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Coronavirus affects prices in Isles



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TAMWA-Zanzibar hails Pemba court



# Samia turns up at Karume Day event

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

UNION President Samia Suluhu Hassan was exceptionally present at a memorial service and wreath laying at the grave of Zanzibar founder president Abeid Amani Karume, traditionally an event for the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government (SMZ).

Various speakers extolled the founder's legacy as vibrant 49 years after his death in a hail of gunfire at the ruling party's Kisiwandui offices, where the ceremony was held.

Karume who led Zanzibar in the wake of the January 12, 1964 revolution was assassinated on April 7, 1972, with his rule marked by ground breaking initiatives comparable to the fifth phase Union president, the late Dr John Magufuli.

In the wake of the union with Tanganyika three months or so later to keep at bay adversaries of the revolution, Karume served as Union First Vice President, but Zanzibar remained inward looking vis a vis the Union government.

President Karume's whole focus was to implement a number of development projects aimed at improving the living standards of Zanzibaris especially in



President Samia Suluhu Hassan (C) joins Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi (3rd R), Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (2nd R) and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (4th L) in laying a wreath at the grave of the founder president of Zanzibar, Sheikh Abeid Amani Karume at Kisiwandui in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

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## NATION'S SOLIDARITY

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## PLASTIC POLLUTION

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## AfDB: COVID-19 ills stall climate adaptation drives

LONDON

FROM heat-resistant crops to insurance that helps nations rebuild after disasters, efforts to adapt to growing climate risks are taking root in Africa - but the work is too slow and is now threatened by COVID-19, African leaders have warned.

Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), said that just three percent of international climate finance is reaching the continent, at an online meeting seeking advice from African leaders on how to

accelerate adaptation.

The bank said earlier this year it would raise \$25 billion by 2025 to spur climate action in Africa, with at least half going to back projects to adapt and build resilience to worsening droughts, storms, floods and sea level rise.

But with the coronavirus pandemic hitting economies and development budgets around the world, raising money for climate action has become harder over the last year, even as climate change-related risks surge, African leaders admitted.

"We are soon going to need at least this much (\$25 billion) every year if we do not effectively mitigate and reverse climate change," warned Gabon's President Ali Bongo.

"Everyday the thunderstorms seem more violent. Flooding is more frequent and droughts are more severe," he said. "Crops are failing. People are being forced to flee their homes (and) becoming climate refugees."

Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum said the economic downturn triggered by COVID-19

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## Ramaphosa invites Mo to economic advisers' panel

By Guardian Reporter

NOTED entrepreneur Mohamed Dewji (popular as Mo Dewji) is now a more sought after person as South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa is picking him as special adviser on economic affairs, an appointment relayed in a statement by Mo's office.

This indicates that the star of Africa's youthful dollar billionaire, chief executive of Mohamed Enterprises (T) Ltd (MeTL) was getting brighter with the five years advisory role with President Ramaphosa's other economic experts. It shows that the Tanzanian businessman is a role model for that country's indigenous business sector. The appointment also reflects



**The businessman said he aims to widen Tanzania's employment opportunities by providing 100,000 jobs in the next few years, the magazine had indicated**

Dewji's contribution in regional investment flows that has spurred economic growth in various countries, as MeTL branches put up industries and create jobs in various areas.

President Ramaphosa picked Mo Dewji to serve in his economic advisory panel whose main task is to brainstorm on ways to iron out difficulties facing the leading economy in southern Africa, as it seeks to make further strides in economic growth by attracting domestic and foreign investors.

Ramaphosa said he he had great faith in Mo Dewji as he would help the country's efforts to advertise its investment potential in various

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## MCT, stakeholders hail restored media freedom

By Guardian Reporter

MEDIA stakeholders have expressed appreciation to President Samia Suluhu Hassan for directing authorities to desist from the tendency of banning and suspending media outlets.

"We are excited and elated," said Kajubi Mukajanga (pictured) in a statement reacting to the wide



ranging speech by the president.

The remarks were part of assignments being given to permanent secretaries and their deputies after their being sworn in, along with several heads of key executive agencies. What she said raised high expectations, the veteran head of the self-regulating media ombudsman declared.

The speech also shed light on the way forward to review media laws and regulations, to amend them as required so that our country will be a nation that talks and freely discusses

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan puts a wreath on the grave of the first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume at Kisiwanduwi in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

## Samia turns up at Karume Day event

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housing, where nearly 50 years later these projects remain the flag bearer hallmarks of the Zanzibar Revolution.

Speaking at the service, Zanzibar Mufti Sheikh Saleh Kabi said Karume was on record vowing that he would not go to Hajj in Mecca as other capable Muslims do, until all Zanzibaris get decent housing.

"He kept his word and embarked on an affordable housing project in Unguja and Pemba islands for both urban and rural areas," he elaborated.

The cleric went on to describe the late Karume as a leader who—judging by his deeds—had the best interest of the people at heart and served Zanzibaris diligently.

The multiple storey residential structures at Michenzani area are among landmarks in Zanzibar history, with similar structures also found in Pemba.

Sheikh Shaaban Batwashi from the islands' council of clerics remembered Karume as a leader who died on the job while trying hard to unite the people of Zanzibar.

"As we pray for him, let's also emulate his good deeds and projects that live on to date," he said.

Sheikh Khalid Mfaume, the secretary to the Mufti who led the prayer service, described Karume as a person who strived to achieve equality among sections of the Zanzibar community and left behind tangible things in his legacy.

Family spokesman Ambassador Ali Karume—second son of the late Karume thanked the two governments of Zanzibar and the Union for holding the annual

event in the memory of his father.

Earlier, President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi led attendees in laying a wreath on Karume's grave at Kisiwanduwi, followed by President Samia and Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. The January 1964 revolution overthrew Sultan Jamshid bin Abdullah, who fled to Britain and lived there until September last year, whereupon he returned to his native Oman, without the threat of sowing loyalty divisions in the centuries-old monarchy.

Reports say there were celebrations in Oman following the ascendancy of President Samia, as part of her extended family lives in the town of Al Mudhaibi, with social media commentators hailing this link as showing the deep cultural ties between Oman and Tanzania.



**The January 1964 revolution overthrew Sultan Jamshid bin Abdullah, who fled to Britain and lived there until September last year, whereupon he returned to his native Oman, without the threat of sowing loyalty divisions in the centuries-old monarchy**

## Ramaphosa invites Mo to economic advisers' panel

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sectors, helping to woo investors and develop its national economy.

The economic advisory panel is tasked with advising the 4 president and the South African government on how to attract investors, to develop and strengthen the country's investment environment internally and externally, the letter indicated.

The council is a platform for processing views and reviewing obstacles, seeking to find the best

way of improving cooperation between the government and the private sector, various development stakeholders and investment agencies to enable South Africa increase its economic growth and technology pace.

Following this appointment, Mo Dewji will have the opportunity to attend various meetings inside and outside South Africa involving business people and government officials, with intent to spur economic growth and attract investors.

This will enable Mo Dewji to offer his experience on investment challenges encountered and solutions thereto, and how it can work in South African conditions so that its economy grows fast.

Mo Dewji has drawn a lot of fame inside and outside the African continent from his investment in various sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, transport and even football sponsorship, heavily investing in Simba Sports Club (SSC) that has this year stolen the limelight in

the African Club Championship, before the quarter finals stage starts in earnest.

Forbes Magazine, conducting annual surveys on the rich and powerful, announced Mo Dewji as Africa's billionaire number 13, with the singular distinction that he is the most youthful of the top group.

The businessman said he aims to widen Tanzania's employment opportunities by providing 100,000 jobs in the next few years, the magazine had indicated.

## AfDB: COVID-19 ills stall climate adaptation drives

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had destroyed jobs on a continent already struggling with legions of unemployed youth, "pushing them into the arms of organised crime and terrorists."

But across the continent, varied climate adaptation efforts are already protecting lives and incomes, the leaders said.

In Sudan, Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok said a switch to heat-tolerant wheat on 800,000 acres, backed by the AfDB, "has made it possible to produce wheat in areas previously considered totally impossible."

Ethiopia has similarly invested in large-scale land restoration and forest re-planting, which has helped shore up water supplies - and countries from Mozambique to Mali are now covered by risk-pooled disaster insurance.

But Senegal's President Macky Sall warned the pandemic was diverting funds from climate change adaptation and threatened to dry up that money in the long term, as debt-laden African countries "struggled to right their listing economies."

Much of the continent has seen good economic growth over the last few decades, but with COVID-19 "all efforts have been reduced to nil", Sall told the online event.

"Everything has been put at a standstill," he stated, cautioning that the downturn, bringing job losses and cuts in investment, "will lead to deeper problems in all our countries."

The AfDB and the Global Center on Adaptation hosted a meeting as part of their joint Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program, which aims to boost African efforts to adapt agriculture and infrastructure while creating jobs.

The AfDB, for instance, intends

to provide weather information and advice to 30 million African farmers via their mobile phones, and to help a million young Africans build skills to create green jobs that advance adaptation.

Adesina said the program "will build on what is working," with the bank already boosting the share of its finance spent on climate change from 9 percent in 2016 to an expected 40 percent this year, with more than half of that going to adaptation work.

That has included a push to expand a regional insurance initiative to more vulnerable African nations and support for work to plant a "Great Green Wall" of trees across the Sahel to hold back desertification and protect farmers.

But Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan said much more needed to be done rapidly, including in island nations like his hit hard by sea level rise and coastal erosion.

"Climate change cannot wait while we address COVID-19," he added.



**"Everything has been put at a standstill," he stated, cautioning that the downturn, bringing job losses and cuts in investment, "will lead to deeper problems in all our countries."**



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi puts a wreath on the grave of first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume at Kisiwanduwi in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: State House

## MCT, stakeholders hail restored media freedom

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issues.

Despite the reassuring tone of the speech, the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) reminded journalists that their best shield is to adhere to professional ethics set by the industry itself.

Freedom comes with responsibility, so media practitioners should stick to professionalism and journalistic ethics, the MCT executive secretary intoned.

The council believes that following the directive by President Samia those entrusted with overseeing media outlets

should implement it without further ado, it said. What happened for media outlets which successfully challenged the government in courts of law is well known but they are still banned, the statement noted.

While the council takes seriously the directive by the President to media outlets to abide by the laws and regulations, it appealed to ministerial executives to engage stakeholders in the processes of drafting laws and regulations to ensure they are in accordance with the country's constitution.

Bad laws and regulations will impede translating into reality the

good intentions of the president and media outlets which were banned can be banned again shortly thereafter on account of loopholes available in the law, it said.

The council reminded the government of the ruling of the East African Court of Justice of March 28, 2019 which ordered that 16 articles of the Media Services Act of 2016 be amended has not been implemented.

Stakeholders appealed to the government to heed the ruling, expressing readiness to cooperate with the authorities, underlining that this isn't rivalry as "we are all building the same house."

The council and partners in the Coalition on the Right of Information (CoRI) pledged to work closely with the government in nation building in accordance with good governance practices and the rule of law.

Partners in the coalition are Twaweza, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), the Tanzania Women Journalists Association (TAMWA), Tanganyika Law Society (TLS), Sikika, Policy Forum, Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), MISA-Tan, the Tanzania Citizens Information Bureau (TCIB), Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) Jamii Forums and MCT.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa who was committee chairman during the funeral of the former President Dr John Magufuli talks with journalists at the end of the 21st days of national mourning in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Coronavirus has affected prices in Isles - Dr Mwinyi

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Mwinyi has said the increase in cooking oil price in the Isles was a result of low production in some countries which are still battling coronavirus.

He made the remarks in Zanzibar during a press conference at State House when answering a question on why prices of some products have gone up.

He said the main reasons for the increase in prices was that some countries were still struggling with the pandemic hence a decrease in production which has made dealers to hike prices.

"Most of the dealers who sell these commodities to our country have hiked prices due to high prices which they buy the commodity in those countries," he said.

He however said that despite the reasons for the hike there are some business people who have deliberately increased the prices

to get double profits.

He added that signs are emerging that traders are hiking prices especially during this holy month saying this was not enough.

The Zanzibar president told the traders that the holy month was a month to get blessings instead of disturbing them with hiking prices for products.

Dr Mwinyi said he recognises that currently the whole world has entered into business competition due to corona virus.

It has come to authorities' notice that barely a week before the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan prices have gone up as follows.

A 25 kg bag of wheat flour is sold at 33,000/- from 28,000/- which is the actual price. A 20 cooking oil litre jerry can is sold at 57,000/- instead of 44,000/- which is the usual price, on same note 50 kg sugar bag is sold at 84,000/- instead of 79,000/- which is the actual price.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

# Dr Magufuli funeral: PM thanks Tanzanians for their solidarity

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has thanked Tanzanians for showing solidarity during and after the funeral of the late President Dr John Magufuli.

He was speaking when addressing the media at Dodoma airport after he arrived from Zanzibar where he attended the 49th anniversary of the Isles first President Abeid Aman Karume.

"I thank Tanzanians for the support they have showed and the patience they have demonstrated, may they continue maintaining it," he said.

On the same note, the PM use the opportunity to thank the president Samia Suluhu Hassan for the directives she has been giving which made the national

state funeral to coordinate activities.

He also thanked the government of Zanzibar for the support through the co-chair

who is the Zanzibar second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdulla.

PM Majaliwa also asked the Tanzanians to continue working

harder so that the country can achieve its development goals.

President Magufuli died last month at Mzena hospital in Dar es Salaam aged 61. He was buried on 26th this month at his home village Milimani, Chato District Geita Region. Flags flew at half-mast in Tanzania, as the country began a 21-day mourning period.

Then Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn in as the East African country's first female President.

## CONGRATULATIONS

H.E SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania

The Board of Directors, Management, and Staff of **Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT)** extend their warmest congratulations to H.E. Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan on becoming the 6th President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

LEAT's family recognizes the diligent efforts you made prior to becoming our country's President. The roles you discharged as the Vice President were decisive in promoting sound environmental management in Tanzania. Among many, the Office of the VPO – Environment smoothly introduced and enforced the use of plastic bags ban that led to a much safer, cleaner, and less polluted Tanzania. Your role in fighting land degradation, promoting tourism, and planting of trees throughout our beautiful United Republic of Tanzania is much appreciated.

Your proven hardworking spirit and rich experience with Civil Society Organizations give us hope and confidence that you will continue to lead this nation towards soundly managed natural resources on one hand and well-conserved and protected environment on the other. Moreover, you will expand the civic space enabling CSOs to perform their activities with unnecessary bureaucratic red tape.

LEAT, as an environmental organization, will continue to cooperate with the Tanzanian Government and other stakeholders to champion sound environmental management and protection in Tanzania and counts on your support. Hongera Sana President Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan.

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Railway Children Africa is a Non- Governmental Organisation (NGO) registered in Tanzania working to support Children and Youth Working and Living in the Street (CYWLS). In Tanzania we have offices in Mwanza and Dar es salaam.

Railway Children Africa invites interested, competent, registered, and reputable medical insurance company (Including current services provider) to submit their EOI for the provision of medical insurance to Railway Children Africa employees and their dependants.

We are looking for best medical insurance scheme that is reasonable and can best cover at least 50 adults (inclusive of principal members) and 45 children. Providers can propose up to 3 considered best schemes or options only if they have.

Bid document in English should include at least 2 references and list of enhanced medical health facilities and any other added packages to the scheme proposed. Only 1 bid is accepted from every bidder interested and should be noted that RCA will not accept bid from Brokers or agents of the insurance company.

RCA will not be held responsible for any cost related to printing preparation or submission of the bid document.

Bidders must submit in sealed envelopes by hand, post, or email not later than 5.00pm on 16th Apr 2021. Please address you interest to The Procurement Unit, Railway Children Africa, Plot 144/1, Block X, Capri-point, P.O. Box 138 Mwanza. Our email is [jobs.mwanza@railwaychildren.or.tz](mailto:jobs.mwanza@railwaychildren.or.tz) and our office is opened from 08.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday excluding public holidays and weekends.

Railway Children Africa is committed to instilling a strong anti-corruption culture and upholding its values and all laws relevant to countering bribery and corruption. If any of our staff, ask for kickback and or commission please report the incident by writing to the country director on same address as above.

Railway Children Africa reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and is not bound to give reasons for its decision.

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# Commemoration of the 49th anniversary of the first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume



Religious leaders recite Holy Quran to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume held in Zanzibar yesterday. All Photos: State House



The widow of Zanzibar first President Abeid Amani Karume Mama Fatma Karume (R) participates during a prayer of commemoration held in Zanzibar yesterday.



The widow of first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume Mama Fatma Karume (c) participates at a prayer of commemoration held in Zanzibar yesterday.



From right Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman, former Zanzibar President Dr Amani Karume, Former Vice President Dr Mohammed Gharib Bilal, former Second Vice President ambassador Seif Ali Iddi and Zanzibar Chief Justice Omar Othman Makungu participate at a prayer of commemoration.



Ambassador Ali Karume representing the family of the first President of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume puts a wreath on his grave.



Zanzibar First Lady Mariam Mwinyi participates at a prayer of commemoration yesterday. Right is Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan



Zanzibar Chief Sheikh Saleh Omar Kabi recites a prayer for Zanzibar's first President Abeid Amani Karume with him are Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi and Tanzania Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.



Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan talks with Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa moments after a prayer of commemoration.

# Bar owners in Zanzibar decry police invasion

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR'S Association for Liquor Traders (JUWAVIZA) has said it was not right for fully armed members of the police and Security and Defence Committee from Zanzibar Urban West District to break into and arrest bar workers from various areas in Zanzibar.

This has been revealed here by JUWAVIZA Chairman Hussein Kimti to reporters in regard to an inspection crackdown of licences led by the District Commissioner Hamida Khamis Mussa.

Kimti said according to reports received from their members, fully armed police with other people who had masked their faces arrested bar workers from various areas and took away drinks after which they released them on bail. "There were others who were taken to Mazizini Police Station and released on bail, but what saddened us was their invasion of business areas while armed, and there were reports that some of the doors of the business premises were broken to gain entrance," he added.

However, Kimti said bar owners do not refuse paying tax but added that there was a petition in court they had filed after the Ministry of the Regional Administration and Local Government raised licence fees following the coming into effect of the Zanzibar Alcohol Control Act (No 9 of 2020).

He said bar owners are required to pay 4.8m/- for licence instead of the former 2m/- per annum.

Kimti said after failing to reach a consensus through dialogue with the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board and the minister responsible, they decided to file a case in the High Court to object the rise of the licence fees.

Catelina Peter Nao, a bar owner said the acts committed against bar workers and to the premises were not acceptable at all.

She said national leaders including Union president Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Zanzibar counterpart Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi have been appealing to government officials to have in place friendly environment for taxpayers including reviewing oppressive tax laws and regulations.

He said before coming up with bar licence fees rates, they were supposed to do research on bar owners capital and operation costs because the current situation would make many bar owners close their businesses resulting in loss of employment for the youth.

For his part the Executive Director of Zanzibar Urban West District Council Ali Abdallah Natepe confirmed the operation but said the one to speak on the matter was the District Commissioner.

For her part, the District Commissioner, Hamida Khamis Mussa said the operation was conducted after receiving reports of bars that obtained licences from Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board for FY 2021/2022 before the year's end in June this year. "First of all I refute claims that doors were broken during the operation and no policemen had their faces masked up. They only had one firearm during the operation, said DC Hamida.

However, she said during the operation they discovered many things unethical that were going on, including girls selling themselves, guest houses and hotels being turned into brothels, and disco halls operating in the midst of residential areas.

She added that if there were bar owners complaining of high licence fees they are supposed to sit together with the Alcoholic Drinks Control and Advisory Board for discussions.

She added that District government and council leaders' task was to make sure that all bar owners have valid operation licences.

## Political parties request meeting with President

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Political Parties Council (TPPC) has appealed to President Samia Suluhu Hassan to meet with leaders of the forum to discuss various issues and listen to their views.

Addressing reporters yesterday, the TPPC chairman John Shibuda said the political landscape and its stakeholders were ready to work together with the government in the maintenance of peace, love and solidarity in both dialogue and criticism.

He said the only way to remove friction pitting the political stakeholders and the government was in having dialogue involving the council.

"Such sittings should be done in accordance with regulations governing political parties and should be the intention of the Phase VI Government in the revival of the country's multiparty democracy," he said.

He called on government leaders and officials to raise the bar for the country's reputation by showing that Tanzania is a multi-party country hence all constitutional rights thereto should be available.

He praised President Samia for being the protection shield for the masses in providing positive results via her speeches.

"These deeds are a new awakening that raises morale and increase a new drive for the masses to be more friendly to their government, I congratulate her very much for steps she has taken," Shibuda added.

In regard to issues of holding the late President John Magufuli in high esteem, Shibuda said he will be remembered for many things he did for his country and many Tanzanians know that.

## WAJIBU - INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY



Date: 08th April, 2021

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### 1. KEY INFORMATION:

**Assignment Title** : Preparation of the Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report (CASFR)  
**Contract Duration** : 60 days  
**Location** : Dar Es Salaam  
**Delivery/Product** : Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report for the year ended 30th June 2020.

#### 2. ABOUT WAJIBU:

WAJIBU was founded with the purpose of fostering an environment that supports and promotes public accountability and good governance in Tanzania. In particular, the Institute believes that mobilizing public engagement with duty bearers on issues of public accountability and good governance is key to consolidate the accountability level achieved so far in the country for future economic growth.

WAJIBU was co-founded by the retired Controller and Auditor General (CAG) of Tanzania, Mr. Ludovick Utouh and the retired Managing Director of Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) Mr. Yona Killagane.

#### 3. WAJIBU'S VISION:

"To become the best think-tank institution in the country on Public Financial Accountability for poverty reduction"

#### 4. WAJIBU'S MISSION:

"To apply the Public Social Accountability Monitoring (PSAM) analytical tool to ensure that there is proper public resources management and good governance in the country. This will be accomplished by enhancing effective public financial accountability through policy advocacy and research, capacity building and citizen engagement while building WAJIBU as a strong public financial accountability think tank-institution."

#### 5. THE CASFR CONCEPT IN BRIEF:

WAJIBU's approach is to advocate for effective implementation of the oversight institutions' recommendations and to promote the watchdog role of CSOs/NGOs on public financial accountability matters. However, despite efforts to influence policy change in public financial management, there are a number of gaps that have been observed in the process. These gaps include the lack of a mechanism to assess and register in a consolidated manner, the contribution of state and non-state actors in the management of public finances to demonstrate the country's status of financial accountability. It is for this reason that WAJIBU has developed this intervention to design, write and publish the Country's Annual State of Financial Accountability Report (CASFR) in every year.

The CASFR is an annual report which shows the status of accountability in the management of public finances in the country for the year under review. The report demonstrates how the state has managed the public financial resources entrusted to it by considering the work of oversight institutions as well as other law enforcing organs and the contribution of other actors in the accountability system. WAJIBU understands that there are different forms of Accountability (including political, financial and social accountability, with various approaches such as downward or upward accountability). This report mainly focuses on financial accountability looking at both approaches of upwards and downwards accountability by using secondary data.

