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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa comes to the assistance of Miriam Titus Msagati (in wheelchair) of Fune in Mombo ward, Korogwe District, yesterday shortly after he handed over to her a 476.32m/- furnished house built for her with support from the PM himself. Looking on are CCM's Tanga regional chairman, Henry Shekifu (R), and Tanga regional commissioner Martine Shigella (2nd-R). Photo: PMO

# Govt reacts as UK slaps travel ban on Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has said it has not received formal communication from the United Kingdom regarding a said travel ban on Tanzanians effective from today.

This follows an announcement by UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps via a tweet on Thursday that arrivals from Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are banned from entering the country from today to stop the spread of the South African COVID-19 variant.

Reacting to the news yesterday, the Director of Communications in the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Emmanuel Buhohela said governments do not communicate via social media.

"If there were any concerns, the UK government would have communicated to the government of Tanzania via formal communication channels," he said.

But in his tweet, Shapps indicated that Tanzanians and DRC citizens will not set foot in the UK until further notice.

"All passengers from these countries except British and Irish nationals and third country nationals with residents' rights

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## 'COVID-19 learning gaps impacting on vulnerable'

By Guardian Reporter

LEARNING innovations, including online classes introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic mostly benefitted privileged learners and dashed hopes of vulnerable ones, says UN Secretary General António Guterres (pictured) had declared.

In his message on this year's International Day of Education usually marked on January 24, Guterres said when education is interrupted it affects everyone, in particular students, teachers and families.

The message released yesterday by the UN Information Centre in Dar es Salaam quoted the world's top civil servant as saying that on the third International Day of Education, tribute is directed to resilience by these affected groups "in

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# 'Storm to make landfall today, amid heavy rains'

By Henry Mwangonde

A TROPICAL storm is expected to make landfall on the eastern coast of Southern Africa today, causing heavy rainfall in Tanzania and other southern African countries.

An advisory released yesterday by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Climate Services Centre said that the storm, christened Eloise, had a maximum average wind speed of 74 kilometres per hour near its centre.

"It is moving southwest at about 22km/h. There is likelihood that it will make landfall near Beira over Mozambique on Saturday, 23rd January" the note indicated.

The storm is expected to affect SADC



**It is moving southwest at about 22km/h. There is likelihood that it will make landfall near Beira over Mozambique on Saturday, 23rd January**

countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana.

"Other parts of SADC region that may experience increased rainfall due to other weather system during the period include parts of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia," it elaborated.

The regional climate centre urged national meteorological and hydrological services to closely monitor these events and update relevant institutions such as disaster risk management agencies at member states level to support preparedness and response measures to protect lives and property.

Late yesterday, reports showed Eloise was still intensifying over the

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# Seven feared dead after 'vanishing' in mine pits

By Guardian Correspondent, Tarime

SEVEN residents of Tarime District in Mara Region are feared dead after failing to emerge from pits of North Mara Gold Mine where they are believed to have secretly entered last month.

The matter came to light on Wednesday after relatives, including wives of the missing men stormed offices of District Commissioner, seeking help on how to find the bodies, insisting that they have reasons to believe their loved ones are



dead. The relatives led by Kenyamanyori Mashiku, Nyagwisi Charles, ward councillor Farida Nchagwa named those missing as Charles Mashiku, Nyagwisi Charles,

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Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has an audience at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a delegation of private companies' managing directors led by their chairman, Dino Stengel (to Dr Mwinyi's right). Photo: Zanzibar State House

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Mnanka Werema, Mahiri Tereni, Matiko Merenga, Isaka Kambarage and another male person. They were all artisanal miners.

The relatives said the miners had sneaked into the pits on December 5 to scavenge for gold ore and had not returned.

"They told us that they were travelling. But one of their friends has told us that they secretly entered pits operated by North Mara Gold and must have died there, said Diana Ghati, one of the relatives.

DC Mtemi Msafiri was not in his office but District Administrative Secretary John Marwa was

## Seven feared dead after 'vanishing' in mine pits

available and told this paper that the government was aware of the fears on the miners' deaths.

"Reports of seven people having died underground in the pits of North Mara Gold Mine are under investigation. I appeal to relatives and friends of the missing individuals as well as the general public to remain calm and wait for the findings of the probe team," he urged.

Councillor Nchagwa said reports from friends of the missing individuals point to the possibility of them having entered the pits without authorisation and possibly died there.

"Their relatives are contemplating performing funeral rituals without the bodies or any confirmation of death. That is why we decided to reach out to the DC," she said.

"Now that we have been told there is a team investigating the matter, I'll appeal to them to be patient."

Incidents of villagers near the North Mara gold mine secretly entering or invading the mine in attempts to find stray gold are not rare here. In other incidents in the past armed confrontation has occurred between mine guards or the police and armed villagers.

## Govt reacts as UK slaps travel ban on Tanzania

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will be denied entry," the cabinet minister affirmed.

The UK itself has since last month been battling a new variant of the coronavirus first identified in the country which prompted more than 40 countries to slap a travel ban on UK citizens.

After news of the new variant broke out, flights from the UK were suspended to destinations across the world including Spain, India and Hong Kong.

France shut its border with the UK for 48 hours, meaning that no lorries or ferries could leave from the port of Dover to scale the channel to the other side of sea.

But the UK's decision on Tanzania and the DRC may have been informed by findings of preliminary research published this week by bioRxiv, a medical journal, which suggested that a coronavirus variant detected in South Africa last December can partially evade the defenses that vaccines build in human bodies' immune systems.

Agencies said that the research has not yet been peer-reviewed, but it suggested that the variant,

known as 501YV2, can escape antibodies developed in response to vaccination or infection with the original version of the virus.

That may mean existing vaccines won't provide as much protection, and people who have already been infected with the original version of the virus could get re-infected with the new strain.

Penny Moore, a researcher at Duke University Medical Center for Communicable Diseases and co-author of the new study, said during a webinar on Monday that compelling data shows the mutations in 501YV2 to be "problematic."

Her group's research found that in half of samples studied in the lab, antibodies in the blood of people who had recovered from COVID-19 were unable to stop the variant.

David Montefiori, a virologist at Duke University Medical Center who was not involved in the study, told CNN that based on Penny's data, it's likely that the vaccine is going to be somewhat less effective. "But how much less effective we don't know," the researcher added.

## 'Storm to make landfall today, amid heavy rains'

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Mozambique Channel and likely to strengthen into a tropical cyclone later at night.

On Thursday, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) issued an advisory on a strong wind reaching 40 kilometer per hour and large waves reaching

two metres for the entire coastline, from Tanga, Coast region including Mafia Island, Dar es Salaam, Lindi and Mtwara regions together with Unguja and Pemba islands.

The likelihood of tropical storm landing was moderate and expected impacts were equally likely to be moderate.

## 'COVID-19 learning gaps impacting on vulnerable'

FROM PAGE 1

the face of a pandemic that, at its peak, forced almost every school, institute and university to close its doors."

"Although this disruption has led to learning innovations, it has also dashed hopes of a brighter future among vulnerable populations," he stated, noting that when such disruptions happen, "all of us pay the price."

"After all education is the foundation for expanding opportunities, transforming economies, fighting intolerance, protecting the planet and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

"As the world continues to battle the pandemic, education - as a fundamental right and a global public good - must be protected to avert a generational catastrophe," he emphasised.

"Even before the pandemic, some 258 million children and adolescents were out of school, the majority of them girls," the message underlined, citing the

fact that more than half of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries were not learning to read a simple text.

In the course of 2021 the world must unite and seize all opportunities to turn this situation around by ensuring the full replenishment of the Global Partnership for Education fund, and strengthening global education cooperation, he urged.

"We must also step up our efforts to re-imagine education - training teachers, bridging the digital divide and rethinking curricula to equip learners with the skills and knowledge to flourish in our rapidly changing world," he remarked.

"Let us commit to promote education for all - today and every day."

The third International Day of Education (January 24) will be marked on Monday 25th January under the theme 'Recover and Revitalize Education for the COVID-19 Generation.'

## Kenyan police disperse an attempted protest against Museveni's re-election

NAIROBI

POLICE yesterday dispersed a crowd from Jeevanjee Gardens, Nairobi, as it planned a demonstration to demand Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's resignation.

The officers who had tear gas confiscated the group's placards before protest activities began.

The group including Ugandans living and working in Kenya intended to march from the Ugandan embassy in Riverside.

They said their main objective was to voice displeasure with Uganda's recent elections, which they alleged were neither free nor fair. They claimed that National Unity Platform candidate and leader Robert Kyagulanyi, aka Bobi Wine, was denied his victory.

Wine has also made this claim

and intends to take court action. President Museveni says, however, insists there was no cheating.

Central Sub-county Deputy Police Commander Mbusa Awuor said he had not been notified of the peaceful protest and that it was therefore illegal.

However, a letter seen by the Nation indicates the Nairobi County police commander was notified on January 19. The letter was copied to the Central police station commander.

Bob Njagi from Haki Africa said, "We notified the regional police commander. We have even received a call from the Office of the President with inquiries on who we are and what we are doing. We don't have a problem with the Kenyan government and have followed due procedures."

AGENCIES



Immigration Department architect Constable Denis Assey (L) briefs Home Affairs deputy minister Khamis Hamza Chilo (R, foreground) during the latter's tour of the department's Boma Kichakamiba training camp in Mkinga District, Tanga Region, yesterday. To Chilo's right is Immigration commissioner general Dr Anna Makakala. Photo courtesy of Home Affairs ministry

## DC: Stop funding of school desks

By Guardian Correspondent, Magu

MAGU district commissioner in Mwanza Region, Salum Kalli, yesterday directed secondary school head teachers to stop demanding desk contributions from parents whose children have been selected to join Form One this academic year.

He issued the directive during his meeting with the primary and secondary school head teachers, ward education coordinators and the district education officer. He said the government does not force any of the parents to contribute for school development since such aid is provided through special arrangements reached during school committee meetings which

include parents.

"You should not restrict students from joining Form One over their parent's failure to buy the desks. You must come up with other strategies to request parents and stakeholders to contribute for the schools development including the purchase of desks," he noted.

According to Kalli, the district performed better in last year's Form Four national examinations, calling upon education officers to ensure increased academic performance in the coming years.

"There should be a good approach to request stakeholders and parents to contribute for school development. They cannot refuse to provide support which is geared to improve learning

environment for their children.

He however challenged the teachers to start establish livestock keeping projects since all the cattle would be sold at a Magu based meat processing factory.

"As teachers you shouldn't be looking for loans from lenders in the streets; engaging on entrepreneurial activities will enable you raise extra income to improve your families welfare," DC Kalli noted.

Magu District Education Officer, Gory Mtui said despite the government's decision to offer free basic education, parents are required to contribute for school development including purchasing of desks.

She assured parents that no Form One student will be sent

back home over failure to come with the desk.

On November 27, 2015 the government issued Circular 5 which implements the Education and Training Policy 2014. It directed public bodies to offer free primary and secondary school education to ensure that children in the country enjoy eleven years of free schooling. Free education which includes the removal of all forms of fees and contributions supports government efforts to attain the millennium development goals (MDG 2) related to primary education and Sustainable Development Goal 4 which requires countries to ensure that everyone completes free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.



Benedicto Baragomwa (L), NMB Bank Plc's acting chief financial officer, presents to Dar es Salaam regional commissioner Abubakar Kunenge (R) yesterday some of the 400 desks the bank has promised to donate in an effort to ease the shortage the region is grappling with. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Tanga

## PM directs Agriculture Ministry to review taxes, levies on sisal crop

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed the Agriculture Ministry to review all taxes and levies in the sisal crop to identify those benefitting the national's stakeholders and remove those that don't.

The PM also called on the country's financial institutions to continue evaluating interest rates on loans to farmers so as they should not be an obstacle for them to access to the loans.

The PM gave the remarks here at the meeting with sisal stakeholders in which he also instructed the ministry to continue monitoring the progress of all cash crops in the country.

He said the government was well mobilized to ensure the sisal crop returns to its former

glory, hence he instructed the Agriculture Ministry to continue monitoring its progress from the farms preparation stage to the market situation.

"Mkonge has numerous benefits but here we only stress in fibre making, we have to utilize experts to research on other uses from sisal including the production of sugar, fertilizer and various kinds of drinks," he said.

He said the Ministry should continue strengthening the Mlingano centre of Tanzania Agricultural research Institute (TARI-Mlingano) including making sure it has the adequate

equipment in the production of sisal seedlings.

In addition, he instructed all districts where sisal is cultivated including Tanzania Sisal Board (TSB) to establish a data base in order to have statistics of small, middle and large sisal farmers as well the sizes of their farms.

He said the data base will assist them reach to the farmers easily whenever they want to train them how best to cultivate the crop.

Agriculture Ministry's Deputy Minister Hussein Bashe said in 2020 the country's sisal production topped 35,298 tonnes, while the target was 42,285

tonnes.

He added that in the period 2020-25 TSB plans to increase production to reach 120,000 tonnes per year. He said the Ministry will ensure the country reduces the importation of sisal bags to benefit the sisal industry.

"To start with, in regard to the cashew nut crop, in the current season when we floated tender for bags we said that we were giving priority to bags made from sisal produced in the country.

In the circumstances, he called upon all government owned bags making factories to start using locally grown sisal.

## Govt calls for timely teachers' per diem

By Guardian Reporter

President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government minister Selemani Jafo has given one week to municipal councils to complete payment of subsistence allowances to new teachers allocated at different schools countrywide.

Minister Jafo made the directive in Dodoma yesterday when he talked on the ongoing government efforts to improve provision of vocational education.

He said that late last year the government employed 13,000 new teachers who were allocated at different schools across the country, and that each of the municipal councils was directed to give them subsistence allowance upon arrival.

Jafo was concerned that some of the councils have yet paid the allowance in full, insisting payments must be completed within seven days.

"I don't want to see teachers working under a stressful environment, so all the councils must ensure that they pay the allowances immediately," insisted the minister.

Meanwhile, minister Jafo directed Regional Commissioners to closely supervise technical secondary schools so as to ensure that the schools produce competent graduates of various fields.

According to him, the government has spent 16.4bn/- to rehabilitate infrastructures of the schools.

"In the rehabilitation exercise, Bwiru Boys Technical Secondary school got 825m/-, Chato Secondary School (3.9bn/-), Ifunda Technical High School (3.6bn/-), Moshi Technical Secondary School (2.1bn/-), Iyunga Technical Secondary School (1.01bn/-),

Mtwara Technical Secondary (1.3bn/-), Musoma Technical Secondary School (1.2bn/-), Mwadui Technical Secondary School (226m/-) and Tanga Technical Secondary School received 2.1bn/-," he said.

He said that the RCs should make regular visits to the schools, talk to teachers and explain to them the government's strategies that are aimed to improve the quality of the schools.

In addition, he said a total of 30m/- has been allocated to each school so as to purchase teaching and learning equipment in the technical schools.

"The government's aim is to see these technical schools produce enough and competent graduates to serve in various fields in the country such as agriculture and processing industries.

According to him, in efforts meant to improve teaching in the technical schools, in November last year, the government hired 150 vocational teachers.

He explained that Bwiru got 16 teachers), Chato (18 teachers), Ifunda (16 teachers), Iyunga (17 teachers), Moshi (17 teachers), Mtwara (15 teachers), Musoma (16 teachers), Mwadui (18 teachers) and Tanga (17 teachers).

Jafo added that the government has also set aside funds to finance capacity building of the new teachers. He wanted the district executive director (DEDs) to ensure that the infrastructures of the schools are protected for them to last long and benefit future generations.

*"I don't want to see teachers working under a stressful environment, so all the councils must ensure that they pay the allowances immediately"*

**Air Tanzania**  
The Wings of Kilimanjaro

### TRAINING INSTITUTE

#### KOZI YA WAFANYAKAZI NDANI YA NDEGE (CABIN CREW).

Chuo Cha Kampuni ya Ndege ya Tanzania (ATCL Training Institute) kina furaha kuwatangazia wataanzania wote kuwa kwa mara nyingine kitaendesha kozi ya wafanyakazi ndani ya ndege (Cabin Crew) kuanzia tarehe 01/03/2021. Kozi hii ni ya muda wa miezi mitatu (03), chuo kipo uwanja wa ndege wa kimataifa wa Julius Nyerere-Dar es salaam (JNIA) terminal one kwenye jengo la utawala la ATCL karibu kabisa na kituo cha polisi uwanja wa ndege. Chuo kinakaribisha maombi ya kujiunga na kozi hii kwa wenye sifa zilizoainishwa hapo chini. Mwisho wa kupokea maombi ni tarehe 04/02/2021.

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- Elimu sio chini kidato cha nne na ufaulu mzuri hasa masomo ya kiingereza, Jiografia na Historia
- Aweze kuongea na kuandika kwa ufasaha lugha ya Kiswahili na Kiingereza. Muombaji mwenye uelewa wa lugha zaidi ya hizi mbili kama Kiarabu, Kichina, Kihindi na Kifaransa atapewa kipaumbele.
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**BARRICK**  
NORTH MARA

### REQUEST FOR TENDER MINING RELATED SERVICES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from interested and qualified parties to provide various mining related services.

#### Available Packages - Mining Related Services

- Rock Crushing/Screening and Rehandle
- Rehandle and Crusher Feeding
- General Services and Machine Hire
- Minor Services including construction and cement handling
- Surface Piping Installation
- Labour Supply Services

#### Information to Tender

Information to Tender may be obtained from:  
**nm.proposal@barrick.com**

Applicants must quote reference "Mining Related Services MINE11/2020" in the subject line of your email and submit your company profile. Interested parties may submit tenders for select individual packages, or for all available packages.

#### Key Dates

- Last date to request Information to Tender 28 January 2020
- Tender submission closing date 12 February 2020

**North Mara Gold Mine Limited**  
19 January 2020

## Traditional healers urged to boost primary health care

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TRADITIONAL healers in the country have been advised to chip in and start utilising research findings from the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and other institutions so as to improve their products to meet the needs of the current health challenges.

SUA deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof Amandus Muhairwa made the call yesterday here during the opening of a workshop which brought together traditional healers from various parts in the country.

Prof Muhairwa said that research findings from the college can also help the traditional healers introduce new products that will bring immediate and positive outcomes to people's challenges.

The workshop will go along with exhibitions of traditional medicinal products as well as launch of the national forum for traditional medicines. It has been organized by the Green Resources Innovations for Livelihood Improvement (GRILI) Project.

Prof Muhairwa said the approach is very important especially now when the World is struggling to find a treatment for COVID-19 where herbal remedies have proved to do better than those in hospitals.

He said traditional medicinal products face various challenges related to the production, harvesting, sale, and sustainable availability of raw materials thus needing more scientific research and innovation so as to address the challenges.

He urged traditional healers to also look at policy issues that challenge the transfer of the technologies and see how they can set up pharmaceutical manufacturing industries to produce natural remedies.

Prof Muhairwa assured the participants that the Sokoine University of Agriculture, through the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research, Technology transfer and Consultancy (DPRTC) in collaboration with the government, will continue to support the efforts of all stakeholders in the health sector in helping them improve their products to fight various health challenges facing the community.

Earlier, the research and publication coordinator at SUA's DPRTC, Prof Japhet Kashaigili said that the directorate and other units in the varsity have been in the process of organizing such workshops to try to improve trade in agricultural, livestock and forestry products in collaboration with various stakeholders in those sectors.

He said that SUA has been engaging with quality managers and auditors of the crop businesses as well as policy makers in general and this has increased the contribution of the university in solving various challenges and improving crop trade and this is especially important in the fifth phase government whose direction is to become an industrial economy.

He noted that varsities around the world have become centres of academic development and research and in that context; the postgraduate directorate through its technology transfer unit as well as the GRILI project have seen it better to organize the workshop to bring the traditional healers to discuss various things that would support development of the sub-sector in the country.

Speaking on the GRILI, the project leader, Dr Faith Mabiki said the implementation of the project started in 2018 with the aim of contributing to increasing the quality of medicinal products to improve the lives of producers, consumer health as well contribute to the country's gross domestic product (GDP).



Zanzibar First Vice President Seif Sharif Hamad exchanges greetings with the director of the Isles' government's People with Disabilities Department, Abeda Rashid Abdallah, when he visited the department's offices on Thursday. Photo: Zanzibar-FVPO

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

MOROGORO Municipality residents are required to preserve the environment meticulously including taking care of all water sources in order to tackle water shortage in some areas.

The call was made yesterday by the Director of Morogoro Urban Water and sanitation Authority (MORUWASA) Eng Tamin Katakweba, saying the government vows to eradicate all water challenges hence it is essential for water sources to be protected.

"In Morogoro, we are facing water shortages despite having many rivers that are also depended upon by neighboring

## Morogoro residents urged to preserve water sources

regions, but challenges stem from great destruction of water sources in various areas of the region," said Katakweba.

He said apart from government efforts to ensure a permanent solution is found to the region's water woes, every resident has the responsibility to protect water sources.

Katakweba said the government was doing a great job to ensure residents of the region get reliable, clean, and safe water supply through various ongoing water projects.

"The government has provided more than 200bn/- for implementing various water projects, in Morogoro Municipality, in particular, hence in order to make the projects a success, we have the responsibility to protect water sources," he added.

He said there are people living in mountain areas who have been destroying rivers; infrastructures that are dependent upon water sources in the region resulting in water shortages in many areas.

He named some of the water

projects in Morogoro Municipality as including the madau Project costing 1.7bn, Mindu Project (2.9bn/-), Kihonda Project (3.5bn/-), and Bigwa Project (2.4bn/-).

He also said there is a big water project to cost 185bn/-, adding that upon completion of all these projects water woes in Morogoro Municipality and the region, in general, would be eradicated.

Morogoro residents thanked the government for dealing with the long time water shortage situation in the region and hoped that when the projects are completed



Johannes Tiamasi, who doubles as Tanzania Pastoralists Council secretary and councillor for Laitole in Ngorongoro District, reacts at a meeting yesterday to a recent statement by councillors and traditional leaders on the situation in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Beatrice Philemon

## Govt, Qatar sign bilateral agreement

MINISTRY of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled) has signed bilateral agreement with Qatar to send Tanzanian youth specialising in engineering, electronics and other professions for advanced studies in Qatar.

The agreement aims at helping Tanzania's young experts to gain relevant skills in the field of their choice as well as enabling the country to have enough skilled labour force to compete internationally.

Director of Employment Services Unit in the ministry, Joseph Mganga said this recently in Dar es Salaam at one-day training on national internship guidelines dialogue with youth

organized by Actionaid Tanzania. "We are in the processing of sending the experts in Qatar; we want them to be competent enough to grab jobs within the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC)," said Mganga.

He added that the PMO's office has come up with new comprehensive programme that includes sending youth in international organizations for capacity building through experience sharing.

