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TANZANIA

TUESDAY 2 MARCH, 2021

## National Pg 3 Held over possession of ivory tusks



## National Pg 4 Minister warns dishonest contractors



## National Pg 5 Call to visit southern tourist attractions



## Coca-Cola Kwanza donates desks worth 10m/- to Lindi school



## Govt urges Tanzanians to invest in commercial forestry farming

“The aim of being here in the exhibition is to educate most entrepreneurs on the importance of correct measurement because we need them to grow from small and medium enterprises to be in the top-level,” she said.

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# ‘Rufiji project ushers in national, regional uplift’

By Guardian Reporter

THE Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JHNPP) on Rufiji River is expected to be completed in June next year, bringing about an economic revolution in the country as well as in neighbouring countries, an expert has declared.

The 2,115 megawatts dam will be the largest by installed capacity in East Africa and among the largest in Africa comparable to Egypt's Aswan High Dam (2100 megawatts), Mozambique's Cahora Bassa Dam (2075 megawatts) and Angola's Lauca Dam (2069 megawatts).

Addressing a team of media practitioners at the project site, the resident engineer from the Tanzania Electric Supply

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Food vendors do the cooking in the open just next to the newly opened Magufuli Bus Terminal at Mbezi Luis in suburban Dar es Salaam yesterday while awaiting relocation to more suitable and convenient premises, as directed by President John Magufuli last week. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Berth no 5 launched in Dar port maritime gateway

By Francis Kajubi

COMPLETION of the Dar es Salaam Maritime Gateway Programme (DMGP), which involves the expansion and construction of new berths at the port of Dar es Salaam, will increase the amount of cargo handled by the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to 25m tonnes per day by 2025 from the current 18m tonnes. TPA Director General Desudeit Kakoko said at a ceremony to start operations of berth number five, that the port handles about 90 per cent of cargo passing in six ports countrywide. In the fiscal year 2019/20 a total of 17.5m tonnes of cargo went through Dar port, about 90 percent of the total cargo, fetching 900bn/- in revenues. At the end of the programme 25m

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## ATTRACTING INVESTMENT Page 11



# Masoud Othman Sharif appointed Z'bar First VP

By Henry Mwangonde

ZANZIBAR President Hussein Mwinyi has appointed Masoud Othman Sharif (pictured) of ACT-Wazalendo as the Isles' new First Vice President to replace Seif Sharif Hamad who died last month.

A statement from the State House in Zanzibar said the appointment of Masoud was in accordance with Article 9 (3) of the Zanzibar Constitution which requires the President to maintain the spirit of the Government of National Unity (GNU).



“By powers vested in him through Article 39(4) of the Zanzibar Constitution of 1984 and after consultations with ACT-Wazalendo, the President

of Zanzibar and chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has appointed Masoud Othman Sharif to be the First Vice President,” the statement reads in part.

Article 40 (1) of the Zanzibar Constitution 1984 as revised in 2010 requires that in case the First or Second Vice President dies, the successor would be picked within 14 days.

Maalim Seif died on February 17 and was laid to rest the following day on

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# Locust waves: Minister tells regional agency to wake up

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed concern over the performance of the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) following the arrival of a new wave of locusts in Longido and Monduli districts in Arusha Region.

Addressing journalists in Arusha yesterday, Minister for Agriculture Prof Adolf Mkennda said the arrival of the new wave was a sign that there was

“We have asked Foreign Affairs to explain to the head of this agency that we as members are unsatisfied with its performance.”

slackness in the fight against the insects by the agency.

He said his ministry has communicated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as Tanzania's envoy to Ethiopia to express the country's dissatisfaction with the agency's performance.

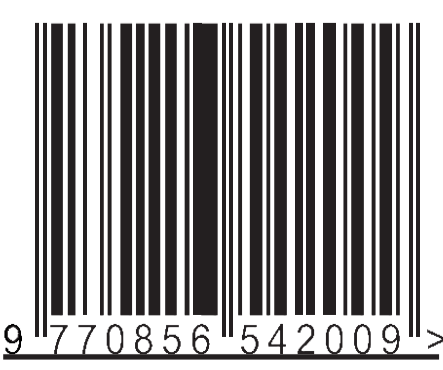
The desert locusts were first reported to have entered the country on February 19 in Mwanza District and later scattered to some parts

TURN TO Page2

We, The Medical House Limited (TMHL), are the Exclusive Distributor of SonoMask™ in East, Central and Southern African Countries. SonoMask™ is a washable and reusable face mask with zinc-oxide coating which effectively neutralizes bacteria and viruses. It has shown exceptional effectiveness in neutralizing the Covid-19 virus which has affected everyone across the world.

**BENEFITS**  
**Certified Antibacterial and Antiviral Properties** - The SonoMask™, which is protected by Sonovia's proprietary formula, displayed a 99.34% effectiveness neutralizing the SARS-COV2 virus within just 30 minutes of exposure in accordance with ISO 18184 from the internationally accredited ATCCR Testing Laboratory. The effectiveness of the SonoMask™ has been published in all major news media outlets including the Associated Press. It also provides 99.9% protection to the wearer from all bacteria.  
**Washable and Reusable** - A single SonoMask™ is reusable, and it can be washed up to 100 times without losing its anti pathogen efficiency, making it more economical than single use surgical masks and N95 masks. The mask is both machine and hand washable. It can also withstand industrial washing cycles.  
**Comfortable** - The mask has a zinc oxide coated polyester outer layer and a poly cotton inner layer which provides the wearer with adequate comfort during prolonged usage. The comfort levels are comparable to that of cotton masks and the protection levels are that of N95 masks.  
**Cost** - Since the SonoMask™ is locally assembled, its cost is significantly lower than the cost at which it is available worldwide.

**FAQs**  
**1. How does the mask work?**  
The mask is made of a fabric which has been impregnated with antimicrobial properties, effectively killing off the virus when it comes into contact with it.  
**2. What is an antimicrobial?**  
An antimicrobial product kills or slows the spread of microorganisms. Microorganisms include bacteria, viruses, protozoans, and fungi.  
**3. Has the mask been clinically tested?**  
The mask's efficacy has been proven through numerous studies for both gram positive, negative, and antibiotic resistant bacteria. During a European Commission backed R&D project a small-scale clinical trial of 37 patients with ages ranging from 23 - 86 was executed showcasing clear and significant reduction in bacterial contamination across the test group in contrast to the control group. It has proven to eliminate up to 99.34% of SARS-COV2 virus in just 30 minutes by the ATCCR Laboratory.  
**4. How long can I use the mask for?**  
The mask can be washed up to 100 times in a standard washing machine, after which the antimicrobial properties become less effective.



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## Masoud Othman Sharif appointed Z'bar First VP

FROM PAGE 1

Pemba Island.

Earlier yesterday, Dr Mwinyi hinted at issuing an important announcement to the Isles and Tanzania as a whole, when responding to concerns of journalists at a symposium to discuss communication in building the new Zanzibar.

Journalists in Zanzibar told the president that State House statements are released late, therefore denying print and television stations the opportunity to make intensive coverage on major events when they occur.

"I have heard your concerns. In that regard I have to leave here early because later today there will be an important announcement to share with you," he told the cheering members of the media.

Interviewed early yesterday, the ACT-Wazalendo party leader, Zitto Kabwe said the name of the person to succeed the late Hamad had been submitted to President Mwinyi who is the appointing authority.

"The candidate conforms with the party's criteria of advocating reconciliation and unity," he said.

Masoud Othman Sharif was for years the Zanzibar Attorney

General.

He was born at Pandani village, Wete district in the northern region of Pemba in the early 1960s, attending Pandani primary school and later the Fidel Castro secondary school in Chakechake, Pemba.

He joined the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) for a degree in law (LL.B) and returned to Zanzibar where he served in the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs as a lawyer.

He later joined the University of London and attained a master's degree (LL.M) and upon return he was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Good Governance under President Dr Salmin Amour. He later became the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under President Amani Karume, then served as Attorney General under President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein.

He was sacked from his position and expelled from the ruling party for openly canvassing for a three tier government structure during the Constitutional Assembly mid 2014, whereupon he joined the Civic United Front (CUF) and later shifted with the late Maalim Seif to ACT-Wazalendo.



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday receiving copies of credentials from the incoming Ambassador of Ireland to Tanzania, Mary O'Neil. Photos: Guardian Correspondent

## Berth 5 launched in Dar port maritime gateway

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tonnes will be handled, while the construction of berth number zero was completed and is currently being used to take in off-loaded cars, he said, noting that completion of berth number zero has facilitated a rise in the number of cars offloaded per hour from 40 to 80 cars.

"With completion of berth zero we need no cranes to offload containers but instead cars are driven directly from containers to the yard. The berth covers 320 meters and can accommodate 6,000 cars at once," while berth number five is 191 meters long.

He said that the programme is billed to cost \$421m, with around 15 per cent locally sourced and 85 per cent loaned by development partners.

"The government has injected \$64m while the World Bank and other development partners are injecting 345m," he stated.

Officiating the berth number five launch, Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho witnessed the African Finch vessels sailing at the port loaded with over 10,000 tonnes of iron bars.

"Completion of berth five means that we are

strengthening our capacity of handling large marine vessels. I am instructing the contractor to make sure that by April berth number six and seven are completed," he said.

He directed the contractor, China Harbour Engineering Co. to start developing the entrance channel of vessels at the port, meanwhile as the company must finish the construction works within 18 months - earlier than 30 months that were agreed in the contract. "Developing the entrance channel will involve deepening of the berth to 16.5 meters from the current 10.5 meters and widening the entrance to 170 meters from the current 145 meters," he said.

TPA was directed to make sure that the Inland Container Depot (ICD) site at Bwera is well organized with all stakeholders' offices being relocated at the site. Current ICD terminals located within the city will not be allowed to handle containers for upcountry regions and for transit trade but just those whose goods are destined for Dar es Salaam.

Construction of berths number 8 to 12 will be completed by June 2025, making the country a leader in port businesses regionally, the minister added.

FROM PAGE 1

of Same in Kilimanjaro Region and Simanjiro in Manyara Region.

"We have asked the Foreign Affairs ministry to explain to the head of this agency that we as members are unsatisfied with its performance. Moreover we have paid all the required fees and we are among two countries which have paid all the fees," he said.

The agency has a plane in the country but the pilot has been taken

to Kenya for no clear reasons.

He said it was not meaningful for the agency to own a plane in Tanzania which is always grounded just because the pilot has been taken to Kenya.

"We want to see this agency step up its performance because the plane was brought here to spray pesticides to kill locusts but it is not working as the pilot is not here," he stated.

The government will not hesitate to take actions against this agency

if the situation continues as it is, he declared, noting the new wave of locusts has entered the country from Kenya but the government was doing all it can to control the pests.

A huge number of locusts have been killed after being sprayed with Fenitrothion 96% ULV in various areas where they had temporarily settled, he said, elaborating that in intensifying the war against the locusts, the ministry has requested a helicopter from the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA).

"The new plane from TANAPA will help us in surveillance to identify areas where the locusts are hiding and tell us how we should go about it," he specified.

Current information warns of another group of locusts coming into the country from Machakos within the perimeters of central Kenya, with the ministry communicating with their counterparts across the border to tame the locusts before they wreak havoc, the minister added.



Minister Kabudi (R) receives copies of credentials from the incoming High Commissioner of Namibia to Tanzania, Lebibus Tangeni Tobias, in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

## 'Rufiji project ushers in national, regional uplift'

FROM PAGE 1

Co. Ltd (TANESCO), Kamugenyi Lutenganya, said the project that will generate 2,115 MW of power will open up various economic opportunities in the country as well as in neighbouring countries.

"When it starts operating this project will make Tanzania have enough power and surplus that can be sold to neighbouring countries in Eastern and Central Africa and earn Tanzania much needed foreign exchange," he stated.

He said the project

was in advanced stages of construction and the contractor is expected to finalize it in time. "This project is being executed day and night, that's why we're very optimistic that it will be completed within the projected time," he specified.

The mega project implemented by Egyptian firms - Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric will involve many features including a large dam that will also provide facilities for fishing tourism as it is located within the Nyerere National Park, he stated.

The 134 metres (440 ft)

arched, concrete dam is expected to create a reservoir lake 100 kilometres (62 miles) in length, covering 1,200 square kilometres (460 sq mi), with 34bn cubic metres of water.

Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemami described the project as an avenue for Tanzania to get more revenue from a larger number of clients with large factories and more small users.

The increase in electricity production will help the government achieve one of its major goals, to supply cheaper electricity to all regions, including rural areas.

He told the working session with the editors where TANESCO experts played a key role, that JNHPP is among strategic projects that will spur social development and push the country's industrial agenda.

The project is sponsored 100 per cent by the government and will be completed in time and to international standards, he declared, reminding the audience that it will cost 6.5trn/- from internal funds where the government continues paying the contractors. So far it has paid out 1.9trn/-, he pointed out.

Its completion will reduce

power costs to consumers and there will be surplus power for selling to neighbouring countries, especially as the cost of electricity will go down. Hydro power generation was much cheaper compared to other types of power production, he affirmed.

Dr Kalemami said by 2023 Tanzania, through its various power sources will be able to produce a total of 4,881 MW of electricity while its actual needs will not exceed 2,700MW by that time.

The project has not, and will not cause any environmental damage as the area of the project is small in the Nyerere

National Park complex, he emphasised.

"In actual fact, the dam will reduce environmental destruction as tree cutting for charcoal will be greatly reduced, hence we should be proud of the project," he remarked.

He further observed that TANESCO has been able to save 720bn/- annually that was being used to operate its 12 thermal generators in various regions.

The corporation was operating at a loss and depended on government subsidy, but due to better energy planning, the company

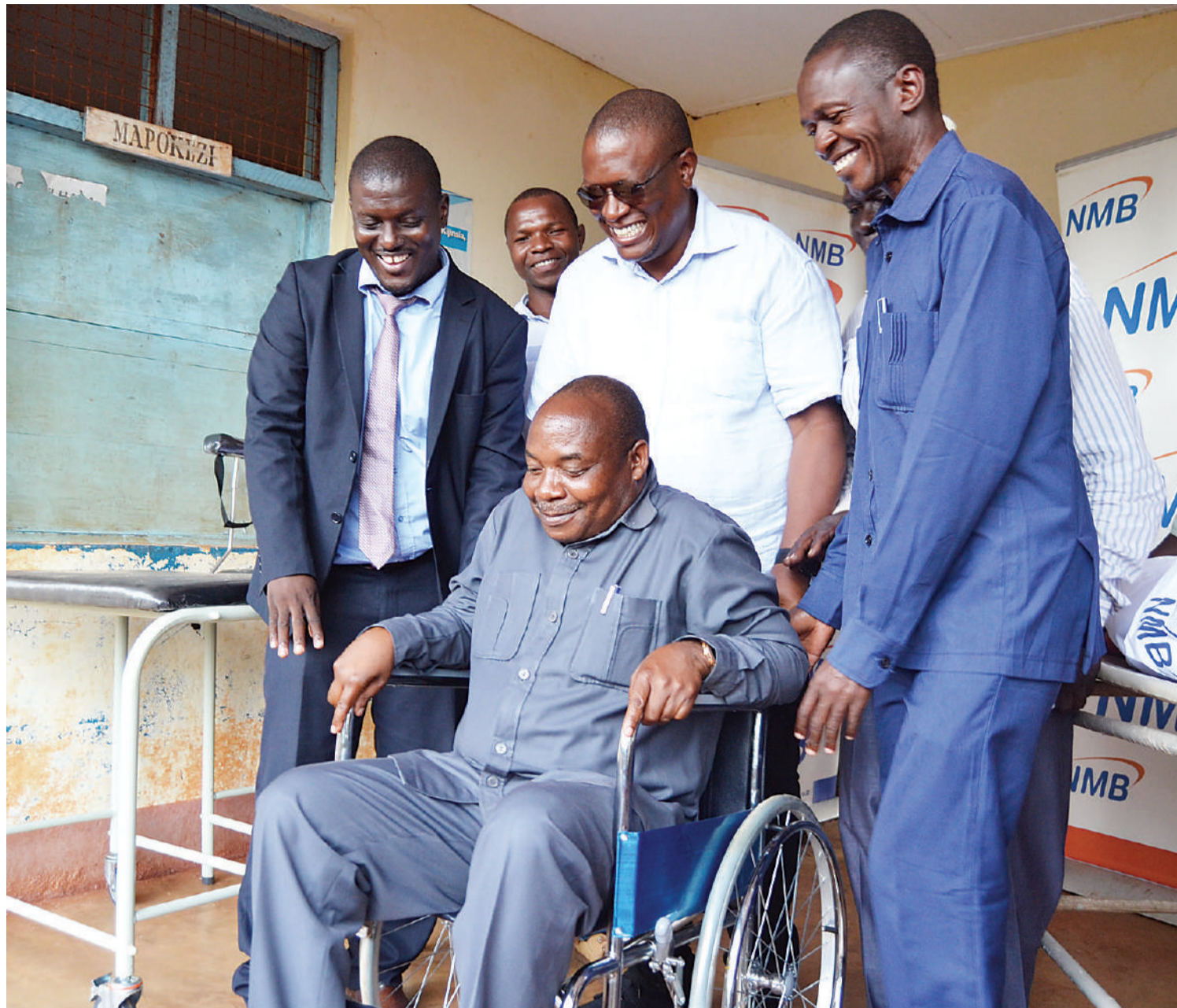
was now self-dependent after shutting down its 12 thermal generating plants.

As of now the country has 1,604MW of both hydro and gas but the real current needs stand at 1,180 MW thus leaving a surplus of more than 300MW.

"Even if the SGR project is completed, we can run it by our own electricity" he said.

Apart from electricity, natural gas for domestic use is now being supplied to 3,000 homes in Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions and 350 vehicles are now powered by gas, the minister added.





Mtama legislator Nape Nnauye (C, in glasses), NMB Bank Plc Lindi branch manager Shabani Kassali (L) and Mtama Medical Officer Dr Dismas Masulubu symbolically come to the aid of Mtama town council director Samuel Warioba (in wheelchair) at the weekend's handover by the bank of the wheelchair and various other items worth a total of 10m/- to Lindi Region's Mtama and Pangaboi health centres. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## USAID celebrates World Wildlife Day: Five years of conserving endangered ecosystems

By Guardian Reporter

ON February 25, the United States Government, through its Agency for International Development (USAID) held a live webinar to celebrate five-years of the Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania (EENT) activity for safeguarding resilient, healthy, and connected rangelands across Northern Tanzania's Tarangire/Maasai Steppe ecosystem.

The digital event, "Celebrating USAID EENT: Five Years of Conserving the Endangered Ecosystems of Northern Tanzania," highlighted successes of the project, including how it improved natural resource management for over 2.1 million acres of biologically significant areas.

"Strengthening the connectivity and ecological integrity of the northern rangelands is key to supporting wildlife and the pastoralist communities in northern Tanzania while promoting the economic well-being of the tourism and livestock sectors," said U.S. Ambassador to Tanzania Dr. Donald Wright, who opened the webinar.

USAID EENT, a five-year \$10.1 million project, was conceived to protect Tanzania's critically important northern rangelands, which stretch across 8.6 million acres, connecting the Serengeti ecosystem to the west and the Amboseli ecosystem to the east.

The ecosystem boasts the third-largest terrestrial mammal migration in East Africa (after the Serengeti and South Sudan) where wildebeest, zebra, and other wildlife move seasonally to find food and water.

sonally to find food and water.

The project contributes to securing the health and connectivity of this ecosystem at a scale that matches current threats of climate change and growing demands for resources.

As a result of the project's intervention, over 47,000 Tanzanians are deriving increased economic benefits from sustainable natural resource management and conservation. Furthermore, 46 institutions have improved their capacity to assess or address climate change risks.

As Tanzania's largest bilateral donor, the U.S. government provides substantial assistance to Tanzania and sponsors a wide range of programs across many sectors.

In just the past five years, USAID has invested \$48 million in environmental conservation.

Speaking at a virtual press briefing that took place after the webinar, USAID Mission Director Andy Karas remarked, "Tanzania's natural resources are the bedrock for the country's development; three quarters of the population depend directly on the land for their livelihoods."

These resources, which enable wildlife tourism, drive GDP growth." Karas continued, "Recognizing that the drivers of poverty and biodiversity loss are linked, USAID partners with the government and people of Tanzania to improve environmental governance and management at a landscape scale, including building the nation's capacity to reduce wildlife trafficking and poaching."

## Romanian firm donates five refuse dump trucks to Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter,

Zanzibar

THE Zanzibar Minister of state in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government and Special SMZ Institutions), Masoud Ali Mohamed has thanked Rom Souldition from Romania for the provision of five refuse dump trucks valued at Euro 160,000 provided as assistance.

During the handing over event in Unguja at the weekend, he said three of the trucks will be provided to Unguja Municipal Councils and one for Pemba, and called the beneficiaries to put the vehicles into good use.

Mohamed said: "The assistance will be meaningless if we shall fail to utilise them for the intended purposes, I beseech you supervisors to perform your duties so that our donors can see our efforts."

He added that since the issue of cleanliness was an important one there was the need to "every time make evaluation to see if there are challenges that crop up so that they can be solved, our aim is to make Zanzibar attractive is so far as cleanliness id concerned."

The minister called on officials who will be supervising the vehicles to provide positive results in the national interest.

Rom Souldition director George Alexandru said the assistance was part for their support towards Zanzibar government efforts in the issue of cleanliness.

He said his firm will continue to provide similar assistance when conditions allow, towards various sectors in order to cement cooperation and solidarity between the two sides.

# Two men held over illegal possession of ivory tusks

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

AUTHORITIES in Manyara Region are holding two people for possessing 13 pieces of ivory tusks.

The suspects were apprehended at the Moyaka village in Magara ward, Babati District following a special trap set by Tanzania's Wildlife anti-poaching unit (KDU).

Head of KDU in the northern zone Peter Mbanjoko said the suspects were arrested at the ecological area of Tarangire National Park while in the process of searching for potential customers of the trophies.

He commended officials from Tarangire, Burunge Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Chemchem Association for the job well done. He named the suspects as Benard Masalu and Yembeson Masumbuko.

"The suspects are currently in police custody and investigation is ongoing will later appear in court to face

charges," Mbanjoko said.

He said that the anti-poaching operation is endless thus warned those engaging in the illegal activity to stop doing so as the government will not spare anyone once caught.

He also warned public leaders who have been entertaining poaching in their areas by colluding with poachers to stop doing so as stern measures will be taken against them.

Chief executive officer of Chemchem Association, Walter Pallangayo said that arrest of the suspects has been assisted with the intelligence information which the task force had received.

"After receiving the information, we planned and set up a trap. Some of us pretended to be buyers and then the suspects later agreed to sell the trophies at a cost of 3.5m/-, this made the job more easy to arrest them," he said.

The Chemchem association which has invested in tourist hotels and photo

tourism in the Burunge WMA has a special anti-poaching Fund for 400m/- per year for its operations.

The Fund works closely with the WMA militias, KDU in the northern zone and Tarangire National Park paramilitaries and the Chemchem security force.

The elephant population in Tanzania, famed for its wildlife reserves, declined from 110,000 in 2009 to barely 43,000 in 2014, according to a 2015 census.

However, the government has recently reported that the numbers have now started to increase after operations dismantle organised criminal networks involved in poaching.

RTI (www.rti.org) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and multidisciplinary services.

### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TENDER No: PR-DAR-21-039

RTI International is implementing a USAID Project called the Arithmetic and Inclusive Education (AIE) Activity, this project is a USAID funded education project located at Plot #1131B Msasani Road, in between UNFPA and Uongozi Institute, Masaki, Dar es Salaam, same building with USAID Tusome Pamoja Project.

The AIE Activity is intended to effectively and efficiently integrate the work of improving the quality of early grade arithmetic instruction and improving the inclusion of early grade education for children with disabilities. The Program targets teacher and pupils in primary early grades (Standards 1 through 2) in 31 Local Government Authorities (LGAs) across four regions of Mainland Tanzania (i.e., Iringa, Morogoro, Mtwara, and Ruvuma) and 11 districts of Zanzibar.

