lately, a major devaluation from the 32 birr exchange rate that prevailed in 2019. Considering that the economy is also expected to take a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is appropriate to state that the construction industry had never been in need of a lending hand than these days.

As the federal and regional governments are the major employers of the sector, they should decisively expedite the provision of proper compensations to contractors for the market inflation that had ensued due to the currency devaluation, thereby setting a good precedent for the private sector to follow suit.

Contractors and other stakeholders of the construction industry on the other hand should also tirelessly keep on engaging the concerned entities in the policy circle through their pertinent Associations to portray the gravity of the situation until the desired outcome looms on the horizon.

As has been already stated, the sector does not only provide employment opportunities to millions of workforce, but also fares a great stake on the wellbeing of the country's economy as a whole; prompting all concerned parties across the board to render it the appropriate attention that it graciously deserves.



# Stakeholders call for action to tame workplace violence

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

**L**ABOUR stakeholders have pointed out informal sector and factories as areas where violence and harassment are most prevalent, calling on the government to intervene with laws that protect dignity of workers.

A sensitization workshop for civil society organizations, workers and journalists held in Dar es Salaam last week heard that in Tanzania, violence and harassment are commonplace in bars and restaurants, domestic service as well as factories.

For most of workers in these areas are engaged without written contracts and their survival at work depends on the mercy of owners or managers, hence low pay, sexual as well as emotional violence.

To reign in the situation, speakers recommended that the government ratify the International Labour Organization's Convention number 190 on violence and harassment at workplace. For, violence deprives workers of their dignity, is incompatible with decent work, and a threat to equal opportunities and to safe, healthy and productive working environments.

Speaking on behalf of trade unions, Coordinator for the Tanzania Conservation, Hotels, Domestic and Allied Workers' Union (CHODAWU) in Zanzibar Fransica Clement said legal protection through ratification of the convention is the first step to ensuring dignity of workers.

"We have Employment and Labour Relations Act in Tanzania but it does not shield workers from violence especially in informal sector," she said.

"Workers are paid little wages, sexual harassment and violence is commonplace and there is no decent work environment. Domestic workers face harassment from their employees while those who works in factories are treated badly and they have nowhere to go for help."

Furthermore, employers in the aforementioned sectors don't provide annual leave and other breaks for workers and once allowed, normally there is no pay as required, she said.

"We believe that ratifying this convention will im-



Participants from informal and formal sector attend a workshop on violence and harassment at workplace organized by ActionAid Tanzania in Dar es Salaam last week. PHOTO: Beatrice Philemon.

prove working conditions and wages; help workers get their rights along with improving workers' protection at the workplace," she said.

Governments that ratify the treaty are required to develop national laws prohibiting workplace violence and to take preventive measures, such as information campaigns and requiring companies to have workplace policies on violence. The treaty also obligates governments to monitor the issue and provide access to remedies through complaint mechanisms, witness protection measures, and victim services, and to provide measures to protect victims and whistleblowers from retaliation.

The treaty covers workers, trainees, workers whose employment has been terminated, job seekers, and others, and applies to both formal and informal sectors. It also accounts for violence and harassment involving third parties, such as clients, customers, or service providers.

Advocate Annelly Nahum said there is a need for the government to ratify the convention because violence and harassment in the workplace affect more workers and the victims have no place to go.

"I appeal to private sector plays as well as relevant government authorities to read the convention and initiate procedures for its ratification," he said.

"It is the best document ever produced as it guarantees and protects rights of workers, promotes and recognizes dignity of others. We have to take action towards its ratification now."

Amne Manangwa, ActionAid Tanzania Women Rights Manager said that the organization has been create awareness to government offices such as the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children and Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Development.

"So far they (government officials) have already drawn a roadmap for familiarization activities," she said.

"ActionAid Tanzania has decided to embark on this awareness after discovering that there is high level of harassment and violence in the workplace."

Kibaha-based Organization -Youth Partnership Countrywide (YPC)'s Executive Director Israel Ihunde said that to ensure security, safety and dignity of workers, all employers should put workplace gender equality as well as violence and harassment policy in their workplaces.

"Other employers such as Non-Governmental Organizations and private business operators should also be sensitized on this crucial convention," he said.

"Workers associations, trade unions and members of the public should also be sensitized about the document."

Before its adoption in June 2019, there was no international standard specifically addressing violence and harassment in the world of work. The World Bank's "Women, Business and the Law 2018" report found that 59 out of the 189 countries studied had no specific legal provisions covering sexual harassment in employment.

ILO said it found many gaps in legal protections relating to violence and harassment in the workplace. These include a lack of coherent laws, a lack of coverage in laws and policies for workers most exposed to violence, and an overly narrow definition of "workplace" in existing laws and regulations.

# Policy inconsistencies and poor research slow young farmers in Africa

BULAWAYO

**I**T is not everyday that a young farmer registers success in his enterprise and vows this is what he will do for the rest of his life. Yet this is the story of Lihle Moyo, a 27-year-old farmer from Gwanda, about 160km south of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second-largest city.

With little to no experience in farming, Moyo says he took over his father's plot and turned it into a thriving poultry, cabbage, tomato and onion farm two years ago as an experiment.

"I had just finished college and had nothing to do, no source of income," Moyo told IPS.

He pooled resources with assistance from siblings working outside the country to finance the installation of a borehole, water storage tanks, a generator and initial start-up capital for the project on his father's eight hectares of land.

His success is outstanding in a country where farming has proven to be a headache for local farmers, especially in the aftermath of the country's much criticised land redistribution programme that saw Zimbabwe morph from net food exporter to dipping into its scarce forex reserves to import grain.

"Not many young people I know are interested in farming because where are they are going to get start-up capital," said Moyo on being asked why other young people like himself have not been too eager to take up farming.

While commercial farmers in Zimbabwe previously received agro-loans from banks, financial institutions have been reluctant to lend to farmers who benefitted from the land reform exercise citing lack of collateral and security for farmers.

The same has plagued young farmers who, like Moyo, have land but are failing to access bank loans despite government touting farming as the final frontier that will guarantee the country's food security needs.

Farmers are therefore expected to source their own resources despite the government launching schemes that provide free inputs such as seeds and free fertiliser.

"Even if you get these free things, you still have to think about how you are going to maintain your farm. And in any case one still has to contend with the fact that not every young farmer wants to plant maize. We want to try other things," Moyo said.

Other aspiring young farmers such as 30-year-old Dumisile Gumpo, also from Gwanda, have given up on large-scale farming ambitions.

"I am only farming now on my parents' land because of the rains," Gumpo said. "After the rains, it means I will wait again for the next rainy season," he said.

Gumpo plants traditional staples that include maize, pumpkins and peas.

"I would love to do farming all year round but I don't see how when I have no cash to venture into other things such as poultry or even installing a borehole," he said, expressing the frustration of many young farmers in Zimbabwe.

To make matters worse, the Gwanda region where the two young farmers are based is well-known for illegal mining activities whose promise of instant riches have attracted thousands of young people from across the country.

Experts have noted that youth agriculture has failed to take off in Africa because of policy inconsistencies by governments and poor research on the needs of



Young farmers who have land are failing to access bank loans despite the Zimbabwean government touting farming as the final frontier that will guarantee the country's food security needs. (File photo)

young farmers.

According to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), there are about 1.2 billion people aged between 15 and 24, with 600 million residing in rural areas globally.

IFAD has noted that especially in the midst of COVID-19, the "re-invention of the agricultural sector is indispensable today," and young people are going to be at the centre of that revolution.

The Enhancing Capacity to Apply Research Evidence (CARE) project sponsored by IFAD and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) runs the Policy for Youth Engagement in Agribusiness and Rural Economic Activities in Africa.

The project seeks to understand the factors influencing youth engagement in agribusiness and rural farm economies among other areas of focus.

Researchers, however, are wary that there has been little traction in driving youth participation among African countries.

"Policy makers, government agencies, and other stakeholders need to come up with incentives that will attract youth involvement in agriculture practices if CARE-IFAD goals are to be realised," said Esther Kwaamba, an agricultural economist at the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

"From research, the trends are the same among youths. They are not involved in agriculture because of lack of finance, access to land, poor infrastructure and agricultural machinery being expensive," Kwaamba told IPS.

While IITA says there is need to increase "youth engagement in profitable agriculture and agribusiness is critical for sustainable development," young farmers such as Moyo and Gumpo find themselves in a position where they have to teach themselves the ropes while they go. "I have no business model, I just do what I think needs to be done. For example with the poultry project, I lost a lot of chicks when I first started because I had no clue about the business of raising chick-

ens," Moyo told IPS, exposing the difficulties many farmers face in a country where inflationary pressures have pushed many business to the ground.

While Zimbabwe has in the past distributed youth economic empowerment loans, Moyo says it has always been difficult to access these loans as farming is not seen as an enterprise that guarantees immediate returns.

"We have seen in the past young people being given loans but even for any project it has always been hard to get anything from government imagine telling them about your big ideas about farming," he said.

Experts say the problems for young farmers are far-reaching as there remains a dearth of informed approaches to the youth involvement in agriculture.

"There is lack of you-specific research-based evidence to inform the design of youth-relevant policy and development programmes," said agro-economist Dr. Shiferaw Fekele, in a presentation to CARE Intermediaries training focusing on youth research youth in Africa.

"There is need for more scholarly research to explore well-informed business opportunities in agriculture," Fekele said.

A better approach to addressing this, according to Fekele, would be to have "youths researching youth" because "youths have a better grasp than anyone else of their peers' real needs, aspirations, challenges and perspectives on agriculture".

This rings true for Moyo and Gumpo, whose expe-

rience could well be a pointer for other youths on what needs to be done to attract more young people to farming in a country where tens of thousands of university graduates are without jobs alongside unskilled young people who leave school without hope of gainful employment.

"There is a need to strengthen the capacity of young Africa scholars in generating, appraising and disseminating evidence based-results and also strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to use evidence-based approach in policy development related to youth empowerment," Fekele said.

The CARE project is already working with young researchers to inform the future action plans of national government that will lead to better youth policies.

These concerns could mean it is still a long way before young farmers such as Moyo add to the continent's food security needs and take up land's labour as a fulltime and lifelong occupation.

# Are high-ranking UN jobs the political birthright of big powers?

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations has continued to pursue a notoriously longstanding tradition of doling out some of the highest-ranking jobs either to the five big powers, who are permanent members of the Security Council—namely the US, UK, China, France and Russia – or to Western industrialized nations such as Spain, Italy, Canada, Sweden, Germany, plus Japan.