The report charts out efforts and results achieved by the state and non-state actors in improving the country's public financial management systems at various levels of government, in order to ascertain the overall impact of the state of Accountability in the Country. This report includes challenges and setbacks experienced by different actors in their role of improving the country's public financial management systems.

#### 6. EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE CASFR:

WAJIBU is expecting that, the CASFR will contribute towards having accountability actors who are making informed decisions to influence and improve the country's state of financial accountability at all levels.

#### 7. MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE CASFR:

The main objective of the report is to demonstrate the country's annual state of financial accountability in the management of public finances. Specifically, the report will have the following objectives:

- To enable the two main layers of the accountability eco-system i.e. state and non-state actors, to continuously monitor the trend of public financial accountability in the country.
- To map out the contribution of various accountability actors across the country (this can be across the specific sector or levels of government) which will be proportionately represented.
- To provide strategic information that will feed into future plans of various actors in the "state of accountability" agenda. This can provide the non-state actors with different advocacy agendas for their future work.

#### 8. THE SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment will cover the Central Government, Public Authorities and Other Bodies and Local Government Authorities and all budgetary institutions receiving budget allocations from the central government's budget. The activities of Public Corporations, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Social Security Funds will be covered only to the extent that they receive central government budget allocations and from the perspective of fiscal risks and contingent liabilities to the central government.

This CASFR assessment will be based upon information from the three most recent financial years (2017/18, 2019/19 and 2019/20), and where relevant, on information on the process of the formulation and execution of the 2019/20 budget.

In the light of the number of actors in the Public Financial Management sector, CASFR needs to be developed in stages year after year. Therefore, the first year of preparation of this report which is the year 2018/19 has included a few critical actors while other actors will be added gradually in subsequent years. CASFR's sources of information will emanate from but not limited to these reports from the following institutions:

#### Oversight Institutions:

- Controller and Auditor General
- Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
- Bank of Tanzania
- TEITI

#### Duty Bearers

- Accountant General
- Treasury Registrar

#### Law Enforcing Agents

- Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB)

#### Elected Representatives

- Parliament - Parliament Oversight Committees (PAC, LAAC, PIC)

#### Civil Society Organizations

- National Level NGOs
- Media Monitoring (Ipsos Synovate)

#### International Actors

- Governance working groups

- Transparency International etc

#### 9. USERS OF THE REPORT:

WAJIBU envisages the report to be used by relevant state and non-state actors in the accountability agenda. The following are the possible primary and secondary users of the report:

##### Primary Users

- Government agencies and officials e.g PO-RALG, Treasury Registrar, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Public Authorities, NGO Registrar, National Council of NGOs, Local Government etc,
- Non State actors like CSOs dealing with accountability and good governance issues, Private Sector Institutions, Media, Citizens and
- Higher learning Institutions for research and academic debates on public financial management in the country.
- Donors who are funding various development projects in Tanzania e.g DFID, USAID, GIZ and Royal Embassy of Canada etc.

#### 10. DUTIES AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSULTANT:

The consultant will have the following duties and responsibilities:

- The consultant will be required to develop data collection methods and document all sources of information used,
- The consultant shall conduct detailed analysis and scrutiny of the selected reports to pick up semantic issues to be included in the CASFR,
- Reports, documents and or websites used should be referenced appropriately,
- All such tools used for the analysis will be submitted to WAJIBU alongside the final report,
- Data collection and analysis will be subjected to verification through a quality review process to be agreed by WAJIBU,
- The consultant will be expected to facilitate a validation workshop on the report findings and recommendation,
- The consultant shall be limited to findings of the reports for the financial year 2019/20 from institutions selected and listed in section 7 of this ToR. In building the cases, the consultant can include other information from other credible sources,
- Preparation of the review and quality assurance plan which shall be discussed and approved by WAJIBU,
- Participate in all review and quality assurance sessions as planned by WAJIBU in consultation with the consultant, and
- Writing of the CASFR which shall be in English and thereafter translated into Swahili language.

#### 11. CONTENT OF THE FINAL REPORT:

The consultant shall submit one copy of the report which shall be in an electronic format (soft copy). The report structure shall be as follows (but not limited to):

Chapter One:	Introduction
Chapter Two:	Situational Analysis – Country Background Information
Chapter Three:	Assessment of PFM Performance
Chapter Four:	Enhancement of Public Financial Accountability
Chapter Five:	Conclusions and Recommendations

#### 12. COST OF THE CONSULTANCY:

This will be negotiated with the consultants after submission of their tender bid document (interpretation of Terms of Reference) technical and financial and selection of the qualified consultant to carry out the assignment.

#### 13. PAYMENT:

The consultancy fee will be paid in three instalments as follows:

- 1st Instalment: – 40% of the consultancy fee after signing of the Contract.
- 2nd Instalment: – 30% of the consultancy fee is payable after the consultant has submitted the draft CASFR report.
- 3rd Instalment: – 30% of the consultancy fee is payable after the consultant has submitted the final CASFR.

#### 14. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE CONSULTANT:

The consultant should be able to demonstrate the following qualifications:

- The consultant must have demonstrated excellent speaking and writing in English.
- 15 -years' Experience working in public finance management.
- Show experience of working on similar consultancies including report writing, analysis and facilitation.
- Provide at least two referees, and
- The team available to perform the assignment should comprise of one Lead Consultant, Two Senior Consultants and at least Three Assistant Consultants.
- The team should at least comprise of the following educational background:
  - One Doctors (PhD) in either Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Public Administration and Accounting,
  - Two Master Degrees in either Finance, Economics, Public Administration and Accounting,
  - One Master Degree in either Political Science and Social Studies.
  - One Certified Public Accountant – Fellow Member (NBAA)

#### 15. BIDDING PROCEDURE:

You are required to submit the tender bidding documents (Technical Proposal and Financial and Administrative Documents) to WAJIBU – Institute of Public Accountability on or before 23rd April, 2021. The tender bidding documents should include but not limited to:

##### Part A: Technical:

- Interpretation of the Terms of Reference,
- Methodology,
- Review and quality assurance plan,
- Description of the work plan, and
- Relevant experience of the Team on the assignment.

##### Part B: Financial and Administrative Aspects:

- Budget,
- Scanned copy of your TIN number and other relevant registration certificates,
- Scanned copy of your Business Registration and license, and
- Scanned copy of your Tax Clearance certificate for the past two years.

#### 16. ADDRESS:

The tender bidding documents should be submitted in two copies hard and soft to the following address:

Executive Director  
 WAJIBU – Institute of Public Accountability  
 P.O. Box 13486,  
 Dar es Salaam Tanzania.

Location: Block B Mikochoeni, Off Rose Garden Road, Ndovu Street,  
 House No. 10, Kinondoni – Dar es Salaam  
 Email: wajibu.institute@gmail.com  
 Tell: +255 736 666 916

## Countries around Lake Victoria uniting to see end of single-use plastics

By Guardian Reporter

THE Environmental Management and Economic Organisation (EMEDO) have called upon countries sharing Lake Victoria to unite towards bringing to an end the use of single-use plastics.

Tanzania is the latest country in East Africa to ban the manufacture and use of plastic carrier bags to tackle the rising tide of pollution.

The Flipflop—the world's first sailing dhow made entirely from waste-plastic and discarded flip-flops has just completed an historic four week expedition circumnavigating Lake Victoria, aimed to bring to Tanzania its plastic-reuse revolution campaign.

The new campaign is expected to unite business leaders, policy-makers and communities to call for an end to further unnecessary single use plastics

EMEDO Executive Director, Editrudith Lukanga said: "Plastic pollution and waste do not respect borders and are destroying lives and livelihoods. Wherever you live around the lake, we can all play our role to reduce the plastic we throw away, and re-purpose it to bring value to our communities, and save Lake Victoria for future generations."

Lukanga said that partnering with the global Clean Seas Campaign, the collective mission is to urgently tackle marine litter and plastic pollution, highlighting its alarming impact on oceans and freshwater ecosystems and initiate a dialogue between the lakeside community, Mwanza regional administration and strategic partners to discuss the problems of plastic pollution, the effects on the biodiversity of the lake and the health of the communities around it.

Lake Victoria supports more than 40 million people and is under increased pressure from the effects of climate change and

pollution, which threatens health and livelihoods.

A recent study from Mwanza estimates that 1 in 5 fish in Lake Victoria had ingested plastic.

The Flipflop - built entirely from waste plastic from beaches - shows the world that single use plastic does not make sense.

In Mwanza on April 9th, the Flipflop will lead a local and virtual programme of events in collaboration with Mwanza city council and a diverse range of local and international partners.

The event will engage audiences through art and innovation activities, including workshops, art installations, and setting up plastic waste recycling centres to serve the citizens of the lake.

Key stakeholders and officials in the lake region will be brought together to discuss what can be done to beat plastic pollution.

In four weeks, Flipflop sailed around Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to call on countries and communities to recognize the magnitude of plastic pollution, to consider alternate options, and to work cooperatively to turn the tide on plastic.

Flipflop's visit has also inspired virtual webinars featuring youth and civil society, policy makers and the private sector, and a radio campaign on reusing plastic day-to-day.



**Key stakeholders and officials in the lake region will be brought together to discuss what can be done to beat plastic pollution**



The director of Tanzania Tourism Board Devota Mdachi (2nd R) hands over a T-shirt to the leader of tourism agents from Israel Shlomo Charmel at the farewell ceremony held at Kilimanjaro International Airport yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

## TASAF improves lives of Kongwa District residents

By Polycarp Machira, Kongwa

SOME two residents of Kongwa District in Dodoma Region have proved the saying that disability is not inability, thanks to support from the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

Despite being physically challenged, they have managed to create extra sources of income with the little money they get through TASAF's conditional cash transfer programme.

Nemhina Pascal, a resident of Chamkoroma village in the district despite being visually handicapped is steadily rising from grass to grace in the fight against poverty.

The 47 year-old mother of seven children was enrolled in the TASAF's Production Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme in 2014, getting 44,000 after every two months.

Speaking to journalists who visited the village recently, she said when she got the first

payment, she bought one bag of sunflower at 20,000/-.

After shelling the sunflowers and processing oil, getting 20 litres and sold sunflower cases, waste to pig farmers getting 15,000/- and another 50,000/- from selling oil.

She saved the money and after getting 44,000/- in the next phase of payment, having a total of 109,000/- she later bought four bags of sunflower and two bags of maize during harvesting season when prices were quite low.

Later, she sold sunflower, getting a total of 200,000/- of which she spent on buying local brew and re-selling at her home. "Though I'm blind, I do not support the idea of begging and instead work to get my own, a situation that has made me reach this far," she said.

Nemhina noted that prior to being enrolled in the TASAF programme life was extremely tough as she relied on begging from well-wishers to survive, a situation that made three of her children not to complete primary

school education.

Her business grew and she started to buy two iron sheets whenever she got payment and built a house and a business premise where she now sells beer, soda, liquor and local brews.

She later bought a motorcycle at 1.5m/- and harvest about 20 bags of sunflower and 14 bags of maize from her farm. She also bought two plots of land at 550,000/- in the village. "With the help from TASAF, I have been able to achieve all these through assistance of my children since I cannot see," she said, adding that she is no longer worried about the future.

Belta Mpani, one of her neighbours described Nemhina as a very hard working woman who in the past had difficult life but has struggled to achieve a lot despite being blind.

Her scenario is not very different from that of Mafanikio Richard, a 39 years old resident of Ibwaga village in Kongwa district who was born with physical disability.

The father of four children did not complete primary school as her parents died when he was very young. Despite his physical disability, he used to do casual labour, crawling on his belly to farm land.

After being enrolled in the TASAF conditional cash transfer programme, getting 36,000/- after every two months, he used to save 20,000/- and bought four chicken that later reproduced to 15.

He sold them, getting 150,000/- and bought a pig. After one year the pig gave birth to seven piglets and he sold six of them, getting 300,000/-. Thereafter he decided to open a small kiosk and with the money he got from selling crops, he managed to raise 600,000.

Mafanikio has constructed his own shop where he plans to move into, leaving the rented premise. He has built a family house and bought about four hectares of land where he farms maize, sunflower, groundnuts and cassava, increasing his income.



Parliamentary Committee members for Mining and Energy get briefings from the mining officer based in Mirerani town Fabian Mshai (2nd R) after the team visited Simanjiro District in Manyara Region recently. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

## African experts push for continent's energy integration

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

AFRICAN countries will need to integrate their energy for sustainable economic development and post-Covid-19 economic recovery, experts have said.

The experts from academia and Africa Union, among others, said that energy as an economic and social input was central to the attainment of Africa's sustainable development as envisaged by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number seven.

"Africa needs to reflect on how regional energy integration contributes to energizing its economic recovery programme

and attainment of sustainable development," said Kenneth Mbali, a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies (IDIS) of the University of Nairobi, during the webinar organized by the institution.

The experts observed that although Africa has tremendous potential, more than 600 million people lack electricity. And those who are connected pay more for the commodity, stifling growth, they said.

"Africans pay 10 percent more for energy than the rest of the world and the Covid-19 pandemic is making it worse," said Zerubabel Tefera, an international relations scholar at the University of

Nairobi.

Tefera added that the pandemic has slowed Africa's economic recovery and sustainable development.

Given Africa's weak political, economic and social structures, the post-Covid-19 impact on the continent is likely to be more devastating than in other regions, said Maria Nzomo, director at the University of Nairobi's IDIS.

According to Nzomo, it's estimated that after the pandemic, 23 million more Africans will fall below the poverty line and the number of people living on food aid will nearly double.

"There is an urgent need for a regional energy integration

strategy and approach to serving as an essential enabler for the overall development of the energy sector that would in turn contribute to ensuring energy security for sustained economic and social development in Africa," she said.

Sylvain Degolmal, a principal energy expert at the African Union, said the body is leveraging on technology to promote energy integration across Africa, including by initiating an energy integration information system for member states.

The experts, however, said that insecurity and lack of infrastructure in the continent were enormous challenges to the integration.

## Tanzania hosts African Diamond Producers Association meeting

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA hosts the 7th African Diamond Producers Association (ADPA) meeting and is today expected to take chair of the association, minister for Minerals Doto Biteko said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference, as head of the meeting held virtually yesterday in Dodoma, the minister said the current chair, Namibia will hand over the chair today during member countries ministers meeting.

He noted that team of experts from the member states were to have meeting yesterday before today's ministerial meeting. "Tanzania will tomorrow (today) receive one-year chair of the ADPA from Namibia, an opportunity that will enable us convince member states to harmonize mineral laws," he said.

He noted that formed in November 2006, the African Diamond Producers Association is an ambitious new body embracing every aspect of diamond production

According to the minister, one of the main objectives of the association was to create a forum and framework where members could discuss their common interests and act in a harmonised way. It is a strategic platform of cooperation that coordinates the interests and efforts of member countries in promoting a dynamic and sustainable diamond industry in Africa.

"Our intention is to extend the chain of diamond activities in Africa, starting with production and cutting, to enable Africa to become a major producer of

diamond jewellery," he said.

The ADPA has 18 member countries of which 11 are permanent members and seven are observers. They are Tanzania, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Ghana, Togo, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

The observer countries are Algeria, Gabon, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia Mali, Mauritania and Republic of the Congo. The minister added that Tanzania will use the opportunity to share experience with the member countries as some countries recognize recent national reforms it has taken in the mineral laws.

The minister noted that the reforms have led increased mining of diamond reaching 497,000 carats per year, a historic step that was only realized in 1977 when the nation got 370,000 carats.

Biteko added that Covid-19 pandemic has affected global market of diamond, thus affecting the local prices.

He said the idea is to have countries share successful experiences of working within one or more sectors of the diamond industry. "We have countries with considerable experience of tax policies such as Namibia and Ghana, which has sound experience in jewellery production," he noted.

Biteko noted that there are also countries that work hard on the implementation of social projects in production zone areas, adding that they are some of the key issues where countries share best practice between members.



Xing J.X company director Xheng Jian based in China hands over various items to Malaika orphanage centre secretary Khadija Said in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is the centre's trustee Juma Gurumo. Photo: Correspondent Jumannie Juma

# TAMWA-Z'bar hails Pemba court for sentencing girl rapist to 33 years in jail

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Media Women Association in Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has congratulated the ruling of Chakechake Regional Court Magistrate in Pemba Lucasiano Makoye Nyengo who sentenced a local herbalist Rashid Khamisi (33) to 33 years in prison for the rape of a 16-year old girl.

In its statement to the media, TAMWA-Zanzibar Director Dr Mzuri Issa said: "We congratulate the magistrate for the sentence meted out on April 1 this year."

It was alleged in court that on November 19 last year at around 9:00 in the morning the girl (name withheld) went to the herbalist for treatment and the herbalist used the opportunity to sexually abuse her.

Dr Mzuri said: "That should be the punishment for a rapist, especially on a child below 18 years as the country's laws stipulate which could go as high as life imprisonment."

"Unfortunately Zanzibar is governed by the oppressive patriarchy system hence such harsh punishment is rarely given and instead only lesser

punishments are given - from two to ten years."

She added that TAMWA-Zanzibar want such sentences to be the norm in order to clamp down on rapists especially on small innocent children.

She also called on the community to remember that children have their own life goals and are supposed to be supported to reach them, and not to subject them to such cruelty that cuts short their life goals.

"In addition TAMWA-Zanzibar likes to stress to the members of the community in general not to close their eyes to these vile acts and should be ready to report them and provide testimony in courts without fear of intimidation when required to do so," Dr Mzuri added.



**We congratulate the magistrate for the sentence meted out on April 1 this year**

## Africa needs financial support to adapt to climate change - Guterres

By Special Correspondent

FINANCIAL support for Africa to adapt to climate change is crucial, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said as he addressed an online dialogue for leaders convened by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

He appealed for greater action to provide renewable energy to the hundreds of millions who still lack reliable and affordable electricity. "As the continent that has contributed least to the climate crisis, Africa deserves the strongest possible support and solidarity," said Guterres.

Pointing out that although Africa has abundant and untapped renewable resources, it has received just 2% of global investment in renewable energy over the past decade, warning that "adaptation must not be the neglected half of the climate equation".

Old models of development and energy use have failed to provide Africans with universal energy access, he said, meaning hundreds of millions of people still lack reliable and affordable electricity or are cooking with polluting and harmful fuels.

"We can provide universal access to energy in Africa primarily through renewable energy. I call for a comprehensive package of support to meet this objective ahead of COP26," Guterres said, referring to the UN climate change conference in November.

"It is achievable. It is necessary. It is overdue. And it is smart: climate action is a \$3 trillion investment opportunity in Africa by 2030," he added.

As the continent that has contributed least to the climate crisis, yet faces its most devastating impacts, Africa deserves the strongest possible support & solidarity.

The secretary-general pointed to "the major finance" gap blocking progress towards this goal. He urged developed countries to deliver on their \$100 billion climate commitment more than a decade ago.

"Developed countries and main financiers must ensure a swift shift of the billions to support African green investments, to increase resilience and to create the conditions for scaled-up private finance. And the private sector must step up and get organised to provide immediate, concrete solutions to governments. Local authorities can work with unions and community leaders on reskilling and social security nets," said Guterres.

While African governments also can lead the way by committing to ambitious adaptation and mitigation plans, they first need to regain their fiscal autonomy, he said. The UN chief stressed the need to extend the debt moratorium for developing countries, made last year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and even cancelling debts where appropriate.

Guterres said he thought Special Drawing Rights, a type of supplementary foreign reserve maintained by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), should be made available to support Africa's economic recovery. Even as the AfDB has worked with its regional member countries to fight the negative effects of climate change, the Bank has also been urging them to build infrastructure that is adapted and resilient to climate shocks.

Africa has lost billions of dollars in infrastructure and thousands of people due to cyclones and storms in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in 2019 alone. Floods in 2020 led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of internally displaced persons in the Sahel.

The AfDB believe Africa can mitigate the consequences of such climate shocks by building more resilient infrastructure and strengthening early warning and climate watch mechanism. Thus, the Bank encourages its regional members to integrate the "climate shock" dimension into the construction of essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, stations, dams and airports.

## SBC Tanzania Limited Celebrates 20 Years of Refreshing Tanzania

This week SBC Tanzania Ltd, manufacturers and distributors of the beloved venerable global brands Pepsi, Mirinda, Seven Up, Evervess and Mountain Dew, celebrates their 20 Year Anniversary, since launching its operations on the 05th of April 2001.

From the onset, SBC's vision was to be recognized as one of the most admired companies in Tanzania and now indeed they are living their vision. SBC has grown exponentially since its inception and this great achievement has been made possible by the steadfast support of their shareholders, who invested in the company and continue, unabated on the investment path.

SBC Tanzania has four bottling plants across Tanzania, namely Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, and Arusha including Depots in Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa, Songea, Shinyanga, Singida and Moshi. The Company provides employment to nearly 3,000 Tanzanian Nationals and commercial opportunities to thousands of fellow Tanzanians who trade profitably with their products. SBC acknowledge and appreciate the contribution and commitment of SBC's employees, their most valuable asset, as well as all suppliers, stakeholders and strategic partners, without whom this milestone could not have been achieved.

Through their exemplary corporate citizenship, SBC thank beloved Tanzania "Twenty times" for giving them the opportunity to contribute and add tremendous value to the Tanzanian Economy by offering employment opportunities and proudly becoming amongst Tanzania's largest taxpayers.

SBC Tanzania Ltd will continue to Refresh the Nation by providing the best quality products at affordable prices in the years to come because they believe that consumers own this right and this choice. SBC are committed to giving back to the communities around them and ensuring that best practices are deployed within their manufacturing facilities to conserve our country's natural resources and protect the environment.

**God bless SBC Tanzania,  
God bless Tanzania and its people, God bless Africa.**



## Redefining government vocation by tax habits, levels, stamp of maturity

SEISMIC waves are in progress at various levels of Tanzanian society, to digest current changes in political leadership and new orientations, with anxiety as to what this means for economic stability and progress, especially at the level of individual incomes. The preliminary sphere of anxiety has largely been evacuated, as outpouring of affection for basic policies of the late president John Magufuli has been so deep that no government shall in the next ten years or beyond put at risk fundamentals of his policies like free primary and secondary education. Similarly spreading health care facilities, medics, will be pursued.

What has come out singularly as a challenge that the government has to square up with is the 'state of war' between revenue collection and the trade sector, and in large measure even manufacturing and processing generally.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has pointedly deplored high handedness in tax collection saying it is injurious to economic growth and hampers job creation, a cardinal aspect of economic policy as a whole. As problems are often defined singularly rather than in terms of their total complexity, sorting out the high handedness is the first order of priority; other issues will then follow.