RTI International invites all suitably qualified service providers to submit Proposals for the Sorting, Packing, Transportation and Distribution of the below listed materials to all five regions of the project's coverage.

1. Galvanized metal storage boxes.
2. Reading stand.
3. Flash drive and SD Cards
4. Nonfiction books.
5. Self-learning handout books
6. Other materials; scissors, Marker pens, A4 manila card, A1 manila cards, Glue, letter block, number block, Magnifying Glass etc.

Service provider will be selected on the basis of price, delivery time and experience of the supplier in conducting similar/related work with the procedures stipulated in the request for proposal (RFP).

To receive a complete set of RFP document in English send email to [procurement@tusomepamoja.rti.org](mailto:procurement@tusomepamoja.rti.org) expressing your interest to participate on this tender. No payment is required to receive this RFP, Bid due date is set on **12th March, 2021 10:00hrs.**

**Chief of Party, USAID Tusome Pamoja Project.**  
Head office, Plot #1131 B Msasani road, Masaki  
P.O. Box 369  
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

### INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (For Short listing of Companies/ Service Providers)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an UN Migration Agency established in 1951 and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits both migrants and society.

In the framework of humanitarian activities IOM now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Companies/Service Providers for the supply and services in different 16 Categories.

- A. Furniture and Fixture.
- B. Generator and Generator accessories.
- C. IT equipment and IT Accessories.
- D. Office Stationery, office supplies,
- E. Food and beverages.
- F. Solar Water Pumps, Solar System, Plumbing Material.
- G. Construction Material.
- H. Construction and rehabilitation companies.
- I. Electrical and Electronics equipment and accessories.
- J. Security enhancement
- K. Electric Electronic tools and equipment's
- L. Household companies
- M. Medicines and medical Supplies.
- N. Transportation Companies.
- O. Renting Vehicles Companies.
- P. NFIs [Non Food Items].

The Expression of Interest shall contain information on the following:

- a.) Range of relevant consulting services offered.
- b.) Qualification and experience of relevant professionals and technical personnel currently maintained
- c.) Track record and experience of the firm in similar assignment including list of major clients served and
- d.) Other relevant information.

The Expression of Interest shall be submitted in original and duplicate copy and should be received either by hand by IOM with the following below address on or before **22nd of March 2021**

**Procurement unit**  
IOM Dar Es Salaam Office  
Box 9270, Slipway road,  
Msasani Peninsula

**Procurement Unit**  
IOM Kasulu Sub Office  
Box 303, Kasulu Teachers Collage Road-Junction to Bongwe high school Road.

**Finance unit**  
IOM Moshi Office  
Box 6697, TRITA building-near NCCF,  
Moshi.

**IOM ARUSHA**  
East African Community Headquarters  
Box 1096  
Africa Mashariki Road  
AICC Building/ Kilimanjaro Wing  
Room no 638  
Arusha, Tanzania

Based on the above information, IOM shall draw up the shortlist of Companies/Service Providers Only Short-listed Companies/Service Providers will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

Interested vendor may obtain further information from IOM at the above office address on from 1 of March to 20 of 2021 between 9:30-12:30.

IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Expression of Interest, and to annul the selection process and reject all Expression at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Companies/Service Providers.





Simba Pipe Industries production director Jitin Pratap (R) briefs Water minister Jumaa Aweso (L) in Dar es Salaam yesterday on operations at the firm's factory, where water pipes are produced. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Fishermen call upon government to better facilities at landing sites

By Polycarp Machira, Kigoma

FISHERMEN in Lake Tanganyika have appealed to the government to improve services at the fishing landing sites to provide hygienic environment for fishing communities.

Among other things, they want the government to build cold storage rooms for them to be able to do value addition of the fish caught before selling them in the local market or export them to the global market.

Speaking at different times at Kibirizi, Muyogoza and Katonga landing sites along Lake Tanganyika, fishermen had similar plea for the government to improve facilities at the areas.

They argued that most fishermen at the lake are still grappling with the landing site problems such as sardine and fish sorting and cleaning facility, fish processing facility, sardine drying facilities, as well as fish drying and smoking areas.

Kigoma regional fishermen chairperson, Francis John noted that there is need to have modern fishing and processing facilities at all the landing sites along the lake.

John argued that fishermen are still using old fishing equipment, traditional preservation ways as well as processing that do not add any value to the fishing products.

"There is not even a single cold-room at any of the 28 landing sites along the lake, making it difficult for fishermen and traders to preserve fish before selling," he said.

The chairperson also said there is not enough drying areas for both sardine and fish, forcing fishermen to use sub-standard ways of doing the task.

He said for instance Kibirizi landing site receives between 150 and 200 fishermen during low season and between 400 and 500 during high seasons but lack of enough working space is a problem.

Khamis Juma, a fisherman at Mwakizega village in Uvinza district echoed a similar sentiment, stating that the Muyogoza landing site where he operates do not have storage and processing facilities.

"Unlike Kibirizi where there is at least ice making facility, there is nothing of that sort here and we are forced to buy from Kibirizi," he said.

Kessy Amani, a trader at the same landing sites on his part noted that after buying fish and sardines from the fishermen it becomes difficult to process them due to lack of facilities.

He said, "we appeal the government to provide modern processing and storage facilities in order to boost the ever growing fish business in Kigoma region."

## Aweso directs contractors to stop delaying water projects for lack of pipes

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Water Jumaa Aweso has directed experts and contractors to stop delaying water projects over lack of pipes as the equipment are adequately available within the country.

Aweso made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he visited Simba Pipes and Plasco pipes producing factories.

According to him, there are some dishonest contractors who have been issuing several excuses including lack of pipes thus failing to deliver the water projects on time.

He wanted the contractors to also stop importing the water pipes but rather purchase them locally as there are several factories that are now producing the equipment in high quantities.

The minister said: "I'll not

tolerate any water expert or contractor who will be found tampering with the water project over unnecessary excuses."

"I will not allow this to continue, for many years, contractors have been claiming that lack of pipes was affecting completion of water projects but now the pipes are being produced in high quantities within the country, so stop importing the pipes for

now," he insisted.

According to the minister, there are 631 water projects which are implemented in various parts of the country's rural and urban areas.

"I have visited the factories' production areas and witnessed how the pipes are produced in quality and quantity, so from now on, I will not listen to the excuses from any contractor," he added.

He said: "It is high time now for all of us to support our local industries; there is no need of importing a product which can be found within the country, the nation's industrialization drive needs our support also. We also have to ensure that by 2025, water services in rural areas should reach 85 percent and 95 percent in urban areas," he elaborated.

The minister assured the

contractors that the government will continue improving working conditions by addressing all the highlighted challenges facing them so as to support smooth implementation of water projects in the country.

Director-General of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Eng Clement Kivegalo wanted the factories to invest in quality and increase production of

the products so as to meet the supply-demand.

He said that RUWASA depends highly on the producers of the essential pipes so as to support the timely implementation of water projects in rural areas.

"The government is there to support all the industrialists to enable them to fulfill their operations well and produce quality products," he added.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA  
WIZARA YA MAWASILIANO NA TEKNOLOJIA YA HABARI  
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Balozi Dkt. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa

Hongera Dkt. Bashiru Ally Kakurwa kwa kuteuliwa kuwa Balozi na Katibu Mkuu Kiongozi.

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TANZANIA - ZAMBIA RAILWAY AUTHORITY

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

His Honour Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad

1943 2021

His Excellency Ambassador John William Kijazi

1956 2021

The Council of Ministers, Board of Directors, Management and staff of the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) in general take this opportunity to express deep sorrow and sadness at the untimely deaths of the the First Vice President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, **His Honour Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad** and the Chief Secretary of the United Republic of Tanzania, **His Excellency Ambassador John William Kijazi**.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency **Dr John Pombe Magufuli** and the President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, **His Excellency Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi**, the bereaved families and all Tanzanians, following the demise of the two leaders.

May God rest the souls of the deceased in peace.

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# Domestic tourists urged to visit country's southern areas

By Guardian Correspondent,

Songea

TANZANIANS have been called upon to see the importance of visiting various reserve areas in the southern

areas as domestic tourists in order to know various economic and trade opportunities.

The remarks were given at the weekend by the Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro

when launching the festival to mark the Maji Maji rebellion and cultural tourism at Mashujaa Stadium here.

Dr Ndumbaro, who is also Songea Urban Member of Parliament said the ministry, in collaboration with the office

of the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Ruvuma Region's Cultural and Customs Council and the TPDF have been celebrating the day every year from 25 to 27 February in remembrance to the country's martyrs who fought for the

country on February 27 1906.

He said 67 of our fighters were hanged by Germans and their graves are located at Mahenge area in Songea Town.

He said he launched the 114th Festival of the Maji Maji Rebellion and Cultural Tour-

ism for 2021, the festival, he said, goes simultaneously with various exhibitions by entrepreneurs aimed at their own economic advancement.

Earlier, the Deputy Natural Resources and Tourism Permanent Secretary Dr Christ

Lowoga while welcoming the official guest said the event has been held every year from February 25-27 and 12 years has passed since such event was started, marking 114 years since the hanging of the martyrs.

## TASAF Phase 3 to reach out to 1.4 million poor households

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

PHASE 3 of Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is expected to reach out to more than 1.4 million poor households with more than seven million people countrywide.

This was revealed by TASAF Director General Ladislaus Mwamanga when opening a six-day training to a special team of 25 facilitators from Songea and Madaba district councils in Songea at the weekend.

Mwamanga said the facilitators will be involved in the supervision in projects that would provide temporary employment to TASAF Phase 3 beneficiaries in the second round.

"These projects aim to provide employment to poor households in the second round so as to prevent the households from selling their assets to get money," he said.

He mentioned the households that will be involved in the implementation of the projects as those with people able to work aged 18 to 65 years.

Mwamanga said in the TASAF First Round a total of 9,440 projects that

were able to offer part time jobs were implemented at a cost of 1,9bn/-, out of which 83.3m/- was used to pay wages to the beneficiaries and 35.7m/- as cost of various facilitating tools.

For his part the training's facilitator from TASAF Headquarters, Frank Anthony said the aim of the training was to build capacity to teams of experts from Songea and Madaba District Councils concerning supervision, preparations and implementation and of job provision projects to the communities' level.

"After the training we expect the facilitators to go and help beneficiaries at communities' level that will show the value of the money spent," he added.

For his part, Songea District Council's Acting Executive Director, Athumani Nyange mentioned the projects already implemented as including improvement of water wells, construction of foot bridges, digging of fish ponds and establishment of tree seedling beds.

Nyange called upon the facilitators to think of profitable projects.



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja (R) leaves a Tanzania National Parks three-star hotel building under construction at Chato in Geita Region recently in the company of, among other people, Chato district commissioner Charles Kabeho. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TANePS training boosts implementation of projects in Morogoro Region - RAS

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

TANZANIA National Electronic Procurement System (TANePS) training provided by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) has

boosted the implementation of projects in Morogoro Region.

This was revealed by the Regional Administrative Secretary Emmanuel Kalobelo when he spoke to the workers from PPRA while on visit to his office.

Kalobelo said he has witnessed big positive changes

in the tender processes after officials from the region's institutions attended the training, the step that he said helped in attaining value in public procurement.

"Top say the truth, we were very much behind but after the training and beginning to use

TANePS, we are now quite well off, our projects are proceeding very well," he said.

"TANePS has reduced the paperwork expenses and numerous sittings. In addition, meeting with directly with tenderers during initial stages increased avenues of corruption

and fraud to some, unfaithful people, but as of now the system is cheat-proof. And even when they bid, they cite lower market costs as they do not know what was really within the process," he added.

The RAS thanked the government for establishing TANePS

and called on procurement institutions to make sure their officials fully participate in the training.

He also thanked PPRA for continuing to provide the training as needed, because as imperatives of the laws' increase, development projects get final-

ized in time and in quality.

PPRA's guidelines manager Castor Komba thanked RAS for his remarks and urged him to remind procurement institutions under his charge to continue facilitating their officials to attend the training.

# COVID-19-the role of wild plants in health treatment

By Guardian reporter

With a strong global spotlight on wild animal markets as a likely source of the COVID-19 epidemic, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that the biggest flows of "wildlife" in trade involve plants, not animals. There are also important conservation and health reasons to keeping a close eye on the wild plant trade sector during this global health emergency.

With the COVID-19 outbreak, the use of wild plants as herbal ingredients in the formulations for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), as well as other herbal-based products around the world, is anticipated to increase dramatically. Here, we take a look at what is known about the use of herbal ingredients in TCM in addressing the COVID-19 disease so far, and what safeguards can be put in place moving on to ensure that these and other wild plant resources are available in the long-term to support healthcare.

Approximately 60,000 plant species are used globally for medicinal purposes, of which about 28,000 have well-documented use, and approximately 3,000 species are estimated to be traded internationally, with only one-third of those known to be in the commercial cultivation. Information about the global threats to species survival is available for only 7% of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs); approximately 20% of these species are threatened with extinction in the wild based on the IUCN Red List criteria. Direct overexploitation, including for international trade, is among the key threats. For globally traded MAPs, the value of trade has nearly tripled in the past 20 years (from USD1.1 billion in 1999 to USD3 billion in 2015).

In China, plants comprise around 80% of TCM products. An estimated 30% of TCM industrial production volume is from wild plant species, accounting for 70% of the species by number. The resource base of the TCM industry is a combination of supply chains from China and from around the world. Estimating the exact figures in trade is complex. China is one of the world's leading importers of MAPs (following Hong Kong SAR, USA, Germany and Japan, based on customs trade data reported in 2015).

It is also one of the world's leading exporters

of botanical ingredients. A snapshot into the trade suggests that, in 2013, China exported over 1.3 billion kg of such material, with a reported customs value of over USD5 billion, to which wild-collected material may have contributed as much as USD1.8 billion.

### Use of wild plants in COVID-19 treatments

A combination of TCM and Western treatments is being used extensively in China to treat COVID-19 patients, with official COVID-19 treatment versions issued by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China. The efficacy of the application of herbal treatments to COVID-19 is a subject of research, for example a study that screened 125 Chinese herbal medicines with the potential directly to inhibit COVID-19, and a review of historical records and human evidence of SARS and H1N1 influenza prevention.

The current, 7th version of the treatment plan was issued on 3rd March 2020. Ten TCM prescribed formulations and 13 proprietary Chinese medicine formulations (including granules, capsules, injections) are included in the list of official recommended treatments.

More than 125 species of plants are ingredients in these formulations, including: Licorice root (*Glycyrrhiza* spp.), a species that is protected in part of its range in China, used in 11 formulations; several CITES Appendix II-listed species: *Panax* spp., and *Cibotium barometz*. Species used in more than five formulations include: *Glycyrrhiza* spp., *Magnolia officinalis*, *Scutellaria baicalensis*, *Ephedra* spp., *Armeniacia* spp., *Atractylodes macrocephala*, *Forsythia suspensa*, and *Pogostemon cablin*.

*Panax ginseng* and *Magnolia officinalis* are grade-II listed species on China's Protected species list, requiring their harvesting and trade to take place only with a permit from provincial authorities and under their oversight.

A sub-set of these plant species is likely to be sourced from the wild and come from both China and international markets, including licorice *Glycyrrhiza* spp., American Ginseng *Panax quinquefolius*, and *Cibotium barometz*.

For example, licorice root *Glycyrrhiza* spp. is used as an important TCM ingredient, "Gan Cao". The main species found in the

commercial trade of licorice are *Glycyrrhiza glabra* and *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*, which are principally sourced from Asia and the Mediterranean region. There are concerns about the conservation status of licorice species, with some threatened in parts of their range, along with many other wild-collected medicinal and aromatic plants. Commercial demand can put pressure on wild plant populations, placing them in danger of overexploitation. Evidence suggests that the growing and diversifying demand for wild licorice, as well as the entry of non-traditional harvesters into the market, has resulted in traditional, often sustainable harvesting practices being replaced by more intensive and destructive practices. This can also threaten the livelihoods of traditional collectors, who are often drawn from the poorest social groups in rural areas. However, if properly managed, licorice root can be harvested without lasting negative impacts on the population. Licorice species regenerate strongly from the roots.

In fact, licorice was one of the first products for which sustainability standards were tested in practice. The Fair Wild Standard, which certifies sustainable wild harvest using a rigorous set of criteria to demonstrate sustainability of the wild resource and equitable trade in wild species, has been applied in licorice production sites in Kazakhstan, Georgia and Spain. Licorice root extract is specifically recommended to control COVID-19 symptoms.

### Dried Schisandra berries, one of the most frequently used plant species for SARS treatment

Use of herbal-based medicines to treat COVID-19 is similar to their use in treatments for the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) disease, which have been researched since that outbreak in 2002/2003.[7] Integrated Chinese and Western medicines played an important role in the treatment of SARS in China. Among 5,327 confirmed cases, 3,104 patients received Traditional Chinese Medicine. "Current evidence shows that Chinese herbs plus Western medicine have no benefit in terms of mortality, compared with Western medicine alone. However, significant benefits in improvement of symptoms,



Dried Schisandra berries, one of the most frequently used plant species for SARS treatment

including decreasing body temperature, cough and breathing difficulties, decreasing dosages of corticosteroids, improving absorption of pulmonary infiltration and improving quality of life, were observed. Weak evidence suggests that Chinese herbs are beneficial in shortening the number of days spent in hospital. No adverse effects of Chinese herbs were observed.[8] Some of the most frequently used plants species in SARS treatments included *Lonicera japonica*, *Astragalus membranaceus*, *Glycyrrhiza uralensis*, *Atractylodes macrocephala*, *Scutellaria baicalensis*, *Angelica sinensis*, *Panax quinquefolius*, and *Schisandra chinensis*.

In the COVID-19 response, the data reported in China by the National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (during a news conference on 23rd March 2020) suggest that at the national level, 74,187 infected patients used TCM (91.5% ratio of total number of cases); in Hubei Province, 61,449 infected patients used TCM (90.6% ratio of total). From the clinical observation, the efficacy of treatment rate is above 90%.

### Is the use of herbal ingredients increasing?

While there is no clear evidence yet that an increase in the volume of trade in herbal products in China has occurred and has

been driven by COVID-19 prescriptions, this can be anticipated. This appears to be the case in other parts of the world. There are reported "rushes for traditional herbal medications" against COVID-19 in Thailand,[9] and "immune-boosting" herbal capsules promoted in India,[10] traditional herbal medicines promoted by government to take up consumption against coronavirus in Bolivia,[11] and increases in traditional remedies use in Tunisia.[12] India's Ministry of AYUSH issued a statement on "Ayurveda's immunity boosting measures for self-care during COVID 19 crisis",[13] which includes the recommendation to take Chyavanprash formula (containing a range of wild plant ingredients) daily. Recent news suggests that there is a rapid increase in the demand for traditional Chinese remedies for respiratory and other ailments in the US.[14] Shortages in the supplies of herbs coming out of China due to delays or port closures for container shipping from China can be expected. Despite these immediate increases, no systemic supply chain issues for the herbal industry have been documented so far.

### Why does it matter and what should be done?

While the origin (wild vs cultivated or harvested in China, vs imported) of most

species included in the list of recommended TCM treatments is not yet known, many species are likely to be sourced from the wild, and the use of these species to provide remedies for the COVID-19 outbreak presents a key opportunity to emphasise the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability of the TCM sector as a supplier of herbal ingredients. While current research focuses on the likely efficacy of herbal medicines to support health care, there is a lack of attention to ensuring the sustainability of supply chains, providing the herbal ingredients, in particular those sourced from the wild.

This gap applies to sourced herbal ingredients in China and abroad. Within China, recent efforts,[15] provided insights into the industrial production of TCM products, identified key gaps around the sustainability of supply chains, and provided practical solutions to address these gaps. Solutions include the application of TCM sector corporate sustainability guidelines, as well as use of international best practices such as the FairWild Standard and certification scheme for wild-harvested species. Further emerging opportunities include proactive engagement with key TCM sectoral associations and TCM manufacturers to improve/update/develop TCM production standards, and to integrate these into sustainability sourcing practices.

Beyond China, the overall Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has a TCM strategy,[16] which focuses on the rapid expansion of TCM centres for treatment of patients around the world. This offers important opportunities to advance sustainable use practices, and to build on opportunities to develop supply chains from the BRI countries (which range from Central Asia, to Nepal, to East African countries, and beyond). The "greening" of this strategy is key to ensuring the long-term survival of medicinal and aromatic plant species, which could form the basis of the medicinal formulations.

The future availability of plant ingredients to support human health is dependent on prioritising the conservation and sustainable use of their source species in the long-term. Much greater action is required on the part of private sector, governments and consumers to address the long-term availability of these species.





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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - RFP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### CONSULTANCY WORK TO DEVELOP A WHALE SHARK STRATEGY IN RUMAKI SEASCAPE AREA (MAFIA ISLAND)

##### INTRODUCTION

Whale sharks are the world's largest fish and an iconic species for marine tourism. They aggregate at a small number of coastal locations around the world, Mafia Island being the most reliable spot. Whale sharks were categorized as endangered species and are listed in the IUCN red list of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species. Their vulnerability is mainly due to slow growth where they become mature at the age of 30 years, and therefore if not well managed they may become extinct.

Since 2012, WWF has been supporting whale shark through research and conservation projects since 2012 in partnerships with Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF) and Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) which has led to Mafia becoming globally important as a "model" site to learn about whale shark biology and ecology. Awareness creation, supporting the formation of whale shark network and capacity building to fishers (Beach Management Units), boat riders, district staff and conservation groups and investors has been part WWF has also been creating awareness to the stakeholders about the importance of coordinated management of whale sharks in Mafia through the engagement of different actors such as fishers, boat riders, tour operators, tour guides, district authorities, hoteliers and other investors on the island.

##### JUSTIFICATION

Whale sharks are important source of income and employment to the local people, the Mafia District authority through tax collection as well as local and foreign tourist industry investors. Besides those benefits, Whale sharks there has been a lot of management and environmental challenges such as obvious pollution in the area, effect of microplastics on large filter-feeders, scars and injuries as a result of fishing operations by fisher's tourist boat operators. Researchers also reported that, other injuries seem to be purposive with entire fins cut off with knives. Whale sharks are sometimes encircled in ring nets which is the common fishing method in Kilindoni Bay. They tend to get out in those nets by themselves or are let out actively by fishers. In recent years, researchers have noticed bottom-set gill nets which are designed to catch large animals such as sharks and ray, and often also catch turtles.

The rationale for coming up with Mafia Island district Whale shark strategy is to improve decision making, decentralization of management and conservation of this migratory species, prioritization of conservation issues, promotion of sector management and local community programme with related conservation and development, meeting regional and international commitments while ensuring sector policies to address specific coastal resources conservation are undertaken.

Under the project which is known as "Conserving iconic whale sharks to promote livelihood options in the seascape area" WWF Tanzania intends to support the development of Whale shark management strategy for Mafia Island in order to take on board interventions that are geared to ensure sustainability of Whale shark and the surrounding ecosystem to ensure proper management, conservation and sustainability of Whale shark tourism in Mafia District. The interventions will involve investments in Management, Research and Monitoring and Educational issues.

##### THE APPROACH

In order to undertake the assignment, the following approach are proposed:

- Stakeholders workshop for consultations: The consultant will be required to undertake a consultative meeting in Mafia Island District. In this workshop, the consultant(s) will prepare a checklist of issues with regards to whale shark strategy document;
  - Engage stakeholders in formulation of vision and mission for whale shark conservation in Mafia Island;
  - Through the stakeholder's workshop, literature review and individual consultations, develop key strategic themes that will form the whale shark strategy components for conservation of Whale shark in Mafia Island District;
- Review Mafia Island strategic plan for understanding the priorities and integrating it in the whale shark strategy document;
- Review of Mafia Island District feasibility study report on Tourism for integrating in the whale shark strategy document;
- Undertake literature review for published and unpublished reports;
- Review national and international policies and regulations on whale shark management and conservation;
- Review of Mafia District community bye-laws with regards to management and conservation matters and recommend how the district can review and update them appropriately;
- Undertake individual & group interviews with whale shark stakeholders such as tour opera-

tors, tour guides, hoteliers, Whale Shark Operators Network of Tanzania (WATONET), fishers/ Beach Management Units (BMUs), local entrepreneurship groups related whale shark, conservationist (Mafia Island Marine Park technical staff), district fisheries technical staff, Marine Mega Fauna Foundation (MMF), Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), relevant NGOs/CBOs, divers, local communities (men and women, elders, opinion leaders, and other key informants) and

- Communication and monitoring and evaluation and how to mainstream them in the strategy.