As a result, the world's developing countries, comprising over two-thirds of the 193 UN member states, have been complaining they are not being adequately represented in the higher echelons of the world body – despite competent candidates with strong professional and academic qualifications vying for these jobs.

The 134-member Group of 77, the largest single coalition of developing countries, complained last year that “persistent imbalances in equitable geographic representation in the UN Secretariat are a major concern.”

And, worse still, some of the big powers lobby the Secretary-General recommending their own nationals to succeed to the same post – and, at times, in consecutive years – implicitly claiming that some of the senior positions in the UN hierarchy are their political birthrights.

With Mark Lowcock's decision to step down as Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) last week, there is a guessing game as to which big power or which Western nation will get that job.

Lowcock is a British national and there are widespread rumors that UK has already recommended a Briton as his successor.

Since 2007, British nationals have held that post for four consecutive terms: John Holmes, Valerie Amos, Stephen O'Brien and Mark Lowcock.

## Is there a fifth Briton in line for that position?

In an “open letter” to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the UN Association of UK has urged him “to champion a transparent, inclusive and merit-based appointment process for the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)”

Over the past decade 20% of roles at Under-Secretary-General or above have gone to nationals of the Permanent Members – nearly 10 times higher than is proportional, said the letter signed by over 52 signatories, including former senior UN officials, members of the House of Lords, academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

“Ringfencing” roles excludes a large swathe of global talent and creates a perception of partiality, which can undermine the appointee's authority and compromise the Secretary-General's independence, the letter added.

Meanwhile, since 1997, the post of USG for Peacekeeping Operations has been monopolized by France with five French nationals succeeding each other: Bernard Miyet, Jean-Marie Guehenno, Alain Le Roy, Herve Ladsous and Jean-Pierre Lacroix.

And since 2007, the US has held the position of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs: Lyn Pascoe, Jeffrey Feltman and Rosemary DiCarlo.

Not surprisingly, another permanent member of the Security Council, the then Soviet Union clung to that position no less than 13 times since 1952 when the post was designated USG for Political and Security Council Affairs.

Arpad Bogsch, a U.S. national of Hungarian origin, held the post of director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva for an all-time record: 24 years (1973-1997).

Still, the United States, the largest single donor, continues to unreservedly hold the unique monopoly of nominating its own national as the head of the U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, since its inception in 1947.

The seven U.S. nationals who have uninterruptedly headed that agency include Maurice Pate, Henry Labouisse, James Grant, Carol Bellamy, Ann Veneman,



The UN General Assembly in session.

Anthony Lake and Henrietta Fore.

No other agency at the United Nations has had a stranglehold on such a senior position in the history of the organization.

The independence of the Secretary-General is a longstanding myth perpetuated mostly outside the United Nations. As an international civil servant, he is expected to shed his political loyalties when he takes office, and more importantly, never seek or receive instructions from any governments.

But virtually every single Secretary-General—nine at last count—has played second fiddle to the world's major powers in violation of Article 100 of the UN charter.

Over the last few decades, successive Secretaries-Generals have played ball, particularly with the Big Five – caving into their demands – in order to avoid a veto, particularly when their re-election comes up before the Security Council.

The current SG Antonio Guterres of Portugal has declared his intention to run for a second term in office, beginning 2022. But he has to placate the big Five or curry favour with them – whichever comes first—in order to avoid a veto.

Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt never got a second term because he was vetoed by the US—even though 14 of the 15 members of the Security Council voted in his favor.

When he took office in January 1992, Boutros-Ghali noted that 50 percent of the staff assigned to the U.N.'s administration and management were U.S. nationals, although Washington paid only 25 percent of the U.N.'s regular budget.

Thomas G. Weiss, Distinguished Fellow, Global Governance, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, told IPS the Secretary-General “gave away the store as part of his campaign in 2016. His re-election effort will follow the same path. The electoral college has five

members”

Competence has occasionally been a qualification for the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), but not always. Nationality and the SG's electoral promises and chits, however, are always the primary consideration, said Weiss, Presidential Professor of Political Science, Director Emeritus, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Ramesh Thakur, Emeritus Professor, Senior Research Fellow, Toda Peace Institute,

Crawford School of Public Policy at the Australian National University, told IPS the basic problem is the General Assembly (GA) has deferred too many times, for too long, and on too many issues to the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the five permanent members (P-5) of the UNSC.

It is past time for the GA to assert itself, use the power of the purse, and use it universal membership against the self-serving narrow clique of the P-5 dominated UNSC, he pointed out.

“The UN's unique legitimacy flows from its universal membership, which means the GA, not the UNSC. I would like the GA to adopt a formal censure of the SG for violating the 1992 GA resolution,” he argued.

And then follow it up by mandating the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (or its successor if that has changed since my days) to require the annual report on the distribution of senior posts – Assistant Secretaries-Generals (ASGs), SG, and all special envoys and representatives at that rank – by the UN's regional groupings, said Thakur, a former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Senior Vice-Rector at the UN University.

And where someone has dual nationalities, this should be reflected in the report, to stop someone who is both a US and an Afri-

can country national, for example, from claiming 100% representation of that African country. Make that 50% US and 50% second nationality. And equivalent for all countries, noted Thakur.

“In other words, the primary blame for this continued racist domination lies not with the SG, not with the UNSC, but with the GA and its failure to impose standards and accountability,” he declared.

Joseph Chamie, an independent consulting demographer and a former director of the UN Population Division, told IPS while it is understandable that P5 members may wish to maintain their disproportionate advantages, and in some cases, monopoly with respect to USG and higher UN appointments, the world has changed markedly over the past 75 years and appointments at those high levels need to take those changes fully into account.

Simply in terms of demographics, he argued, the P5 members represent substantially less of the world than in the past. In 1950 the P5 countries represented 36 percent of the world's population; today they represent 26 percent.

In addition, he said, the educational levels, career experiences and professional dedication of men and women in developing countries have also increased markedly over the past seven decades and in most instances are comparable to those in developed countries.

“It should be obvious to any impartial observer of the repeated breaches of the 1992 General As-

sembly resolution concerning no national of a Member State should succeed a national of that state in a senior post,” he said.

While it is important to have gender equality at high levels of the UN, it is also important to avoid “ringfencing” roles and posts, which contributes to undermining the credibility, effectiveness and support of the United Nations system, said Chamie.

The Secretary-General's decisions on future appointments to high level positions in the Organization, he said, would benefit greatly from being transparent, inclusive and merit-based.

Mandeep S. Tiwana, Chief Programmes Officer at CIVICUS, who was one of the signatories to the letter addressed to the British Prime Minister, told IPS a key factor holding the UN back from achieving the aims of the UN Charter is the assertion of narrowly defined geo-political interests by the big powers.

“If anything, the pandemic has taught us, it's the need to invest in people centred multilateralism to meet the demands of the 21st century”

He said “it could be a beautiful thing if senior UN appointments reflected the diversity of member states while demonstrating a strong commitment to core UN values.”

Hard-nosed assertion of raw power by the P5 without consistent fidelity to international norms has caused much suffering in the world, declared Tiwana.

## Protecting consumer rights key to unleashing China's 'dual circulation' potential

BEIJING

AS China, the world's second-largest consumer market, maintains its momentum of economic recovery in the first two months of 2021, the growing consumption demand reminds the country of the importance of protecting consumer rights.

China's retail sales increased 33.8 percent from a year earlier in the first two months of 2021, beating expectations and marking a significant jump from a 4.6-percent growth in December, figures from the National Bureau of Statistics showed Monday.

Monday was also the World Consumer Rights Day, a day on which China organized the annual “3.15 Gala” to expose counterfeit goods and infringement acts in consumption activities. Other promotional activities were also launched across the country highlighting the importance of protecting consumer rights and interests.

Protecting consumers' rights has immense significance for consumer confidence, especially for China, a country with a vast market of 1.4 billion people including 400 million middle-income earners. During the consumption upgrade, more products came into the market, providing more options to consumers but also making people worry about the quality. New shopping channels such as e-commerce and live-shopping complicate the situation. Only with effective legal protection can consumer confidence be maintained in this case.

Quality supervision and related law enforcement also foster fair competition in the market, pushing enterprises to focus on improving the quality of products. Companies that do a good job of meeting the needs of the con-



Consumers shop at a newly opened duty-free shop in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, Dec. 30, 2020. (Xinhua)

sumers will stand out while the ones with poor performance will be eliminated by the market.

China has vowed to accelerate forging a new development para-

digim of “dual circulation” in which domestic and overseas markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay. According to the government work report, the country will steadily

improve the environment for consumption and ensure that the people have the ability and willingness to spend. Such an environment cannot be established without the sound protection of consumer rights.

A better environment for consumption will not only benefit domestic consumers and manufacturers of quality products, but also attract more foreign brands and strengthen their confidence in doing businesses in China.

In recent years, it is not rare to see Chinese courts rule in favor of foreign brands and enterprises in IPR-related lawsuits, such as the U.S. basketball legend Michael Jordan's name rights dispute and LEGO's copyright infringement case. Those cases echo the country's goal to create a business environment which is based on market principles, governed by law and up to international standards.

As China strives for high-quality development in the new era, it will remain committed to protecting consumer rights, unleashing the potential of “dual circulation” to benefit the country and the rest of the world. **Xinhua**

# Sensitising men on reproductive health plays big role, says RMO

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

UKWA regional medical officer Dr Boniface Kasululu has suggested the need to involve and educate men and boys on sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) so that they can make well-informed decisions on the matter.

Dr Kasululu made the remarks here over the weekend when opening a week-long training on Gender Responsive and Gender Transformative SRHR services, that aimed at equipping healthcare providers from Kalambo, Nkasi and Sumbawanga district councils in Rukwa region with knowledge and skills on how to train boys and men on gender and SRHR issues, with the intent of ending teenage pregnancies, child early and forced marriages in Rukwa Region.

The training is among a series of initiatives to end teen pregnancies, early and forced marriages by a 5 years project, Girls Get Equal Project, Integrated Approach to Ending Child Early and Forced Marriages Project funded by Norad from Norway, being implemented in Rukwa Region in partnership between Plan International, Rukwa Sustainable Development Organization (RUSUDEO), People's Development Forum (PDF), Rafiki SDO, YES TZ, and the government.

The regional chief physician said that historically, male involvement in SRH interventions has not been given the attention that it deserves.

He however said that the evidence shows that men who are well-informed about their sexual and reproductive health are more likely to make better health choices for themselves, their partners, and their families than men who lack this knowledge.