There is in policy perception something of a mixture between hard and fast questions on the one hand which call for a visible and viable solution, and other issues which are taken for granted and solutions to them remain a fluid issue. Infrastructure and tax

collection were cardinal issues in the past administration, and while much of this emphasis remains in place, issues of trade sector viability in this environment were more or less being taken for granted. It was nonetheless heard frequently in the legislature that the situation was not good but it wasn't an organizing issue in political mobilization, the way it is at present.

This situation where nearly the whole country - among those who are actively contributing to political discussion in a media-related manner, including the breadth of the political leadership - take enforcement of taxes as a pivotal issue in how the country is administered at present is a salutary situation. The reason is that this matter has peppered all other issues that have the potential of being structured as potential sources of political legitimacy, and in the past they often appeared as if they were overriding issues.

Some of them were still being heard lately, for instance when President Samia tasked Vice President Dr Philip Mpango 'with other witches' to see to it that contentions in the Union (e.g. Zanzibar-Mainland trade) end.

In this issue especially it is evident that Union contentions or disputes are on course to be being discussed, sorted out in a rational way, when they are matters of commercial arrangements, tariff issues, etc. Such approach eschews the sort of preliminary mistrust which sets up a fixed agenda of three governments as the only way to solve problems, even if this may well exacerbate contentions.

## Business engagement is critical to global health

MANAGING global health is of critical importance for all of us. Health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being in which disease and infirmity are absent.

The meaning of health has evolved over time. In keeping with the biomedical perspective, early definitions of health focused on the theme of the body's ability to function; health was seen as a state of normal function that could be disrupted from time to time by disease.

An example of such a definition of health is: "a state characterised by anatomic, physiologic, and psychological integrity; ability to perform personally valued family, work, and community roles; ability to deal with physical, biological, psychological, and social stress".

Then in 1948, in a radical departure from previous definitions, the World Health Organization (WHO) proposed a definition that aimed higher: linking health to well-being, in terms of "physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity".

Although this definition was welcomed by some as being innovative, it was also criticised as being vague, excessively broad and was not construed as measurable. For a long time, it was set aside as an impractical ideal and most discussions of health returned to the practicality of the biomedical model.

Just as there was a shift from viewing disease as a state to thinking of it as a process, the same shift happened in definitions of health. Again, the WHO played a leading role when it fostered the development of the health promotion movement

in the 1980s. This brought in a new conception of health, not as a state, but in dynamic terms of resiliency, in other words, as 'a resource for living'.

In 1984 WHO revised the definition of health defined it as 'the extent to which an individual or group is able to realise aspirations and satisfy needs and to change or cope with the environment. Health is a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living; it is a positive concept, emphasizing social and personal resources, as well as physical capacities'.

Mental, intellectual, emotional and social health referred to a person's ability to handle stress, to acquire skills, to maintain relationships, all of which form resources for resiliency and independent living. This opens up many possibilities for health to be taught, strengthened and learned.

Since the late 1970s, the federal Healthy People Programme has been a visible component of the United States' approach to improving population health. In each decade, a new version of Healthy People is issued, featuring updated goals and identifying topic areas and quantifiable objectives for health improvement during the succeeding ten years, with assessment at that point of progress or lack thereof.

Progress has been limited to many objectives, leading to concerns about the effectiveness of Healthy People in shaping outcomes in the context of a decentralized and uncoordinated US health system.

The impact of these changes to Healthy People will be determined in the coming years. Systematic activities to prevent or cure health problems and promote good health in humans are undertaken by health care providers.

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By Special Correspondent

THE SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security meets this week to discuss the growing security problem in north-eastern Mozambique, which last week saw a serious attack on the town of Palma right on the Tanzanian border.

The Troika, as it is commonly known, is chaired by Botswana President Mokgweetsi Masisi with President Mnangagwa as the last chairman and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa as the next chairman.

Neither the problem, nor the response, is simple and the three presidents have their work cut out to find an effective response that will bring peace to the province of Cabo Delgado without making the problem worse. At the simplistic core are groups of youths claiming allegiance to the Islamic State, a heretical Muslim organisation that caused so much suffering in Iraq and Syria.

While Cabo Delgado is a majority Muslim province, the gangs have attacked local mosques and local Muslim clerics and leaders so it is hardly a "Muslim insurgency". Muslims are the main target.

In fact, the gangs have gone out of their way not to seek local support, with the local population bearing the brunt of the raids and attacks. Frelimo wins elections in the province by large majorities, although there is some opposition support in the coastal towns, precisely the targets of the largest raids.

So the self-styled "al Shabab", the same name as groups in Somalia although totally unrelated, are outside the political and democratic structures in Mozambique. They attack everyone. The groups have access to modern light arms, assault rifles, rocket propelled grenades and the like. So someone is supplying them with arms and ammunition, but not much else.

They rob and steal for food and wear a tattered variety of semi-uniform. So obviously one response is to see what can be done to track down and cut off supplies of ammunition and arms.

There is ruby mining in the area, and gemstones are easy to smuggle, so efforts need to be made to make conflict rubies unsaleable.

All of Mozambique's neighbours are friendly SADC states and anxious to help, so there is nothing like the support that the apartheid regime provided in central Mozambique in the 1980s, in fact quite the opposite.

But there is that long coastline easily accessible by smugglers in

## Caution needed in Mozambique over insecurity problem

small boats, and Africa's borders are hardly fenced off. Much is made in the Western press of the poverty in Cabo Delgado and the fact that a huge gas strike off the coast is not providing income to the province.

Well most of Mozambique is poor, with the Portuguese colonialists taking rather than developing and the Renamo insurgency delaying development for the first two decades of independence.

The gas strike is large, but at the moment it is investment money coming in and nothing yet coming out. Production does not start until next year and the Government will not start getting significant revenues until 1928.

Sometimes the hype over resource discoveries and inward investment fails to stress the time actually needed to develop those resources. By the end of the decade Cabo Delgado will be a fairly rich province, especially by Mozambique standards, and no doubt the Mozambican Government will ensure respectable levels of development. But at the moment investment is in the early stages.

One aim of gangs like those operating in the area is to trigger an overreaction from the authorities and the national military. And that is a serious danger that needs to be considered in any response to the gangs.

This is how the Islamic State (IS) built up its numbers, although not its support, in Iraq and Syria before a co-ordinated response, that involved a major local backlash against the gangs, finally broke it.

Mozambique is a poor country wanting to concentrate its limited budget on development rather than building massive armies. It does, of course, have armed forces and has deployed troops and police into the north, but there are limitations.

Portugal has now decided to deploy a small training team to help, and those trainers have the advantage of speaking Mozambique's common second language, so this will be useful. Perhaps in any co-ordinated SADC response Angola could also be asked to assist with training.

The United States has made noises about assistance. This needs great care, considering the heavy-handed response of the American armed forces in so many conflicts.

Assistance with logistics,

supplies and equipment, could well be very useful, but anything more needs serious thought as to whether it might make things worse. But in the end SADC is going to have to do more to help one of its members. The security of part of Mozambique is clearly compromised; we do not want it to spread and certainly do not want it spreading across borders. Ideally we want it to end soon.

West Africa provides some ideas. The Boko Haram gangs, similar although they did attempt to generate local support, were a growing menace in north-eastern Nigeria.

Two northern neighbours, Niger and Chad, provided some military assistance, for a start securing the northern borders, so cutting off much smuggling of arms, and then deploying some troops.

It was a major help that both countries are overwhelmingly Muslim majority nations, so the religious angle was avoided in a Muslim majority Nigerian state, and with that assistance it was possible to trap many of the gangs.

These, and many other factors, need to be considered by the three Presidents meeting this week. The SADC response needs to be effective, but carefully nuanced and taking into account all the dangers and opportunities.

Mozambique needs help, but the help has to work to end the operations of what amount to a collection of bandit gangs rather than a large organised army let alone a popular insurrection. But the gangs are getting more daring, and seem to be able to combine at times. So they have to be stopped, and soon.

According to reports, the northern Mozambique province of Cabo Delgado is on the brink of a serious hunger crisis and a consequent increase in chronic child malnutrition. Food production, particularly in districts affected by conflict, has recorded very poor yields. The Provincial Director of Economic Activities, Agai Mario, says that since the start of militia attacks in 2017, over 80,000 households abandoned the growing of crops. Currently, displaced families depend on food aid. Food security in several communities is highly compromised because of ongoing instability that forced them to abandon farming and live as internally displaced people in accommodation centres. The situation has triggered a

humanitarian crisis.

To respond to the urgent needs of an estimated 530,000 people displaced by violent conflict in Cabo Delgado, UNFPA has supported the government's installation of sexual and reproductive health tents, women and girl-friendly spaces in relocation sites, distribution of female dignity kits and deployment of mobile clinics to provide remote-based care.

With 36 per cent of health facilities in the province damaged or destroyed, the sexual and reproductive health tents and mobile clinics offer family planning, antenatal consultations, and postpartum care services to ensure that the many women and girls of reproductive age have access to the life-saving services they require.

The women and girl-friendly spaces offer psychosocial support and first aid, as well as gender-based violence case management, and empowerment activities including vocational and livelihood training for income generation, for vulnerable women and girls.

They were viewed during a joint mission of United Nations Regional Directors to the northern province, as well as to the capital of Maputo, in response to the worsening humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado, in December.

"While immediate support is needed for internally displaced people in Cabo Delgado, particularly as the rains come, the resilience and laughter of young girls gives us hope!" said Dr. Julitta Onabanjo, UNFPA's Regional Director for East and Southern Africa.

She joined the mission led by the Regional Director for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), accompanied by Regional Directors from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Resilience Unit of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The UN delegation saw at first hand the needs and challenges of those displaced, the strain on host communities where social services are already stretched, and discussed how to reinforce the UN's support to the Government of Mozambique and partners to respond to this humanitarian crisis.

# Sun, sea and cybernauts: The long road for Greece's digital nomads

AEGINA

FROM her garden on a sunny Greek island, Rowena Harding works with governments and charities across the globe.

"The great thing is I can do my job from anywhere," the Australian-British communications consultant says. "I'm able to talk to clients in Myanmar, clients in Rwanda. This morning I've been working on north-east Nigeria, all from here, a Greek island."

The push to attract a community of footloose remote workers is among the green and digital reforms Greece hopes will help revive its economy and restore its international image after more than a decade of crisis.

It also hopes to boost tourism after the industry's worst year in decades plunged it back into recession in 2020.

Yet for a country near the bottom of the European Union's digital economy rankings, the road to becoming a hub for digital nomads - like Bali or Mallorca - is long and strewn with technological and bureaucratic hurdles.

Whether it can succeed just a few years after emerging from the biggest bailout in history will provide a test of Greece's ability to reshape its economy for a post-pandemic world.

Sitting on a beach near her home, Harding lists the reasons she moved from Thailand to Aegina, one of the Saronic islands a short ferry ride from Athens: low coronavirus infection rates, weather, good food and a nice attitude to enjoying life.

Beyond sun, sea and lifestyle, Greece is planning visas and offering a 50% income tax cut for seven years for professionals who move there. It also wants to lure back some of the 800,000 young Greeks who emigrated during the long downturn that followed the 2009 global financial crisis.

"If you can work from anywhere, why not work from Greece?" Tourism Minister Harry Theoharis told Reuters, citing research estimating a 1.6 billion euro revenue gain for every 100,000 workers who stay for six months.

But despite Greece's "great potential", many are staying for weeks, not months, because of problems ranging from slow WiFi to inflexible visa rules, said David Williams, CEO of global housing marketplace NomadX.

While Greece has attracted investment by tech champions Tesla and Amazon, it fares well below European averages on connectivity, internet use and digital public services, standing second to last in the European Commission's 2020 Digital Economy and Society Index.

Greece's fixed broadband internet is slower than Tajikistan's, where just a quarter of the population is online, according to the Speedtest Global Index, which ranked Greece 98th in February.

## WORK, PARADISE AND BUREAUCRACY

Last month, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis outlined a multi-billion plan dubbed "Greece 2.0" including investments in 5G networks, which Greece began rolling out in December to reinforce its attractiveness.

"You want to be able to look at the sea out of your window as you work, but you want to make sure the laptop is connected," tourism minister Theoharis said.

Driven by the pandemic, home working is expected to double in 2021, a U.S.-based Enterprise Technology Research survey found.

Eager to compete with Portugal's Madeira island, which set up a digital nomad village, Greece's Rhodes launched a Digital Nomads Observatory. On Crete, a project called "Work & Paradise" promises the chance to work from poolside villas.

Without a digital nomads' registry, it is difficult to determine how many are in Greece. The Facebook group "Digital Nomads Athens" counts 3,600 members from countries including Ireland, France, the United States and Estonia.

Sanne Goslinga, director of talent at Marathon Venture Capital, who moved from Berlin, received several LinkedIn messages from people interested in jobs in Greece.

"Generation Z are risk-takers; they say 'I'll just go and see and I can always go back to my country,'" she said, referring to those born between the mid-1990s and early 2010s.

Stefanos Bournias, born in Greece and raised in Bali, moved from Amsterdam last March,



Rowena Harding, 46, sits on the seaside during an interview with Reuters, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on the island of Aegina, Greece, March 26, 2021. REUTERS/Alkis Konstantinidis

working for the Latvian translation software start-up Lokalise.

"A part of me wants to see Greece heal many of its problems, especially with human capital and the brain drain," the 25-year-old said from a co-working space.

Bournias was initially put off by the lack of opportunities, working conditions and wages. As a foreign

resident, he waded through "layers and layers of red tape" on things like getting a military exemption or opening a bank account.

"If you disregard all that and you earn a competitive western European salary, the standard of life here is incredible," he said.

Still, on NomadsList, which ranks the best places for remote workers, Athens is only 65th in a list topped by Lisbon.

For some, such as Harding, the advantages of

Greece outweigh setbacks that she said include power outages. She intends to seek residency.

For others, the future is less certain.

"Right now it's working for me," Bournias said. "But I guess I'll probably be leaving at some point."

Agencies

## Kenya's rural community health volunteers on frontline of saving lives

NAIROBI

JAELO Onditi is a community health volunteer (CHV) who supplements the formal health system in promoting disease prevention in remote villages in western Kenya.

She is based in the western Kenyan county of Homa Bay where she has been promoting environmental hygiene in the last 15 years to curb the spread of communicable diseases like cholera.

"Together with the residents, I developed a three-day program to help keep the environment clean, a move that has saved the residents from contracting cholera and other waterborne diseases," Onditi told Xinhua.

Onditi is a trained CHV by the Ministry of Health on antenatal care, use of malaria kits and testing of tuberculosis cases in the villages. She helps local people to follow up on their appointments such as immunization dates, sanitation clean-up operations, ensuring that HIV/AIDS positive people go for their medication promptly.

"We are forced to give priority to the community over our family since most of the time we are woken up early in the morning, sometimes in the middle of the night depending on the emergency," said Onditi.

As part of her work, Onditi ensures that everyone in the village uses the toilets correctly, ensures that children wastes are properly disposed of, keeps their food wastes, removes standing water and keeps cleanliness within the corridors.

Richard Muga, executive committee member of Health Services in Homa Bay County, said that CHVs have brought about an increasing behavior change in the broader health care sector. He said that CHVs have the potential to supplement the formal health system at a time when infectious, nutritional and non-communicable diseases have become common.

"The CHVs have been found to be leading facilitators of success as they help find solutions in fixing health

problems that initially proved stubborn to the government," said Muga. The CHVs, he added, are now allowed to enter households in their villages to check how communities live and report back for action.

Mathews Ajwala, community health officer in Homa Bay County, said their main role is to follow up on COVID-19 follow-ups, providing mosquito nets to needy cases, ensuring that mothers seek maternal health and following up on sanitation issues. "They are allowed to conduct Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) for malaria and recommend patients transfer to a medical facility," said Ajwala. He said that CHVs are the first to attend to sick people since they carry out referrals to health facilities from households.

Ajwala said that Homa Bay County that has for decades been associated with frequent cholera outbreaks and a high rate of HIV transmission has 2,936 volunteers.

"Throughout the 80s and 90s, Homa Bay County has faced the danger of cholera, malaria and HIV/AIDS causing massive deaths of innocent people," said Ajwala. He said volunteers are guided by the Community Health Act that has since become law and spells out their role in society.

"Each CHV visits 100 members of the community under her/his care daily, attending to their daily health needs and reports back to the Community Health Assistant (CHA) for immediate action," said Ajwala. He said that all the households are linked to a health facility within their locality where they report for treatment and those on regular medication access their medicine.

Ajwala said that volunteers are however allowed to carry basic medicine like painkillers in their medical kits but not antibiotics. "They have been very useful in identifying people suffering from pneumonia, tuberculosis, COVID-19," said Ajwala.

He said that it's the volunteers' continuous work during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic that has led to the closure of the two quarantine health facilities that

were opened to cater to COVID-19 infected people.

"We had a major cholera outbreak in 2007 and by 2019 we have recorded a 90 percent Open Defecation Free (ODF) category, up from 45 percent in 2009," said Ajwala. He said that the success that leaves only 10 percent of villages still openly defecating is fully attributed to the work done by volunteers in educating and mobilizing communities to sink latrines.

Ajwala said that the high prevalence of cholera along Lake Victoria beaches has reduced. "The CHVs have succeeded in making 162 villages ODF out of 3,323 villages in the entire county. A number of villages are also soon joining the list," said Ajwala. On their role in managing HIV/AIDS, Ajwala said that volunteers are the success behind the reduction of HIV prevalence to 19 percent currently in Homa Bay County from 43 percent in 2016. He said that through the volunteers, HIV defaulters are followed up and asked to report back to accessing their medicine and those with known signs are also encouraged to report for medical tests.

Moses Okelo is one such person who went back to receive his antiretroviral drugs after defaulting for three months. "I defaulted having felt tired of taking daily medication but our local CHV came to my home and sweet-talked me back into the program," said Okelo. He was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in the year 2000 and continues to receive his medicines from a local dispensary without fail. "I was cautioned that I will never be allowed back into the program again in case I default," said Okelo.

Ajwala said that CHVs have also helped improve the safe delivery of babies, antenatal care and immunization. He said that tuberculosis management has improved as volunteers keep tabs on those on medication and visit them to inquire about side effects, adding that tuberculosis management in Homa Bay is currently the best in Kenya.

Xinhua

## the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

For Wildlife Research, Education &amp; Conservation

### Request for Applications Mid-Term Program Evaluation Consultants

#### About Us:

The Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) is a global community conservation organization that advances the vision and work of Dr. Jane Goodall by conserving chimpanzees and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share, we improve the lives of people, animals, and the environment, we strongly believe everything is connected and everyone can make a difference.

On November 05th, 2018, the Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) launched the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) project funded through a cooperative agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is designed to address the primary threats to natural forest cover and the chimpanzee population in the Gombe Masito Ugalla (GMU) landscape. It aims to protect chimpanzee populations and their habitat in western Tanzania while improving household income from the sustainable use of natural resources and the establishment of microenterprises and private sector partnerships that reinforce conservation behaviors.

#### The Consultancy's Scope & Requirements:

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking to subcontract four (4) consultants from multiple sectors to contribute to a Mid-Term programmatic evaluation of the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) project. The consultants will develop and document lessons from activity implementation and recommend improvements. The team will work in an integrated fashion, under a lead consultant, to finalize the design of the evaluation, collect information, analyze, and report findings. Specifically, we are seeking multiple experts with demonstrated expertise and experience in carrying out programmatic evaluations with at least one of the following professional profiles:

- Forest and wildlife Conservation, including expertise on governance, law enforcement and using monitoring data for decision making.
- Land Use Planning in a rural context, including expertise on land tenure.
- Supporting improved livelihoods (village savings and loans, agricultural and non-timber forest product-based livelihoods). If possible, in the context of reducing threats to biodiversity.
- Family planning service provision in a rural context.

All candidates should have a master's degree in a field related to one of the above areas of expertise and at least 5 years' experience which includes experience working in a team environment to complete a programmatic project evaluation. Contractual engagements for successful candidates are anticipated to commence from May 1st, 2021 for at least a month to 6 weeks assignment. We welcome individual and team applications to cover any one or all of the above areas.

#### Application Procedure:

Please send a cover letter describing your experience in carrying out programmatic evaluations in the above highlighted sector(s), your earliest date of availability and your current CV (including references related to evaluation work) to the following e-mail address: [jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz](mailto:jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz) only. All applications should be submitted by 5.00pm Tanzania time on April 16th, 2021. Please note that only the shortlisted applicants who are available to start on May 1st 2021 will be contacted for an interview. For any queries regarding this consultancy, please contact us through the following office general line: +255282988178.

# Indonesia's climate villages where communities work together to mitigate climate change

JAKARTA

RESIDENTS of Ngadirejo village in Sukaharjo regency, Central Java province, had often found themselves helpless when their wells dried up or water flooded through their homes. But thanks to a national campaign called Program Kampung Iklim, known by its acronym ProKlim, they now have solutions to this flooding that generally occurs because of a lack of adequate water catchments.

"We started planting biopore holes and erecting infiltration wells in early 2016 to harvest rainwater and wastewater. The results have been almost instantaneous - our wells have never run out of water and floods never visited us again since 2017," Serono Arief Wijaya told IPS from Ngadirejo, which lies around one-hour flight east of Indonesia's capital Jakarta.

As climate change hits home, Indonesia has frequently experienced drought and heavy rainfall, with reports of water scarcity, floods, landslides, and crop failures becoming common. In 2012, the government introduced Program Kampung Iklim, which literally means Climate Village Programme, to raise public awareness towards global warming and to assist people at grassroots level to draw up adaptation and mitigation plans.

While attending a seminar organised by the local office of Environment and Forestry Department in December 2015, leaders of Ngadirejo, according to Wijaya, heard the word global warming and ProKlim for the first time. The following year community leaders decided to plant biopore holes along Ngadirejo's drainage network and build infiltration wells throughout the neighbourhood in adaptation and mitigation efforts.

"We now have around 600 biopore holes, each measuring one meter deep and eight centimetres wide, and 50 infiltration wells measuring one meter deep and three meters wide each," said Wijaya, who heads Ngadirejo's ProKlim campaign.

"Many residents who had access to piped water previously now harvest groundwater instead for their daily needs," he added.

Up until 2016, only between 10 to 15 percent of Ngadirejo residents had access to piped water, with the remainder reliant on artesian wells only. According to 2020 figures, the village has some 3,000 families - slightly over 10,000 people.

Aside from harvesting rainwater, Ngadirejo residents have also been converting their organic waste into compost and are selling this to private companies. They are also planting vegetables in their backyards and on unused land as part of the community's urban farming activity.

They also use LED light bulbs and automatic sensors to switch lights on or off when needed and have planted



Ngadirejo residents have been converting their organic waste into compost and are selling this to inorganic waste to private companies. They are also planting vegetables in their backyards and on unused land as part of the community's urban farming activity and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. . File photo

trees with the slogan "one-house-one-big-tree".

