



**National Pg 3**  
Govt disburses 12.lbn/- for water projects



**National Pg 4**  
Boundary demarcation enters Ngorongoro



**National Pg 5**  
Call to enroll Maasai children in schools



Page 13



## UN chief mourns Archbishop Tutu

By A Special Correspondent

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday mourned the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu (pictured) of South Africa, describing him as a towering figure for world peace.

"I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an unwavering voice for the voiceless," said Guterres in a statement.

"Archbishop Tutu was a towering global figure for peace and an inspiration to generations across the world. During the darkest days of apartheid, he was a shining beacon for social justice, freedom and non-violent resistance."

Archbishop Tutu's relentless determination to build global solidarity



**Although Archbishop Tutu's passing leaves a huge void on the global stage, and in our hearts we will be forever inspired by his example to continue the fight for a better world for all**

for a free and democratic South Africa was fittingly recognized by the Nobel Committee in its decision to award him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

"As chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he made an immeasurable contribution to ensuring a peaceful, yet just, transition to a democratic South Africa. His great wisdom and experience were always communicated with humanity, humor and heart, the secretary general underlined."

Archbishop Tutu was a steadfast champion of multilateralism and had important roles, for example, as a distinguished member of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention, and on a high level fact finding mission to Gaza in 2008. In the past decade, Archbishop Tutu continued to fight passionately for action on many of the critical issues of today: poverty, climate change, human rights and HIV/AIDS, he said.

"Although Archbishop Tutu's passing leaves a huge void on the global stage, and in our hearts we will be forever inspired by his example to continue the fight for a better world for all," he added

# Zanzibar anti-drugs body to have powers of arrest

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

MEMBERS of the Zanzibar House of Representatives have endorsed a bill for the creation of an organ with full authority in the fight against intoxicating drugs, vested with power to arrest, investigate and take suspects to court.

The House endorsed the bill following a lengthy debate on interpreting its various sections, and elaborations thereto were conducted by the Minister of State in the Office of the First Vice President, Dr Saada Mkuya and the Attorney General, Dr Mwyni Talib Haji.

The bill incorporate the use of marijuana and other intoxicants listed as illicit drugs, and any person arrested and found guilty of offences related to drugs, including their use and trafficking, will be imprisoned for life.

Dr Mkuya said the government made amendments to the law by instituting a full-fledged authority against drug abuse and trafficking, as earlier anti-drugs enforcement proved ineffective.

The earlier organ had no power of arrest, investigations and taking suspects to court, leaving this aspect to the police, hence its effectiveness left much to be desired, she stated.

"Hon. Deputy Speaker, with the passage of this law that will create a full-fledged organ with authority in the fight against drug abuse, a new chapter has been written as we are now ready to eradicate drug abuse," the minister declared.

Some representatives contributing to the debate said the law was good and had a true intention to fully fight drug abuse in the Isles. Omar Said Shaaban, the Minister for Trade and Industrial Development, said the law will bring respect to Zanzibar and great hopes to investors in the fight against drug abuse.

Mfenesini representative Machano Othman Said expressed hope that the new authority against drug abuse shall work with officials under the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) as they have prosecuting experience on various criminal issues.



**Hon. Deputy Speaker, with the passage of this law that will create a full-fledged organ with authority in the fight against drug abuse, a new chapter has been written as we are now ready to eradicate drug abuse**



Tourists from various countries pose for a group photo at the Zebra Rocks area ready to climb Mt Kilimanjaro, organised by Kilitwende Adventures in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Vintage cars tourism's Boxing Day kick-start

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA is ushering in the New Year with a new package to boost the country's travel industry now that the global tourism sector is fighting for recovery after a two year slump.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) is introducing 'Old Classic Cars' tourism, flagged off on Boxing Day at the Arusha National Park, where nostalgia-evoking



**I am also a member of the special club for vintage cars enthusiasts**

vehicles like the Landrover series 108 and 109, Volkswagen Beetle and Toyota Land Cruiser Series 40 hit the terrain amid heavy rain.

The park, set up in 1960, wishes to bring back vehicles being used in tourism during that time, to revive the sweet memories of yesteryears, evoking the melancholic feeling behind the wheel.

Herman Batiho, deputy commissioner for

TURN TO PAGE 2

## 'Rural Energy master plan to uplift living standards'

By Guardian Reporter, Kigoma

CONNECTING all rural areas with electricity shall benefit the people with better energy for cooking, top officials of the Rural Energy Agency (REA) have observed.

Touring energy projects in the region at the weekend, Rural Energy Board (REB)



chairman Julius Kalolo (pictured) and REA Director General Hassan Saidy said the master plan for rural energy transformation involves various types of energy, not just electricity.

Kalolo said it is REA's responsibility to ensure people in rural areas get clean energy at affordable cost to improve

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dr Saada Mkuya



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## Vintage cars tourism's Boxing Day kick-start

FROM PAGE 1

conservation in the northern circuit, said that old cars are beautiful, rare and extremely valuable, attracting many visitors who want to travel back in time and revisit the world before automated machines.

Park conservator Albert Mziray said the park, located at the foot of Mount Meru, is easily accessible and most types of vehicles can be used for tourism.

The park is the second oldest after Serengeti and looks better with vintage cars, he asserted, affirming plans to have this type of classic tourism twice a year to start with.

Sady Mnene, behind the wheel of a sky-blue Land Rover 109 pickup said old cars are the new rave, and he runs a workshop which restores most old cars of them back to life.

"The value of vintage cars keeps going up and if handled properly the new concept of classic car tourism will make the country's tourism industry hit new heights," he said.

Driving a green Volkswagen Beetle made in 1968, Edson Sengiyuva loves VWs. "I also own a Volkswagen Combi which I am converting into a camper van for tourism," he said.

Elfride Aikaniwa was the only lady on the steering wheel at the vintage cars' maiden round at the park. She battled with the three gears manual transmission of a jeep-like Toyota Land-Cruiser FJ40, also a pickup.

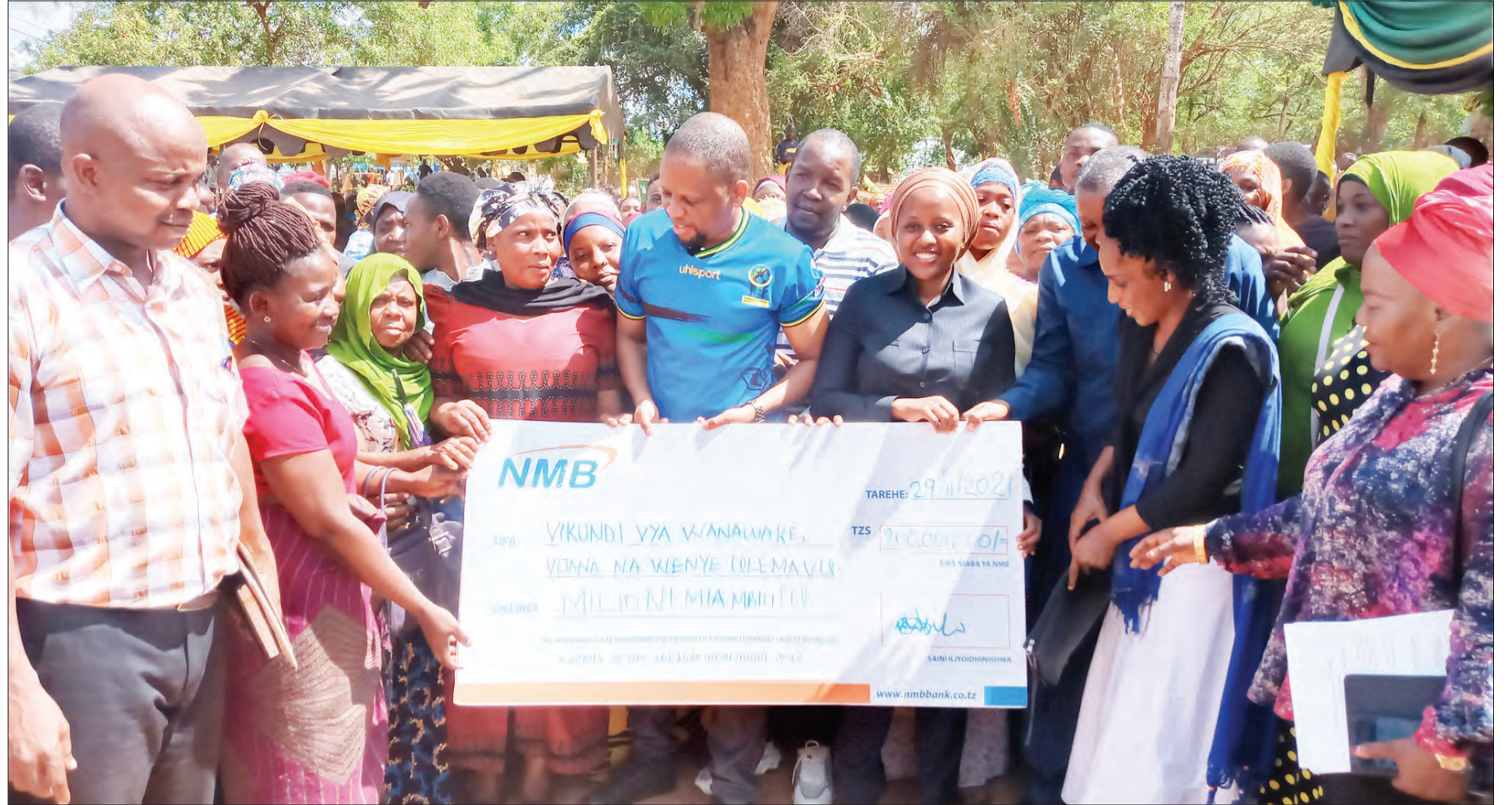
"I am also a member of the special club for vintage cars enthusiasts," she remarked.

The maiden vintage cars tourism was supposed to kick-off with 17 vehicles, but few managed to turn up due to heavy rains, while a number of them are open-roofed contraptions, organisers said.

The stage was already set for major events of that nature to color the coming year and in the future, they added.



**The value of vintage cars keeps going up and if handled properly the new concept of classic car tourism will make the country's tourism industry hit new heights**



Muheza district commissioner Halima Bulembo (with headscarf-C) holds a dummy cheque worth 200m/- for women, youth and persons with disabilities issued by Muheza council as loan to special groups yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## 'Rural Energy master plan to uplift living standards'

FROM PAGE 1

their living standards, thus the agency has in place strategies to ensure that this responsibility is implemented accordingly.

"REA has registered considerable achievements and continues to perform regarding rural power projects, so there is no doubt that other types of energy already researched upon will be applied to attain the desired goals," he stated.

Researches show that the priority is energy for cooking, to eliminate the

firewood fetching burden on women, meanwhile as using wood as fuel affects the eyes and also ignites chest diseases, he said, underlining the agency's dedication to eradicate the fuel wood challenge among rural women.