"Responding to adolescents uniqueness requires healthcare providers to develop competencies knowledge, skills and attitudes in better understanding adolescent development and in adopting a different communication style tailored to an adolescent's age and stage of development. Equally important, healthcare providers need to be competent in applying in clinical practice the laws and policies that promote, protect and fulfill adolescents' rights in health care," Dr Kasululu told the participants.

According to training organizers Youth Education Through Sports Tanzania (YES TZ), male roles in SRH that can be reinforced via gender-



transformative programming include shared responsibility for family planning, contraception, and prevention of STIs, helping pregnant women stay healthy and deliver their babies safely, and engaging in responsible fatherhood and care giving of children as well as men understanding that marrying child brides is a gross violation of their human rights that constitute violence against children.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) literature review of men's roles in gender equality described two strategies that such gender-transformative programs could use to increase male involvement in Reproductive Maternal Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH): Engaging men as partners in reproductive health, and engaging men as agents of change in RMNCAH.

Navina Mutabazi from YES TZ said that the ultimate goal of having these training is to ensure that health facilities in the project area are providing adolescent and youth-friendly services (AYFHS), that is gender-responsive so as to improved adolescents' SRH outcomes.

"Lack of privacy within health services can be more challenging for adolescents than adults due to adolescents' sensitivity about what others think," Navina said, adding:

"Lack of or insufficient training in adolescent health makes health-care providers less acquainted with the health and social needs of adolescents and their rights."

The training ends today and is being facilitated by Moses Tawete, Mariam Mhanjimu and Elinasi Emanuelli who are Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Adolescents Friendly SRHR national facilitators.

Some of the principles of The Beijing Conference in relation to sexual reproductive health and rights are; to decide freely and responsibly on all matters related to sexuality, to have sexual life free from discrimination, coercion, or violence, to decide freely on the number of children, the interval and timing of their birth, as well as for deciding when and whom to marry.

Increased engagement of men in SRH, according to YES TZ is consistent with several global instruments that promote human rights and gender equity. These include the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the 1994 Program of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development

# African Development Bank president calls for global vaccine solidarity and justice for Africa

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Development Bank President Dr Akinwumi Adesina has called for vaccine justice for Africa. Speaking at the launch of the Bank's African Economic Outlook 2021 report over the weekend, Adesina decried the lack of Covid-19 vaccines reaching Africa.

"We need global solidarity and vaccine justice for Africa."

Africa's premier development bank chief said.

Adesina underlined the stark disparities between vaccine acquisitions by several rich countries that have acquired sufficient vaccines to inoculate their populations twice over, and African countries, that remain primarily dependent on the World Health Organization's COVAX initiative for the minuscule quantities of vac-

cines acquired so far.

Speaking on CNN's First Move with Julia Chatterley on Friday, Adesina said: "So far, 14.6 million vaccines have been delivered in Africa, but many people still cannot get shots in their arms. That is only 1% of what we need. We are way off the mark in terms of getting to 60% of herd immunity, and sadly, I do not see that happening for another year or two at this rate-

not unless things change."

According to Adesina: "We therefore need to improve Africa's access to vaccines. COVAX is doing a great job but still, we need more. We need them in adequate quantity. We need them quickly and we need them at an affordable price."

Acquiring vaccines has significant implications for African countries. As Adesina emphasized in a broader discussion

with panelists at the launch of the African Economic Outlook 2021—including Professor Joseph E. Stiglitz, recipient of the 2001 Nobel Memorial Prize for Economic Sciences—for Africa, rapid vaccine acquisition is a matter of life and death. As elsewhere, Africa's first priority is to prolong lives and preserve jobs.

From an economic perspective, Stiglitz agreed with Adesina that the slow pace of acquir-

ing vaccines and arresting the pandemic will make stemming extreme poverty and negative economic growth difficult.

They agreed that a comprehensive global plan was needed to help countries cope with mounting debt, which the pandemic had compounded. Africa's economy is expected to grow by 3.1% in 2021.

However, 39 million Africans could be pushed into extreme

poverty this year because of the pandemic unless the international community takes the kind of action that Stiglitz and Adesina are calling for now.

The African Development Bank chief says: "as long as Africans remain unvaccinated, the world will go right back to square one." He said no amount of 'vaccine passports' being advocated for by some developed countries could change that fact.

# New farming skills vital in lives of Zanzibar horticultural crop growers

By Guardian Reporter

EMPOWERING horticultural growers with new farming skills is one of the key aspects that will make the new project—Value Web Horticulture and Income Growth or Viungo Project a reality. This is due to the fact that farmers in the Indian Ocean archipelago have been engaging in horticulture—spices, fruits, and vegetables for decades if not centuries, but the challenge remained on how to do it better. Issues on technical-no how, lack of reliable markets, lack of expertise in the production, handling, and transportation of produce have been the farmers' outcry in Zanzibar.

So, the €5 million-project comes to relieve Zanzibar's spice, fruit, and vegetable growers from the poverty trap, and to realize this they need to be well trained and informed on all issues which are in the horticulture value chain.

Co-implemented by Tanzania Media Women Association (Tamwa) Zanzibar, Community Forest Pemba (CFP), and the Dar es Salaam based People's Development Forum (PDF), the European Union (EU) funded project has come up with an important component of empowering agricultural experts with all the necessary skills that would be trickled down to farmers for better outputs.

The project manager in Pemba, Sharif Maalim Hamad views agricultural experts such as extension offers as key people for the project to provide the expected results, "that's why we're encouraging them

to put more energy on supporting farmers with the necessary farming practices needed to improve production."

According to Hamadi, horticultural growers need close support from the extension officers and other experts so as to enable them to increase productivity in their farming.

"This project is a redeemer to farmers taking into account that they (growers) have long complained of lack of expertise in the production, handling, and transportation of produce. So the project through the experts will work to empower small-scale farmers through climate-adaptive agriculture," he says.

"In this project, we want to see vulnerable farmers in these Islands improve their livelihoods through the modern vegetable, fruits, and spices farming," he insists.

The target of the project is to reach 21,000 small-scale farmers in 50 shehias—26 in Unguja and 24 in Pemba.

"Thousands of farmers in these areas will see their lives improving for good in the few coming years," the official in charge of the project says.

He reveals that in efforts to ensure that the farmers are well fed with essential skills and techniques on smart farming, a total of 42 agricultural experts in Pemba have been trained to fulfill the goal.

"The experts have been trained on several areas including climate change, model farms, farming methods, kitchen gardens and other key issues which will enable the nurture the farmers to become producers of quality products to compete

in the national and international markets," he explains.

The project totally wants to transform farmers' incomes and lives as the majority of them were previously relying on old farming methods which have in turn brought them nothing but losses.

"We emphasize heavily on organic farming, we want farmers to apply very little chemical inputs, this is why we have trained enough experts so as to ensure that they reach all farmers benefiting from this project for positive outcomes," he adds.

According to him, farmers will be learning practically through the established model farms, something which would enable them to learn more and be able to apply the expertise in their own fields.

"There are three model farms in each shehia, and the farmers are divided according to the crops such as fruits, vegetables, and spices. This helps the farmers to concentrate and come out having enough skills to improve their farming

Commerce, and marketing officer of the project Omar Mtarika, says: "This project will also support the farmers to conduct productive and sustainable farming which leaves the environment safe."

The majority of the consumers across the globe are now seeking well-produced and packaged products which have been grown without using chemicals and poisonous inputs.

"So, the Viungo project is working to build bridges between small-scale farmers and external markets," he says.



Though the Zanzibar islands were once one of the top spice trading regions in the world, environmental and economic pressures have pushed many farmers into unsustainable and high-risk mono-crop agriculture.

"The project offers a financially viable and incentivizing alternative by positioning farmers to access the growing market for sustainable, high-quality agricultural products including veggies, fruits, vanilla, cinnamon, and other spices," Mtarika attests.

Through climate-adaptive

agriculture techniques and practices, the project will improve farming resilience to the effects of climate change while simultaneously strengthening their livelihood, income, and community food security, he says.

"This project also works to address nutrition challenges in the Island through training farmers on best farming practices which will increase production and taking of nutritional foods," says Siti Bakar Makame, project's kitchen garden officer.

"After being trained, the farmers will be able to es-

tablish gardens in their homes to produce vegetables, fruits, and spices and thus improve nutritional in their households," she says.

The overall goals of the project include increase climate-smart horticulture yield and production, strengthen small-scale farmers' income and livelihoods; improve community food and nutrition security; support value addition, marketing, and enterprise development as well as increase multi-stakeholder collaboration for inclusive growth.

# FAO report says low fruit, vegetable intake a challenge in sub-Saharan Africa

By Guardian Reporter

A NEWLY released report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has indicated that people in Sub-Saharan African countries are not eating enough fruits and vegetables as is recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). In the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables, 2021, report, the UN agency said that consumption of fruit and vegetables is particularly low in sub-Saharan Africa.

WHO said that some 3.9 million deaths worldwide were attributable to not eating enough fruit and vegetables, recommends consuming

at least 400g each day to reap their health and nutrition benefits.

The UN arm also said: "Insufficient intake of fruit and vegetables is estimated to cause around 14 percent of deaths from gastro-intestinal cancer worldwide, about 11 percent of those due to ischemic heart disease, and about nine percent of those caused by stroke."

But according to the FAO report, on average, the world consumes only about two-thirds of the recommended minimum amounts of fruit and vegetables. Those in sub-Saharan Africa eat even less at about one-third. Residents of the Caribbean consume the most fruit, while those in southern Africa consume

the least.

The report said a study in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa found that the expenditure for fruit and vegetables accounts for between three and 13 percent of the total household budget, or between five and 16 percent of the food budget.

"Where incomes are generally low as in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, people are spending their limited food budget on cheaper staple foods. Cultural preferences and the low availability of fruit and vegetables may also play a role," said the report.

"As household incomes rise, demand for fruit and vegetables also rises, but at a slower rate than the

income. Households headed by women were found to spend more on fruit and vegetables than do those headed by men. Urban residents tend to eat more fruits and vegetables than do those in rural areas – because urban residents tend to have higher incomes," said the report.

Interestingly, the report also suggests that better-educated people consume less fruit and vegetables than those with less education because the better-educated have an appetite for processed foods that contain less fruit and vegetables.

Worldwide production of both fruit and vegetables rose by about half between 2000 and 2018. The

biggest absolute increase was in Asia, especially East Asia where China is by far the largest producer. In relative terms, the biggest increases were in Central Asia where production of both fruit and vegetables more than tripled.