"We have also designated a section of our village as a tourist destination and training centre where we explain our ProKlim actions to visitors or conduct training on how to make biopore holes, infiltration wells, fertiliser, or anything related to adaptation and mitigation actions," Wijaya said.

Hardi Buhairat, a 50-year-old resident of Poleonro in Bone regency, South Sulawesi province - a three hour flight east of Jakarta - expressed a similar sentiment when talking about the ProKlim programme being implemented in his village.

"ProKlim has brought the Lita River back to life and we are very happy about that. The river is our only source of water for household consumption and farming but there were times it could no longer irrigate our field. Its water debit has returned and is stable throughout the year," Buhairat, who is head of

Poleonro's ProKlim programme, told IPS.

The village started implementing ProKlim solutions in 2015, kicking it off with series of meetings with residents where they discussed climate change and the actions community members could take to avert its adverse impacts.

"The first things we did was issuing a village ordinance banning the residents from cutting trees and harvesting woods in and around Lita River's spring. Soon after that, we planted thousands of trees in deforested areas around the spring," said Buhairat, who is also Poleonro's chief.

Poleonro's village leaders also issued two other ordinances; one banning residents from burning rice straw and farms after harvest.

The 2019 Pollution and Health Metrics: Global, Regional and Country Analysis report from the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP) ranks Indonesia as 4th in the world in terms of annual pre-

mature pollution-related deaths, after the populous nations of India, China and Nigeria.

The second ordinance requires residents to replace any tree they cut down in customary forests.

"The latter ordinance allows them to harvest trees in their customary forests but also orders them to plant new trees to replace the ones they cut. To ensure that they comply the rule, we inspect their forests regularly," Buhairat said.

The residents also planted biopore holes to store rainwater underground, built wells to filter household wastewater before it goes into the river, and treated waste, converting organic waste into compost.

"Since 2015, we encouraged the residents to have indoor toilets. We are glad all households now have their own toilets indoors," Buhairat said.

Buhairat said Poleonro villagers have also begun to diversify their food crops as part of their food security action.

"Our farmers planted organic red rice for the first time in 2018. We are now looking for buyers before going on a large-scale production. We want organic red rice to be our specialty commodity," he said.

Since ProKlim's launch in 2012, over 2,700 villages in 33 provinces have been registered as climate villages, according to Sri Tantri Arundhati, Director of Climate Change Adaptation of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In 2020, six of those villages, including Nga-

direjo and Poleonro, received the ProKlim Lestari Trophy, the highest accolade for a climate village programme, from the ministry.

Arundhati said the government now aims to establish 20,000 climate villages, which constitute roughly 25 percent of the country's 83,000 villages, by 2024.

"We will cooperate with other stakeholders, including non-governmental organisations and the private sector, and improve coordination with local governments and related departments. We will also work to improve the capacity of local governments and people at the grassroots level," she told IPS.

Arundhati said her ministry has also asked registered climate villages to promote ProKlim and help other communities design their adaptation and mitigation actions.

Wijaya confirmed Ngadirejo village has been encouraged to help other communities implement ProKlim.

"We are now helping 44 villages in Central Java where we explain about global warming and help residents there identify adaptation and mitigation actions they could take to deal with climate change-related problems in their community," Wijaya said.

Buhairat said Poleonro is now guiding 15 villages in South Sulawesi to become climate villages.

Rizaldi Boer of the state-owned Bogor Institute of Agriculture (IPB) said ProKlim could help the government achieve the country's nationally determined contribution (NDCs) agreed according to the Paris Agreement.

"The programme can help a lot in dealing with climate change as it encourages active participation of people at grassroots level," said Boer, who is also director of the Centre for Climate Risk and Opportunity Management in Southeast Asia and Pacific.

IPS

## Was Trump's family-separation policy torture?

SEATTLE

"A crime against humanity" and "a disgrace to our great country": that's how 99-year-old Benjamin Ferencz, the last surviving prosecutor of the Nazis at the Nuremberg war-crimes trials, characterized the Donald Trump administration's coercive separation of thousands of immigrant children from parents seeking asylum.

Former U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein cited a statement by the American Association of Pediatrics that the family-separation policy was a form of "government-sanctioned child abuse" which could cause "irreparable harm" with "lifelong consequences". He added: "The thought that any State would seek to deter parents by inflicting such abuse on children is unconscionable."

Now, a report from Physicians for Human Rights raises questions of criminal liability and accountability arising from the policy. And it points to potential avenues towards justice for both victims and perpetrators.

"You Will Never See Your Child Again" - The Persistent Psychological Effects of Family Separation" makes the case that separation of immigrant children from their parents by U.S. immigration officials constitutes torture and enforced disappearance.

To investigate the families' experiences, PHR clinicians performed psychological evaluations of a sample of asylum seekers from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who had suffered an average of over 60 days of forced separation at the hands of U.S. immigration authorities.

They found that before leaving Central America, all the families had already "been exposed to trauma" due to "targeted acts of violence", mostly due to gang activity. All parents feared for their children and believed that traveling to the U.S. would offer them protection.

When the families arrived in the U.S., however, treatment by the U.S. government compounded the pain. "Parents reported that immigration authorities forcibly removed children from their parents' arms, removed parents while their children slept, or simply 'disappeared' the children while their parents were in court rooms or receiving medical care." Nearly all parents said they were given no explanation of why their children were taken away, where they were being held, or if they would be reunited.

Mental-health diagnoses by medical experts found that nearly all the victims suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, and many also met diagnostic criteria for major depressive disorder or generalized anxiety disorder.

Citing the United Nations Convention Against Torture, PHR asserted that "the U.S. government's treatment of asylum seekers through its policy of family separation constitutes cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and, in all cases evaluated by PHR experts, rises to the level of torture." It found that "the policy and practice of family separation also constitutes enforced disappearance, which occurs when state agents conceal the fate or whereabouts of a person who is deprived of liberty."



Central American mother and daughter reunited at U.S. airport.(File photo)

The report concludes that the U.S. government is obligated by domestic and international standards to "provide redress to victims of torture and ill-treatment, including in the form of rehabilitative services; ensure the families of disappeared children know the truth of their family members' whereabouts by dedicating adequate government resources to ensure timely reunification for all separated families, including deported parents; and prosecute U.S. officials who have broken the law." The document ends with detailed recommendations to the Biden administration and Congress for policy changes to achieve these and further ends.

Physicians for Human Rights executive director Donna McKay said in a statement that families who suffered this treatment should be given "legal residency in the United States", along with ongoing mental health care and "redress in monetary compensation" as recommended by the report. She urged the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, to deliver on his pledge that the family-reunification task force proposed by President Joseph Biden would explore "lawful pathways" for citizenship for separated families. And she called for "accountability for the perpetrators of the family separation policy". PHR is a New York-based non-governmental organization that shared in the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

From 2017 through 2019, the PHR report said, 5,512 children were coercively separated from their families by border officials. Of the 1,556 children separated between July 1, 2017 and June 26, 2018, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, 207 or 13.3 percent were younger than 5 years old.

In 2018, the ACLU brought a successful lawsuit, Ms. L

v. ICE, in which a federal court held the practice unconstitutional and required the government to reunite all separated families.

Yet even now, the damage continues. As of January 2021, more than 611 of the forcibly separated children had still not been reunited with their parents, according to the ACLU. Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director of the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project, said that even after the ruling in Ms. L v. ICE, Trump administration officials delayed furnishing or withheld critical data, and provided stale contact information. As a result, some children have remained separated from their parents for nearly two years.

Gelernt told me in an e-mail that the organization currently has a civil class-action suit for damages pending in Arizona against individuals responsible for family separation.

### Family values and razor wire

The full scope of family separation, though, is much broader than just those forcibly torn apart by Trump. It also encompasses the many immigrant children and parents already in the U.S. who have been separated by deportations, imprisonment, and other forms of persecution targeting immigration status during the three previous administrations.

For example, many of the hundreds of thousands deported after raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement were parents whose children were left behind, sometimes without a breadwinner.

From the beginning of the Trump administration, restrictionist policies also inflicted harm on thousands

more children who sought asylum alone, or who remained with their families. Many who were already accepted into the asylum process were imprisoned for long periods in poor conditions. Tens of thousands of others were forced to wait for their court dates in dangerous camps in the Mexican borderlands. Thousands more were blocked from even asking for asylum by the "metering" of asylum claims, which made asylum seekers put their names on long, unofficial lists and wait in Mexico to even approach border officials. Many others were excluded by unofficial and later official shutdowns of border crossings.

Much of this anti-immigrant blitzkrieg has been sharply criticized by international human rights officials. Michelle Bachelet Jeria, the current U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights and former president of Chile, said she was "profoundly disturbed" by several Trump policies that she said had "drastically reduced protections for migrant families." She singled out family separation, Migration Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico), "the arbitrary privation of liberty", and "the denial of access to humanitarian services and assistance".

Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas director at Amnesty International, asserted: "Trump's efforts to end asylum are an all-out assault on human rights. ... The obligation to protect the rights of people seeking safety is a bedrock principle of U.S. and international law - and the U.S. is failing miserably."

The 'crisis' at our borders is not the result of people 'flooding our border' - it is a crisis of xenophobic policies that masquerade as security measures and serve only to exacerbate human suffering."

The abuse, torture, and disappearance of children and parents were not accidental or unintended. Trump, his then Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and his advisors Stephen L. Miller and Steve Bannon were ideologically fueled by what might be called white sado-nationalism.

As Jen Kirby of Vox reported, Trump complained during a meeting discussing Haiti, El Salvador, and African countries: "Why do we want these people from all these shithole countries here? We should have more people from places like Norway." Roughly four-fifths of all immigrants to the U.S. come from Latin America, Asia and Africa. So Trump's operatives implemented an array of deliberately cruel practices aiming to deter any form of authorized or unauthorized immigration.

Some of the ideas they reportedly considered bordered on the psychotic. According to N.Y. Times reporters Michael D. Shear and Julie Hirschfeld Davis, "Privately, the president had often talked about fortifying a border wall with a water-filled trench, stocked with snakes or alligators, prompting aides to seek a cost estimate."

He wanted the wall electrified, with spikes on top that could pierce human flesh." He also reportedly suggested that soldiers shoot migrants if they threw rocks, but his staff told him that this would be illegal. Later he proposed shooting migrants in their legs to slow them down, but was again told that this was not allowed.

IPS

## Namrata Kapil: Determination and endurance key to success

By Guardian Correspondent

A 23-year-old Namrata Kapil Dave is an inspirational lady who views determination and endurance as key for her to achieve the desired end.

Being an internationally qualified medical esthetician from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, Namrata views life as challenging that needs someone to be strong and realize their dreams.

Namrata, who is now Dar es Salaam-based medical esthetician, says before getting into that profession, it wasn't an easy task. But she had a passion for assisting people with any skin complications.

"So, I had to look for a college and university that offer the course. And luckily, I joined a three-year course at the University of Cape Town. After completing her course last year, the lady is in Dar es Salaam helping Tanzanians with any skin condition or skin trauma they face," she told 'The Citizen' in an interview over the weekend.

### How did it start?

"Firstly, you can only choose this field if you are willing to work very closely with people. So when I finished studying, my wish was to bring these services to my native country and let my fellow people enjoy these facilities, and why shouldn't they? Everyone wants to look beautiful," she says, adding:

"This field in this part of the world is still very new and not a lot of people have the knowledge on it and even if they do, they are scared to get them done here locally, and that's what I'm trying to do here, build their confidence and educate patients on not just the treatments but the importance of skincare.

"This field is always moving forward. Every day there are new inventions and services being introduced, so you're never just restricted to one or two services, but you're constantly learning while practicing.

"Our skin is the largest organ of our body. We look after other organs and other parts well, so why not the skin? It is the most important protective barrier and it is what represents you."

Being the firstborn in her family, the lady started getting interested when she was young after she saw many people with skin complications.

But all in all, she lauds her parents and relatives for the encouragement and support they accorded her until she graduated from the course in a foreign land.

"At first, it was difficult for me as a young girl and new entrant in this new market, but, determination and endurance are what brought me here," says Namrata who is offering services at Aliya Salon and Spa in Dar es Salaam since last year.

"When things started weren't easy for me, taking into accounts that these kinds of services are still new in Tanzania. People are unaware of this treatment in this country. But in the developed world this is a booming treatment, taking into account that 80percent of people have skin complications and out of that 95 percent are women. But, now more Tanzanians are becoming aware and they are coming here at an average of three to



four people a day," says Namrata, who works along-side dermatologists and plastic surgeons.

### How do you get patients?

"WhatsApp and Instagram are key social media platforms I use to market this service and thanks to God, they have been effective," says Namrata, who is well trained in all forms for laser treatments, not just for skin but also for hair removal, advanced skincare—chemical peels micro-needling and radiofrequency and dermaplaning.

She also trained to do body slimming treatments using ultrasound cavitations and other muscle stimulators.

### What is your short and long-time dream?

In a few months, we are planning to introduce more advanced treatments such as laser for advanced skin rejuvenation and permanent hair removal as well PRP; Platelet-rich plasma for vampire facials, hair loss, and patients who struggle with alopecia. Our long-term dream is to open up a medical clinic that will specialize in this area.

Commenting on the costs of the treatments, the young lady says: "We end up spending so much money on cheap products that not only would last you a few weeks but also ruin your skin health. But this is also because a lot of people don't have the right knowledge on what is good and bad for your skin, which ends up you showing up at our doorstep. Therefore, these treatments are cost-effective as they are done at certain intervals, not on a daily basis. So, we are really excited to bring these treatments here and can't wait for our Tanzanians to enjoy these services and assist each one in every possible way."

### How can you develop your career?

"So, yes I am here to build my career, but it is going to be very beneficial to the society as well, because it going to encourage and inspire, not just women, but men too, to look after her skin health.

This will also encourage the youth to take on this field and help people with their concerns. If somebody wants to take upon this course, they can always look up medical esthetics courses online and select their choice of school."

"There is a vast scope for this in the western countries and if you do plan to settle outside Africa, you don't have to worry because you will be holding a license that is internationally recognized that will allow you to work anywhere.

"So while I am back home, I wish to build myself here and help my people get the right knowledge about this industry, helping them in every way, keeping their best interests at heart, and allowing them to enjoy and take full advantage of the services we can offer them."

## Agro-firm buys health insurance for 25 children of Mbeya orphanage

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

TWENTY-FIVE orphans housed at Iwambi Orphanage run by the Moravian Church in Mbeya City have been provided with health insurance courtesy of Kapunga rice project limited to ensure their easy access to health services.

Speaking on Tuesday when presenting the National Health Insurance (NHIF) cards to the children, Kapunga rice manager, Sunil Tayal said the children's health insurance cost 3m/-, adding that the firm also purchased other essential items for the orphanage's upkeep.

Tayal said the items provided included rice, beans and soap which were handed over to the orphanage supervisor.

"Kapunga rise limited has been providing assistance to various community activities including re-vamping of education infrastructures in Mbarali district and the construction of Kapunga health centre, hence we have decided to expand our activities in serving the community by buying health insurance to the children including other needs for them," Tayal said.

Firm's public relations officer, James Mariki also stated that during the event, Kapunga staff pre-

sented assorted food items worth over 3m/-.

"On behalf of our director, Mahesh Patel said we have visited the centre just to show love and sympathy to these minors. We have seen it is most important for them to celebrate this import religious holiday like any child in our society."

"We are much concerned with their wellbeing, the reason why we issued insurance cards, so as to let them have access to health services, at any time. This support is continuous and we will be timely renewing the cards to make sure they are any time insured," said Mariki.

He affirmed that Kapunga has been also participating in various social activities in Mbarali District, including sponsoring constructions of a- 750m/- worth health center, with capacity to serve over 18,000 people.

The company also sponsored construction of a-550m/- Kapunga 'B' primary school, with ability to accommodate over 300 pupils, he said, adding that: "we have also sponsored rehabilitation of the major water project in Kapunga village, where we contributed 20m/-."



Kapunga rice project limited staff (L) hand over assorted food items to 'Mkate wa Watoto Yatima' orphanage centre members

He added that given the fact that the company involves rice farming as its core activity in the district, occupying about 8,750 acres, it creates job opportunities to majority

Tanzanians.

The orphanage supervisor Sabina Siwale commended the agro-firm for the support extended to the center, saying: "In the past the

children were receiving health services at great cost."

She said, for instance that a child fell ill and when he was taken to hospital treatment cost reached

800,000/-

She said the health insurance provided to the children will reduce medical costs at the orphanage.

The Kapunga rice project limited is one of Tanzania's premier rice farms. Situated just 20 kms from Chimala, Mbeya the farm is expected to be one of the highest yielding rice farms in the country.

The project comprises a free title deed in excess to 7800ha of land that is well developed. With the available water some 3500ha of rice can be produced during flood. There is also a modern mill of 4.5mt/ha and good infrastructure to support production.

The company acquired the title deed as a defunct operation from the government during the privatization drive in 2004-2006. At the time it was derelict and the infrastructure was dysfunctional.

Since then the project has taken slow but sure measures to restore and improve the project. This has been a massive undertaking as the fields were destroyed after years of zero maintenance. The entire infrastructure had to be revamped. Today the infrastructure is fully functional and produce quality rice.

## AU and ILO launch International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

By Special Correspondent

THE African Union (AU), in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), launched the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour in Africa with a three-hour virtual event on Wednesday, 31 March 2021. The launch provided a platform for African and multi-stakeholders to discuss the progress and remaining gaps in the fight against child labour in the continent.

In Africa, the regional launch of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour marked a call to a shift from commitment to action towards the achievement of the African Union Agenda 2063 and SDG target 8.7

In a series of interviews, videos and presentations, partners at the forefront of the fight

against child labour discussed their individual interventions and plans for how they intend to contribute to the implementation of the African Union Action Plan.

"The African Union's Ten Year Plan of Action is ambitious and achievable. Over 10 years (2020-2030), we will all work together to protect the rights of all, including children involved in child labour. It is up to us to build the future of our continent," said the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, Amira El Fadil.

With already one in five African children working in 2016, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent is expected to push more children into child labour. Indeed, it is estimated that a one percentage point increase in poverty leads to an increase of at least 0.7 per-

centage points in child labour. The overall situation is of great concern to families, employers and workers in Africa.

"We must protect children's rights and encourage their return to school. The African Union's 10-year plan of action must be implemented at all levels to foster the continent's development and protect children's rights," said Guy Ryder, ILO Director-General.

Panellists recognised the complexity and magnitude of the problem in Africa and discussed the different types of solutions, existing or envisaged, ranging from access to quality education for all, access to social protection, access to decent work for adults, extending the coverage of basic services and awareness raising.

## New Ebola outbreak kills 3 in Guinea - Africa CDC

By Special Correspondent, Addis Ababa

THE West African country of Guinea has detected five Ebola virus cases and three Ebola-related deaths over the past one week, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has said.

Africa CDC, the specialized healthcare agency of the 55-member African Union, said the five new Ebola cases put the overall number of cases detected in the continent to 35, 18 of which resulted in fatalities.

"Guinea has detected a total of 23 Ebola cases out of which 12 resulted in deaths while nine other patients recovered," the Africa CDC said.

"The Democratic Republic of Congo has detected a total of 12 Ebola cases out of which six resulted in deaths while six other patients recovered," the Africa CDC added.

New outbreaks of the deadly Ebola virus disease in the two African countries are sending new jitters to Africa as the continent is still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2014-2016 West Africa Ebola virus outbreak claimed over 11,300 lives, with over 28,600 recorded cases.

Ebola is a highly contagious hemorrhagic fever that causes a range of symptoms including fever, vomiting, diarrhea, generalized pain or malaise and in many cases internal and external bleeding.

# Xinjiang is actually stable, prosperous and beautiful land

By H.E. Wang Ke

**R**ECEMLY, due to vicious slander and hype by a few countries, Xinjiang has attracted much attention from the international community. Many Tanzanian friends asked me the following questions: Where is Xinjiang located? What happened there? Is Xinjiang really like what some Western countries have described? As China's Ambassador to Tanzania, I would like to take this opportunity to brief readers on the real situation in Xinjiang.

Xinjiang is located in the north-western part of China and at the centre of the Eurasian landmass. It is the largest provincial-level administrative region in China, with an area of 1,665,000 square kilometers. Xinjiang is a beautiful land with rich natural resources, including glaciers, rivers, lakes, forests, grassland, and numerous animals and plants. Chinese people often say, "You don't know how big and beautiful China is until you visit Xinjiang." The beauty of Xinjiang is also embodied in its vigorous economy, harmonious society, solidarity among different ethnic groups, and people's happy life. Since the establishment of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR) in 1955, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and with the hard work of several generations of all ethnic groups in the region, Xinjiang has entered the best era in its history in terms of development and prosperity.

**1. Xinjiang has made unprecedented achievements in economic development.** From 2014 to 2019, XUAR's GDP had increased from RMB 919.59 billion to RMB 1,359.71 billion, with an annual average growth rate of 7.2%, and the per-capita disposable income of Xinjiang residents had grown at an annual rate of 9.1%. In 2020, Xinjiang's GDP increased by 3.4% year on year, which is 1.1 percent higher than the national average. At present, the



3,089,000 Xinjiang residents who previously lived below the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty, which marks the historical elimination of absolute poverty in the region. All the prefectures in Xinjiang are connected by expressway, and paved road leads to every village, to which bus service, electric power, and fiber optic broadband have been made accessible. The basic medical insurance has covered 99.7% of Xinjiang residents, and free health check-up has been offered to all the people in Xinjiang. Moreover, nine-year compulsory education is available region-wide while children in southern part of Xinjiang further enjoy three-year preschool education and 12-year basic education.

**2. The population of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang has increased rapidly.** From 1978 to 2018, the population of Uygurs in XUAR grew from 5.55 million to 11.68 million, registering a 2.1 times increase. From 2010 to 2018, the Uygur population in Xinjiang increased by 2.55 million or 25%. The growth rate of the Uygur population is not only higher than that of Xinjiang's total population, which is 14%, but also higher than that of all ethnic minority groups, which is 22%, let alone the Han population's 2%.

**3. People's right to work is well protected in Xinjiang.** The XUAR government has taken firm action to prevent and punish any incidents of forced labor, and protect work-

ers' basic rights in accordance with the law, including the equal right to employment, the right to remuneration, the right to rest and leisure and to vocational safety, and the right to participate in social insurance. Discrimination against workers on the basis of ethnicity, origin, gender, language and religious belief is prohibited in Xinjiang. From 2013 to 2018, the minimum salary in the region had been raised by 19.7% from RMB 1,520 per month to RMB 1,820 per month. The accusation that "Uygurs are forced to pick cotton" is groundless. A few years ago, when the cotton in Xinjiang was ready for harvest, the demand for cotton pickers attracted migrant workers from other regions to Xinjiang. Migrant workers of various ethnic groups in the region also joined the "cotton-picking forces". These workers were all voluntary. They picked cotton to make a living and nobody was forced to work. With the development of science and technology, cotton picking and production in Xinjiang has been highly mechanized. In 2020, 70% of the cotton in Xinjiang was harvested by machines. The so-called "forced labor" is totally unfounded.