For his part, the director general said that the master plan focuses on electricity distribution and cooking energy, where at present the agency is targeting the cooking energy aspect, to make sure people in rural areas use better energy in cooking. They must abandon wood fuel and charcoal as such fuel sources

ere unfriendly to the environment, he affirmed.

REA made consultations with cooking gas dealers on the possibility of gas reaching rural areas to be priced lower, enabling rural people to affordably use it in cooking, he asserted.

The top agency officials assured Kibondo and Kakonko district commissioners whom they met at different times that sensitive areas and security spots will be connected.

Earlier, Kakonko DC Col. Evance Malassa and his Kibondo counterpart,

Col. Aggrey Magwaza had in conversations with the REA leaders demanded that border areas where electricity has not reached be prioritised to strengthen border security.

They lauded efforts by the agency in widening electricity connection at a rapid pace through various ongoing projects.

Procurement of equipment for REA Phase II Project round two implemented by Tanesco subsidiary, ETDCO in the two districts was sorted out during the visit, officials added.



Home Affairs minister Geogre Simbachawene briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about 5,000 prisoners who had been pardoned by President Samia Suluhu Hassan during the 60th anniversary of Tanganyika Independence. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Special Correspondent

## Business community welcomes imminent admission of The DR Congo to EAC bloc

THE Chief Executive of East African Business Council (EABC), John Bosco Kalisa, has welcomed the move to admit the Democratic Republic of Congo into the East African Community body.

He says that it will bolster trade between partner states, raising the market from 177 million to almost 269 million people.

The EAC heads of state meeting on Wednesday approved the process of DR Congo's admission into the bloc after a report of the Council of Ministers on the admission of the country to become the seventh member of the regional grouping.

EAC Secretary General Peter Mathuki hands the flag of the East

African Community to Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi as his country starts process to join EAC

In an exclusive interview with The New Times, Kalisa said that DR Congo is a potential market for the East African Community.

"We want to extend our gratitude to the heads of state who have okayed this process, and we are very excited to have DRC as one of our partners, because the business and market opportunities provided by the country are immense," said Kalisa.

Citing the Congolese profile export structure, Kalisa said that the

process is adding a new momentum to the integration of the mother continent, Africa.

"Congo is already exporting a substantial amount of goods to Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda because they share borders, but because of the admission, we are going to have a borderless trade," noted Kalisa.

Tackling on the Congolese Pavilion that has been set up in Rwanda International Trade Fair currently undergoing in Kigali, he described it as a positive impetus to demonstrate the region is open to everyone.

Kalisa then called for the expedition of the process to assure the business community starts reaping the fruits in the coming year.

He also urged East African business communities to maximise the political will and engagement and to create and cultivate that mutual trust between the nations.

The Democratic Republic of Congo will be the seventh country to join the East African Community, scaling the body's total GDP from the current \$193 billion by \$50 billion to \$240 billion, which economists say will make the EAC region a huge international market.

## Meningitis outbreak in DR Congo declared over

By Special Correspondent, Kinshasa

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo has declared the meningitis outbreak that erupted in the north-eastern Tshopo Province over a total of 2662 cases and 205 deaths were recorded.

To bring the outbreak under control, the national and provincial health authorities with support from World Health Organization (WHO) mounted a robust response in a challenging context, swiftly setting up local health emergency management teams, bolstering disease surveillance, carrying out vaccination drives and providing medical care including through mobile clinics. The measures helped reduce the case fatality ratio - the proportion of deaths among confirmed cases - from 85% at the start of the outbreak which was declared on 7 September 2021 to less than 10% within weeks.

"Meningitis can cause devastating outbreaks. It strikes fast and is lethal," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "Ending this outbreak under difficult circumstances and amid the COVID-19 pandemic is no mean feat by the national authorities. But we must invest more to better detect, prevent and lessen the debilitating impact of this disease."

Meningitis is a serious infection, typically bacterial in nature, which is easily transmitted by airborne particles from bodily secretions. The disease can lead to death within hours and remains a major public health challenge.

Preliminary retrospective investigations suggested that the outbreak in Tshopo started in early June in two mining areas in Banalia health zone, 227 km north of Kisangani, the provincial capital. The initial alert raised by the Tshopo Province health authorities followed an increase in deaths among people presenting with symptoms including fever, headache, and stiff neck and some with bloody diarrhea.

Tshopo Province lies in the African meningitis belt that runs across the

continent from Senegal to Ethiopia and comprises 26 countries. The African meningitis belt is the most vulnerable globally to recurrent outbreaks.

Meningitis outbreaks have occurred in several provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo in the past. In 2009, an outbreak in Kisangani infected 214 people and caused 15 deaths—a case fatality ratio of 8%.

In September, WHO and partners launched the first ever global strategy to defeat meningitis by 2030. The plan aims to eliminate epidemics of bacterial meningitis—the deadliest form of the disease—and to reduce deaths by 70% and halve the number of cases. It is estimated that the strategy could save more than 200 000 lives globally every year and significantly reduce disability caused by the disease. The key steps to achieve the 2030 goals include improving prevention and epidemic response measures, diagnosis and treatment, disease surveillance, access to care and support for meningitis after-effects as well as advocacy to boost awareness of the disease.



**Ending this outbreak under difficult circumstances and amid the COVID-19 pandemic is no mean feat by the national authorities. But we must invest more to better detect, prevent and lessen the debilitating impact of this disease**



# Government disburses 12.1 billion/- for water projects in Singida

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE government has disbursed 12.1bn/- for implementation of projects aimed at addressing water challenges in Singida Region.

An event to sign contracts between Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) and contractors who are going to implement the projects took place over the weekend and was witnessed by the Regional Commissioner Dr Bilinith Mahenge.

According to RUWASA regional manager for Singida Lucas Japhary said the contracts have been divided into three sections in which one is the budget and the other was the funds from Covid-19 funds.

“For this financial year we have received 12.1bn/- and now we have signed six contracts worth 3.9bn/- and in the second agreement we signed via the Covid-19 funds whereby Singida region has received 4.9bn/-,” he said.

He said out of the Covid-19 funds, the region has received 2.8bn/- for implementing water projects in rural areas under RUWASA.

The RUWASA official explained to the RC said the project will upon completion in the next six months address water challenges facing the region of about 300,000 residents.

For his part, the manager Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) Patrick Nzamba said they have already started supplying water pipes worth 244m/-.

Earlier, Dr Mahenge apart from hailing President Samia Suluhu Hassan for deliberate actions of releasing funds for implementing the projects said projects will go a long way to address water woes facing residents in the region.

“These are serious projects; therefore, those of you who have been given the task to implement the projects should work tirelessly to ensure the projects are completed on time,” he said.

A resident of Mwankoko village Neema Khambi thanked the government for the efforts to address challenges facing the region including water shortages.

... in the second agreement we signed via the Covid-19 funds whereby Singida region has received 4.9bn/



Tigo sales manager in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region, Silas Mkuyu (R) hands over a motorcycle to a resident of Machame, Jeremiah Shoo after he emerged the winner during the ongoing firm's promotion dubbed: "Wagiftishe gift juu ya gift" in the region over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Njombe men advised to assist in their children's upbringing

By Guardian Reporter, Njombe

MEN in Njombe District, Njombe Region have been advised to assist in their children's upbringing by adhering to better nutrition to eradicate malnutrition.

The advice was brought up during a debate held here at the weekend during which some people said the malnutrition challenge was increasing because men distanced themselves from their children's upbringing, leaving the responsibility to the women.

“The issue of family upbringing and better nutrition to children is for both the father and mother, but it sad to see the mother alone labours for the children's upkeep while the father is occupied by his own business, this is not right at all,” said Amina Saidi.

Aurelia Mtitu, another woman added: “Men, I ask you to go together in this to ensure better health for the child, and if we work together, the issue of stunting would be history.”

For her part, Emilia Msafiri said mothers have been occupying themselves in economic activities instead of children's upkeep, the situation that contributes to stunting.

“It is true, we are looking for money, but we must ask ourselves we look for the money for what purpose? You find a mother waking up at 6.00 in the morning and goes to the farm leaving her child with maize meal (Makande) only, and for three days consecutively, where will better nutrition come from?” asked Emilia.

For her part, Philoteus Ngilangwa said many parents give food to their children just for eating, the situation, she said, is contributed by lack of the right education on nutrition.

However, she said, in order to reduce the problem, education should be provided right from below including in schools and families level. In addition, parents should be educated how to spend their time well in their children's upbringing and their economic activities.



**Men, I ask you to go together in this to ensure better health for the child, and if we work together, the issue of stunting would be history**




**Advertisement**

**REQUEST FOR QUOTATION**

**BUL-RFQ-21-12-05 - SUPPLY COMPLETE ENGINE GENSET-MODEL - 3516-DTTA (02 units)**

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine (“the Company”), 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 Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

**Details**

- Engine model – 3516-DTTA
- S/N-5SJ00188
- Arrangement number-7E-6916
- Provide warranty of the Engine Complete Genset.
- Installation, Testing and Commissioning Engine Complete Genset

**Key documents**

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner

**Submission of Quotes**


Please submit your quotes via email to [bulytender@barrick.com](mailto:bulytender@barrick.com). The reference “Complete Engine Genset Model 3516-DTTA - BUL-RFQ-21-12-05” must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

**NB:** The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

**Key Dates**

- Last date to submit quotes **December 28, 2021**

**Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited**



**EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING FOR WATER SUPPLY SOURCING SERVICES FOR EACOP PROJECT REF. ECP-21-C-016**

TotalEnergies East Africa Midstream B.V. (Company) Tanzania, an Oil and Gas company, invites experienced and reputable Valuation contractors that have demonstrable capability, proven experience, willingness and ability to express their interest in providing the following services to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPE OF THE SERVICES:**  
Engineering of groundwater/well based systems and/or tie-ins to existing water network systems includes a desktop study, site investigations and detailed groundwater/well based systems

**DESKTOP STUDY**  
Collect and review of any existing documentation, including: 1/ geophysical and hydrogeological studies carried out earlier by Ministry of Water or any other entity; 2/ available maps, aerial photographs, reports and other water resources data of previously drilled boreholes;  
Carry out Field reconnaissance survey including:  
• field geologic traverses to identify geological and hydrogeological conditions  
• A census of existing wells, boreholes, watercourses and water features within a 3 km radius of the required supply point (SITE), or proposed well development area if remote from SITE;  
• Survey of existing wells and boreholes, including water level and basic water quality measurements;  
Report including:  
• Hydrogeological and Piezometric maps; including location and depth of existing wells  
• Conceptual study of well design (when possible to do it from a desktop study),  
• Detailed additional site investigations programme needed for well design.  
tie-ins to existing water network systems

**SITE INVESTIGATIONS**  
Geophysical investigations to be conducted on the selected potential sites identified, in order to find the water bearing zones. Site investigation report shall include:  
• Program of investigations and justifications of the selected investigation techniques  
• Data interpretation, including: 1/ Aquifer geometry & hydraulic and recharge characteristics, 2/ Aquifer chemistry and factors that influence chemistry; 3/ Feasibility of developing the groundwater resources including expected number of wells, locations, depth, etc...

**DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN**  
• Design of water Well, Water Well Pump, Piping, surrounding facilities and equipment, Water Storage, ...  
• Detailed Drawings, technical specifications

**DESKTOP STUDY**  
Collect and review all relevant data from responsible basins and water supply authorities regarding the existing supply network, e.g. size of the pipes, materials of construction for the pipes, quality of water etc.  
REPORT including:  
Analysis of all data collected in terms of feasibility of connection to the existing distribution networks

**SITE INVESTIGATIONS**  
Field walkovers to establish existing network locally with respect to SITES;  
• Condition assessment of existing infrastructure i.e. pipe condition, booster pumps etc.  
• Establishing potential location(s) for tie-ins;  
• Water quality sampling and analysis  
• Conduct Topographical survey for routes for pipeline  
• Site investigation report including the above information's

**DETAILED ENGINEERING DESIGN**  
• Design of network system from point of connection to SITE while considering domestic connection to local community, rising mains, gravity mains, reservoirs/storage tanks, off-takes and distribution network;  
• Detailed Drawings, technical specifications  
The work will be done in a range of locations across the country

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**  
Companies expressing their interest are invited to document their request with:  
• Proof of registration with Brela CRS and CRB.  
• Application for registration with the EVURA Local Supplier Service Provider (LSSP) database at the time of submission of the response to this expression of interest is strongly recommended.  
• Compliance with Local Content Regulations, 2017 and Local Company definition.  
• Description of past experience in providing engineering of water supply : Well development and/or tie-in to existing water network.  
• List of previous projects : description, client, location, ...  
• List of owned equipment and systems, qualified and experienced personnel  
• Proof of financial capability to undertake the proposed scope of services  
• Description of H3SE and Quality policy  
• Copy of Anti-corruption and compliance policies

Companies which have the ability, capacity and resources to implement the activities listed above should express their interest by sending together with the documents stated in the above section through an email to [adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com](mailto:adeline.mmari@external.totalenergies.com). (max. email size 20Mb) on or before **17:00** hours East African Time (EAT), on **24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**. Email Reference should be ECP-21-C-016/EOI

**Note:**The EACOP project will review and assess the documents provided by the interested companies to derive a list of prequalified companies. Only prequalified companies will receive, subject to signature of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), invitation to submit bids in furtherance of the call for tender process. All Expression of Interests should be submitted in English Language.



## Kenya-Tanzania boundary demarcation project now enters Ngorongoro District

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

WORK in the strengthening of the Tanzania-Kenya international boundary is said to be progressing well as after the completion of erecting 205 boundary stones along the 60 km stretch in the Serengeti National Park in Mara Region, the work has now started at Naan Village in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region and proceeding to Lake Natron.

Strengthening of the border line between the two countries follows the Resolution by the African Union (AU) from its various sittings calling for the work to be completed by 2022.

This was revealed here at the weekend by project supervisor on Tanzania's side Romanus Sanga, a surveyor from the Office of the Commissioner for Lands in Arusha Region, who added that the area now to be erected with boundary beacons has a very long distance without the beacons, therefore new beacons would simplify the identification of the boundary line between the two countries.

He said the area poses great geographical challenges especially in transporting various equipment needed for beacons fixing.

"As you can see, the area is mostly non-accessible to motor vehicles hence labourers have to be hired to carry materials including gravel, cement and water, and in order to finish the work in time we are coordinating well with our Kenyan counterparts," said Sanga.

He said among others, the work includes identifying spots for the erection of beacons, their inscriptions and integrating details on the border maps.

For his part, the Director of Survey and Mapping in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and

Human Settlements Development, Hamdouny Mansur who was part of the inspection team of the project in the Ngorongoro area said after completion, the new boundary beacons will enhance security along the border area and boost customs activities as well as controlling wanton settlements in the area.

For his part, the Chairman of Naan village in Engusero-Sambu Ward, Mwatat Olemsana Moina said the strengthening of the international boundary between Tanzania and Kenya aims to easily identify the actual boundary line between the two countries.

He added that the village has put in place bylaws to deal with anyone who willfully destroys the beacons that have been erected.

The task Force Plan for FY 2021/22 on the strengthening of Kenya-Tanzania boundary includes Phase I involving 238 kms by completing the 60 km stretch including 23 kms in Lake Natron area - a total of 110 kms of the boundary line from Lake Natron to Namanga in Longido District.

Tanzania-Kenya common border is 758 kms long that was erected by the German and British colonial governments in 1893 under the Anglo-German Agreement and the 1906 Protocol.



**...the village has put in place bylaws to deal with anyone who willfully destroys the beacons that have been erected**



Speaker Job Ndugai talks to Mikalile Ye Wanyausi community general meeting held in Dodoma over the weekend. Right is secretary general Amon Chipalo and chairperson Grace Lesilwa. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Muheza District Council gears up for more revenue collection

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari, Muheza

MUHEZA District Council is gearing up for revenue increase following the completion of first phase construction of the 7-kilometer road section from Muheza Township to Uembe village in the district.

The project which has been completed by 95 per cent has brought relief to farmers in the area with revenue expected to increase through farm products and levies.

Handled by Chinese contractor Jiangxi Geo-Engineering (Group) Corporation, the road which is in the

2020-2025 CCM manifesto is also one of the main strategic national road development projects for Tanga region.

According to Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) regional manager for Tanga Alfred Ndumbaro about 3.3bn/- has been paid to the contractor into two installments whereby out of such amount, 1.3bn/- has been paid as advance payment and 1.9bn/- paid through Payment Certificate number two.

The report further said the remaining 33 kilometre section will be completed soon saying already the agency's Chief Executive Officer

has written to the government to disburse of 41.7bn/- for the project.

For her part, Muheza District Commissioner, Halima Bulembo said apart from being a strategic main road for the region, the road is also a potential economic feeder road between Amani-Muheza district as it contributes to increase in district council revenues through forest products, tourism and crops levies.

The road is also potential to Tanga Port because many of food crops products from Amani villages are transported to Zanzibar and other regions.

"Products like timber are exported overseas through the old established East Africa seaport," she said.

Amani area is Muheza district's agricultural food basket, hence completion of the road has brought relief for logistics and transporters of goods because during rainy seasons vehicles could not move," said.

The area is known for spices (tea estates) clove, and other spices, banana, roots crops production as well as tourism whereby more than 1000 vehicles are passed through that road hence the completion of the section would enable the road to passable all weather.

## Development partners urged to support govt efforts in the fight against COVID-19

By Guardian Correspondent, Arumeru

ARUMERU District Administrative Secretary, James Mchembe has called upon citizens and development partners to support the government's efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

Mchembe made the remarks yesterday when speaking after a charity walk organized by the Tengeru Institute of Community Development (TICD) in collaboration with the health department in Meru District Council to sensitize people to take preventive measures against COVID-19.

During the exercise which included blood donation, health experts from Meru District Council partnered with different stakeholders to provide education to the public on how to prevent from COVID-19 as well as other non-communicable diseases.

The official applauded TICD and stakeholders for joining efforts against the spread of COVID-19, and educating people on the importance of protecting themselves from the pandemic.

Addressing a rally at Meru hospital, Mchembe called upon other stakeholders to continue assisting the government in provision of education on how to prevent from COVID-19 and the importance of being vaccinated.

"The government has brought in the country a lot of COVID vaccines; may I call upon you to massively go for the jabs to protect yourself from the disease," said the Arumeru DAS, adding youth should be in the fore front in receiving and advocating for the inoculation.

Meru District Council, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Maneno Focus

said they have been able to reach and vaccinate a good number of people through a house to house to campaign. He said health experts are also following people at their work stations as well as churches.

Dr Focus said that they have so far administered 4560 jabs, equivalent to 76 per cent of the received vaccines. He said the administered jabs are for the first phase, whereas issuance of the second phase of the vaccines has already started.

Dr Focus called upon the residents to visit health facilities to receive the jab. He said the district council has received Pfizer vaccine which is available at all the health facilities.

The Head of TICD Tengeru, Dr Bakari Juma said the charity walk was organized as part of celebrations to mark the community development week as well as supporting the government's efforts against COVID-19.



**The government has brought in the country a lot of COVID vaccines; may I call upon you to massively go for the jabs to protect yourself from the disease**



Deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office Labour, Youth and Employment Patrobas Katambi who is also Shinyanga Urban MP looks at a blackboard at Koliandoto secondary school during his visit to inspect classrooms project funded by COVID-19 stimulus package. Photo: Correspondent Marco Maduhu

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Medical Officer, Dr Best Magoma has said, despite the drop in mother-child deaths in the region still more efforts were needed to face with the challenge.

Dr Magoma made the remarks here at the weekend when addressing reporters regarding child and mothers' deaths in Dodoma region.

He said in the entire 2020 deaths on pregnant women totaled 88 and by November this year the number dropped to 64.

"There are positive results in

## Dodoma region registers drop in mother-child deaths

regard to these deaths and in regard to infant deaths, these dropped from 690 in 2020 to 529 by November this year and we have mobilised ourselves to reduce the number even further - to 25 per cent as the number is still big," he said.

He added: "There is still a lot to do as a single death has a great meaning to us hence we should all work together to improve our health

services."

He said the deaths are caused by excessive bleeding by pregnant women during deaths, pregnancy epilepsy and child infections before delivery.

In regard to the diseases situation in Dodoma region, Dr Magoma said in the period July to November 2021 there weren't any cases of infectious diseases.

"However at this time the region and the country in general has been in great alert of flu due to Covid-19 viruses," he said and added that the region continues to take various steps against Covid-19 infections.

He said the region has 447 health service delivery centres including 16 hospitals, 47 health centres 373 dispensaries and eight clinics.



# MP urges residents to support orphanage centres

By Guardian Correspondent, Songea

SONGEA Urban MP, Dr Damas Ndumbaro has urged residents in the constituency to develop a tendency of visiting orphanage centres to recognize their challenges and be able to extend needed support.

Ndumbaro who also doubles as Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism said children in the orphanage centres face a lot of challenges which needs support from stakeholders.

He made the appeal here when he visited three orphanages which are Saint Anthony located in Mfaranyaki ward; Swacco I Mwendemshindo and Saint Tereza located in Msamala and donated various items and gifts as part of the Christmas and New Year celebrations. He was accompanied by family members, Songea municipal mayor Michael Mbanu and CCM chairman Hamis Abdallah Ally.