Other matters to enhance the strategy:

- Identify potential whale shark partners locally and globally and suggest how Mafia Island district can benefit through partnerships (strategic partners, change inducing partners, implementing partners and collaborating partners);
- Identify opportunities and challenges (social, economic, political, environmental) and the strategic implications;
- Integration of Environmental Social Safeguards (ESSF) and Social Safeguard Tool (SST) relevant for strategy implementation and
- Any other matters as per consultant knowledge in whale shark/strategy development.

##### SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

This consultancy work will be undertaken in Mafia Island District in Coastal Region of Tanzania.

##### KEY DELIVERABLES

- Inception report. The report will have to be validated prior to launching the field phase of the assignment.
- A draft Whale shark strategy for review before the final copy
- A final Whale shark strategy report in English version
- An extract of 7 pages of the whale shark strategy in Swahili to be shared to the local community

##### TIMELINE

The duration of this consultancy work is three months (90 days) inclusive of date of contract signing. The expected starting date/month is March 25th 2021

##### REQUIRED PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT AND QUALIFICATIONS

A suitable candidate for this assignment should possess the following attributes:

- Master's Degree or PhD in marine sciences, fisheries management, natural resource management/governance, environmental/social sciences, or any other related discipline;
- Experience in development of strategy is an added advantage;
- Demonstrated high quality knowledge, skills and experience in workshop facilitation;
- Knowledgeable and aware of cultural sensitivities of coastal communities in Mafia Island district and the coastal communities
- Evidence of similar assignment previously conducted by the Consultant
- Knowledge on Environmental Social Safeguards

##### SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION DOCUMENTS (COMPULSORY)

Application from interested Consultant (s) should include:

- Letter of expression of interest;
- Technical proposal including the survey design and methodology, data collection procedure and analysis, and timeline;
- Financial proposal; and
- A detailed CV describing a consultant's preparedness, experience & expertise in conducting such consultancy/activity in his/her previous assignments and at least 3 referees.

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic breakout, mostly, staffs sare working from home, therefore, interested applicants are required to submit their electronic copies to the procurement department through the email address ([procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)). Application documents (technical proposal and financial proposal with the title of the assignment)

**Deadline for submission is 11:00 am Friday 12th March 2021**Please, send only the electronic copies to the email address provided, all applications should be addressed to:

**Secretary: Procurement Committee,  
World Wide Fund for Nature - Tanzania Country Office,  
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikochoeni,  
P.O.Box 63117 Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.  
Email: [procurement@wwftz.org](mailto:procurement@wwftz.org)**

• Evaluation will be done according to WWF Procurement Guidelines, and only successful applicant will be contacted

## 'Stigma and discrimination hamper effective HIV programming and are violation of human rights'

By Correspondent Zuwena Shame

TANZANIA will meet the global target of ending the HIV/AIDS by 2030 and if it injects enough seriousness in efforts to end stigma towards people living with the scourge, an official from the United Nations (UN) said yesterday.

Speaking during the commemoration of the World's Zero Discrimination Day in Dar es Salaam, country representative of United Nations' Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Samwel William said stigma and discrimination hamper effective HIV programming and is a violation of human rights.

William said that the government has made various efforts including amending the HIV/AIDS law which will significantly accelerate intention to meet 90-90-90 goals which aim at ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

"Global statistics shows that Tanzania is not behind when it comes to consuming ARVs. However, it is more than 30 years since we started the fight against HIV/AIDS but we fail to achieve the targets due to several challenges including discrimination based in gender, age, health situations, employment as well as religious," he said.

He said that, according to Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS) the national HIV prevalence

among adolescents and adults aged 15-49 years decreased slightly from 5.1 to 4.8 percent in two years ago but prevalence among women is higher compared to men which are 6.2 per cent versus 3.7 per cent.

"We all have responsibilities to fight discrimination. We have to ensure that our fellow living with the disease gets close support from us to enable them to be strong and contribute to the country's development," said William.

He said that the world has set its target to reach Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and in the AIDS response wants no one should be left behind in the fight which include addressing challenges facing people living with HIV/AIDS.

"In reaching this goal we must make sure that all stakeholders, starting from the government, business people, and all surrounding our societies put all efforts to reduce if not ending discrimination towards people living with HIV/AIDS," he said.

Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office- responsible for people living with disabilities, Ummu Nderiananga urged people living with HIV/AIDS to stop living in fear but rather value and accept themselves first and the society to respect them more.

She said that self-love and accept-

ance are the main reasons which will make society value and stop discrimination towards people along with HIV/AIDS in the country.

Nderiananga noted that discrimination is one of the main causes of depression to people living with HIV/AIDS thus calling on the members of the public to value them and make them participate fully in economic activities within the societies.

"Even in offices and work places discrimination is still a challenge to many people living with HIV/AIDS hence urged institutions to review their working plans and contracts especially in awareness, voluntary testing, counseling and fully corporation for those who will find affected," the deputy minister noted.

A representative from TACAIDS, Jumanne Isango said that discrimination has made the fight against HIV/AIDS costly despite the fact that the government has made a huge progress in making sure that ARVs are distributed in all health centers countrywide.

Due to discrimination, you may find some patients move or travel from one place to another, simply because they don't want to be seen taking ARVs near their homes," said Isango.



Dr Godwin Mollé (in light blue), Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, pictured yesterday presenting an avocado seedling to a resident of Rungemba in Mufindi District. Scores of other residents of the village were similarly awarded - by Rungemba Community College. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

## TMDA stresses use of state-of-the-art laboratory for testing drugs for quality

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

TANZANIA Medicine and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) has invited medical researchers, pharmaceutical manufacturers and dealers from within and outside the country to utilise its Lake Zone state-of-the-art laboratory for testing drug impurities before supplying them to the markets.

Bugusu Nyamweru, TMDA's acting head of Lab in Lake Zone said the laboratory has several modern equipment to support excellence drug testing and research activities.

According to him, the lab has a liquid chromatography mass spectroscopy (LCMS) for investigating chemistry samples in medical research whereby researchers can identify the shape of a chemical for medication purposes; the modern machine can identify the level of protein and remaining chemical in human's body.

He was addressing a group of journalists who visited the TMDA's Lake Zone Laboratory in Mwanza recently.

Nyamweru said among the advantages of the LCMS machine is that when doing research, it is able to detect even the smallest substances and amounts of chemicals in the human body.

He said through the LCMS machine, researchers will be able to identify the drug impurities and if the medicine has active ingredients; but the machine is useful for testing the level of chemicals in herbal medicines as well.

"It is better to do analysis for other chemicals which are given to animals as food substances, this will protect the health of eaters of animal products to find out if they have been contaminated," Nyamweru said.

Drug analyst from TMDA's Lake Zone Lab Lameck Kapilya said: "The lab is equipped with an apparatus called 'dissolution tester machine' in which the drug is placed within the medium in the vessels and reaching sufficient temperature, the dissolution apparatus

is operated.

Kapilya said the sample solutions collected from dissolution testing are commonly analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) or ultraviolet-visible spectroscopy (Uv-Vis).

According to him, the machine works like the human stomach that can detect the presence of active pharmaceutical ingredients in drugs and the ability of medicine in curing the human body.

"If there is any other non-living substance or organic substance that has been damaged in the human body or in medicine and in the case of research it can identify the chemical composition of the drug that needs to be processed for any treatment or activity," he said.

Kapilya added: "We look at how the medicine works in the body after the medicine arrives and what the residue appears to be and what chemical it is made of; also we want to know how much is the level of medicine entered into tissues of the human body, saliva, urine and liver."

Waridi Msumari who is a laboratory analyst from TMDA's Lake Zone Lab details that there are steps that need to be taken to determine the ability of medicine to kill bacteria.

"We do a microbiology test in medicine to identify the ability of the drug in killing targeted parasites and, for sterile products the sterility test and bacterial endotoxin tests are conducted to see if there is any contamination during their preparation," he said.

Msumari said microbiological tests are done to ensure that the community is safe by using quality, safety and products.

Assistant technician from TMDA's Lake Zone Lab Godfrey Marwa urged Tanzanians and nearby countries to use the microbiology lab for sterilization of hospital reagents, for the process of reducing microbial contamination to an acceptable "safe" level.





Water deputy minister Maryprisca Mahundi (2nd-R, foreground) pictured yesterday assisting a resident of Kabindi ward in Biharamulo District, Kagera Region, in carrying a bucket of water drawn from a newly launched tap. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Come up with new approach to promote tourist sites in Lake Victoria, deputy minister tells tour operators

By Correspondent Wilhelm

Mulinda, Mwanza

TOUR operators in Mwanza Region have been urged to join efforts and establish a special centre of tourism in the region so as to promote the sector by using potentials available in Lake Victoria.

Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Mary Masanja made the call here over the weekend when addressing reporters on the development of the tourism sector in the country.

She said that with the centre, businesspersons can gain more profit as well as creating employment opportunities and therefore help to fight poverty among

people including raising national revenue.

The deputy minister noted that centres can help tourists visiting Serengeti National Park to easily cross to Burigi-Chato National Park and Rubondo National Park via Lake Victoria.

"A lot of tourists from various countries like to come to Tanzania to visit various attractions including Serengeti and Saanane National Parks, so by having the centre, tourists can also spend time to learn more and buy products from Lake Victoria. Therefore that move can help to push forward the development of the industry.

She pointed out if properly promoted to a big extent tourism industry can em-

ploy as many people in the country due to a lot of tourist attractions that are available.

In that regard every Tanzanian should be an ambassador to advertise tourist attractions found in the country to promote the sector so as to attract a big number of visitors, she said.

Masanja said that now many youths do not have jobs and are waiting for the government to employ them but there are a lot of opportunities in the tourism industry which young people can grab and produce enough income.

She also appealed to the people to visit the tourist attractions to boost local tourism, noting that tourism is not meant for foreigners only.

## UN forum unveils wonders' of artificial intelligence, other science, technology and innovations for Africa

By Special Correspondent

AFRICA could expand its economy by a staggering \$1.5 trillion dollars, by capturing just 10 per cent of the speedily growing artificial intelligence (AI) market, set to reach \$15.7 trillion by 2030.

Vera Songwe, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), made the argument Thursday.

She was addressing several ministers and other participants at the third Africa regional science, technology and innovation forum (ARSTI2021), through the director of the technology, climate change and natural resource development division of ECA, Jean Paul Adam.

"AI growth can help in creating additional high value and decent jobs, diminish poverty, increase the productivity of firms, preserve the environment and foster better living conditions," she added.

"Research has shown that AI has the potential to solve some of the most pressing challenges facing Africa and drive sustainable development in agriculture, health, infrastructure, financial and public services and climate change," Songwe maintained.

ECA's Executive Secretary said the Republic of Congo, which is hosting the Forum in situ in Brazzaville and online, finds itself in a special sub-region, blessed with natural capital, such as huge forests.

However, these forests have been disproportionately depleted, in comparison to those of other parts of the world, partly due to climate change.

Artificial intelligence, she argued, could enhance already existing technologies which have been used to tackle COVID-19, to solve such climate change problems.

The imminent creation of an African Artificial Intelligence Research Centre in Brazzaville, Congo, with support from ECA, could give momentum to this new movement in Africa.

Léon Juste Ibombo, Congo's Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Economy, praised ECA for its background work towards establishing the Centre, which, he said, "demonstrates Africa is innovative and uninhibited."

The Centre is being designed to improve the current landscape of Artificial Intelligence research in Congo and in Africa in general, to orient the use of AI to foster economic and social development, while promoting close collaboration between academia and

the industrial sector in AI and robotics across Africa.

According to Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, it is such investments and strong partnerships for capacity building in science, technology and innovation which would accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

"Innovation cannot be decreed; it is planned and designed!" enthused Arlette Soudan-Nonault, Minister of Tourism and Environment of the Congo.

"Africa therefore has no excuse to be absent from the big rendezvous of innovation, which defines the 21st century," she warned, adding that university dons, economists and industrialists must come together to lead today's leaners into this exciting world.

In such a world, "the STI that we teach will determine what our continent will become," echoed - Amon Murwira, Minister of Higher and Tertiary Education, Innovation, Science and Technology Development, Zimbabwe.

"Our industry must emerge from our classrooms and laboratories," supported by the correct educational system design and framework which no longer teaches students about "where they get things but how to make things," he insisted, as he cited his country's 'Education 5.0' philosophy. The philosophy is sequenced on (i) teaching, (ii) research, (iii) community outreach, (iv) innovation and (v) industrialisation.

It is therefore up to Africa to take up this challenge of rapidly improving investments and attention to STIs, hinged upon its endowments in nature and biodiversity - "our surest guarantee" - said Parfait Aimé Coussoud Mavoungou, Minister of Scientific Research and Technological Innovation of Congo, and incoming Chair of the Forum.

ARSTI2021 features several debates and breakout sessions to follow-up and review of progress made since the first two sessions of 2109 and 2020.

It has also featured an innovation bootcamp for young Africans, both in person in Brazzaville and connecting from across the continent and affording them an opportunity to develop projects using skills they have learnt in relation to robotics and AI, as well as access to 3D printing technologies.

By the time the Forum rounds off on Friday, it would have identified potential mechanisms and measures that African countries could deploy to leverage STIs for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aspirations of Agenda 2063.

## Climate change at top of global security agenda

By Special Correspondent

PRESENTED as the greatest threat ever encountered by humankind in contemporary history, climate change is particularly affecting Africa. The phenomenon exacerbates conflicts and threatens food security on the continent, which has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions. African leaders attending the UN Security Council's high-level segment on climate and security on February 23rd, 2021 said that climate change has become one of the main drivers of insecurity in Africa.

Global warming is increasingly emerging as one of the causes of conflict in Africa. The United Nations (UN) is aware of this and, even more so, the members of its Security Council, who have just organised a high-level debate on the relationship between climate and security. The videoconference exchanges discussed the serious climate-related security risks in Africa, particularly in West Africa, Somalia, Darfur, the Sahel, Mali and the Lake Chad Basin. "In my country, we live in permanent insecurity, due

to many factors that put Sudan at the top of the list of climate vulnerability," said Nisreen Elsam, Chair of the United Nations Youth Advisory Group.

In the same vein, Kaïs Saïed, the President of Tunisia, recalled that Security Council Resolution 2532, adopted on July 1st, 2020, confirmed that insecurity can be caused by a multitude of factors, and not only by armed conflict. One of these factors is the aggravation of poverty and resource scarcity resulting from climate change, particularly in Africa, where its effects are particularly severe.

Indeed, where global warming dries out rivers, reduces harvests, destroys critical infrastructure and displaces communities, it also exacerbates the opportunities and risks of conflict. A study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute found that 8 of the 10 countries hosting the largest multilateral peace operations in 2018 were in areas highly exposed to climate change.

Speaking in turn, the UN Secretary-General called on member

states to forge deep partnerships within and beyond the UN system to mitigate the acute climate impacts on food security, natural resources and migration patterns that fuel tensions between countries and regions.

"The poorest - those with the least security - will certainly suffer. Our duty at this time is certainly to do everything we can to help those who are most at risk," says Guterres. He urged donors and multilateral and national development banks to increase their support for climate financing by 50 per cent.

"Developed countries must also fulfil their commitment to channel 100 billion dollars a year to the South. A commitment they did not keep by 2020," he acknowledged.

The UN Security Council has been holding high-level debates on the link between climate and security since 2007.

The institution is now in its fifth such meeting, while some leaders continue to question the claim that the relationship between climate and conflict is causal, pointing instead to political and economic factors.



### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LUBRICANTS TO GGML AT GEITA MINE SITE

#### I. INTRODUCTION

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

The Company is in the process of sourcing Lubricants and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below product.

#### Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01119	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LUBRICANTS TO GGML

#### II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage %)	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION &amp; TERMS OF TRADE</b>	<b>5%</b>
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 1 reference from the applicant's banker regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
<b>SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS</b>	<b>5%</b>
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
<b>PAST EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>5%</b>
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
<b>TECHNICAL CRITERIA</b>	<b>75%</b>
Provide evidence that lubricants meet the most major OEM's lubricants specification (ISO standard)	15%
Provide evidence of an experienced manpower compliment and facilities provide vendor held inventory and the required site services	15%
Details of the approach to be adopted to ensure that lubricants supply to Geita Gold Mine will not be disrupted	15%
Proof of transportation and logistics chain for the supply of lubricants Geita Gold Mine	15%
Details of the Environmental and Safety Management Systems	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER(GGME01119) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at Tenders@AngloGoldAshanti.com not later than 12:00 P.M Mid-day 10th March 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

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TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2021

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

## Sustainable soil, land management vital in addressing climate change

SOIL is a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids, and organisms that together support life. Earth's body of soil, called the pedosphere, has four important functions: as a medium for plant growth; as a means of water storage, supply and purification; as a modifier of Earth's atmosphere and as a habitat for organisms. All of these functions, in their turn, modify the soil and its properties. Soil is also commonly referred to as earth or dirt; some scientific definitions distinguish dirt from soil by restricting the former term specifically to displaced soil.

Sadly, it is our ignorance about the importance of soil and the degree to which we take advantage of all that it offers that have led to a drastic reduction in its quality the world over. These are precisely the problems World Soil Day aims to battle, as few things could be more important to us, the inhabitants of Planet Earth, who could never hope to survive without the land.

Soil is one without a doubt of the most significant parts of the ecosystem, contributing to our food, water and energy and playing an important part in reducing the impact of climate change. For all of these reasons, it's high time World Soil Day became known to more people than just scientists concerned about the welfare of our planet.

In 2002, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) made a resolution proposing the 5th of December be World Soil Day in order to celebrate the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system and as a vital contributor to human well-being. 2015 was also declared to be the International Year of Soils in hopes of raising as much awareness as possible about the enormous role soil plays in food security. Unsurprisingly, so far it's mostly been the global community of 60,000 or so soil scientists

who have been the ones celebrating the day the most.

The chances of us ordinary folk exchanging 'Happy Soil Day' cards in the near future remain minimal, but that doesn't mean we can't learn to appreciate the important roles that soil plays in our lives (even if it is darn hard to scrub off the carpet when your nearest and dearest feline friends leave muddy footprints on their way to the kitchen).

The best way to celebrate this day is to do exactly what scientists the world over so badly needs to: educate ourselves. An enormous amount of damage is done to the planet every year due not to ill will, but to ignorance—many of us simply do not know enough about the earth to know when we are damaging it, sometimes irreparably. As it turns out, there are a number of things we regular people can do that can greatly help the soil we live off of remain in good condition. For example, we can plant a rain garden. For those of you who may not know what a rain garden is, it's a shallow depression in the yard or garden rainwater can easily flow into, which helps reduce soil erosion.

It is also a good idea to reduce the amount of surfaces such as driveways and patios to a minimum, as water flowing over them gains momentum and causes more erosion than it normally would once it reaches the soil. If you absolutely must have that patio, you could consider having it built with paving stones so rainwater can flow directly downward into the soil instead. Another simple way you could go about conserving soil (and in this case, water as well) is to have a rain barrel placed somewhere where it can collect rainwater flowing off your roof, which you can then use to water your lawn. Whatever you decide to do, remember that even the smallest gestures can make a big difference to Mother Nature!

## Good governance remains crucial for Africa to see fast development

TANZANIA'S economy has been one of sub-Saharan Africa's top performers last year. Economic activity in 2019 has expanded at a brisk pace on the back of subdued global oil prices and large-scale infrastructure investment, despite sluggish growth in agriculture as a result of unfavorable weather conditions.

Overall, Tanzania ranks 139 out of 189 economies in "Starting a Business" as per the Ease of Doing Business Report, 2016. Poor access to finance, corruption and inadequate infrastructure are seen as the largest barriers to doing business. In his regard the government named these sectors as some of the main focus areas in the 2021/22 budget. Global economic growth declined to 2.9 per cent in 2019, down from 3.6 per cent in 2018. Trade policy uncertainty, geopolitical tensions and idiosyncratic stress in key emerging market economies continued to weigh on global economic activity - especially manufacturing and trade.

The COVID-19 pandemic is inflicting damage across global economies as lockdowns and widespread closures stifle economic activity. As a result of the pandemic the global economy was projected to contract by 3 per cent in 2020.

In the base case scenario, which assumes the pandemic fades in the second half of 2020 and containment efforts are

gradually unwound, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects global economic growth to rebound to 5.8 per cent in 2021.

Despite this, Tanzanian's continued investment in infrastructure is expected to drive demand for credit as well as to have positive linkages to employment. In particular Tanzania's ports industry will be a key driver of growth, amid ongoing efforts to improve services and expand capacity. With this in mind the government has committed to a tighter

fiscal policy marked by plans to reduce civil service overheads, postpone several infrastructure projects and crack down on tax evasion.

However, one cause for concern is the government's sizeable fiscal deficit, which could become more pressing going forward due to a projected fall in aid inflows and volatile global financial markets. In order to address this issue, the government outlined preliminary budget plans, promising to improve revenue collection and moderate government spending increases.

Africa's track record of governance since independence is, at best, mixed. Despite the moderate socio-economic and political progress made since independence, only a few countries have improved their performance relative to those in other parts of the world, and these are mostly recent developments confined to some of the smallest countries on the continent.

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## Coronavirus proves need for free healthcare for all - now

By Adamu Lawal Toro

By Winnie Byanyima

The multi-layered crisis of the coronavirus epidemic has been a dramatic shock to everyone. But, to communities affected by HIV and AIDS, the crisis has not only brought a further shock to already vulnerable people, it has brought other reactions too - a troubling sense of déjà vu, and a passionate, empathetic, fierce solidarity with all those affected by coronavirus.

No two pandemics are the same. All require a specific, tailored, response. But we also have a duty, when dangerous, unjust and unsustainable structural weaknesses are exposed by one pandemic, left unresolved, and then jeopardize the fight against a second pandemic, to ensure that we don't wait for the third.

Everyone involved in the fight against AIDS is determined to do everything we can to support all those affected by the coronavirus epidemic. We are by your side. We waited years for many of the breakthroughs we fought for, and we are still waiting for many others; we refuse to let leaders make you wait in this new crisis as they have made us wait. The time to fix the rips in our social fabric is now.

The HIV community has joined the emergency response in solidarity with those affected, and has joined too in insisting that leaders recognize that healthcare is a public good - that the health of each of us depends on the health of all of us.

Healthcare must be provided to all, free of charge, funded by public revenue. Quality health care is a human right, not a privilege, and should never depend on how much money you have in your pocket.

Governments must provide publicly funded health care for all people, through progressive tax systems in which everyone, including the super-rich and large corporations, pay their fair share. Public health systems must deliver services that reach people most in need.

As part of this, governments must support services which are community-led AND publicly-funded. Cutting-edge medicines and health care must be delivered affordably and to scale, to everyone no matter where



they live.

User fees are false economy and a grave injustice - they are a tax on the sick that increases mortality and morbidity, and exacerbates poverty and inequities.

Decades of experience have shown that these charges deter people, especially low-income households, from using the health services they need, deepen poverty, and are highly inefficient and regressive ways to finance health care.

Their most obscene incarnation sees, in several countries, hospital wards turned into debtors' prisons of patients chained to their beds until their families sell assets or borrow from money-lenders to release their loved-ones.

Even in other, more "moderate", incarnations user fees see families bankrupted or left landless and powerless by the costs of care, and people left to die because they can't afford the fees. Three people every second are pushed into extreme poverty from paying for healthcare. Charging for healthcare does not only hurt those directly affected - it puts all of us at risk. COVID-19 won't be stopped if some people can't afford testing or treatment.

As (former UN Secretary-General) Ban Ki-Moon noted in January, before this epidemic exploded: "Out-of-pocket health spending has been rising, meaning that more people are being impoverished because of health costs.