**4. The XUAR government has achieved notable success in fighting terrorism and maintaining stability in accordance with the law.** From 1990 to 2016, ethnic separatists, religious extremists, and violent terrorists plotted and conducted several thousand violent terrorist acts, inflicting untold suffering on the people of various ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Several years ago, to prevent and curb violent terrorist activities, the Xinjiang government set up vocational education and training centers in accordance with the law. These centers are not different in essence from the "community corrections" enforced in the US, and the deradicalization centers in France, all complying with the principals and spirits of UN Global Counter-terrorism Strategy and UN's resolutions on anti-terrorism. They are definitely not "concentra-



Combo photo shows Rushengul Usmann working at a garment factory, which provides over 100 jobs for local villagers, on 23 May 2020 (L) and 21 May 2020 (R) in Shache County of Kaxgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (Photo/Xinhua)



A harvester harvests cotton in a field in Manas County of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 17 Oct. 2020. (Photo/Xinhua)

tion camps". The vocational education and training centers provided courses mainly on Chinese national language, legal knowledge, vocational skills and deradicalization contents. Trainees graduate from the centers after they complete the courses and pass exams. The centers are run as boarding facilities and trainees can go home and ask for leave to attend to personal businesses. The trainees can decide on their own whether to take part in legitimate religious activities when they got home, and their dignity, personal freedom and religious customs are well protected in accordance with the law. By October 2019, all trainees completed their studies and graduated, and most of them have found stable jobs and lived a better life. At present, there is no such centers in operation in Xinjiang. During the past 4 years and more, no terrorist attack has occurred, which shows that the preventive measures have yielded good results.

Nevertheless, a few countries, ignoring the fact that Xinjiang is stable and prosperous, fabricated and spread such monstrous lies as the existence of "genocide", "forced sterilization", "forced labor" and "re-education camps" in Xinjiang. They imposed sanctions on some Chinese institutions and personnel using these lies as excuses. Their real intention is neither caring about Xinjiang's development, nor protecting Uygurs' human rights, but to manipulate the Xinjiang-related issues to alienate different ethnic groups in China and undermine Xinjiang's stability and unity so as to achieve the vicious goal of containing, splitting and destabilizing China. In 2018, a high-ranking official of a certain country admitted in a public speech that the so-called Uyghur issue in Xinjiang is just a strategic conspiracy with an attempt to disrupt China from within and contain China. The video of that speech can still be found

on YouTube. Tanzanian friends who are interested can find it to watch.

Facts speak louder than words, and justice naturally dwells in a man's heart. Since the end of 2018, more than 1,200 people from over 100 countries and regions, including officials from international organizations, diplomatic envoys in China, journalists and religious leaders, have visited Xinjiang in 80 batches. They all spoke highly of the achievements China has made in fighting terrorism, promoting deradicalization and protecting human rights in Xinjiang.

For a long time, a majority of friendly and developing countries, upholding an objective and unbiased attitude, have spoken out collectively on several multilateral occasions to support China's position and measures on Xinjiang-related matters. At the 46th session of the UN Human Right Council held this March, Cuba, on behalf of 64 countries including Tanzania, made a joint statement on Xinjiang, urging relevant countries to stop using Xinjiang-related matters to interfere in China's internal affairs, stop making unjustified and politically-motivated accusations against China, and stop seeking to contain developing countries under the pretext of human rights issues.

The Xinjiang-related issues are not about ethnicity, religion or human rights, but about countering separatism, violent terrorism and foreign interference. China's determination to protect its sovereignty, security and development interests are rock-solid. We will never allow anyone to make malicious judgments and wantonly interfere in our internal affairs.

**H.E. Wang Ke (pictured) is the Ambassador of China to Tanzania**



Children have fun in the old town Tuancheng of Hotan City, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, 27 May 2020. (Photo/Xinhua)

## Anxiety grips Kenyans amid revised COVID-19 measures

NAIROBI

AS Kenyans thought they were shrugging off the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus fastened its firm grip on the east African nation painfully erasing families and confining many in intensive care.

It is against the backdrop of this grim situation that President Uhuru Kenyatta on March 26 reinstated restrictive measures to tame a vicious third wave. The well-intended pronouncements, however, now threaten the livelihoods of citizens who were well on their way to economic recovery.

"The message from the president threw the staff in distress; everyone was concerned about the fate of their jobs, only last year nearly three-quarters of

the workforce was out of work for close to five months. The management is yet again with a tough decision to make," Jane Kombo, assistant manager at a city restaurant, told Xinhua Monday.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that Kenya alongside 11 other African countries was experiencing an uptick in COVID-19 cases, attributing the rise to mass gatherings and indifference towards observing public health care measures.

With President Uhuru Kenyatta issuing Public Order number 2 of 2021 on the containment of the COVID-19 pandemic, strict measures including cessation of movement by air, rail or road in the five COV-



A police officer checks the documents of a driver at a roadblock in Malili area, a border of Machakos and Makeni counties in Kenya, March 29, 2021. (Xinhua)

ID-19 disease infected counties and revised curfew to 8 p.m. have effectively kicked in.

"The new directive spells loss for us because our restaurant is popular for dining in

services vis-a-vis take out. On the other hand, we find ourselves with the benefit of experience thanks to last year's similar directive," said Kombo. Similarly, a resort that sits

along the busy Outering Road is uncharacteristically unoccupied with only a few people ambling in. The bar area remains shut while three chefs shuffle in the kitchen preparing the last of the stocked foods.

"I have moved from my usual post to wait tables because the waiters were sent home, what we are now doing is serving room guests and a few walk-in customers. Everything fell silent after Friday," said Titus Were, head of security at Pioneer Kings resort.

"Ken wa manguo" who is referred to by his trade in second-hand clothes said he will now not be able to frequently travel to Kitale in northwest Kenya to oversee his other

businesses.

Some Kenyans have faulted the measures for not being accompanied by some form of economic relief. "The government should send us money like it did when it instituted similar measures because our operating time has been interrupted. If they do not do something we shall slip into complete poverty," said an impassioned Loise Akinyi who sells sweets by the roadside.

After putting in place tough restrictive measures last year, the president offered an economic reprieve -- launching a stimulus package worth 53.7 billion shillings (about 492 million U.S. dollars) while also revising down corporate tax and PAYE taxes. Banks restruc-

tured loans at the same time mobile transaction charges were reviewed.

The Ministry of Health has confirmed that both strains first reported in Britain and South Africa have been mapped out in the population. Health officials, however, say more investigations are needed to detect the absolute number of variants circulating in the population.

The Ministry of Health on Monday announced that 902 people tested positive for COVID-19 from a sample size of 3,395 tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total confirmed infections to 131,116 with a positivity rate of 26.6 percent.

Xinhua



Thursday 8 April 2021

## TIB Bank approves EcoGraf's U\$60m financing for Epanko Graphite

By The Banker Reporter

**I**N a major breakthrough for Epanko Graphite Mine, TIB Development Bank has endorsed EcoGraf's US\$60 million (over 139.lbn/-) financing arrangement from German development bank, KfW IPEX-Bank.

In a recent report, EcoGraf said the debt financing discussions with Ministry of Minerals, Mining Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Tanzania have materialised hence KfW IPEX-Bank and the Australian based company have since developed a debt financing structure that fully complies with the country's new mineral legislation relating to banking arrangements.

"After conducting further joint briefings with KfW IPEX-Bank to present the proposed financing arrangements to the government of Tanzania and its wholly-owned development bank, TIB Development Bank, the company has received confirmation from TIB Development Bank that it would like to progress the Epanko funding transaction," the report said.

EcoGraf which has invested US\$20 million at Mahenge based Epanko Graphite Mine through

its local subsidiary, TanzGraphite, said the next steps will involve completion of due diligence processes, preparation of loan documentation and formal approvals from governments of Germany and Tanzania.

"Completion of a bankable feasibility study for an initial 60,000 tonne per year operation has also been concluded. The study was led by GR Engineering Services Limited and involved input from contractors and consultants in Tanzania and overseas. It confirmed that Epanko will be a highly profitable, long-life and scalable new graphite mining operation," the report stated.

Epanko is forecast to expand over time to meet growing market demand for battery graphite and is expected to operate for 40-50 years. Financial modelling indicates that over that time, economic benefits of over US\$3 billion will accrue to Tanzania, through employment, procurement, royalties, taxes and dividends.

"Over 95 percent of the 300 permanent staff will be Tanzanian, with an estimated 4,500 indirect jobs to be supported by the operation," said the Australian Stock Exchange listed company.



EcoGraf's managing director, Andrew Spinks.

The Epanko bankable feasibility study social and environmental planning programs have been conducted in compliance with the Equator Principles, a globally recognised risk management framework adopted by leading financial institutions for assessing and managing social and environmental risks in new developments.

"Achieving this standard and satisfying International Finance Corporation Performance Standards and World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines is critical to securing international financing support for the new development and reflects EcoGraf's commitment to ensuring the highest level of environmental, social and governance operating standards," the report added.

In conjunction with the financing process, EcoGraf will also be undertaking Epanko enhancement studies in relation to: defining the potential for 'fresh rock' graphite within the Epanko resource to deliver a high purity 99 percent carbon graphite without additional processing; and evaluating the benefits of low-impact, continuous mining methods at Epanko through the use of proven surface mining equipment.

## Where global carbon tax meets just energy transition

LONDON

**MORE** than half of African companies are delaying their energy transition targets, leaving them in danger of missing the Paris Agreement target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050, new research from Standard Chartered has revealed.

Zeronomics, a study into the financing of a net zero world, surveyed the senior leadership of 250 large companies and 100 investment specialists around the world between September and October 2020 and found that: 55% of Africa-based business leaders believe their companies are not transitioning fast enough (55% of companies globally); Lack of access to finance is the biggest barrier to progress for African companies, cited as a significant obstacle by 78% (67% globally); and just 35% of African companies fully support the aims of the Paris Agreement (47% globally).

What are the barriers?

Many companies based in Africa are looking to delay significant action to after 2030, with the 2020s looking set to be a lost decade. Some 32% of business leaders (34% globally) said their companies will make the most progress between 2030 and 2040, while a further 40% (37% globally) said they will take the most action between 2040 and 2050.

Most companies are delaying transition because they do not feel they are currently equipped to meet the



Bill Winters, group chief executive of Standard Chartered.

target. Some 78% (59% globally) said they need an extensive organisational change before tackling net zero. A lack of finance isn't the only hurdle companies in Africa face on

the road to 2050. Seventy-two percent (63% globally) believe a lack of consensus on net zero definitions and targets is hampering progress, while the same percentage (60%

globally) say a lack of support for net zero transition from their organisation's investors is a significant barrier to net zero.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 is forcing

many businesses in the region to focus on immediate survival: A whopping 80% (85% globally) of African senior executives say the pandemic has delayed their company's net-zero transition.

How to fix it

The research also reveals what business leaders believe is needed in order to speed up transition. 90% (77% globally) believe an effective global carbon tax, based on a carbon price that reflects the true cost of climate change, would help transition. A further 88% (81% globally) said cost savings from sustainable practices could help the world hit net zero by 2050.

Meanwhile, the same percentage (81% globally) believe standardised net-zero measurement frameworks would help with transition, underlining the fact that what we have currently, a matrix of different definitions, measurement and reporting requirements is a major challenge for senior executives.

"Our survey reveals that most companies intend to transition to net-zero by 2050 but have yet to take the action needed to get there. A majority cite funding as an obstacle and carbon-intensive industries and emerging-market companies struggle the most.

"A successful net-zero transition must be just, leaving no nation, region or community behind and, despite the hurdles, action needs to be swift. We must act now, and we must act together: companies, consumers, governments, regulators and the finance industry must collaborate to develop sustainable solutions, technologies and infrastructure," Bill Winters, group chief executive of Standard Chartered says.

## Sanlam rebrands; unveils a new promise to Africa

JOHANNESBURG

**SANLAM** has unveiled its new purpose and brand positioning, what it calls its new promise to Africa.

Through a new range of products and services, as well as through a host of innovations that seek to empower the continent to make wiser financial choices, Sanlam's new positioning, "Live with confidence" is not simply a new pay-off line, but a maxim they're seeking to live by and restructure their entire business around too. They plan to do this by providing more Africans with the knowledge, tools and resources necessary to participate more meaningfully in the mainstream economy.

This includes a range of initiatives, including new data- and AI-led innovations such as a Confidence Coach Chat-bot to up skill financial literacy, an Annual Financial Confidence Index to pinpoint regions where capacity building is imperative, and the launch of the Sanlam Moola-Money Family Game Show, the country's first ever financial education family TV game show in April.

"Instead of simply imploring people to change their financial habits, we've set out to practically include them more in the economy and to have a better relationship with money, thereby, empowering a greater confidence in all of life," says Sydney Mbhele, Sanlam's chief executive of Brand. Together with their creative agency partner, King James Group Africa, Sanlam set out to redefine the essence of what makes them tick—and to match this with the inherent challenges and opportunities surrounding them. "Sanlam has always had this notion of empowerment at its heart – we're going back to our roots of empowerment and articulating this in a more purposeful way," says Mbhele.

"Ensuring the previously marginalised have access to well-functioning financial infrastructure is paramount," he continues. "By imprinting 'Live with confidence' in the DNA of every aspect of our business, from the financial adviser's meeting with a client to the development of new offerings, we will empower generations to be financially confident, secure and prosperous."

## MFS Africa now reaches over 320m mobile money wallets covering 60pc in SS Africa

LONDON

**MFS Africa**, a pan-African fintech firm has announced that it now reaches over 320 million mobile money wallets, enabling a range of banks, telcos, money transfer operators, and other financial institutions interoperability at scale in Africa through a single integration point.

Based on the 2021 State of the Industry report on Mobile Money released by the GSMA, this means that the company covers 60% of all mobile money wallets in sub-Saharan Africa. The MFS Africa partnership with Xoom, a PayPal service, which connects the Diaspora in the UK, US, Canada and Europe to mobile wallets in Cameroon, Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe via the MFS Africa Hub

was also mentioned as one of the 12 key highlights for the industry in this year's report. Since the launch of the services in December, Xoom has added Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique.

Dare Okoudjou, CEO and founder of MFS Africa, commented on the latest numbers: "In 2010, MFS Africa took a bet that mobile money accounts would be the most dominant form of financial accounts in Africa and emerging markets at large. The new numbers released by the GSMA have now removed any lingering doubts about that. "We also wagered that through our work, these accounts would be able to exchange value with each other and with the rest of the world, in the same way, we communicate with each other by mobile

phones.

"We are now in a position to make that a reality for over 320 million accounts in Africa. This means that a tech company in Liberia can now gun for a market 64x the size of its home market - underlining the positive economic impact that creating new financial pathways can create."

Sub-Saharan Africa is the most developed market for mobile money, accounting for roughly two-thirds of global mobile money transactions in 2020, and there is a huge opportunity to leverage this growing popularity to encourage entrepreneurship and growth not just on the continent but across the world.

However, more complex transactions, such as those across borders or involving distinct financial institu-



Dare Okoudjou, CEO and founder of MFS Africa.

tions, can be costly and inconvenient for African consumers and businesses. The high cost of remittances on the continent (8.9% in the last quarter of 2019) is just one example. MFS Africa's payments platform connects a range of businesses and institutions across the continent, creating new pathways for mobile money payments and financial services.

## Bank lures public to tap 2bn/- available for investments in community projects



Assistant nursing officer at Afya Pasua health center in Moshi Rural District, Mwantumu Silayo briefing NMB Bank Plc's officials who were on a visit to the facility earlier this week. Left is NMB Nelson Manderla branch manager, Praygod Godwin and CSR specialist, Aloyce Kikois. Photo courtesy of NMB.

By The Banker Reporter

MUCH of the over 2bn/- which NMB Bank Plc has set aside to invest in community projects this year is readily available hence the public should apply for donations in areas of education, health and relief aid for disasters.

The bank's Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, Aloyce Kikois said in Moshi Rural District earlier this week after visiting some public health centers which the bank has assisted in the past that the donations will only be presented to those who officially ask for them.

Kikois said through its corporate social responsibility, NMB allocates one percent of its net profit to finance community projects as part of giving back what it earns in profits from its business activities which are supported by the public.

"We make sure that the one percent allocation that we set aside annually to invest in community projects adds value to people's lives and brings positive

change," he said adding that the bank singled out education and health because they are important sectors of the economy while disasters leave many people poor and desperate.

Kikois said among other things, NMB has already donated desks, chairs, tables, laboratory equipment to schools while beds, sheets and mattresses plus medical equipments have been donated to public health facilities.

"As a bank we understand the importance of health and educated people who constitute our banking clients base," he added while stressing that as a local bank also largely owned by Tanzanians, complementing government efforts to improve delivery of education and health

services is of paramount importance.

The NMB CSR Officer was leading a team of bank staff who visited northern regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga to get first hand information on how its donations have been used by recipients to improve living standards.

Afya Pasua Health Center's Assistant Nursing Officer, Mantumu Silayo said NMB's support has greatly improved health delivery conditions at the facility which caters for hundreds of people in Moshi.

"We had a serious shortage of labour ward beds and normal beds but NMB's donation has assisted to reduce it significantly," Silayo said noting that the facility has been overwhelmed by large numbers of people seeking treatment especially

women and children.

"On average, we received 150 patients who include pregnant women who are now being attended to in a better way with the labour ward beds availability," she added.

At Oltrumet Hospital in Arusha Rural District, Medical Officer in Charge, Dr Consolate Sweya also thanked NMB for donating beds, sheets and mattresses which have improved patients' accommodation.

"The NMB donation has restored sanity at our hospital especially the labour ward which was more critical," Dr Sweya said while revealing that the hospital attends between 10 and 13 pregnant women daily. NMB has invested over 5bn/- in community projects between 2015/20.

## Old Mutual fund says SA needs gas as transition fuel

JOHANNESBURG

A key funder of South Africa's renewable energy drive is backing natural gas as the fuel needed to help the country bridge the transition from coal power generation to the use of wind and solar.

Old Mutual Limited's African Infrastructure Investment Managers will consider funding companies that compete for the right to produce 3 000 megawatts of electricity from gas in an upcoming bid round planned by the government, said Vuyo Ntoi, co-managing director of the \$2 billion fund.

"We believe gas is an excellent transition fuel from coal-heavy generation to renewables," Ntoi said in an interview last week. "Gas fulfills that role and will fulfill that role until storage in the form of batteries is competitive."

Ntoi's support for the fuel that is rarely used in South Africa is in line with the stance taken by South Africa's biggest coal consumers, Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. and Sasol Ltd. The companies plan to rely on gas to cut their greenhouse emissions while maintaining their output of electricity and motor fuels respectively.

Still, it will rile the country's renewable-energy lobby, which argues that the country should take advantage of its abundant sun and wind and not invest in gas infrastructure that may be rendered obsolete in coming years.

The use of gas is still a necessary step, according to Ntoi, whose fund has invested about R9 billion (\$619 million) in South African renewable energy plants. Gas is currently more dispatchable, meaning it can



Old Mutual Limited's co-managing director Vuyo Ntoi.

be used on demand, than renewable energy, which depends on the weather, he said. Ntoi said he is encouraged by the "political will" that's seen South Africa announce plans this year for further renewable energy bid rounds as well as seeking additional power from coal, gas and battery storage.

The government should have taken advantage of the number of projects that

competed in an emergency power provision round that awarded contracts to produce 1 845 megawatts by August next year, he said. Projects that could have supplied an additional 4 000 to 4 500 megawatts, including ones backed by his fund, were rejected, Ntoi said. Those could have been used to bring South Africa's crippling power cuts to an end, he added.



NSE chief executive, Geoffrey Odundo.

## NSE seeks sale of state stake in Safaricom, KPA

NAIROBI

THE Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) has stepped up its push for the sale of additional government stake in Safaricom and cash-rich parastatals like Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) to cut the State appetite for expensive loans in the short term.

The NSE chief executive Geoffrey Odundo told Parliament Tuesday that the State has the potential to raise Sh792.6 billion from the sale of stakes in listed firms including Kenya Re, KCB and KenGen. Nairobi bourse reckons that Kenya can cut reliance on debt to fund projects in the short term through fresh listings of cash-rich state firms like Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC), Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Airports Authority (KAA).

The mounting public debt has seen Kenya commit more than half of taxes or Sh1 trillion annually to paying loans, leaving little cash for building roads, affordable housing and revamping of the ailing health sector.

"Listing of companies and selling more stake is a clear intervention to raise internally raise money and reduce the debt, you can even use some of the money to offset the expensive debt," Mr Odundo yesterday told the National Assembly Committee on Finance and National Planning.

NSE says the State has the potential to raise Sh150 billion by reducing its stake in Safaricom to 25 per cent from the current 35 per cent. The State in 2008 raised more than Sh50 billion after selling a 25 per cent stake, or 10 billion shares, in Safaricom. The sale of a 10 per cent stake in KCB can raise Sh15 billion while cutting the government stake in KenGen from 70 per cent to 40 per cent can bring Sh12 billion.

The initial public offering (IPO) of KAA could raise Sh400 billion through the sale of a 40 per cent stake with the listing of part of KPA and KPC

shares expected to generate Sh33.9 billion and Sh43 billion respectively. The share sale proposals presented to Parliament comes weeks to the end of a debt repayment moratorium, which saw China and other richer nations freeze part of loan servicing for six months to June.

The Jubilee administration has ramped up spending since 2013 to build new roads, a modern railway, bridges and electricity plants, driving up borrowing to plug the budget deficit. Treasury chiefs project in a draft Budget Review and Outlook Paper new loans of Sh1.87 trillion in the two years to June 2020 or Sh2.5 billion daily, pushing Kenya's debt to Sh8.06 trillion.

If that comes to pass, the Jubilee government will have borrowed at least Sh6.1 trillion to implement his manifesto in 10 years in power having inherited slightly more than Sh1.89 trillion in June 2013. The NSE has not had major listings since the Safaricom IPO, a move that has seen investors concentrate most of their wealth in a few counters. Safaricom, East African Breweries Limited, Equity, KCB Group and Co-operative Bank account for 79.36 per cent of the market value of the companies listed at the bourse.

The fresh listings are tipped to cut dominance of the five companies and fill the gap occasioned by the exit of firms like KenolKobil and erosion in the value of blue-chip stocks like Kenya Airways and Kenya Power.

The Capital Markets Authority has previously said that it needs a fresh listing of high-value companies and small and medium enterprises as a way of increasing diversity within the Kenyan market and correct the market imbalance. Three of the dominant firms – Safaricom, Equity and Co-operative Bank – came into the market during the IPO boom between 2005 and 2009.

## Mozambique: Banana production, processing unit opens in Moamba

MAPUTO

A new banana production and processing unit in Moamba district, Maputo province, has just started exporting its produce, reinforcing Mozambique's position in the product's regional production and supply chain.