The official noted that apart from gaining experience, the youth establish networks with other skilled youth from around the globe. He noted that about 400 Tanzanian youth have been

involved in semi-skilled labour trainings in Middle East.

He said the PMO's office will continue to closely work with private sector to help youth acquire key skills required in the labour market as the country thrives to become an industrialized middle-income nation.

Kamala Dickson from Dar es Salaam based Non-Governmental Organization - Agenda Participation Initiative called on the PMO's office to conduct a country-wide research for companies that need to invest in Tanzania to understand the type of labourers they require.

He said the move would help the government to start training its youth to secure the jobs once

investors establish the particular projects.

There is a need to embark on this research because the private sector employs more youth, he added underscoring the need to have proper data on the number of youth graduating from different colleges and universities each year. "Most of the graduates are now involved in the newly introduced internship programme, but there are several others who are unaware of the programme. We need to know them all so they can also be part of it," he said.

According to him, the internship programme help graduates from higher learning institutions to gain skills required by employers in the Tanzanian and foreign labour markets.

## Sharif Hamad urges restraint, respect for all Zanzibaris

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR First Vice President Maalim Seif Sharif Hamad has urged the public not to discriminate Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) but rather support and respect them so that they achieve their life dreams.

He made the call yesterday when he visited the PWDs department which is operating under his office with the aim of discussing various challenges facing the group as well as how to improve operations of the department.

Maalim Seif insisted: "Our Zanzibar Constitution prohibits discrimination of any kind; No one should ignore people with disabilities because they are also entitled to be respected and given all their rights."

He underscored the need to invest in public awareness programmes as some families have been thinking having a child with disability as disgrace and bad luck to their families.

"There are a lot of economic opportunities that favours everyone including people with disabilities, it is better to ensure that we support the group economically, they should also be given priority in business areas and buildings," he explained.

He also directed authorities in the Isles to take stern measures to those who have been turning PWDs into street beggars so as to earn income.

He stressed that there are reports that there are people who are taking the disabled people and bringing them to Zanzibar to make them street beggars.

"This behavior is intolerable and anyone who will be found doing so, stern legal measures will be taken, these acts humiliate the dignity of the group," he said.

Maalim Seif added the PWDs have for a long time been seen as a trifling group in the society's eyes which is totally not true. These people have all the rights like any other human being, so they should be respected.

He said that the government had also formed policies and laws to ensure that the group is well protected and lives happily.

Director of the Department for People with Disabilities, Abeda Rashid Abdallah said one of the major responsibilities of the department is to ensure that PWDs access rights wherever they are.

Abeda said that the department has already reached up to the shehia level so as to help identify people with disabilities and their problems and thus find better ways to address them.

According to him, having a clear database of the group will help the government and stakeholders to provide sexual and reproductive health services to them.

He said the Isles government, recognizes the importance of people with disabilities in the country's development process and the responsibility for their incorporation in sustainable development.

Abeda said in 2019, Zanzibar launched a policy aimed at improving the lives of people with disabilities both in a practical sense, and also in creating the best possible opportunities for people with disabilities to fulfill their potential.

He said among other things the policy had spelled out national agendas incorporating people with disabilities, relating to the country's sustainable development goals by removing obstacles that prevent incorporation of disabled people in the quest for better social services.



East African Community senior information officer Aileen Mallya (R) makes a remark to students of the Dar es Salaam-based Centre for Foreign Relations on a tour of the regional bloc's headquarters in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Asraji Mvungi

# 'Financial support vital in advancing sisal cultivation by small outgrowers'

By Correspondent George Sembony,

Tanga

FINANCIAL institutions have been challenged to demonstrate their commitment towards improving the agricultural sector by supporting smallholder farmers.

Speaking at a sisal stakeholders' conference which was chaired by Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa, Bumbuli Member of Parliament, January Makamba said financial support is crucial for advancing the sisal crop.

"There can be no meaningful development in the sisal and agriculture sector in general if we don't support small holder farmers financially," said Makamba stressing the need for fairness in assessing the risk factors among lenders.

The legislator noted that financial institutions must fairly assess farmers applying for loans so that they all benefit with the schemes.

He said some banks and financial institutions do not have enough knowledge on agriculture, calling upon them to appoint specific individuals who will learn about the sisal crop and its benefits so as to change their attitudes and start offering loans to farmers.

"The government should deploy a good number of extension officers who will be exclusively dealing with sisal cultivation. Researches must be conducted to ensure availability of better seeds as well as other inputs," said the MP.

He stressed the need for coordinated markets to ensure better prices for farmers. He said the current market is unreliable with buyers setting the price.

According to the law maker, the government should set sisal production targets by considering the quality of the crop for the country to earn more foreign currencies.

He said Mexico for example introduced different products manufactured from sisal including the Tequila drink which enabled the country to earn \$2.6 billion last year.

Makamba said the global tequila market is now \$5 billion and by 2025 it would reach \$6.7 billion.

Responding, the premier said that experience shows that some extension officers do not have enough knowledge on the crop but the Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) through directives the Ministry of Agriculture has started to train them on how to take care of the sisal farms.

On markets, he said the government is working to ensure coordinated markets within and outside the country. He said the government will make sure sisal farmers sell the crop at reasonable prices.

Majaliwa added that plans are underway to further strengthen the Sisal Board of Tanzania (SBT) by reviewing the laws that established it.

*"There can be no meaningful development in the sisal and agriculture sector in general if we don't support small holder farmers financially"*

By Guardian Reporter

KINONDONI District Commissioner Daniel Chongolo has praised Kinondoni Municipal Council for implementing, to a large extent, the 110 classrooms construction projects to ensure the district's additional students this year get places to study in.

He gave the praise on Wednesday this week during his visit to inspect the projects that are set for completion this month, and added that special praise should be directed to the Municipal director Aaron

## DC satisfied with municipal council activity on new classrooms project

Kagurumjuli.

DC Chongolo said the classrooms will be inaugurated on February 5 this year, an important day as it was when the ruling party CCM was created 44 years ago.

He further said Kinondoni Municipal Council uses well its internal funds, which is the secret behind the achievement in implementing its various

projects including classrooms construction.

Earlier, the Acting Municipal Director Maduhu Kazi told the DC that the council was constructing 119 classrooms costing over 2bn/-, of which 46 classrooms were for primary schools and 64 for secondary schools all of which are set for completion by the end of this month.

Kinondoni Municipal Mayor, Somgoro Mnyonge said these achievements stem from robust leadership under the Municipal Director Kagurumjuli.

The DC visit incorporated members of the district's defence and security committee, the district's ruling party leaders, the municipal Mayor, heads of various departments and other experts.

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania  
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)  
Assignment Title : Director of Community Support  
Reference No. TZ - TASAF-156658 -CS-INDV

- The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to ensure adherence to the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual in relation to the delivery of the functions of the directorate.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: [www.tasaf.go.tz](http://www.tasaf.go.tz) and can be obtained at the address given below.
- The Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) now invites eligible Individual Consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide CVs demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The Individual Consultant must have the following qualifications and skills.
  - Holder of Masters Degree in Social Science, Business, Engineering or any other development related field from a recognized university,
  - A recognized professional qualification where applicable.
  - At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven (7) years must be at senior managerial position.
  - Must be computer literate.
  - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
  - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels.
  - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
  - Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
  - Experience with community based development initiative and social fund related operations are an added advantage.
  - Self-motivated and able to work effectively, efficiently and independently without direct supervision.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant method set out in the Procurement Regulations.
- Expressions of interest enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae must be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail by 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

The Executive Director,  
Tanzania Social Action Fund,  
Kambarage Building,  
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road,  
P. O. Box 2719,  
Dodoma, Tanzania  
Tel: +255 26 2963866  
Fax: +255 26 2963871  
E-mail: [hrm@tasaf.go.tz](mailto:hrm@tasaf.go.tz)

### THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA President's Office TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND



#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

Country : Tanzania  
Name of Project : Productive Social Safety Net Project II (PSSN II)  
Assignment Title : Director of Internal Audit  
Reference No : TZ-TASAF-156656 – CS - INDV

- The Government of the united republic of Tanzania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Productive Social Safety Net II. This project will be jointly financed by the Agency for International Development, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria, International Fund for Agriculture Development, The Government of NORWAY and OPEC. The Tanzania Social Action Fund the implementing agency for this Project intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") objective is to manage the internal audit functions of the Project as specified in the Financing Agreement and Operational Manual.
- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: [www.tasaf.go.tz](http://www.tasaf.go.tz) and can be obtained at the address given below.
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  - Holder of Masters Degree in Finance, Accounting and Finance, Business Administration or any other related field from recognized university.
  - Must possess internationally recognized accounting professional qualification such as CPA (T), ACCA, CIMA, CISA or other related profession.
  - Must be registered with the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) in the category of Associate Certified Public Accountant (ACPA) or Fellow Certified Public Accountant (FCPA) or any equivalent international recognized board.
  - At least ten (10) years experience in relevant field in Public and / or Private Sectors of which seven years (7) must be at senior managerial position.
  - Must have a working knowledge of computerized Accounting and Audit systems.
  - Must have a thorough knowledge and understanding of and experience with donor funded project.
  - High level of communication and interpersonal skills and ability to work with people at all levels. .
  - Ability to supervise, train and coach staff in relevant skills.
  - Self motivated with integrity and high level of confidentiality.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016 and revised in November 2017 and August 2018 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 8.00 to 16.00 Local Time on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on Public Holidays.
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Fax: +255 26 2963871  
E-mail: [hrm@tasaf.go.tz](mailto:hrm@tasaf.go.tz)

# Wangabo orders Rukwa executive directors to complete reports on progress in districts’ trees planting

By **Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga**

RUKWA Regional Commissioner, Joachim Wangabo has given three days to all the district executive directors in the region to submit reports on progress implementation of the Prime Minister’s directive which requires them to plant 1.5 million trees.

He said the report should include reasons on why they have so far not started to plant the trees in their respective areas.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa gave the directive on January 19th during his tour at Mollo village where he also planted a tree as part of celebrations to mark the tree planting day in the region.

He said that in 2015, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan ordered all the municipal councils to make sure they plant 1.5 million trees annually. He added that almost all the district in Rukwa Region has failed to implement the tree planting campaign.

The VP was concerned that at least 61 per cent of the country is likely to become a desert, calling on the councils and municipal authorities to come up with by-laws to ensure schools, universities and other institutions plant trees annually.

The government first launched tree planting campaign in the 1970s and later in the 2000s to

ensure every council plant at least 1.5million trees annually. However, the plan was not effectively implemented. “

The Regional Commissioner said that in the 2018/2019 financial year, all the districts planted 2.5 million trees in total equivalent to 43 percent of the set annual target.

In the 2019/2020 financial year, the region planted 1.5 million trees (26 percent) of the set target.

“I also want you to outline strategies to ensure more trees are planted in this fiscal year. Efforts should be made to reach the target of planting 6 million trees annually,” he said.

Chairman of the Regional Environment Council, Zeno Nkoswe advised colleges, primary and secondary schools to make sure they plant enough fruit trees. He noted that avocado trees are likely to grow better at the area due to the regions’ weather conditions.

Nkoswe said that if each of the schools plant 100 avocado trees in three years, they are likely to harvest 500 avocados from each of the trees which can be sold at 500/- each.

“You can raise money by only planting fruit trees surrounding your schools. You are likely to get 25m/- from avocado sells after three years,” he said adding with the monies, the schools will improve infrastructures and ensure a better learning environment for the pupils.



Deogratius Ndejemi (L), Deputy Minister of State in the President’s Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), has a quick word with Geita Urban legislator Constantine Kanyasu at National Assembly grounds in Dodoma yesterday shortly after a parliamentary committee meeting. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

# Rorya DC threatens extensive crack down on local government executives engaging in cannabis farming

By **Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa, Rorya**

RORYA District Commissioner Simon Odunga has warned that he will launch a campaign to crack down on village and ward executives engaging in the cultivation of cannabis.

The DC made the remarks when he led the district security committee in an operation which led to the arrest of two people who are alleged to be involved in Indian hemp farming.

He said the campaign will be continuous and will also involve investigating officials who have failed to give proper information on the matter to authorities adding serious legal actions will be taken against anyone proved to be engaging in the illegal business.

“It is not possible for this illegal crop to be grown in the middle of farms while we have local leaders and village executives in our neighborhoods. This is unacceptable and we will start measures against these officials,” said the District

Commissioner.

He said the government would not allow citizens to use poverty factors to engage in illegal activities, including the cultivation of cannabis. He urged the residents to concentrate with cultivation of food and cash crops to raise income.

“May I urge you to massively engage in commercial farming to generate income. We are blessed with a rich soil suitable for farming of several crops including coffee,” he said noting that engaging in cannabis cultivation on the pretext of making money and fighting poverty is illegal,” he said.

In another development, the leader urged the public to cooperate with the police by providing accurate information on crime, including cannabis cultivation, and promised that the information would be kept confidential.

He warned some law enforcers who have at various times been accused of leaking confidential information provided by the public as such actions could endanger the lives of the informants.

# SADC joint water projects bolster availability of clean water, increase regional co-operation

By **Guardian Reporter**

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) region is implementing joint projects that are aimed at improving access to clean

and potable water to the people of the region and increasing regional co-operation.

One of the projects is the Kunene Transboundary Water Supply Project (KTWSP), a joint project

between Angola and Namibia, has resulted in reduced water system losses in the water transfer from Angola into Namibia.

Similar projects are at various stages of implementation between Lesotho and Botswana, Eswatini and Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania, and Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The trans-boundary water infrastructure project between Tanzania and Zambia seeks to improve cross-border water supply and sanitation in the border towns of Nakonde (Zambia) and Tunduma (Tanzania).

A feasibility study has been carried out for the project, and is also used for mobilising funds for implementation of the cross-border water supply and sanitation scheme.

The Lesotho-Botswana Water Transfer Scheme will supply water to Botswana from the Makhaleng Dam in Lesotho through a 700km pipeline. The regional project is facilitated by the SADC Secretariat and the Orange-Senqu Watercourse

Commission, and feasibility studies have been commissioned.

Groundwater continues to be relevant and important for alleviating poverty through improving human well beings, livelihoods, food production, ecosystems, industries and growing cities in the SADC region.

It is estimated that over 70 percent of the 250 million people living in the SADC region rely on groundwater as their primary source of water.

The SADC Secretariat continues to implement groundwater management programmes through SADC-Groundwater Management Institution (SADC-GMI).

As part of the regional capacity building programme for groundwater development and management, 51 young professionals from the SADC member states have gone through internship programmes relating to data collection and management as well as the expansion of the SADC Groundwater Information Portal.

The Secretariat is also implementing small sub-grant groundwater

infrastructure projects in Member States under a project funded through support from the World Bank.

So far, out of the target of 15 sub-grant pilot projects to be implemented in the SADC Member States, two projects were completed in Malawi and Botswana.

Three other projects in Zimbabwe, Zambia and in Eswatini are more than 80 percent complete.

Seven additional projects in Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe are at less than 50 percent completion rate mainly due to implementation delays caused by lengthy government procurement processes.

The target of 3000 direct beneficiaries from the sub-grant projects by December 2020 has already been exceeded as an estimated 25 300 beneficiaries have been recorded to date and 33 people have learned applied skills from the demonstration groundwater pilot projects out of the targeted 60 people by December 2020.

**MELLEMFOLKELIGT SAMVIRKE act:onaid**

**COMMUNICATION ADVISOR FOR ACTIONAID DENMARK - WITH FOCUS ON POLITICAL STORYTELLING AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

**ActionAid Denmark (AADK)** fights poverty by promoting the political empowerment of the world’s poor. AADK supports long-term development work, education programs and campaigns as well as cross border exchange of experience and knowledge between people.

**ActionAid Denmark wishes to secure the services of a self-motivated and creative Global Communication Advisor for its projects (Global Platforms and Youth Community of Interest) and institutions (MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation).**

**As the Communication Advisor, your main areas of responsibility will be (but not limited to):**

- Strengthening the storytelling skills of people contributing with content for the GP BLOG and newsletter concepts through mentoring and curation.
- Run online storytelling workshops for GP, YCOI, and TCDC staff.
- Advise on and engage in strengthening the online day-to-day storytelling on social media, website, and alumni network of GP, YCOI, and TCDC.
- Advise on mini video and documentary scripts and production for social media pages to strengthen the skills of interns and volunteers.
- Co-facilitate TCDC training on journalism/storytelling.

**The Advisor will additionally:**

- Support in-country and cross-country learning processes.
- Participate in professional learning networks, including the Advisor network.
- Participate in and support relevant cross-country working groups. Where relevant, the Advisor will play a facilitating role for Inspirators in-country: hold intro meetings with Inspirators, coordinate learning meetings and support relational linkages.

The ideal candidate is expected to have:

**Desired skills**

- Profound understanding and hands-on experience with online storytelling and content creation for websites, blog, and SoMe.
- Ability to find stories where other people cannot.
- Expertise with transforming comprehensive and often complex information into short inspiring stories.
- Exceptional written and verbal skills in English. Other AU official languages will be an added advantage.
- Good Interpersonal and facilitation/training skills.

**Professional experience**

- A minimum of three (3) years working experience in media.
- Experience with communication/storytelling related to people fighting for social justice.
- Journalistic experience and good storytelling skills. Ability to write short catchy texts taking our various target groups into account.
- Some experience with competence development within journalism/storytelling and with leading the execution of communications strategies.
- Familiar with producing text for online newsletters (such as Mailchimp).
- Basic video and photo editing skills.

**Formal education**

- A degree in Communications, Journalism, or a related field.
- Training in professional writing, i.e., media reporting, media article, case study/story, press release, content writing, etc. and added advantage.
- Training or experience in photography and videography will be an added advantage.

**Basic Term offers:**

- The position is offered under MS TCDC’s employment policy with a fixed term contract for one year.

**APPLICATION AND OTHER INFORMATION**

Please submit your resume and an application clearly describing your motivation as well as your thoughts about the position. The application deadline is the **5th of February 2021** using the following link :

<https://candidate.hr-manager.net/Application.aspx?cid=354&ProjectId=182621&DepartmentId=11131&SkipAdvertisement=true>

Would you like to know more about the position? Please contact Wilfred Muhere at [muhere@mtstcdc.or.tz](mailto:muhere@mtstcdc.or.tz)

**We only accept application submitted through our online recruitment system.**

By **Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi**

IN a move that aims at boosting schools academic performance in Moshi District, Kilimanjaro Region, a finance company-Equity For Tanzania (EFTA) and Africarriers Ltd have launched a new school bus loan campaign with no collateral.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, EFTA Chief Executive Officer, Coy Buckley said the school bus campaign aims at providing low-cost bus loans without collateral to help schools to provide reliable and comfortable transport services to students. “We have come with a new product that cater for various needs, crafted with care and passion, combining school buses loans and wide range of well-known passenger services buses and trucks, among many others,” he explained.

He said in the coming days, EFTA and Africarriers will start rolling out the new products countrywide. “Our customers across the country will be able to enjoy low-cost quality vehicles from EFTA and Africarriers. The products will be available in EFTA branches countrywide.”

# Education stakeholders launch school bus loan campaign with no collateral

the EFTA CEO added. The Head of Sales at EFTA, Clerius Asiel explained that the school bus loan campaign started in January 1, this year, and it expected to end by the end of March 2021. “We will provide the loan to both private and public schools including nursery, primary, and secondary. The schools only need to deposit a down

payment which is 20 percent of the total expense of the particular vehicle,” he said.

The Head of Sales from Africarriers, Mohammed Ladha explained that they have been supplying brand new buses to various institutions countrywide. He said the buses are from India, China, among many others.

He added that, all products

are made of 100 percent high-quality technology, ethically sourced from Africarriers in the world’s premier vehicle supply.

“The agreement will consolidate EFTA’s leading position in the provision of equipment loans without collateral helping business growth in Tanzania and as well as creating employments,” he explained.



Vunjabei Company director Shija Kamanija (R) gifts ACP Anania Amo, officer commanding police Field Force Unit in Dodoma Region, a gas cooker in the spirit of the firm’s corporate social responsibility. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph



UBA Bank's Dodoma branch manager, Joseph Mnembuka (5th-L), and teachers and students of Dodoma's Fountain Gate Secondary School pictured yesterday displaying books the bank had just donated to the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Women, PwDs in Moshi benefits from council's granted loans totaling 281.5m/-

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Moshi Municipal Council in Kilimanjaro Region has in the period between July and December, 2020 granted loans amounting to 281.5m/- to support economic activities of various vulnerable groups including People with Disabilities (PwDs).

The municipality's community development officer Enighenja Joshua told this paper that the amount which makes 10 percent of its revenues budget was granted to women, youth and PwDs groups in different wards in the municipality.

She said that among others, the loans are also meant to reduce dependency by enabling them to engage in various small-scale activities to generate income to cater for their daily life costs.

Enighenja said that although private financial institutions have been issuing

several loans, the government's involvement was also vital so as to ensure that every group was touched including those living in vulnerable environments.

She added that the money was disbursed to 30 women groups as well as two youth groups namely StarJax Impression and Faith Youth Agriculture Group located in Moshi Municipality.

Rose Mkenda, assistant community development officer at the municipality, have been facing some challenges in supporting PwDs groups because many of them are scattered and are not well organised.

"We have received requests from the PwDs wanting to access the loans individually due to geographical reasons. But regulations require them to form and register their group, must be Tanzanians, must have a bank account, and choose one project for the group members and not as individuals," she explained.

She said the government requires all district councils countrywide to allocate 10 percent of their total revenues to empower youth, women and PwDs in their development projects.



**She added that the money was disbursed to 30 women groups as well as two youth groups namely StarJax Impression and Faith Youth Agriculture Group located in Moshi Municipality**

By Kevin Rotich

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is seeking an additional 4.3bn/- to help combat the locust menace in Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and Yemen.

Farmers in the four countries are staring at crop and dairy losses due to an upsurge in locust attacks as funding for aerial spraying and monitoring dries up in March.

The UN agency said additional financing for fuel, airtime and pilot hours is needed for the 28 anti-locust aircraft, which are currently in operation.

"Governments have built up capacity in

## FAO seeks 4.3bn/- for locust fight

record-time. Swarms have been massively reduced in number and in size. It would be tragic to throw these achievements away just as the nations of East Africa are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel," said FAO Deputy Director-General Laurent Thomas.

The operation involves 28 airplanes and helicopters, 260 ground units as well as 3,000 spotters and control operators.

So far, over 6,000 hours of air sorties

have been flown to spot and spray infestations of the pest.

This is in addition to new innovations such as the eLocust3 digital tools, satellite imagery, artificial intelligence, and trajectory models have been harnessed to report locusts in real-time and deliver maps of infestations, breeding areas, and migration routes.