This not only undermines achieving universal health care, it is also a threat to global health security. High private health spending also inhibits progress towards other Sustainable Development Goals including eliminating poverty, reducing inequality and achieving gender equality."

After the horrors of World War II, several European countries and Japan introduced universal health care. After the financial and AIDS crises hit, Thailand

did. All these universal health coverage (UHC) reforms delivered massive health and economic benefits to the people.

Now, in this crisis, leaders across the world have an opportunity to build the health systems that were always needed, and which now cannot be delayed any longer.

Countries don't have to be rich to provide free health care for all - as Sri Lanka has long shown. And the impact from removing fees is proven and profound. Jamaica saw improved access to health services among children and teenagers after it changed its policy on user fees in 2007, with the poorest people benefiting the most.

Sierra Leone showed that even in fragile settings, fee removals, properly planned and implemented, improve health systems and protect the vulnerable.

But globally the pace of progress is much too slow, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is testimony that financial leaders have underestimated the economic risks of low investments in equitable health.

In addressing the current crisis, one major practical action that leaders can implement immediately is to launch truly universal, publicly-financed health care reforms to cover their entire population - not only for COVID-19 services but for all services.

This would cost around 1-2 per cent GDP in the short-term, not enormous compared with some of the massive fiscal stimulus already being planned.

The international community too has a profound moral obligation, and collective self-interest, in backing the expansion of universal healthcare by supporting moratoriums on debt repayments to free up resources of developing countries to invest in their healthcare systems.

As the UN Secretary-General has urged

leaders to remember, "we are only as strong as the weakest health system in our interconnected world."

Bilateral donors and international financial institutions including the World Bank and IMF should also offer grants - not loans - to address the social and economic impacts of the pandemic on the poor and most vulnerable groups, including informal sector workers and marginalized populations.

Most low-income countries are already highly indebted; it is immoral to push them to take more loans to fight an existential threat that the whole world is facing. A broad and equitable debt relief process is urgently needed not only to respond to the COVID-19 crisis but to shorten the recovery period and create conditions for growth.

Before Coronavirus hit, defenders of the unfair and unsustainable status quo in health claimed that the current patchwork, fragmented and wealth-based system worked just fine. But the damage of that system has now been exposed to everybody. Health for all is central to resolving this pandemic.

The best time to provide health for all has already passed. And the second-best time is now.

Winnie Byanyima was appointed as the Executive Director of UNAIDS by the United Nations Secretary-General on 14 August 2019 assumed her functions as UNAIDS Executive Director on 1 November 2019. She was Executive Director of Oxfam International since 2013. Prior to that, she served for seven years as the Director of Gender and Development at the United Nations Development Programme.



# One year into pandemic, sky begins to clear over US economy

SAN FRANCISCO/WASHINGTON

**D**ESPITE the U.S. economy's near miss with a depression last year and an ongoing coronavirus pandemic that has brought travel to a virtual halt, Jeff Hurst, the chief executive of vacation rental firm VRBO, sees a boom on the horizon.

"Every house is going to be taken this summer," Hurst said, as the expected protection from vaccines arrives in step with warmer weather, unleashing a cooped-up population with record savings stashed away. "There's so much built-up demand for it."

That sort of bullish sentiment has increasingly taken root among executives, analysts and consumers who see the past year of comparative hibernation - from the government-ordered business closings last spring to continued risk avoidance by the public - giving way to a cautious re-emergence and green shoots in the economy.

Data from AirDNA, a short-term rental analytics firm, showed vacation bookings through the end of March, which traditionally coincides with college spring breaks, are just 2% below their pre-pandemic level. Employment openings on job site Indeed are 4% above a pre-pandemic baseline. Data on retail foot traffic, air travel and seated diners at restaurants have all edged up.

And economists' forecasts have risen en masse, with firms like Oxford Economics seeing a "juiced-up" economy hitting 7% growth this year, more typical of a developing country.

In a symbolic milestone, Major League Baseball teams took to the field on Sunday, as scheduled, for the first games of the spring training season. Crowds were required to observe social distancing rules and limited to around 20% of capacity, but MLB has a full schedule penciled in following a truncated 2020 season that did not begin until July and saw teams playing in empty stadiums.

## DEPRESSION DODGED

As of Feb. 25, about 46 million people in the United States had received at least their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine - still less than 15% of the population and not enough to dampen the spread of a virus that has killed more than half a million people in the country, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The emergence of coronavirus variants poses risks, and a return to normal life before immunity is widespread could give the virus a fresh foothold.

Nor is optimism global. The European short-term



**A basketball net hangs at a recreation center as patients receive their boost dose at a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) community vaccination event, as the vaccination rate in West Virginia ranks among highest in world, in Martinsburg, U.S. (File photo)**

rental market, for example, is suffering, with tens of thousands of Airbnb offerings pulled. Up to one-fifth of the supply has disappeared in cities like Lisbon and Berlin, as owners and managers adjust to a choppy vaccine rollout and doubts about the resumption of cross-border travel.

In the United States, the vaccine rollout and a sharp decline in new cases has produced an economic outlook unthinkable a year ago when the Federal Reserve opened its emergency playbook in a terse promise of action and Congress approved the first of several rescue efforts.

The fear then was years of stunted output similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s, while some

projections foresaw millions of deaths and an extended national quarantine. Instead, the first vaccines were distributed before the end of 2020, and a record fiscal and monetary intervention led to a rise in personal incomes, something unheard of in a recession.

"We are not living the downside case we were so concerned about the first half of the year," Fed Chair Jerome Powell told lawmakers on Wednesday. "We have a prospect of getting back to a much better place in the second half of this year."

## 'ROCK ON'

U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest measure of economic output, may top its pre-pandemic level this summer, approaching the

"V-shaped" rebound that seemed unrealistic a few weeks ago.

That would still mean more than a year of lost growth, but nevertheless represents a recovery twice as fast as the rebound from the 2007-2009 recession.

Jobs have not followed as fast. The economy remains about 10 million positions short of where it was in February 2020, and that hole remains a pressing problem for policymakers alongside getting schools and public services fully reopened.

It took six years after the last recession to reach the prior employment peak, a glacial process officials desperately want to shorten.

While recent months have seen little progress, the outlook may be

improving. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in mid-February the country had a fighting chance to reach full employment next year.

It may take more than vaccines, however. Officials are debating how fully and permanently to rewrite the rules of crisis response - and specifically how much and what elements of the Biden administration's proposed \$1.9 trillion rescue plan to approve.

Fiscal leaders last year cast aside many old totems, including fear of public debt and a preoccupation with "moral hazard" - the bad incentives that generous public benefits or corporate bailouts can create. For Republicans, that meant approving initial unemployment insurance benefits that often exceeded a laid-off worker's salary; for Democrats, it meant aiding airlines and temporarily relaxing banking regulations.

It worked, and so well that an odd consortium of doubters has emerged to question how much more is necessary: Republicans arguing help should be aimed only at those in need, and some Democrats worrying that so much more government spending in an economy primed to accelerate may spark inflation or problems in financial markets.

If the outlook is improving, however, it's in anticipation that government support will continue at levels adequate to finish the job.

"Rock on," Bank of America analysts wrote in a Feb. 22 note boosting their full-year GDP growth forecast to 6.5%, an outcome premised on approval of \$1.7 trillion in additional government relief, "unambiguously positive" health news, and stronger consumer data. Given all that, "we expect the economy to accelerate further in the spring and really come to life in the summer."

And the view back at VRBO? In most prime vacation spots, Hurst said, "You won't be able to find a home." **Agencies**

# Year of Ox Spring Festival signals persisting recovery

By Chu Daye and Zhao Yusha

**R**OBUST consumption during the Year of the Ox Spring Festival holidays, with crowded cinemas and scenic sites seen across the country amid a stay-put policy introduced to ward off a possible winter spike of COVID-19, again validated strong consumer confidence in the world's second-largest economy, analysts said.

The brisk, but most importantly, stable performance of retail sectors for the Spring Festival holiday season, which began on February 11 and wrapped up on February 26th is seen as a good sign for economic performance for the first quarter as well as for the whole year by economists.

The 2021 Spring Festival performance came as entirely different to that of the 2020, when the country implemented strong and strict measures after the virus' flash outbreak with maximum effects, effectively sealing off the catering, cinema, tourism and transportation sectors.

During the weeklong holidays, key retail and catering enterprises nationwide posted combined sales revenue of 821 billion yuan, up 28.7 percent year-on-year, the Ministry of Commerce said on Wednesday.

Chinese tourists showed more interest in nearby destinations. In Beijing, there was a 730 percent increase in the number of in-city sightseeing, at 4.91 million, Beijing municipal tourism authorities said on Wednesday.

Parks and winter sports venues in China's cosmopolitan cities witnessed dense crowds unseen in other years and cinemas filled up with people seeking a pastime.

China's box-office revenues in the seven days of the Spring Festival holidays reached 7.5 billion yuan (\$1.16 billion) as of Wednesday, according to real-time data from ticket platform Denga showed.

Online sales were brisk with the Chinese express delivery sector having delivered 365 million parcels in the first five days of the weeklong holidays, up 224 percent over the same period last year.

China's transportation sector handled 77.24 million passengers during the first six days of the Spring Festival holidays, including 17.47 million railway trips and 54.82 million road trips.

## Bullish consumption

In response to government advice to "stay put" and avoid gatherings, many people chose to celebrate the most important festival in the towns and cities where they habitually live and work instead of going back to their hometown for family reunions - the true essence of this special festive season. Services catering to lifestyle in cities saw increased prices and new features were added to the most important holiday which usually revolved around family reunions.

Lian Ping, head of Zhixin Investment Research Institute, estimated that between one-quarter and one-



**Moviegoers watch Detective Chinatown 3 at a cinema in Taiyuan, North China's Shanxi Province on the first day of the Year of the Ox. File photo**

third of migrant workers heeded the calls to stay in the cities and shun holiday travel.

"On the first day of the Lunar New Year, I found through an app that all the cinemas near me only have one vacant seat! It is bizarre but also understandable," a Beijing resident surnamed Shan told the Global Times on Wednesday. Shan noted that movie ticket prices soared and so had prices for personal care services such as manicures.

On-demand delivery platform Dada said Wednesday that orders where the sender and the receiver are not in the same city doubled from last year as people sent gifts to family and friends in rural areas. Many of those sending orders were generated in South China's Guangdong Province, a manufacturing base with a large number of migrant workers.

Sending Lunar New Year gifts moved from the virtual world onto the cloud, according to Dada, with general items sales up 190 percent between February 4 and Tuesday and items such as congee and milk powder for the elderly particularly trending.

According to online takeout platform Eleme.com, takeout orders for hot pot and milk tea increased by over 200 percent this year.

There was also a 60 percent increase in the sales of gastrointestinal drugs and a 150 percent increase in sales for hangover remedies, Eleme data showed, as Chinese people would choose to eat rich food at dinner parties during the holidays.

As consumption contributes about 65 percent of China's economic growth, some believe robust holiday sales bode well for the world's second-largest economy in the coming months, paving the way for good first

quarter data and that of the whole year.

In less than five months, Chinese people were able to check on the barometers of retail sales on four occasions - the weeklong National Day holidays in October 2020, the Double 11 online shopping festival on November 11, 2020, the New Year holidays and the just-concluded Spring Festival holidays, noted Cao Heping, a professor at the School of Economics at Peking University.

"Each reading reassures confidence in a recovering Chinese economy," Cao told the Global Times on Wednesday.

As one of the most important shopping seasons, the Spring Festival Golden Week holidays saw sales revenues topping 1 trillion yuan for the retail and catering sectors in 2019, one year before the virus struck. The country also received 415 million tourists during that period.

In 2020, the sudden outbreak of the virus and China's containment measures resulted in a 20.5 percent year-on-year drop in retail sales for January and February.

## Safe holidays

Wearing facial masks and observing social distancing became a new normal all over China during the festival season. People who still traveled were subject to a slew of virus prevention measures, such as needing a valid nucleic acid test and temperature checks, as well as health observation.

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases within China had slowed to a trickle before the festival with no local cases for several consecutive days. Only one new local case was reported on Monday in Shijiazhuang, a city that just recovered from a COVID-19 outbreak.

"Those imported cases and the single local case pose no threat to China. If no more local new cases are reported in the next 14 days, we can claim victory for our Spring Festival's strict virus prevention measures," Wang Guangfa, a respiratory expert at Peking University

First Hospital, told the Global Times on Wednesday.

The sporadic outbreaks in Northeast China and North China rang bells for the country, so people still stay vigilant during the festival, and those virus prevention measures were implemented effectively, Wang said.

An employee from the disease control department of Wuhan, in Central China's Hubei Province, who requested anonymity, told the Global Times that even during the holidays, he and his colleagues were patrolling places like restaurants, food processing factories and nursing houses to see if they were taking sufficient measures to prevent contagion. Moreover, they stepped up efforts to examine imported cold-chain products.

"Under no circumstances will we let our guard down, especially during Spring Festival. We needed to make sure everyone had a happy and safe holiday," said the employee.

Chen Hong, a Chongqing resident, told the Global Times that she did not visit her relatives at their homes this year, instead, they communicated via video call. Coming from Shanghai - about 1,700 kilometers apart - to celebrate the festival, Chen said the community workers in her home in Chongqing asked for her temperature reading twice a day, and her health condition every day.

"I am not bothered at all. If anything, I sympathize with those community workers. They are sticking to their posts during a time of family gathering," Chen said.

Wang said that it is Chinese people's awareness and the government's swift and scientific response to virus prevention that have helped to quell all the sporadic outbreaks.

"We have accumulated abundant experience after the lesson learned in Wuhan, and I believe other countries, which are still experiencing the coronavirus onslaught, should learn how China has put the viral spread under control, even during the most important Spring Festival," Wang said.

## Impact to 1st quarter growth

Largely owing to the government's drastic measures to contain the virus, China's economic rebound has accelerated, with the country's total GDP reaching 101.60 trillion in 2020.

Given the low base effect recorded in the first quarter of 2020, when China's GDP contracted 6.8 percent, economists are bullish over the first-quarter growth in 2021.

Lian told the Global Times on Wednesday that first-quarter growth could be 12-14 percent year-on-year.

"Fresh data paints a rosy picture for first-quarter performance, and they suggest the general trend of a recovery that started from second quarter of last year will continue to persist, though to some extent mitigated by the recurring epidemic in January," Lian said, noting that large-scale social gatherings and rural area consumption are affected.

Cao said given the stable retail sales, exports and investment data, first quarter GDP could land at about 8 percent annual rate while a reading of over 10 percent is also "highly likely." **Global Times**



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

## Gender equality is our captain for sailing to green &amp; just recovery

NEW YORK

**T**HE climate crisis doesn't stop for anyone or anything, not even the pandemic that has forced billions of us to radically overhaul our lives. And like the pandemic, climate change has no nationality, agenda or political affiliation.

Both exist to spread where, when and how they can. Another stark similarity is that the impacts of COVID-19, just like the climate emergency, do not treat us equally, as those who self-identify as female are hit the hardest.

The pandemic has taken a disproportionate toll on all who regard themselves as girls, women and womxn, as well as minorities, those with disabilities, older members of our communities, refugees, migrants and Indigenous Peoples.

So much so, the UN Secretary General António Guterres last month said progress on gender equality has been set back years, and within his 2021 priorities described achieving gender equality as "the greatest human rights challenge."

Deep rooted social injustices, from worker rights to gender inequality, go hand in hand with the climate emergency. Climate denial, like prejudice, is certainly not a victimless crime.

Even though the climate crisis is global, it is impacting low and middle income countries the worst, with self-identifying females the most affected. When climate-fueled extreme weather events strike, it's those who deny science and block climate action who must answer to the victims on the frontlines.

Though we are in the throes of these interconnected health, environmental, economic and equality crises, creating a better world for all is still within reach. Together, we can move forward on an inclusive green path to recovery, where social justice is our guiding principle.

This means profound systems change with new rules and investments, and not the failed racist patriarchal polluting status quo being merely tweaked. A fairer, healthier, wealthier and safer world for all people is exactly what a transformation in line with 1.5°C - the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal - means.

And it's what publics across the planet want. In Japan, 60% of people want transformational economic change. While in India, Mexico, China, Brazil, South Africa and beyond, support for a green economic recovery is at 80% or higher.

Over 1.2 million people from across the world have joined campaigns at Greenpeace, Avaaz and others, supporting the call for a bold, green and just recovery in Europe.

A green and just recovery to COVID-19 is the oppor-



Greenpeace International Executive Director Jennifer Morgan (R) at the People's Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival in New York on 18 Sep, 2019. (File photo)

tunity for governments to kickstart a new economy that helps solve the climate and biodiversity crisis, while ensuring fair wages, employment protections and social safety nets for everyone, specifically for women, womxn and girls.

And as I wrote last year for the Inter Press Service, equity across the world and spectrum would lead to more life satisfaction, better security and economies, and more sustainable solutions to climate change, and now the pandemic.

Millions of people who identify as female have managed to pull together time and again in the name of justice and for saving our beautiful planet. Since the beginning of Greenpeace 50 years ago this year, women have been central, with the organisation co-founded by the extraordinary Dorothy Stowe.

While they have not always been recognised or nurtured as much as they deserved, self-identifying females are very much a leading force within the organisation now and will be going forward.

They are the captains and crew of our ships, executive directors, scientists, clean-

ers, photographers. They are our campaigners and activists who put their bodies on the line to demand a green, just and peaceful world. Inclusivity is one of our values because there can be no green peace without gender equality.

As Greenpeace nears the 50th anniversary, it is vital we don't spend too much time looking back instead of forwards. Where we're going, what we need to do, and the organisation we must continue becoming.

Amplifying the voices of the most marginalised and vulnerable, while boosting their access to opportunities and platforms, is central to the mission of Greenpeace.

Like in West Africa, where female fish processors have been standing strong for years against fishmeal and fish oil factories taking away the fish on which their local communities depend.

While they are struggling to make ends meet with few employment rights, the fishmeal and fish oil (FMFO) industry, owned by investors outside Africa, booms. This, as well as overfishing by destructive foreign fishing vessels, is threatening food security, jobs and social stability in the region with women

most impacted.

These female fish processors want their West African governments to legally and formally recognise them in the same way as other people doing in any job.

Globally, our oceans are suffering from the plunder of overfishing and illegal industrial fishing as well as serious pollution. We need to stop wrecking our oceans now to safeguard food security and jobs for millions of people, like the West African female fish processors and their communities, and to save our marine environment.

One billion people rely on fish as their main source of animal protein, according to the World Health Organization, while it is estimated that 43 million people are facing food insecurity in West Africa - 20 million of them due to the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

What we are seeing today with the pandemic and the climate emergency, like with previous cri-

ses, is the worsening of the already disadvantaged position of women and womxn in the labour market, alongside the burden of unpaid domestic and care work, and gender-based violence.

Despite the many and intersectional challenges females - as well as non-binary people - face, there are also many remarkable change-makers. From the Nigerian eco-feminist Oladosu Adenike advocating for the restoration of Lake Chad, to Tanya Fields of the BLK ProjeK, who focuses on food justice and economic development for women and youth of colour in the US, to the matriarchs of Wet'suwet'en resiliently opposing the Coastal Gas Link pipeline while protecting their elders from the virus.

As much as it must be in everyone's interest to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to all people, it must be in everyone's interest to find real solutions to the climate and gender inequality crises.

No person is safe until all people are safe, just as no country is safe from the virus and the climate emergency until all countries are safe from COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Tackling the pandemic, climate change and gender inequality are urgent priorities, not competing ones.

Global cooperation at unprecedented levels is required to overcome these challenges, as is the brave active citizenship we have seen - and continue to see - by all who self-identify as female; they must be central to solving the climate emergency and overcoming the pandemic.

This year, we have an opening to not just move beyond the ravaging storm of the pandemic, but to do it in a way where we steadily set sail to a fairer, greener and healthier future with the wind at our backs, making some waves on our voyage of victory. **IPS**

## An African agenda is needed at the World Trade Organisation

By Teniola Tay

**D**R Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala took office as World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director-General, on 1 March. As the first female and first African in this position, she joins other Africans at the top of powerful multilateral organisations - Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus at the World Health Organisation, Dr Amina Mohammed at the United Nations and Makhtar Diop at the International Finance Corporation.

There's a sense that this is Africa's time at the WTO, and there are great expectations that Okonjo-Iweala will champion the continent's interests. However, pushing this agenda at the WTO will require strong leadership from African countries rather than an African director-general.

The WTO is a member state-driven organisation that has regulated global trade since 1995. Its job is a tricky one. It must foster multilateral cooperation without hindering healthy competition. The body attempts to set down rules to guide trading among its 164 members and resolve disputes fairly. Forty-four of these members are African. Another nine African countries hold observer status and some are negotiating accession to the body.

However, there's a perception that African countries have gained little from the WTO. The organisation's agenda has historically been dominated by the world's economic superpowers, more recently including China.

China's accession to the WTO in 2001 is believed to have contributed to its export-led growth. The same cannot be said for Africa. According to African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) president Benedict Oramah, Africa's share of global trade has declined from 4.4% in 1970 to 2.5% today. Asia's share has risen from 7.7% to 20% over the same period.

African exports are dominated by commodities with fluctuating prices that challenge development financing. Most observers agree that Africa needs to industrialise or to increase manufacturing output. This clashes with the need for richer countries to find markets for their goods. It was this situation that partly inspired the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement - Africa's attempt to use trade within its borders to drive industrialisation.

There should be no assumption however that Okonjo-Iweala will have a particular focus on African issues. She joins the organisation at a difficult time and will face various problems. These include the crippling of its Appellate Body, trade wars between the United States and China, and a general weakening of the multilateral system.

The proliferation of bilateral, regional and plurilateral trade agreements has raised the question of the utility and necessity of the WTO. Okonjo-Iweala will be hard-pressed to make a case for its continued existence.



The WTO's dispute settlement mechanism is often cited as one of its successes. It provides a platform and set of rules for raising and addressing trade disputes between two or more countries. That only one African country has raised a dispute using the mechanism points to challenges with its current structure.

In addition, the rejection of the application for intellectual property waivers on Covid-19-related pharmaceuticals by rich countries shows the persistent marginalisation of developing nations' needs. Wealthy countries

would prefer to donate vaccines as aid than allow poorer countries to better participate in their production.

There are several other trade-related issues facing Africa. One major problem is the persistence of agricultural subsidies in some rich countries that limit export markets for African agricultural products.

The relative absence of the WTO in efforts by Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire to get better prices for their cocoa is significant. Also, the framing of WTO tariffs as 'punishing' in a recent dispute over banana exports between Ghana and

the United Kingdom reveals the way some African countries view the WTO.

Okonjo-Iweala's complex positionality must also be examined. She's a Nigerian-American who began her career at the World Bank and stayed for 25 years until she unsuccessfully vied for the top position. The World Bank and the WTO are regarded as Bretton Woods Institutions along with other organisations like the International Monetary Fund.

These institutions have a controversial history in Africa and are largely blamed for the 'lost decade' in the post-independence period through the Structural Adjustment Programmes. It's believed the Bretton Woods Institutions contributed to stopping some African countries' attempts, though flawed, at industrialisation.

Although relations have improved, these institutions are still regarded with suspicion due to their perceived role in keeping African economies at the margins of the global economy. Africa's limited engagement with the WTO is therefore not surprising. There are some concerns that Africans shouldn't be caught in the trap of representation politics, where Western interests are pushed through African faces.

However, Okonjo-Iweala's track record doesn't appear to support this. She's actively promoted the continent's interests through, for example, her role in the Paris Club refund that resulted in debt forgiveness for Nigeria. As an African Union Special Envoy for the Covid-19 response she fought for debt moratoriums, and under her leadership at the Gavi vaccine alliance, helped create the Covax facility. As Nigeria's finance minister she earned the reputation as a fearless reformer.

Okonjo-Iweala's WTO appointment, given her skills, is an opportunity to reform the organisation and help it regain its position in global affairs. The world has changed and the organisation's activities should reflect this. Powerful states have put forward reform proposals but there are worries that the changes may further disadvantage African economies.

Africa's first major attempt at using trade to drive industrialisation failed. Another effort has been launched and the WTO should aid this process and not get in its way. Initiatives like the African Group and the Pan-African Private Sector Trade and Investment Committee must become even more prominent with strong positions in global trade debates.