He said if the community would develop a habit of visiting children in the centres, then it will help address various challenges facing them.

Dr Ndumbaro who donated food stuff such as rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil and body lotion, soap and soft drinks said: "Children in the centres are also ours because most of them if you trace their history they do not know their parents, so we need to show them love."

The Minister also took four children from the centres, who have passed the 2021 Primary School Leaving Examinations and will be funding them to study in secondary school.

He explained that after realising the challenges facing children in the centres, he decided to initiate a golf course that gathered many of his friends and then collected funds to support him purchase gifts for the children.

Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) who were also accompanied by the MP, contributed mattresses at the Swacco centre which was also given six beds so as to improve the sleeping environment for the children.

Hamis Abdallah Ally, CCM chairman for Songea district commended the management of the centres for their love for children.

Mayor Mbanu said his office will continue cooperating with all orphanage centres so as to identify challenges they face and see how to address them.

Judith Mwageni, one of the supervisors at the Saint Anthony centre appreciated MP and all stakeholders for extending their support saying that their donation will greatly support operations at the centre and bring joy to the children.



Kibondo district commissioner Cornel Aggrey Magwaza (R) in discussion with Rural Electricity Board chairman Advocate Julius Kalolo (2nd R), Ryural Electrification Agency director general Eng Hassan Saidy (L) and Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited Kigoma regional manager Eng. Jaffary Mpina (2nd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Maasai parents in Longido District called on to enroll their children in primary schools

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

ARUSHA Regional Commissioner, John Mongella has urged Maasai parents in Longido District to make sure all qualified children are enrolled in school instead of letting them take care of cattle.

He was speaking here yesterday during a function to receive seven newly constructed classrooms. He said the government has constructed a lot of classrooms, thus no need for children to remain at home.

"Children should be at school and not in the farms taking care of cattle; the government has provided a lot of funds

for construction of classrooms with the intention of ensuring all Tanzanian children have access to education," said RC Mongella.

He added: "We cannot spend all this money to improve the learning environment and yet only few children are enrolled at primary and secondary schools. As parents, you're responsible for your children's education; they should prepare their future."

He said the children are future leaders and deserve all the care from their parents including being educated. He said it is through education the pastoral community will also get livestock experts

and other specialists to save their community.

Longido District Commissioner, Nurdin Babu said they are expecting to complete construction of the remaining classrooms early next year. He said the district received 2.6bn/- from the central government for construction of 54 classrooms for both primary and secondary schools.

The Regional Commissioner is on an official tour in Arusha to inspect construction of classrooms at various schools as well as observing the school preparation for the coming academic year.



...the government has provided a lot of funds for construction of classrooms with the intention of ensuring all Tanzanian children have access to education



Natural Resources and Tourism minister who is Songea Urban MP Dr Damas Ndumbaro presents various items to three orphanage centres at Mfaranyaki over the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Nathan Mtega

# Iran now bans entry from 12 countries over Omicron fear

TEHRAN

TRAVELLERS arriving from 12 countries are banned from entry into Iran for 15 days over the fear of the Omicron COVID-19 variant, Iran's semi-official news agency ISNA reported.

The ban, already effective last Saturday, covers eight African countries of Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Eswatini, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa, and four European countries of Britain, France, Norway and Denmark, according to Iran's Interior Ministry.

For travellers arriving from other countries, the ministry has mandated the submission of a vaccination certificate and a negative PCR test before entering Iran.

Iran's Health Ministry on Sunday reported 1,857 new COVID-19 cases, raising the country's total infections to 6,184,762.

The pandemic also claimed 52 lives in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 131,400.

A total of 6,026,378 people have recovered from the disease or been discharged from hospitals across the country, while 2,774 remained in intensive care units, said the ministry.

On Dec. 19, Iran reported its first Omicron case in a traveller who returned from the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, the Africa CDC said that 22 African countries have so far reported cases of the Omicron COVID-19 variant.

"As of today, 22 African countries

are reporting the presence of the Omicron variant," John Nkengasong, Director of the Africa CDC said.

According to figures from the Africa CDC, six African countries that are Burkina Faso, Togo, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco and Mauritius have reported Omicron COVID-19 variant cases during the past week.

"We can see clearly that the Omicron variant is spreading very quickly in Africa," Nkengasong said.

The African Union (AU) had recently warned that travel and entry bans in connection with the emergence of the Omicron COVID-19 variant limit the free movement of people and goods, imposing immediate and significant impact on African countries.

As of Thursday morning, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Africa reached 9,259,813 and the death toll stood at 226,536.

# UP to train ethical leaders in southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE University of Pretoria (UP) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Apolitical Academy Southern Africa (AASA) to collaborate in training ethical leaders in South Africa and the southern African region.

The agreement, which is valid for three years, will see the two parties work together in several areas aimed at training and developing Africa's future government and political leaders.

Associate Professor Victoria Graham, head of the department of political sciences at UP, said the partnership between the two institutions will be mutually beneficial.

"This relationship is so important because both UP and the Apolitical Academy are committed to the promotion of active citizenship and the creation of ethical, strong, transformational leadership," Graham said.

"There is an enduring need to contribute to the development of open, robust and good quality democratic societies in Africa and globally; we hope that we can contribute to this goal through our collaboration."

AASA was established in 2018 as an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organisation which focuses on making the public service work for people throughout the region.

Lindiwe Mazibuko, co-founder and

Chief Executive Officer of AASA, said the relationship between the two entities is part of making a sustainable difference in the South Africa's political landscape.

"Our continent needs more young emerging leaders to be at the forefront of policy discussions and decision-making. Young people have a critical role to play in creating structural economic and social change across the continent in order to improve the lives of its most vulnerable people," Mazibuko said.

"Together, we aim to empower a new generation of ethical, political and governmental leaders to help close the gap between public institutions and the people they serve," Mazibuko added.

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Serious Investors are invited to express their interest to fund, design, build and manage a world class hospital to exclusively specialise in treatment of lungs, heart and kidneys with other vital organs as added facilities in Dar es salaam.

A huge prime peaceful and perfect site in fast developing area of Jangwani Beach area is available, complete with site office, storage and workshop areas for immediate start of the project. The site shall be offered as by promotor/ joint venture partner as his contribution.

Genuinely interested principal parties including potential foreign investors are welcome to participate.

Please contact Mr. Khalid Naik on +255 767819251 or Email: [khalednaik5@gmail.com](mailto:khalednaik5@gmail.com) to arrange a meeting with the principal.

NO AGENTS PLEASE!



# Government requested to lift a ban on tuition classes

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

THE government has been requested to lift a ban on tuition classes; holiday and extra studies to community owned secondary schools so as to enable them survive and continue providing quality education.

The appeal was made late last week in Missenyi district, Kagera Region during the general meeting of Kanyigo Development Association (KADEA), an association which owns a secondary and high school.

Twahiru Amran and Mwemezi Ngemera, KADEA members said the government should help community based private schools continue with their school routines including extra time lessons after ordinary timetable, and lessons during school holidays, so that they continue studying to have good performance in national exams.

They said the good examination results are a key to their survival, as this attracts more parents to bring in their children.

They were responding to the chairman's report, Enock Kamuzora who expressed concerns that the student enrollment in the future may go down, as many parents have been bringing their children to perform one course during December holidays, pupils who most of them join the school for the following year.

But as the government has banned extra time and holiday studies, it will shake the enrollment considering that the schools are not money making profit but just rendering services.

The chairman was proud of his school performances for years since it was established in 1984 that

has been going high, while other secondary schools in the region established in the 1980s under community self-help basis, have been surrendered, to be run by the government.

"This year, we haven't been stable financially due to Covid-19 pandemic effects, but we have managed to build two modern laboratories, and next year we will build a modern library sponsored by the Chinese embassy," he said.

Peter Kahesi, one of the members, urged KADEA to invest in vanilla farming so as to improve its economy.

"An individual farmer in Kanyigo and Kashenye wards should have at least ten plants as consensus reached in village meetings, so that the communities will be sure of income generation to meet household needs and afford children's education payments."

However KADEA has shown a great concern that it plans to have its own vanilla processing plant.

Apart from running a school, KADEA also empowers Kigarama and Kashenye government secondary schools, and Kanyigo Muslim Seminary secondary school, with stationaries and exchanging of academic knowledge.

The general meeting approved the 2022 budget, where the estimated income is 983,840,000/- and expenditure is estimated to be 1,045,510,000/- compared to 2021 income of 1,193,083,900/-.

*"This year, we haven't been stable financially due to Covid-19 pandemic effects, but we have managed to build two modern laboratories, and next year we will build a modern library sponsored by the Chinese embassy"*



Petty traders continue to conduct their businesses at Mbezi Mwisho despite the ban from Ubungu municipality as captured yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has been challenged to set up special banana markets for them to reduce the problem of growers selling their produce in the fields; a situation they say contributes to the decline.

Speaking to this paper banana grower in Busokelo District Council in Rungwe District said farmers lack of special markets lead to some speculators to develop banana harvesting system for exploitation.

One of the farmers, Samwel

## Banana farmers want the govt to set up special markets for the fruit

Mwakanyamale, said the lack of a reliable banana market was making even lower prices compared to the prices that other areas sell, including Kyela and Tukuyu.

He said in the area a bunch of bananas which in some areas sell for 5,000/- now sell for between 2,000/- and 3,000/- due to buyers incurring shipping costs.

"You can go through a farmer's field and see many bundles of ripe bananas and you think the man is rich but if you follow up you will find that he had spent the money many days ago after the harvest, so you find we serve bananas for traders," said Mwakanyamale.

Recently during a visit by Malawian government officials to

Mbeya Regional Commissioner Juma Homera instructed Rungwe District officials to cultivate bananas to make it easier for buyers as well as to increase the value of the crop.

RC Homera issued the order at the request of Malawian officials who wanted the stations to be built to facilitate access to the product and others.



Masasi hospital nurse attends to a child abandoned at a dumping site by unknown mother within Chikukwe village one week ago and brought at the hospital by Chikukwe ward councillor for more medical care. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasri

## Govt establishes tourism, diplomatic police force

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

IN efforts to curb crime in Zanzibar, the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities has set up a tourism and diplomatic police force with the aim of enhancing the security and safety environment for various visitors entering the country.

Presenting over 69 soldiers from various forces to Unguja South Regional Commissioner Rashid

Hadidi Rashid, the ministry's permanent secretary Fatma Mabruuk said tourism was an important activity for economic development so the force would help alleviate various challenges in the country.

PS Mabruuk said the ministry has taken deliberate efforts to ensure that foreigners entering the country return in a more secure environment.

For his part, RC Rashid has called on the force to be patriotic in combating criminal acts against foreigners entering the country and the government will not tolerate any executive who goes against the established directives.

He also urged the people of the region to co-operate with the force especially when they see signs of breach of peace on the beaches where tourists like to visit.