Owned by the company Bananalândia Lda., the unit, which uses modern equipment to plant banana palms, occupies an area of 900 hectares and employs 1,000 workers. It represents an investment of around US\$20 million, and has an annual production capacity of 3.5 million boxes for export. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Celso Correia, said that the new unit will allow the company to explore more demanding markets.

According to Celso Correia, the Bananalândia group is already a reference point in banana production and exports in Mozambique. The minister recalled that, over the last decade, much has been done to make Mozambique a regional and continental benchmark in banana production, having produced around 600,000 tons in 2016, one of the best harvests of all time.

Panama disease (Foc TR4) and the Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV) caused a slowdown in production, leading the government to introduce more resistant variants. Representing the governor of Maputo province, Paulo Cossa noted that this part of Mozambique had, since the beginning of 2000, registered substantial investment in fruit production, with an emphasis on the banana.

Current banana production in Maputo province stands at around 249,829 tonnes, from an area of about 5,140 hectares. Of these, 4,719 hectares are managed by private commercial enterprises, the remainder by small, mainly family, producers. Banana production contributes 3.9 per cent to Maputo province's total agricultural production value.

# Vodafone campaign to celebrate technology breakthrough in COVID-19 world

By The Banker Reporter

VODAFONE Group, the parent company of Vodacom Tanzania Plc, has debuted a new tagline, "Together we can" which places emphasis how collaboration between the human spirit and innovation can achieve great things.

Vodafone Group's Chief Commercial Officer, Alex Froment-Curtil said the UK based conglomerate is celebrating what the human spirit can achieve when combined with technology in a multi-market update to its brand position, that was launched last week.

The new Vodafone tagline is meant to accompany its new position, along with a 12-month programme of television, print and digital advertising demonstrating Vodafone's profound belief that the partnership between technology and society can build a better future.

"The experience of these last 12 months during the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated more than ever the critical role of connectivity and technology to keeping society, businesses and governments connected," Froment-Curtil said.

Vodafone's new brand position is inspired by consumer research carried out by the company which revealed that the role of technology is profoundly transforming in people's lives. Findings identified how technology has evolved from something that simply excites people on a personal level, to playing a more meaningful part in the world at large, in particular, in making a difference on issues such as sustainability and societal development.

"As a purpose-led company, Vodafone fundamentally believes that technology can improve lives, and this new positioning builds further momentum to our purpose to connect for a better future and enable an inclusive, sustainable digital society," Froment-Curtil added.

In a report, the company said over the past year sustainability has increased in importance and in terms of trust requirements for consumers in their brand preferences, with nearly eight in 10 people indicating that it was key for them.

Over the coming months, Vodafone's "Together we can" message will be further set in



Vodafone Group's Chief Commercial Officer Alex Froment-Curtil.

motion by the company's deployment of gigabit networks enhancing connectivity to people and communities alike, embracing communications technology to reduce carbon emissions, and supporting education, health and wellbeing to create a more inclusive and sustainable society.

The "Together we can" campaign commenced on April 1, 2020 with a new 60-second commercial, 'The Irrespressible Girl,' featuring a young girl posing questions about the world around her, on the role technology can play in curing disease, fighting climate change and addressing digital inclusion.

The commercial, along with a series of stories that will appear in print and digital advertising, will shine a spotlight on Vodafone's critical role to help answer these questions, from the rollout of 5G, Gigabit networks and connectivity to the most remote parts of the world.

"The campaign will mark the introduction of a refreshed brand identity with Vodafone's iconic speech mark logo and red colour scheme. The programme will run in 30 markets, including Germany, Spain, the UK,

Italy, Romania, Greece, Ireland, Hungary, Albania, the Netherlands (via Vodafone-Ziggo), Portugal, Czech Republic, Turkey, Australia, South Africa, Ghana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, Lesotho and Mozambique," the company said adding that Vodafone's partner markets in Qatar and New Zealand, will also run the campaign.

Vodafone is a leading telecommunications company in Europe and Africa and is the largest mobile and fixed network operator in Europe and a leading global IoT connectivity provider. The telco's M-Pesa technology platform in Africa enables over 45m people to benefit from access to mobile payments and financial services.

"We operate mobile and fixed networks in 21 countries and partner with mobile networks in 48 more. As of 31 December 2020, we had over 300m mobile customers, more than 27m fixed broadband customers, over 22m TV customers and we connected more than 118m IoT devices," the London based conglomerate added.

Vodafone is also taking significant steps to reduce impact on the planet by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2025 and becoming net zero by 2040, purchasing 100 percent electricity from renewable sources by 2021 in Europe and the rest of the world by 2025, and reusing, reselling or recycling 100 percent its redundant network equipment.

# Top banks set aside Sh109bn for loan losses

NAIROBI

KENYA'S top nine listed banks raised their provision for non-performing loans by a record Sh77.3 billion in the year ended December, cutting their combined net earnings by 25.5 percent to Sh81.2 billion.

KCB, Equity, Co-op Bank, I&M, Absa Bank Kenya, NCBA, Standard Chartered Bank Kenya, DTB and Stanbic Holdings made provisions of Sh109.7 billion in the review period, up from Sh32.3 billion the year before.

This came as gross defaults expanded from Sh255 billion to Sh366 billion, a rise of Sh110.9 billion. Higher provisions have the effect of hitting the bottom-line while eroding the capital base and led to dividend payouts from listed banks falling 43.6 percent to Sh19 billion.

Part of the provisions represent estimates of potential losses from defaults expected in the near future because of general economic weakness or problems specific to certain industries and customers.

Beginning January 1, 2018, banks have been required to make provisions for expected loan losses rather than those already incurred following the adoption of the more conservative International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS 9).

The economic disruption brought by the Covid-19 pandemic is the biggest driver of the increased provisions, with most sectors including tourism, transport, real estate and households hurt by the fallout. Banks made the provisions amid a grim economic outlook, with real GDP growth for 2020 expected to come in at a mere one percent, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The latest partial lockdown of Nairobi, Kajiado, Machakos, Nakuru and Kiambu

counties amid increased coronavirus infections and deaths is once again hurting the economy that had started recovering from removal of earlier restrictions in August last year.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) expects banks to keep raising their provisions to keep up with the ongoing difficulties, with customers defaulting on Sh432 billion worth of loans across the entire industry



StanChart Kenya's chief executive, Kariuki Ngari.

**BANKING & FINANCE**

as of February.

"The ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) to gross loans stood at 14.5 percent in February compared to 14.1 percent in December. NPL increases were noted in the real estate, agriculture, personal and household, and manufacturing sectors," CBK said in a statement. "The increases in NPLs were attributable to the subdued business environment, and banks continue to make provisions for the NPLs."

Reopening the economy, coupled with mass vaccinations, could brighten the business outlook in the coming months. Before the new lockdown, economic performance this year had been projected to improve significantly at a real GDP growth of 4.7 percent, according to the IMF. "Improving prospects for Covid-19 vaccines should enable the economy to transition back to growth through 2021," StanChart's chief executive, Kariuki Ngari, said in a recent statement.

Should the economy improve faster than anticipated, banks will slow down their provisions. The uncertainty has caused the nine banks to seek shelter in government bonds and T-bills, which offer guaranteed income and does not burden their capital base by requiring large provisions.

Their holdings of government securities increased by Sh234.2 billion to Sh1.2 trillion while loans rose by a smaller amount of Sh219.7 billion to Sh2.4 trillion. Most of the institutions, with the exception of Co-op Bank and NCBA, have also reduced or suspended dividend to bolster their capital or retain funds for expansion.

Equity, for instance, skipped dividends in 2019 and 2020, saving it a total of Sh15 billion. It reported the smallest profit drop among the big banks at 11.6 percent to Sh19.7 billion in the year ended December, helped by a large deferred tax of Sh8.2 billion.

Deferred taxes are obligations arising in the review period but will be paid in the future. Equity's increased conservatism arises from the economic fallout from the pandemic besides the acquisitions it has been pursuing.

The bank spent \$95 million (Sh10.4 billion) last year to buy a 66.5 percent stake in DRC's Banque Commerciale Du Congo. KCB reduced its dividend payout by Sh7.8 billion and has proposed a payout of Sh3.2 billion or Sh1 per share, down from Sh11 billion or Sh3.5 per share the year before.

Like Equity, KCB slashed its dividends partly to build a war chest to fund its impending acquisitions. KCB is set to spend Sh4.4 billion to buy two banks in Tanzania and Rwanda from Atlas Mara, with the transactions expected to be concluded by June.

# Senegal opens consulate in Dakhla to foster bilateral relations, trade

DAKHLA

SENEGAL became the 10th African nation to open a diplomatic office in Morocco's southern province capital of Laayoune on Monday this week to boost bilateral relations including trade and investment.

Speaking at the embassy's inauguration ceremony, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nasser Bourita and his Senegalese counterpart, Aissata Sall Tall said the move will also strengthen brotherly relations between the people of Senegal and Morocco.

Other African countries with diplomatic offices in Dakhla include Djibouti, The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition, eleven consulates general have been opened in Laayoune and they include: the Union of the Comoros, Gabon,

Central African Republic, Burundi, Zambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

According to the representative of the Consul General of Senegal in Laayoune, Cheikhou Sidy Lamine Diakhate, the move by Dakar, "Confirms the Moroccan character of the Sahara," adding that the Senegalese consulate in Dakhla is very close to the borders and it will facilitate the granting of administrative documents.

"This diplomatic structure comforts the longstanding relations between the two countries. We are very proud that Senegal is now present in the Sahara," he said in a statement to APA.

The two countries also signed agreements initiated by Bourita and Tall Sall, on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the consulate general of Senegal in Dakhla.



Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans abroad, Nasser Bourita (R) and his Senegalese counterpart, Aissata Tall Sall signing an MoU during the inauguration of a consulate general office in Dakhla.

The first agreement defines the framework of cooperation between the two countries in the area of decentralization.

This cooperation will take shape through the revival of twinning relations between Moroccan and Senegalese territorial collectives, the effective implementation of cooperation and partnership agreements as well as the exchange of experiences and know-how in the field of local governance and proximity management of decentralized entities.

The second agreement aims to establish the framework for exchange and collaboration in ICT to foster the economic, social and cultural development of both countries. "By virtue of the agreement, the two parties agree to develop, strengthen and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in this area through an exchange of information, skills and expertise in the area of national strategies and ICT regulation," a joint statement stated.

The agreement covers the areas of information technology and educational digital content, the digital university and distance learning, as well as the transfer of technology and best practices in the field of e-government.

## WORLD

# A third of COVID survivors suffer neurological or mental disorders - study

LONDON

ONE in three COVID-19 survivors in a study of more than 230,000 mostly American patients were diagnosed with a brain or psychiatric disorder within six months, suggesting the pandemic could lead to a wave of mental and neurological problems, scientists said on Tuesday.

Researchers who conducted the analysis said it was not clear how the virus was linked to psychiatric conditions such as anxiety and depression, but that these were the most common diagnoses among the 14 disorders they looked at.

Post-COVID cases of stroke, dementia and other neurological disorders were rarer, the researchers said, but were still significant, especially in those who had severe COVID-19.

"Although the individual risks for most disorders are small, the effect across the whole

population may be substantial," said Paul Harrison, a professor of psychiatry at Oxford University who co-led the work.

Max Taquet, also an Oxford psychiatrist who worked with Harrison, noted that the study was not able to examine the biological or psychological mechanisms involved, but said urgent research is needed to identify these "with a view to preventing or treating them".

Health experts are increasingly concerned by evidence of higher risks of brain and mental health disorders among COVID-19 survivors. A previous study by the same researchers found last year that 20% of COVID-19 survivors were diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder within three months.

The new findings, published in the *Lancet Psychiatry* journal, analysed health records of 236,379 COVID-19 patients, mostly from the United States, and found 34% had been



Nurses react as they treat a COVID-19 patient in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) at Milton Keynes University Hospital, amid the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Milton Keynes, Britain, January 20, 2021. File Photo

diagnosed with neurological or psychiatric illnesses within six months.

The disorders were significantly more common in COVID-19 patients than in comparison groups of people who recovered from flu or other respiratory infections over the same time period, the scientists said, suggesting COVID-19 had a specific impact.

Anxiety, at 17%, and mood disorders, at 14%, were the most common, and did not appear to be related to how mild or severe the patient's COVID-19 infection had been.

Among those who had been admitted to intensive care with severe COVID-19 however, 7% had a stroke within six months,

and almost 2% were diagnosed with dementia.

Independent experts said the findings were worrying.

"This is a very important paper. It confirms beyond any reasonable doubt that COVID-19 affects both brain and mind in equal measure," said Simon Wessely, chair of psychiatry at King's College London.

"The impact COVID-19 is having on individuals' mental health can be severe," said Lea Milligan, chief executive of the MQ Mental Health research charity.

"This is contributing to the already rising levels of mental illness and requires further, urgent research."

Agencies

## Xinjiang busts separatist criminal group

URUMQI

AUTHORITIES in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Tuesday revealed that they had busted a separatist criminal group in the educational sector.

The group's leader was Sattar Sawut, former director of the Xinjiang education department and former head of the region's leading group on basic-education curriculum reform. They incorporated ethnic separatism, violence, terrorism, and religious extremism content into minority-language textbooks. These books had been used for 13 years. It had grave consequences, said Wang Langtao, vice president of the Xinjiang regional higher people's court,



Children walk in a street after school at a scenic spot in the ancient city of Kashgar, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, May 16, 2020. (Xinhua)

at a press conference.

Sattar Sawut was sentenced

to death with a two-year reprieve after being found guilty

of crimes of separatism, taking bribes and several other crimes.

Sattar Sawut, born in November 1947 in Toksun County, Xinjiang, pleaded guilty to the crimes and did not file an appeal against the verdict.

Sattar Sawut took advantage of compiling and publishing ethnic language textbooks for primary and secondary schools to split the country, starting in 2002. He instructed others to pick several people with separatist thoughts to join the textbook compilation team, the court found.

Sattar Sawut strongly demanded incorporating content that preached ethnic separatism, violence, terrorism, and religious extremism into the textbooks to split the state,

the court found.

The investigation also found that 84 texts preached ethnic separatism, violence, terrorism, and religious extremism in the 2003 and 2009 editions of the textbooks.

Under the influence of the textbooks, several people (already convicted) participated in terrorist attacks in Urumqi on July 5, 2009, and April 30, 2014, respectively, or became key members of a separatist group headed by former college teacher Ilham Tohti, the court found.

Sattar Sawut also took advantage of his government posts to accept bribes worth 15.05 million yuan (about 2.3 million U.S. dollars), the court said.

Xinhua

## Biden announces all US adults eligible for COVID-19 vaccine by April 19

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that all American adults will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccine by April 19.

Biden announced the new timetable after his visit to a vaccination site in Alexandria, Virginia, moving up his original deadline of May 1 by nearly two weeks.

Biden said that 150 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered within his first 75 days in office, in line with a stated goal of 200 million shots by his 100th day in office.

He urged Americans to continue to practice pandemic safety measures, saying the country is not "at the finish line yet" and may experience more "disease and misery" before

July 4.

A few weeks ago, Biden called on states, tribes and territories to make all U.S. adults eligible for vaccination no later than May 1.

Biden has stressed that while the country is now vaccinating a record number of Americans, the battle against COVID-19 is "far from won" as cases are once again on the rise.

The country has seen a rise in new cases in 27 states, including cases from new and emerging COVID-19 variants.

Currently, the seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases is about 61,000 cases a day, a 10 percent increase over the previous period, according to the latest data of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Biden has called on every



governor, mayor and local leader to maintain -- and in some cases reinstate -- mask mandates. Some states' governors have lifted requirements for masks and allowed businesses to reopen to full capacity against warnings from public health experts.

Highly contagious variants are rapidly spreading in the

United States, threatening to outpace the vaccination efforts.

Last week, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said B.1.1.7, the variant first identified in Britain, is starting to become the predominant strain in many regions of the United States, accounting for 26 percent of COVID-19 cases circulating across the nation.

The country has recorded more than 17,000 infection cases of coronavirus variants as of Tuesday, according to the latest data of the CDC.

Among these cases, 16,275 cases were caused by B.1.1.7. There were 386 cases of a new strain initially discovered in South Africa, called B.1.351, and 356 cases of the P.1 strain first discovered in Brazil.

In addition, the B.1.427 and B.1.429 variants, two coronavirus strains first detected in California, are also being closely monitored by the CDC.

About 168 million COVID-19 vaccine shots have been administered as of Tuesday, while more than 219 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been distributed across the country, CDC data show.

Xinhua

## Russia hopes to reach agreement on Pakistan Stream soon

MOSCOW

RUSSIA expects all remaining technical issues regarding the construction of the Pakistan Stream (formerly known as North-South) gas pipeline to be agreed upon in the near future, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Pakistan's News International newspaper.

"We are making necessary efforts to start the construction of the North-South gas pipeline - the flagship project in the energy sector," he said. "We hope that all remaining technical issues will be agreed upon in the very near future."

In his words, Russian companies are also ready to participate in the modernization of the energy sector and the railroad system of Pakistan.

The intergovernmental agreement between the two countries was signed in October 2015. The sides were to sign commercial agreements in 2016 and commission the pipeline by 2018. However, project implementation time-frame has been postponed several times since then.

In line with the project, the 1,100-km-long pipeline will have a capacity to pump 12.4 billion cubic meters of gas annually.

Agencies

## Iranian ship attacked in Red Sea as nuclear talks begin

VIENNA/DUBAI

IRAN'S foreign ministry said yesterday that an Iranian vessel, the *Saviz*, had been targeted in the Red Sea, a day after media reports said that the ship had been attacked with limpet mines.

The attack came on the same day that Tehran and world powers met in Vienna for nuclear talks.

"The explosion occurred on Tuesday morning near the Djibouti coast and caused minor damage with no casualties. The vessel was a civilian ship stationed there to secure the region against pirates," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

"The issue is under investigation".

It is the latest in a series of reported attacks on Israeli- or Iranian-owned cargo ships since late February, for which the two sides have each accused the other of being responsible. Israeli officials declined to comment on Tuesday's reported attack on the Iranian cargo ship.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, US officials told Reuters the United States did not carry out such an attack.

The *Saviz* has been based in the area for several years, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency, and often deploys Iranian commando boats that are used to escort commercial vessels. It was in the waterway on Tuesday when the limpet mines exploded, Tasnim reported, without saying where it got the information.

Israel notified the US that its forces had struck the *Saviz* at about 7:30 am local time, the New York Times reported, citing an unidentified American official.

The attack came as Iran and world powers held what they described as "constructive" talks and agreed to form working groups to discuss the sanctions Washington might lift and the nuclear curbs Tehran might observe as they try to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

European intermediaries have started shuttling between Iranian and US officials in Vienna as they seek to bring both countries back into compliance with the accord, which lifted sanctions on Iran in return for curbs to its nuclear programme.

Former US President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal in 2018, prompting Iran to steadily overstep the accord's limits on its nuclear program designed to make it harder to develop an atomic bomb - an ambition Tehran denies. Tuesday's talks included a meeting of the remaining parties to the original deal: Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia in a group called the Joint Commission that is chaired by the European Union. The United States did not attend.

While neither Washington nor Tehran say they expect any quick breakthroughs from the talks, both they and the EU described the early exchanges in positive terms.

"Constructive Joint Commission meeting. There's unity and ambition for a joint diplomatic process with two expert groups on nuclear implementation and sanctions lifting," said EU chief coordinator Enrique Mora said on Twitter.

Agencies



This Oct 1, 2020, satellite photo from Planet Labs Inc. shows the Iranian cargo ship MV *Saviz* in the Red Sea off the coast of Yemen. (AP)

## China sees rapid development of prefabricated construction

AT a workshop of a new construction material company under the Shaanxi Construction Engineering Group Corporation (SCEGC) in Qinhan New City, part of the Xixian New Area, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, prefabricated units such as walls, floor slabs, beams and staircases were rolling off four automatic production lines.

These prefabricated units, going through standardized production and strict quality check, feature much better quality than those produced with concrete placement, and have a millimeter-level precision.

These "spare parts" were later trans-

ported to a construction site of a residential complex five kilometers away, where constructors were building houses just like building blocks. Prefabricated parts accounted for 63 percent of the total construction.

The wide application of prefabrication saved 70 percent of energy and 50 percent of water consumption, and improved efficiency by three times, said Liu Xinlong, chairman of board of the new construction material company under the SCEGC. Prefabricated parts also significantly reduced dust and noise during construction, and basically no construction garbage was created, he added.

What's behind the speed and precision of prefabricated construction is continuous innovation made by enterprises. "Secondary design is usually what we do after receiving construction drawings, so that we can make what can be prefabricated in the factory," Liu introduced, adding that this is a key link that demonstrates the competitiveness of an enterprise.

With a tailwind in the prefabricated construction industry, the Xixian New Area is working for a transformation in traditional construction. Statistics indicated that the total area of prefabricated structures has hit 2.78 million square meters there.

While prefabricated constructions are soaring above the ground, changes are also taking place in underground structures. Municipal engineering projects such as subways and tubes now make up half the revenue of the SCEGC's new construction material company. Prefabricated tubes have largely improved construction efficiency in a municipal power pipeline project in Qinhan New City. It only took 12 days to complete the construction of a 1-kilometer section of the project.

Xu Jianping, assistant to the president of the Sany Group, a leading Chinese enterprise of high-end equipment manufac-

turing, told People's Daily that the core of prefabrication is smart construction. In three years, the group will develop over eight construction robots and five will be massively produced, to further improve mechanization and automation of the construction industry, Xu said.

The development of prefabrication is only a part of Xixian New Area's efforts to build a modern industrial pattern. At present, the area is in full swing to develop advanced manufacturing, airport economy, electronic information, sci-tech R&D, cultural and tourism and headquarter economy.

People's Daily

## IMF upgrades global growth forecast to 6 pct, highlights divergence in recovery

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday projected that the global economy will grow by 6 percent in 2021, 0.5 percentage point above the January forecast, according to the latest World Economic Outlook (WEO).

"Thanks to the ingenuity of the scientific community, hundreds of millions of people are being vaccinated, and this is expected to power recoveries in many countries later this year," IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath told a virtual press briefing during the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings. She noted that economies also continue to adapt to new ways of working despite reduced mobility, and large economies, particularly the United States, have rolled out additional fiscal support, both of which have helped improve the outlook.

Nonetheless, the future presents "daunting" challenges, said the IMF chief economist. "The pandemic is yet to be defeated and virus cases are accelerating in many countries," she said. Noting that there's uncertainty surrounding the forecast, Petya Koeva Brooks, deputy director of the IMF's Research Department, told Xinhua in

a remote interview Tuesday that the chief source of that uncertainty is the path of the pandemic and the vaccination process.