It is the responsibility of Africa's leaders to set the agenda and clearly articulate what is needed from the WTO for the success of the continent's trade and development policies. There is now a friendly face at the head of the table.



## Joint efforts crucial if we're to land more opportunities for investors'

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the past several years, Tanzania focused on implementing making economic reforms, reinforcing leadership ethics and investing in human development.

This saw the country crossing the threshold into lower middle income status, well ahead of time as this is an achievement that had been anticipated by the year 2025. The onus is now on the nation to maintain and grow this status as envisioned in the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025.

In Tanzania's five year development plan which was recently approved by Parliament, the private sector has been put at the center of the economic agenda.

That's why the Minister of State in the President's Office in charge of Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, says the government is committed to the private sector.

Speaking with members of the CEO Roundtable of Tanzania (CEOrt), Prof. Mkumbo says the private sector is tasked with driving and managing increased growth as the country builds on its middle income status.

A policy dialogue forum bringing together CEOs of leading companies in Tanzania to foster close cooperation between the public and private sectors in Tanzania with the view of accelerating expansion and growth of the Tanzanian economy in a sustainable manner, the CEOrt regularly facilitates dialogue between the sectors through its monthly members' meetings.

As guest speaker at the most recent meeting on harnessing investment opportunities in Tanzania, Prof. Mkumbo outlined his priorities in increasing local and foreign direct investment.

He said At the top of his portfolio is strengthening the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and revising the Investment Act.

He added that the TIC will play a bigger role across multiple industries, including channeling any challenges potential investors may come across to the relevant sectors for resolution.

"There will also be a round of engagement for stakeholders to review



the Investment Act before it is presented to the Parliament. The Ministry is also looking into working closely with the private sector to develop an Investment Promotion Strategy that shares success stories far and wide.

"Tanzania has a lot of potential but is yet to fully market itself, and this strategy would help address that. To support facilitation of the Investment Promotion Strategy, a National Investment Guide to highlight investment potentials in different sectors and regions.

"To maximize possibilities of success, the Ministry will be introducing targeted investment to align investors with their areas of expertise and there is a need to identify potential investors beyond Tanzania (the diaspora) to take on these opportunities.

"Also in the plans is a private sector investment policy to ease confidence and trust between the Public and Private Sectors. "Sustainable engagement with investors is key," Hon. Mkumbo reinforced.

Addressing questions from the members, the Minister also emphasized his commitment to ensuring he remains available to investors to resolve any strategic issues that may arise.

He said the ministry will also involve the private sector and obtain support from the CEOrt in creating a data set with a profile of investors to be used as a reference for future opportunities.

For the coming year, Prof. Mkumbo highlighted that priority sectors for investment include Ag-

riculture where some industries lack the necessary raw materials; mining that has largely unexploited areas; Housing and Construction, Manufacturing, as well as Recreation and Tourism where certain areas remain unexplored.

Another area with policy reforms in process is the Work Act in collaboration with the Labour Ministry, particularly for expatriates requiring work permits and facing challenges with work permit quotas.

In support of the agenda presented, the CEOrt adhered to provide their assistance wherever required.

Executive Director of the CEOrt, Ms. Santina Majengo-Benson said the CEOrt stands on the premise that constructive engagement between the Tanzanian private sector and the government, its development partners, and other stakeholders can perpetuate a conducive business environment for country development, and part of that involves supporting initiatives for enhancing the investment climate," she said.

While the CEOrt Chairman, Mr. Sanjay Rughani echoed this sentiment.

"This is our country, and we've got to make a difference together, and the way to make progress is to be able to listen to each other and continue to collaborate," he remarked.

# Women in leadership: For a more equal world

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

TANZANIAN women have been challenged to come up with national wide programmes on civic education to sensitize the public on gender and women's rights issues at the time when they mark International Women's Day (IWD) next week.

The annual event is marked on March 8th; the International Women's Day is one of the most important days of the year to: Celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness about women's equality, lobby for accelerated gender parity, and fundraise for female-focused charities.

This year's event is themed: "Women in leadership catalyst to reach an equal world," it meant to celebrate the tremendous efforts of women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Programme officer activism and movement programme from TGNP, Joyce Mkina said that international women's day has been a day to evaluate women's development in society in political and economic areas.

Mkina further noted that TGNP as a femi-

nist organisation has been striving to contribute to building a vibrant transformative feminist movement that is grounded locally for evaluating women's positions and leadership and they are utilising the various opportunities they have at their exposure.

"Democracy, accountability, and collective good leadership are important catalysts in all development sectors of a country, including improvement of achieving human rights," Mkina said when speaking during the TGNP's gender development series (GDSS) in Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania too has made good progress in addressing gender inequality. Important policy and legal reforms are helping to empower women and girls. These include the commitment to universal education and commitments to tackle violence against women and girls.

But despite the achievements, the majority of women in Tanzania, just as in many countries, still face inequality. They have long working hours, and receive less education than men.

Women find it more difficult than men to access resources such as land and finance. And, unfortunately, violence against wom-

en and girls also still remains a big issue.

Articles 9, 12, 13, 21, 22, 66, 67, and 78 of the Constitution are specific to gender equality and women's representation in political and electoral processes.

For instance, Article 66 states "women to constitute not less than thirty (30) percent of all the members in the national parliament." Gender equality is at the heart of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development: which is why we are seeking a Planet 50-50 by 2030.

Beatrice Ndosi, a participant in that seminar said that women needed more education awareness on how they can come out and vie for political and other leadership positions found in their communities.

Mary Kichau has advised fellow women to start mentoring their children from early stages to enable them to make good leaders when they grow up.

"We women should not be discouraged to direct our girls on how to become leaders. Leadership education should begin in schools. Adding: "Education curriculum to emphasize on the right to education of a girl child and gender equality be formed."

Theresia Patrick suggested that there was

a need to improve training/seminars for women to raise awareness among women to fight against gender-based harassment, early preparation for the election process, and use of democratic means of getting participants which would favour women candidates.

Reform the legal framework to meet the requirement of regional and international provisions especially on ensuring gender equality not only in parliament but in other leadership positions.

Anna Joseph called upon the amendment of the political parties Act to enforce gender equality within parties and in their nomination of candidates.

The law may for instance have a mandate that requires parties to nominate two women among the top five candidates. This may prevent parties from putting women at the bottom of party lists. The law should also apply sanctions for non-compliance by political parties. Parties should device-specific mechanisms to ensure special groups get access to leadership and decision-making positions both within parties and in national positions.

Literature has shown that IWD is cel-

ebrated on March 8 every year. It is a focal point in the movement for women's rights. The day originated after the Socialist Party of America organized a Women's Day on February 28, 1909, in New York, the 1910 International Socialist Woman's Conference suggested a Women's Day be held annually.

After women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia in 1917, March 8 became a national holiday there. The day was then predominantly celebrated by the socialist movement and communist countries until it was adopted in 1975 by the United Nations.

Women demanded that they be given the right to vote and to hold public office. They also protested against employment sex discrimination.

The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

Today, International Women's Day is a public holiday in some countries and largely ignored elsewhere. In some places, it is a day of protest; in others, it is a day that celebrates womanhood.

## African women in agriculture suffer disproportionately from coronavirus

By Verenardo Meeme

AFRICAN women in agriculture are suffering disproportionately as the COVID-19 pandemic worsens existing structural economic, social and technological inequalities, a new survey shows.

Female farmers on the continent are struggling to perform their multiple roles in society during the pandemic and specific policy measures are required to accelerate the recovery in rural areas and alleviate existing gender inequalities. So says a survey conducted by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), which sought to determine how rural women are coping with COVID-19.

The respondents included 71 women over the age of 18 who are operating small and medium agribusiness enterprises (SMEs) across the four sub-Saharan Africa regions. Most of the women who responded were producing crops and livestock (52 percent) or involved in processing and distribution services (48 per cent), with just a few engaged in commodity marketing and service provision.

Women are a key pillar in the continent's food and agricultural systems, comprising 50 per cent of the agricultural workforce and owning one-third of the SMEs that produce, process and trade in agricultural products and services.

Elly Siakasasa, CEO of FutureSeeds, a company in Lusaka, Zambia, involved in the production, processing, packaging, marketing and trading of certified indigenous legume seeds, was one of those who responded to the survey. Before COVID-19 set in, her business was thriving. Then the Zambian government responded to the pandemic by instituting various control measures in February 2020.

The timing was especially critical for FutureSeeds because seed production requires mandatory field visits by the Seed Control and Certification Institute, the authority that controls and regulates seed quality and standards in the country. FutureSeeds needed to meet farmers in the field and the restrictions stifled access to extension services, Siakasasa noted.

The pandemic has made it difficult for her firm to distribute and monitor high-grade seed because there have been no field visit reports to support the field verification in terms of germination rate, vegetative stages of the crops and management of the seed fields. FutureSeeds sources products from legume seed breeders and small-scale farmers and sells its products to NGOs supporting poverty alleviation programs, nutrition and empowerment agribusiness ventures. The products are also distributed through agricultural dealers and government agencies under the Farmer Input Support Program for small-scale farmers.



The pandemic forced Siakasasa to close her office and operate remotely by phone and internet. The company incurred high costs and liquidity challenges and now needs support to resume meaningful business across the whole supply chain. Restrictions on movement and physical gatherings further harmed the company as it relies on field visits to disseminate

information and showcase products, personal meetings to negotiate prices and access to bulking centers and collection points.

"Existing technological challenges within the supply chain have made it difficult to manage our business well because issues of adaptation and switching to new communication and

ways of doing business in the new normal are a nightmare," she said.

"We are just surviving, really hoping to get support to pull through this negative impact," she added. "We know the healing and recovery process may take years unless substantial amounts of support and technologies are given."

The COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures created inequalities. For instance, in some African cultures, women go to the market to sell food crops while men focus on cash crops. Women may turn the proceeds of their sales over to their husbands, who are the head of the family, for budgeting. When restrictions on movements and curfew were enforced in response to the pandemic, the reduction in travelers meant fewer customers at the markets and reduced work hours for women, resulting in less income. These sorts of scenarios further undermine the capacity of women to recover from the pandemic disruptions.

The disruptions have affected not only their livelihoods and agri-business enterprises, but also increased women's workloads, threatened their families' well-being and increased incidences of gender-based violence. The survey showed that 54 percent of women sampled have experienced domestic violence or know a woman who has. Additionally, 60 percent of the women reported they were unable to access financial services and 72 percent were unable to access markets.

Siakasasa's experience demonstrates that local networks of female farmers can be useful in aggregating demand and serving as collection and distribution points for input deliveries. Siakasasa and her group are coping by using diversified marketing channels to widen their market reach and mobile tools/social media to contact key inputs suppliers. They are also reducing their operations.

The power of mobile technology for trainings and standard agricultural extension programs can address barriers that women farmers in Africa face, while reducing physical contact, the study found. Cash grant programs channeled through mobile money platforms can promote social distancing, increase women's privacy and security and lead to better outcomes. The study recommends integrating measures that involve the short-term injection of flexible finance, as well as training and bolstering the use of digital solutions to enhance recovery and improve resilience to future shocks.



# Marginalised women in India bear extra burden of COVID-19 'shadow pandemic'

NEW DELHI

**W**OMEN living in rural India and those belonging to marginalised communities faced an enormous burden during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns, including domestic violence, loss of financial assistance and income, says Rehana Adeb, a grassroots Muslim woman leader and activist.

Adeb leads Astitva, an NGO in western Uttar Pradesh working with women from Dalit and Muslim communities.

In an interview with IPS, she talked about the various kinds of violence that women, especially Dalit and Muslim women in rural India, had to face when the Government, without warning, announced a nationwide lockdown to contain the pandemic.

"With most menfolk migrating back to their villages from the cities where they had moved to earn a living, the women did not have access to any financial assistance from them which they would earlier use to pay for their children's education and household expenses," says Adeb.

"Women who did home-based work, such as sewing, to make ends meet were also left with no additional source of income, with markets shut."

"Forced marriages, child marriage and domestic violence were on the rise, and these were cases where we had to intervene immediately," she said.

Adeb and her team were in constant touch with women who shared their concerns about how unwanted pregnancies, lack of doctors and health care added to the crisis.

The experiences of these women reflected and continues to reflect the situation elsewhere in the world, and while society was grappling a global pandemic, an unprecedented increase in various forms of violence against women and girls, was being witnessed worldwide.

The United Nations described the increased violence against women in India during the pandemic as a "shadow pandemic".

The number of domestic violence complaints that the National Commission for Women in India received doubled from 123 distress calls to 239 domestic violence complaints, from March 23, 2020, to April 16, 2020, it was reported.

While women's helplines across the country were inundated with domestic violence complaints, the violence faced by women belonging to the most marginalised sections of society needed and still needs urgent attention.

"Reports have shown that incidents of discrimination against women and girls have increased during the pandemic, in particular against women belonging to minority groups, especially those at the bottom of the economic ladder," says UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Simonovic, in an exclusive interview with IPS.

She stressed that with many countries reporting dramatic increases in domestic violence, including intimate partner violence and sexual abuse, as a result of complying with social confinement measures, the home had become a place of fear for many women and children. With restricted movement, financial constraints and uncertainty, perpetrators were emboldened, and the situation provided them with additional power and control.

In India, another factor that added to Muslim women's plight was the rise in Islamophobia, which manifested itself in the online campaign known as the "Corona Jihad". Muslims were falsely targeted and said to be spreading the virus with the malicious intention of infecting non-Muslims.

The courts dismissed this as being false but not before this dangerous narrative had led to an increase in the already prevalent discrimination against the community.

Media reports showed how women belonging to Muslim communities were denied services at



Nishat Hussain (R) coordinating with local authorities in Rajasthan to ensure relief reaches those most affected by the lockdown.

hospitals. The reports gave details of campaigns and calls, at times from those in power, demanding an economic boycott of Muslim communities, which had ramifications for the women.

Nishat Hussain, Rajasthan state convenor of the Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (Indian Muslim Women's Movement) and the non-profit National Muslim Women Welfare Society led COVID relief activities throughout the state during the lockdown.

"One of the biggest problems that the women I work with faced was because of their identity as Muslim women," Hussain said.

With the stereotypes and hate speech against the community, women had to fight their way, battling even the administration at times, to reach out for support.

Most of Hussain's staff are Muslim women, who volunteered during this time to reach women in areas where basic necessities such as food were not reaching families.

"Access to health, medicines were very difficult, we tried to intervene and provided women and young girls with menstrual hygiene kits. Truckloads of food with the help of well-wishers and friends were distributed to all those in need, irrespective of their religion or identity," she says.

Addressing violence within families during the pandemic has become vital, and there are many interventions by local and national organisations that are leading this effort.

Breakthrough India, for instance, designed a campaign along with the older adolescents in the field areas by the name of "dakhlandazi zaroori hai" (Intervention is a necessity), which later led to a larger campaign called "Dakhal Do" or "Intervene".

"Adolescents developed posters against Domestic Violence and displayed them along with relevant phone numbers in prominent places in their villages.

Breakthrough also organised online training of District Legal Services Authorities as well as the Aangan-

wadi workers for effective response to victims," said Nayana Chowdhury, who is the director of programs at Breakthrough India.

"Breakthrough also strengthened the skills of the Panchayati Raj Institution leaders to address the needs of the community in the time of the pandemic.

Simonovic stressed that the crisis highlighted and reinforced the gaps and shortcomings at the national, regional, and global levels in preventing and combating the pandemic of gender-based violence against women.

She wants to look at COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to bring about the much needed change to overcome the pandemic of violence against women, including women from marginalised and minority groups, by "amending legislation and practice that reinforces gender stereotypes and prevents victims from accessing justice; changing policies that fail to offer victims adequate and timely services such as shelters, protection orders and help lines; addressing social and cultural beliefs that perpetuate myths that blame women for the violence they suffer".

IPS

## RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



23.00 HRS

**TIME**

05.00 AM

06.00 AM

06.30 AM

06.50 AM

07.00 AM

7:10 AM

07.15 AM

07.25 AM

07.40 AM

08.00 AM

08.10 AM

09.00 AM

09.10 AM

09.20 AM

09.30 AM

10.00 AM

10.03 AM

10.10 AM

13.00 HRS

13.10 HRS

13.30 HRS

16.00 HRS

16.03 HRS

16.30 HRS

18.30 HRS

19.30 HRS

20.00 HRS

20.10 HRS

21.00 HRS

21.05 HRS

22.00 HRS

22.15 HRS

### TUESDAY

#### PROGRAMME

HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I

AMKA NA BBC

NIPASHE

MATANGAZO

NEWS BULLETIN

MATANGAZO

TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI

UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI

KUMEPAMBAZUKA II

HABARI NYEPESI

KUMEPAMBAZUKA III

HABARI ZA BIA SHARA

MATANGAZO

BRAND TALK

KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA

NEWS BRIEF

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

YALIYOMO YAMO

NEWS BULLETIN

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DJ SHOW

NEWS BRIEF

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOJA YA LEO

DIRA YA DUNIA BBC

SPOTI LEO

NEWS BULLETIN

UCHUNGUZI KAMILI

NEWS BRIEF

DURU ZETU

NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)

AFRO TIZII

## FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE

# CAPITAL RADIO

TUESDAY	
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)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Board of Directors, Management and Staff of TPB Bank Plc join fellow Tanzanians in congratulating

**Hon. Othuman Masoud Othuman Sharif**  
for being elected as the first Vice President of Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

www.tpbbank.co.tz || info@tpbbank.co.tz,  
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Time for a digital scale-up in Africa to unlock untapped creative economies, panelists say

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# Coca-Cola Kwanza donates desks worth 10m/- to Lindi school

By Smart Money Reporter, Ruangwa

**C**OCA COLA Kwanza Limited donated 100 desks to Ruangwa District in the Lindi Region worth 10m/- to back state efforts improvement quality of services in public schools.

A subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa, Coca Cola Kwanza's Director of Public Affairs, Communication and Sustainability, Salum Nassor said the donation is aimed at paying back to the community part of profits made from its business activities.

"Coca Cola Kwanza's objective is to refresh and improve lives of the majority Tanzanians in various sectors including education and this is one of the reasons for donating the desks to Ruangwa District," Nassor said.

The Coca-Cola Kwanza Director urged other institutions, stakeholders, and non-government organizations to work together and support government efforts in find solutions to challenges facing the community.

"We do business in the right way for a better-shared future and this support will resolve shortage of school desks



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa sits on one of the desks donated by Coca-Cola Kwanza Limited to schools in Ruangwa District last week. Left is the company's director of public affairs and communications, Salum Nassor. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

by accommodating 200 students at a time," he added.

Speaking at the event, Ruangwa Member of Parliament, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said the donation of desks demonstrates the beverages company's good and healthy relations with the government hence benefiting the community.

"This donation of desks has come at the right time at the commencement of the new school year when we are facing a surge in the number of students being registered due to free education," Majaliwa said while adding that it is everyone's responsibility to preserve, protect and utilize wisely the desks so that both current and future students can use them.

Since launching the initiative of donating desks to public schools as part of its corporate social responsibility, Coca-Cola Kwanza has made and distributed over 3,000 desks to various schools.

The subsidiary of Coca-Cola Beverages Africa based in South Africa, has been one of the leading companies in making desks and supporting schools with acute shortage to improve learning environment.

## Weights agency warns business community on tampering with weighing machines

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) has directed traders to use correct measurements in their businesses, calling on members of the public to reveal all the unfaithful people who temper with weighing machines.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the ongoing Tanzania Women Industrial Exhibition Week, WMA public relations manager Irene John said that tampering with machines is illegal and is considered theft.

"Any businessman must have accurate measuring equipment that is checked by the Bureau of Standards," she stated.

Irene warned the act by some traders who fault measuring equipment, saying it affects the consumers, causing them to get less products than the supposed quantity.

According to her, as the country has entered the middle-income status, it was important for the business community to adhere to the proper measurements and be fair clients.

"The aim of being here in the exhibition is to educate small entrepreneurs on the importance of correct measurement because we need them to grow from small and medium enterprises to be in the top-level," she said.

She said: "We sensitize them on how they can package their products in international standards so that their product can shine in the foreign market and this can be achieved if they consider correct measurements."

She said that as the government has opened the market mineral trading centres all over the country, WMA has been in the forefront to inspect the weighing machines used in the mineral businesses.

Irene said the aim is to make sure small miners get what they deserve in their daily activities and the government collects its revenues fairly.

Glory Mtana, an official from the WMA's measurement department said many small entrepreneurs visited their pavilion and most of them were asking about how they can be competent in terms of packaging their products at international standards.

"We started educating entrepreneurs after we had found that most of them are not competent in this area and this is a going programme to make sure we reach as many as we can," she said.

She said many SMEs still need education in various areas including processing, branding, and packaging so that they can compete with others inside and outside the country.

Mtana said WMA has been receiving different awards internally and internationally due to its excellent performance in service delivery.

# Govt urges Tanzanians to invest in commercial forestry farming

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE government has opened doors for the private sector and individuals who want to invest in commercial forestry to do so, saying it will provide them full support.

Speaking at a conference that discussed opportunities and challenges for investment in commercial forestry in Tanzania in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Aloyce Nzuki said the ministry is happy to work with the private sector and will support prospective commercial forestry investors, advise them on land acquisition, improved tree species and markets.

He said the government has every reason to support commercial forestry particularly those who are planting trees for commercials because they are going to supply trees and conserve natural forests from deforestation.

"This is another opportunity for public-private partnership. This will create employment and increase individual income. We know the investors facing different challenges ranging from availability of improved tree seedlings to markets. The Ministry is going to address them so that they can conduct fruitful commercial forestry," he said.

"I direct all institutions under my Ministry led by the Tanzania Forest Agency (TFS) to make sure that these investors in commercial forestry are supported right from accessing land, improved tree seedlings, management,



A delegation led by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Aloyce Nzuki (C) inspecting some commercial forestry pavilions before opening the conference on commercial forestry in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

production and markets," he stressed.

He called on prospective commercial forestry investors to channel the challenges they face at his office so that they can get solutions. At the end of the day we want to implement the directives which are in CCM party Manifesto and the President's directives of moving into value chain he issued when inaugurating the 12th parliament, he said.

When inaugurating the 12th Parliament in November last year, President Magufuli announced that it was imperative for the country to start processing goods into value chain instead of exporting unprocessed goods. He called for local and foreign investors to choose Tanzania as a centre of their destination.

President John Magufuli pledged to create conducive environment for the investment for both local and foreign investors.

According to Dr Nzuki currently, the forestry sector contributes only 3.5 percent of the national economy saying it is little, therefore, plans and strategies should aim to make it contribute more than it currently offers.

Director of Forestry and Beekeeping, Ezekiel Mwakalukwa said the conference on commercial forestry is implementing the national forestry policy of 1998 and the forest Act no 14 of 2002. The national forestry policy of 1998 provides guidelines of participation of the private sector and individuals in the investments in the forestry sector. Citing an example, he said policy statements

no 7, 9, 38 and 39 gives guidelines for people to establish and develop tree plantations in the country. In this regard, the Ministry in collaboration with development partners particularly the Finish government established tree planting programme to support people plant trees especially in the Southern Highland regions.

"We thank very much the regional authorities in their respective areas to accord the team managing this programme close collaboration," he said.

He called the commercial forestry investors to form a forum that will bring them together and have annual forum to discuss and share with the government the opportunities and challenges.

Prof Dos Santos, the Conservation Commissioner, Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) said the private sector are important stakeholders for supplementing government's efforts to conserve and manage the forests.

"That's why the government has provided these opportunities so that the private sector, individuals can conduct commercial forestry to increase their income and contribute to the government's economy.

"One of the important factors in commercial forestry is land. Therefore these investors must be advised where to invest, what should be invested and what improved tree species should be planted as well as the value chain so that at the end of the day, their product can get good markets," he said. One of the participants, Fadhil Mwakames, the managing Director

of Forestry Business Innovative Company said his company has adhered to the government directives and guidelines. The company is supporting commercial forestry investors in Land acquisition, Land preparation, Seedling production (nursery), Plantation establishment and management. Citing an example, he said planting and growing Avocado trees and commercial tree like pine, Eucalyptus and many others.