Zanzibar Police Chief of Tourism and Diplomacy, Eradius Kakoki, said the aim of the force was to ensure that incoming and outgoing tourists were safe with their belongings.

He said they will work in accordance with the laws and guidelines of the country where if the country is safe tourists will come in large numbers and the government will increase revenue.

## MP Njeze honours children who live with HIV at Unit

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

MBEYA Rural MP, Oran Njeza has donated school supplies to more than 150 children living with HIV who are being cared for at the Mbeya Ifisi district designated hospital under the Social Welfare Unit.

MP joined the children and their caregivers as part of the consolation for the group during this holiday season.

Among the donated items include sugar, teaching and learning materials such as notebooks, pens, pencils and rulers, where he said the equipment was distributed according to the classes of the children from those who hope to start first grade to those who join various colleges in the country.

The MP said the children's practice of socializing gives them the opportunity to get proper education about HIV infection and how to live with the virus without compromising health or losing their lives.

Njeza congratulated the parents and guardians of the children for their decision to allow their children to join the Teen Club on the grounds that the association helps them to get joint education and encourage each other to be good supporters of medicine.

"What made me happy was that you are self-aware, your parents are self-aware and even your sisters and brothers are self-aware, there are some people living with HIV but they do not want to show themselves like you, congratulations and I believe you are getting the right education," said Njeza.

He commended the leadership of Ifisi Hospital as well as the leadership of Mbeya council for cooperating in caring for the children and stressed that the program is appropriate for saving the lives of these children

and other people living with the infection.

The Director of the Center, Dr Khamis Bakari said the center was established in 2017 with 25 children but so far has more than 150 children of different ages and levels of education.

He said the services were introduced by the government in 2015 with the aim of reducing child mortality caused by HIV by ensuring that children receive appropriate care, including the use of antiretroviral drugs.

He said the children have been meeting every end of the month for proper education on how to live with HIV and that there are also goals that they are implementing in collaboration with various stakeholders.

"Our goal is to make sure these children achieve their life goals including doing well in school, but the problem that often arises is that some of them fail to achieve their goals due to lack of equipment at school," said Dr Bakari.

Dr Bakari also asked Njeza to be the guardian of the group so that they could co-operate in the formation as well as help the children to meet their needs in government with a request that Njeza granted.

However, some of the children said they faced the problem of stigma ranging from family, school and street with the explanation that they are often isolated from their peers who know they are living with the infection.

*"Our goal is to make sure these children achieve their life goals including doing well in school, but the problem that often arises is that some of them fail to achieve their goals due to lack of equipment at school"*



# TIKA to support capacity building in emergency medicines in Africa

By Guardian Correspondent

TURKISH Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) held the "Introduction to Disaster and Emergency Response Training (ADG+)" for 45 healthcare providers from 9 African countries in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey as part of the emergency medicine capacity building programme (ATKAP).

In the first phase of the Introduction to disaster and emergency response training, developed by the training projects coordination unit at TIKa as part of ATKAP, 60 prospective trainers selected among 243 Sudanese emergency health professionals who attended 8 separate training programs in Sudan and Turkey successfully completed the training of trainers in Turkey and were awarded an international trainer certificate.

In the second phase of the project, 28 of these trainers taught training courses in Chad, Djibouti, Somalia, Guinea, the Gambia, Senegal, Niger, and Cameroon along with Turkish trainers.

After the training courses held in these countries, 5 prospective trainers selected from each country were given training of trainers at the international emergency disaster training and simulation center in Urla, Izmir, affiliated with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, from December 6 to 17, 2021, in order to create local pools of trainers. After the training, a two-day exercise was conducted.

The opening ceremony of the exercise was attended by Dr Suayip Birinci, Deputy Minister of Health of Turkey; Dr Rahman Nurdun, Vice President of TIKa; Dr Eray Çınar,

Director-General of Emergency Health Services in the Ministry of Health of Turkey; Dr. Irshad Ali Shaikh, Director at WHO's Istanbul Office; Dr Mehmet Burak Öztop, Provincial Director of Health of Izmir; and many invitees.

In his speech at the ceremony, Dr Suayip Birinci, Deputy Minister of Health of Turkey, thanked TIKa for its contribution, stating that they have made significant progress in more than 4 years through training courses held in 9 African countries and Training of Trainers programs organized subsequently in Turkey with TIKa's valuable support and the dedication of trainers in our country.

Dr Rahman Nurdun, Vice President of TIKa, said, "As TIKa, we carry out projects and activities in many fields, especially in the health sector. While some projects focus on the construction of health centers and hospitals and the donation of modern equipment, training activities that support human capital and build capacity in the health sector in friendly and sister countries constitute a significant part of our projects. The pandemic once again proved the importance of our health projects."

A total of 800 people have been given the Introduction to Disaster and Emergency Response Training, developed by the Training Projects Coordination Unit at TIKa as part of ATKAP, in various parts of the world, especially in Africa and the Balkans. The activities carried out in this context were referred to as exemplary projects in the Annual Report 2020 of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). It is aimed to hold training courses in other members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Organization of Turkic States as part of ATKAP.



Petty traders wait for customers outside of Magufuli bus terminal at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

By Special Correspondent

# Omicron: India will not get African cheetahs this year

KUNO National Park in Madhya Pradesh was all prepped to welcome the African cheetahs – a project that has been a decade in the making – this year. The project has now been postponed, as the new coronavirus variant of concern omicron prompted travel restrictions.

The team of experts delegated to carry out the project was about to leave for Namibia in November, but had to return from the airport as travel restrictions kicked in the same day. Yadvendra Jhala, dean, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), said.

The team is likely to visit the country early next year.

"We are planning to go in the second week of January 2022, but it depends on the situation. We do not have a deadline for the relocation as yet. The process of relocation will only start once the governments of

the two countries talk and finalise the same," said Jhala.

The 8-10 pairs of cheetahs were supposed to arrive in India in November 2021, but the project was delayed as floods in August disrupted preparations to build proper enclosures for them.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh, Alok Kumar, said: "Kuno will be ready to receive the new guests soon as preparations are on the verge of completion".

Prakash Kumar Varma, divisional forest officer, told DTE: "We have finished the construction of the six watchtowers. The 12-km-

long integrated fence will also be completed soon. Around 11 km of the fence has been erected and the next 1 km will be done in the next seven days. The fence has been built to keep away predators."

The park authorities were also supposed to build two culverts to ensure a proper supply of water to the big cats.

"The water pipeline has been dug and only the pipes need to be laid. The work will be completed in the next two weeks," he added.

Varma added that the authorities have also set up surveillance cameras to monitor the cheetahs. The state forest department had

also identified some landscape changes that needed to be done to remove obstacles from the cheetahs' path of prey.

"We have introduced palatable grasses like marble grass and themeda grass as well as some wild legumes. We have removed thorny bushes and other invasive species from their line of path. This was done well before July," he said.

He added that internal fencing needs to be set up to allow the cheetahs to prey on the herbivores. "That will be done once the WII team comes for supervision and gives us a new plan to erect internal partitions," he said.

# Columbus teacher to climb Mt Kilimanjaro as part of fundraiser for medical clinic

By Special Correspondent, Columbus

A fourth grade teacher in Columbus will miss some class time at the start of the next semester. Mark Yeaton is going to Africa to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the continent.

Yeaton carries a 25-pound backpack while teaching at Columbus Southside Elementary School to train for his fundraising climb next month. The elevation is almost 20,000 feet. Yeaton is raising \$20,000 to build a medical clinic in a rural area near Kisumu, Kenya. Mt. Kilimanjaro is in Tanzania near the Kenyan border.

"It's just a really hard uphill walk," said Yeaton, who is also hiking, biking, and running long distances to prepare for the challenge. "And you have the elements, because one thing nature's always trying to do is kill you."

Bikes are all over his classroom: a small model sitting on a ledge, on posters, in photos, even a full-size bike hanging from the ceiling. Mark has raised money for several charities with long-distance rides. This hike will take him from rain forest to desert, past glaciers to the frozen cap. The round trip is planned for three days up, three days down, with a temperature drop from 70 to 5 degrees.

Yeaton has taught in Columbus

for 38 years. He tries to give his fourth graders an understanding and appreciation of the great big world, and that life in Columbus is much different halfway around the world.

"They have more global awareness than I think a lot of other fourth graders," Yeaton said. "Fourth grade - traditionally Indiana. Well, let's kind of branch out and look at the whole world. See what else is out there."

Mark is raising money through FAME, a Christian medical evangelism organization with a warehouse headquarters on Southeastern Avenue in Indianapolis.

"What you see are donated medical supplies and equipment that come to us," said FAME executive director Bill Warren, giving a tour of the facility. "And then in return, we process them and ship them out to our partners around the world."

Some of the equipment may wind up in the clinic Yeaton is helping to build in Kenya. He previously rode his bike to raise money to build a well in Kenya. He likes projects that have a lasting impact and continue to help communities in need.

"We live in a country where we are so blessed," Yeaton said. "We have everything. Why not help others just a little? If everyone would help a little, that would help a lot."



Tanga city education officer Daudi Nchia speaks to science students from various regions during the 6th science workshop held in Tanga region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

# Chinese firm shapes young Tanzanians into ICT experts

By Special Correspondent

FOR 31-year-old Dorcas Leskanga, the sky is the limit when it comes to learning computer engineering and information technology – thanks to Huawei, the leading global Chinese provider of information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure and smart devices.

The soft-spoken Leskanga is a fourth-year student pursuing a Bachelor's Science Degree in computer engineering and information technology at the College of Information and Communication Technologies (CoICT) of the state-run University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) in Tanzania.

Leskanga is among 500 Tanzanian students who have benefited under a special program called the talent cultivation and development program. Starting 2018, the program

has been run by Huawei Tanzania in collaboration with the UDSM through CoICT to promote innovative minds and improve the ICT sector in the country.

"My interest in learning about ICT was reinforced when I realized that Huawei Tanzania was giving students more chance to train in ICT. I grabbed that golden opportunity provided by Huawei," she said.

Like Leskanga, Albert Misilimbo, 22 and a third-year student pursuing a Bachelor's of Science Degree in telecommunications engineering at the CoICT, said his ICT future looks bright with the training he is getting through the Huawei program.

"In short Huawei is shaping young Tanzanians to become good innovators and drivers of the digital transformation in our country," said Misilimbo.

Mussa Kissaka, CoICT principal

and senior lecturer teaching electronics and telecommunications engineering, said that the UDSM and Huawei Tanzania signed an agreement to run a Huawei academy program at the CoICT involving students and the teaching staff.

Kissaka appreciated the cooperation between China and Tanzania in terms of vocational education, saying it has positive impacts on the young people, especially through programs such as those being undertaken by Huawei.

"As the world is craving for digital technology, we cannot afford to miss because we are going for smart businesses that call for smart cities which need current technology and we need to train these young people to be able to manage the smart technologies," he said.