In the baseline, the IMF assumes that there's wide availability of vaccines in the second half of this year in advanced economies, as well as some emerging markets, but for the rest of the world, the wide availability would occur only in 2022 or even beyond, Brooks said. In a downside scenario, with delayed vaccination and a more difficult path of the pandemic, global economy is expected to grow by 4.5 percent, 1.5 percentage points lower than in the baseline projection, according to Brooks.

At the virtual press conference, Gopinath told reporters that recoveries are diverging dangerously across and within countries, as economies with slower vaccine rollout, more limited policy support, and more reliant on tourism do less well. She urged policymakers to take a "tailored" approach in providing support, with policies well-calibrated to the stage of the pandemic, the strength of the economic recovery, and the structural characteristics of individual countries. "Governments will need to build back the fiscal positions after this crisis. And the hope is that



IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath

they will build forward better to have more inclusive, sustainable, green economies," said the IMF chief economist.

The WEO report also noted that uneven recoveries are occurring within countries as young and lower-skilled workers "remain more heavily affected," and women have also suffered more, especially in emerging market and developing economies. "In the next stage, what would be most important is to kind of withdraw those jobs (job retention) schemes gradually, and then to help people reallocate, acquire new skills, which would make them competitive in the new sector," Brooks told Xinhua.

The latest WEO showed that the United States would be the only large advanced economy projected to surpass the level of gross domestic product (GDP) it was forecast to have in 2022 in the absence of this pandemic. The U.S. economy is expected to grow by 6.4 percent this year, after a 3.5-percent contraction in 2020.

Other advanced economies, including those in the euro area, will also rebound this year but at a slower pace, the report noted. Among emerging markets and developing economies, China is projected to

grow by 8.4 percent this year, 0.3 percentage point above the January forecast, according to the report. The upward revision, Gopinath said, reflects improved external environment, with stronger global growth and U.S. COVID-19 relief package, which have increased the demand for China's products.

Noting that China has seen a very strong recovery, the IMF chief economist said the recovery is "somewhat unbalanced," as it's still heavily reliant on public support and public investment, and private consumption has not recovered as fast as hoped. "So, to make this a durable recovery, our hope is that fiscal measures and other support measures would work in the direction of supporting the recovery coming from the private sector, as opposed to the public sector," she said.

Noting that withdrawing policy support prematurely would expose the economy to additional risks, Brooks advised Chinese policymakers enhance the safety net, which would enable China to be on the rebalancing path, and benefit the economy in the medium to long run. **Xinhua**

## Kremlin doesn't see signs of intent from Kiev to take control of its army in Donbass

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin can't see any signs of intent from Kiev to drop "belligerent rhetoric" and take control of Ukrainian army units along the contact line in Donbass, Russian president's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

"So far, we can't see signs indicating that the Ukrainian side wants to somewhat calm down, drop belligerent rhetoric hidden behind the talk about some imaginary threat and take control of its army units that are deployed directly along the contact line [in Donbass] and that often become a source of provocations," he said.

According to the Kremlin spokesman, during a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, Russian President Vladimir Putin "clearly worded" Moscow's concerns over the situation in Ukraine. "Other capitals have also been informed about our concerns. Indeed, the situation leaves much to be desired," Peskov added.

The Kremlin is hopeful that nothing will incite the Ukrainian army to launch hostilities against its own people, Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"It's vital to make sure that nothing incites the Ukrainian Armed Forces to launch hostilities against their own people, the people who live in the self-proclaimed republics," he pointed out.

Peskov declined to comment when asked what Moscow could do to protect Russian passport holders in Donbass if tensions continued to escalate, saying it was inappropriate to speculate about possible developments. **Agencies**

## Vaccine distribution exposes glaring global health inequity

NAIROBI

THIS year's World Health Day was marked yesterday against the backdrop of a raging pandemic highlighted with inequitable access to COVID-19 vaccine.

Rich countries have taken the lead in the race to inoculate their populations against COVID-19 and restore economic activity, leaving developing countries, especially in Africa, wondering why they've been left behind.

African media have run reports accusing some Western nations of an irrational hoarding of vaccines. South

Africa's Daily Maverick online newspaper said vaccine nationalism is posing a major threat to Africa as the West gobbles up supplies. In Kenya's capital Nairobi, people have to wait in long queues and jostle for jabs, with some elderly people reportedly waking up as early as 6 a.m. for a vaccination, only to return home to try their luck again the next day.

Because of limited supplies, those with a single jab remain worried the window could close for a second shot to complete the vaccination. African countries have so far received a little over 29 million COVID-19 vaccine

doses from different sources, including the World Health Organization's COVAX program and through bilateral agreements, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

Some 10.3 million doses have been administered, with the majority of those vaccinated being healthcare workers, people with comorbidities, and those aged 50 years and above, the Africa CDC said Sunday.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccines have not yet arrived in up to 10 African countries as of March 25, according to the WHO.

In comparison, U.S. media reported that the world's largest economy is estimated to have received 240 million doses of vaccine by the end of March, enough to fully vaccinate 130 million people.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, standing alongside some of his counterparts from Southeast Asia in China's northeastern province of Fujian, said that rich nations with 16 percent of the world's population have acquired 60 percent of the global supply of COVID-19 vaccines, calling the situation regrettable.

Richard Mihigo, coordinator of the Immunization and Vaccine Development Programme at the WHO Regional Office for Africa, said the slowing pace of COVAX supplies risks widening the gap between the world's vaccinated and unvaccinated. "It is unfair that some high-income countries are looking to vaccinate their entire populations while others, particularly including most in our region are struggling to reach a significant proportion of at-risk population," he said at a virtual press conference in March. **Xinhua**

## China to gradually raise retirement age

CHINA will take small steps to raise the statutory age for retirement, says the country's recently published Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

In doing so, the country will raise the retirement age by a few months every year, ensure flexibility, implement tailored policies for different groups, consider all factors, and make overall plans, according to the national development blueprint.

The decision to raise the retirement age is a result of China's increasing average life expectancy, accelerating trend of population aging, growing average schooling years of working-age people, and changes in labor force structures, said Jin Weigang, head of the Chinese Academy of Labor and Social Security, in a recent interview with People's Daily.

The average life expectancy of Chinese citizens rose to 77.3 years in 2019, from around 40 years when the People's Republic of China was just founded. That of urban residents, which directly concerns the retirement age, has exceeded 80 years.



Senior citizens rehearsing before a performance on a square of Daoxian county, Yongzhou, central China's Hunan province. By forming a band, these retired seniors have found great pleasure in their lives. File photo

In contrast, the statutory age for retirement of China's working-age population has not changed since it was determined in 1951. Therefore, it is necessary to make appropriate adjustments to the country's retirement age in accordance with the increasing average life expectancy, so that the two match each other reasonably, Jin said.

At the end of 2019, the proportion of seniors aged 60 and above in China's total population reached 18.1 percent, and the number of the country's senior citizens is expected to surpass 300 million in the next five years, Jin pointed out.

Since China is witnessing a growing trend of population aging, its working-age population is going to decline day by day and the number of retired people will increase. This will place obvious impacts on social and economic development if the country decides to maintain the current retirement age, according to Jin.

The average number of years of schooling among the working-age population in China has generally grown over the past decades.

According to China's Ministry of Education, the proportion of new entrants with higher education backgrounds to

the country's labor force exceeded 50 percent and their average number of years of schooling reached 13.7, which means people are starting working at an older age.

If the age for retirement remains the same, the reduction in average number of years of working would result in a waste of human resources and a lower utilization rate of human capital, Jin said.

China's working-age population has declined since 2012, with the annual reduction exceeding three million people and the situation keeping getting worse, according to official data.

If the country can implement its policies on raising the retirement age in a timely and moderate manner and ensure good development and utilization of the human resources of its increasingly large senior population, it will be able to improve labor force participation and optimize the allocation of capital and labor force to some extent, Jin said.

By "taking small steps", the country means that it will raise the retirement age through gradual reformation, and reach its goal step by step, with minor adjustments at a time, Jin said.

People's Daily

## Ethiopia vows to continue filling disputed dam after talks stall

By Bloomberg

ETHIOPIA plans to proceed with the second phase of filling a giant dam on the main tributary of the Nile River, as it dismissed calls to bring in more international mediators to resolve a dispute over the reservoir.

"The second-year filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will be carried out as scheduled," Ethiopia's foreign ministry said in a statement on Twitter. "The positions contesting the filling of the dam ahead of the conclusion of an agreement has no basis in law and contravenes Ethiopia's inherent right to utilize its natural resource."

Several days of talks hosted by the African Union ended on Tuesday with no progress on ending the impasse between Ethiopia and the downstream nations of Egypt and Sudan.

Ethiopia is developing a 6,000-megawatt power plant at the GERD and is expected to begin a second filling of the reservoir when the next rainy season begins in July. Egypt, which depends on the Nile for most of its fresh-water needs, is opposed to any development it says will impact the downstream flow of the river,



a position that's echoed by mutual neighbor Sudan. Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi last week warned that any attempt to take "a drop of Egypt's water" would have a destabilizing effect on the whole region. It was one of his strongest statements yet in the years-long dispute over the GERD.

On Tuesday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told pan-Arab TV channel Al-Arabiya that his country "and its institutions have different scenarios to deal with this situation to protect its water and its people." Options at Egypt's disposal include turning to international bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, he said in other comments carried by Egyptian channel Extra News.

Military intervention is one of the least likely routes Egypt will follow to end the impasse, according to Riccardo Fabiani, North Africa project director at the International Crisis Group. **Agencies**

"Egypt's threats are best understood as a way of grabbing the international community's attention and putting pressure on the US, EU and other external players to step in," he said. "Cairo knows very well that even a successful military attack would not solve this problem, because Ethiopia would start again working on the dam, and would isolate Egypt internationally, making a deal on this issue impossible in the future."

Sudan had proposed at the latest talks that the US and European Union be added as mediators, a position that Ethiopia rejected.

"The two countries followed an approach that seeks to undermine the African Union-led process and to take the matter out of the African platform," the Ethiopian foreign ministry said.

More talks under the auspices of the continental body are expected in the third week of April, it said.

## Vienna talks 'constructive,' raising hope to restore Iran nuclear deal

VIENNA

THE Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Joint Commission meeting, resumed here on Tuesday, was hailed by attending envoys as "constructive" and is expected to bring more hope for the revival of the Iran nuclear deal.

With the lifting of sanctions on Iran and nuclear implementation measures at the top of the agenda, the meeting has drawn worldwide attention as delegates from the United States joined the talks to save the nuclear deal, which was struck in 2015 but paralyzed by the U.S. withdrawal in 2018.

INDIRECT U.S.-IRAN TALKS  
Senior diplomats of Britain,

China, France, Germany, Russia and Iran met at a Viennese hotel on Tuesday behind closed doors, which were chaired by Enrique Mora, deputy secretary-general and political director of the European External Action Service.

Local media reported that the U.S. delegation, led by U.S. Special Envoy to Iran Robert Malley, was based in a nearby hotel.

The U.S. and Iranian negotiators were not supposed to meet face-to-face, but a shuttle diplomacy approach was adopted with the intensified help of the coordinators.

Prior to Tuesday's meeting, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said he would "not hold any direct or indirect talks" with U.S. representatives but would only negotiate with the Joint Commission of the JCPOA.

Mora said on Twitter following the meeting that it was a "constructive Joint Commission meeting."

"There's unity and ambition for a joint diplomatic process with two expert groups on nuclear implementation and sanctions lifting. As Coordinator I will intensify separate contacts here in Vienna with all relevant parties, including the U.S.," he said.

Russia's delegate Mikhail Ulyanov tweeted that the meeting was "successful."

"The restoration of JCPOA will not happen immediately. It will take some time. How long? Nobody knows," he wrote. "The most important thing after today's meeting of the Joint Commission is that practical work towards achieving this goal has started."

Walter Posch, an Austrian expert on Iran, told Austria Press Agency that the fact that talks were held in Vienna to revive the crippling nuclear agreement, albeit

indirectly, was already a success.

Wang Qun, Chinese envoy to the United Nations and other international organizations in Vienna, said after the meeting that China supports the Joint Commission's efforts to set up two expert-level groups, one on sanctions-lifting and nuclear implementation, while the other on "proximity talks" with the United States.

China hopes the two groups can make progress as soon as possible, he said.

China continues to unswervingly uphold the JCPOA, Wang said, urging

all parties to increase their sense of urgency, seize the current opportunities, and push the JCPOA back on track through fair and reasonable negotiations.

SANCTIONS REMOVAL  
CRUCIAL

According to the Iranian foreign ministry, the Vienna talks included "technical negotiations in the form of expert meetings" in order to figure out how U.S. sanctions can be lifted and how Iran can come back into full compliance with the deal.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency re-

ported that Araqchi told the commission meeting Tuesday that lifting U.S. sanctions is the first and most necessary step to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

The JCPOA was reached in 2015 between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, Britain, Russia, France, China, plus Germany) and the European Union. Tehran agreed to roll back parts of its nuclear weapons program in exchange for decreased economic sanctions.

Washington under former President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018 and tightened sanctions on Iran. **Xinhua**

# SPORT



Namungo FC

## Namungo FC's struggle in 2021 CAF Confederation Cup analysed

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA's representatives in this season's CAF Confederation Cup, Namungo FC, stumbled to a third successive defeat in the tournament's Group D, losing 1-0 at home to Zambia's Nkana FC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday afternoon.

The defeat leaves Namungo FC at the foot of the group while victory revives Nkana FC's hopes of qualifying to the quarterfinals.

Nkana FC is now three points clear of Hemed Suleiman's charges and three points below last season's showdown's finalists, Pyramids FC of Egypt, after three rounds of fixtures. Namungo have qualified for the last 16 stage of the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in their first attempt this season and it is already a significant achievement itself. They have exceeded the wildest expectations.

However breaking into the African elites has been a tough initiation. But should have been a moment to enjoy is threatening to sink their season.

Namungo find themselves out of depth among continental clubs with pedigree.

The continental honeymoon period is over. The change in fortunes has fans and analysts wondering what has gone wrong for Namungo FC.

Injuries, fixture list, lack of fans and inexperience are some of the factors behind Namungo FC's miserable start in CAF Confederation Cup group stage campaign.

In a compressed season that is already proving unforgiving, the fixture list has offered little solace for Namungo after they made it to the money bracket in their maiden CAF club tournament campaign.

Games are coming thick and fast, they have had no time to regroup and rectify mistakes from previous matches.

Defensive issues have greatly contributed to Namungo FC's woes.

Their defence is summed up by poor positioning or lapses in concentration, individual errors giving way to collective nerves.

## Regional Champions League finals to kick off April 16

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THIS season's Regional Champions League's finals will be staged at Ilulu Stadium in Lindi later this month.

Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, has confirmed the development saying everything has been finalised for the showdown which will involve eight teams.

Ndimbo said all the teams are expected to arrive for the finals on April 14.

They are TMS Stars of Arusha, Copco Veterans of Mwanza, Temeke Squad of Dar es Salaam and Coast Region-based Bega Friends.

They have accumulated nine yellow cards in three group stage matches, averaging three cautions per game.

Against Nkana FC, defender Hamisi Khalifa was yellow-carded in the seventh minute.

Central defender Frank Magingi and midfielder Steve Nzigamasabo got into the referee's book in the second half.

They have conceded at least three penalties so far and one red card.

The club also failed in the December-January transfer window when they lost defender Edward Manyama who returned to Ruvu Shooting.

The shock move re-signing of Reliants Lusajo from Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC has not paid off yet.

Namungo are the only team in CAF Confederation Cup group stage yet to find the back of the net after three rounds of matches.

Their forwards have stopped firing at the worst possible time, and until the issue is resolved, the club cannot aspire much. You cannot win games if you are not scoring.

Coach Suleiman suffered in the stands as he witnessed his side miss easy chances in the first minutes of the last weekend game before Nkana FC's Diamond Chikwekwe found the opener in the 69th minute when he slotted past an outstretched Namungo FC keeper Jonathan Nahimana.

A packed Azam Complex roused a group of players hungry to upset the order, cajoled an extra sprint or thunderous block, helped bridge at times the technical gulf in the games qualifying matches. That advantage is gone.

They have been forced to use the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium after CAF banned Azam Complex from hosting international matches.

They played without fans against Pyramids FC and lost 2-0 and even when CAF allowed a maximum of 10,000 spectators for the Nkana FC game, very few turned up to support them.

To sum it up, it is obvious Namungo FC has been found out. The team suffer from the absence of quality players with the individual skill to create something out of nothing when the side is up against it.

Next up for Namungo FC is a tough trip away to Nkana FC in Zambia on Sunday. Namungo FC must win to revive their qualification hopes.

Lindi United of Lindi, Mtwivila FC of Iringa, Black Stars of Tabora and Kagera-based Nyaishonzi FC are the finals' other contenders.

"All is set for the finals which will be held at Ilulu venue in Lindi from April 16-25, all the teams are supposed to be in the region two days earlier (April 14)," he said.

However, TFF could not make the finals' draw public, as well as mention awards and trophies to be given to the winning teams.

The federation introduced the Regional Champions League as one way of promoting the game from all regions of the country.

The initiative moreover aims at developing the sport through youth and coaching programs.

## SPORTS

# Simba SC brings us pleasant cheer during challenging period

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

WELL, they did it again. Simba SC has successfully redefined the borders of what is possible for Tanzanian clubs earnestly jostling for glory on the ferociously competitive African club football landscape.

Indeed, last weekend, Simba SC mercilessly handed out a 4-1 shellacking to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s AS Vita here in Dar es Salaam to spark memorable scenes of elation, pride and pure merriment amongst all Tanzanian sports aficionados and quite a few quarters who have remained immune to the addictive and enchanting charms of the beautiful game itself.

Frankly, the sheer significance of arguably Simba SC's finest hour cannot be overestimated.

By virtue of their momentous accomplishment, Simba SC have not only advanced to the quarterfinals of the illustrious CAF Champions League but they will also do so as deserving Group A winners to boot!

Their much-vaunted rivals in Group A, Egypt's Al Ahly, do not stand even a prayer of toppling Simba SC as Group A table-toppers because at present, the Egyptian juggernauts can only boast of eight points; meaning that even if the Egyptian heavyweights win their final Group A encounter, they will still not be assured of top place in the group (please note: As a result of Simba SC's 4-1 walloping of AS Vita last weekend, the Msimbazi Street giants have now garnered 13 points).

Unsurprisingly then, that is why Simba SC's heroics in the no-holds-barred CAF Champions League this season has sent tongues excitedly a-wagging here in the country.

But, in truth, something feels decidedly different this season.

Forgive me, Dear Reader, if the proper words are beyond my reach but



Simba SC players participate in training in Dar es Salaam early this week to shape up for the Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

there is a sense of magic and boundless hope in the air that Simba SC are fast on course to ascending to much loftier heights hitherto not even dreamed of by any domestic outfit in the fearsome CAF Champions League. Quite naturally, then, during such heady times as these, there is a familiar warning which must be sounded to the Msimbazi Street giants, which is, now that the very summit of African club football is within closer reach, they must not fall prey to braggadocio and its close twin overconfidence.

Indeed, resting on their laurels would undoubtedly amount to sheer folly for Simba SC as all Tanzanians wait with bated breath for the CAF Champions League quarterfinals to commence.

It is crystal clear that rarely has there been such an infectious mood of expectancy among many Tanzanians from all walks of life.

It is this writer's fervent wish, then, that Simba SC can go on to not only meet our expectations but in fact to hopefully exceed them!

Let us now shift our gaze to the sobering matter of Africa's frustrating journey through the history of football's most exalted championship, the World Cup.

Recently, the new CAF president Patrice Motsepe made the bold declaration that an African team will win the World Cup under his watch.

While I applaud president Motsepe's daring ambition, it is still not a sporting feat that can be

achieved by merely snapping one's fingers and then voila, an African team has indeed won the World Cup.

Tellingly, since the inaugural World Cup in 1930 to date, no African team has even advanced to the semi-finals of this most prestigious football tournament of all.

Thus, before we begin waxing confidently

about a future World Cup triumph, it is my humble belief that many quarters

in the continental game would just settle for an African team progressing to the World Cup semi-finals first before we

can even begin to make bold utterances about World Cup glory, which, admittedly, is our ultimate ambition.

## SBL pledges to support Taifa Stars' 2022 FIFA World Cup campaign

By Guardian Reporter

THE road to the FIFA World Cup finals that will be held in Qatar next year has already been paved in Africa following the announcement of 10 qualification groups that feature 40 countries in the continent.

Winners from each group will qualify for the final round preceding the journey to Qatar.

In the final round, only five nations will savour an opportunity to compete in prestigious global soccer showpiece, slated to take place between November 21 and December 18, in the Middle Eastern state.

To this end, Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) through its flagship brand Serengeti Premium Lager, has once again reaffirmed its commitment to support Tanzania's senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars, in their quest to start the campaign to qualify for the coveted soccer bonanza.

The brand's pledge to support Taifa Stars comes soon after the team had failed to qualify for the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) finals recently after losing 1-0 to Equatorial Guinea.

A 90th-minute goal netted by Equatorial Guinea forward, Emilio Nsue Lopez, at the Estadio de Malabo, hammered the last nail into Taifa Stars' coffin.

Though Taifa Stars later on in their last tie against Libya did beat the North Africans 1-0 at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the results nevertheless, did not alter the former's misfortune.

In the qualifiers for the 2022 World Cup finals, Tanzania will play against DR Congo, Benin and Madagascar in Group J.

Sadly, Tanzania has never featured in the glorious inter-continental tournament since the competition's inception in 1930.

The best players often showcase their worth in ball-dribbling skills, goal scoring and sterling performances in the tournament.

Despite Taifa Stars' plight, SBL, the team's main sponsor, is still unswerving



Taifa Stars' squad

in its resolve to continue propping the squad up.

The Serengeti Premium Lager brand's Head, Anitha Msangi, stated: "Serengeti Premium Lager will continue supporting the senior national team because we believe in possibilities."

She noted: "We are looking forward to the next World Cup qualification matches with a lot of optimism."

She stated: "It's true that qualification for the World Cup is a challenging feat, but we have already seen before how hard-working our players can be if their participation in the AFCON tournament in Egypt in 2019 is anything to go by."

"This should give us comfort and encouragement that the team can achieve what appears unachievable by qualifying for 2022 World Cup," she insisted.

Anitha added: "Tanzanians still remember with pride when Taifa Stars qualified and competed at the AFCON showpiece in Egypt in 2019 after 38 years of unsuccessful attempts."

The SBL boasts a revered position as an ardent supporter of sports in the country.

Soccer is a sport the firm has uniquely stamped its footprint on, as far as sports promotion is concerned.

The SBL has bankrolled Taifa Stars since 2017, signing a three-year 2.1bn/- deal with the custodian of Tanzanian soccer, the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The company then proceeded with a landmark renewal of the contract in 2020, this time putting in a whopping 3bn/-.