"There is a real possibility they could bring this upsurge to an end this year, but

## Minister issues two-day ultimatum for small scale miners to vacate invaded mining area

By Guardian Reporter, Shinyanga

DEPUTY Minister for Minerals Prof Shukrani Manya has issued two days to over 1000 artisanal miners who have invaded a mining area at Mwang'holo area, Mwadui Ward in Shinyanga Region to vacate the area so as to allow investor's activities to continue.

The mine is currently licensed to an investor named El Hillal Minerals Limited.

Prof Manya issued the directive here this week when he visited the area and witnessed the conflicting situation.

He directed the regional security committee to ensure that the invaders, whom most of them are artisanal miners, vacated the area immediately so as to protect the investor's area.

In his tour at the area, the deputy minister received complaints from the El Hillal Minerals Limited which is licensed to conduct large-scale diamond mining, that there are hundreds of artisanal miners who had invaded the area.

Earlier, during the meeting between the ministry's leadership and the large-scale diamond miners, artisanal miners and mineral traders, Prof Manya issued special directives urging them to stop sponsoring various small-scale mining groups to invade into the licensed areas saying that doing so was against law.

He wanted both large and small-scale miners as well as traders to ensure that they execute their duties in accordance with the current Mining Laws.

"If we want to rule more large scale investors in the country, we have to ensure that rights of both large and small scale miners are protected and they all receive fair treatment. The Mineral Act states clearly that anyone holding a mining license should be respected and given security to allow smooth operation," he said.

The deputy minister wanted the Shinyanga Region mineral officer to find an alternative area for the artisanal miners to conduct their

activities legally.

Zainab Teleck, Shinyanga Regional Commissioner assured the deputy minister that they are going to implement all the directives including strengthening security at the mining area.

The region's mineral commissioner Eng Joseph Kimbulu said in March last year, the mineral office in collaboration with security organs removed over 400 artisanal miners who had invaded the investor's area but others came back.

He said that the number of the invaders has now risen to 1000 where he assured the deputy minister that all of them are going to be removed as they are operating illegally.

He however urged authorities to increase awareness among village, hamlet and wards leaders on the land ownership laws and mineral Acts as majority of them are unaware of them, something which raises conflicts.

On Monday in the live programme aired on ITV, Minister for Minerals Dotto Biteko said that the ongoing reforms in the mining laws and policies are meant to make Tanzania, one of the best minerals trading hub in East and Central Africa and thus attract buyers from across the globe.

According to him, the hubs are part of efforts to improve and provide greater transparency in the country's mining industry, and to stop mineral smuggling and tax evasion.

Tanzania is endowed with vast quantities and types of resources whose extraction has been central to the country's economic growth.

Leading minerals include gold, iron ore, nickel, copper, cobalt, silver, diamond, tanzanite, ruby, garnet, limestone, soda ash, gypsum, salt, phosphate, coal, uranium, gravel, graphite, sand, and dimension stones.

Reports show the United Kingdom is the largest foreign investor in the mining industry in the country followed by India, China, Kenya, USA, Netherlands, South Africa, Canada, Germany and Oman.



Korogwe Town Council chairman Francis Komba (R) has a word with councillors during an assessment tour of the ongoing construction of classrooms at the district's Kimwari Secondary School on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

**The United Republic of Tanzania  
President's Office  
TANZANIA SOCIAL ACTION FUND**



**VACANCY ADVERTISEMENT**

Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) is currently implementing Productive Social Safety Net Program which aims at protecting the vulnerable poor households from severest consequences of poverty by implementing interventions that will lead to increased household incomes and opportunities while increasing consumption.

TASAF Executive Director is inviting applications from suitably qualified Tanzanian nationals to fill the empty vacant post of **Livelihood Enhancement Manager**.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following website: [www.tasaf.go.tz](http://www.tasaf.go.tz).

**How to apply:**

- 1) Applications, enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be delivered in a written form to the address below in person, or by mail, or by e-mail to the following address:
  - a) Executive Director  
Tanzania Social Action Fund  
P.O. Box 2719  
Kambarage Tower,  
Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Road  
Dodoma
  - b) Applications (In PDF Format) , enclosing scanned certified copies of certificates and Curriculum Vitae be sent through the following email: [hrm@tasaf.go.tz](mailto:hrm@tasaf.go.tz)
- 2) Applications made in a way other than the above will not be considered,
- 3) Deadline for receiving applications is 19th February, 2021,
- 4) Only successful candidate will be contacted.

  
**Ladislaus Mwamanga  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

# The Guardian

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY 2021

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

## The solution to addressing poaching lies in communities

POACHING has been defined as the illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals, usually associated with land use rights. Poaching was once performed by impoverished peasants for subsistence purposes and a supplement for meager diets. It was set against the hunting privileges of nobility and territorial rulers.

Since the 1980s, the term 'poaching' has also been used to refer to the illegal harvesting of wild plant species.

Sustainable development goal 15 ensures the sustainable use of all wildlife. It targets to take action on dealing with poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna so as to ensure they are available for present and future generations.

The use of firearms, any type of gun designed to be readily carried and used by an individual has been associated with poaching in many African countries

Stephen Corry, director of the human-rights group Survival International, has argued that the term "poaching" has at times been used to criminalise the traditional subsistence techniques of indigenous peoples and bar them from hunting on their ancestral lands, when these lands are declared wildlife-only zones. Corry argues that parks such as the Central Kalahari Game Reserve are managed for the benefit of foreign tourists and safari groups, at the expense of the livelihoods of tribal peoples such as the Kalahari bushmen.

In Tanzania, over 30,000 poachers, some heavily armed with military weapons, were arrested in the past five years

and the weapons confiscated. Dr Allan Kijazi, the conservation commissioner at the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) and Deputy Permanent Secretary said recently that about 33,386 poachers and 2,501 weapons including military-issue firearms were seized.

He was speaking when opening a training session for ministerial officials organised by the ministry in collaboration with PAMS Foundation, a solutions provider and forest monitoring NGO.

Various anti-poaching initiatives mounted during the period saw poaching activities drop by 70 per cent, he said.

The drop in poaching that was notorious in the 2007-2015 period followed intense operations conducted in conservation areas, by anti-poaching units in collaboration with other stakeholders.

He however warned unfaithful officials who engage in poaching, saying stern measures would be taken if proved to be involved in poaching.

"The government is well mobilised in its preparations and implementing a national strategic plan for the control of poaching, and setting up a wildlife and forest protection unit", he explained.

The US embassy in Dar es Salaam said recently in a statement that the country was a stakeholder in a five-year anti-poaching drive that significantly reduced poaching.

The project employed strategies such as involvement of the legislature, the judiciary, the private sector and the media, supporting various targeted initiatives such as interregional exchange programmes and training to fight poaching.

## On global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices

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

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

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

On a global scale, achieving gender equality also requires eliminating harmful practices against women and girls, including sex trafficking, femicide, wartime sexual violence, gender wage gap, and other oppression tactics.

UNFPA stated that, "despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely

than men to be poor and illiterate. They have less access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. They are far less likely than men to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence." [3]

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

The board of directors of the African Development Bank has approved a new Gender Strategy for 2021-2025: Investing in Africa's women to accelerate inclusive growth.

The five-year Gender Strategy will ensure the Bank fulfills its commitment to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across the full range of its operations and initiatives.

This is a significant milestone for the Bank as it will guide interventions in the next five years as the bank continue to increase efforts to achieve outcomes and maximum impact on building gender equality on the ground for women to thrive.

The strategy, approved on 11 December 2020, seeks to strengthen the Bank's commitment as a leader on the continent, to reach gender equality and women and girls' empowerment in Africa.

To bridge the existing gaps hindering women's contribution to development, the Bank is addressing obstacles to inclusive economic and social transformation for women across Africa.

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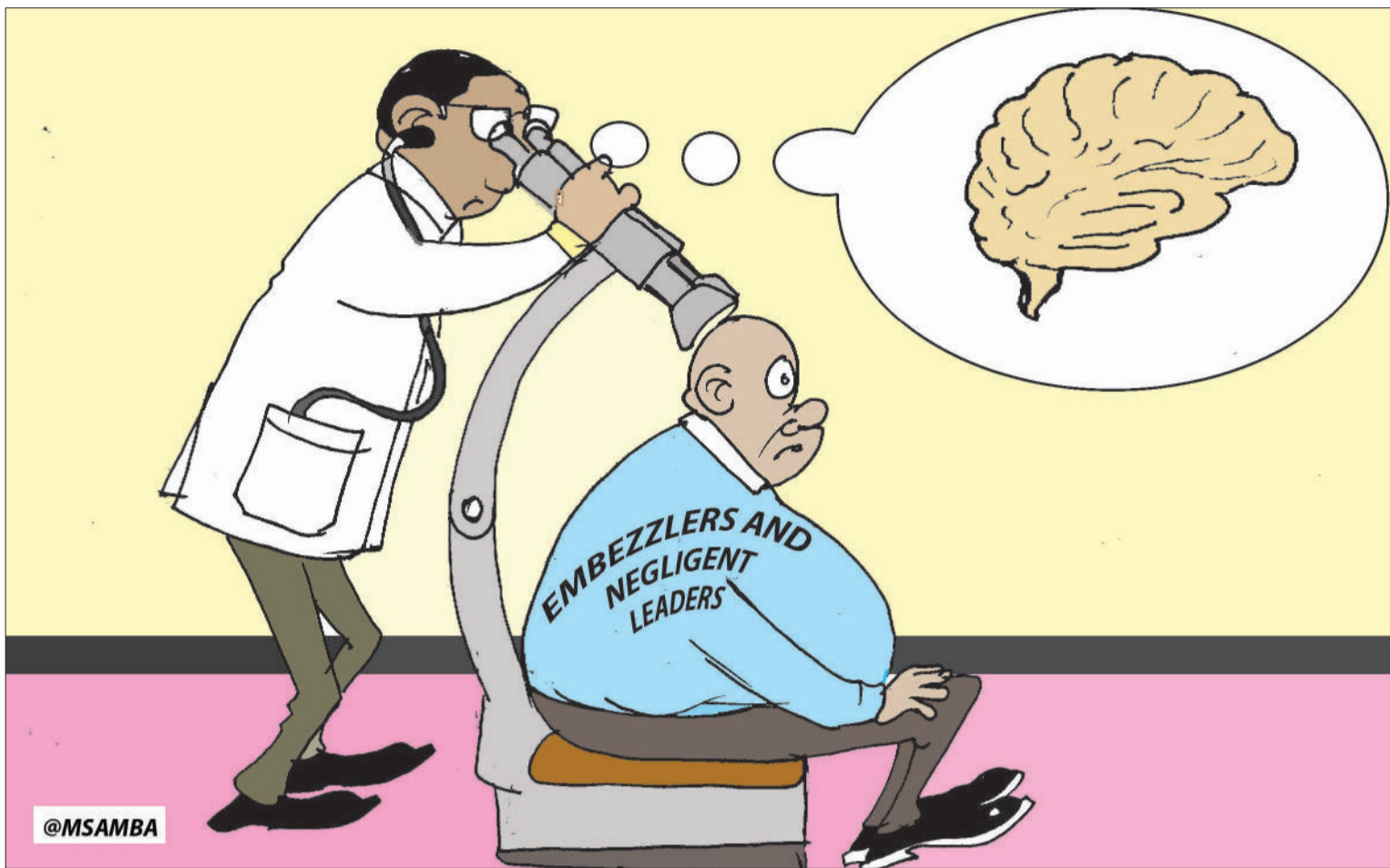
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## Impact of new media on Zimbabwean politics

By Livit Mugejo

RECENT events in the United States stimulated debate on cyber space.

Social media has taken the world by storm, and the recent developments in the US have raised debate on the impact of the phenomenon.

Following the recent attacks on US Capitol building by President Donald Trump's supporters, Twitter Inc, Facebook Inc, Google owned Alphabet Inc, Apple Inc, and Amazon.com Inc took strong actions against him and his supporters.

The decision by these tech companies to curtail Trump's right of freedom of speech and his ability to speak to his followers through mainstream social media raised pertinent questions regarding the tremendous power that these tech companies wield vis-à-vis governments and individuals.

If these tech companies can stifle such a powerful president's voice, what will they do to developing countries like Zimbabwe? Other questions that need urgent attention pertain to the code of conduct by those who use these social media platforms.

Are other users safe? How can these platforms be regulated?

What are the world's best practices to deal with the emerging new world phenomenon of social media?

How can Zimbabwe harness social media for its development? Zimbabwe's livelihood is interdependent on that of the world through trade, investments, tourism, exchange of technology and knowledge.

As a result, politics in Zimbabwe is evolving with the advent of new forms of media that use Internet technologies combined with the use of telephone, television and other media devices, which have opened new ways of political engagement.

It is important to point out from the beginning that the concept of new media is also constantly evolving.

And as the new media is adopted and used, particularly by young people, special attention is needed to ensure that political debate is not polarised, but responsible for the nation-building.

In 2020, social media played a very significant role in shaping the political debate in Zimbabwe.

The country witnessed a very vibrant and strong political engagement on social media, which also saw the emergence



of cyber bullies who were responsible for the perpetuation of the prevailing political polarisation in the country.

These are new issues in the modern world that need to be tackled to ensure that the cyber space is safe for everyone.

The Government needs to move with the times to ensure that new developments in communication remain valuable sources of information and not a jungle of nonsense.

Regulation should keep abreast with latest technology to ensure that the Internet serves as a way to communicate, entertain and not as a danger to people's privacy nor a source of indecent and obscene material.

The general sentiment is that the law in Zimbabwe does not adequately provide for or regulate the new ways of political engagement using the new forms of media.

In other words, the law in Zimbabwe is notoriously slow to change, partly because its development is usually in reaction to new challenges or changed circumstances.

In contrast to such slow pace, almost anything we do has become intimately connected to information creation, retrieval, processing or management.

More specifically, the information revolution has created and facilitated electronic politics: e-politics, whereby many people engage in political debates through the Internet.

As a result, the Internet has become both an effect and a cause of the new politics because of the powerful technological platforms and information changes that are shaping a new epoch of information society.

The important debate, therefore, should focus on how Zimbabwe's legal system should be responding to the increasing

use of computers and the Internet in socio-political and economic life.

Laws are urgently needed to regulate digital activities.

There is a need for cyber laws that cover such areas as digital intellectual property, e-commerce, privacy and data protection, freedom of expression and content regulation, cyber crime and even the electronic evidence and telecommunication infrastructure.

Laws are also needed to curtail the influence of tech companies so that they provide a level playing field.

The idea is that governments should be equal to the task so that they understand the dynamics, substantive and growing body of law and be able to improve, adapt, meaningfully apply the law and keep up with technological advancements.

Cyber-space has become an important area of law that cannot be ignored any more.

There is urgent need for governments, Zimbabwe included, to grasp the intricacies and complexities of information and communication technology to be able to develop appropriate laws.

When coming up with such laws as the recently debated Cyber Security Bill, the Government should be informed by the principals of digital jurisprudence that is usually implemented through interpreting the traditional sources of law such as common law. This should also be done taking into consideration future legislative developments and international best practices.

As a way forward, there is a need for legal development in Zimbabwe to stem legal uncertainties or loopholes in our e-politics, especially the social media.

Political cyber crime is not only

a problem for Zimbabwe, but it is a challenge that most jurisdictions in the world are facing.

Failure to address the problem will see many with ulterior motives taking advantage of such loopholes to abuse or bully others on cyber space.

In other words, new technology has come with increased cyber-crime with organised and technically skilled cyber criminals using advanced techniques.

The Government should pay close attention to the power wielded by tech companies and the political cyber-crimes committed by individuals, groups and/or nation states in furtherance of their political goals.

Many people are using concerted efforts to engage in nefarious cyber activities with the intention of advancing their political interests.

As a result, the country has witnessed increased disregard of facts on social media with political players only interested in advancing their political goals.

Zimbabwe should not continue to be seen as a safe haven for political cyber criminals to operate illegally with impunity.

There is, therefore, a need to develop a coherent strategy for digital governance, so that different and competing interests are managed in a consistent, transparent and accountable manner to ensure that those who wield enormous influence on digital space are held accountable for their actions. Both powerful tech companies and influential individuals should not be allowed to possess absolute power on cyber space.

*Livit Mugejo is a deputy director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade responsible for policy, research and communication. The views expressed here are personal.*



# It's time to rethink licensing rounds for Africa's oil, gas

By NJ Ayuk in Johannesburg

**I**N late 2019, as the African oil and gas industry was looking to the future with optimism, Offshore Engineer wrote that the continent was had reason to expect a "more productive 2020".

Instead, the unforeseen happened, and the Covid-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the oil and gas industry in Africa and around the world.

But even at the end of last year, during a fairly strong period for oil and gas, the publication mentioned that "delays and hiccups" were impacting licensing rounds - that is, the processes by which investors can seek oil and gas exploration licences from the government - and argued that improvements would have to be made going forward.

This is correct. Licensing process improvements were already needed in late 2019, and now that the oil and gas industry is in the survival mode, it's more urgent than ever to streamline licensing.

While the details vary by country, the licensing round process has, in general, become too prone to delays and uncertainty.

All too often, exploration and production (E&P) companies have to wait one or two years before the exploration projects they propose are sanctioned. These practices, which help protect the interests of oil-producing nations, made sense when crude sold for \$100 a barrel. But they don't make sense now.

After all, conditions are still uncertain. True, crude pricing forecasts for 2021 are cautiously optimistic at the moment, and Goldman Sachs has said Brent oil prices could reach \$65 per barrel by this summer, up from the \$50-range we're seeing now. But the outlook for Africa's petroleum market remains shaky at best.

And it's not just Africa: the global oil and gas industry continues to feel the negative impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, which dramatically lowered demand for petroleum products.

As a result, oil and gas companies have made dramatic cuts to their capital spending programmes, resulting in the postponement and cancellation of numerous E&P projects around the world.

Under these circumstances, it's up to African oil and gas producers to do everything possible to encourage as much E&P activity as possible, particularly by international oil companies (IOCs).

In the long term, of course, African producer states do need to lessen their reliance on oil and gas revenue. But for now, a number of them rely on it for much of their budgets. And as long as they do, they ought to ask for more.

These states should lobby for knowledge transfers, training, gas monetisation programmes, and other significant opportunities so that their strategically managed oil and gas operations can create pathways for economic growth and diversification.

I've made a case for the importance of strategic fiscal policies, from revised production sharing contract (PSC) requirements to reduced tax and royalty requirements.

Some of my friends in government have strongly criticised me for this and called me a sellout and a whiteboy. I disagree with them and I still love them, but resource nationalism is not the way to go and it is actually dangerous.

I truly believe that these changes are necessary to give IOCs an incentive to explore in Africa during the current downturn. But we can't stop there. We need to consider other pain points that discourage foreign operations in Africa and find ways to eliminate those challenges as well.

The licensing round process is one of those challenges. So why not remove this hurdle? Not all countries use licensing rounds; some use direct negotiation to approve exploration and production rights.

I believe that it's time for more African oil and gas-producing states to choose this route. Negotiating with trusted explorers would help them avoid unnecessary delays and bureaucratic red tape. Making these changes would still allow them to emphasize their own priorities - and it might also make IOCs more likely to keep exploring within their borders.

## Licensing rounds sound good in theory

Generally, during licensing rounds, companies submit bids or grants to issuing governments in hopes of being awarded an exploration licence - that is, the right to search for commercially feasible petroleum deposits. In the case of bids, the highest ones get a licence.

Grant approvals, by contrast, are based on prospective explorers' experience and capabilities. Licences are awarded for set periods of time and, if commercially viable amounts of oil or gas are discovered, the explorers can negotiate contracts with the government for the right to extract what they find.

The licensing round process does have benefits. For participating countries, it helps make sure that interested companies have the necessary financial resources and technical capacity to explore successfully. It ensures that projects are completed in a timely manner. It also helps E&P companies, since the process lays out their rights.

But again, even with their strengths, licensing rounds can create unacceptable hardships for oil companies: countries tend to take a long time to make their licensing decisions.

And when capex budgets have been slashed, waiting one year or even two years to learn if an exploration project has the green light just won't cut it.

In today's economic environment, it just isn't realistic to insist on putting much-needed resources aside on the chance that they'll be needed in a year or two.

And if we're going to be honest with ourselves, we have to admit that we're seeing more and more examples of licensing rounds gone wrong - from extended delays in getting the bidding process started to instances of little to no company participation.

## Disappointing licensing rounds

Consider Algeria, where oil and gas production rates were already declining in 2019, before the pandemic, largely because of repeated project delays caused by, among



other challenges, slow government approval. During four licensing rounds, the country saw minimal interest from investors.

Nigeria, too, is known for the less than speedy pace at which it sanctions exploration projects. Even before Covid-19, its slow movement on this front contributed to a decline in oil production over a ten-year period.

And in 2019, as I mentioned, there were licensing round mishaps in multiple countries. "Some rounds, for example, Ghana's First Licensing Round, have seen limited successes, while others have suffered delays or suspension," GlobalData Upstream Oil & Gas analyst Toya Latham told Offshore Magazine.

"Gabon's 12th Licensing Round and Somalia's First Offshore Licensing Round have been extended in 2020 (in part due to delays in enacting pivotal legislation), whilst Madagascar's long overdue licensing round has been suspended," Latham noted.

And we saw licensing rounds go wrong before that. In early 2018, for example, only one company responded to Cameroon's licensing round, in which eight blocks had been available. Think about it, just one and the bureaucrats still think all is right.

These issues haven't been limited to Africa, by the way. In 2017, only one bidder responded to an opportunity to explore five offshore blocks in Lebanon.

Brazil had a couple of licensing rounds fizzle in late 2019: the Transfer of Rights Surplus Round, which only brought in two bids, and the Sixth Production-Sharing Bid Round, which only attracted one bid.

## We must consider investors' perspectives

Fast forward to the oil and gas industry of 2021. In today's reality, delayed licensing round starts and long waits for decisions are more likely than ever to dim companies' interest.

These challenges aren't trivial, since operating in Africa already represents significant risks and expenses for IOCs. Companies must, for example, factor in the possibilities of security concerns and lapses in infrastructure along with the risks that come with every exploration project, including the failure to find commercially viable petroleum stores.

Then there are the additional expenses of operating overseas, complying with local content policies, supply costs, and a myriad of taxes and fees, among others.

I'll be the first to trumpet the opportunities for IOCs in Africa, from our vast stores of oil and gas to large swaths of unexplored territory. But we have to be realistic about how businesses work.

Companies need to be able to make a reasonable profit in order to justify their outlays. And when the oil and gas industry is in the midst of a downturn, as it is now, excessive risks and expenses are the last things IOCs can consider.

So we have to work with IOCs and do what we can to help them profit in order to convince them to choose African sites over other options.

## Direct negotiations could be a win-win

That's why I think a transition from licensing rounds to direct negotiations makes sense for African countries. For one thing, negotiation periods would not be tied to rigid opening and closing schedules as licensing rounds are, minimising the risk of unreasonably long waits for a decision.