In Africa, Central Africa nearly tripled the amount of fruit and double the volume of vegetables, though from a very low base. Production of vegetables also doubled in East and West Africa.

FAO says production in some regions like in Northern America and Southern and Western Europe for both fruit and vegetables, and in Northern Europe for vegetables has stagnated or even declined.

Worldwide, over 50 percent of fruits and vegetables are grown on farms smaller than 20 hectares. In developing countries, such farms grow the vast majority of horticultural produce – over 80 percent in most of Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and China

The United Nations has declared 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to raise awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of consuming more fruits and vegetables as part of a diversified, balanced and healthy diet and lifestyle as well as to direct policy attention to reducing loss and waste of these highly perishable produce items.

# Covid-19 has exposed Africa's fragile health systems and the vulnerability of women

By Naledi Pandor

INTERNATIONAL relations has had to assume a key role in responding to the impact of the Covid-19 crisis. Prior to the pandemic going global, multilateralism had been severely marginalised by isolationist policies and attacks on multi-talented institutions.

Diplomacy is often the ability to build networks and to use them maximally when needed. Picking up the phone and calling colleagues for assistance and support may not be part of the political armour provided in training, but for foreign relations it's an indispensable art.

The year 2019 was one that signalled significant practical action in support of gender equality globally – 2020 was to be the year in which 20 years of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda would be celebrated and reinforced, 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action and the beginning of the implementation of the UN Generation Equality Forum's practical action.

The UN Generation Equality Forum is one of the most promising international women's movements



since Beijing. It is made more important by the advocacy and leadership young women worldwide have taken up in it.

These young women, supported by UN Executive Director Dr Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, have decided they want to be the generation that concretises the achievement of gender equality. Their initiative has highlighted important priorities as we grappled with

Covid-19. Gender-based violence and femicide are global challenges that all societies must combat effectively and in unity.

We incorporated this awareness into our strategy and programme of action as chair of the African Union and as part of the African response to Covid-19.

Through the AU, we developed a coordinated and coherent response that we monitored consistently. We

ensured that all member states were informed and involved by using all our structures on the continent, and in regions.

As chair, South Africa inserted the priority of the gender-based violence response on to the AU agenda and promoted 2020-2030 as the decade of the financial inclusion of women in Africa.

Generation Equality has drawn the entire globe into the effort to combat inequality. All sectors are being addressed, from justice and education to labour laws, security and many others. The initiative draws together the public, private and civil society stakeholders to establish inclusive collaboration and ensures that all roleplayers contribute.

Responding to the pandemic also exposed Africa and the developing world's vulnerabilities and pointed to areas that we need to address speedily. Our public health systems are weak and vulnerable and must be supported by increased investment and an expanded, well-trained pool of health professionals in a range of fields.

Debates on treatments also exposed our research inadequacies and space for significant innovation capacity. Emergent vaccine nationalism means Africa should not rely on global goodwill to access new treatments or diagnostics. We should develop our own capacity and learn to produce what we need.

Governments have had to develop emergency relief measures and when compared with the rest of the world, Africa had little room to manoeuvre.

For example, while support was found for formal workers, women in high-risk economic sectors were hard hit by inequitable access to business relief and financial sector support. Women lost employment in larger numbers than men and as the International Labour Organisation has reported, the position of women as income earners has severely worsened. This has added to the burden of unpaid care work, unequal access to professional careers and unequal pay for women.

Leadership post-pandemic requires focused attention to this discrimination. Countries such as Spain, Norway and Chile have passed laws outlawing these abuses and we should ensure women have similar protection in South Africa and Africa.

DM

# China's BeiDou Navigation Satellite System now on new journey of global industrial development

By Yu Jianbin

CHINA'S BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) has met the requirements in performance indexes of positioning, velocity measurement, and timing precision, as well as the availability and continuity of its services, based on real-time testing of the international GNSS monitoring and assessment system.

The message was announced by the Test and Assessment Research Center of China Satellite Navigation Office on March 4.

Since being commissioned on July 31, 2020, the BDS-3 has maintained stable operation and offered quality services for global users, embarking on a new journey of global and industrial development.

The BDS-3 boasts world-class services, and its featured services have been widely launched. Its short message communication services are available for general users and its satellite-based augmentation system is also opened to users in civil aviation, maritime and railway sectors.

The ground-based augmentation system of the BDS-3 is able to offer centimeter kinematic positioning and millimeter static positioning services. Precise point positioning is now offered for precision farming, land surveying and autopilot users, and international rescue services are also being launched in accordance with requirements by international organizations.

The BDS-3 is developing from a regional product to one that covers the globe. Breakthroughs have been made in domestically produced chips and modules compatible with the system, and their performance indexes match those of their



A man operates a Beidou-based drone in Hanzhong, Northwest China's Shaanxi Province to take videos and pictures of mountains for disaster management. (File photo)

international counterparts. These chips and modules have been widely applied in industries.

Basic products of the Chinese navigation system have been exported to over 120 countries and regions, applications such as land rights confirmation, precision farming, digital construction and smart port services based on the system have also been applied in ASEAN countries, South Asia, East Europe, East Asia and Africa, contributing to local economic and social development, as well as the construction of the Belt and Road.

Besides, the BDS-3 has also entered the daily life of common people. Since its commissioning, mainstream smart phone manufacturers have listed Beidou navigation network in their products, including Apple. According to statistics, 79 percent of smart phones applied to be compat-

ible with the BDS-3 in the last quarter of 2020.

The application of Beidou's featured services will facilitate the upgrading of industries. Regional short message communication services of the BDS-3 are expected to be equipped on smart phones before the end of this year, while the high-precision ground-based augmentation of the system has already been available on smart phones, offering meter-level positioning services. In addition, high-precision Beidou applications have also been piloted in some cities.

Major suppliers of Beidou products will promote the interaction between upstream and downstream firms along the industrial chain, advance results sharing and enhance synergetic marketing. They will also continue expanding domestic and international market, strengthen integrated development of Beidou and other frontier technologies such as internet of things, autopilot, artificial intelligence, 5G communication and block chain, so as to give a bigger role of the positioning system in new infrastructure construction, and facilitate merging businesses and industries.

The BDS-3 will also help with the construction of a high-precision national comprehensive positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) system. Currently, the PNT system is under construction. According to relevant plans, China will make the PNT system more ubiquitous, integrated and intelligent before 2035, and build space-time service infrastructure facilities featuring three-dimensional coverage, unified benchmark, high precision, high security, high intelligence, high flexibility and high benefits, to serve the globe and benefit the mankind.

People's Daily

## THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 172 00--

**WORD-FIT**

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: ADO, ROE, ANT  
 4 LETTERS: YEAR, GAIN, ACID, AMID, DODO, POND, DOOR (7 WORDS)  
 5 LETTERS: DILMA, NOTED, EMAIL, MOTET, DOORS (5 WORDS)  
 6 LETTERS: DEARIE, IMMUNE, COLOUR, ESTATE, CLINGY (5 WORDS)  
 7 LETTERS: COLOMBO  
 8 LETTERS: ABROGATE  
 10 LETTERS: YUGOSLAVIA

**CROSSWORD**

1 2 3 4  
 5 6 7  
 8 9 10  
 11 12  
 13 14 15 16  
 17 18  
 19 20

**CLUES: Across**

1 citations  
 5 said at the end of a prayer  
 7 God in Kiswahili  
 8 consumed  
 10 no longer young  
 11 a strong request  
 13 a handle in the shape of a round lump  
 15 a thing that takes place  
 17 afflicted  
 19 a mountain or hill in South Africa  
 20 Opposition female Mp from Mara

**Down:**

1 absolute  
 2 Independent  
 3 identify class of people, places  
 4 to flow over and enclose  
 6 a fool  
 7 Interfere  
 9 adolescent  
 12 an inlet  
 14 Former president of Malawi  
 16 a North America woodland thrush with a brown back and speckled breast  
 17 Syrian cloth  
 18 a spherical object

**SOLUTIONS**

W O R D - F I T

C A L A M I T I E S  
 O E A N  
 S T A R A S I D E  
 T D O O R S U  
 M M R A R T  
 S E R N E E  
 X S A  
 T I N G T S A R S  
 C R K S  
 H A R A N G U E I  
 U N I T L G  
 B B E I A I G I I E N

C R O S S W O R D

S T A N D A L O N E  
 O N O E  
 M E N U E A S E L  
 E A M M A N D  
 S M S A L L  
 S T R A I T E  
 R E  
 B A N D R N A S E  
 N O D A  
 A G O N I Z E D S  
 H E R O V E  
 F I R I R I T I M

## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



### WEDNESDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DURU ZETU
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



WEDNESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI(marudio)

## BUSINESS

## Bunge panel pleased with EPZA drive in industrial development



## CRDB empowers women with business marketing, financial management skills

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

CRDB Bank Plc in the Central zone has embarked on a programme aimed at empowering women with business skills as well as marketing and financial management to facilitate loan access.

Addressing more than 100 women delegates from private and public sectors at the one-day seminar organized by the bank in the central zone, Senior Product Manager from the head office in Dar es Salaam, Rachel Senni, said through Malkia account the bank aims at finding a solution to challenges facing women in accessing loans.

Malkia Account is a woman's unique saving plan designed especially for women with a Malkia to meet financial obligations, as well as personal goals and dreams, be it in investment, education, business, health, and others.

According to Senni, through the initiative, the bank aims at taking one percent of its profits to the public as part of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) but also targets to increase the number of women who access loans from the current 20-percent.

Zonal Business Manager, Jane Maganga, called for women to participate in CRDB's seminars to get knowledge of networking, marketing, and financial management, which among other factors hinder women from realizing their dreams.

"I know how to promote your products, that's why CRDB assisted customers with trade show events to share entrepreneurship skills as a way of promoting their products," she said, pointing out that lack of financial management skills is one of the problems for most women, saying women most of the time take a loan then spend it to unnecessary expenditures.

Janeth Kamunyu, one of the beneficiaries of Malkia Account, said the training was useful because a customer is now able to open with 5,000/- while the time before was 50,000/-

"We thank CRDB for launching Malkia Account from its cheap services of depositing the little amount among Masai women, now holding master's degree because this account supported my fee from undergraduate," she revealed.

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the Parliamentary Trade, Industry and Environment Committee who have been visiting Export Processing Zones Authority - EPZA areas in Bagamoyo in Coast region and Ubungo in Dar es Salaam Region to inspect investment activities have expressed satisfaction with the development of the industrial economy in those areas as the factories established have provided many jobs to the people and increase the national GDP.