Tom Tao, Huawei Tanzania's deputy managing director, said his

company was determined to invest in the young generation by imparting them with necessary skills that can help the country to get development through digital technology.

"Our priority is nurturing in the youth talent especially in the ICT industry which is very important to the country's economy and the young generation has proved to be an influential resource for the country," said Tao.

Zainab Chaula, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, said in October this year that the ICT training provided by Huawei is vital for the country's digital transformation, saying that the digital economy in Tanzania has contributed to better service delivery, efficiency in revenue collection, improved management of human capital and creation of employment.





TUESDAY 28 DECEMBER 2021

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Mahonda sugar factory woes mirror those of Mainland counterparts, partly

SEVERAL ministries in the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government (SMZ) are working together to try and sort out problems facing the Mahonda sugar factory, whose management is complaining on land erosion, being taken over by authorities administering the zone surrounding the company sugar estate. An interministerial meeting with company officials was told that the company was supposed to base its activities on 6,644 acres but the factory was gradually stripped of 2,700 acres of land, which as disrupting the company's prospects. Early summaries of the meeting didn't say if the company wanted land returned, or simply expanded.

Apart from anchoring its planting target on its original 6,644 acres of sugar cane, the company also seeks out small scale sugar farmers to augment the acreage to 10,000 acres under cultivation. The reports said that so far 313 small farmers and government service units working with the factory farm about 900 acres, but still the factory was operating at 30 per cent capacity. In the current season about 7,000 tonnes of sugar was produced, far below its installed capacity of 22,000 tonnes of sugar.

Those are the key statistics from which the problem surrounding the firm is being discussed, and when the matter is one of looking into the land issue so as to increase sugar cane cultivation, there are some complications. There is a mixed tonality where ministerial administrators appear to believe that the company's sugar production

targets will be met by the agency of small farmers cultivating more sugar cane, the firm is in a different mood. It appears to wish for sufficient land for the company's own production, and thus small farmers' input would be a sort of auxiliary.

Those familiar with land disputes can easily see there isn't much of a solution in stock on the land problem here, as it isn't one of obtaining land where sugarcane can be farmed by anyone, but where the company farms on its own. In clear, it is saying it is only cost comfortable with its own sugarcane, and has problems beefing up production with outgrowers' input.

The reason for that impression is that the firm has lost a third of its total acreage but is working at a third or thereabouts of its capacity, if the outgrowers part is eliminated from this consideration.

If one takes the Mainland situation and applies some of the arguments on the Mahonda situation it comes to saying that as the company can't cut prices it offers to outgrowers, and can't take back the land it has lost, it should be protected, imports curtailed. That is close to what Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda was suggesting in the past month, saying the local market doesn't need Ugandan sugar, a position that President Samia Suluhu Hassan flatly rejected. As with Mainland firms, it is reforming the shareholding, technology, employment structures etc which shall enable firms to compete. Protectionism leads to sharp rises in prices and vast social discomforts.

## Hockey stakeholders ought to lobby for presence of synthetic hockey pitches

EFFORTS by Tanzania Hockey Association (THA) and the sport's stakeholders to develop the game got a timely push a few weeks ago as this year's Uhuru tournament took place in Arusha.

Eight teams participated in the three-day showdown that took place at Sikh Union Club's ground in the city.

The sides are Arusha Twigas, Arusha Young Boys, Black Tigers, Black Mambas, Tanga Stars, Moshi Khalsa, Kili Vijana, and Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF) side.

The tournament, according to THA, has been revived with a view to having it take place on annual basis, as was the case in the past.

The Uhuru tournament, as THA revealed, will be the last event on the calendar of the national hockey governing body.

The THA once again deserves a pat on the back for seeing to it that hockey is still active domestically, although the sport struggles to attract financial support.

The most obvious fact was that the Uhuru tournament, as is the case for the majority of hockey tournaments that are played locally, took place at a venue that does not meet standards set by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

The THA has not managed to access funds for constructing synthetic hockey pitches.

Synthetic hockey pitches are highly needed in the country if THA is to successfully implement its development programs.

Hockey training programs, in most cases, take place on venues that are below standard and this makes it difficult for hockey players to not only demonstrate their skills

but also step up their performance.

The absence of synthetic hockey pitches has further had an adverse effect on domestic teams' performances in continental competitions.

Domestic hockey sides put below-par displays in continental hockey tournaments, as they struggle to display their skills on synthetic hockey pitches.

It is time sports stakeholders and people of goodwill see to it that THA access funds for the construction of synthetic hockey pitches at least in regions that are actively developing the game, namely Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, and Tanga.

The construction of synthetic hockey pitches is an expensive project which requires investment if it is to reach fruition.

Currently the national hockey governing body and its regional affiliates host competitions on venues that do not meet standards.

Sports stakeholders should also feel obliged to ensure the existing hockey grounds are renovated in an effort to fast-track the sport's promotion.

We appreciate efforts by the TPDF and Prisons Department to set aside pitches for hockey that are now regularly used for hosting tournaments.

The structures' renovation should however not be something the institutions should be left to accomplish on their own.

People of goodwill and sports lovers ought to chip in and facilitate the grounds' renovation.

It is obvious domestic hockey sides can hardly hold their own against other countries' hockey sides in major continental tournaments if we do not have modern hockey pitches.

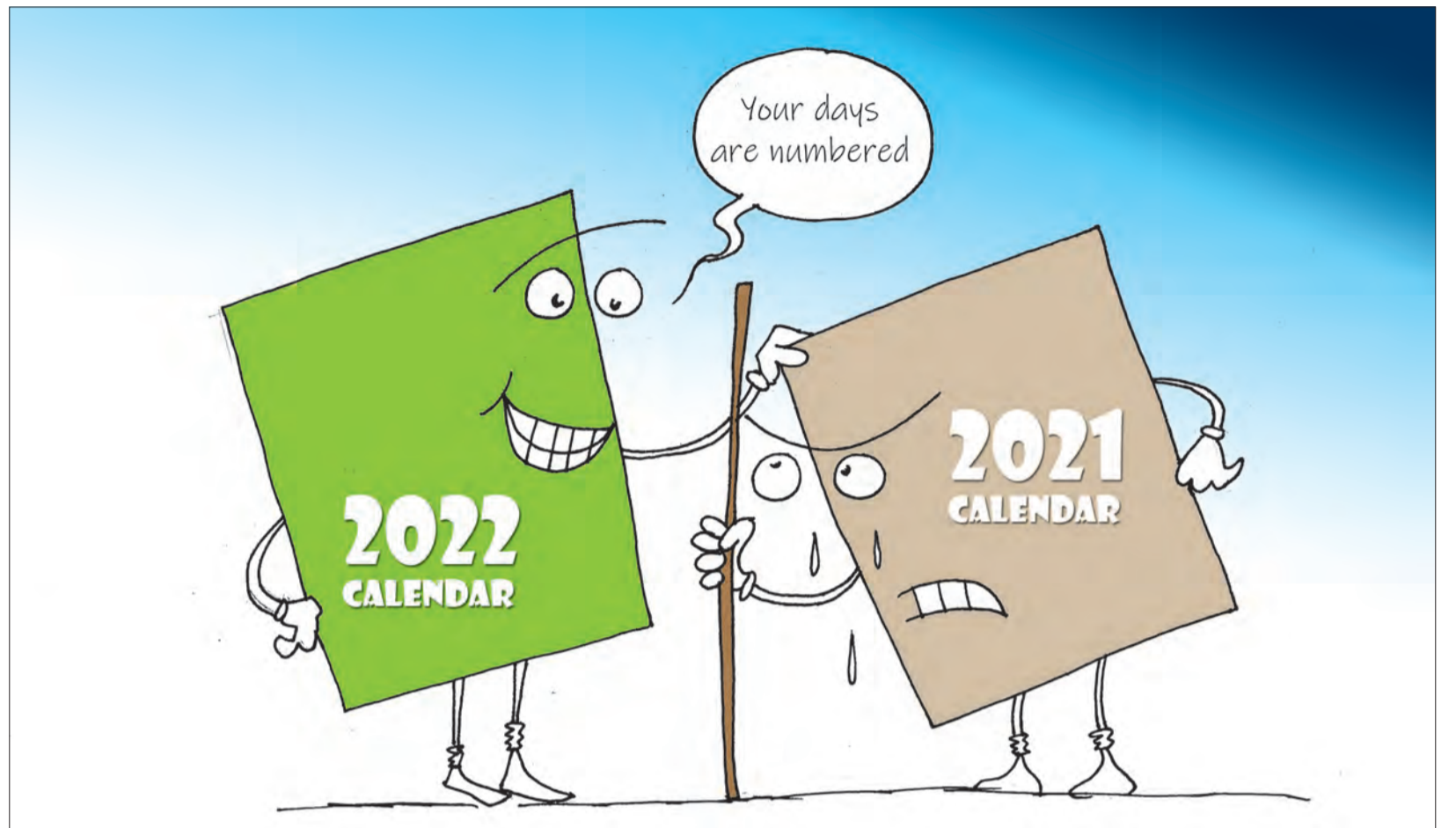
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## The jury is still out on whether South Africa's constitutional democracy will survive another 25 years

By Professor Balthazar

IN place of strides taken to embrace the vision of what it is to be an African, the country is riven by populist rhetoric, rent capture dressed up as transformation, mounting unemployment and poverty.

Twenty-five years have passed since the Constitution was passed into law. On that day, Thabo Mbeki delivered a majestic speech in which he captured the essence of the constitutional journey on which the country had embarked. Its core was the construction of a truly African nation united in its diversity. In it, Mbeki said:

"We are assembled here today to mark their victory in acquiring and exercising their right to formulate their own definition of what it means to be African. The Constitution whose adoption we celebrate constitutes an unequivocal statement that we refuse to accept that our Africanness shall be defined by our race, colour, gender of historical origins. It is a firm assertion made by ourselves that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white. It gives concrete expression to the sentiment we share as Africans, and will defend to the death, that the people shall govern."

Twenty-five years later, that speech is a reminder of the wasted quarter century. In place of strides taken to embrace the vision of what it is to be an African, the country is riven by populist rhetoric, rent capture dressed up as transformation, mounting unemployment and poverty. It is, sadly, also highly unlikely that any of the present crop of politicians across the political divide could construct and deliver such a unifying speech today.

None of this is to suggest that the Constitution should be in the dock. To the contrary, its text, if implemented, still promises the best hope for the society which Mbeki envisaged when he delivered his speech in a time of great optimism.

It must be conceded that far too much constitutional writing was couched in legal fundamentalism without a careful consideration of the interface between politics and law. But, sadly, that is the fault of the liberal legal paradigm which invariably over-eggs the importance of a court victory over a politics that consistently eschews policies that would meaningfully implement the constitutional scheme.