Even better, direct negotiations would allow E&P companies to work with countries to discuss, and possibly adjust, the major terms of their production contracts.

With that kind of flexibility, companies with concerns about a country - whether they have questions about tax laws or local content requirements - might be willing to pursue exploration opportunities that they would have turned down, had they been required to participate in the bidding process.

## We can make this work

True, even with a different licensing scheme, African countries will have other unique risk factors to address - factors that could make IOCs hesitant to invest in Africa. High on that list are concerns about

corruption. That's why the African Energy Chamber pushes so strongly for meaningful transparency measures.

And, again, we can't overemphasize the importance of creating fiscal regimes more favourable to IOCs. Those measures should include, along with fairer tax and royalty requirements, the creation of natural gas-specific production sharing contracts rather than relying on crude oil PSCs (production sharing contractors) as a one-size-fits-all template.

A lot of countries have a difficult time working with companies to get to FID (Finance for International Development) on natural gas discoveries. Not only will gas PSCs help make it easier for companies to conduct profitable gas projects, they also could help prevent problems and lengthy negotiations when explorers find gas, rather than crude.

IOCs are, and can continue to be, invaluable allies to African nations. Their

E&P activities contribute revenue that many oil and gas-producing countries rely on now, but we also can work with them to foster economic growth and diversification for tomorrow.

African countries need IOCs to create job and business opportunities today, but we also can work with them to achieve capacity building and technological know-how that will pave the way for a better future.

It only makes sense to do everything possible to give explorers the certainty, predictability and incentives they need to be competitive in Africa.

**NJ Ayuk is Executive Chairman of the African Energy Chamber, CEO of Centurion Law Group, and the author of several books about the oil and gas industry in Africa, including Billions at Play: The Future of African Energy and Doing Deals.**

**African Energy Chamber**

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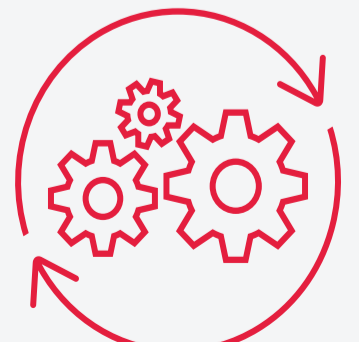
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# Libya nurtures fragile peace

By Peter Fabricius

**T**HE ceasefire has held since October, but will it hold until elections on 24 December?

Hopes for an end to the decade-long post-Muammar Gaddafi conflict are higher now than they have been for a long time. A ceasefire has held since October 2020 and an oil blockade has been lifted. The broadly representative Libyan Political Dialogue Forum has agreed to hold elections on 24 December 2021 and this week finalised the process for selecting a unified transitional government to lead the country until then.

But despite these positive signs, there are also many alarm bells. The ceasefire could be interpreted as the de jure reflection of a de facto military stalemate on the ground, but also shifting global dynamics among the external forces that have largely been calling the shots in the war.

The battle between the United Nations (UN)-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) of prime minister Fayez al-Sarraj in Tripoli and the Benghazi-based counter-government with General Khalifa Haftar heading its Libyan National Army (LNA) ceased mid-2020.

In April 2019 Haftar tossed aside tentative UN peace efforts by launching a major military offensive to capture Tripoli. He has at different times and to varying degrees been supported by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Russia, Saudi Arabia and France.

His LNA forces reached the suburbs of Tripoli late in 2019. Then Turkey - with financial support from Qatar - intervened massively with its military, including with considerable air power and proxy mercenary forces, to stop the LNA.

Tripoli then went on the offensive, taking Haftar positions in central Libya. The tide of war turned again when Egypt and Russia threatened a major counter-



Libya's general election has been scheduled for 24 December 2021 but there are deep concerns that the country's fragile ceasefire agreement will endure until then. File photo

offensive which stopped Tripoli and Turkey in their tracks.

The ensuing ceasefire signed by generals from both sides in October 2020 is so far holding. But it won't last forever if it's not fully implemented. Most important is the agreement to withdraw all foreign fighters - numbering as many as 20,000 - by the end of January.

"There are clear signs of non-compliance," says Silvia Colombo, a Libya specialist in the Mediterranean and Middle East programme of the International Affairs Institute in Rome. In December Turkey openly renewed its commitment to provide military support to the GNA government for another 18 months. Turkey seems to believe it is not bound by the agreement as it was invited into the country by the legitimate Libyan government.

But Colombo suggests that Ankara's real reason is that it hasn't yet harvested the fruits of

its considerable investment in Libya, not least its acquisition of gas interests offshore. In an apparent response to Turkey, Russia and the UAE seem to be reinforcing Haftar airbases in central Libya at Jufra and Qurdabiya. Colombo believes however that shifting regional and global power dynamics are already impacting the conflict and will probably continue to do so - in a favourable direction.

For Turkey and Qatar on the one side and Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt on the other, Libya has been to a large degree a proxy for their wider tensions in the Middle East. Recently these have been easing as the antagonists seek rapprochement.

Egypt, Colombo adds, is also rethinking its support for Haftar because he has not delivered for Cairo. And all the belligerents, she believes, are wary of the likely disapproval of the new Joe Biden administration that took office this week.

Egypt is reaching out to the GNA - though Colombo thinks Cairo is also trying to exploit growing fissures within the Tripoli government as internal rivals flex their muscles against al-Sarraj. He is losing power and influence, in part because he will be omitted from the transitional government under the agreement. Al-Sarraj has caused alarm by taking direct command of the presidential guard, suggesting to some that he intends to defy the political agreement if necessary.

All this is a useful reminder that Libya is not primarily a proxy war among outside players, although they have magnified it. Even if they all eventually agreed to strike their tents and leave, the underlying drivers of conflict would remain.

And here the problem of the militias and their political allies looms large. Under the peace agreements, they are supposed to disband and be absorbed into the formal defence force. But

that hasn't happened so far, and Colombo doesn't see it happening soon, if at all.

"The political agreement inevitably means a loss of power for the militias," she observes, noting too that they have a symbiotic, win-win relationship with the different political factions to which they are attached, including the rivals inside the GNA.

Stephanie Williams, the acting and now outgoing UN special envoy, told the Guardian this week that this political class of 'dinosaurs' - which straddles the east-west conflict - had a strong interest in maintaining the status quo. They benefited from it materially and would oppose the transition and the elections, which she said emanated from the more broadly representative Libyan Political Dialogue Forum.

Attempts to frustrate such kleptocracy have manifested in the failure so far to release the frozen account in the Central Bank into which the revenues from the unblockaded oil wells are flowing. This in a country with dire financial needs, aggravated by a runaway Covid-19 pandemic.

The peace agreements stemmed from the Berlin international conference that German Chancellor Angela Merkel and the UN special envoy Ghassan Salamé convened a year ago this week. Salamé resigned from the job in frustration in March and his deputy, Williams, took over. She then did much of the heavy lifting to advance the negotiations to the point they have now reached. Yet she is now being replaced by a new permanent special envoy, former Slovak foreign minister Ján Kubiš.

Kubiš may yet earn his spurs. But it seems a rather bad time to be replacing a key architect of Libya's best shot at peace in a long while when that peace still remains so fragile.

DM

# China's exports see rapid return to steady growth

By Fang Min,

**C**HINA'S exports rose 21.1 percent year on year in November 2020, according to data released by the country's General Administration of Customs, which also showed that China's total value of foreign trade in goods exceeded 29 trillion yuan (about \$4.48 trillion) in the first 11 months of 2020, up 1.8 percent from the same period of 2019.

In fact, China has successfully reversed the downward trend in foreign trade in goods and secured better-than-expected performance since last September, with the gross value of imports and exports of goods enjoying positive growth for three months in a row from September to November last year.

In Taizhou, east China's Zhejiang province, small and medium-sized foreign trade firms (those with a total export value of less than 100 million yuan), achieved a total export value of 8.99 billion yuan and a 49.6-percent growth last November, shattering records of both gross value and growth rate of exports in 2020, said recent statistics from Taizhou customs authority.

After experiencing a 20.3-percent sharp drop in the first quarter last year, small and medium-sized foreign trade companies in Taizhou rallied slightly in the second quarter with a 0.6-percent growth and recovered steadily in the third quarter, when the growth rate reached 1.9 percent.

"We have received overseas orders for products to be delivered in March and April, and phone calls from foreign clients have still kept com-

ing these days. We are really busy," said Xie Yong, a foreign trade dealer who sells products of Taizhou Zhengli Electric Motor Co., Ltd.

While people across the country were enjoying New Year celebrations, Xie was working the whole time during the 2021 New Year holiday. He has seen first-hand that China's export sector has been returning fast to stable growth.

Xie is not the only foreign trade dealer busy handling rising overseas orders in Taizhou.

Dai Hongjun, an automobile shock absorber agent in Sanmen county of Taizhou, told People's Daily that foreign trade firms in Sanmen county have seen an increase in overseas orders since July 2020.

"We have basically maintained a 50-percent growth in the number of overseas orders on a monthly basis since last August. So far, our products to be produced in the next few months have all been booked," Dai said.

According to Dai, his company has distributors in more than 100 countries and regions around the world.

In order to help overseas customers get timely information about their orders, the company has opened 24-hour service hotline, Dai added.

The growth in foreign trade at the end of the year 2020 has offset the loss in the beginning of the year, said many distributors in Taizhou, noting that their annual sales performance in 2020 was basically at the same level as that in the previous years.

They attributed the rapid



Photo taken on Dec. 11, 2020, shows workers busy assembling and adjusting smart sanitary products in the workshop of a company in Taizhou, east China's Zhejiang province. (File Photo)

recovery of their business mainly to the effective measures taken nationwide to control the COVID-19 and promote fast resumption of work and production.

Li Yifang, a distributor in Taizhou, has realized the change in the way people hold business negotiations in the past more than half a year.

Li used to take flights to meet his clients all over the world to discuss details of agreements, while he has

now moved his business talks online.

"Online meeting is efficient and convenient, and it doesn't mean the negotiators are less sincere than in face-to-face talks," Li said.

Li has benefited a lot from the model of "Internet plus foreign trade" introduced in Taizhou. The city has been making efforts to reduce the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on various links of foreign trade, and expand mar-

ket and increase orders for foreign trade firms through ways including holding online exhibitions, meetings, and matchmaking events.

Last year, Taizhou held a total of 47 online exhibitions, and built a special platform for online exhibitions. Gathering more than 600 companies so far, the platform is aimed at serving as a comprehensive exhibition platform that features functions including brand promotion,

sale and purchase of global products, and online negotiation. In addition to adopting new business forms and models, Taizhou has also established a dedicated coordination mechanism and a special working group for exports to ensure overall planning for various affairs concerning exports.

Local authorities in the city have also rolled out multiple measures recently to boost the development of foreign

trade by smoothening sales channels, optimizing customs clearance procedures, and improving communications and credit insurance services.

Since various problems hindering distribution of exports have been resolved, goods can be exported successfully from Taizhou, which has effectively facilitated the recent rebound in foreign trade, said many business owners and distributors in the city.

People's Daily

# Renewable energy crucial for Africa's post-COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

RENEWABLE energy will be a critical driver of Africa's post-COVID-19 growth recovery and economic prosperity, panelists at the 2021 UK Africa Investment Summit have said.

They also called for a stronger partnership between the United Kingdom and Africa.

The panel, themed UK & Africa: Partnering in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure Development, covered discussion of British innovation and experience in the context

of partnering with Africa to advance its economic development. Panel members said investment in large-scale electrification projects would be key.

Louis Taylor, CEO, UK Export Finance said: "African countries are building back better from the coronavirus; this presents an unalloyed opportunity for UK investors to be part of the African success story and for African countries to access the UK's support for projects."

"The UK is still the ultimate one-stop-shop. The UK government is still the largest G7 investor in Afri-

ca. For instance, UK Export Finance is providing a £1.7 billion guarantee to support the development of Cairo monorail in Egypt - the UK's biggest ever overseas infrastructure guarantee," Taylor added.

The Bank's Director for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation, Wale Shonibare said: "Building on the City of London's deep expertise in innovative financial solutions, the African Development Bank sees promising opportunities to further expand its program to securitize receipts from solar home systems provid-

ers." Shonibare called for a structured approach to sustainable infrastructure development and the implementation of large-scale electrification programs, citing the Bank's Desert to Power initiative as an example of a project likely to attract interest from UK businesses.

Nicholas Oliver, Business Development Director of UK-based NMS Infrastructure Ltd, urged investors to engage more actively with local companies: "We need to create partnerships with governments and local busi-

nesses. It is a great time to invest in Africa. The African Development Bank estimates that climate change presents a \$3 trillion investment by 2030. What an opportunity," he said.

Olusola Lawson, Co-Managing Director of African Infrastructure Investment Managers, an infrastructure investment management firm, noted the urgent need for access to energy in centers of high demand.

"In Africa, you can't have transition without electrification. In this context, what we see is the trend from centralized large-scale power plants

to a more distributive system."

According to International Energy Agency data, scaling up Africa's capacity to achieve universal access to energy by 2030 would require over \$100 billion per year, of which 40% would be dedicated to solar, wind, and other low-carbon power generation projects.

The African Development Bank has taken the lead in accelerating the electrification of the continent through its New Deal on Energy for Africa, a transformative partnership-based strategy that aims to increase access to energy

for all Africans.

The UK Africa Investment Conference, hosted by the UK Department for International Trade, brings together the UK and African businesses to explore the opportunities for partnership and investment.

The UK has been a strong partner to the African Development Bank in the institution's drive to attract greater private sector participation in African infrastructure investment. The Bank is currently working with a number of UK institutions to improve the enabling environment for infrastructure development in Africa.

## Africa's mobile cash fraud losses set to peak in 2021

By Nixon Kanali

AFRICA'S mobile fraud losses will continue to rise above last year's \$4 billion to peak at a record \$5 billion by the end of 2021 if nothing is done to prevent global cybercriminals from looting the continent's wealth in a new, virtual 'scramble for Africa'.

This is according to Paris-based anti-fraud campaigner David Lotfi, CEO of Evina.

"In Africa, we have the perfect storm of a youthful population using almost a billion mobile money accounts coupled with the Coronavirus-related one-third increase in Internet traffic," Lotfi says.

Professional cybercriminals from around the world are costing the world's least developed continent billions every year that could be spent on infrastructure and social services. Lotfi explains that mobile payment is being impacted by two primary forms of mobile fraud.

"Today clickjacking and malicious app are the two most common forms of mobile fraud. Through the clickjacking technique, a fraudster intercepts a legitimate click and unknowingly directs the user to a website where sensitive financial and other details can be stolen. Malicious apps are trickier, these apps have been injected with malware during a disguised app update or right from the start when the user unwittingly downloads the app from the app store, with the same purpose of defrauding the user," Lotfi explains. Evina claims that in the Middle Eastern and African regions the fraud rate

is at 27 percent and of these fraudulent attacks, 60 percent are clickjacking and 19 percent are malicious apps.

While embedding malware in malicious apps can be a more refined fraudulent technique, clickjacking is a very basic type of fraud that has been around for at least five years and mostly eradicated in large parts of the mobile world. "It's easy to combat and there really is no excuse for the fact that one in three mobile subscriptions in South Africa, for example, is fraudulent. Evina has repeatedly communicated the fact that the fraudsters who continue to loot Africa's wealth can be beaten with the right tools that we already use to protect millions of mobile transactions worldwide every day," Lotfi says.

Evina is now protecting up to 90 percent of mobile transaction activities in Ivory Coast, Morocco and Senegal. Evina also secures traffic in African countries such as Mali, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Botswana, Angola and all countries in the Middle East including Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya.

In Africa, Evina DCB protect was short-listed for AfricaCom's Most Innovative Product or Service Award which recognizes a game-changing innovation that's provided a market with new opportunities for revenue growth or customer satisfaction.

It is this Evina flagship offering that can help African mobile carriers, mobile aggregators, mobile advertisers and others recover the over billions lost annually to digital monetization fraud.



In addition to this, Evina was awarded as Best Anti-Fraud Solution on a global scale at the Global Carrier Billing Summit, alongside industry clients and partners, for its effort in protecting companies worldwide and expanding the boundaries of mobile payment.

"Africa is a strategic region of huge importance to Evina and the greater mobile industry because this is where strong double-digit growth is coming from. We cannot allow mobile fraudsters to gain a beachhead on this pivotal continent key to the future fortunes of so many telcos, aggregators and digital merchants," says Lotfi.

Worldwide, telcos trust Evina to safeguard their business interests as well as their end users from mobile fraud that has the potential to gen-

erate tens of thousands of malicious transactions per month. The company today secures over sixteen million daily transactions across 60 world markets by preventing malicious mobile apps from making payments.

"Evina has already taken on mobile fraudsters in other markets and contributed to a dramatic drop in fraud in those markets. African firms need to act now if they want to ensure the future of the continent's entire mobile content and applications market," concludes Lotfi.

## Zimbabwe farmers benefit from global garlic exports

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN garlic farmers have been urged to increase exports riding on the growth of the global market, which has expanded to \$2.48bn from \$500m in the past two decades, according to ZimTrade.

The national trade development and promotion organisation said the number of local smallholder farmers with the potential to export has grown exponentially over the past few years. "Currently the interest generated by smallholder farmers, regardless of land size, is an indication that they have the potential to contribute more to national exports.

"What is now crucial is identifying crops that are relatively high value and can be produced by smallholder farmers on a commercial scale. Garlic is one of these," said ZimTrade in a statement.

Garlic is easy to grow and can be produced in most parts of the country.

It is less complicated in terms of crop management, compared with other high-value crops, ZimTrade advised. Capacity development will need to be considered as the horticulture sector is one of the priority areas identified by the National Export Strategy, launched by President Emmerson Mnangagwa in 2019.

Given the growing global demand for healthy food to combat the Covid-19 pandemic and chronic diseases, local farmers should take advantage of this, ZimTrade added.

Local farmers will find penetrating regional markets easy, considering that Zimbabwean climate conditions are favourable for agricultural produce that is considered to have more quality com-

pared to competitors.

"Apart from exporting garlic as raw bulbs, there are opportunities to add value and manufacture products such as garlic powder, to mix it with salt to produce garlic salt, or to manufacture garlic oil, which some of our small to medium enterprises (SMEs) are exporting to Botswana."

Pickled garlic, garlic sauce, garlic vinegar, and garlic insecticides are other value-added products that local farmers can consider.

According to Trade Map, last year the top importers of garlic were Indonesia (\$530m), Brazil (\$225 million), United States (\$200m), Malaysia (\$119m), Russian Federation (\$76m), Bangladesh (\$75m), and Germany (\$70m).

The United Kingdom imported garlic worth \$61 million, Pakistan worth \$58m, Italy \$55m, France \$55m, United Arab Emirates \$52m, Saudi Arabia \$52m, and the Netherlands worth \$51m.

Total global imports of garlic grew by \$367m in 2019, from \$2.1bn recorded the previous year. In 2019, total quantities imported around the world stood at two million ton.

"For Zimbabwe, figures available on Trade Map indicated that exports of garlic have been insignificant over the past few years, despite the potential to supply and dominate in regional and international markets," said ZimTrade.

From the top importers, local farmers have a shot at markets already taking Zimbabwean produce, which could provide a springboard for exporting garlic. Such markets include Indonesia, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United Arab Emirates.



# South Africa at a crossroads: A liberal perspective on how to break the mould

By Ghaleb Cachalia

As the country stands at a political and economic crossroads, an understanding of the post-World War 2 history of liberalism, and of the kinds of alliances that are possible, is essential to understanding the trajectory of liberal opposition to the ANC.

Apart from those with a vested interest in the ANC - ideological, pecuniary or a twisted mixture of both - many South Africans accept that the post-1994 history, contribution and failure of the ANC has delivered a mixed dispensation that is en route to a failed state - close to bankruptcy, mired in systemic corruption and mismanagement and rooted in a racial polity that is as divisive as it is destructive.

But a significant majority paradoxically continues to vote for the ANC, despite the failure to deliver basic services, run efficient municipalities, roll out sound education and proper healthcare and build a unified nation that seeks to overcome the spatial and other iniquitous legacies of apartheid.

As Peter Brown, a founding member of the Liberal Party in 1953, said in a 1999 interview and was quoted by Michael Cardo in his article: "There may come a time when the ANC starts to disintegrate or to produce factions... and... perhaps as the economy improves and so on... there will be an opportunity to form a fully nonracial Liberal Party again. Something which will absorb the DP [now the DA] and elements from other political organisations." A most prescient prophecy, as it turns out, as we witness a party riven by factions and unable to provide cogent leadership when the country is at a crossroads.

Display Adverts

Still, a version of the status quo continues to haunt, spectre-like, as people continue to vote for the ruling party. How does one break this mould to allow a qualitatively different government to emerge?

Impact of World War 2

To answer this it is necessary to look at history to understand the contributions made to the delivery of freedom and the democratic dispensation of 1994 and how they can be harnessed to deliver something new. World War 2 provides a suitable point of departure, when South Africans of all colours united in a common desire to fight the global challenge to freedom that the Nazis and their fascist and totalitarian Axis allies presented.

They fought and served together on distant shores, built bonds and rejoiced collectively in the defeat of the German Third Reich and its global allies. They returned home, having rubbed shoulders with communists, socialists and other working people who were conscripted into the fight against the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. As Richard Steyn points out in his book, *Seven Votes: How WWII Changed South Africa Forever* (2020): "World War 2 upended South African politics, ruining attempts to forge white unity and galvanising opposition to segregation among African, Indian and coloured communities. It also sparked debates among nationalists, socialists, liberals and communists such as the country had never experienced."

But, as historian CW de Kiewiet explained to a Canadian audience in the 1950s, "it is the bitter paradox of modern South African history that the war which united the country politically, divided it racially".

The servicemen and women returned to a country that was experiencing an "unexpected reformist phase during which the influence of the manufacturing and commercial sectors and of the liberal intelligentsia temporarily eclipsed the former ruling alliance in which various combinations of conservative capital and white labour were dominant". (Lipton, M, *Capitalism and Apartheid*, 1985).

This scenario provided fertile ground for the struggle of the Youth League of the Congress movement, developing unions and others to harness the source of mass support



which the Congress had neglected to exploit. Out of this was born a racially assertive nationalism that placed its emphasis on indigenous leadership and national self-determination.

As Tom Lodge writes in *Black Politics in South Africa since 1945*, "in 1948, to the surprise of the incumbent administration, the Nationalists were voted into power. But by then even the most conservative African politicians had little faith in the capacity of any white administration for conceding more than token reforms... The Africanist emphasis on confrontation accorded well with the political climate of the decade."

As Lodge points out, by then already and in contrast to the early Youth League, the Communist Party had called for the application of the Atlantic Charter to all parts of the British Empire and went on to outline a bill of rights including the abolition of all political discrimination based on race and the extension to all adults of voting rights, freedom of residence and movement, equal rights in the spheres of property and occupation, equal pay for equal work, free and compulsory education, equal state assistance to African farmers and the universal extension of a variety of welfare services and social security measures.