Explaining the objective of the conference, Director for the Forestry Development Trust (FDT), David Shambwe said the conference is organized by FDT, the African Forestry and the government and aimed at bringing together the government and commercial forestry investors who are interested and those already invested in commercial forestry in Tanzania to discuss opportunities and the challenges they are facing and how to address and improve the situation and the markets.

"We want also to discuss with the government officials different guidelines, to have common understanding, to discuss how we can move into value chain in the forestry sector. The sector offers a number of employments right from tree nurseries, processing to harvesting.

I would like to call upon commercial investors and service providers to come in, use legal means to venture into commercial forestry, move into processing and value chain so that together we can create employments, generate income, and spur the national economy," he added.



**"The aim of being here in the exhibition is to educate small entrepreneurs on the importance of correct measurement because we need them to grow from small and medium enterprises to be in the top-level," she said.**





## Investment for women-led businesses is missing part in African entrepreneurship

By Pauline Koelbl

**W**OMEN make up 58% of Africa's self-employed population, yet there are still significant imbalances between opportunities to scale, access to funding and training between men and women-led businesses on the continent.

There is clear evidence of this in a recent World Bank report, Profiting from Parity, which shows that women entrepreneurs across sub-Saharan Africa continue to earn lower profits than men - 34% less on average.

There is an irony in these inequalities: for investors, women are, in many ways, a better bet than men. In general, women in Africa are more likely than men to choose entrepreneurship as they find themselves in situations where they need to put their natural problem-solving skills to use. In Africa, 5% of Chief Executive Officers are women - slightly higher than the global average of 4%. Moreover, research shows that technology firms led by women experience a 35% higher return on investment than those led by men.

### Underwriting financial institutions

These are excellent reasons to take a look at women-led businesses and there are many social and economic benefits too, which can be measured against the UN's SDG Goal 5.

It states that gender equality is a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. In response, the African Development Bank has approved a Gender Equality Trust Fund (GETF) and Risk Sharing Mechanism in an attempt to close the gap. It is funded by

foreign government donors to support the delivery of the AFD's 'Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa' (AFAWA). The first transaction, implemented by the African Guarantee Fund, will direct up to \$2bn to underwrite financial institutions' SME lending.

Yet there are other, more complex challenges that go beyond underwriting banks. So far, much of the focus within the African entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem has been on technology companies, which are male-dominated.

Technology has not attracted nor retained as many female entrepreneurs and while that seems to be shifting, it remains a slow transformation. VCs and private equity have therefore for some time had a skewed perspective, favouring tech and digital unicorns that are typically male-led.

In 2019, less than 5% of VC funding for African startups went to companies with women co-founders. In addition, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, research shows that most female-led SMEs are more at risk of permanent business shutdown than men.

So, whilst the SME underwriting facilities provided by GETF are an important and effective way of mobilizing SME lending to women, it represents only one track of what must be a joined-up approach that provides seed-funding and practical startup services specifically for women-led startups. To truly liberate the potential of one half of the human race, the private investor community needs to recognize that women-led businesses are not only as profitable (if not more) than those led by men but more likely to lead businesses that make a positive social impact.

Policy makers must also recognise that with the right policies and interventions, there is a huge opportunity to unleash the potential of women entrepreneurs, boost economic growth and lift millions of people out of poverty in the process.

Currently, there is \$42bn funding gap for female entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa, and it is estimated that 316bn GDP could be gained by 2025 if the gender gap in Africa is bridged. Within many African countries, women are discriminated against, often underpinning women's lower access to some assets. While African governments have made progress eliminating gender discrimination in business law, family law often gives husbands control over property and land, vital sources of collateral. Patently, this has to change.

### Gender-based economic policy

Governments can also improve access to funding for women-led businesses through gender-focused policies such as Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in order to improve the effectiveness of allocation of public funds. According to the recently launched Djembe Insights Report, GRB, alongside legislation is one of the main ways of addressing gender bias and discrimination leading to greater public transparency.

There are opportunities for policymakers to develop gender smart stimulus packages that are designed and disbursed from a gender lens perspective to ensure that women-led businesses can and do benefit. External collateral requirements can also be relaxed or no longer be mandated by financial institutions for women-led businesses, whilst African governments should also consider

tax breaks for organizations that invest in women-led SMEs.

Policy makers also need to talk about technology: women in Africa are about 45% less likely to be online than men. This translates into fewer African women SME owners participating in e-commerce or being noticed by foreign investors. The fintech revolution has also shifted access to funding online, which leaves women yet again at a disadvantage.

Without adequate financing, women-owned businesses will continue to struggle to survive or will grow at a much slower rate or stay in the informal economy and by limiting funds to male-dominated industries, the funding gap only widens.

Given the trickle-down effect of economically investing in women, it goes without saying that investing in them will accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), not just SDG5. For instance, recent research shows how economically empowering women is the best tool to combating climate change. Economically empowered women are more likely than male counterparts to make decisions that have a positive impact on the environment.

### Soft skills

ShEquity's purpose is to provide smart investments for African female entrepreneurs and innovators whilst also providing women-led startups with practical support to develop the kind of 'soft skills' needed to survive and flourish in business. These include interpersonal skills, leadership, presentation training, socio-emotional skills and critical thinking that are better suited for boosting confidence in African women entrepreneurs and innovators

## Time for digital scale-up in Africa to unlock untapped creative economies - call

By SmartMoney Correspondent

DIGITAL platforms in Africa should scale up to take advantage of the continent's surging demand for creative content, said Africa Investment Forum Senior Director Chinelo Anohu, adding that the African Development Bank (AfDB) flagship entity is providing advisory services and investment support to creative players.

Anohu was speaking at a virtual "fireside chat" on Tuesday with Afreximbank President Benedict Oramah and Dean Garfield, Netflix's Vice President of Public Policy. The Africa Soft Power Project organized the event, titled The New Face of African Collaboration. Omar Ben Yedder, Group Publisher & MD of IC Publications, moderated.

The dialogue was held against the backdrop of the recent coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). 2021 is also the African Union's year of arts, culture and heritage. Discussions focused on the role of infrastructure and connectivity in advancing Africa's creative industries, including film, textiles and design.

Oramah said that Afreximbank set up a \$500 million fund in January 2020 to support Africa's creative industries. The continent faces a challenge to effectively monetize its creative output. Once it does so, he said, innovation would follow.

The Africa Investment Forum, Anohu said, was working to promote content deals as well as digital infrastructure projects to advance creative industries, including support to smaller players. "At AIF 2019, we had a very interesting entrepreneur scheme which saw those that were not as big get

the kind of funding they needed to get beyond getting a feasibility study done," she said.

Support for intellectual property rights and equipping investors with the data they need to tackle negative perceptions about investing in Africa are key priorities for Africa Investment Forum, Anohu added.

Garfield agreed with Anohu that the AfCFTA would help address a number of the challenges to boosting Africa's creative output, including uneven intellectual property protections, fragmented payment systems and inadequate human capacity in creative industries.

"Data is one of the African Development Bank's strong points. They have a fantastic research division, and what we're trying to do is mainstream that data culled from 55 countries and distill it in such a manner that the investors can easily access the information they need," she said.

Netflix's Garfield sounded an optimistic note about his company's future trajectory in Africa, citing the continent's youthful population and its rich storytelling tradition.

The Africa Investment Forum, championed by the African Development Bank and its founding and institutional partners, works to accelerate the closure of the continent's investment gaps. The Forum currently has a growing portfolio of 118 deals valued at \$114 billion.

The largest single foreign direct investment into Africa, the Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Area 1 Project, to which the African Development Bank is contributing \$400 million in financing, was structured at the Africa Investment Forum 2019 marketplace event.



CURRENT NEWS

## I&P, Mastercard Foundation to help African ed-tech startups bounce back from Covid-19

By SmartMoney Reporter

VC firm Investisseurs & Partenaires (I&P) has partnered the Mastercard Foundation to support businesses in the education sector to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

The partnership creates a US\$10.5 million three-year programme that will accelerate 30 education entrepreneurs in Ghana, Ivory Coast and Senegal by addressing key challenges related to access, quality, and relevance faced within

the sector.

These include funding for education businesses in recovery phase seeking to adapt and expand, skills development through technical assistance to accelerate SMEs' digital transformation, education

opportunities through innovative social inclusion mechanisms, and data and advocacy through robust impact management systems and policy dialogue.

Startups and SMEs will be selected based

on their capacity to offer quality education and training, while promoting employability and youth empowerment within their countries of operations.

"As a pioneering impact investment group, we have witnessed the gap between

the available skills of young women and men and the needs of the job market. While African governments have limited means to solve these problems, the private sector is increasingly perceived as a possible complementary player that

could boost access to, and the quality and relevance of education," said Emilie Debled, executive director for strategic developments and partnerships at I&P.

By accelerating the work of edupreneurs and SMEs in the education

space, the programme aims to impact 95,000 beneficiaries, including students, trainees, and ed-tech platform users served by these businesses, out of which 55 per cent will be women and 33 per cent disadvantaged youth.



# SMMEs across sub-Saharan Africa hit hard by cybercrimes



By Carla Bernardo

**S**MALL, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in sub-Saharan Africa have faced a range of cybersecurity issues in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with scaling digital capacity exposing SMMEs to threats like ransomware, phishing and supply chain attacks.

A recent cybersecurity webinar hosted by the Cybersecurity Capacity Centre for Southern Africa (C3SA) at the University of Cape Town (UCT) shared some insights.

Established in January 2020, C3SA is a cybersecurity research and capacity centre hosted at UCT to increase cybersecurity awareness in the region and implement the University of Oxford's Cybersecurity Capacity Maturity Model for Nations (CMM) assessment toolkit. The centre is a consortium comprising Research ICT Africa, the Department of Information Systems at UCT, the Global Cyber Security Capacity Centre at the University of Oxford and the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs.

Zainab Ruhwanya, a lecturer in UCT's School of Information Technology, shared her research during "The sub-Saharan African cybersecurity 'para belum': User data protection and privacy" webinar on 16 February 2021.

Ruhwanya's presentation focused on the approaches taken by SMMEs in the region to deliver better cybersecurity for users' data and reflected on what has happened in the sector since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She noted that when many SMMEs moved to cloud-based services in response to restrictions brought on by the pandemic, cybercriminals responded with a 630% increase in cloud services attacks between January and April 2020. Other attacks included spear phishing (the act of sending emails to specific and well-researched targets while purporting to be a trusted sender), ransomware, smishing (a form of phishing that involves a text message or phone number) and supply chain attacks.

In explaining why SMMEs are left vulnerable to these attacks, Ruhwanya listed the numerous challenges they face, including a lack of financial and technical resources, poor information system security policies, a lack of plans for defence and incident response, shortage of skilled employees, and a lack of support-

ive government initiatives.

However, she did have recommendations about how the region's SMMEs can deliver better cybersecurity for users' data. This includes cultivating a cybersecurity culture (backups, training, awareness and policies for information security and risk assessment); assessing compliance with data protection laws existing in their jurisdictions of operation; and leveraging external support through national, regional and international cybersecurity initiatives.

## Data protection

Ruhwanya was one of four expert speakers on the day. She was joined by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation's Dr Martin Koyabe, who discussed the status of data protection for the region's users in light of the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and other international regulations; Teki Akuetteh Falconer from Nsiah Akuetteh & Co in Ghana, who discussed the state of enforcement of data protection regulations in the region; and the University of Johannesburg's (UJ) Professor Basie von Solms, who spoke about the maturity of awareness, training and education regarding the security of users' data in sub-Saharan Africa.

UCT senior research fellow and postdoctoral researcher Dr Laban Bagui served as the moderator, and C3SA's co-director, Dr Enrico Calandro, delivered the opening address.

In his presentation, Dr Koyabe highlighted that nearly 52% of African and Asian countries have established legislation for data protection, which mirrors investments in the sector. Africa has 28 countries with legislation, nine in the draft stage, 13 with no legislation and four countries for which there is no data.

Koyabe defined data protection, stating that it relates to avoiding harm against individuals through their personal data, and discussed the regulations that govern operations on personal data. He also listed the 12 minimum tenets for data protection and privacy law, which include more control to subjects, more accountability for controllers and processors, more transparency in processing personal data, reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing security, and cross-border cooperation for processing.

He also listed numerous challenges that are holding up the ratification and enforcement of the Council of Europe's data protection convention 108/108+ and other related conventions. These challenges include the lack of comprehensive data protection regulation, challenges of implementation, lack of adequate resources, lack of harmonisation across initiatives, the balance between individual data subject rights and public interest or national security, and the lack of political will.

The latter has affected most regulatory efforts to protect user data in the region.

## Regulations enforcement

In her presentation, Akuetteh Falconer emphasised positive factors that have impacted the state of enforcement of data protection regulations in the region.

This includes the extraterritorial effects of regulations such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, the awakening of jurisdictional courts to the necessities and realities of data protection enforcement, laws requiring registration of data processors and controllers, laws requiring regulatory authorisation before cross-border data transfers, and practice directives issued by data protection laws.

She also listed negative factors, such as the slow pace of enforcing regulations, reactive rather than proactive approaches and non-punitive implications of non-compliance, all of which continue to hinder the progress of enforcement of data protection regulations in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Cybersecurity maturity

In the final presentation, Professor Von Solms, who is the director of UJ's Centre for Cyber Security, discussed the status of capacity maturity of awareness, training and education regarding the security of users' data in the region. He referred to three documents: Accenture's Insight into the Cyberthreat Landscape in South Africa (2019), the CMM reviews and the 2020 KnowBe4 African Cybersecurity Research Report.

The Accenture report uncovered poor knowledge of cybersecurity among internet users and found that South Africa has the third-highest number of cybercrime victims worldwide while the CMM reviews highlighted the remarkable progress made in cybersecurity capacity maturity in Uganda across multiple assessment exercises. The third document reported an increase in the number of people concerned about cybercrimes, indicative of growing awareness about these crimes and cybersecurity in the region.

This, said Von Solms, indicated a general growth in cybersecurity awareness in Africa, which is largely driven by the knowledge of cybercrimes. Both governments and the private sector are responsible for driving this momentum.

He added that the three documents emphasise the importance of education and awareness in speeding up the momentum of engagement with risks, threats and attacks in the cybersecurity domain.

## We are building a platform we wish we had growing up

By Special Correspondent, Lagos

BY 2030, more than half the jobs in the world will be STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics—based. According to research, innovation and employment are strong markers of continuous success in modern economies, and STEM education, leadership, as well as business skills, happen to be the most significant variables.

But how prepared is Africa for this reality? Are students in African schools equipped to take advantage of this opportunity? How can these students compete globally? This brings us to the problem statements of TechGen Africa.

Technologically, companies are springing up and the number of jobs requiring STEM-based skills is on the increase. Sadly, our students are poorly equipped to fill this huge gap of poverty, poor school funding, and waning interest from students, to poorly trained teachers, inadequate learning aids, and incessant strike actions amongst others.

Consequently, traditional education in Africa is failing, with STEM education being the worst hit. Students are largely uninspired to pursue their passion in STEM-related fields thereby leaving them unprepared for the opportunities and challenges of the 21st-century world.

In a quest to change this negative trend, TechGen Africa ([techgenafrika.com](https://techgenafrika.com)) in collaboration with the India STEM Alliance ([indiastemalliance.com](https://indiastemalliance.com)), has launched an initiative conceived and developed to promote STEM education in Africa by providing the right support and reward for students and other stakeholders.

The initiative is poised to support young Africans who are interested in acquiring the problem-solving skills that come with solid STEM education, leadership, and entrepreneurial skills, in order to surmount the challenges facing Africa in various sectors of the economy. This initiative would ultimately position young African professionals to compete favorably with their colleagues globally.

In addition, TechGen Africa has created a platform ([stemtutors.org](https://stemtutors.org)) to make STEM education accessible and affordable to all, by connecting interested parents/guardians to a professional STEM educator irrespective of location. A number of parents are already using these products, even during the lockdown period.

TechGen Africa, in a bid to change the African narrative, has trained over 4000 people and counting, in STEM-related courses. A major milestone attained by TechGen Africa is the successful organization of the first blockchain training for teens in Nigeria in 2018. TechGen also runs a STEM entrepreneurship program—a 10-month accelerator program—which is churning out thought leaders in innovation and business. Here is what a TechGen scholar has to say: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMt9h\\_MTKiU&t=16s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMt9h_MTKiU&t=16s)

The project has been awarded a 30Under30 sustainable solution for Africa by 'WeForGood International' and has been selected to be among 100 innovative projects in Africa by Pan-Africa youth spark.

Owing to existing competence levels, a large number of jobs in Africa's employment ecosystem have been outsourced to expatriates. Initiatives like these will in the long run increase competitiveness and improve employability for Africans at

home and abroad. And as a matter of cause-and-effect, improved STEM skills at the grassroots will equal greater employment rates, job retention, higher exports, and a direct positive impact on countries' GDPs.

While STEM education may have been plagued by various challenges in the past, TechGen Africa's collaborative initiative is one great step towards salvaging the situation which deserves the support and commendation of every stakeholder. It is also hoped that other successful Nigerian tech companies will be inspired by TechGen Africa's efforts to create similar opportunities for education in Africa and for Africans.

## Making Africa More Literate

From research culled from the evaluation of different literacy programs across Africa and the globe, it has been found that effectiveness indicators are due to a mixture of internal and external factors.

A major revision is needed for the definition of literacy itself, which requires to be more inclusive of and responsive to other areas of life, to improve and include a modification to globalization and new challenges. Also:

Reform of our curriculum and the newer curriculum should be focused more on African culture and values, with social unity taking a bottom-up approach on the basis of the needs, realities, and aspirations of African nations.

Utilize technologies to leverage rapid globalization and scaling solutions.

Stimulate innovation, as developing and sharing best practices and successful experiences is an important factor.

Prioritize "deep learning" in this new vision for literacy, as it emphasizes the vital role that learning plays in ensuring the acquisition of life skills and qualitative societal revolution in terms of social justice, harmonious living, and economic growth.

The status quo of STEM education vis-a-vis problem identification and practical solutions for all stakeholders has been extensively discussed in a TechGen Africa publication (<https://www.techgenafrika.com/publications>) titled "Awakening Africa's potential for innovation" by Sodiq Ade Balogun (CEO/founder, TechGen Africa).

TechGen Africa is leading the revolution in education and innovation in Africa and calls on all stakeholders to rise to the responsibility, that Africa may take her rightful place in a digital future.



**The status quo of STEM education vis-a-vis problem identification and practical solutions for all stakeholders has been extensively discussed in a TechGen Africa publication (<https://www.techgenafrika.com/publications>) titled "Awakening Africa's potential for innovation" by Sodiq Ade Balogun (CEO/founder, TechGen Africa).**

OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS





## WORLD

## Nigeria's Okonjo-Iweala says 'ready to go' on day 1 as WTO boss

GENEVA

THE World Trade Organization's first female and first African director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala began work yesterday, ending a six-month leadership void at the global trade watchdog.

After a long campaign that was derailed in the late stages by a Trump administration veto, the 66-year-old Nigerian was finally confirmed as boss last month, pledging to "forget business as usual" at the body which is struggling to strike new deals and whose arbitration functions are paralysed.

"It feels great. I am coming into one of the most important institutions in the world and we have a lot of work to do.

I feel ready to go," Okonjo-Iweala told a reporter on arrival at the WTO's lake-side Geneva headquarters.

The first day of the former finance and foreign minister at the helm of the WTO coincides with a meeting of its top decision-making body, the General Council. Its 164 member states will discuss topics such as trade rules on COVID-19 vaccine distribution which Okonjo-Iweala has identified as a priority.

On the agenda is also the date and venue for its major ministerial conference which was due to be held in Kazakhstan last year but was delayed due to the pandemic.

Okonjo-Iweala has said she hopes that event will provide a venue for clinching



New Director-General of the World Trade Organisation Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (center) poses for pictures with WTO Deputy Directors-General Alan Wolff (left) and Karl Brauner upon her arrival at the WTO headquarters to take office yesterday in Geneva. (AFP)

various deals including on cutting fisheries subsidies and reform of the WTO's top appeals body which was paralysed by former US President Donald Trump's administration.

Her predecessor Brazilian Roberto Azevedo stepped down on Aug 31, a year early.

Since the director-general role holds few executive powers, some analysts question Okonjo-Iweala's ability to revive the body in the face of so many challenges including persistent US-China trade tensions and growing protectionism heightened by the pandemic.

Agencies

## Moscow expects foreign media to cover Russian events objectively, top diplomat says

MOSCOW

MOSCOW expects foreign journalists to cover events related to Russia objectively and comprehensively, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a meeting with representatives of leading foreign media outlets accredited in Moscow yesterday.

He noted that the Russian side has no intentions of imposing its point of view. "In turn, we hope that you will cover every angle of the events in an objective way too," the top diplomat emphasized.

He pointed out that Moscow is always ready for a discussion. "Yet, of course, we cannot take as a given (moreover, to agree with) the current wave of what is called fakes, the wave of labeling using the old Cold War ideological clichés," he stated, adding that turning the information field into an arena of confrontation does not facilitate the creation of an environment demanded by the present situation.

Sergey Lavrov has described the attempts to use the issue of vaccination against the novel coronavirus for geopolitical insinuations as regrettable and stated that Moscow was prepared to promote impartial media coverage of this subject.

"The coronavirus pandemic has shown it is an imperative of our time to stop using any occasion for fueling confrontation and hostility. Even when it comes to the vaccination issue, we can see that sometimes the wish prevails to try to use this theme, which is crucial to the whole of humanity first and foremost from the standpoint of ensuring each person's right to life, for geopolitical insinuations. This is regrettable."

Nevertheless, Lavrov said, an overwhelming majority of foreign journalists valued their reputation. "We read much of what your editors publish. I see your striving to analyze and understand and to delve into the essence of events. In doing this you can always count on us as your sincere and active assistants," Lavrov said.

Agencies

## Iran insists US lift sanctions first to revive nuclear deal talks

DUBAI

IRAN said yesterday the United States should lift sanctions first if it wants to hold talks with Tehran to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that former President Donald Trump abandoned.

President Joe Biden has said Washington is ready for talks about both nations resuming compliance with the pact, under which Tehran secured an easing of sanctions by limiting its nuclear work. But each side wants the other to move first.

The West fears Iran wants to build nuclear weapons, while Tehran says that has never been its goal.

"President Joe Biden's administration should change Trump's maximum pressure policy towards Tehran... If they want talks with Iran, first they should lift sanctions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

Washington said on Sunday it was disappointed by Tehran's refusal to hold talks but was ready to "re-engage in meaningful diplomacy" and would consult with major powers.

While Iran has been demanding the lifting of US sanctions first, Washington says Tehran must return to compliance with the deal, which Iran has been progressively breaching since 2019.

"The new US administration's refusal to return to the deal is a historic mistake," Khatibzadeh said, saying Tehran would continue to work with the UN nuclear watchdog despite scaling back cooperation.

Agencies



Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh speaks during a press conference in Tehran on Feb 22, 2021. (AFP)

## Trump hints at 2024 run, repeats election lies

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump hinted on Sunday at a possible presidential run in 2024, attacked President Joe Biden and repeated his fraudulent claims he won the 2020 election in his first major appearance since leaving the White House nearly six weeks ago.

Trump says he has no plans to form third party.

Addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida, Trump vowed to help Republicans try to regain majorities - lost during his presidency - in the US House of Representatives and Senate in 2022 congressional elections and dangled himself as a possibility for president in 2024.

"With your help, we will take back the House, we will win the Senate and then a Republican president will make a triumphant return to the White House. I wonder who will that be?" he said, smiling. "Who, who, who will that be, I wonder."

Trump's weeks away from Washington do not appear to have dimmed his anger at Republicans who voted to impeach or convict in a failed congressional effort to hold him responsible for inciting a deadly attack on the US Capitol on Jan 6.

He singled out several such Republicans by name, like Senators Mitt Romney and Pat Toomey and House lawmakers Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger, and suggested he would support candidates who opposed them in Republican primaries.

"Get rid of 'em all," he thundered.