The Committee's Chairman David Kihenzile said: "The committee will continue to mobilise the Ministry of Industry and Trade to continue improve the environment for investment and conduct visits to the factories to solve various challenges facing investors."

In Bagamoyo the committee visited Tanfroz Ltd - meat processing plant that was still under construction and the African Dragon Co. - the factory that manufactures raw materials for roofing sheets.

The committee also visited Took Garment factory that manufactures jeans and T-shirts that has em-

ployed more than 3,700 workers.

The factory makes garments, 80 per cent of which are sold to AGOA markets.

In addition, the panel visited Card Africa Ltd that prints cards for banks, vouchers for mobile phones and sim cards.

The panel was greatly satisfied with EPZA, the institution that is under the Industry and Trade ministry for creating a friendly environment for investors - looking for them and sending them to areas allocated for their investments.

Industry and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwambe (pictured) said the main aim of the visit was to see government projects through EPZA as well as inspecting strategic projects that are yet to start in order to advise the government on how to develop the areas to benefit Tanzanians.

Mwambe said the committee has seen for itself the government insistence in building the industrial economy.

The parliamentary committee continues with it schedule to visit other investment areas and institutions tasked in the country's industrial development.



## Be in groups to benefit from govt's loans, young graduates challenged

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

YOUNG graduates have been advised to form entrepreneurship groups if they are to benefit from 10 percent loans offered by the district, municipal, and city councils across the country.

The executive director of Mbeya District Council, Stephen Katemba made the advice here yesterday when speaking to young graduates from across the city.

Katemba said that the

government has put in place good strategies for disadvantaged groups such as youth to get loans to accomplish their dreams. One of the strategies is to task every council across to allots 10 percent of its revenue collection for youth (4 percent), women (4 percent), and disabled (2 percent).

"So, use this avenue to ask for loans and venture into a business project that can make you stand on your own feet," the official said, encouraging them to think about how they can establish a project

that can make them create jobs rather than being job seekers.

Citing examples, Katemba said his district council has been offering loans to entrepreneurs groups as part of improving their economic status, hence address the unemployment problem in the country.

"To me, I see that graduates you have a better chance to benefit from this window," he stressed.

According to him, such loans are interest-free and don't need someone to have collateral, and the

time of repayment is not limited. "That's why I'm advising you to use this opportunity to get out of this unemployment trap. Skills and knowledge obtained in colleges and universities need to be taken into action by venturing into something tangible and the country can benefit out of it," he suggested.

He said that youth can get into agro-processing industries, agribusiness, and animal husbandry to boost income and create jobs.



Kenya Power workers repair a power supply line.

## Power bills rise to Sh1bn in March on fuel levy hike

NAIROBI

ELECTRICITY consumers will pay Sh1.20 more per unit or an extra Sh1 billion to Kenya Power this month on increased compensation to expensive diesel plants, piling pressure on households.

The energy regulator has raised foreign exchange and fuel adjustment surcharges it levies on March electricity bills, hitting household budgets at a time when petrol prices have hit a nine-year high.

The fuel surcharge has

increased to Sh3.54 per kilowatt hour (kWh) from February's Sh2.61, rising to the highest levels in 19 months.

The foreign exchange fluctuation has increased slightly to Sh0.77 per kWh, compared with Sh0.66 previously.

This means that electricity costs will increase by Sh1.20 per unit, inclusive of taxes, pushing the total bills to above Sh1 billion given the monthly consumption of over 800 million kWh.

The costly fuel sur-

charge in power bills is linked to increased reliance on diesel-powered generators to produce electricity and the rise in petroleum prices.

The Energy and Petroleum Regulatory Authority (Epra) has attributed the increased use of thermal-powered plants to reduced generation from cheaper Lake Turkana Wind Power and a breakdown in one of the country's hydro-electric dams.

The forex levy comprises expenses incurred in foreign currency by

power generators such as KenGen, the independent power producers as well as Kenya Power.

The additional electricity bills is a blow to households and businesses that are grappling with expensive fuel due to rising crude costs in the global market.

Motorists in Nairobi are paying Sh122.81 per litre of petrol from Sh115.18, representing a Sh7.63 increase, and Sh5.75 more for a litre of diesel at Sh107.66.

## Nigerian telcos take on banks over USSD service fees

LAGOS

AN eleventh-hour intervention by Nigeria's Minister of Communications and Digital Economy Dr Isa Pantami has temporarily halted the scheduled suspension of USSD services.

Telecommunication services providers want to initiate a phased withdrawal of USSD services to banks over alleged unpaid debts of over NGN42-billion (approximately US\$110-million).

Widely considered to be the backbone of Nigeria's expanding

Fintech ecosystem, USSD services are used by millions to access digital banking services.

Last year the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) barred telcos from billing end users directly for accessing banking services via USSD. Instead, the regulator ordered banks to negotiate with their customers regarding the settlement of outstanding fees.

Now stakeholders are at loggerheads over whether it should be consumers or MNOs that foot the bill.

According to Association of



Telecoms Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), banks have opted to no

longer pay for the USSD service and have requested that operators bill

customers directly. In a statement, the operators, via ALTON, said they are determined to withdraw USSD services and have advised subscribers to use alternative means to access banking services.

The organisation added that operators have no assurance that service charges levied on customers' bank accounts for accessing banking services through the USSD channel will be waived after the implementation of user billing.

"We deeply regret that we have reached a point where the withdrawal of these services has

become inevitable," ALTON stated.

On 15 March 2021 ITWeb Africa confirmed that USSD services of major banks in Nigeria, including FirstBank and Guaranty Trust Bank, were still accessible.

In a statement issued by the communications ministry, Pantami called for a meeting of the stakeholders, including the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, NCC's Executive Vice Chairman, MNOs and financial institutions. Pantami appealed to telcos to await the outcome of the meeting.

# Stocks in Asia follow Wall Street higher ahead of the Fed meeting

TOKYO

ASIAN stocks rose on Tuesday, tracking Wall Street's advance to record highs, as investors anticipated the US Federal Reserve and other central banks meeting this week will keep policies accommodative to help drive a post-pandemic global economic recovery.

European shares looked set to extend the global rally, with pan-region Euro Stoxx 50 futures up 0.2 percent and FTSE futures 0.5 percent higher in early deals. On Monday, the STOXX 600 index touched its highest level in more than a year before ending flat. E-mini futures for the S&P 500 edged up 0.04 percent.

An index of Asia-Pacific share markets excluding Japan strengthened 0.69 percent, led by a 1.2 percent jump in Australia's benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index.

Japan's Nikkei 225 gained 0.5 percent to just below the closely watched 30,000 mark, while the broader Topix added 0.65 percent. China's blue chip CSI 300 index climbed 0.55 percent, and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.46 percent.

"The rally in stocks has to do with expectations that as we hear from central banks this week, they'll be reiterating a message they've already made clear, which is they are unconcerned about the inflation outlook," said Michael McCarthy, chief markets strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney.

"Whether or not that will last is a key question. We've seen sentiment reverse sharply several times over the past two or three weeks, particularly in bond markets. But for right now, the sun is shining and equity gains reflect that."

On Monday, the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both soared on gains in travel stocks as mass vaccinations in the United States and congressional approval of a \$1.9 trillion aid bill fueled investor optimism.

Longer-term US Treasury yields slipped further on Tuesday, as the market looked ahead to government debt auctions and the Fed's two-day policy meeting, which will conclude today.

The benchmark 10-year yield, which reached a more than one-year high of 1.642 percent last week, was back at 1.125 percent.

The earlier surge in yields stemmed



TV camera men wait for the opening of market in front of a large screen showing stock prices at the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

from investors speculating that rising inflation expectations could prompt the Federal Open Market Committee to signal it will start raising rates sooner than expected.

Fed policymakers are expected to forecast that the US economy will grow in 2021 by the fastest rate in decades, as it recovers from a coronavirus-stricken 2020.

The Bank of England also meets tomorrow, while the Bank of Japan wraps up a two-day gathering on Friday.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 174.82 points, or 0.53 percent,

to 32,953.46, the S&P 500 gained 25.6 points, or 0.65 percent, to 3,968.94 and the Nasdaq Composite remained unchanged to 0.00.

Airline shares rose as the companies pointed to concrete signs of an industry recovery as vaccine rollouts help spur leisure bookings. The outlook for post-pandemic recoveries continued to diverge between the U.S. and Europe.

President Joe Biden's order to make vaccination available to all adults by May 1 contrasted with stuttering rollouts in Germany, France and elsewhere, where use

of the AstraZeneca vaccine has been suspended due to concerns over possible serious side effects.

However, Kyle Rodda, an analyst at IG Markets, said the prospect of a slower economic recovery in Europe didn't appear to be a major handicap for investors.

"It doesn't seem to be the view that this is a real risk," he said. "Investors are wary, but not worried."

In currencies, the U.S. dollar held small gains from overnight, with caution evident ahead of the central bank meetings.

The greenback was largely

flat at 109.19 yen, after rising as high as 109.365 on Monday for the first time since June.

The euro was little changed at \$1.1930, languishing for an eighth session below the closely watched \$1.20 level.

Bitcoin continued its slide from a record high of \$61,781.83 reached on Saturday, last trading 2.42 percent weaker on the day at around \$54,304.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude for April changed hands at \$64.81 a barrel, down 58 cents. Brent crude futures for May stood at \$68.31 a barrel, losing 57 cents.

## US solar industry installations likely to quadruple by end 2030

NEVADA

SOLAR installations in the United States are expected to quadruple by 2030 thanks to the extension of a key industry subsidy late last year and booming demand for carbon-free power, an industry body said on Tuesday.

The sector will install 324 gigawatt (GW) of capacity over the next decade, more than three times the nearly 100 GW installed by 2020, the U.S. Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) said, citing a report issued jointly with Wood Mackenzie.

The 324 GW of solar energy would produce enough electricity to power about 60 million homes, or around 40% of homes in the country today.

The outlook reflects both robust demand from utilities and corporations seeking to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals and declining costs for the technology that has buttressed the market for home solar installations.

Just 3 percent of U.S. electricity is generated from the sun, but SEIA hopes that will rise to 20 percent over the next decade.

Installations rose 43 percent last year to 19.2 GW, an annual record for the industry. Utility-scale projects, which account for most of the market, experienced only minor disruptions due to coronavirus pandemic-related shutdowns. Residential installations took a large hit in the second quarter due to the pandemic, but ended the year up 11% at a record 3.1 GW.