This led to a willingness by AB Xuma, president-general of the ANC, "to form alliances with both the Communist Party (with which he was in considerable tactical agreement) and in 1947 (possibly with an eye on the international gallery) the Indian Congresses in their campaign of passive resistance against the Asiatic Land Tenure and Representation Act".

In 1949, with the support of Youth League leaders, notably Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, who had been influenced and persuaded by senior members of the Indian Congress and the Communist Party, the ANC leadership changed hands and James Moroka was elected president. Sisulu was elected secretary-general and the communists were represented by Moses Kotane and JB Marks. By 1950 "the South African revolutionary left was to devote its energy to influencing the course of the nationalist movement".

1948 and the liberal challenge to apartheid

Within the realm of the white political milieu, the post-war 1948 election marked the exclusion of the economically dominant English from political power. In his victory speech, Prime Minister DF Malan declared: "Today South Africa belongs to us once more. For the first time since Union, South Africa is our own, and may God grant that it will always remain our own."

The United Party (UP) was in opposition, but as Lipton writes, "the UP's ineffectual opposition, geared to white electoral politics, with its in-built advantage for conservatives, alienated it from blacks and dismayed its liberal supporters, who sought more effective extra-parliamentary opposition, using their press and churches and other institutions and establishing new organisations such as the Black Sash and the Torch Commando".

But as Richard Steyn points out: "Supported by the new leader of the opposition, Advocate JGN Straus, the 'Torch', the Labour Party and the United Party temporarily joined forces to form a United Democratic Front (UDF) to contest the 1953 general election. Unfortunately for apartheid's opponents, a combination of the Malan regime's fury, the application of anti-communist measures, the fear of job losses in the public service and armed forces, as well as dissent within the ranks of the UP over the involvement of coloured ex-servicemen, prevented the UDF from making any impact on the 1953 election, and enthusiasm for the 'Torch' petered out. Yet the Torch Commando had brought home to the Nationalists the

fact that the thousands who fought fascism in WW2 had not lost their determination to stand up for freedom and civil liberties in post-war South Africa."

As David Everatt argues in *The Origins of Non-Racialism: White opposition to apartheid in the 1950s* (2009): "In the years between 1950 and 1953 the differences between liberal and radical whites took organisational shape. White opposition to the National Party (NP) rose to a level that would never be seen again, with tens of thousands of whites joining night-time marches organised by the Torch Commando. Bearing torches and symbolic coffins and using anti-fascist/anti-Nazi slogans, they opposed the removal of coloured (and some Indian) voters from the electoral roll. A scattering of whites also joined the Defiance Campaign, a passive resistance campaign organised by the Congress Alliance to highlight the increasingly repressive apartheid laws."

In 1953, after the election following the 1948 ballot, Alan Paton and Margaret Ballinger formed the multiracial Liberal Party of South Africa, but made little impact on the white electorate. It was launched on 9 May 1953. Led by Ballinger, with Donald Molteno, Leo Marquard and Paton in senior positions, the party seemed to mark the culmination of the liberal activism of the 1940s and early 1950s, harking back to the Cape liberal tradition.

As Everatt says: "By 1956 the Liberal Party had a new leadership and articulated a vision of change based on mass nonviolent pressure in which it would play a part alongside the congresses. This replaced the earlier notion that by offering a living example of racial co-operation and 'by argument, much organisation, and ceaseless constitutional action', the party would emerge as the only rational vehicle for evolutionary change. While changes in the party were influenced to a degree by Congress' criticism, they resulted largely from an internal critique and overhaul of liberalism initiated by party progressives and intellectuals in 1953."

In June 1955, about 3,000 delegates attended the Congress of the People (CoP) in Kliptown, Johannesburg, and endorsed the Freedom Charter, a statement of principle distilled from demands submitted by people across South Africa during a 16-month campaign sponsored by the Congress Alliance. Nothing in the history of the liberatory movement in South Africa quite caught the popular imagination as this did, not even the Defiance Campaign. Even remote rural areas were aware of the significance of what was going on.

Against this background and following the 1958 election, the Progressives broke away from the United Party, but in the 1961 election only one of their 12 MPs, Helen Suzman, was re-elected to Parliament.

This breakaway and long, lone and principled battle in Parliament by Suzman, representing a succession of liberal and centre-left opposition parties during her 36-year tenure in the whites-only, National Party-controlled House of Assembly at the height of apartheid, laid the foundation of successive parties - the Progressive Party, the Progressive Reform Party, the Progressive Federal Party, the Democratic Party and the Democratic Alliance, representing a contribution that is neatly and disingenuously whitewashed by the ANC.

The Democratic Party (DP), successor to the Progressive Party, was established in April 1989 as a liberal, centrist party. It was formed as an amalgamation of four liberal political groupings, the most important of which was the recently disbanded Progressive Federal Party (PFP), led by Zach de Beer. The coalition also included the Independent Party (IP), led

by Denis Worrall; the National Democratic Movement (NDM), led by Wynand Malan; and a group of reform-minded Afrikaners dubbed the "fourth force". The DP then became the primary left-of-centre parliamentary opposition to the NP. It won 20% of white support in the 1989 general election, giving it 33 parliamentary seats.

The DP advocated the abolition of apartheid and the creation of a nonracial social democratic state through the protection of human rights, a government based on proportional party representation and universal suffrage, an independent judiciary, collective bargaining in industrial relations and economic growth through individual entrepreneurship.

Ironically, the NP adopted some of the DP's notions about reforming the apartheid state in 1989 and 1990, thus depriving the DP of some of its political base. A few DP leaders advocated an alliance with the ANC; others favoured joining the NP; and the embattled centre - led by the party's leader, De Beer - sought to develop a distinctive, liberal, centrist image that would serve to mediate between the ANC and the NP.

At the same time the DP sought, without much success, to expand its support among all racial groups. These inroads were achieved when the DP reached a merger agreement with the NNP and the much smaller Federal Alliance (FA) in 2000. Together they formed the Democratic Alliance (DA). The merger was ultimately aborted, with both the NNP and FA leaving the DA. Many former NNP members remained, however, and the new name was kept. The DP was disbanded after the 2003 floor-crossing period, establishing the DA at all levels of government.

Its history and legacy reaches back into the liberal tradition of South Africa. As Michael Cardo points out: "The Progressive Party only reopened its membership to blacks, in defiance of the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, in 1984. While the Liberals advocated universal suffrage from 1960, the Progressives continued to support a qualified franchise until 1978. Where the Progressives rigidly adhered to 'constitutional' means of protest, the Liberals advocated boycotts and sit-ins. And, as the Progressives focused on civil rights, the Liberals campaigned for socio-economic rights, proposing various forms of regulation and redistribution to deracialise the economy. Compared with the Liberal Party, the Progressives' brand of liberalism in the 1960s was hidebound."

"While the Liberals actively worked for the common society through extra-parliamentary campaigns against sham 'self-rule' in the Transkei and 'black spot' removals in Natal, for example, the Progressives focused on the Sisyphean task of converting the white electorate to non-racialism through the ballot box. This is not to undermine the Progressives. They achieved something the Liberals did not: they bequeathed an enduring and sustainable institutional legacy for liberalism, through a political party which still exists today. "In his memoirs, Tony Leon observes that the history of the Progressive Party is not that of a 'pristine political priesthood', but of a political party that had to make 'pragmatic ideological compromises in order to stay competitive and relevant.'"

Cardo goes on: "The biggest challenge for liberals in our plural and unequal society is to find ways of accommodating diversity and addressing poverty while gaining the momentum of political support. This task requires liberals to meet majority aspirations and quell minority fears, which seem at odds with one another, but which needs to be done if the liberal project is to succeed." The trajectories of the parties and movements in opposition to apartheid often followed parallel paths - with some differences - for the following 30 years, differentiated by nuanced political and philosophical departures and race-

based access to the legislature. There were moments of cooperation - conveniently ignored by the ANC - whose own history is littered with skeletons and contradictions.

The collective opposition to the status quo, however - including by the Progressive Party, PAC, Unity Movement, IFP, Indian Congresses, Communist Party and the UDF (of the 1980s) - was never substantially in question until 1994 when a new dispensation was being forged and the various parties began to contest for a share of the votes that would provide them with the wherewithal to govern and stamp their *weltanschauung* on society.

1994 - Achievements and failures

The ANC's election victory in 1994 and successive hegemony for more than a quarter of a century has delivered a mixed bag of achievements. As the Institute of Race Relations' Frans Cronjé pointed out in 2016, the ANC's years in government have coincided with considerable improvements in the living conditions of South Africans. Between 1994 and 2015 the number of families in a formal house increased from 5.8 million to 12.3 million.

Cronjé goes on to detail how, on average, almost 1,000 families a day moved into a formal house since the ANC came to power. For every new shack erected after 1994, almost 10 formal houses were built. The number of households with access to electricity increased from 5.2 million to 14.1 million. Households with clean water rose from 7.2 million to 14 million.

He points out that the ANC was initially on track to stage a remarkable economic recovery from the wreckage it inherited from the last white government. Under ANC leadership, the prime lending rate fell from a peak of 21.8% in 1998 to 8.8% in 2012. The budget deficit, which averaged more than 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) between 1992 and 1994, was reduced to an average of below 2% between 1998 and 2008.

"For two years budget surpluses were recorded. Perhaps the party's most remarkable achievement was reducing total government debt from 48.3% of GDP in 1994 to a low of 26% in 2008, which freed up the money to fund South Africa's social development programmes.

"GDP growth recovered from negative levels between 1989 and 1993 to average more than 3% for much of the past 20 years, and more than 5% between 2004 and 2007."

Cronjé said that "much was achieved to improve a range of socioeconomic benchmarks beyond simple living conditions or 'service delivery' measures. For example, the number of people with jobs almost doubled, from 7.9 million in 1994 to 15.7 million in 2015. Data from Stats-SA put the proportion of 'managers' in the economy in 2015 who happened to be black at 56.2%."

"The number of black students at university increased from 333,905 in 1995 to 804,324 in 2014, an increase of 141%. The proportion of children under the age of five who were severely malnourished fell from 13.1% in 2000 to 4.5% in 2014. The murder rate fell from 67 per 100,000 people in 1994 to 33 per 100,000 in 2015."

But today, despite being the only liberation movement on the African continent to win power in a country as industrialised and economically and technologically advanced as South Africa was in 1994, life expectancy is lower than in war-ravaged Afghanistan in an environment where the state has witnessed capture by private interests alongside colossal mismanagement.

South Africa also remains the world's most unequal country, 26 years after the end of the apartheid system. According to the World Bank, on the scale of 0 to 100, with 0 representing total equality, South Africa scores 63. Extraordinary poverty levels persist with unemployment rates of nearly 60% among young people.

## CENSURE

# UK criticised for poaching health personnel from foreign nations

CAPE TOWN

TWO doctors have written a scathing letter in the South African Medical Journal, criticising the United Kingdom for hiring a disproportionate number of health workers from foreign countries.

Professor Johannes Fagan from the University of Cape Town and Professor Mahmood Bhutta from the Royal Sussex County Hospital wrote: "The UK already has one of the highest proportions and overall numbers of overseas-qualified doctors in its workforce, yet continues to actively encourage and support overseas

health workers to relocate.

Current UK immigration rules recognise all medical practitioners (as well as nurses, paramedics, radiographers, occupational therapists, and speech and language therapists) as shortage occupations, and for migrants offered such a post in the National Health Service (NHS) grant a reduced visa fee and support with relocation."

They point out that a recent report by the UK's General Medical Council (GMC) "suggested that 'overall numbers will need to rise further'". The GMC report stated that the UK will require "a continuation of the large

number of doctors from overseas joining our workforce."

This position, Fagan and Bhutta, wrote "seems insensitive to the well-documented and morally questionable problem of 'brain drain'."

The authors criticise the years-long practice of the UK government's active recruitment of health workers from overseas to fill in the gaps in the British health system.

Overseas qualified

They point out that in 2019 nearly 35% of doctors licensed to practice in the UK had obtained their qualifications overseas. Statistics on the UK's National Health Service (NHS) show that over 170,000 of the 1.28 million staff

are from other countries, nearly 14%. About 67,000 are from other European (EU) countries and a further 64,000 are from Asia.

About 1,719 are from South Africa, 806 from Kenya, 4,192 from Zimbabwe and 8,241 from Nigeria.

The House of Commons reports that the proportion of non-EU nurses at the NHS rose from 8% in 2015 to 22% between 2019 and 2020. (Since nationality is self-reported, it's possible that these numbers are overstated by some people describing their cultural heritage instead of country of birth.)

Fagan and Bhutta refer to a 2006 World Health Organisation report which found that at least 25% of doc-

tors in sub-Saharan Africa had migrated despite only 5% of the population having access to adequate healthcare. They also refer to an article that found that migration of physicians from low to high income environments does not only have economic effects; it is also associated with "excess mortality."

## Migration vs recruiting

Professor Fagan told GroundUp there is a distinction between migration and recruiting. "I have no problem with migrating but I do have a problem with countries recruiting and I think that's where I draw the line. I understand there are doctors and nurses in this country who want to seek greener pastures elsewhere because things are often difficult here. I do have a problem with an active recruitment process that is happening in the UK."

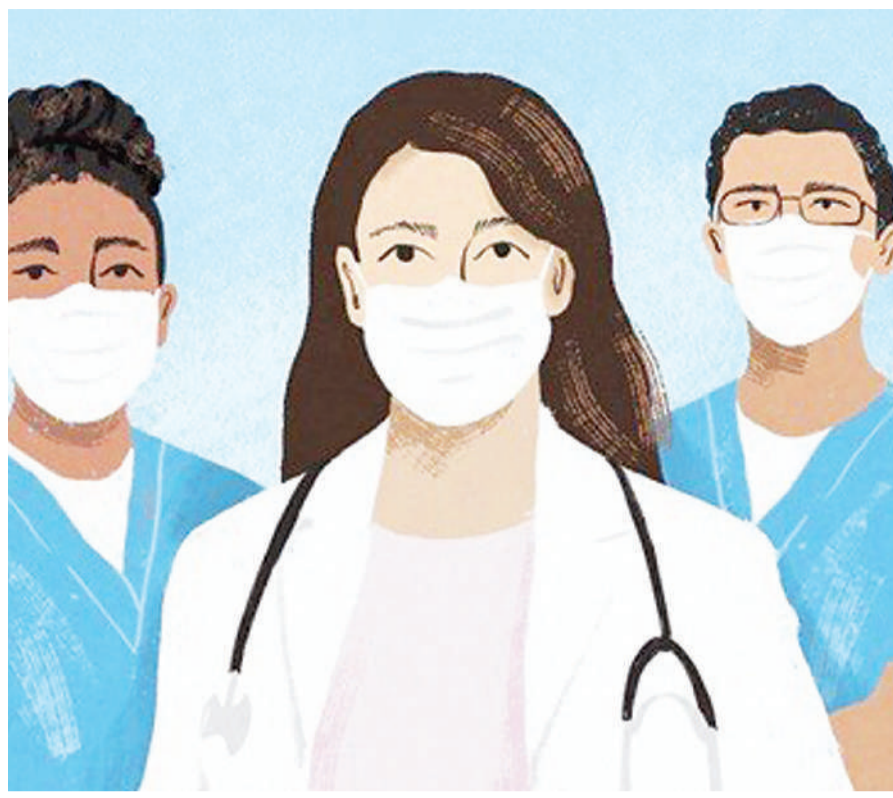
Fagan added: "There are things we can do to make it more attractive for people to stay. I am also interested to know if the South African government has approached the UK and said 'Hold on, stop recruiting our doctors and nurses'."

We have an agreement with other SADC countries not to recruit doctors from there, with the whole idea of not doing what the UK is doing. So the question is whether or not we have picked up the same agreement with the UK and US and Australia." South African health department spokespeople did not respond to our attempts to contact them.

## Mobile occupation

The UK health department, by email, denied it was actively recruiting health workers from low-resource countries. "The medical profession is an international mobile occupation and we are aware that a significant number of doctors from low-income or lower-middle income countries migrate to the UK to work in the NHS of their own accord, rather than being proactively targeted."

"We are reviewing and updating our Code of Practice and list of countries we will not actively recruit from to protect weaker health systems, with engagement from other government departments and the World Health Organisation (WHO). We are also ensuring ethical recruitment practices are followed through improved agency frameworks and comprehensive guidance for recruiters."



Over 1,700 health workers in the UK's NHS said they were South African: an illustration.

## WARNING

# Effects of smacking young children revealed in new study

LONDON

CHILDREN who have adverse experiences such as being smacked at the age of 3 are more likely to suffer from poor mental health and have behavioural problems through to age 14, say researchers from University College London (UCL).

Previous work into the long-term effects of "adverse childhood experiences" on children between 3 and 14 years of age led to last year's smacking ban in Scotland. This new study will add to calls for a similar ban to be introduced in England. The UCL research team analysed responses from more than 8,000 members of the Millennium Cohort Study, a survey following the lives of 19,000 children

born in the UK in 2000-2001.

Data was provided at six points throughout the participants' childhoods: 9 months, and 3, 5, 7, 11 and 14 years of age. Parents were asked about how often they smacked their children and other disciplinary measures they used.

They were also asked questions about parental conflict, alcohol misuse and psychiatric disorders. This data was then matched with information, also obtained from the study, about the behaviour and well-being of their children. The researchers found that two thirds of the children had experienced one adverse experience or more by the age of three. Nearly one in five had two such experiences and one in six had three or

more.

The associations between adverse experiences and poor mental health followed a "dose-response" pattern, with better outcomes for those who had none and the poorest effects for those with three or more. The most common were parental depression, harsh parenting, smacking, use of force between parents, and parental alcohol misuse.

Boys were slightly more likely than girls to be treated harshly by parents and smacked, and also more likely to exhibit challenging behaviour. But there were no significant gender differences with regards to mental health effects.

"It comes as no surprise that those children who have no

or few adverse experiences as young children fare best of all, and that those who have more negative experiences are more likely to behave antisocially and have poor mental health such as anxiety and depressive symptoms," study lead Dr Leonardo Bevilacqua said.

"Our research, however, shows just how long those problems can persist at what is such an important and formative part of a young person's life." The researchers did acknowledge the limits of using such experiences as the sole measurement of a child's future well-being. They suggested further research would be improved by having more than one source of data, with contributions from teachers as well



A mother scolds her angry son but new research suggests frequent parental admonition causes problems for children in later life.

as parents.

But these constraints did not deter them from saying the findings added credence to calls to abolish physical punishment in all settings, including the family. They said there was good evidence that legal bans were very effective in reducing the prevalence of physical punishment.

"The current pandemic has placed additional pressures on couples and families, and there are fears over increases in violence, particularly towards women and children," UCL researcher Dr Rebecca Lacey said. "Never has there been a more important time, then, to ensure that those women and children are protected in law."



Main entrance at Serene Haven in Nyeri

## INCLUSIVITY

# Kenyan private school opens for teen mothers, babies

NAIROBI

JACKLINE, who does not want to use her real name, helps out her fellow teen mothers tend to their babies. But she's not in a daycare center – she's at school. After Jackline, 16, got pregnant in August, like most young mothers, she said she almost dropped out of school – until she found Serene Haven.

"When you are in a class with people who are the same, you are all the same, you know it's not hard," Jackline said. "You are able to focus because everyone has the same challenge. Because you are sure your baby is safe, he's with the matron here, and after a short while you will be with your child."

Kenya's first private school for preg-

nant teenagers, teen mothers and their babies, opened its doors earlier this month. The students at Serene Haven either got pregnant or gave birth during last year's COVID-19 lockdown, when Kenya's teenage pregnancies surged by about 40%.

In the school's Nyeri Central sub-district alone, Children's Officer Paul Ndungu said the jump in teen pregnancies has been shocking. "In 2019 we were talking about one or two cases," Ndungu said. "But in 2020 we are talking about hundreds of cases, and we already know the reason."

Kenyan officials blame students not being in schools, which were allowed to re-open this month for the first time since March. Founder and director of Serene Haven Lizz Muriuki was a teen mother herself. She

said their goal is to ensure teens get an education without stigma.

"This school is filling a need and a gap that society had neglected for so long, Muriuki said. "Because when a girl gets pregnant, everyone is pointing at the girl." Ruth Kirimi, a guardian of one of the students, says Serene Haven is also helping young mothers to recover their self-confidence.

"They are picking up this girl and telling them 'hey, there is potential – you are good, just this thing happened, we're giving you a second chance,'" Kirimi said. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya was struggling to reduce teen pregnancy. According to Save the Children's 2019 Global Childhood Report, Kenya has the third highest teen pregnancy rate in East Africa after Tanzania and Uganda.

## CONCERN

# COVID vaccine hoarding putting Africa at risk - WHO

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICA is in danger of being left behind in the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines as countries in other regions strike bilateral deals, thus driving up prices, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Thursday.

Although vaccines have been administered in 50 wealthier nations, Guinea is the sole low-income country on the continent

to receive doses, with only 25 people being inoculated so far. Meanwhile, Seychelles is the only African country to start a national vaccination campaign.

"We first, not me first, is the only way to end the pandemic. Vaccine hoarding will only prolong the ordeal and delay Africa's recovery. It is deeply unjust that the most vulnerable Africans are forced to wait for vaccines while lower-risk groups in rich countries are made

safe", said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "Health workers and vulnerable people in Africa need urgent access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines."

An international coalition known as the COVAX Facility was established to ensure all countries will have equal access to any vaccines against the new coronavirus disease. It is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Inno-

vations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and WHO.

The COVAX Facility has secured two billion doses of vaccine from five producers, with options for over one billion more. Delivery is set to begin soon, according to Thabani Maphosa, Managing Director, Country Programmes at GAVI.

"This massive international undertaking has been made possible thanks to donations, work towards

dose-sharing deals and deals with manufacturers that have brought us to almost two billion doses secured. We look forward to rollout in the coming weeks," he said.

COVAX has committed to vaccinating at least 20 per cent of the population in Africa by the end of this year.

Priority will be given to health workers and other vulnerable groups, such as older persons and those with pre-existing health

conditions.

An initial 30 million vaccine doses are expected to begin arriving in countries by March.

Overall, a maximum of 600 million doses will be disbursed, based on two doses per person. WHO said timelines and quantities could change, for example if vaccines fail to meet regulatory approval or due to challenges related to production, delivery and funding.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## Female entrepreneur's journey from a labourer to an employer

KIGALI

FOR several years, Jeanne d'Arc Uwemeyimana, from Kayonza District in Mukarange Sector worked as a labourer tilling land for farmers in the area for a wage of Rwf700 per day. This has since changed as she is currently minting million from orange sweet potato vines multiplication and farming after starting an enterprise in 2015.