Trump repeated lies he has told about his Nov 3 presidential election loss to Biden, and offered a withering critique of his Democratic successor's first weeks in office.

"They just lost the White House," the Republican former president said after criticizing Biden's handling of border security. "But who knows, who knows, I may even decide to beat them for a third time."

Trump and his allies spent two months denying his election defeat, and claiming without evidence it was the result of widespread voter fraud, before his supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan 6 seeking to disrupt congressional certification of Biden's win.

A civil war has erupted within the Republican Party, with establishment figures such as Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell eager to put Trump in the rearview mirror, and others, like Trump ally Senator Lindsey Graham, believing the party's future



depends on the energy of the pro-Trump base.

Trump declared the Republican Party united behind him, with opposition coming only from "a handful of Washington, DC, political hacks." When he mentioned McConnell's name, the crowd booed.

## No plans for third party

He said he had no plans to try to launch a third party, an idea he has discussed with advisers in the past couple of months.

"We're not starting new parties. We have the Republican Party. It's going to be united and be stronger than ever before. I am not starting a new party," he said.

In a straw poll, 55 percent of CPAC conference participants said they would vote for Trump in the 2024 Republican presidential nominating race. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis came in second at 21 percent.

Without Trump, DeSantis led the field with 43 percent,

and other potential Republican candidates had single digits.

But not everyone supported Trump. A separate question on the poll asked whether Trump should run again in 2024, with 68 percent saying he should and 32 percent opposed or having no opinion.

Still, Trump fervor at the four-day CPAC event was so strong that Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr, declared it "T-PAC" and participants rolled out a golden statue of the former president.

Trump's flirtation with another run could freeze the Republican field for 2024 as other potential candidates try to decide whether they will have to compete against him. Many of those 2024 possible candidates spoke during the CPAC event.

## The Biden White House dismissed Trump's speech.

"While the GOP casts about for a path forward, President Biden is going to remain laser-focused on crushing the virus, re-opening schools, and getting Americans back to work," White House spokesman Michael Gwin said after the speech.

An hour into his 90-minute speech, Trump dove deeply into his unfounded claims of election fraud, going against

the advice of confidants who believe he needs to look to the future.

"We have a very sick and corrupt electoral process that has to be fixed immediately. This election was rigged," Trump said. "And the Supreme Court and other courts didn't want to do anything about it."

"You won! You won!" the crowd shouted. Trump's campaign and his supporters brought dozens of failed lawsuits trying to overturn the results of the election, which Biden won by more than 7 million votes. The fraud claims were repeatedly rejected by state and federal officials.

In the short term, Trump is making plans to set up a super PAC political organization to support candidates who mirror his policies, an adviser said.

He sought to position himself as the lead critic of the new president, including on immigration and security along the US border with Mexico, and the slow reopening of schools closed due to the pandemic.

"Joe Biden has had the most disastrous first month of any president in modern history," Trump said.

Recent Gallup polls have given Biden a job approval rating well past 50 percent. Trump never achieved above 49 percent.

Agencies

## UNOCHA faces funding shortfall to meet humanitarian needs in restive Ethiopian region

ADDIS ABABA

THE United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) on Sunday said it has only received 58 percent of 1.3 billion U.S. dollars required to meet humanitarian needs in Ethiopia's northern Ti-

gray region.

"About 58 percent of 1.3 billion U.S. dollars needed to meet humanitarian needs in Tigray regional state have been received," the UNOCHA said in a report. UNOCHA appealed to humanitarian partners to cover the rest 570.1 million U.S. dollars needed

to comprehensively meet humanitarian needs in Tigray regional state.

UNOCHA needs funds to meet the humanitarian needs of more than 2.25 million people. UNOCHA also said 61,307 Ethiopian refugees living in Sudan are also included in the latest humanitar-

ian aid appeal. UNOCHA also said it continues to be concerned by continuous reports of incidents of house searches, lootings, killings and Gender-based Violence (GBV) against civilians in Tigray regional state.

Nearly four months of fighting in northern Ethiopia's Tigray re-

gional state between the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) which used to rule the region until November and the Ethiopian Defense Forces has left hundreds of people dead, thousands displaced and millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Xinhua

## Rising container throughput indicates vitality of China's foreign trade

STACKS of containers piled up on Chinese ports reflect China's robust foreign trade, releasing a signal of rapid recovery of the Chinese economy.

China's foreign trade of goods created a new annual record of 32.16 trillion yuan (\$4.96 trillion) in 2020 despite the global economic downturn last year, during which the global trade of goods dropped 5.6 percent year on year.

This highlighted the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy. China has not only withstood the pressure test, but also boosted the confidence of the world in global recovery.

Impacted by COVID-19, contain-

er throughput of Shanghai port decreased 8.4 percent year on year in the first 4 months of 2020. However, the world's largest automated container terminal has today regained its hustle and bustle. Last year, the container throughput of the terminal hit a new record of 43.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), leaving a remarkable "v-shape" bounce.

Apart from Shanghai, major coastal cities such as Ningbo, Tianjin, Qingdao and Dalian also witnessed busy scenes at their ports.

In addition, containers carrying foreign trade commodities were also thriving in land transport. In 2020, China-Europe freight trains



A foreign container vessel is ready to be unloaded at a terminal of Ningbo Zhoushan Port, east China's Zhejiang province, Jan. 31, 2021. File photo

made over 10,000 trips, constantly transporting Chinese medical supplies, auto parts and electronic products to foreign destinations. Given the lifted transport price of

ocean shipping, the containerized freight index has been on a rise. The China containerized freight index reached 1,863.84 points in mid-January this year, about 1,000

points higher compared with the average figure reported in May 2020.

"We worried about the stacked containers in the first half last year, but now there aren't enough trucks carrying them," said a container manufacturer. What the manufacturer said mirrors the prosperous business in China nowadays.

The robust recovery of foreign trade comes from the strength of international logistics, and also stable industrial and supply chains. For instance, to satisfy the demand of the international market calls for joint efforts made by the supply end and the whole

industrial chain. In south China's Guangdong province, a foreign trade enterprise engaged in home appliance business is currently running at full capacity. This is attributed to the hard work of all its employees, and also the coordination from its suppliers.

Relying on the super large market and a complete industrial system, China has rapidly alleviated the short supply of raw materials and straightened domestic and overseas logistics, so as to ensure the recovery of all links on the industrial and supply chains and lay a solid foundation for foreign trade to regain stability.

People's Daily



## Japan PM Suga apologizes over expensive dinners scandal

TOKYO



JAPANESE Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga apologized yesterday following the resignation of a key spokeswoman, who along with other senior bureaucrats were reprimanded for attending expensive dinners hosted by Suga's son.

Makiko Yamada, Cabinet Public Relations Secretary, tendered her resignation from hospital after being admitted for ill health, the government said.

Suga's administration and the 60-year-old spokeswoman had faced public criticism after magazine Shukan Bunshun last month reported that Suga's eldest son, Seigo Suga, an executive at a company producing television programmes for satellite broadcaster, had paid for expensive dinners for senior bureaucrats.

Japan's National Civil Service Ethics Law prohibits government employees from receiving gifts or entertainment from companies or individuals that could be seen to curry favour.

"I'm very sorry that a member of my family was involved in behaviour resulting in public servants breaching the ethics law, and I apologise deeply to citizens," Suga told parliament. "I deeply regret that it has come to a situation, where people's trust in the administration has been damaged"

Yamada's dinner with Suga's son and other executives at the company, one of several that prompted reprimands for 11 bureaucrats, cost 74,203 yen (US\$696) per person, according to local media reports.

Yamada admission to hospital meant she missed a Monday parliamentary committee meeting where opposition politicians were expected to question her about her dinner with the younger Suga, which was in 2019 when she was an official at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. **Agencies**

## Putin says Russian COVID vaccines efficient against new strains

MOSCOW

RUSSIA anti-coronavirus vaccines are efficient against its new strains as well, Russian President Vladimir Putin said yesterday.

"According to the reports I receive, our vaccines also work against these strains, which have caused so much fear in Europe, and not only in Europe," he said at a meeting with Veronika Skvortsova, chief of Russia's Federal Medical Biological Agency.

"Tests of these vaccines demonstrate that our vaccines are efficient against these strains," Putin stressed.

According to Skvortsova, over the pandemic period, the agency has spotted some 3,500 mutations of the coronavirus in Russia.

"All of them are actually single-nucleotide, neutral variations, which are insignificant in terms of the infection form. Most of them are sporadic mutation, but for only seven with an incidence of five percent in our population," she said.

Thus, in her words, four out of these seven mutations are located in the S-protein but none have been detected in the receptor domain.

So, once the receptor domain is intact, all Russian anti-coronavirus vaccines are efficient. "There are three mutations in the nucleocapsid N-protein, but it is another story," she explained. **Agencies**

## China is ready to host a successful Winter Olympics, says former IOC official

By Ren Yan

MY message primarily is that the Beijing games I believe will be a wonderful winter Olympic Games, Anthony Edgar, former head of media operations for the International Olympic Committee (IOC), told People's Daily in an exclusive interview on Fe. 3, ahead of the one-year countdown to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2022.

Edgar announced retirement after working with IOC in January 2020. Following the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, which he covered as a journalist/photographer for a sports magazine, Edgar was offered the opportunity to join the Sydney 2000 sports department, responsible for sport content and publications for the Olympics and Paralympics.

In 2001, the International Volleyball Federation invited Edgar to join them as press chief, which brought him to Switzerland from his hometown in Australia. Two years later, he was offered the position of IOC head of media operations for the Olympics.

Edgar, who visited proposed venues for the Games in Zhangjiakou, Hebei province, and in Beijing, said he was deeply impressed with the legacies of the 2008 Summer Olympics with sustainable development.

China National Aquatics Center, better known as Water Cube, hosted aquatics events at the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Water Cube has been turned into Ice Cube for the upcoming Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, as the stadium will host the curling and wheelchair curling events.

Beijing's National Stadium, known around the world as the "Bird's Nest", the inauguration of 2008 Olympic Games was held there, will host the opening and closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in 2022.

"As the city that once hosted the Summer Olympics, Beijing has tried to reuse the existing venues and made full use of the legacy," said Edgar, sustainability strategy in preparation for the winter sport extravaganza in China marks an important milestone in holding green Olympic Games.

He also praised the the preparation for Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games, "Beijing has done an amazing job at very difficult circumstances to keep preparations going smoothly, in terms of both infrastructure construction and operation despite the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic." **People's Daily**

## China to issue report on human rights violations in US

BEIJING

CHINA'S State Council Information Office will in the near future issue a report on the human rights violations in the United States in 2020, according to an official statement issued yesterday.

Titled The Report on Human Rights Violations in the United States in 2020, the 15,000-character document details facts regarding Washington's incompetent pandemic containment leading to tragic outcomes, American democracy disorder triggering political chaos, ethnic minorities suffering racial discrimination, continuous social unrest threatening public security, growing polarization between the rich and the poor aggravating social inequality, and US trampling on international rules resulting in humanitarian disasters.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic wreaked havoc around the world, posing a major threat to human security. It went out of control in the United States following the government's reckless response, according to the report.

The United States, home to less than 5 percent of the world's population, accounted for more than a quarter of the world's confirmed COVID-19 cases and nearly one fifth of the global deaths from the disease, according to the report. More than 500,000 Americans have lost their lives due to COVID-19, according to it.

Disorder in American democratic institutions led to political chaos, further tearing the fabric of society apart, according to the report.

Money-tainted politics distorted and suppressed public opinion, turning elections into a "one-man show" of the wealthy class, and people's confidence in the American democratic system dropped to the lowest level in 20 years, it said.



Protesters march to demonstrate against the shooting of Jacob Blake, a Black man who was shot in the back multiple times by police the day before, prompting community protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin, on Aug 24, 2020. (File photo)

According to the report, ethnic minority groups in the United States suffered systematic racial discrimination and were in a difficult situation.

People of color made up about one third of all minors under the age of 18 in the United States but two thirds of all of the country's imprisoned minors, according to the document.

African-Americans were three times as likely as whites to be infected by the coronavirus, twice as likely to die from COVID-19, and three times as likely to be killed by police, according to the report.

One in four young Asian-Americans had been the target of racial bullying.

According to the document, gun trade and shooting incidents hit a record high in the United States where people's confidence in social order waned.

More than 41,500 people were killed in shooting incidents across the United States in 2020, an average of more than 110 a day, and there were 592 mass shootings nationwide, an average of more than 1.6 a day, according to the report.

The report also draws attention to the

widening gap between the rich and the poor in America where the people at the bottom of society were living in misery.

The pandemic led to mass unemployment in the United States, and tens of millions of people lost health insurance coverage, it said, calling vulnerable groups the biggest victims of the US government's incompetent response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

It was stressed in the report that at a time when global unity is needed to fight the pandemic, the United States, however, persisted in pursuing an agenda of "America first," isolationism, and unilateralism, imposing sanctions wantonly, bullying and threatening international organizations, and treating asylum seekers cruelly.

In doing so, America is becoming the biggest troublemaker to global security and stability, according to the document.

**Xinhua**

## Biden 'in no rush to lift Venezuela sanctions'

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden's administration is in "no rush" to lift US sanctions on Venezuela but would consider easing them if President Nicolas Maduro takes confidence-building steps showing he is ready to negotiate seriously with the opposition, said a White House official.

Signaling that the new US president may be unlikely to loosen the screws on Venezuela anytime soon, the official emphasized that existing sanctions have enough special provisions to allow for humanitarian aid shipments to help Venezuelans cope with economic hardships and the COVID-19 pandemic.

But the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Maduro's Socialist government has been "actively preventing the delivery of humanitarian assistance."

This suggests that for now Biden is prepared to stick with the specific sanctions, including crippling oil-sector penalties, imposed by former President Donald Trump on the OPEC nation, despite the failure to force Maduro from power.

But Biden, by contrast, intends to move away from the mostly unilateral approach of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign and enlist more coun-



President Joe Biden

tries to help seek a diplomatic solution, the official said in an interview.

Biden's administration has made clear it will continue to recognize opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president. Dozens of countries have backed Guaido's claim following Maduro's re-election in 2018 in a vote Western governments called a sham, though cracks recently have appeared in Guaido's international support.

"We're in no rush to lift sanctions," the official said. "If the regime under-

takes confidence-building measures that show that they're ready and willing to engage in real conversations with the opposition ... if they're ready to take serious steps, then we will consider the alleviation of sanctions."

The official did not specify what steps Maduro would need to make but said he could not be allowed to use negotiations as a "delaying tactic" to consolidate power and divide the opposition, as he has been accused of doing in the past.

Maduro, who calls Guaido a US pup-

pet, has shown no signs of giving ground. Having retained support of the military as well as Russia, China, Cuba and Iran, he has rejected or ignored previous demands for such concessions.

The Biden administration also appears to have little sense of urgency for major gestures toward Cuba despite hopes for a softer approach after Trump, often citing its support for Maduro, rolled back historic Obama-era détente with Havana.

Some Biden advisers had suggested earlier that he could start by loosening up the flow of remittances from Cuban Americans and ease restrictions on family travel to the Communist-ruled island. But while acknowledging such changes could have a positive impact, the official said a Cuba policy shift was not currently among Biden's top priorities, which include the coronavirus pandemic, economic recovery and rebuilding alliances abroad.

"Frankly, first things first," the official said.

There has also been no sign of any immediate plans to rescind Cuba's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, though Biden officials have said Trump's last-minute decision to return Havana to the US blacklist is under review.

**Agencies**

## Spotlight moves to US Senate as Democrats push \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill

WASHINGTON

U.S. Democrats are anxious for Congress to pass President Joe Biden's top priority - his \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief bill - in the next two weeks. Their biggest challenge lies just ahead: getting it through a Senate where they have the slimmest of majorities.

The House of Representatives narrowly approved the bill to fight the pandemic and boost the economy early Saturday. The action now moves to the Senate, where Democrats don't expect much if any Republican help, even though polls indicate a majority of Americans - around 70 percent - favor the measure.

That means Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris may have to cast a tie-breaking vote in a chamber where Republicans control 50 seats and Democrats and their allies control the other 50. Even this outcome depends on all the Democrats staying united behind the first major bill to come through Congress in the Biden administration.

"We're moving ahead with a bill that probably will get no Republican votes in the Senate, but will have broad Republican support in the country," Senator Chris Coons, a Democrat, said on CNN's "State of the Union" Sunday.

Republicans in Congress say the plan is too expensive and includes things like transportation projects that have nothing to do with relief for COVID-19.

"It's \$1.9 trillion, more than half of it won't even be spent in this calendar year ... So how could it be about COVID relief? No one expects a year from now that we'll be in the Covid crisis we are in now," Republican Senator Rob Portman told ABC's



US President Biden holds coronavirus response meeting with members of Congress at the White House in Washington

"This Week."

### FIGHT OVER MINIMUM WAGE

Senators are expected to start proposing amendments this week, as they try to decide how to address a minimum wage increase that progressive Democrats are passionate about.

The House-passed COVID-19 aid bill would raise the national hourly minimum wage for the first time since 2009, to \$15 from \$7.25. But the Senate's rules expert said the wage hike could not be included as long as Democrats are using a maneuver that allows the coronavirus bill to pass with a simple majority, rather than the 60 votes needed to advance most legislation in the 100-seat chamber.

Top Senate Democrats are considering trying to get around this setback by using the tax code to incentivize a higher wage, but it's unclear how popular this is. Coons said Sunday he had not seen the tax code proposal, while noting there will be other chances to raise the minimum wage.

Progressives want the wage increase kept in the COVID-19 bill. But some moderate Democrats like Senator Joe Manchin favor a smaller increase in the minimum wage, to about \$11 an hour.

"We will figure out a way to do this," another Democrat, Senator Sherrod Brown, told NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday. "Democrats are united in raising wages ... we're going to make it happen."

Both chambers must pass the same ver-

sion of the bill before sending it to Biden for signing into law. Democrats want this to happen by March 14, when enhanced unemployment benefits expire.

The measure would pay for vaccines and send a new round of aid to households, small businesses and state and local governments.

The big-ticket items include \$1,400 direct payments to individuals, a \$400-per-week federal unemployment benefit through Aug. 29, and help for those in difficulty paying rents and home mortgages during the pandemic.

Democrats say the package is needed to fight a pandemic that has killed more than 500,000 Americans and thrown millions out of work. **Agencies**



## Namungo players, official return to Dar es Salaam

BY CORRESPONDENT NASSIR NCHIMBI

FINALLY, Tanzania's soccer side Namungo FC's remaining players and one official, who were in Angola, returned to Dar es Salaam yesterday after being diagnosed free from COVID-19.

The Namungo FC players and official were reportedly found to have contracted COVID-19 after the Tanzanian squad had traveled to Angola to face CD Primeiro de Agosto in this season's CAF Confederation Cup play offs' first leg.

For almost two weeks now, the players and official were confronted with misunderstanding at Angola's airport, a situation which led to the CAF's ruling that the play offs had to take place in Dar es Salaam.

The decision to host both legs in Tanzania, which are otherwise routinely played at home and away, was made by CAF through its committee after finding out that Namungo FC and CD Primeiro de Agosto were not direct involved in the saga in Angola.

The three Namungo FC players are midfielders, Lucas Kikoti, Fred Tangalu and defender Khamis Faki as well as the club's Chief Executive Officer, Omary Kaaya.

Namungo FC chairman, Hassan Zidadu, said that they have made plans for the players and official to return to Tanzania.

He pointed out that they hope the four were set to make their way back a day before but due to tax reasons they were dealing with, it was not possible.

He disclosed: "We have already done everything so that our colleagues can return to Tanzania, and they would come by Sunday, but there are tax issues in the country that have blocked their arrival, but they will return the following day."

"Because in Angola there are only two flights schedule, Saturday and Monday, not more than that, we are very thankful to God that our brothers are safe," he said.



Namungo FC midfielder, Lucas Kikoti.

Namungo FC's squad advanced to the group stage of the CAF Confederation Cup, despite conceding 3-1 loss to CD Primeiro de Agosto in the play offs' second leg, which took place at Azam Complex on February 25.

Namungo FC has managed to progress to the group stage with a 7-5 aggregate victory, following a 6-2 victory over CD Primeiro de Agosto in the first match played at the same venue on February 21.

The side has set a record of being the first team in Tanzania to take part in the CAF Confederation Cup's group stage for the first time.

Namungo FC entered the continental competition after finishing as runners-up in the 2019/20 Federation Cup, which was won by Simba.

Namungo FC has also set a record for being the first team in Tanzania to beat a club from Angola by seven goal-aggregate.

The team now join Raja Club of Morocco, Pyra-

## Namungo FC ready to take on opponents in CAF Confederation Cup, says official

BY CORRESPONDENT ISMAIL TANO

TANZANIA'S Namungo FC's chairman, Hassan Zidadu, says his team are not afraid of any of the opponents in this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group D, maintaining they are planning to do well in the showpiece.

Namungo FC has been placed in the continental competition's group that also has giants, Morocco's Raja Casablanca, Nkana of Zambia and Pyramid FC of Egypt.

In the tournament's fixture, Namungo FC is expected to start its first group stage match against Raja Casablanca in Morocco on March 10 this year. Namungo FC qualified for the group stage of the second tier of CAF club tournaments after beating Primeiro de Agosto of Angola 7-5 on aggregate in the play offs.

The Tanzanian outfit won 6-2 in the first leg and the squad went on to lose 3-1 to Primeiro de Agosto in the second leg, with both clashes taking place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam recently Zidadu said they are grateful for the progress they have made and he pointed out that the team are proud of the quality of their squad.

He appealed to soccer enthusiasts in Tanzania

to trust their team.

"Tanzanians should not be afraid that we are going to an area that is difficult, maybe we will meet the bigwigs, who can look down on us, and we will use the opportunity to beat them," he said.

Zidadu said they are grateful for the progress they have made and he believes it is due to Tanzanians' prayers. He asked the people to continue praying for their team.

He said there are teams, who have never made it to the stage that Namungo FC has reached, but the Tanzanian team, much as they are new entrants, have achieved the feat.

The Namungo FC official said the club has learned much from the showdown, given there are many challenges the squad has come across.

He said they have not been doing well in the Mainland Tanzania Premier League because of their participation in the CAF Confederation Cup.

He pointed out that he is optimistic they will return to their best in the domestic top flight as they continue to plan to keep themselves fit.

Meanwhile, the team's head coach Hemed Suleiman 'Morocco' said they are setting their sights on planning and going for adjustments, so they can excel in the next step.



Tanzania's senior national football team 'Taifa Stars' head coach Kim Poulsen.

## Kim Poulsen's first Taifa Stars squad analysed

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

TANZANIA'S senior national football team, Taifa Stars, who are lying third in Group J of the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers, are scheduled to face Equatorial Guinea in Malabo on March 25 before hosting Libya in Dar es Salaam three days later for their final group match.

Head coach Kim Poulsen has named his first Taifa Stars provisional squad, but what do his selections say about his approach to his second stint in charge of the team?

Here, we take a look at what his 43-man provisional squad tells us about.

### Searching for continuity

Poulsen, who replaced Etienne Ndayiragije, has maintained the majority of players who were regular under his predecessor, with captain, Mbwana Samatta, Himid Mao, Aishi Manula and Simon Msuva highlighting the squad.

While there was a lot of criticism about Ndayiragije selections, Poulsen has avoided making wholesale changes to the

squad.

### Kessy and Yondani's shock return

That is not to say there were not any surprise call-ups, with Kelvin Yondani and Hassan Ramadhan inclusion catching many off guard.

Ramadhan, Mtibwa Sugar full right-back has not played for his country's senior national side since 2019 and he has not made a strong case since his return to the domestic scene after two years of playing in Zambia top flight league with Nkana.

Yondani was let go by Yanga at the end of last season and he was without a club till the mid-transfer window when he joined Polisi Tanzania.

Erasto Nyonni of Simba has been named even though he has had very limited game time at club level due to the arrival of Kenyan Joash Onyango from Gor Mahia.

Midfielder Jonas Mkude has also not played this year as he fights hard to slot back into Simba's first team since he was frozen out due to indiscipline issues.