Late last year, Congress extended a 26 percent tax credit that helps reduce the cost of solar facilities as part of a package to provide coronavirus aid and fund the U.S. government.

But SEIA said further tax incentives, the lifting of tariffs on overseas-made panels, and workforce training was necessary for the United States to cut enough greenhouse gas output to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

"We need policy in all of those areas so that we can not just grow on the path that we're on, but accelerate that growth," SEIA President Abigail Ross Hopper said in an interview.

## News Corp inks Australia Facebook deal, signalling truce after blackout

SYDNEY

RUPERT Murdoch's News Corp reached a content-supply deal with Facebook Inc in Australia, the companies said on Tuesday, a step toward settling a dispute that saw the social media giant briefly shut down thousands of pages in the country.

The agreement, terms of which were not disclosed, makes News Corp the first major media outlet to strike a Facebook deal under controversial new laws that let an Australian government-appointed arbitrator set fees if companies fail to do so.

Facebook's shutting out all media content in the country for a week last month angered world leaders, as the blackout included emergency services and government health pages. It ended the shutdown when Australia agreed to soften some parts of the new regulations.

News Corp, which owns about two-thirds of Australian metropolitan newspapers, was among media companies calling for the government to make Facebook and Alphabet Inc's Google pay for the media links that drive viewers, and advertising dollars, to their

platforms.

Google had also objected for months and threatened, like Facebook, to withdraw core services from the country, before signing deals with most media outlets - including News Corp - in the days before the rules became law.

"The agreement with Facebook is a landmark in transforming the terms of trade for journalism, and will have a material and meaningful impact on our Australian news businesses," News Corp CEO Robert Thomson said in a statement that thanked the Australian prime minister, treasurer and chief antitrust regulator by name.

Facebook's head of news partnerships in Australia, Andrew Hunter, said the deal meant Facebook's 17 million users in the country "will gain access to premium news articles and breaking news video from News Corp's network of national, metropolitan, rural and suburban newsrooms".

As well as the country's top-selling tabloids The Daily Telegraph in Sydney and The Herald-Sun in Melbourne, News Corp runs a subscription cable TV network called Sky News, which struck a separate

Facebook deal, the terms of which were not disclosed, according to News Corp.

News Corp was first to say it struck a Facebook deal, but free-to-air television broadcaster and newspaper publisher Seven West Media Ltd has previously said it signed a letter of intent to do so.

On Tuesday, Seven rival Nine Entertainment Co Holdings Ltd reported in the Australian Financial Review that it had also signed a letter of intent for a Facebook deal.

"I've always had the view we need to see this playing out," said Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Chair Rod Sims, the architect of the new laws, in a telephone interview.

"If they've done a deal with News Corp, they're obviously in the groove of doing deals with others."

A Nine spokesman said the company, which also publishes the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, "continue(s) having constructive and fruitful discussions with Facebook (and) when we have anything to announce we will do so". A Facebook spokesperson declined to comment on the Nine negotiations.



## Microsoft rolls back data update to fix its access issues for thousands of subscribers

Microsoft Corp said early on Tuesday glitches that affected access to workplace messaging app Teams, Outlook.com and other services have been largely fixed after it rolled back an update.

The company had said in a tweet that the issues were related to a "recent change to an authentication system." Users may still face access issues with Microsoft 365 services but Teams, Outlook.com and Exchange On-

line are up and running, Microsoft's service status page showed.

More than 26,000 people had reported issues with Teams and over 3,000 users posted about problems with Office 365, outage tracking website Downtdetector.com showed.

More than 2,300 people also reported problems with Microsoft's Azure cloud computing services, Downtdetector showed.

Downtdetector only tracks outages by collating status reports from a series of sources, including user-submitted errors on its platform. The outage might be affecting a larger number of users.

Samsung one of the biggest customers of Microsoft announced its own decision to adopt Microsoft Azure in order to manage its entire Smart TV infrastructure, some time ago. By choosing Azure cloud technol-

ogy, Samsung was able to achieve a significant reduction in costs as well as increased capacity in order to meet it stupendously growing customer base along with higher productivity.

Samsung currently provides its Smart TV service in over 120 countries all over the world, and more growth is currently planned. It needed a particular solution which could support it is ongoing as well as

reliable service along with its continual increase in traffic. A

ditionally, Samsung didn't want to become dependent on different specific suppliers. It tested other products but decided that Azure as its service infrastructure because it provided the needed reliability in order to meet its own mission-critical requirements as well as its planned service expansion.







**Sinopec finds gas, oil flows in Xinjiang**

**CAIRO**

CHINA Petrochemical Corp, or Sinopec Group, has discovered abundant flows of natural gas and crude oil at an exploration well in northwestern China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the company said on Monday.

With a reservoir of an average depth of more than 7,300 meters, the Shunbei-42X well, which is also considered to be the deepest onshore oil and gas field in Asia, has made a substantial natural gas and crude discovery, yielding daily flows of 822,000 cubic meters of natural gas and 3 million metric tons of crude, said the company.

The discovery represents progress for the State-owned oil giant as it taps geologically more challenging oil and gas deposits to meet the increasing gas demand in the country. It also further proves the bright exploration and exploitation prospects of the gas and oilfield, said the company.

Analysts said the Shunbei oil and gas field, Sinopec's new frontier for reserves, will ensure adequate gas and oil supplies for the country's energy-consuming eastern regions.

"Sinopec's major discovery will underpin the company's vision to increase oil and gas production, which is in line with the central government's efforts to further ensure gas supply security in the next five years," said Li Ziyue, an analyst with BloombergNEF.

Li believes natural gas will be a growth pillar for China's national oil companies as they endeavor to go green.

"Tarim Basin is one of the key basins for oil and gas exploration in the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-25), and natural gas will play an increasingly important role in the decarbonization process while easing the country's ever increasing dependence on gas imports."

China's dependence on gas and crude oil imports has been growing in recent years, with the country covering 46 percent of its gas requirements via imports and that for oil reaching 73 percent.

The Shunbei oil and gas field had broken the record for the deepest onshore directional well-drilling in Asia, reaching a depth of 8,874.4 meters.

Researchers at the Shunbei oil and gas field have also been developing and using ultra-deep well-drilling technologies since 2002, according to Xinhua News Agency.

China Petrochemical Corp (Sinopec) Northwest Oilfield Co, a subsidiary, has discovered accumulated proven oil reserves of up to 1.5 billion tons and natural gas of 74 billion cubic meters. Accumulated oil and gas equivalent production has exceeded 140 million tons.

Northwest Oilfield produced 6.7 million tons of crude and 1.91 billion cubic meters of natural gas last year.

**Putin, Lukashenko to timely name new general secretary of Union State – Kremlin**

**MOSCOW**

RUSSIAN and Belarusian Presidents Vladimir Putin and Alexander Lukashenko have been discussing candidates for the Union State general secretary post, the decision will be revealed in a timely manner, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday.

"Indeed, Presidents Putin and Lukashenko did discuss the relevant candidate, I will not say who it was for now. As of now, there is no meeting of the Union State Supreme State Council planned. The decision will be announced in a timely fashion," Peskov said.

Union State General Secretary Grigory Rapota said Friday that he could leave the office within a week. Earlier, he informed that Belarus and Russia and considering several candidates to succeed him.

Rapota was appointed to the office in November 2011.

**Biden's top diplomat calls for deeper Japan ties**

**TOKYO**

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken yesterday called for deeper economic ties with Japan, as he and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin seek to use their first trip abroad to solidify Asian alliances.

Their visit to Tokyo and Seoul is the first overseas outing by top cabinet members of President Joe Biden's team and follows a virtual summit last week of the leaders the United States, Japan, Australia and India - the Quad alliance. Issues on the agenda range from freedom of navigation in the South and East China Seas and semiconductor supply-chain security to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear issue and latest developments in Myanmar.

"The economic relationship between the United States and Japan is, as you know very well, one of the strongest in the world," Blinken said in remarks to a group of business leaders in Tokyo.

He said the pandemic had exposed vulnerabilities in global supply chains for critical products, including medical equipment, supplies, semiconductors.

The countries needed to work together to build secure and resilient supply chains for the future, he said.

At the opening of a "2+2" meeting, Blinken said he wanted to work with Japan and allies on the denuclearization of the DPRK. The "2+2" meeting was held between Blinken, Austin and Japan's foreign and defense ministers.

The talks were expected to address other items raised during the Quad summit, including the commitment to boost COVID-19 vaccine supplies in Asia and climate change.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said Blinken expressed support for the staging of Tokyo Olympics during their bilateral meeting.



**Xi stresses healthy growth of platform economy, efforts for carbon peak and neutrality**

**BEIJING**

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping on Monday stressed efforts to promote the regulated, healthy and sustainable development of the platform economy and incorporate the peaking of carbon emissions and carbon neutrality into the overall layout of building an ecological civilization.

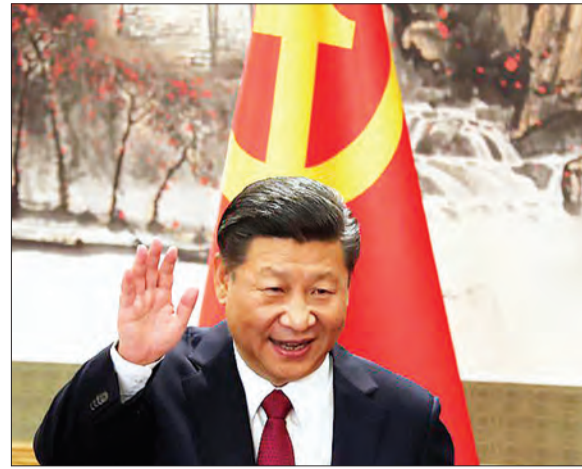
Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the ninth meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs. He is also head of the committee.

The development of China's platform economy is now at a critical stage and more should be done to improve the weak links, create an environment for innovation, resolve prominent problems, and promote its regulated, healthy and sustainable development, Xi noted.

To peak carbon emissions and achieve carbon neutrality is an extensive and profound systemic reform for the economy and society, and should be incorporated into the overall layout of building an ecological civilization, Xi said.

He called for a spirit of perseverance in achieving the goals of peaking carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving carbon neutrality by 2060.

Other Chinese leaders Li Keqiang, Wang Huning and Han Zheng attended the meeting.



President Xi Jinping

Attendees were briefed on measures for the healthy development of the platform economy, as well as strategies and major measures to bring the carbon emissions to a peak and achieve carbon neutrality.