To be sure, important judgments preventing the eviction of the vulnerable, ensuring that the government did roll out antiretroviral drugs for those living with HIV/Aids, and curbing the



excesses of the executive are cause for constitutional celebration. Still, with unemployment at almost 50%, the untold millions living below even the margins and a growth trajectory that makes it impossible to reverse these socioeconomic conditions, the promise of the Constitution is fast receding into never-never land.

Within this context, it is hardly surprising that a wave of anarchy crashed down on the nation this last July. To make matters worse, there have been few prosecutions following these events, notwithstanding the president's claim on national television of it being an insurrection and that no stone would be left unturned to bring the perpetrators before the courts.

As members of Parliament correctly noted this week, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) has merely been converted from the destruction under Shaun Abrahams to its present somnambulism. State Capture still seems to be rewarded with prosecutorial silence. Clearly, the campaign to destroy the NPA was more successful than many may have thought. But there are orchards of low-hanging fruit, and if the NPA could jettison its ill-advised policy of only drafting charges that approximate War and Peace and sought to use the obvious mechanism of two or three charges that would simplify its task, some meaningful progress could be made. How about, in addition, using the Bar to lead such prosecutions?

Sadly, it is not only the NPA that poses a problem to the future of constitutional democracy. As this column has often documented, the Judicial Service Commission has continued in its failure to discharge its constitutional mandate. Its interview procedure for judicial appointment has weakened the Bench immeasurably. Its failure to suspend Western Cape Judge President John Hlophe, even after it voted to impeach him, cannot be justified on any plausible legal grounds. It is likely that - given a plethora of reviews, and, if necessary, appeals - Judge Hlophe will never be suspended.

Many commentators have spoken

of the decline in the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court. Take the recent decision in *Thubakgale v Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality*. The applicants are all desperately poor. They live in appalling conditions in squalid hovels shared by up to 10 people and have precious little access to water, sanitation and electricity. Each of the applicants applied for and was granted a state housing subsidy, some as far back as 1998. They were matched to a particular stand developed with that subsidy in the Tembisa area, and ought to have been given possession and ownership of that stand and the house constructed on it.

Instead, the municipality unlawfully gave possession of the subsidised houses intended for the applicants, and to which they were still matched on the national housing database, to other residents. In a minority judgment authored by Justice Steven Majiedt, it was made clear that their constitutional rights had been breached. Therefore, the question was whether constitutional damages was the appropriate remedy in line with the court's powers under Section 38 of the Constitution.

The minority judgment considered a number of alternative remedies: contempt of court, a declaratory order coupled with structural relief, contractual relief, statutory remedies, delict and eviction. It concluded that only constitutional damages were an effective remedy, and further that budgetary constraints were not a concern in this matter, as the municipality must have budgeted for the houses when the subsidies were awarded to each applicant. Thus, the minority judgment would have awarded damages of R10,000 to each applicant. That is the outcome that a transformative Constitution promised.

Oh no, said Justice Chris Jafta, whose order was supported by that of Justice Mbuyiseli Madlanga. The core finding in Justice Jafta's judgment is to be found in the following paragraph:

"A failure by the state to provide houses to a particular group of people who need them cannot give

rise to a claim that those people should be provided with houses immediately or by a particular date. If we accept, as we must do, that section 26 does not confer a right to claim a house within a specified time, the failure to provide a house cannot cause an injury or damage to the individual in need of a house. And without an injury, there can be no claim for constitutional damages. Moreover, the scheme of section 26 rules out any direct claim for damages."

This corker of a non sequitur needs explication. It says in effect that there can be no constitutional damages in a case involving socioeconomic rights in that the constitutional provision which deals with a right to access to housing obligates the state to take reasonable measures to ensure the progressive realisation of the right. So, if there is no unqualified right, there is no correlative duty and thus without such a breach of a duty there can be no basis to award damages.

Really?!

If the court has found that the government has contravened Section 26 because it has failed to take reasonable measures, then it has breached a duty. But Justice Jafta says there is no conceptual basis to lay down a principle that constitutional damages can be awarded. It truly stretches jurisprudential belief that this finding appears in a judgment of the highest court. Mercifully, Justice Madlanga found that constitutional damages should not be awarded as there was the alternative remedy of contempt of court. Hardly a transformative outcome for such poor people, but it has the benefit of logic and it ensures that Justice Jafta's finding that constitutional damages can never be awarded in a socioeconomic case is not binding on the court.

The sharp point, as this recent effort illustrates, is that the current judiciary is hardly leading the transformative journey or even guiding the nation in the appropriate direction. In the context of a politics that continues to fail the majority of the country, constitutional guardrails that no longer protect the enterprise and a toxic form of populist politics that is antithetical to the constitution vision as sketched by Thabo Mbeki 25 years ago, the jury is very much out as to whether we will celebrate 50 years of constitutional democracy in 25 years' time.

*In real life, Professor Balthazar is one of South Africa's foremost legal minds. He chooses to remain anonymous, so it doesn't interfere with his daily duties.*



By Tymon Smith

Desmond Tutu was a teacher, preacher, 'public enemy number one', Nobel Peace laureate, mediator and conciliator who proved in the course of a long and caring life that he was a man for all seasons.

Desmond Mpilo Tutu, who died on 26 December at the age of 90, was the most visible face of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and abroad during the turbulent 1980s. By the time of his death he had become one of the world's most beloved figures, noted for his warmth, joviality and preternatural ability to charm and openly engage almost everyone he met.

Born on 7 October 1931 in the mining town of Klerksdorp, he took a long and indirect path to becoming the man who in 1984 was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his vocal opposition to apartheid. The son of a Xhosa teacher, Zachariah Zelilo Tutu, and a Motswana domestic worker, Aletta Dorotea Mathlare, Tutu was marked by ill health in early life. He contracted polio as a child, which resulted in the atrophy of his right hand, an affliction that he carried with him for the rest of his life.

Tutu's father would sometimes drink excessively and beat his mother. In spite of this Zachariah managed to provide enough for his family to ensure that while they were poor, they were "not destitute either."

Aletta would remain her son's single greatest influence. As he told his biographer John Allen, "I resemble her in many ways. She was stumpy, and she had a big nose like mine. And I hope that I resemble her in another respect: [she] was very, very gentle and compassionate and caring, always taking the side of whoever was having the worst of an argument."

The family settled in the West Rand township of Munsieville in the late 1940s. The teenage Tutu moved to Johannesburg where he was taken under the wing of the Anglican priest Trevor Huddleston after becoming a server in the Church of Christ the King in Sophiatown.

In 1947, during his third year at the Johannesburg Bantu High School, Tutu suffered a near-fatal bout of illness after he contracted tuberculosis and was hospitalised in Riefontein for 18 months, thanks to Huddleston's intervention. The hospitalised Tutu experienced what he would later describe as his earliest "God-moment," when during a particularly difficult day he "went to the bathroom and I was vomiting blood and I said, 'God, if it means I am going to die, OK; if I am going to live, OK...'. Through having said that I experienced a strange sort of peace."

He initially wanted to become a doctor and gained admission to medical school at the University of the Witwatersrand. However, because of prohibitive student fees, instead he obtained a government scholarship to study teaching at the Pretoria Bantu Normal College in 1951. There he was chair of the college's debating society, where he first met the young lawyer Nelson Mandela. Tutu also took a number of correspondence courses through the University of South Africa, where he met Robert Sobukwe, who gave him advice on sitting his exams, and where he graduated in the same class as Robert Mugabe.

After obtaining his Transvaal Bantu Teacher's Diploma in 1954, Tutu returned to Johannesburg to take up a post as an English teacher at the Madibane High School in Western Township. In 1955 he transferred to Krugersdorp High School to teach English and History. During this time he began a courtship with Nomalizo Leah Shexane, a friend of his sister Gloria's. Shexane was studying to become a teacher. They married in July 1955, and settled in Munsieville where their first son was born in April 1956.

The couple named him Trevor Armstrong Tamsanqa after Trevor Huddleston, Louis Armstrong and a brother that Desmond's parents had lost in infancy. Their first daughter Thandeka Theresa Ursula was born six months later.

#### From teacher to preacher

In 1955, after the government's



## Tutu was 'a feeling person' who got 'inspirations'

introduction of the Bantu Education Act, the Tutus decided that they could not participate in a system designed to ensure the intellectual suffocation of Black South Africans and resigned from teaching. Tutu looked to the church as one of the few options still available to educated Black men of his generation. It was from practical necessity rather than evangelical devotion that in 1956 he found himself admitted to St Peter's Theological College in Rosettenville, Johannesburg, to pursue a degree in theology. Leah retrained as a nurse in what was then known as Sekhukhune Land.

Tutu's time at St Peter's coincided with the increased repression of the apartheid government and equally intense protest against it, culminating in the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960. He and his fellow students, though shocked by events, remained cloistered, not participating in anti-apartheid activities and remaining on the whole "a very apolitical bunch."

In August 1960, the Tutus' third child, Naomi, was born and in December of that year Tutu was ordained as a priest. His first church posting was as an assistant curate at St Alban's Parish in Benoni.

After he was accepted to further his theological studies at King's College, London, Tutu and his family departed for England in September 1962. He was supported by the white establishment of the Anglican Church, which recognised the importance of securing positions of authority within the church for its Black members.

Later, Tutu would often recall that while there were certainly deep racial divides in British society at the time, he and Leah were mostly oblivious to these and impressed by the glaring differences between the freedoms of movement and expression that they enjoyed on the streets of London and those they had been denied at home. They would often take advantage of the politeness of British policemen simply to ask for directions so that they could enjoy the respect of being referred to as "Sir and Madam" by men in uniform.

They spent the next four years in England, during which time their daughter Mpho was born in 1963, and Tutu briefly held a position as an assistant curate at a church in Surrey while completing his Master's degree.

In 1967 he returned to South Africa, taking up a teaching position at the Federal Theological Seminary (Fedsem) in the Eastern Cape. There Tutu became a visible supporter of the nascent Black Consciousness Movement. Tutu's political consciousness had begun to stir but his full immersion in anti-apartheid activism would have to wait as he left in 1970 to take up a teaching post at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in Roma, Lesotho.

In 1972 Tutu left once again for England, where he began a new job as the African director of the Theological Education Fund, the body that had funded the establishment of Fedsem and helped pay for his studies at King's College. As part of his work, Tutu spent much of his time travelling to the newly independent nations of sub-Saharan Africa. He saw the disastrous effects of the dictatorship of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, and was there when boxers Muhammad Ali and George Foreman arrived for the world heavyweight title fight, the "Rumble in the Jungle," in 1974.

Tutu was impressed by the government of Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya, appalled by the expulsion of Ugandan Asians by Idi Amin and concerned by what he saw as growing Igbo

resentment in Nigeria following the Biafran War. His African travels influenced his vision for post-apartheid South Africa and also helped significantly shape his theological views.