"I used to work as a casual laborer in farming. Fortunately, I later got orange sweet potato vines as support and planted them on three acres. I got a profit of Rwf150,000 and that is where my entrepreneurship journey started," she said. She said that she multiplies and sells sweet potato vines as 'seeds' to other farmers adding that she also plants vines on her farmland to get potato harvest for the market.

"The second time I made Rwf173,000 in profit from selling the vines. I got training on vines multiplication and therefore I started to lease land where I could grow sweet potatoes," she said. She said with the increasing profits, she managed to both buy and lease more farmland where she grows sweet potatoes rich in Vitamin A.

"I was extremely poor. Currently I have over one-hectare farmland I bought from the profits. I also have a forest that I harvest. I bought more land in the village. In total, I have about three hectares where I grow orange sweet potatoes," she said. Uwemeyimana said that besides sweet potato vines multiplication and growing, she also joined saving groups to save her funds.

"From the savings group, I also got a small loan to help me to lease and grow more land. I have renovated my house. I used to live in a small house and now I have built a bigger decent house with water and electricity. I also have a modern cow that provides milk," she said.

### Employing other women

The entrepreneur, testifies to having faced many hurdles in her life as a woman, hence preferring to employ other women so as to help them cope with difficulties too. "I employ ten women who also feed their families. I pay each of them Rwf1,000 per day and I also give them takeaway of sweet potatoes to feed their children. This is because women also helped me a lot



Jeanne d'Arc Uwemeyimana attends to her farm.

during my hurdles," she said.

Uwemeyimana urges other women to join saving groups as a way of getting startup capital to beat poverty. The female entrepreneur 'status has improved from Rwf150,000 profit in 2015 to Rwf7 million' currently. She

is one of the women who also got support under Hinga Weze-USAID funded project.

"The project trained me and helped me to exhibit what I do as a way of linking to the market. I also got some farming inputs such as new seeds, wheel-

barrows and others worth over Rwf3 million as the best sweet potato vine multiplier," she said.

### Increasing production

With the orange-fleshed sweet potato vines, the farmers'

harvest has increased output from 10 tonnes to between 20 and 30 tonnes per hectare. Uwemeyimana is also trying other sweet potato varieties. These include newly introduced five sweet potato varieties that are expected to increase production.

With only 15 per cent of sweet potato farmers able to invest their own money in buying new varieties of sweet potato seeds, the yields are still low and sometimes much lower than 50 per cent of the potential yields and therefore farmers are urged to embrace the new varieties.

Stimulating the demand for new five varieties, the yields could increase from 11 tonnes per hectare to at least 15 tonnes in farmers' fields while they can produce over 20 tonnes when they are still research stations. The disease and pest resistant varieties include Cecilia, Esther, New Kawogo, Otada and Kyabafurika.

Sweet potato covers 5.2 per cent of the total cultivated area according to figures by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources. Statistics of the National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda indicate that the per capita consumption is 145 kg for sweet potato per year. In caloric terms, sweet potatoes contribute to 21.6 per cent of the total national requirements.

## INNOVATION

## Techpreneur carves out niche in SMS services

NAIROBI

SAM Mutuura set up a technology firm, Cross Gate Solutions (CGS) in 2013 to fill a gap he says he identified while working in the communications arena.

Armed with Sh5 million from his savings and family contributions, Mr Mutuura established the firm that designs, develops and interfaces SMS-based services, Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) applications, as well as smart apps and platforms around Software as a Service (SaaS).

As it turned out, his move was a smart one. Seven years down the road, CGS has grown to offer bulk SMS services as well as mobile banking support to a roster of reputable clients. The firm utilises premium-based short codes to allow micro transactions to happen without the need for actual cash. In a month, the firm can trade up to 50 million SMS and they have about 4 million customers transacting across their plat-



NBS Bank Malawi CEO Kwanele Ngwenya.

forms. Despite having already made key strides, CGS is busy designing new products. Currently, it is in the process of completing a USSD plus app which it says has a unique innovative edge. The app, called Tulia, will allow its users not to disclose their names and mobile numbers when sending, buying goods and withdrawing money via their mobile money wallets, therefore making payments without compromising privacy and sensitive data.

"The obligation to pay for a service should not

be tied with an obligation to reveal private information, where only the transaction ID should suffice. This is the gap that Tulia was created to fill, and we've started with USSD registrations on the number \*421\*2#, he says.

Some of the local clients include Kingdom Bank formerly Jamii Bora Bank, and Metropal Credit Reference Bureau and Karen Hospital. Others are the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as Kenyan Alliance Insurance. The firm now provides employment

to about 21 young graduates. This is a big statement on the growth of the firm whose full time employees were only Mr Mutuura and his co-founder when they started.

Mr Mutuura runs the company alongside co-founder George Njuguna and co-director Kiunga Mwenda. CGS is also currently working with other telecoms in the region such as Vodacom in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where they have invested over Sh30 million.

The techpreneur started his career about 10 years ago as an employee at Rapid Communications, a telecommunication service provider. He had also worked at Nairobi-headquartered Telecommunications Company, Quicktel for about six years.

This is after graduation with a bachelor's degree in Information Communication and Technology from Strathmore University. However, while under employment he witnessed a gap in the market that he desired to plug.

"I had to indulge the urge to set out on my own, form a team that complements my natural ability to curate ideas, then turn them into real world solutions. I simply craved to do more and better," says Mr Mutuura during an interview with Digital Business in Nairobi.

"It is for this reason that we decided to branch out into our own company to fulfil the need that was existing in the market at that time," he says. Although they have managed to break into the market successfully, it has not been a smooth sailing all the way.

Mr Mutuura says that he ventured into an industry that was dominated by a few players mainly due to barriers to entry.

## ACQUISITION

## Distell and Invenfin buy 40% stake in cannabis wellness brand Rethink

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN liquor group Distell and Invenfin, the venture capital arm of Remgro, have entered into a partnership with Releaf Pharmaceuticals to share ownership in South African cannabis wellness brand Rethink.

Distell and Invenfin have each purchased a 20% stake in the Rethink brand and range of products to establish a three-way partnership, with a vision of building a compelling portfolio of cannabis-based brands across product categories in this growing sector.

Rethink was launched by Releaf Pharmaceuticals in October 2019. The product range includes CBD oils, capsules, teas and skincare products, which are available in leading national and independent pharmacies.

With its strong technical and regulatory expertise in the cannabis industry and a broad market footprint, Releaf Pharmaceuticals is responsible for the successful growth of Rethink, which is the first cannabis wellness brand to be endorsed by the Cannabis Research Institute.

In a joint statement, Distell and Invenfin said the new Rethink

partnership brings together a set of complementary product, branding and commercial capabilities to build cannabis brand and market leadership in South Africa and other major markets.

Cannabis market growth With a worldwide shift towards legalisation of cannabis products, the sector is poised for growth with an estimated global market size of \$166bn. In South Africa, CBD preparations containing no more than 20mg per daily dose have been allowed to be sold legally since 2019.

CBD is a naturally occurring chemical in cannabis plants that has gained recognition as a natural alternative to conventional medicine for a variety of health concerns. Its application is expanding to cover different wellness needs such as the relief of minor symptoms such as pain, inflammation, restlessness and anxiety, made available in different products such as daily oils, capsules and teas.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Agricultural Research Council have estimated that the current informal and formal cannabis industry in South Africa is worth R14bn and by 2024



Ugandan government spokesperson Orono Opondo.

## REBUFF

## Windhoek ad called out for suggesting toxic masculinity

PRETORIA

SOUTH Africa's Advertising Regulatory Board (ARB) has asked for the removal of an advertisement for Windhoek beer on the basis that it entrenches toxic masculinity in suggesting that "real men drink real beer."

The advertisement, which features actor Gerard Butler, opens in a bar, initially feeling like many traditional beer commercials. However, the mood changes when a character called Joe asks the waiter for a piece of lime to add to his beer.

According to Business Insider South Africa, Joe "is a gentle looking, red-headed man - two characteristics that might typically make him a target for

teasing in a toxic environment." Joe then takes a sip of the beer - without lime - and clearly enjoys it.

TimesLive reports that Aadila Agjee lodged a complaint against Heineken South Africa on its marketing of Windhoek Lager. Agjee says the commercial is offensive in that "It belittles a man for requesting a lime slice with his beer."

The complaint states as follows "The advertisement featuring Gerard Butler is offensive. It belittles a man for requesting a lime slice with his beer. While this may seem funny to many, an equal or larger number of people enjoy citrus with their beer or cider - popularly linked with women having a lime or lemon slice with their cider. I understand the message that Windhoek

beer is complete on its own, however, shaming or belittling people for their personal preferences is not ok.

Rather try to attract all customers instead of being stupidly restrictive and offending a whole range of potential customers. At least no-one gets a celebrity to insult my Heineken or Savannah with lemon or lime slice...."

"Gender stereotyping or negative gender portrayal must not be permitted in advertising, unless in the opinion of the ARB, such stereotyping or portrayal is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom," states the ARB. Heineken was instructed to withdraw or amend the commercial.

## ACTIVISM

## Australia's cheese firm in rebrands to Cheer after twenty-year campaign

SYDNEY

AN Australian cheese company called "Coon" will rebrand to "Cheer" after an indigenous activist spent two decades fighting for the racist name to be changed.

Saputo Dairy Australia announced the new name on Wednesday, January 13, saying replacement products would hit supermarket shelves in July. It follows a 20-year campaign by indigenous advocate and author Stephen Hagan to rebrand the product.

Although purportedly a reference to a US cheese factory worker, the former name is also an offensive racial slur. Hagan had petitioned previous company owners over the name but failed to sway executives until now.

Saputo said the change came after "careful and diligent review to honour the brand-affinity felt by our consumers while aligning with current attitudes and perspectives." "Treating people with respect and without discrimination is one of our basic principles and it is imperative that we continue to uphold this in everything we do," chief executive Lino Saputo said in a statement.

The announcement comes two months after Nestle said it would re-name Australian sweets called Red Skins and Chicos amid a global backlash over racist branding. In June last year, French cosmetics brand L'Oréal announced it would also remove words like "whitening" from its products, against the backdrop of global anti-racism protests.

Several American groups also said they would change their visual identity following widespread anti-racism protests, including confectioner Mars, which announced plans to develop its famous Uncle Ben's brand, which uses a caricature of an African-American as its logo. Elsewhere, Quaker Oats promised to withdraw its 130-year-old image of Aunt Jemima from a brand of syrup and pancake mix by the end of 2020, saying it represented a "racial stereotype."



FASHION

# Why so many women wore purple to Joe Biden's inauguration

WASHINGTON, DC

ACCORDING to Pantone, the colours of 2021 are a concrete-style grey and a cheery yellow. However, the colour of the year at Joe Biden's presidential inauguration, held in Washington DC on Wednesday, was easily purple. A number of high-profile attendees, including Vice President Kamala Harris, dressed in varying shades of the berry-toned hue, ranging from deep burgundy to shades that veered into fuchsia.

However, purple was, most likely, not chosen merely for its ability to flatter nor its fashion appeal. In fact, it has been surmised those who wore it used the colour to send a much-needed message of unity.

As a mix of red and blue, purple brings together the col-

ours of America's two political parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, therefore symbolising a show of solidarity between members of both sides. Rather than signify one's political beliefs, the colour is seen to represent bipartisanship, a compromise between two usually sparring parties.

Purple also has ties to the suffragettes, making up the movement's flag along with white and green. Among those donning the shade was incoming Vice President Harris, who sported a vibrant dress and matching coat by emerging black designers Christopher John Rogers and Sergio Hudson.

Former first lady Michelle Obama also settled on a design by Hudson, instead favouring a rich plum splashed across wide-cut trousers, turtleneck sweater

and a tailored coat. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, meanwhile, championed American designer Ralph Lauren in an amethyst trouser suit with matching scarf.

"I did wear purple with a purpose because I knew the theme that President Biden was striking was unity," Clinton told reporters on the day. "I thought as you combine red and blue, the way that we are divided politically in our country, you get purple." "I wanted just to send a bit of a symbolic message that we need to come together."

While not quite packing the full purple punch, Senator Elizabeth Warren added a pink-purple scarf to her ensemble, while former first lady Laura Bush sported a coat that toed the line between powder blue and lilac. While she selected blue tweed by



US Vice President Kamala Harris wore a purple coat and dress by emerging black designers Christopher John Rogers and Sergio Hudson.

American label Markarian to watch her husband become the 46th President of the US, Dr Jill Biden also gave a nod to unifying purple during inauguration week.

During a ceremony dedicated to lives lost during the Covid-19 pandemic, held at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool on Tuesday, January 19, the first lady wore a purple dress and ribbon-tied coat by emerging American designer Jonathan Cohen. "Red + Blue = Purple," the designer wrote on Instagram after the event. "This moment is about unity. Not red vs blue, but all of us coming together as a nation."

BLACKLISTING



Copies of the book 'Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House' by author Michael Wolff are seen at the Book Culture book store in New York.

## 500 literary professionals call for ban on book deals for members of Trump administration

NEW YORK

FIVE hundred authors and literary professionals in the US have signed an open letter urging publishers not to grant book deals to any members of the Trump administration.

The letter, fronted by author Barry Lyga, has been signed by a growing list of writers including the likes of Little Fires Everywhere author Celeste Ng, Star Wars author Chuck Wendig and American writer and commentator Charlie Jane Anders.

"Our country is where it is in part because publishing has chased the money and notoriety of some pretty sketchy people, and has granted those same people both the imprimatur of respectability and a lot of money through sweetheart book deals," the letter begins. It says that participation in outgoing President Donald Trump's administration should be considered a "uniquely mitigating criterion" for publishing houses when considering book deals.

"No participant in an administration that caged children, performed involuntary surgeries on captive women and scoffed at science as millions were infected with a deadly virus should be enriched by the almost rote largesse of a big book deal. And no one who incited, suborned, instigated, or otherwise supported the January 6, 2021 coup attempt should have their philosophies remunerated and disseminated through our beloved publishing houses," it states.

It goes on to cite the US "Son of Sam" law, which prevents criminals from benefiting financially from

writing about their crimes. "In that spirit, those who enabled, promulgated and covered up crimes against the American people should not be enriched through the coffers of publishing," the letter continues.

"We are writers, editors, journalists, agents and professionals in multiple forms of publishing. We believe in the power of words and we are tired of the industry we love enriching the monsters among us, and we will do whatever is in our power to stop it." It comes after the Rupert Murdoch-owned New York Post claimed in November that Trump was "being bombarded with book and TV deals that could be worth a staggering \$100 million".

Earlier this month, Missouri senator Josh Hawley was forced to find a new publisher for his book, The Tyranny of Big Tech, after it was dropped by Simon & Schuster over his backing of claims of election fraud. However, there are some concerns over the impact such moves could have on free speech in the country.

America's National Coalition Against Censorship spoke out following Simon & Schuster's decision. "Cancelling the book weakens free expression ... It is crucial that publishers stand by their decision to publish, even when they strongly disagree with something the author has said," the organisation said.

"Cancelling a book encourages those who seek to silence their critics, producing more pressure on publishers, which will lead to more cancellations. The best defence for democracy is a strong commitment to free expression."



# ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	20:00	21:05	22:00	23:00	23:30	00:30	02:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	10:30	11:15	12:15	13:45	15:15																				
<b>SATURDAY 23 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	16:20 Igizo: Mtego	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang	19:00 Jungu Kuu	19:30 Shika Bamba	20:00 Habari	21:00 Art and lifestyle	21:30 ITV TOP 10	22:10 Isidingo rpt	00:30 DWTV													
<b>SUNDAY 24 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:00 Habari	8:00 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto Wetu	10:00 Isidingo rpt	11:40 Mjue zaidi	12:35 Movie: Bongo Mafia rpt	14:00 Tamasha la michozo	15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:05 Mizengwe	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	22:14 Bongo Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini	00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin													
<b>MONDAY 25 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	9:30 Kumekucha Kishindo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	10:30 Watoto wetu rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Watoto wetu rpt	11:40 Mjue zaidi	12:35 Movie: Bongo Mafia rpt	14:00 Tamasha la michozo	15:30 Mwangaza	16:30 ITV Top 10	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:05 Mizengwe	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	22:14 Bongo Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini	00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin						
<b>TUESDAY 26 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	10:30 Jungu kuu rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Afa ya Jamii	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 DWTV: Kesho leo rpt	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:10 Yu wapi	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:00 Tanzania yetu	21:30 Chetu ni chetu	22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	
<b>WEDNESDAY 27 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	8:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt	10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	19:00 Jue Sheria	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin				
<b>THURSDAY 28 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	9:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Ijue sheria rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	13:30 Tanzania yetu	13:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	14:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mapishi rpt	18:30 Jagina	19:00 Usafiri wako	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV
<b>FRIDAY 29 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	9:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto Wetu	10:30 The Base	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Jagina rpt	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	17:30 Kisilam	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt	19:00 Shamba lulu	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipima Joto	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	
<b>SATURDAY 30 Jan</b>	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	9:55 Habari za saa	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	9:30 Isidingo	9:55 Habari za saa	10:00 Watoto Wetu	10:30 The Base	10:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base	11:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Jagina rpt	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	15:00 Meza Huru	16:30 Watoto Wetu	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	17:30 Kisilam	18:00 Jiji Letu	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt	19:00 Shamba lulu	19:30 Isidingo	20:00 Habari	21:05 Kipima Joto	23:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	00:30 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	

CAPITAL

Sat 23 Jan	08:00	09:00	09:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00	12:30	13:00	13:30	14:30	17:15	17:45	18:15	19:15	19:30	20:00	21:00	21:30	23:00	01:00											
<b>Sun 24Jan</b>	08:00 Aljazeera	09:00 In good shape	09:30 Capchat rpt	10:00 Sports Gazette rpt	11:00 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	12:00 EcoAfrica rpt	12:30 Business edition rpt	13:00 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt	17:45 Bundesliga kick off	18:15 Capchat rpt	19:15 Mizengwe	19:30 The Decor	20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave Hunter	21:00 Out n' About	21:30 Movie: Little Cigar	23:00 Series rpt: Itohan	01:00 Al Jazeera	<b>Sun 24Jan</b>	08:00 Aljazeera	09:00 In good shape	09:30 Capchat rpt	10:00 Sports Gazette rpt	11:00 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	12:00 EcoAfrica rpt	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	13:00 In good shape rpt	13:30 Series rpt: Itohan		
<b>Wed 27 Jan</b>	08:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	16:30 Culinary delight rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Sports Gazette	19:30 Chetu ni chetu	20:00 Series: Itohan	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Dakika 45:	22:45 The Decor	23:15 Al Jazeera	<b>Thurs 28 Jan</b>	06:00 Al Jazeera	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan	16:30 Business edition rpt	17:00 In good shape	17:30 Meza huru	19:00 Turning the spotlight	19:30 Tanzania yetu	20:00 Series: Itohan	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death	21:30 Capital Prime News	22:00 Capchat rpt	23:00 Al Jazeera

## WORLD

## President Biden quick to reverse Trump decisions

WASHINGTON

NEWLY sworn-in United States President Joe Biden moved swiftly on his first day in the White House to roll back major policy decisions taken by his predecessor, Donald Trump.

Just hours after his inauguration at noon on Wednesday, Biden signed executive orders to begin the process of returning the US to the Paris agreement on climate change, which the Trump administration left in November.

He also acted to reverse the process of the country leaving the World Health Organization, which is coordinating the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a congratulatory message to Biden, Chinese Ambassador to the US Cui Tiankai said China would cooperate with the US in dealing with pressing challenges facing the world.

"China looks forward to working with the new administration to promote sound and steady development of China-US relations and jointly address global challenges in public health, climate change and growth," Cui said on social media on Wednesday.

Biden's decisions on the Paris agreement and the WHO, which followed a pledge in his inaugural address to "engage with the world again", have fueled hope for renewed international cooperation in the fight against global warming and the pandemic.

"A cry for survival comes from the planet itself, a cry that can't be any more desperate or any more clear now," Biden said in his inauguration remarks, listing "a climate in crisis" and "a raging virus" as the major challenges for the country.

Former Colombian president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Juan Manuel Santos said Biden "understands the value and the importance of multilateralism. He understands the importance of cooperation among nations." "If we don't cooperate all nations to fight climate change, then we will all perish. It's as simple as that," Santos was quoted as saying by The Associated Press.

Biden, who was vice-president during the Obama administration which signed the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change, campaigned on tackling what he called "the existential threat".

While Trump cited concerns about the agreement's risk to the US economy when he announced the withdrawal soon after taking office in 2017, Biden told voters climate efforts add to the number of well-paid jobs and boost the economy.

"We are going to combat climate change in a way we have not done so far," he said on Wednesday, before signing the executive order, one of a flurry of actions taken to reverse Trump administration policies.

In an article he wrote for Foreign Affairs



Joe Biden signs his first executive order as president in the Oval Office at the White House on Wednesday. (AP)

magazine in April, Biden said he planned to "make massive, urgent investments at home that put the United States on track to have a clean energy economy with net-zero emissions by 2050."

He also vowed to rally nations to "raise their ambitions and push progress further and faster".

Rachel Cleetus, climate and energy policy director for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the new US administration's swift action to rejoin the Paris agreement would be the first step to bring the country back into the fold of the global community after four years of being isolated and on the sidelines.

Cleetus suggested in a statement that Biden and his international climate envoy, John Kerry, hold bilateral and multilateral discussions with other major emitting countries to solidify ways to collectively tackle the climate crisis head on.

Kerry has already said he expects to work with China on climate change.

"They (China) were a partner on climate as we competed with

them at other things during the Obama administration," Kerry said in an interview with National Public Radio last month when asked if he could collaborate with China on climate issues as the two countries compete on others.

"We've been there, done that. But if we don't work as a primary extraordinary effort on climate, we're all cooked," the former US secretary of state said.

The actions Biden signed on Wednesday also included an order to establish a new White House office coordinating response to the pandemic and ending the process of withdrawing from the WHO.

As of Wednesday, more than 405,000 people had died from COVID-19 in the US, according to Johns Hopkins University.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement, "I warmly welcome President Biden's steps to re-enter the Paris agreement on climate change and join the growing coalition of governments, cities, states, businesses and people taking ambitious action to confront the climate crisis."

## Biden seeks five-year extension of New START arms treaty with Russia

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden will seek a five-year extension to the New START arms control treaty with Russia, the White House said on Thursday, in one of the first major foreign policy decisions of the new administration ahead of the treaty's expiration in early February.

"The President has long been clear that the New START treaty is in the national security interests of the United States. And this extension makes even more sense

when the relationship with Russia is adversarial as it is at this time," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in a briefing.

She also said Biden had "tasked" the U.S. intelligence community for its full assessment of the Solar Winds cyber breach, Russian interference in the 2020 election, Russia's use of chemical weapons against opposition leader Alexei Navalny and alleged bounties on U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Even as we work with Russia to advance U.S. interests,

so too we work to hold Russia to account for its reckless and adversarial actions," Psaki said.