To build the national competitive strengths, China will establish and improve the platform economy governance system, giving equal importance to development and regulation, amid efforts to boost fair competition, fight monopoly and prevent the disorderly expansion of capital, the meeting said.

It stressed the role of industrial Internet platforms in transforming traditional businesses and boosting

advanced manufacturing.

China will build a clean, low-carbon, safe and efficient energy system, control the total use of fossil fuels and take action to shift to alternative energy sources, the meeting said.

The country will deepen the reform of its power system, build a power network based on new energy, reduce pollution and carbon emissions in key industries and promote green manufacturing in the industrial sector, it said.

The meeting also called for efforts to push forward major breakthroughs in green and low-carbon technologies and accelerate the promotion and application of such technologies for reducing pollution and carbon emissions.

It has underscored improvements in policies on fiscal taxation, prices, finance, land and government procurement that are conducive to green and low-carbon development.

It is necessary to advocate a green and low-carbon lifestyle, give full play to the ecological environment, including forests, wetlands and grasslands, in increasing carbon sinks, and strengthen international cooperation on addressing climate change, the meeting said.

Peaking carbon emissions and achieving carbon neutrality is a tough battle, the meeting underscored, adding that it is also a major test for the party's capabilities in governing the country.

Xinhua

**Johnson says UK will be global activist in Brexit realignment**

**LONDON**

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson will redirect British foreign policy toward the Indo-Pacific region as he sets out a sweeping overhaul of the UK's international priorities after Brexit.

The premier will publish a 100-page blueprint for diplomacy and defense, which his officials are billing as the most wide ranging re-evaluation of the UK's place in the world since the end of the Cold War.

In the plan, Johnson will outline a new more activist approach to international relations on issues such as climate change and democracy as he makes clear he regards the Indo-Pacific as increasingly the geopolitical center of the world.

Johnson intends to visit India at the end of April on his first trip overseas since Britain left the European Union trade and market regime.

The policy framework spans overseas aid, cyber warfare, the future of the armed forces, and addressing climate change. For Johnson, it's a chance to tell the world how he sees post-Brexit Britain's role in the global order developing



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

over the next decade.

"I am profoundly optimistic about the UK's place in the world and our ability to seize the opportunities ahead," the prime minister said in a statement before

publication of the so-called integrated review.

**Brexit Tilt**  
Since leaving the EU's orbit at the end

of last year, the UK has sought new trade and political alliances around the world including a focus on strengthening ties with the US.

Marking this shift, the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier warship will sail to the Pacific on her maiden deployment later this year, the government said. The UK is also applying for partner status at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the premier's office said.

According to Johnson's office, the review will include a White House-style situation room to act as a control hub during emergencies such as terrorist attacks and plans for a Counter-Terrorism operations center to thwart extremists and hostile states.

It will also cover more investment in national infrastructure, innovation and skills, with a push for investment in industries including technology and alternative energy and a commitment to build eight of BAE Systems Plc's Type-26 warships and five Type-31 frigates by Babcock International Group Plc in Scotland, against a backdrop of a political tussle over Scottish independence.

Agencies



Chilean President Sebastian Pinera welcomes a shipment of nearly 2 million COVID-19 vaccines developed by Chinese firm Sinovac Biotech at Santiago international airport in Santiago, Chile, Jan. 28, 2021. (File Photo)

**China's cooperation on COVID-19 has no geopolitical purposes**

CHINA'S international cooperation on COVID-19 aims to protect the lives, safety and health of more people, said Zhang Yesui, spokesperson for the fourth session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, at a press conference on March 4.

The cooperation has no geopolitical purpose and the vaccines provided by China have no political strings attached, he added.

The spokesperson remarked that nothing is more important than people's lives, safety and health. He hopes that more capable countries can take actions and offer vaccines for the international society, especially developing countries.

So far, China has 17 COVID-19 vaccines that are going through a clinical trial, four of which have gained conditional approval for entering the market. Besides, multiple Chi-

nese vaccines have been approved for phase-3 clinical tests overseas, and four have been granted market approval or emergency use in a batch of foreign countries.

Zhang introduced that China has provided or is providing free vaccine assistance to over 60 countries, and the country has declared to provide 10 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the COVAX vaccine distribution plan to meet the urgent demands in developing countries.

So far, over 40 countries have purchased COVID-19 vaccines or are in discussion with China regarding the purchase, Zhang said, adding that most of them are developing countries.

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People's Daily

**Better COVID-19 vaccines coming, says WHO chief scientist**

**ROME**

NEW COVID-19 vaccines, including ones that don't require needles and can be stored at room temperature, may be ready for use later this year or next year, the World Health Organization's (WHO) top scientist said.

Six-to-eight new immunizations may complete clinical studies and undergo regulatory review by the end of the year, Soumya Swaminathan, the Geneva-based agency's chief scientist, said in an interview Saturday.

"I think, well into 2022, we're going to see the emergence of improved vaccines," she said

The current crop of experimental vaccines use alternative technologies and delivery systems, and include more single-shot inoculations, and vaccines that are administered orally, via a nasal spray, and through the skin using a type of patch. These could bring immunizations that are better suited to specific groups, such as pregnant women, according to Swaminathan.

The WHO's strategic advisory group of experts on immunization is reviewing whether people who have been infected with COVID-19 need to have two doses of vaccine.

The rollout of safe and effective vaccines is also raising questions about how to efficiently and ethically conduct clinical trials of experimental vaccines, she said. Placebos will be replaced with a "gold standard" vaccine in a so-called non-inferiority design when it's no longer ethical to use a placebo, Swaminathan said.

A global trial involving a wide pool of people and countries offers several advantages, she said. Testing vaccines in diverse ethnicities, age groups, and people with different medical conditions makes the results more generalizable, and when the epidemic wanes in some parts of the world it's often still active in others, she said.

The WHO said that as of March 12, more than 300 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered around the world with no cases of death found to have been caused by any of them.



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, WHO Chief Scientist



Pamba FC head coach Ulimboka Mwakwingwe.

## First Division League quite tricky, admits coach

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

MWANZA's Pamba FC head coach Ulimboka Mwakwingwe has disclosed that First Division League (FDL) has turned out to be quite tricky because the league's participating sides are all seeking to land promotion to Premier League.

Mwakwingwe opined the domestic top flight is seen as a lucrative tournament and, as a result, it smoothenes outfit's search for sponsors.

The coach said that players playing in the FDL are eager for attention, as it is the case for Premier League players, a situation which makes the former work hard so that they too can enjoy the privilege.

He pointed out the FDL's failure to secure sponsors also makes the league quite tricky, so the tournament's players sometimes feel taking part in the domestic top flight amounts to enjoying success.

"Soccer is a job, so down here they are eager to play in Premier League,

the top flight's players are portrayed as successful in the media, but the FDL players also feel it will be easier for them to be noticed," the former Simba SC winger disclosed.

He stated: "That's why it's not an easy task for a team to get promotion to Premier league, as every coach is striving to come up with ways, which can help him fulfill the club's dreams as well as helping youngsters who are eager to change their lives."

He said there are times when players who have not at all graced the domestic top flight, have been asking him how he managed to play for Simba SC in the past and national team 'Taifa Stars', while showing enthusiasm and they are keen on fulfilling their dreams.

"I've got a big picture of football life the way it is, if they only knew how Premier League players are treated then they would be more committed to keeping their standards as there are those who aspire to land their positions down here," he said.

## CAF dismissed Simba SC's appeal against Al Merreikh

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has dismissed Simba SC's complaint against Al Merreikh alleging that the latter used two players who were suspended in a CAF Champions League match between the two teams which took place in Khartoum, Sudan, on March 6 this year.

Immediately after the third round of the CAF Champions League's Group A duel, which ended in a goalless draw, Simba's leadership wrote to CAF asking for clarification on the use of Khamis Bakhit and Ramadan Agab.

The two performers had been banned by the Football Association of Sudan (SFA) for violating registration regulations via signing for two different clubs.

However, despite CAF not announcing the decision, Simba Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez said CAF had confirmed that the players were legitimate to be used by Al Merreikh as they were only banned from participating in local competitions.

"The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has informed us that the players were banned from playing in domestic competitions so they are allowed to play our match," Barbara said in an interview with Egypt's FilGoal.

To prove that Simba's request for clarification CAF has stalled, Agab and Bakhit are among the players in the

team's convoy that landed in the country from Sudan ready for the match between the two teams, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday.

If Simba had succeeded in the appeal, Al Merreikh would have been kicked out

of the competition as they would have violated the seventh principle of the club competition in Africa.

"A team that plays a suspended or disqualified player will be deemed to have lost the relevant game and will automatically be removed from the competition if the CAF tournament committee is satisfied with the arguments submitted," the event's article 7 states.

Al Merreikh's elimination from the competition would automatically see Simba qualify for the quarterfinals as they would be left with six points that would not have been achieved by either AS Vita Club or Al Ahly.

If the appeal would succeed, it could have been the second time for Simba to benefit from the mistakes of the opposing team using suspended players in a match involving the squad.

In 2011, Simba, despite being eliminated by TP Mazembe in the second round of the competition, advanced after it was discovered that their opponents had played defender Janvier Besala Bokungu who was found to have a contract with Tunisia's Esperance.

## When the presence of fans is curtailed for fair play, not disease fears

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

PUNDITS were at odds of what to make of a directive by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) that the next games of the Champions League involving Simba Sports Club as well as Namungo FC must be played without the stands being open to the fans.

The decision followed ardent complaints by Egyptian and Sudanese champion sides both of which were put on a nail when they played the Msimbazi Street outfit before their fans at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

These complaints were earlier being put aside and all of a sudden they appear to have led to a decision, either as fulfilling a long cry, or as an outright favor.

Some pundits have suggested that the complaints were taken too seriously because they involved a dejected the Al Ahly FC of Egypt, given that Cairo is the permanent seat of CAF, and the club has a majestic track record in African football.

It is unclear if such a decision would have come about if only El Merreikh of the Sudan would have complained, or Congolese club AS Vita but it is undeniable that such voices are hugely boosted when the matter has the backing of the Egyptian powerhouse outfit.

That comes down to something like a favor, that CAF could scarcely have ignored Al Ahly; could they?

Strictly speaking the decision makes little difference for those who failed to tame the city giants on their own turf at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium and before their energetic fans doing all the shouting they can.

At first it appeared odd that coach Pitso Mosimane complained that the visitors played in unexpected and difficult circumstances, citing the large



Simba SC supporters cheer their club at one of recent CAF Champions League fixtures in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: SIMBA SC

crowd that had gathered at the stadium.