The SBL's gesture once again attested to the beer maker's passion for the development of the sports sector in the country and its keenness to contribute to the nation's social-economic development.

Furthermore, it invigorated local football, a game held so dear by many across the country.

Wallace Karia, TFF president, once disclosed how SBL sponsorship ably served as a cog in the wheel of the national soccer governing body's strategic plans.

He was quoted as saying: "With the sponsorship, our

team and management have had less strain. As a result, the players and the technical bench can concentrate on their assignments, enabling us to achieve exemplary performance in most of our fixtures."

Another significant SBL commitment was made in 2018 when TFF received a sponsorship package worth 450m/- from the alcohol producer to fund the Mainland Tanzania Women's Premier League (WPL).

With this support, SBL effectively became the first ever company to sponsor the women top flight.

The deal accelerated the rise of hitherto unknown and modest women teams in the country, such as the former champions, Coast Region's Mlandizi Queens and Dar es Salaam's JKT Queens.

The contract, consequently, helped to revitalize the league that was previously low-key due to years of lack of sponsorship.

“

All is set for the finals which will be held at Ilulu venue in Lindi from April 16-25, all the teams are supposed to be in the region two days earlier (April 14)

## Foden hands Man City late advantage against Dortmund

LONDON

PEP Guardiola said Manchester City "felt the pressure" of expectancy in the Champions League as they needed Phil Foden's 90th minute winner to take a slender 2-1 lead from the first leg of their quarter-final tie against Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday.

City have now won 27 of their last 28 games in all competitions to remain on course for a historic quadruple of Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

But they have failed to get beyond the last eight in the Champions League in each of the Guardiola's four previous seasons in charge.

"We felt the pressure today, in this competition, at home, not knowing how we would react," said Guardiola. "It's better to win than draw but even at 1-1 we had 90 minutes to do it."

The sides will meet again in Germany on April 14 with the winners facing Bayern Munich or Paris Saint-Germain in the last four.

Dortmund are at serious risk of missing out on the Champions League next season after slipping seven points adrift of the top four in the Bundesliga.

However, the visitors started brightly until Emre Can gifted the ball away to Riyad Mahrez and City launched a ruthless counter-attack. De Bruyne, Foden and Mahrez exchanged passes before the Belgian tapped home from close range.

City thought they had a great chance to double their advantage moments later when Rodrigo went down under Can's challenge inside the area and referee Ovidiu Hategan pointed to the penalty spot.

Hategan, though, rightly overturned his call on a VAR review in the first of a number of dubious

decisions from the Romanian official.

His next big call ruled out a Dortmund goal when he adjudged Jude Bellingham to have fouled Ederson as he dispossessed the Brazilian and tapped into an empty net just before half-time.

This time VAR could not intervene as Hategan had blown before Bellingham rolled the ball home.

"I definitely think I won the ball fairly," said the England international. "It's a bit frustrating at a time when they have so many cameras, they don't let me put the ball in the net and check it."

- Haaland more than a goalscorer -

Erling Haaland was the focus of much of the pre-match hype with City one of a number of clubs interested in the Norwegian wonder kid.

The 20-year-old had failed to score in just two of his previous 14 Champions League appearances, but he spurned his one big chance to net early in the second-half.

Haaland showed great strength and pace to outmuscle and out-sprint Ruben Dias, but could not lift the ball over the advancing Ederson.

De Bruyne was at the heart of all of City's most dangerous moments as Foden should have done better than fire too close to Marwin Hitz with the goal gaping. The City captain then sent a low shot inches wide before once more picking out Foden, who saw another effort beaten away by Hitz.

However, City were then hit with a sucker punch as Haaland showed he is more than just a goalscorer.

His brilliant reverse ball released Marco Reus to fire beyond Ederson in what seemed a sting in the tale six minutes from time. But Dortmund could not hold out in the closing stages as City pushed for a winner. **AFP**

## Small club, giant ambition: Soldado dreams of Man Utd

LONDON

"UNFORGETTABLE," said Roberto Soldado, remembering the first professional goal he scored.

The header against Olympiakos from a David Beckham cross kept Real Madrid alive in the 2005 Champions League, giving way to a pile-on with Roberto Carlos, Raul, Sergio Ramos and Robinho.

Now, 16 years after his first game in European competition, the 35-year-old Soldado is trying to put off his last.

The days of the Galacticos are long gone as he hopes to engineer one of the biggest victories in Granada's history against Manchester United in the Europa League quarter-final, first leg on Thursday.

"We don't know how many years it might take for this club to play in Europe again and I don't know if I will ever play in Europe again," Soldado told AFP ahead of the match at Los Cármenes on Thursday. "We all have to make the most of it."

Soldado has played for eight teams in three countries, from Real Madrid to Tottenham Hotspur and Fenerbahce.

None have climbed as fast as Granada, who finished 10th in Spain's second division three years ago and have been guided by coach Diego Martinez to the verge of the Europa League semi-finals.

"Since he arrived, the club has gone up and up," said Soldado, who has scored 11 goals this season.

Martinez was just 37 when he took charge and is now rated as Spain's most talented up-and-coming manager.

"Everyone got in the boat with him, everyone puts themselves at the service of the team, that is the identity," said Soldado.

"No matter how old or young you are, we work the same and for the same thing. There are no egos. I try to contribute my little grain of sand, with the experiences I've had, but I have the same desire to learn like a youngster. We know we are small but we have the ambitions of a giant."

They face a colossus in Manchester United, the fourth-richest club in the

world up against the fourth-poorest in La Liga.

"They have great players, not just one or two but several, individually they are far superior to us," said Soldado. "But our strength is the team and that's where we have to feel superior. Dreaming is free. What we have to dream is that we can knock out Manchester United."

Soldado knows what it feels like to beat the Old Trafford club, his last appearance against United was for Tottenham in a 2-1 win on New Year's Day in 2014.

"I remember it well, it was January 1 and the night before I was sitting on my own at home eating grapes, like the Spanish tradition on New Year's Eve," Soldado said. "It wasn't the best feeling but the next day it was worth it."

Soldado came off for a young Harry Kane, the player that would accelerate his departure for Villarreal after a disappointing two years in the Premier League.

"Mentally I was not prepared to carry so much pressure because they paid a lot of money for me," said Soldado. "I didn't know how to handle it. By the time the explosion of Kane happened, I was already in the background."

Now Kane is linked to a move, perhaps to Real Madrid. "If you receive an offer from a club like Madrid, it is very difficult to say no," said Soldado.

"I think Kane is on the verge of a trophy and if it happens, I would really like him to be the captain to lift it because I know he feels the club, he loves it from the inside."

Soldado would have liked another go in England but after Villarreal came Fenerbahce, and then offers from clubs that might have paid him more than Granada, but given less.

"It has been a long journey of 16, 17 years with lots of ups and downs, where I've been able to play for big clubs that I dreamed of when I was a child," he said. "But when you're 35, the birthdays keep coming and you appreciate more what you do. I still get up and go to training with joy. And that's everything." **AFP**

# Kroos the key difference-maker as Real Madrid thwart lacklustre Liverpool

By Graham Hunter, ESPN Spain writer

FOOTBALL fans and pundits seem to like to turn everything into a punchline these days, but please feel free to sneer at those who quickly joke: "Well, Liverpool got a taste for thrashing La Liga teams at Anfield judging by that Barcelona team in the 2019 semifinal so... no big deal here!"

Let's be crystal clear: While Tuesday's 3-1 loss to Real Madrid is significantly better than the 3-0 (very nearly 4-0 if it wasn't for Ousmane Dembele's ineptitude in the final seconds) defeat at Camp Nou two years ago, Jurgen Klopp's team played infinitely, almost indescribably better that night in Catalunya.

That was a night when you had to ask yourself: "How the hell did Liverpool not win at Camp Nou ... never mind lose 3-0?"

Tuesday's quarterfinal first-leg loss was a match when the Premier League's reigning champions and 2019 Champions League winners were mostly anodyne and often atrocious.

Liverpool lacked not only football basics but either discarded the central parts of their DNA ever since Klopp took over or felt utterly unable to play with the rock 'n' roll hunger and intensity that made them both famous and successful.

A night when if Trent Alexander-Arnold hadn't excelled twice, to blunt huge Marco Asensio's opportunities, this tie would have been put to bed, given a soporific story and begun to snore gently.

Using the word "atrocious" is strong. But it's merited here not only by the normal Liverpool standards but by any basic football barometer.

Football lives and breathes analysis now, especially in an era when it seems that every club with a moderate budget could tell you what opposition players had for breakfast and where they are planning to holiday next summer -- let alone their strengths and weaknesses on the pitch.

Thus, every single member of Liverpool's coaching and playing staff will have known three very specific things about Toni Kroos.

Firstly, if you gift him time and space, he can launch a football onto a thin dime 75 metres away and, honestly, if you asked him to perform that trick blindfolded, he'd take your pocket money off you if you bet against him managing it.

Secondly, if he's properly pressed he can't pull off either of those tricks successfully.

Thirdly, if you run "beyond" him, either with or without the ball, he'll disdainfully opt not to run with you in the full expectation that someone else, often Casemiro, will do the blue-collar work of chasing, harassing and tackling.

When Liverpool allowed Real Madrid to settle their nerves (remember, they were missing Sergio Ramos, Dani Carvajal, Raphael Varane and have yet to harness the huge potential of Eden Hazard's partnership with Karim Benzema) and to establish a commanding two-goal lead, it was as if Liverpool's players had never seen or heard of Kroos before.

Their pitch positions, their body language, their languid complacency were like: "Yeah! Go on Blondie! Just you try and launch a heat-seeking through ball against our world-class defence."

So he did.

The first one is remarkable. Especially given that Liverpool's owners are Fenway Sports Group. Its Boston offices are located about 30 miles from the home of the NFL's New England Patriots in Foxborough, Massachusetts, which is a place of reverence because the Bill Belichick-Tom Brady era showed what a truly great quarterback can achieve.

Which begs the question: Who thought it was a good idea to let Kroos quarterback Madrid into such a commanding position?

The World Cup winner with



Vinicius opened the scoring after controlling a brilliant Toni Kroos pass before slotting the ball past Alisson in goal. (Agencies)

Germany in 2014 dropped deep for that first goal and then did with his right boot what Brady does when he launches laser-guided touch-down passes.

The fault lies, squarely, between Sadio Mane, Georginio Wijnaldum and Diogo Jota.

Not one of them is positionally well-placed, not one of them communicates to the others that Kroos has to be closed down, not one of them makes a despairing run to try and prevent Madrid's No. 8 from having time to make a sandwich, phone his wife, plot the geometry of his world-class pass and then deliver the ball not simply onto Vinicius' run but onto the Real Madrid crest on the left of his chest.

It was that good. Galileo would have been proud.

Those three players, whose job was to make life uncomfortable, looked to have faces which matched the red colour of their jerseys as they watched the young Brazilian score brilliantly for Real's first on the night.

Klopp's tolerance boiled over after the second example when Kroos, once again deep inside his own half but this time over towards the left, took possession again.

He must have expected to hear the thunder of hooves. His lizard brain must have been telling him: "Look out, you're about to be trampled by a typical, energetic Klopp-Liverpool press ... get ready to off-load the ball to safety and assume the recovery position!"

I swear I saw disbelief on the Klopp's face when he peeked up and around and realised that the same thing was happening again.

Splendid isolation and nobody doing a damn thing about it. No stampede.

This time it was the duty of both Mohamed Salah and Naby Keita to, in football terms, asphyxiate Madrid's pass-master. Negligence reigned again.

This time Kroos was a millimetre or three short in his delivery to Asensio.

But Alexander-Arnold was off balance, didn't judge the flight of the pass well enough to head it clear instead of helping it on to the Mallorcan who scored his third goal in three matches with a juggler's flick over the advancing Alisson whose aim wasn't true and who left Asensio bulging an empty net for 2-0.

If you subtract the two minutes of celebration for Madrid's second goal, and the minute or so it took

to switch Thiago for Keita once the former Bayern Munich and Barcelona player was ready in enter, there were about three minutes between Keita failing to close down Kroos and him being whipped off the pitch by Klopp, who'd seen enough.

When asked after the match about Keita's substitution, the decent and always honest Liverpool manager admitted: "No he's not injured, it was tactical. I know it's a big story now, but I could have taken off two or three other players instead because we didn't play good football tonight."

Wijnaldum added: "We weren't sharp enough, not concentrated enough."

From a neutral point of view, so goodness only knows how committed Liverpool lovers (long haired or not) feel, it emphasised how out of character Liverpool were performing that the second half proved that they did know precisely where Kroos' Achilles heel lies.

Liverpool's goal stemmed from the thing that Zinedine Zidane's on-field German hates the most -- being asked to turn, chase and sweat.

Wijnaldum, no doubt chastened by what had happened to his departed midfield cohort Keita, ran into space to receive the ball, noticed that Kroos wasn't interested in tracking him and, so, set off on an odyssey.

Across green meadow he skipped, easily leaping and gambling beyond Casemiro's lunge and perhaps the paper-thin challenge Eder Militao offered up to Jota once Wijnaldum fed him the ball was a hint that Madrid's denuded defence were even more prone to embarrassing themselves -- if the visitors kept on doing the things they knew, deep down, they should.

Jota's work fed Salah and the Egyptian doggedly fished the ball out of a tangle of legs to ram it in off the bar.

And then Liverpool took a breather. They didn't keep the tempo up, they didn't really manage another shot on Thibaut Courtois' goal but, above all, they didn't test the chin of the Spanish champions.

As they flew home to John Lennon Airport on Merseyside it will have added salt to their wounds if they could hear the sounds of the great man's hit single: "Imagine".

Imagine that, at 2-1 down, England's champions had burned their lungs, strained every muscle, chased, harried and pursued Los

Blancos like puppy dogs chase loose tennis balls? Imagine they'd 'gegen-pressed' like in days of old?

What the last fifteen minutes now tell us is that Liverpool, badly though their manager admits they played, could actually have won the match like that.

Long before the final whistle seeming to Madrid to be taking unfeasibly long to arrive Zidane's team were, to use a British word, knackered.

They missed tackles, they gifted the ball away, they were hemmed into their own final third not because it was their adopted strategy but because their hero players, Benzema, Luka Modric, Kroos, Casemiro, Lucas Vazquez, were spent.

Properly drained.

Their key was that Liverpool were too pale an imitation of themselves after making 2-1 and went to sleep for the goal which gave Madrid a cushion advantage which they might defend successfully at Anfield next week.

From a throw-in, for goodness sake, (page one of the 'How to defend manual') Fabinho lost focus, falling victim to the thing you hear yelled on the sideline of every amateur match anywhere in the world. "Keep your eye on your man ... don't go chasing the ball!!!"

Sadly for Fabinho, Nathaniel Phillips and Liverpool's keeper too, it's an edict the Brazilian ex-Madrid midfielder ignored.

Somehow Fabinho committed the capital sin of being woefully misplaced to close down Modric on the edge of Liverpool's box when, at all costs, the visitors had to defend tigerishly.

Fabinho's position, balance and attention-span were all kaput by the time he realised he'd fed the beast and Vinicius, enjoying probably his best game yet for Real, first-timed Modric's pass through Phillips' legs and under the dive of international teammate Alisson.

Klopp said, after acknowledging that Salah had given Liverpool a lifeline: "If you want to go to the semifinal you have to earn the right to do so. We didn't do that -- especially in the first half."

They aren't down and out. But to go back to the top of the report don't compare this to when Liverpool mauled Barcelona to within an inch of their dignity a couple of seasons ago. Times, and energy levels, have changed and that ferocious, messianic atmosphere, which Barcelona players still talk about reverentially, will be absent. Sadly.

## Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

**Can PSG avenge Champions League final loss against Bayern?**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Said Ntibanzokiza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Burundian midfielder's return boosts Yanga's preps

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi, says that the return of the outfit's Burundian midfielder Said Ntibanzokiza has increased the fighting spirit of the team that lead this season's Vodacom Premier League.

Having played a total of 23 matches in the league, Yanga have collected a total of 50 points followed closely by their traditional hometown rivals, Simba, with 46 points after taking part in 20 matches.

The Burundian midfielder was out of action due to injuries he sustained in the top flight game against Tanzania Prisons.

Ntibanzokiza, nicknamed 'Saïdo', regained fitness and turned out for Yanga in this year's Mapinduzi Cup's final, which had the team confronting Simba and coming out victorious.

When he recovered he joined the Burundi's senior national team in a bid to secure a ticket to the Africa Cup of Nations' finals.

Already Burundi's dream of qualifying for the continental showpiece's finals has melted away, as it is the case for their neighbours, Tanzania.

The midfielder has consequently returned to his team to continue working for them.

Mwambusi said: "Saïdo is back and so he is increasing the number of players who continue to train, it is a comfort to us as we believe he has recovered and he has come to continue working."

Yanga will next lock horns with Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in the Premier League clash, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dares Salaam on April 10.

The top flight will resume in the next two days after it was suspended due to the mourning of the country's fifth term President, the late John Pombe Magufuli.

If Ntibanzokiza is fit, he will probably be part of the squad that will face KMC FC.

The KMC FC has as well continued training to prepare for the game against Yanga.

The side has been at their best this season as it has won 10 of the 24 matches it has played.

The KMC FC is lately positioned fifth in the Premier League's standing. The team's assistant coach, Habib Kondo said: "The squad has already entered the camp in preparation for our match with Yanga and the Federation Cup matches."

He disclosed: "Our goal is to do well in all our remaining matches so that we can finish in the top positions in the league standings."

"Competition in the league has increased considering every team are fighting to finish in a good position so we must make adequate preparations so that we can do well in every match including our match against Yanga," he said.

The outfit has collected 35 points. The squad has posted victory in 10 matches, draw in five and loss in nine matches.

In the first round match between Yanga and KMC FC, which was played at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, Yanga posted 2-1 victory over KMC FC.

## Yanga defender lauds Mwambusi's tactics

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's new defender Dickson Job has praised the tactics used by the team's interim head coach, Juma Mwambusi, saying he is confident the preparations they are embarking on will help them get good results in their Vodacom Premier League (VPL) fixtures.

The VPL leaders are now training at Kigamboni in Dar es Salaam, preparing for their Premier League games and the Federation Cup.

Yanga will take on Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a top flight clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in the city on April 10.

Since being signed by Yanga from Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar in January transfer window, he has not played for Yanga due to a muscle injury that sidelined him since January this year.

Commenting on Yanga's training, Job said: "We are progressing well with the preparations for our next Premier League games and the Federation Cup, we have had a long period of preparation under coach Mwambusi."

He noted: "The coach has improved a lot of aspects including boosting our confidence and tactics to seek victory, so, I believe we will show great changes in our next games."

Mwambusi noted that the preparations are held smoothly. He disclosed he, in the process, happy and he hopes his team will get good results in the matches.

Their next Mainland Premier League match is against KMC FC

When the two squads locked horns in the domestic top flight's first phase clash, which took place at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza, Yanga beat KMC FC 2-1.

Yanga were then under the tutelage of Cedric Kaze who was sacked on March 7 for what was described as the team's poor performance.

Mwambusi said: "The players are getting stronger and ready for the upcoming matches, even in practice they seem to be strong, which is a good thing."

"The biggest thing I believe they will do is making a difference and get good results in future matches as everything is going on well," he said.

Yanga are placed first in the Premier League's standing with 50 points after playing a total of 23 matches.

They are followed by Simba SC in the second place with 46 points after taking part in 20 fixtures.



Dickson Job. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Yanga set to appeal against Fredrick Mwakalebela's ban



Yanga's vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League leaders, Yanga, have confirmed they will appeal against a five-year ban imposed on the side's vice-chairman, Fredrick Mwakalebela, by Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

The TFF Disciplinary Committee recently banned the Yanga official from participating in football activities for the five years and fined him 7m/- for alleged misconduct.

Mwakalebela was accused of speaking to the media on February 19 and claiming that the TFF, the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB) and the League Steering and Management Committee are undermining Yanga, a claim he failed to prove before the committee.

Another charge against the Yanga leader is he, in October last year, claimed he has laid his hands on a contract the club's former winger, Bernard Morrison, had sealed with Simba SC, whilst knowing it was a lie.

Commenting on the punishment, Yanga's information officer Hassan Bumbuli said the club was opposed to it and it was in the process of challenging it.

"We were late in appealing because we were waiting for the TFF directive, but we are against the punishment metted to our vice-chairman," the official said.

He claimed that the club was shocked by the fact that the matter was private and Mwakalebela was banned when the reason for his

punishment was the club's decision and not Mwakalebela's.

He noted: "Mwakalebela spoke of what the club decided, and until he spoke it, it was the club's decision, but he is the one serving the ban."

"The club has not agreed to the punishment and any time from now we will file an appeal against the punishment given to the vice-chairman of our club," the official disclosed.

Commenting on a report circulating on social media showing the club had asked for a peaceful protest, Bumbuli said it was not true.

Meanwhile, TFF has clarified that the punishment given to Yanga vice-chairman, Mwakalebela, is based on administrative issues.

According to TFF, the punishment does not prevent Mwakalebela from following sports reports.

Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, responded to a complaint by the Yanga vice-chairman, who was banned from participating in football in and outside the country for five years and was also fined 7m/-, in which the latter claimed he was barred from reading sports magazines or watching sports news on television.

Ndimbo said: "The punishment's statement is different from his statement, which claims that he is not even allowed to read the newspapers or watch sports news on TV."

The TFF official stated: "The punishment he was given was that he should not do any of his responsibilities at the club."

"He should not be involved in those leadership responsibilities for the time being but not other issues, maybe he was just making fun of the punishment."

Ndimbo said Mwakalebela has been suspended for leadership duties but he has the opportunity to attend sports events in stadiums, as it is the case for other fans.

"When it comes to going to the stadiums, that's not about dealing with the issue of football leadership, and it means you've gone there just like other spectators."

The TFF announced the banning of Mwakalebela from engaging in football activities in and outside the country for five years and required him to pay a fine of 7m/- for misconduct.

A statement issued by TFF through the federation's information officer, Ndimbo, stated: "Mwakalebela has been convicted of making inflammatory remarks with the intention of inciting Yanga fans, members and supporters against the governing bodies of football in the country."

The federation stated: "The committee's decision was made in accordance with Article 73 (4) of the TFF Code of Conduct 2013 Edition."

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV THURSDAY**

**MORNING @ 11:00**

**DADAZ.**

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE  
12:00 MPYA  
12:30 Bongo Hits  
13:00 Msozi Kitaani (r)  
13:30 Kali Za Wana  
14:00 Ujenzi (r)  
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi  
15:00 Funguka  
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)  
16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)  
16:30 #HSHTAG  
17:00 5SELEKT  
17:55 Kurasa  
18:00 eNewz  
18:30 Music/Soap  
19:30 EATV SAA I  
19:45 MJADALA  
20:00 DADAZ (r)  
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

**eastafrica RADIO**

06:00 Supa Breakfast  
10:00 MAMAMIA  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

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