The arms control treaty, which is due to expire on Feb. 5, limits the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 strategic nuclear warheads each.

In addition to restricting the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons to its lowest level in decades, New START also limits the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers that

deliver them.

In a statement, the Pentagon said that Americans were "much safer" with the treaty intact and extended.

"Just as we engage Russia in ways that advance American interests, we in the Department will remain clear-eyed about the challenges Russia poses and committed to defending the nation against their reckless and adversarial actions," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said.

The treaty's lapse would end all restraints on deployments of U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear warheads

and the delivery systems that carry them, potentially fueling a new arms race, policy experts have said.

Earlier, a source familiar with the decision told Reuters that U.S. lawmakers have been briefed on Biden's decision on the New START treaty.

The Kremlin said on Wednesday it remained committed to extending New START and would welcome efforts promised by the Biden administration to reach agreement.

Agencies

## Google says to disable search in Australia if asked to pay for news

SYDNEY

ALPHABET Inc's Google said yesterday it would block its search engine in Australia if the government proceeds with a new code that would force it and Facebook Inc to pay media companies for the right to use their content.

Google's threat escalates a battle with publishers such as News Corp that is being closely watched around the world. The search giant had warned that its 19 million Australian users would face degraded search and YouTube experiences if the new code were enforced.

Australia is on course to pass laws that would make the Big Tech giants negotiate payments with local publishers and broadcasters for content. If they can't strike a deal, a

government-appointed arbitrator will decide the price.

"Coupled with the unmanageable financial and operational risk if this version of the Code were to become law, it would give us no real choice but to stop making Google Search available in Australia," Mel Silva, managing director for Australia and New Zealand, told a senate committee. Silva made no mention of YouTube in prepared remarks. Google's comments drew a sharp rebuke from Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison who said the country makes its rules for "things you can do in Australia".

"People who want to work with that in Australia, you're very welcome. But we don't respond to threats," Morrison told reporters.

At the inquiry, Australian



Competition and Consumer Commission chair Rod Sims, who has overseen the new rules, said he could not predict what the tech giants would do but said "there's always brinkmanship in serious negotiations".

"They talk of commercial deals where they're in full control of the deal," he said. "In my view that's not a commercial deal."

Google has called the code overly broad and said that

without revisions, offering even a limited search tool would be too risky. The company does not disclose sales from Australia, but search ads are its biggest contributor to revenue and profit globally.

The United States government this week asked Australia to scrap the proposed laws, which have broad political support, and suggested Australia should pursue a voluntary code instead.

Australia announced the

legislation last month after an investigation found Alphabet Inc-owned Google and social media giant Facebook held too much market power in the media industry, a situation it said posed a potential threat to a well-functioning democracy.

Google's threat to limit its services in Australia came just hours after the internet giant reached a content-payment deal with some French news publishers as part of three-year, US\$1.3-billion push to support publishers.

Google's testimony "is part of a pattern of threatening behavior that is chilling for anyone who values our democracy," said Peter Lewis, director of the Australia Institute's Centre for Responsible Technology.

Agencies

## Tedros welcomes US announcement to maintain membership in WHO

GENEVA

WORLD Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Thursday that the organization welcomed the pledge that the United States will remain a member of the WHO.



"WHO is a family of nations. And we are all glad that the United States is staying in the family," the WHO chief said at the on-going meeting of the 148th session of the WHO Executive Board, following an announcement by Anthony Fauci, new representative of the United States, at the meeting.

Tedros added that the WHO looked forward to continuing the partnership with the United States as all member states do.

"We must work together as one family to ensure all countries can start vaccinating health workers and other high-risk groups in the first 100 days of 2021. With your commitment, we are one step closer," he said.

The European Union on Thursday also welcomed the announcement made by the United States of their support to WHO. "We welcome the new Administration's commitment to multilateral diplomacy and international alliances. The European Union looks forward to working closely with the United States to strengthen the United Nations' ability to address global challenges," the EU said in a statement announced at Thursday's WHO Executive Board meeting.

Earlier on Thursday, Fauci told the WHO Executive Board meeting that on Jan. 20, U.S. President Joe Biden signed letters retracting the previous administration's announcement to withdraw from the WHO, and those letters have been transmitted to the UN. "I am honored to announce that the United States will remain a member of the World Health Organization," said Fauci.

More than seven months ago, on May 29, 2020, former U.S. President Donald Trump announced the United States would withdraw from the WHO. Biden's decision comes at a time when the number of confirmed COVID-19 deaths in the United States has surpassed the grim milestone of 400,000 and the global number of people infected by the virus has reached 90 million.

At Thursday's meeting, Fauci also told the WHO that the new U.S. administration will issue a directive later in the day, which will include the intent of the United States to join COVAX, a WHO-led initiative aimed at ensuring equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines. *Xinhua*

## UN General Assembly adopts resolution to safeguard religious sites

UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution to promote a culture of peace and tolerance to safeguard religious sites.

The resolution calls for strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue on the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and for the diversity of religions and beliefs.

It condemns all acts or threats of violence, destruction, damage or endangerment, directed against religious sites and denounces any moves to obliterate or forcibly convert any religious sites.

It invites all member states, the UN system, regional and nongovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support UN initiatives that promote tolerance, including the UN Plan of Action to Safeguard Religious Sites.

The resolution expresses concern about the increase in incidents of racial and religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative racial and religious stereotyping.

It condemns any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges states to take effective measures to address and combat such incidents.

It expresses deep concern at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programs and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups.

It reaffirms the essential need to strengthen international, regional and subregional cooperation aimed at enhancing the national capacity of member states to prevent and effectively suppress attacks on places of worship.

It deplores damage to the cultural heritage of countries in situations of crisis, conflict and post-conflict, and calls for an immediate end to such acts.

Xinhua

## Village in SW China explores roxburgh rose industry, lifts residents out of poverty

ROXBURGH rose fruit business is now a shiny signboard of Jiaxi village in south west China's Guizhou province, helping local residents shake off poverty and embrace a bright future.

By the end of 2019, residents in the village located in Panguan town, Panzhou city of Guizhou, had planted over 6,600 mu (about 4.4 square kilometers) of roxburgh roses. Their efforts also drove residents from neighboring villages to grow a total of 31,200 mu of the plants.

The roxburgh rose industry had benefited 3,498 households from Jiaxi and seven other villages, created nearly 400 jobs, and helped lift 257 households out of poverty.

In 2019, the per capita income of villag-

ers in Jiaxi rose to 12,044 yuan (\$1,860), and all poor households in the village had bid farewell to poverty.

Back in 2014, Jiaxi was still a severely impoverished village in the Wumeng Mountain region. Its incidence of poverty stood at 29.36 percent.

At that time, the village was held back by poor roads, and its residents, who grew corns and potatoes in the mountains, barely had decent income.

To change the situation, Nie Deyou, a resident of the village who used to work out-of-town, returned home and tried to persuade his fellow villagers to grow roxburgh roses, which he believed is a suitable business for the village to get rid of poverty.

However, nobody in the village bought into his idea. As a result, he sought help from officials with the township government, telling them the crop is resistant to drought and barren land, and helps conserve water and soil - the reason he believes the plant is suitable for the village. It usually reaches full bearing in three years, and one mu of the plant brings an annual income of nearly 4,000 yuan, he further explained to the officials.

Thanks to his sincerity, the officials were finally persuaded, and sent cadres to Jiaxi village to explain the benefits of growing roxburgh roses. The income per mu of corns stood at only 400 yuan before deducting labor input, while the minimum

output per mu of roxburgh roses, if entrusted to cooperative, could reach the same amount, and plus, the villagers could also gain extra income working other jobs, the cadres told the villagers.

Li Xiaoyu, a fellow villager of Nie, opposed the roxburgh rose proposal at first, saying he saw no economic value in the fruit. However, after being persuaded by the cadres, he transferred 7 mu of land to an cooperative in the village, and the benefit of it further drove him to transfer all his 20 mu of land to the cooperative a year later. The man who used to work in east China's Zhejiang province also returned home and found a job in an industrial park for roxburgh roses in the village

"The land transfer earns me 8,000 yuan each year, and I can also make 6,000 to 7,000 yuan from the job in the industrial park," he said.

Seeing a recent bumper harvest, the man called a relative who worked in Zhejiang to come back home and join the prosperous roxburgh rose business. In 2016, Hongcai Group, a state-owned enterprise in Guizhou, bought shares in the village's cooperative, and then established a complete industrial chain covering planting, processing and sales of roxburgh roses.

Later, Panzhou established a R&D center for roxburgh roses and a research institute for related industries.

People's Daily



# Education empowers women in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

EDUCATIONAL attainment gaps have limited the success of women-owned businesses in Africa, according to a report newly published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, or UNECA.

The “Women’s Entrepreneurship Report” studied data from tens of thousands of African entrepreneurs and firms to establish links between education, access to finance and improved productivity. “Increasing women’s educational attainment can improve their ability to own a bank account and save for business. Women with secondary education are 51 times more likely to have a bank account and 22 times more likely to save than those with lower attainment,” reads the report.

The commission revealed, among other things, that “education is a critical

factor for productive female entrepreneurship in Africa”.

“Women with primary education or less are 27 times more likely to have started a business by necessity than those with higher attainment driven by opportunity,” it said.

While Africa leads the world in terms of the number of female entrepreneurs, they largely start a business by necessity and face more barriers in securing support and investment, according to the report.

## Transforming businesses

The UNECA pointed out that necessity-driven entrepreneurs lack productive and innovative activities which could transform their businesses.

In comparison, opportunity-motivated entrepreneurs are more likely to operate in profitable sectors and are expected to add about 17 more jobs on av-



Women attend a face mask distribution event in Maputo, Mozambique, on July 31, 2020. (XINHUA)

erage in the next five years. The report showed a positive link between access to finance and women’s business practices and performance.

The UNECA’s Director for Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, Thokozile Ruzvidzo, said: “Women’s entrepreneurship is recognized

as the biggest yet underutilized opportunity for sustained economic growth and social development.

“Successful female entrepreneurship is not only a catalyst for women’s economic empowerment and regional self-sufficiency but is also essential to recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19,” Ruzvidzo said.

The UNECA recommended in the report that African countries to focus on increasing women’s education beyond primary schooling and enforcing laws to remove barriers to education.

It also proposed market-specific vocational education, soft and hard skills training, and mentorship opportunities which prepare young women for opportunity-driven and high-value entrepreneurship.

Xinhua

## Russia to supply air defence systems Pantsir-S1 to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW

Russia will supply to Myanmar a batch of missile and artillery air defence systems Pantsir-S1, unmanned aerial vehicles Orlan-10E and radars.

The agreement was signed at a ceremony attended by Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu, who is in Myanmar on an official visit, and the Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar’s armed forces, Min Aung Hlaing. Russia’s Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin inked the agreement for Russia.

Since 2001 a legal and regulatory base has been created for effective and mutually beneficial military-technical cooperation, which makes steady progress.

Russia has supplied to Myanmar 30 planes MiG-29, twelve combat training jets Yakovlev-130, ten helicopters Mi-24 and Mi-35P, eight air defense missile systems Pechora-2M and also radars, armored vehicles and artillery pieces.

A contract has been concluded for providing six Sukhoi-30SME planes. Some have been delivered already.

Military hardware undergoes repairs and maintenance at Myanmar’s joint special center for all types of equipment, both aircraft and armored vehicles.

Bilateral cooperation saw intensive development over the past five years. Myanmar’s delegations regularly participate in the international army games and combat training activities.

Last year Myanmar’s contingent took part in the Kavkaz-2020 exercise. Also, in 2018 an inter-governmental agreement was concluded on simpler procedures for Russian naval ships visiting Myanmar’s ports.

Agencies

# UN envoy voices concern over allegations of sexual violence in Ethiopia’s Tigray

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN secretary-general’s special representative on sexual violence in conflict, Pramila Patten, on Thursday expressed grave concern over serious allegations of sexual violence in Ethiopia’s conflict-stricken Tigray region.

The allegations include a high number of alleged rapes in Mekelle, the capital of Tigray.

There are also disturbing reports of individuals allegedly forced to rape members of their own family, under threats of imminent violence, said Patten (pictured) in a statement.

Some women have also reportedly been forced by military elements to have sex in exchange for basic commodities.

In addition, there are increasing

reports of sexual violence against women and girls in a number of refugee camps, she said.

Patten called on all parties involved in the hostilities in Tigray to commit to a zero-tolerance policy for crimes of sexual violence, in line with their respective obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.

She called on the federal government of Ethiopia to further exercise its due diligence obligations to protect all civilians from sexual and other violence, regardless of their ethnic origin and those displaced by conflict; promptly allow for an independent inquiry into all allegations of sexual and other forms of violence; establish the facts and hold perpetrators accountable; provide redress to victims; and prevent further grave violations.



It remains critical that humanitarian actors and independent human rights monitors be granted immediate, unconditional and sustained access to the entirety of the Tigray region, including camps for internally displaced persons and refugees, she said.

Immediate medical and psychosocial assistance must be accom-

panied by protection measures, to ensure that those who have been forced from their homes due to violence are not placed at further risk of sexual violence within the camps.

This includes the more than 5,000 Eritrean refugees in and around the area of Shire living in dire conditions, as well as the more

than 59,000 Ethiopians who have fled into neighboring Sudan.

The United Nations estimates that of these refugees, more than 25 percent are women and girls of reproductive age, she said.

Constrained humanitarian access and limited resources for service providers have reduced the availability of essential health care and assistance for survivors of sexual violence, including sexual and reproductive health care.

Access to life-saving assistance, such as dignity kits, post-rape kits, treatment to prevent HIV and sexually transmitted infections and psychosocial support is also critical.

Accordingly, enhanced funding and support are urgently required to scale up the provision and coverage of essential services, said Patten.

Xinhua

# China’s COVID-19 vaccination tops 9 million

CHINA has administered more than 9 million doses of self-developed COVID-19 vaccines since Dec. 15 last year, including the previous 1.6 million doses targeting groups with high risks of infection, according to a press conference on Jan. 9.

China has built relatively complete standards for setting up vaccination sites, and ensured strict vaccinator training, vaccine recipient screening, adverse reaction monitoring, emergency treatment, and expert consultations on adverse reactions, said Zeng Yixin, deputy head of the National Health Commission (NHC) and a member of the working group for vaccine development under the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19.

Wang Huaqing, an expert from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, introduced that relevant requirements have been set up for vaccination, and the injections have all been performed according to these requirements. All possible adverse reactions are explained to the receivers before they agree to be injected, Wang added.

Security is attached with extremely importance during



A citizen is vaccinated at a vaccination site in Zhongguancun, Haidian district of Beijing, Jan. 8, 2021. File photo

the vaccination, and each vaccination site is equipped with medical staffs from polyclinics above level II, as well as first-aid equipment and drugs, to ensure emergencies are recognized and dealt with at the first opportunity, said Cui Gang, an official with NHC’s disease control department.

The 9 million shots further proved the safety of Chinese COVID-19 vaccines, Zeng remarked, adding that the vaccination would be administered to key groups, high-risk groups, and the general population as the vaccine’s production ca-

capacity increases. All Chinese citizens that meet vaccination requirements shall be injected, so as to build a wall that prevents the spread of the virus, he said.

COVID-19 vaccinations costs, including vaccine expenses and inoculation fees, would be covered by medical insurance funds and government fiscal, rather than individuals, said Li Tao, deputy director of the National Healthcare Security Administration.

Only when a large portion of the population are vaccinated can an immune barrier be

built, so special measures must be taken to cover the cost of the vaccination, he explained.

He also noted that the administration’s disbursement on COVID-19 vaccines would not affect the current revenue and expenditure of medical insurance funds or residents’ medical treatment.

Free vaccination for all residents will help build the immune barrier, safeguard life and production orders, and protect the healthy development of the economy and society, and thus further promotes the long-term and sustainable operation of medical insurance funds.

The pricing of COVID-19 vaccine doesn’t run counter to free vaccination, said Zheng Zhongwei, head of the working group for vaccine development under the State Council joint prevention and control mechanism against COVID-19. As a public product, the vaccine will be priced according to its cost, and relevant government departments will also purchase the products from enterprises in accordance with corresponding procedure and price before administering them to the public for free.

People’s Daily

# Kremlin excoriates Navalny’s ‘expose’ of Putin’s ‘palace’ as huge myth

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has once again rejected blogger Alexey Navalny’s so-called “investigation” into a palace allegedly belonging to President Vladimir Putin, deriding the report as “an outstanding myth.”

Talking to reporters on Friday, Peskov pointed out that he had already rejected the report a few days ago. “We said that it wasn’t true and that speculations about President Putin’s relation to some facilities in Gelendzhik were untrue. It is just a lie,” the spokesman noted.

He stated that “Putin has nothing to do with all this.” According to the Kremlin spokesman, “the entire compilation and the files that the report contains are an outstanding myth to attract a large number of viewers.”

Putin does not use the Gelendzhik facility, Peskov stressed, adding that he was unaware if the head of state had ever visited it.

The spokesman declined to discuss the possible owner of the Gelendzhik palace. “Who it belongs to is absolutely none of my business.



There are many commercial facilities in our country, there are many big and small businessmen who can build any facility provided that they abide by Russian laws,” Peskov explained.

The Kremlin spokesman also refused to talk about the possible involvement of the Presidential Administrative Directorate in the construc-

tion of the Gelendzhik facility.

“The Presidential Administrative Directorate is a large organization that manages state property, controls construction and restoration activities. It doesn’t mean that the president has anything to do with these facilities,” Peskov emphasized.

Agencies

# Ethnic minority workers worst hit in UK amid pandemic

LONDON

AN analysis by the United Kingdom’s largest labor organization, the Trades Union Congress, or TUC, suggests black and minority ethnic, or BME, workers have been hit hardest by job losses during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The federation’s study of official data found that one in 12 BME workers are now unemployed, compared to just one in 22 of white workers.

Research showed the employment rate for people from BME backgrounds has dropped 5.3 percent over the last year, which is 26 times the fall in the rate for those from white backgrounds, ITV News reported.

Minority workers are more likely to work in hard-hit industries like hotels and food services, the TUC study noted. Within those sectors, “BME workers have been more likely to lose their jobs than their white colleagues”.

Data from the Office for Budget Responsibility showed the overall unemployment rate in the UK is expected to peak at about 7.5 percent sometime between April and June, London’s Evening Standard newspaper reported.

But figures between July and September 2020 showed 8.5 percent of BME



People walk past closed stores in London, Britain, on Jan 16, 2021 amid England's third national lockdown since the coronavirus outbreak began. (AP)

people were out of work, compared to 7 percent a year earlier. The Guardian

during the pandemic.

The TUC called on the government to urgently address structural racism in the workplace.

“The time for excuses and delays is over,” TUC general secretary Frances O’Grady was quoted as saying by multiple British news outlets. “This pandemic has held up a mirror to discrimination in our labor market.

“In every industry where jobs have gone, BME people have been more likely to be made unemployed.”

## Sector differences

The analysis revealed that even when broken down by

sectors, BME workers have suffered more than their white counterparts.

“In some sectors like hospitality, retail and the arts, BME employment has literally plummeted,” said O’Grady. “And when BME workers have held on to their jobs, we know that they are more likely to be working in low-paid, insecure jobs that put them at greater risk from the virus.”

She added: “Ministers must challenge the systemic racism and inequality that holds back BME people at work.”

Quoted in the Standard, Patrick Roach, chair of the

TUC’s anti-racism task force, said: “We have seen evidence of widening inequality during the pandemic both because of the virus and because of the impact of the government’s emergency measures.”

“During previous economic downturns, BME workers have been ‘first out and last in’. The government needs to address the causes and effects of structural racism and set out a national recovery plan that works for everyone.”

The government is due to announce how it will deal with job losses related to the pandemic. It is expected to unveil plans for the expansion of student loans, meaning adults can use them to fund technical courses as well as undergraduate degrees.

Agencies

# SPORT

SPORTS

## KMKM lose key players to VPL outfits



Zanzibar's KMKM soccer team.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

ZANZIBAR Premier League's KMKM have suffered a big blow this week after their key players, left fullback Mwinyi Haji and forward Matheo Anthony, had returned to the Mainland Tanzania's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) outfits.

Both players served VPL's Yanga when the side was coached by Dutch Hans van der Pluijm and they enjoyed successful career with the domestic football giants.

Anthony has joined Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC while Haji has joined Ruvo Shooting coached by Charles Boniface Mkwasa.

Suleiman Rajab 'Kisheta', KMKM's assistant secretary, confirmed about the two players' departure saying both completed normal transfer procedures.

He, however, cautioned that Mngwali

needs to settle certain legal processes before joining Ruvo Shooting.

"The deal is done with Anthony, but there are several things Mngwali must complete before leaving our club," he explained. Following the departure of the two players, the KMKM official said his club plans to recruit only one defender to fill the void.

He moreover said their target is to recruit a prolific striker, noting presently his squad seem to deliver.

"We are waiting for the mini-transfer window season to start the recruitment," he said.

KMKM had few years ago, lifted Zanzibar Premier League's top honour and the outfit, according to the official, aims to win again the league title this season.

The side is still on the pilot seat in the tournament having collected 19 points

while their closest challengers Mafunzo have so far collected 12 points.

Meanwhile, the ninth round of the Zanzibar Premier League starts tomorrow in various venues in Unguja and Pemba.

The league resumes after a two-week suspension to give a room for Mapinduzi Cup tournament. There are 12 teams in the Isles Premier League.

There league resumption will have three matches. At Mao Zedong Stadium, Black Sailor will play JKU while Amaan Stadium will host a match between Kipanga and Chuoni.

The same day, Malindi will be away in Pemba to face Hard Rock in an encounter to be staged at Gombani Stadium.

Until the league's suspension, 94 goals were netted in the 44 matches the teams have played so far.



Director of Information and Marketing, Boniface Wambura

## TFF to host seminars for VPL outfits' leaders

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) is set to hold seminars for leaders of clubs participating in this season's Vodacom Premier League (VPL) to build their capacity in various administrative matters within the institutions in the development of the game.

The federation's Director of Information and Marketing, Boniface Wambura, also outlined the full course of the seminars.

Speaking to reporters, Wambura (pictured) said that the aim of the seminars is to build the capacity of the leaders.

According to him, the training will take place in Morogoro, Arusha and Zanzibar.

Wambura noted the seminar will begin on January 24, 2021 bringing together VPL

sides' top leaders, focusing on areas of good governance, information and law.

"This seminar focuses on areas of good governance but also participants will receive various trainings on issues related to information within the TFF, law, finance and club licenses," he stated.

Wambura added that the seminar will continue in Zanzibar the next day, it will be held in collaboration with Zanzibar Football Federation (ZFF).