Many of us thought that the presence of spectators, and indeed their shouting was entirely normal, and that it was up to national authorities to decide if the health situation in the country warrants allowing spectators, or they stay away.

Basically that is what should have been the case - that admission of fans is a national issue in the sense of health situation, whether it allows for the filling of stadiums or it doesn't.

Why CAF failed to stick to that principle is what brought out sheer disbelief, when the presence of fans becomes a matter of fair play - that countries with intense COVID-19 outbreak can't allow fans to enter a stadium as this will be what United States television calls a 'super-spreader' event, so everyone should remove them! Strict fairness.

Now that countries in Europe and elsewhere have a uniform exclusion of spectators, no comparisons can be made with regard to how the principle of national decision of conditions for allowing the presence of fans can be made, as the matter has never come

up in the UEFA Champions League for that matter.

Still a principle ought to stand on its own, and the idea that when one side has fans and the opposing team can't have fans of its own in the return match is unfair play is to say the least curious.

It is a situation where the principle that is being upheld is fair play in all circumstances, not COVID-19 restrictions, to stem disease. Local commentators weren't apparently in the mood to actually discuss the matter in those parameters, more or less appearing to express regret that the directive had been issued, and in a sense they seemed to show a weakness as to why it may not be right for the decision to be taken in that manner.

Again they appeared to look at the presence of the fans in a strategic context - that their presence helps the coach to boost the morale of players, or register disquiet when a player has plainly not done the right thing, let down the team as it were.

At times this can be excessive as ex-Yanga coach made it plain and clear that the fans have the duty of supporting

the players, not criticizing them, spreading discomfort.

In that sense this admission tacitly conveys the message that CAF is finally right, as we need the fans to boost the morale of our players, and thus we stand to win if we have fans and they don't.

Someone said in a radio show that 'this cup is Simba SC's to win this year, or never,' for no apparent reason. Fact is, as far as most of us know, the Msimbazi Stret side is in the course of being remolded into an international outfit.

Why then did it stand the best chance of winning the Champions League tournament this year or it will never do so again in future - at least in the reckoning of a fairly youthful soccer pundit on radio show?

Evidently some quarters were beginning to relish in the fact that other sides have no fans allowed and local sides - Simba and Namungo FC - are backed by the fans, and they love that.

The CAF stick was thus timely, as it is ethically inappropriate to relish misfortunes of others as they stand to boost one's fortunes.



Mtibwa Sugar

## Mtibwa Sugar seek to avoid relegation to FDL

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE suspension of this season's Premier League matches has given a huge relief to Mtibwa Sugar, with the club's coach, Thierry Hitimana, stating he wants to use the break to rectify the shortcomings in his squad before the league resumes.

Mtibwa Sugar have not had good results as in 22 outings they have participated in, they have collected 24 points.

The Morogoro side has averaged one point in every clash and as a result they have collected

the 24 points and they are placed 15th in the competition standing, thus, risking relegation to First Division League (FDL).

The Premier League is temporarily suspended due to the schedule of the national team, lately preparing for the African Cup of Nations' qualifiers against Equatorial Guinea and Libya.

The national team, as well, is featuring in friendly matches against Kenya before the Premier League returns on April 6.

Coach Hitimana said in an effort to make sure

they reach their goals they gave Mtibwa Sugar players a few days off and they were, early this week, set to return to camp to continue training.

"We must use this time effectively, we expect the players to return to camp on Monday to continue with the program," he noted.

He insisted: "We are aiming at getting fit for the remaining matches so that the team can stay in the Premier League next season."

The Rwandan coach added that he is aware of the test he is facing as

the battle for avoiding relegation is very fierce so there must be a strategic plan to avoid the crisis.

Taifa Stars left for Nairobi, Kenya, last weekend to play two international friendly matches against the country's national team, Harambee Stars.

Taifa Stars had entered camp on March 8 and practiced at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam under head coach Kim Poulsen.

The Danish coach stated he will use the games to spot the team's weaknesses.

Taifa Stars will use the games to prepare for the African Nations Cup's qualifiers against Equatorial Guinea which will be played away on March 25 and the one against Libya, which will take place in Dar es Salaam on March 30.

Taifa Stars are in Group J of the AFCON qualifiers with four points.

Tunisia are the group leaders with 10 points, Equatorial Guinea are in second place with six points and Libya are trailing with three points.



# SPORT

A prison guard, a lawyer, a cobbler, and a coach walk into a club...

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## Taifa Stars need to improve in finishing, says coach



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021 Africa Cup of Nations' qualifiers. PHOTO: TFF

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen says the team must overcome failure to score goals as they face Kenya's senior national team 'Harambee Stars' in a friendly clash in Nairobi tomorrow.

The two teams had met in a first friendly at Nyayo Stadium in the city on Monday and Taifa Stars lost 2-1.

In a monitored interview, the Danish coach said he will work on scoring more goals.

"During the game, we made some defensive mistakes which cost us, but at the same time failure to score turned out to be our other challenge, an aspect we have to work on," he noted.

He said they played good attacking football in the first friendly clash and in tomorrow's game they want to continue from where the team stopped.

The coach said he expects Simba SC players to join the

team today, noting the situation will give him hope of improving all departments, namely defense, midfield and forward.

He stated: "In our last international friendly clash against Kenya, we will have a different side with different approach and hopefully we will get good results."

"We want to continue the way we played on Monday, improve the defense, midfield and attacking, we want to play our own game. Put pressure on them, play a passing game and try to create chances," he said.

The coach has no full house and

some of foreign-based players have not arrived for the camp.

Many of the foreign-based players are expected to join the team during FIFA-sanctioned period which is two to five days before an international match.

Taifa Stars are expected to play Equatorial Guinea in the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers at the end of this month.

Poulsen insisted that the mission is to see to it Taifa Stars qualify for AFCON finals for the second time in a row.

During the Monday clash, Harambee Stars posted the opener

via Erick Kapaito on the 20th minute.

Taifa Stars levelled matters 12 minutes later through Ayoub Lyanga and in the second half Hassan Abdallah netted the winner for the hosts on 59th minute.

In a previous interview, Poulsen disclosed he is happy that his squad is made up of young players and their experienced counterparts, a situation which is giving the team the much needed team balance.

Harambee Stars are coached by Jacob Mulee and they are using the friendly matches to prepare for AFCON qualifiers against Egypt and Togo.

**5 EATV WEDNESDAY**

**TONIGHT @ 7:00**

**EATV SAA 1**

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)  
14:30 Bongo Hits  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Nirvana (r)  
16:00 Skonga (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

**EATV SAA 1**  
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

**eastafrika RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Kilimanjaro to build public basketball court

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

KILIMANJARO regional authority is in the process of building a modern public basketball court to boost the game's promotion.

Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner, Anna Mghwira, made the announcement to Tanzania Basketball Federation (TBF) president, Phares Magesa, who paid a visit to the region.

Mghwira said the region will continue to work with the Kilimanjaro Regional Basketball Association to facilitate basketball activities and ensure the region has its own stadium which will be public.

"The aim is to provide opportunities for more young people to play basketball. The stadium will help street youths, secondary school and primary school students, many of whom do not have basketball stadiums, to use the public stadium to develop their talent," she stated.

Magesa also had the opportunity to speak with Moshi District Commissioner Rajab Kundya, Acting Regional Administrative Secretary, Msangila, Moshi Municipal Mayor and the city's Municipal Director who assured him of high level cooperation in developing basketball in Kilimanjaro and smoothen construction of the facility.

Moshi Municipality, the officials insisted, will be the first area to have a court and the remaining parts will too own the courts.

Magesa thanked Kilimanjaro regional leaders for their co-operation in developing the game of basketball and he called on them to fulfil construction of the public basketball court.

During the visit, which was also attended by the regional sports officer, Ishumi, and Kilimanjaro Basketball Association Chairman, John Mbanda, Magesa visited the proposed areas for the construction of public basketball stadium and some institutions with basketball stadiums.

The TBF boss asked those institutions to continue allowing basketball players to access the courts.

Don Bosco Moshi constitute learning institutions with basketball venues. The centre's Director has also allowed young people from outside the institution to use it.

The TBF boss advised them to consider improving the stadium by installing lights so that the facility can also be used for night matches.

Magesa also spoke to parents, teachers, senior players and youngsters from primary and secondary schools he met at various school grounds he visited.

He encouraged students to play basketball, focus on studies and be disciplined so that they can be successful.

He called on parents and guardians to allow their children to participate in sports especially basketball and help them buy equipment, should there be need.

## Taifa Queens to participate in international games

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national netball association (Chaneta)'s officials say senior national team 'Taifa Queens' will play international matches which will enable the country to get International Netball Federation (INF) ranking.

Chaneta chairperson, Devotha Marwa, yesterday said they are looking for INF-rated teams to face Taifa Queens, as it is the INF condition that a team should play international games so it can get ranking.

She, however, said it is difficult for Chaneta to get teams as many countries are locked due to Coronavirus which is causing havoc all over the world.

According to INF, the period of ranking starts in July and the federation said it is not good for a team to claim a world ranking if they have only played a small number of matches.

The squads, the federation stated, need to play eight international games, but if the teams play fewer games they still have a rating but without corresponding ranking.

Devotha revealed they are keeping their fingers crossed that they get an INF-rated team, which will confront Taifa Queens.

She noted: "Should Tanzania manage to be ranked on the International Netball Federation, we plan to play more than two international games



Netballers making some of squads, which featured in this season's national netball championship 'Taifa Cup', put their skills to show in one of the games in the tournament, which took place in Manyara.

with INF rated teams, but with the current COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult for us to have teams as many rated nations are locked."

"We are keeping our fingers crossed that the situation normalize soon," she said.

Due to inactivity and non-payment of membership fees to INF and Netball Africa (NA), the two bodies removed Tanzania from their rankings in late 2017.

Devotha could not say if the coun-

try paid its outstanding fees to the two bodies.

However, the country is among 12 African countries who are full members of INF.

Other African countries with the same INF membership status are Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Ivory Coast.

At that time, Taifa Queens were playing many international games and the squad was one of the top 10

ranked teams in the world.

However, according to INF, fixtures played a long time ago are a poorer guide to current form than more recent results.

Therefore past results are weighted, giving a lower weighting to earlier results.

The current INF top 10 ranked teams are Australia followed by New Zealand, England, Jamaica, South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Scotland, Wales and Trinidad and Tobago.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