### Planning for the future

Though it might too for some

of Tanzania's bright teenagers to be given a chance to start against Equatorial Guinea and Libya, the likes of Ally Msengi, Kelvin John, Novatus Dismas and David Bryson have all been included in the squad.

And while they would certainly not be starters, even a squad position is an invaluable experience for their growth and taking care of the future.

The inclusion of these bright talents excites supporters as well as reminds the more senior players that their position is constantly under threat.

### The surprise omissions

Spare a thought for Yusuph Mhulu. The Kagera Sugar forward must be wondering what he has to do to get a proper shot at making it to Taifa Stars.

Overcoming injury problems, Mhulu has started the Vodacom Premier League season well, scoring six and recording one assist so far.

If Mhulu cannot be included in a list of 43 Taifa Stars players under these conditions, it does not bode well for his future chances under Poulsen that he has been axed at a time when his form at club level is well above par.

Adam Omary is another striker who has been omitted despite enjoying a good season.

He played for Tanzania as recently as January, in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) group stage game against Zambia.

The JKT Tanzania striker has scored seven goals this season and he is still below 25 years which makes it strange that he has been dropped.

### Abubakar and Nchimbi to prove relevance

Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' was one of the players who were not included in Taifa Stars' CHAN squad in January, causing a heated public debate with many questioning Ndayiragije's decision.

It is exactly one year since Ditram Nchimbi scored for Yanga in a period that has seen him make over 30 competitive appearances.

He is in the Taifa Stars squad because he is not that player who got call-ups because of his exploits with club football.

Fair play, he has remained a consistent performer for Taifa Stars since 2019.

## Taifa Stars vs Equatorial Guinea clash's match officials unveiled

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has appointed Bernard Hensel Camille from Seychelles as the center referee for Tanzania's senior national side 'Taifa Stars' 2021 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifier against hosts, Equatorial Guinea.

The Taifa Stars will face Equatorial Guinea at the Estadio de Malabo Stadium in Malabo on March 25 2021 before hosting Libya three days later in a game that will decide their fate.

Camille will be assisted by his compatriots, Hensley Danny Petrousse (first assistant referee)

and James Fredrick Emille (second assistant referee) respectively.

The fourth official, who is also from Seychelles, is Eldrick Mathieu Adelaide and the Match Commissioner for the fixture is Alim Konate Aboubakar from Cameroon.

The other official is Elias Nzo Ela Nchama from Equatorial Guinea as the COVID-19 officer.

Tanzania are in third position in Group J after collecting four points in as many matches.

Tunisia top the group with 10 points and they have already secured their AFCON ticket, leaving second-placed Equatorial Guinea, Tanzania and Libya, who are languishing bottom with three points, chasing for the final quali-

fication spot.

This means Taifa Stars would need to avoid defeat against Equatorial Guinea and they should also win their final game against Libya to reach the finals that were delayed to February and January 2022 in Cameroon.

Ahead of the two crucial AFCON qualifiers, Taifa Stars have lined up two build up matches against neighbours Kenya on March 15 and 18.

Newly appointed Taifa Stars head coach, Kim Poulsen, has selected his squad for the upcoming games.

The full squad; Aishi Manula, Metacha Mnata, Juma Kaseja, Shomari Kapombe, Hassan Kessy, Israel Mwendwa, Erasto Nyo-

ni, Dickson Job, Bakari Nondo Mwamnyeto, Kelvin Yondani, Carlos Protas, Laurent Alfred, Kennedy Juma, Mohammed Hussein, Nickson Kibabage and David Bryson.

Yassin Mustapha, Edward Manyama, Simon Msuva, Hassan Dilunga, Mzamiru Yassin, Jonas Mkude, Said Ndemia, Feisal Salum, Himid Mao, Ally Msengi, Baraka Majogoro, Salum Abubakar, Iddy Selemani 'Nado', Mbwana Samatta, Thomas Ulimwengu and John Bocco.

Yohana Mkomola, Shaban Chilunda, Ditram Nchimbi, Deus Kaseke, Abdul Suleiman, Kelvin Pius John, Nassor Hamoud and Meshack Mwamita.



Namungo FC



## Ole Gunnar: Klopp, Lampard complaints influencing refs

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has said Manchester United are receiving fewer penalties as a result of referees being influenced by rival managers.

United were held to a 0-0 draw by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge after referee Stuart Attwell opted not to give the visitors a 14th-minute penalty following a handball incident involving Callum Hudson-Odoi which he was asked to look at on the pitchside monitor.

Former Chelsea boss Frank Lampard and Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp had previously questioned the number of spot-kicks United have been awarded.

Klopp claimed United "had more penalties in two years than I've had in five-and-a-half years at Anfield."

United have had eight penalties this season, two more than Liverpool, but Solskjaer said those comments have had a negative impact on his team.

"They probably thought his [Hudson-Odoi's] hand was in a very natural position when he flicked the ball," Solskjaer said.

"It's gone now. We should have had a penalty and that's clear. I'm a bit concerned that we don't get those penalties after what noises were made a month or two ago about us getting penalties. So clearly there is a point of managers influencing the referees which they shouldn't do.

"That's just the nature of us as managers isn't it, that anything that goes against you, you probably want to highlight. If something goes for other teams, you'd like to try to stop that probably. But I trust the referees not to be influenced by it.

"I was very surprised by the decision today when I looked at the video. Live, I didn't think it was a penalty so I can understand why he didn't give it straight away but when you look at the video, it is not a very natural position to have

your hand in."

Attwell decided that Hudson-Odoi did not motion towards the ball with his hand but defender Luke Shaw added that the officials were also concerned by the backlash.

"I don't know. At the time I saw a handball. I didn't know if it was Mason Greenwood or Callum Hudson-Odoi. I just carried on. I didn't even know there was a VAR check. I don't know why they stopped it. If it was a penalty... but if they didn't think it was a penalty I don't know why they needed to stop," Shaw told Sky Sports after the game.

"The referee even said to [Harry Maguire], I heard him say: 'If I say it's a penalty then it's going to cause a lot of talk about it afterwards.' So I don't know what happened there.

"[Maguire] said they got told it was a penalty. They got told it was a penalty by VAR so... I'm not sure. I don't understand. If he's going to stop then you think he is going to give a penalty. We had the ball, we were attacking so it's confusing with this VAR.

"If it's not going to be a penalty they might as well just carry on the game and not stop the flow of the game. It was another one, that look, I'm not going to moan about it because I don't think either team did enough to win."

United later said that Shaw misheard Maguire's comments about the referee.

Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel played down the incident.

"I was surprised and I'm still surprised because I didn't see live where the penalty should come from and when we checked on the pictures that we have on the bench from our iPad, I could not see any incident that should qualify for a penalty," he said.

"Maybe I have to look at it again. Until now, I don't know why it should be a penalty."

(Agencies)



*"[Maguire] said they got told it was a penalty. They got told it was a penalty by VAR so... I'm not sure. I don't understand. If he's going to stop then you think he is going to give a penalty. We had the ball, we were attacking so it's confusing with this VAR."*

# How the Chinese Super League bubble burst



Jiangsu's Alex Teixeira lays prone after a rough challenge in the Chinese Super League. (Agencies)

BY JOEY LYNCH, ESPN AUSTRALIA CORRESPONDENT

ON Sunday, it was revealed that defending Chinese Super League (CSL) champions Jiangsu FC would cease operations -- the latest in a string of developments demonstrating the rapidly shifting face of football in the world's most populous country.

Owned by retail conglomerate Suning, who purchased Serie A leaders Internazionale in 2016, the announcement represents rock bottom of a rapid descent in fortunes for a club who had, as recently as the summer of 2019, attempted to sign Gareth Bale from Spanish giants Real Madrid.

Despite being unable to land Bale, Jiangsu's squad that secured the 2020 Chinese title featured Brazilian Alex Teixeira, who sensationally spurned interest from Liverpool to make a €50 million move in 2016, and had previously fielded another Brazil international in Ramires, who signed from Chelsea in 2016 for a reported £25 million. In hindsight, 2016 perhaps represented the peak of the CSL's rise as the competition threatening to tilt the balance of world football; then-Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger warning that the wages on offer threatened to disturb previously unchallenged-European hegemony over top talent.

"That's the danger, that the Chinese offers become the benchmark for Europe," he said at the time. "You cannot compete with that."

Recovering after a series of gambling, match-fixing and corruption scandals and a subsequent crackdown rocked the league, Didier Drogba and Nicolas Anelka joined Shanghai Shenhua in 2012 as one of the first hints of

the CSL's growing power, while Seydou Keita linked up with Dalian Aerbin, and Lucas Barrios and Yakubu joined Guangzhou Evergrande and Guangzhou R&F respectively. On the touchline, Takeshi Okada, Sergio Batista and Marcello Lippi all arrived as coaches.

In 2013, David Beckham became the first global ambassador for the league and Guangzhou Evergrande became just the second Chinese side to win Asian Champions League -- a feat they would repeat in 2015.

Teixeira, Ramires, Alexandre Pato, Paulinho, Oscar, Carlos Tevez, Hulk and John Obi Mikel all headed to China in the years that followed, as did coaches such as Fabio Cannavaro and Luiz Felipe Scolari. The CSL was not just a competitor in the transfer market but, at its peak, was the preeminent spending force.

But with the league proving no more immune to the economic slowdown wrought by COVID-19 than any other footballing competition, the cracks that have emerged in recent years have been impossible to ignore over the past 12 months.

Teixeira refused to sign a new contract following Jiangsu's title-winning campaign and Suning -- which is embroiled in a legal battle with the Premier League after losing the rights to broadcast the competition in China -- told staff in February that the conglomerate would be shifting its focus away from its non-retail businesses.

"We should focus our main battlefield, initiate subtraction, redraw the battle line," Titan Sports quoted owner Zhang Jindong as saying. "We will focus on retail business resolutely, close and cut down our business irrel-

evant to retail business without hesitation."

Chinese FA Cup winner Shandong Luneng was formally expelled from the coming AFC Champions League three weeks ago due to "overdue payables" and, should Jiangsu be unable to find new investment, they too will need replacing. Shandong has already been swapped out with Shanghai SIPG, who finished fourth in the 2020 CSL campaign.

Elsewhere, Tianjin Tigers are reportedly at risk of total collapse after parent company, State-owned conglomerate Tianjin Teda, pulled funding. The club, which reportedly owes its players 10 months salary, has been in the Chinese top-flight since 1999.

Just last year, Tigers' local rivals Tianjin Tianhai, who at one stage had Cannavaro as coach and Pato and Axel Witsel on their books, declared bankruptcy and folded after being unable to financially recover from the arrest and imprisonment of former owner Shu Yuhui.

Though now competing in the lower tiers, the first Chinese side to win the ACL, Liaoning FC, also folded in 2020 due to consistently failing to pay debts.

In the face of the upheaval and despite some resistance from some fan groups, Chinese football authorities have taken steps to stem the flow of money in the CSL, decreeing that professional clubs will be required to remove corporate sponsors from their names and crests ahead of the 2021 campaign to deflate business influence and spending.

That move follows on from December's imposition of new spending limits on players throughout the game to

prevent bubbles and boost the development of Chinese players, which has lagged despite Chinese President Xi Jinping's dreams of China dominating the sport by 2050.

Foreign player salaries in the CSL are now set to be capped at €3m under the plan, with domestic players capped at 5 million yuan (US\$765,000) before tax. Clubs can spend no more than 600 million yuan (US\$91.74 million) on total wages, with a cumulative €10 million (US\$12.1 million) limit on foreign player salaries. A 100% tax on large transfers has also been in place since 2017 -- with the money raised sent to youth development programs.

"CSL club expenditure is about 10 times higher than South Korea's K-League and three times higher than Japan's J-League," CFA president Chen Xuyuan on the introduction of the spending restrictions. "But our national team is lagging far behind. The bubbles not only affect the present of Chinese football, but also its future."

The moves by the CFA to curb corporate influence and rampant spending seem to indicate the golden era of cash that marked the peak of the Chinese Super League has come to an end -- a decade of excess petering out in the face of existential questions and forks in the road.

But will Jiangsu's collapse prove the highest-profile example of the inevitable pains associated with slowly deflating the bubble that had grown beneath the surface of the Chinese game? Or a warning sign that the steps that have been taken came too late and weren't enforced enough to prevent it from bursting? Only time will tell.

## Chelsea, Man United lack cutting edge that Haaland offers

LONDON

WHAT began as a much-anticipated clash in the battle for the top four ended up as a 0-0 draw that served as a 90-minute advert for why Chelsea and Manchester United are expected to fight for Erling Haaland's signature this summer.

That particular off-field battle might prove more of a spectacle than this Stamford Bridge stalemate, albeit one which improved after a dour first half and is notable for another entry into the growing list of differing handball interpretations in the VAR era.

After 14 minutes, following an Edouard Mendy save from Marcus Rashford's powerful free kick, referee Stuart Attwell decided that Callum Hudson-Odoi did not move his hand toward the ball when it struck the limb while he was attempting to clear under pressure from Mason Greenwood.

It was a curious decision, given the evidence before Attwell's eyes, but neither side did enough thereafter to create a convincing argument they should have won the game; both were perhaps inhibited by a degree of caution in their approach, but each also showed bluntness in attack.

United are the Premier League's top goal scorers -- their total is 53 is one ahead of runaway leaders Manchester City, whose title celebration planning can begin in earnest now they are 12 points clear at the summit -- but Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side have registered five goalless draws against the traditional "Big Six" this season.

Their last goal from open play in such matches was Scott McTominay's late strike against Man City on March 8 last year, since when 720 minutes have passed. It indicates that, for all their attacking prowess orchestrated expertly by Bruno Fernandes, United still require a match-winning forward who can decide games of fine margins.

"We're not scoring enough goals, that's for sure," Solskjaer said after this latest shutout. "We've come away with another good clean sheet, but as I said before this game, the next step for this team is to win these games and score the goal we need to get three points.

"We haven't had the quality or the fine margins or the luck, but mostly today it was about a lack of quality in the last third. We had some moments that were close. Some near moments. But we didn't have enough so that's the next step for us. We will improve."

There remains hope that the solution can come from within. It was a year ago this week when Solskjaer described Mason Greenwood, then 18, as being on the path to becoming "more or less the complete No. 9" once he develops into a more physically imposing player. The question is whether United are prepared to wait.

Just past the half hour mark here, Antonio Rudiger left a boot on Greenwood as the ball disappeared, not in a way worthy of serious sanction, but more the type of tackle to intimidate the teenager. Greenwood took a forlorn look at the nearby assistant referee, who gave the protest short shrift, prompting the England international

to drop his head in disappointment.

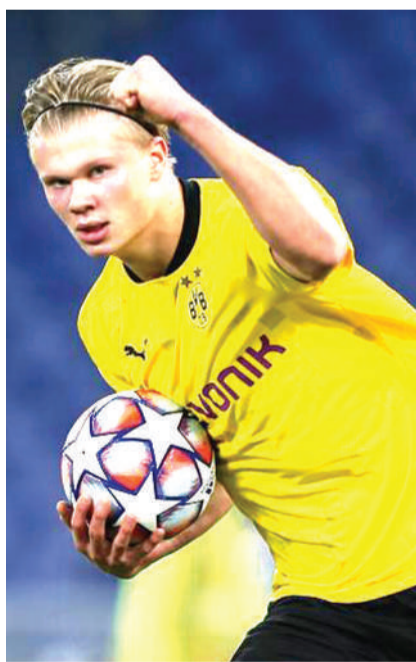
Greenwood is a supreme talent in his own right and went close to scoring midway through the second period with a fiercely struck shot from the edge of the box, but he was not able to impose himself sufficiently to avoid being replaced by Anthony Martial, who possesses United's No. 9 shirt and has been given an extended period to prove himself without ever truly convincing.

Rashford possesses the quality to play through the middle, but continues to look at his post potent drifting in from the left, while Edinson Cavani -- who missed this game through injury -- has had a positive impact and, with seven goals, affected matches in his own right and is expected to stay for a second season at Old Trafford, but he is 34.

As such, a longer-term signing is required and Haaland, who turns 21 in July, has piqued interest across Europe. His availability this summer could be dictated by Borussia Dortmund's fortunes in seeking Champions League qualification, but United, Man City and Chelsea are among the handful of teams that can afford an asking price of up to £150 million in the COVID-19 affected market.

The Blues spent £220m before this season, but a deal for the Norway international is still considered viable by owner Roman Abramovich; despite the volume of recent additions, there is a Haaland-shaped hole in Thomas Tuchel's team.

Olivier Giroud is performing the Ca-



vani role with greater efficiency than many expect, but this was an off day for the French striker, who was unable to get himself on the end of a dangerous Hudson-Odoi cross in the first half and only completed nine passes in United's half overall.

Giroud was substituted with 25 minutes remaining as Tuchel opted to use substitute Christian Pulisic as a split striker alongside Hakim Ziyech, who himself was later replaced by Timo Werner after having an excellent chance brilliantly saved by David De Gea. Reece James, on as a half-time substitute, had a follow-up shot superbly blocked by Luke Shaw in what proved to be Chelsea's brightest moment.

"In this highest level, at some points, maybe two big chances have to be enough," Tuchel said. "If you don't do that then we have to be alert and aware

of the counter-attacks and quality from Manchester United. We did this and defended very well. This was extraordinary effort and quality. We take it and go on."

Werner's improvement has been notable under Tuchel, while Kai Havertz has also been mooted as a possible option up front, but there is considerable distance left to travel between that duo's current form and the end product of a top striker in a title-winning team.

Ultimately, that is where these two sides want to be. Bridging the growing gap to City at the summit has to be the main aim for Chelsea and United next season; beating Pep Guardiola & Co. to Haaland this summer would be a huge step toward that.

(Agencies)





# Simba SC jets off to Sudan to face Al Merreikh

## SPORT

### How the Chinese Super League bubble burst

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Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for this season's Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

**T**ANZANIA'S representatives in this season's CAF Champions League, Simba SC, departs the country today for Sudan where the club will face Al Merreikh in Group A match of the premier continental tournament at club level, slated for Saturday. Information from Simba

said all preparations for the trip are over and they are looking forward to the game which will take place in Khartoum.

Simba SC Manager, Abbas Ally, said preparations for the trip to Sudan are going on well.

"The team are set to depart the country for Sudan tomorrow (today)

after our Premier League game against JKT Tanzania later today (yesterday). The team will start final preparations for the trip to Khartoum," he said.

Simba, positioned second in the Vodacom Premier League, were expected to confront JKT Tanzania in the league fixture in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He could not give more details on the trip but he stated an advanced party made up of Simba leaders is already in Sudan to prepare for the team's arrival and arrange other essential issues.

Simba, under the tutelage of Dider Gomes, are leading the competition's Group A with six points from two games while Al Merreikh are anchoring the group as they have played two games without a win.

Interestingly, Gomes is the former head coach of the Khartoum giants.

The coach said he is looking forward to face his former bosses.

"The team are expected to play in Sudan against Al Merreikh, it will be a good and emotional game, but our aim is to win the game so as we can qualify for the quarterfinals of the tournament," he said.

The two teams will play the second game at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 16.

Some of Simba players who are expected to make the trip to Khartoum are Aishi Manula, Beno Kakolanya, Shomari Kapombe, Paschal Wawa, Kennedy Juma, Ibrahim Ame, Joash Onyango, Mohamed Hussein, Mzimiru Yassin, Thadeo Lwanga, Jonas Mkuze, Larry Bwalya, Luis Miquisone, Bernard Morrison, Chris Mugalu, John Bocco and Clatous Chama.

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12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)  
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi  
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 5SPORTS (r)  
16:30 #HASHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)

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**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## National youth netball team lose out on participation in 2021 Youth World Cup

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S junior netball team will not compete at the coming Youth World Cup tournament slated for December 1-19 in Fiji.

National Netball Association (Chaneta) through the association's secretary general Judith Ilunda, said the country will not send its team to the event as it did not take part at the qualifying events.

Africa will be represented by South Africa and Uganda while other finalists are Australia, Barbados, Cook Islands, England, Fiji, Jamaica, Malaysia, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Samoa, Scotland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Wales.

Uganda, South Africa and Malawi teams automatically qualified for the global showpiece after the International Netball Federation (INF) decided to cancel last year's African Region qualifiers and use the current INF world rankings to determine contestants due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The three teams qualified due to their superior ranking in the continent, South Africa is first in Africa, Uganda is second followed by Malawi in third spot.

"We will not send our team to the finals of the World Youth Cup which will take place in Fiji, the team will not compete at the finals as it did not compete at the qualifiers," she said.

The country was suspended from the world netball governing body.

The Chaneta top official could not say if the country had regained its membership in INF.

In the previous interview, Judith said the Chaneta will, this year, put much emphasis on youth and grassroots netball.

She stated the Chaneta gears towards seeing to it the sport grows from strength to strength, with youngsters taking part in the sport in all parts of the country.

## Kili Lager's 19 years' consistency in backing marathon hailed



Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Abdallah Ulega (R), and the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi (L), present a dummy cheque to the winner of the men's 42km race, Augustino Sulle, during the presentation ceremony of the just ended Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon, which took place in Moshi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon stakeholders have hailed the brand's consistency in sponsoring the race for the last 19 years which has seen the event grow from 500 runners to over 10,000 runners.

This year's edition of the race, recognized in the sporting calendar of International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), brought together more than 10,000 male, female and young runners from more than 55 countries.

Speaking after the race that took place in Moshi last weekend, one of the race's stakeholders George Mchome, stated that he has in nine years been consistently taking part in the 21km race (Tigo Half Marathon).

The race's organizers have as well been keen on developing it annually, with a view to seeing to it the event reaches international standards.

He noted Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's consistency in sponsorship has

played a key role in this development.

"What is more important is that since it is internationally recognized, it gives a good platform for runners to be invited in other international events as well as qualifying for Olympic Games," Mchome, who runs for Kili Runners Club, noted.

Another runner from Estonia, Kaarel Pehk, said that Kilimanjaro Marathon is enjoying a good atmosphere with a free viewing of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

Speaking before the presentation ceremony, which took place at Ushirika College ground, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's brand manager, Irene Mutiganzi, said it has been a privilege for her firm, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) Group, sponsoring the event in two race categories, the main race and the 5km Fun Run, through Grand Malt.

She hailed the winners, participants, organizers and coordinators

for facilitating the organization of a beautiful race ever.

She was also impressed by a magnitude number of participants from more than 55 countries, making the race as one of the greatest, not only in Tanzania, but also in Africa.

She said that her brand has made a huge effort to promote the race for the last 19 years and through their campaign, dubbed 'Twenzetu Kili', they boarded a train from Dar es Salaam to Moshi specifically to create awareness through advertisements.

The marathon's other sponsors include Tigo Tanzania (21km) and energetic drink, Grand Malt, which sponsors 5km Fun Run.

Water table sponsors include Unilever Tanzania, Simba Cement, TPC Sugar, Kilimanjaro International Leather Company Limited, Kibo Palace Hotel and official suppliers include Garda World Security, Keys Hotel and CMC Automobile.

## Yanga now set sight on Coastal Union fixture

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM League leaders, Yanga, say they are looking forward to their Thursday's top flight clash against Coastal Union, to be played at Mkwakwani Stadium in Tanga.

Yanga's head coach, Cedrick Kaze, in a monitored interview, said they are preparing well for the game as they are gearing towards notching maximum points in the tie.

He said at this stage, they can not easily lose points.

"The league has reached a stage where you need to prepare well, we will do our best to collect the points against our opponents," he said.

The coach also admitted that it will be a big blow for his side to miss the services of Angolan midfielder Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos', who was shown red card in Yanga's Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC)'s fourth round clash against Ken Gold of Mbeya.

He, however, said he has the midfielder's replacement.

"Missing the services of Carlinhos is a big blow to us, but we have other replacement that I'm sure will fit well in his position," he said.

Coastal Union, coached by Juma Mgunda, are placed 14th in the Premier League's standing after posting 23 points from 21 games.

In the previous games between the two outfits, which took place in Dar es Salaam, the Tanga-based team have been playing second fiddle to Yanga.

However, playing against Yanga at Mkwakwani Stadium, Coastal Union normally prove to be hard nut to crack for Yanga.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