The training will bring together local clubs' leaders.

The TFF, Wambura stated, will as well hold a seminar in Arusha on January 28, involving leaders of the regional football associations who are members of the federation, to go in line with the federation's football development plan.

## Simba SC chairmanship's candidate holds campaign in Dar es Salaam

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

JUMA Nkamia, one of candidates for Simba Sports Club's chairman's post, has said cooperating with the outfit's members located all over the country and giving them freedom to contribute ideas for the squad's development is one of his priorities, once he is elected for the post.

Nkamia (pictured), who was Member of Parliament for Dodoma's Chemba Constituency, is vying for the chairman's post with Murtaza Mangungu who was also the Member of Parliament for North Kilwa Constituency.

They are seeking to fill the vacancy left by Sued Nkwabi in the by-election scheduled for February 7, this year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, Nkamia said he is no stranger to the club as he had previously been Simba's publicity secretary, so he is

aware of the aspirations and visions of the team's members.

"I would like to ask my loved ones and members to give me the opportunity, as well as to have four priorities that I believe have been bothering Simba," he said. He noted: "I will unite members across the country and give them the opportunity to contribute ideas for the development of the team."

Nkamia had moreover served as Deputy Minister of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports.

He said other priorities include overseeing the transformation of which the process has already begun in collaboration with the Board of Directors and the team.

Solving some of the challenges including an investigation that the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) has launched into the outfit's merger by holding a joint session to end the

differences also features in his priorities.

He also said that since the game of football requires a huge investment, given the consent, he will work with other leaders to add other sources of income in the interest of the team.

He said his campaign will be launched in Dar es Salaam today and after that he will hold a press conference before announcing schedule for other regions.

Simba's Election Committee's Chairman Boniface Lihamwike has called on the outfit's members and fan to turn out in large numbers at the candidates' meetings to test them and their policies so that they can choose the best leader.

"Members should not mock and boycott the campaigns, they should come out in large numbers to test the candidates' capacity as we have plenty of time for candidates seek for votes and get a chance to be elected," he said.



Jonas Mkude

## Mkude issues apology to Simba SC

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC's midfielder, Jonas Mkude, has finally come out in public and apologized to his outfit after having been suspended for indiscipline.

Mkude's suspension was made public on December 28 last year, with the midfielder facing the punishment for alleged misconduct.

Following the statement, Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez said the saga was still undergoing disciplinary action and a statement would be issued.

On January 21, this year, Mkude (pictured), through his personal social media account, apologized and said there were issues between him and the Simba's leadership.

He disclosed: "I apologize to the players, members, fans, technical bench and management, I ask them to forgive me because a human being is wrong."

"What I promise you is, such a tendency will never happen again," Mkude said.

Mkude, a key midfielder at the club, had missed a number of games including the return leg of

this season's CAF Champions League's first round against FC Platinum of Zimbabwe, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

On January 4 Simba SC's information officer Haji Manara made it clear that Mkude's issue is still reviewed by Simba SC's Disciplinary Committee.

He stated: "As for Jonas Mkude, it should be noted that so far he is part of Simba. He has not been fired."

He said: "Mkude is a Simba player, the matter is with the committee, Mkude has not been expelled from Simba and of course after the committee had issued decision, he will return to the club, he is a senior player in Simba for 10 years."

Mkude was suspended indefinitely at the end of last year for alleged misconduct, delays in heading for training and other matters, which were not made public by the club's leadership.

So far Mkude has already missed several league matches, a CAF Champions League's first round tie with FC Platinum, which ended with Simba SC booking a place in the showpiece's group stage.

The player moreover missed out on this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition.



JUMA Nkamia

## Burnley loss 'massive punch in the face' - Klopp

LONDON

LIVERPOOL boss Jurgen Klopp called his side's Premier League loss to Burnley on Thursday a "massive punch in the face" and downplayed the Reds' chances of staying in the title race.

Burnley stunned Liverpool 1-0 at Anfield, ending their 68-match home Premier League unbeaten streak in the process. The defeat dropped Liverpool six points behind Manchester United atop the table but more worryingly marked the fourth straight match in which the defending champs failed to score.

Klopp didn't mince words after the game, telling Match of the Day that the defeat - courtesy of an Ashley Barnes penalty in the 83rd minute - was a particularly difficult one to stomach.

"Everything, all the English words, massive, massive punch in the face or whatever," Klopp said of the loss. "It's my responsibility, that's the easy explanation. We had the ball a lot, created some and didn't finish the situations off. That keeps the game open and then they get the penalty - Alisson told me he didn't touch him, but I didn't see it back.

"It's wrong decisions in the mo-

ment, three crosses in the box, we tried to find a player, didn't, it's my job to make sure the boys are in the right position, that they feel right.

"It's a tough one, not easy to explain. These boys are not the kind of [people] after a 7-0 to think we'll go like this. They worked tonight hard and it didn't happen. If something doesn't work you have to try harder, more often, longer. It was not easy to lose that game and we did it."

Klopp added that the Reds had no one to fault but themselves, and said any solutions will come from within the team.

"It's not about blaming, we have to sort it together and we will. In football you don't have a lot of time. We tried a lot, in some moments the right things and some not. That's the problem. You have to break the wall down by trying, in the right mood. We had chances.

"We can't imagine the title race at the moment."

Liverpool are next in action on Sunday when they visit Manchester United for an FA Cup fourth-round match. They will then play Tottenham in the league four days later in London.

(Agencies)

## Breakaway players face World Cup ban - FIFA

LONDON

WORLD football governing body FIFA has said players who feature in any breakaway European Super League would be banned from playing in FIFA competitions, including the World Cup.

Sources told ESPN in October that any breakaway tournament, which would effectively replace the Champions League, could be doomed to failure, as it would struggle to get crucial approval from governing bodies.

In a joint statement with European governing body UEFA and the other five continental confederations on Thursday, FIFA said it would not recognise any such breakaway.

"In light of recent media speculation about the creation of a closed European 'Super League' by some European clubs, FIFA and the six confederations (AFC, CAF, CONCACAF, CONMEBOL, OFC and UEFA) once again would like to reiterate and strongly emphasise that such a competition would not be recognised by either FIFA or the respective confederation," the statement said.

"Any club or player involved in such a competition would as a consequence not be allowed to participate in any competition organised by FIFA or their respective confederation."

It effectively means any player at a club in the European Super League would be banned from international football. They would not be able to represent their country in the World Cup or World Cup qualifiers, while confederations would also ban them from playing in continental tourna-

ments like the European Championship, Copa America, CONCACAF Gold Cup and UEFA Nations League.

The idea of a breakaway league, as an alternative to UEFA's flagship Champions League, has been floated for many years, but speculation has intensified in the past two years.

While the statement restates FIFA's longstanding policy that all competitions should be recognised by national federations and confederations, the timing and joint nature of the declaration indicates a growing concern that this time the threats of a breakaway league could be more than just a negotiating tactic from the big clubs.

In November 2018, German magazine Der Spiegel, citing leaked documents, reported that Real Madrid had been making plans for a Super League to feature the continent's biggest clubs.

Although a number of those clubs denied they were in talks, Real president Florentino Perez has continued to talk of the need for major changes in European club competition.

In October, outgoing Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu said he had signed the club up to a Super League.

"The board of directors approved the requirements to participate in a future European Super League, a project promoted by the big clubs in Europe," he said.

On Monday, Perez travelled to Turin to meet Juventus president Andrea Agnelli, who is head of the European Club Association (ECA), which represents the biggest teams on the continent.

(Agencies)

## Europe's top clubs hang tight as financial restraints limit transfers

LONDON

AS the January transfer window enters its final stretch, Europe's top clubs are sitting tight with financial restraints exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic leading to a downturn in player movement worldwide.

For the first time in a decade, the number of international transfers dropped from the previous year, by 54 percent, as total transfer fees plummeted by almost a quarter - a downward trend the direct result of the global health crisis, FIFA said in its annual report this week.

English clubs again dwarfed the spending of their rivals on the continent, accounting for \$1.63 billion of the overall \$5.63 billion outlay in 2020 - more than double the com-

bined \$731.5 million paid by Italian clubs.

However, the Premier League's leading sides have been unusually quiet this month, keeping their powder dry in what is typically regarded as a seller's market and often a time for stopgap measures.

It is a pattern consistent across Europe, with the biggest move of the winter so far surprisingly Ajax's club-record 22.5 million-euro (\$27.5 million) signing of Ivory Coast international Sebastien Haller from West Ham.

The transfer deadline is still more than a week off and tradition dictates activity ramps up in the closing days, but the increasingly perilous finances in the game suggest big-money signings are unlikely to happen.

# 'Punch in the face': Klopp rocked as Burnley end Liverpool's Anfield run

LONDON

JURGEN Klopp admitted the end of Liverpool's 68-game unbeaten run at Anfield was a "massive punch in the face" as the Premier League champions crashed to a shock 1-0 defeat against Burnley on Thursday.

Klopp's side were beaten in a home league game for the first time since Crystal Palace won at Anfield in April 2017.

Ashley Barnes clinched Burnley's first win at Liverpool since 1974 when he converted an 83rd-minute penalty after being fouled by Reds goalkeeper Alisson Becker.

"It's a massive, massive punch in the face," Klopp said. "We had the ball a lot, created some and didn't finish the situations off."

"That keeps the game open and then they get the penalty. Alisson told me he didn't touch him, but I didn't see it back.

"We lost a game which I think it's actually impossible to lose. But we did it."

Spluttering Liverpool have slipped to fourth place after a second defeat in their last three league games and trail leaders Manchester United by six points.

They have gone five league games without a win and it is seven hours and 18 minutes since they last found the net in the league.

The Reds have gone four league games without scoring for the first time since May 2000, failing with 87 shots since Sadio Mane's 12th-minute strike against West Brom.

"It's a tough one" - Liverpool's goal drought prompted Klopp to leave Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino on the bench for an hour, but even the eventual introduction of the two star forwards couldn't spark a strong finish.

"It's a tough one, not easy to



Jurgen Klopp

explain. We worked tonight hard and it didn't happen. It's my responsibility, that's the easy explanation," Klopp said.

"It's wrong decisions in the moment, three crosses in the box, we tried to find a player but didn't. It's my job to make sure the boys are in the right position, that they feel right.

"If something doesn't work you have to try harder, more often, longer. It was not easy to lose that game and we did it."

Liverpool would drop out of the Champions League qualification places if Tottenham at least draw their game in hand or if Everton win one of their two extra matches.

After winning their first English title for 30 years last season, Liverpool are in danger of surrendering the crown unless they improve soon.

Klopp conceded they could not think about finishing on top of the table given their current struggles.

"We can't imagine the title race at the moment," he said. Backing his team to eventually resolve their problems, Klopp added: "It's not about blaming, we have to sort it together and we will."

"In football you don't have a lot of time. In the final moment, obviously our decision-making is not right at the moment, that's the problem.

"I have to make it clearer. How you come in behind their last line, these kind of things. That's the job we have to do."

Klopp's frustration with Liverpool's travails appeared to boil over in a half-time row with Burnley boss Sean Dyche. "I didn't start it but all good. If he's not talking about it, I won't talk about it," Klopp said of the dispute.

Dyche refused to apologise for letting his emotions run high.

"We come to these places, we are allowed to fight, we are allowed to try and win. That's all it was. It's just two managers fighting for their teams, wanting to win a game. There's nothing wrong with that," he said.

Burnley also drew at Liverpool last year and, on the secret of their success, Dyche said: "Doing the basics very well, structure of the side, shape of the side, individual diligence.

"You still need a bit of luck. They had a couple of chances where Pope's had to make a good save."

AFP

## Milan and Inter continue duel for top spot, Roma set for Spezia rematch

MILAN

AC Milan and Inter Milan resume their duel for the Serie A summit on Saturday days before they face off in their Italian Cup quarter-final clash at the San Siro.

Leaders Milan are three points ahead of Inter before the weekend's 19th round of games which marks the halfway point of the season.

Stefano Pioli's Milan face a tricky task at home to sixth-placed Atalanta, despite the Bergamo side losing momentum in recent games in draws with Genoa and Udinese.

Inter meanwhile travel to struggling Udinese boosted by their 2-0 win over champions Juventus last weekend at the San Siro. "For us it'll be a very important match as we're fighting teams like Juve, Napoli, Roma and Lazio," said Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini of their Champions League rivals.

"The challenge against the 'Rossoneri' will serve to measure where we are before the Champions League knockout rounds."

Forward Rafael Leao returns from suspension for Milan with newly-signed Mario Mandzukic insisting he's "good to go" despite being without a club since leaving Qatar's Al-Duhail in July.

Forward Ante Rebic and midfielder Rade Krunic have recovered from coronavirus infections, while defender Theo Hernandez has got the all-clear after a 'false positive'.

But Milan have only won once in their last 10 Serie A games against Atalanta, with their last home victory against the Bergamo side in January 2014.

By contrast Inter have won nine of their last 11 league games against Udinese, and not conceded a goal in their last five.

"(The win over Juventus) was an important step in terms of mentality," said Inter coach Antonio Conte.

"But we're just at the beginning and I want them to back this up."

- Roma deja vu - Roma, who sit nine points behind Milan in fourth, are set for a rematch with Spezia days after the promoted side dumped them out of the Italian Cup.



Pressure is mounting on coach Paulo Fonseca after a chaotic extra-time defeat in which they finished with nine men and fielded six substitutes rather than the five allowed.

Roma were also handed a 3-0 defeat earlier this season against Hellas Verona in Serie A for fielding an ineligible player. Roma also lost to city rivals Lazio in the league last weekend, which saw the capital side miss the chance to move ahead of Napoli into third place.

Champions Juventus are a further

point back in fifth and will be looking to close the gap on the leaders after their morale-boosting Italian Super Cup success over Napoli when they host 12th-placed Bologna.

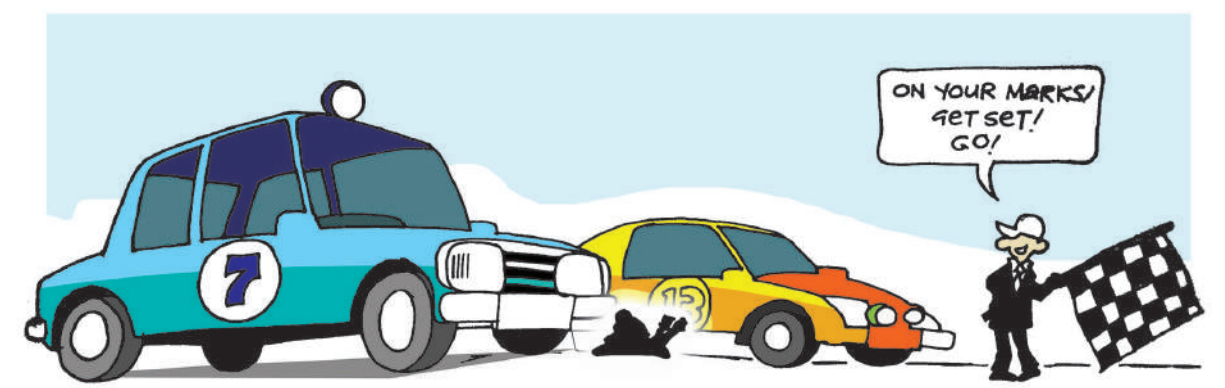
On Friday, struggling Torino head to mid-table outfit Benevento guided by new coach Davide Nicola, who is tasked with saving the 'Granata' from the drop as he did with in previous jobs at Crotone and Genoa.

European rivals Lazio and Sassuolo face off in Rome on Sunday.

One to watch: Lorenzo Insigne Napoli skipper Insigne has the chance to score his 100th goal for the club against Hellas Verona, days after sending a penalty wide in their Italian Super Cup defeat by Juventus.

Napoli are third after last weekend's 6-0 hammering of Fiorentina when 29-year-old Insigne scored twice to bring his league tally to nine this campaign and set up Hirving Lozano's first-half strike with an outstanding pass following deft footwork.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

'Punch in the face': Klopp rocked as Burnley end Liverpool's Anfield run

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## Yanga give Kaze greenlight to appoint assistant coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League leaders, Yanga, have given their head coach, Cedric Kaze, the mandate to appoint backroom staff of his choice.

Mshindo Msolla, Yanga's Chairman, said the club will not impose an assistant coach on Kaze, instead the coach should appoint a person he wishes to work with as his assistant.

Msolla issued the comments after Juma Mwambusi, who was Kaze's assistant, had stepped down due to health problems.

"We have accepted the resignation of our assistant coach Juma Mwambusi who has stepped down due to health problems. We want to have our coach Kaze appoint an assistant of his choice, we don't want to impose any assistant on him," he said.

He, however, said the assistant coach must be a person who understands the playing philosophy of the outfit.

"The coming assistant coach should be a person who understands Yanga's playing philosophy and life, we believe he will be a person who is conversant with Yanga's football," he said.

Mwambusi, who is one of the experienced local soccer coaches, rejoined the club in 2019/20 season as an assistant to Luc Eymael, who was fired mid last year.

After Eymael departure, Mwambusi acted as an interim head coach until the team appointed Zlatko Krmpotic.

Many former Yanga players are linked to the post of the assistant coach with African Lyon FC's head coach Nizar Khalifan being the favourite for the post.



Yanga head coach, Cedric Kaze



Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez (L) speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday on a special tournament to be hosted by the club, known as 'Simba Super Cup', which will kick off on Wednesday. Simba, Tout Puissant Mazembe of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Al Hilal of Sudan are set to battle it out in the event. Looking on is Simba SC's information officer, Hajj Manara. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Battered Taifa Stars, Namibia seek 2021 CHAN finals revival



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

IN a fixture that could see either side exit the African Nations Championship (CHAN) in case of defeat, Tanzania's national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' take on Namibia in the showpiece tonight, as both sides look to bounce back from disappointing defeats. The two sides will meet after an early clash between group leaders, Guinea and Zambia.

The Taifa Stars, led by head coach Etienne Ndayiragije, opened their CHAN campaign in Group D with a disappointing 2-0 loss to Zambia 'Chilopololo' in Cameroon on Tuesday. Taifa Stars conceded two second half goals from Collins Sikombe and Emmanuel Chabula.

Since his appointment, Taifa Stars' head coach Ndayiragije has led the squad to CHAN qualification and FIFA World Cup's group stage of qualifiers, though he has struggled for results, with one win, three losses and six draws in ten matches in charge.

Ayub Lyanga is the only guaranteed absentee for Tanzania, after picking up an injury which forced his substitution in the second half against Zambia, meaning that Adam Omar could be handed his first start of the competition. Ndayiragije believes his charges still have a good chance to progress to the next round if they keep working hard and cut out mistakes, which he says was their main undoing against Zambia in the opener.

"We need to keep working hard because we still have two games to play in the group and we have a chance," Ndayiragije said in a post-match interview after the Zambia game.

On the other hand, the Brave Warriors of Namibia, who are participating for the second time in CHAN, suffered a 3-0 thrashing at the hands of Guinea to go bottom of Group D.

The Brave Warriors now need to get positive results against Tanzania and Zambia to stand a chance to qualify to the next stage.

In head-to-head record, Taifa Stars and Namibia have met three times where the Taifa Stars have managed one win while the other two games ended in stalemate. The last meeting between the two nations came on March 5, 2014, when the South Western nation hosted a friendly that ended 1-1.

Namibia's forward, Nekundi Haleluya Panduleni, cancelled an Olympic goal by Taifa Stars' winger Mcha Khamis in added time of the friendly.

Taifa Stars were then led by interim coach, Salum Madadi, preparing for the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers' game against hosts Mozambique.

Today's encounter will be their first in CHAN as the previous matches were either in the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers, international friendlies, and Council of Southern Africa Football Associations (COSAFA) Cup competition.

## Paralympic athlete set for Dubai Grand Prix

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIAN Paralympic athlete Ignas Mtweve will next month compete at the Dubai Grand Prix which will be used as qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) secretary general, Tuma Dandi, stated Mtweve will depart for the event on February 7 and he will be accompanied by coach, Kassim Saleh.

He thanked Agitos Foundation for sponsoring the duo's trip to Dubai, saying the qualifiers will also be used for classification of the athlete.

"Our athlete Ignas Mtweve will travel to Dubai on February 7 for the Dubai Grand Prix which will be used

as qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics, we thank International Paralympic Committee (IPC) through Agitos Foundation for sponsoring our athlete to the event," he said.

Dandi expressed confidence that Mtweve will qualify for the coming Tokyo Olympics.

Meanwhile, Dandi also disclosed that a Paralympic athlete Sauda Njopeka will in March compete in Tunisia, seeking to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

He also urged all Paralympic athletes earmarked to compete at Tokyo Olympics' qualifiers to continue with individual training at their respective bases to keep in shape.

"Athletes should not relax because they are like soldiers. They should

always be ready to avoid being taken by surprise. For us to realise our targets, we must intensify preparations. We are hopeful that all Paralympic athletes are fit," he said. He noted: "We hope to be more stable in the second phase matches, we believe coach Mkwasa is doing extra work in this period which is good for us to prepare, by working on mistakes we made in previous games."

"We have made it clear that our goal this season is the VPL trophy, if we fail to win the title, people should believe Ruvu Shooting were certain to clinch the 2020/21 VPL," he stated.

Ruvu Shooting are placed fifth in the VPL table with 28 points, posting victory in seven games, three losses and seven draws.

## TPC to hold election today

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Paralympic Committee (TPC) will today hold its elective general meeting at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Topping the agenda are the TPC's election for the post of the presidency, secretary general, treasurer general and executive committee's members' posts.

The TPC outgoing secretary general Tuma Dandi said all preparations for the election are over.

He said 16 people have shown interest to compete for various posts at the election.

"So far all preparations for the election are over, 16 people have shown interest to contest at the election, we hope those who will be elected will help in the development of Paralympic sports in the country," he said.

Names of all 16 people who will contest at today's election were not available as of yesterday.

However, Dandi said he will contest for the position of TPC chairman to replace outgoing Chairman Gwakisa Mwakibete.

Vincent Kanduma will contest for the vice-chairman's post, while former Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) Secretary General Ramadhan Namkomveka is vying for the post of TPC Secretary General, Francis Gugu is eyeing the treasurer general's post. According to TPC, at the counts of votes, members of the electoral committee shall count out loud the number of ballot papers and verify their validity.

According to the body, should the number of ballot papers being either equal to or less than the number of ballot papers issued, the ballot is deemed valid. If it exceeds the number of ballot papers issued, the ballot shall be declared void and recommence immediately in accordance with the procedure described above. "After the number of ballot papers has been verified, the members of the electoral committee shall proceed to count the number of votes cast for each different candidate," the committee stated.

Once the count has been completed and verified, the chairman shall officially declare the results to the affiliates of TPC, if a second (or subsequent) round of voting is required, the voting procedure shall be repeated in accordance with the above articles," the committee said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