#### Rising in the Anglican hierarchy

In 1975 Tutu returned to Johannesburg, where had been appointed the first Black Anglican dean of the city. It was here that he took his first significant public steps to becoming a prominent figure in the anti-apartheid movement. Declining to live in the dean's official home in Houghton, Tutu instead moved his family to Soweto. There he saw first-hand the desperation and angry dissatisfaction of young people.

In May 1976 he famously penned a letter to Prime Minister BJ Vorster, warning him that "Unless something drastic is done very soon then bloodshed and violence are going to happen in South Africa almost inevitably. A people can only take so much and no more ... I am dreadfully frightened, that we may soon reach a point of no return, when events will generate a momentum of their own, when nothing will stop their reaching a bloody denouement."

Vorster dismissed Tutu's letter as propaganda engineered by the white opposition in parliament. On 16 June, Tutu's worst fears became reality and he was profoundly upset by the lack of outrage by white South Africa to the murder of Black children by the state.

When he was nominated for the position of Bishop of Lesotho only weeks after the Soweto uprisings, he was in two minds. Many anti-apartheid leaders, including Winnie Mandela, implored him to stay in Johannesburg but, believing that it would be unfair to those who had elected him, Tutu accepted the position and moved back to Lesotho. He returned to South Africa briefly in 1977 to deliver a speech at the funeral of Steve Biko.

In 1978 Tutu came back to Johannesburg to head the South African Council of Churches where he helped to transform the country's largest legally recognised Black-majority institution into a powerful advocate for human rights. He publicly called for the release of Nelson Mandela, spoke out against apartheid and voiced his support of sanctions against South Africa.

He became "public enemy number one" for many white South Africans and the apartheid government, and received hate mail and death threats from right-wing extremists. His support for sanctions also earned him the disapproval of white liberals like Helen Suzman and Alan Paton, who believed that sanctions would be economically detrimental to both white and Black South Africans.

Tutu with other members of the clergy and leaders of alternative political movements like the trade unions, which had sprung up to fill the vacuum left by the absence of the ANC and other anti-apartheid parties on the ground, became one of the most visible faces of opposition to apartheid in the 1980s.

Unlike his fellow clergyman, the fiery orator and anti-apartheid activist Alan Boesak, Tutu was not involved in the shaping of political strategy or organisations, choosing to follow his intuition because, as he told Allen, he was, "Not a thinker. I can't analyse things. I'm a feeling person; maybe I get inspirations."

Though they were very different in approach both Tutu and Boesak soon became familiar faces at anti-government protests and political events including the launch of

the United Democratic Front in 1983, of which Tutu served as a patron.

#### Nobel laureate

Tutu remained politically non-aligned, eschewing official membership of any party. He continued to travel widely and meet with heads of state to advocate sanctions. In 1984 Tutu was in New York when he was informed that he had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The news was greeted with little fanfare by the South African media but when the Tutus returned to Johannesburg a few days later, they were greeted by a large crowd of excited supporters led by Boesak, who was present in defiance of police orders.

In his Nobel acceptance speech in Oslo later that year, Tutu said, "Perhaps oppression dehumanises the oppressor as much as, if not more than, the oppressed. They need each other to become truly free, to become human. We can be human only in fellowship, in community, in koinonia, in peace."

The following year he was elected as the first Black Archbishop of Johannesburg. He spent only a year in Johannesburg before he was appointed Archbishop of Cape Town. His enthronement ceremony at St George's Cathedral in September 1986 was attended by 1300 people including Coretta Scott King, Harry Belafonte, Stevie Wonder and Edward Kennedy.

Together with Boesak and Roman Catholic Archbishop Stephen Naidoo, Tutu became part of a powerful group of clergy who found themselves serving a mediation role between protesters and the government's security forces. It was through their efforts that fatal clashes were avoided at the 1987 funeral of murdered activist Ashley Kriel and that a church service at St George's Cathedral replaced a banned protest march by activists in 1988.

These actions earned Tutu and his fellow church leaders the finger-wagging wrath of President PW Botha, who accused Tutu of hiding behind the "structures and the cloth of the Christian church" in order to further the "Marxist ideals of the ANC and SACP."

In a scathing eight-page rejoinder Tutu told Botha that he worked for "God's Kingdom ... For whose Kingdom with your apartheid policy do you work? I pray for you, as I do for your ministerial colleagues, every day by name. God bless you."

Botha's anger at Tutu made itself visible nefariously in the increased harassment of the cleric by the security forces' notorious Strategic Communications Branch, Stratcom. Its members always vehemently denied any plot to assassinate him because, as Allen noted, "The repercussions of killing someone with his international profile ... would have been 'awesome'."

When FW de Klerk became president in 1989, Tutu's profile was so great that when he and other church leaders organised a 30 000-strong march in support of peace and an end to apartheid, the new president could do little but grant permission. It was while speaking to the crowd at this march that Tutu introduced a soon-to-be-familiar phrase into the national lexicon. He urged De Klerk and his cabinet to come to the streets and see for themselves "What this country is going to become. This country is a rainbow country! This country is technicolour! You can come and see the new South Africa!"

Tutu was not privy to the behind-the-scenes negotiations that led to the release of

Mandela from prison in February 1990 but he was there to meet Mandela in the chamber of the Cape Town City Hall moments before South Africa's most famous political prisoner stepped onto the balcony to deliver his first public address in almost three decades.

Tutu soon found himself serving a vital mediation role during the violent clashes between Inkatha and the ANC and in the negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa, popularly known as Codesa. He was called upon to mend relations between Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, to whom Tutu made frequent visits on what he called "the Ulundi shuttle", urging Buthelezi to return to the negotiating table.

#### Life under democracy

When Mandela was to be inaugurated as South Africa's first democratically elected president on 10 May 1994, it was to Tutu that he turned for the preparation of the event's religious programme. Tutu insisted that all dominations be represented and blessings were given by leaders of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Hindu faiths. Tutu and Leah had planned that he would retire after his tenure as Archbishop ended in 1996 but fate and Mandela had other plans when Mandela chose Tutu to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 1995.

Tutu believed that the commission should be dedicated to what he termed "restorative justice", whose central concern was not, as he wrote, "Retribution or punishment but, in the spirit of ubuntu, the healing of breaches, the redressing of imbalances, the restoration of broken relationships."

It was while the TRC was still in session in 1997 that Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He was in hospital for six weeks before he returned to the commission and oversaw its work until it handed its final report to Mandela in 1999.

Tutu would later admit that the process had its shortcomings. He criticised the failure of the ANC government to realise that the TRC was a "beginning and not an end". He felt that prosecutions of perpetrators should have been carried out and a more just reparations programme implemented. But he believed that the TRC had done much needed good in helping the country to heal the wounds of the past.

After the TRC, Tutu continued to use his public platform to raise awareness about cancer, criticise the stance of the Anglican Church towards homosexuality, object to the oppression of Palestinians, campaign for his friend the Dalai Lama, and speak out against the post-apartheid ANC government's stances on HIV/Aids and corruption.

During the last years of his life, Tutu also supported legally assisted death, writing in a letter on his 85th birthday that, "Dying people should have the right to choose how and when they leave Mother Earth. I believe that, alongside the wonderful palliative care that exists, their choices should include a dignified assisted death."

His final years were spent mostly out of the public spotlight as his health declined but he did manage a rare public appearance at a small, Covid-19-restricted gathering for the celebration of his 90th birthday held earlier this year at St George's Cathedral.

Tutu is survived by his sister Gloria, wife Leah, their four children, seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.



# Severe water stress, absolute scarcity for 2 to 4 billion humans by 2025

MADRID

Now it comes to the scary water crises, as it is estimated that, globally, over two billion people live in countries that experience high water stress.

On this, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) also reports that "other estimates are even more pessimistic, with up to four billion people - over half the population of the planet - already facing severe water stress for at least one month of the year while half a billion suffer from permanent water stress."

This means that about 71% of the world's irrigated area and 47% of major cities are to experience at least periodic water shortages. If this trend continues, the scarcity and associated water quality problems will lead to competition and conflicts among water users, it adds.

### Climate crisis aggravates the risk

"Climate change will increase the odds of worsening drought and water scarcity in many parts of the world. Drought ranks among the most damaging of all natural hazards. While droughts affect every climate zone, drylands are particularly susceptible to drought and its impacts."

Currently, most countries, regions and communities use reactive and crisis-driven approaches to manage drought risk. To address this issue, healthy land is a natural storage for fresh water. If it is degraded, it cannot perform that function. Managing land better and massively scaling up land rehabilitation are essential for building drought resilience and water security, explains UNCCD.

"Land restoration is the cheapest and most effective solution to improved water storage, mitigating impacts of drought and addressing biodiversity loss."

### Not enough rain? Too much rain?

Meanwhile, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification explains that communities all over the world have suffered some of the most brutal effects of drought and flooding this year.

"Flash floods in Western Europe, Eastern and Central Asia and Southern Africa. And catastrophic drought in Australia, southern Africa, southern Asia, much of Latin America, Western North America and Siberia are cases in point. The impacts extend well beyond the individual events."

For example, the rise in food insecurity in the Southern African region and unprecedented wild-



Up to four billion people - over half the population of the planet - are already facing severe water stress for at least one month of the year, while half a billion suffer from permanent water stress. Credit: Jeffrey Moyo/IPS

fires in North America, Europe and Central Asia.

### What is going on?

This is much more than bad weather in some cases, and is increasingly so, adds the UN Convention.

"Extreme events, including both droughts and floods are on the rise. With more land projected to get drier and more and more people living in drylands in the future, the discussions centred on the shift more than 60 countries are making from "reactive" response to droughts and floods to "proactive" planning and risk management designed to build resilience."

### Production systems, so constrained

For its part, the report The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture warns that production systems where the land and water resources supporting agricultural production are constrained to a point where their capacity to meet current and future needs is seriously jeopardised.

Constraints may be further exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural practices, social and economic pressures and the impact of climate change.

Land and water resources are central to agriculture and rural development and are intrinsically linked to global challenges of food insecurity and poverty, climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as degradation and depletion of

natural resources that affect the livelihoods of millions of rural people across the world, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s report.

### Food demand to surge

Current projections cited in the report indicate that the world population will increase from 6.9 billion people today to 9.1 billion in 2050. In addition, economic progress, notably in the emerging countries, translates into increased demand for food and diversified diets.

World food demand will surge as a result, and it is projected that food production will increase by 70% in the world and by 100% in developing countries.

"Yet both land and water resources, the basis of our food production, are finite and already under heavy stress, and future agricultural production will need to be more productive and more sustainable at the same time."

### Increased competition for land and water

And there are warning signs. Rates of growth in agricultural production have been slowing, and are only half the 3 percent annual rate of growth seen in developing countries in the past, says the report.

In 2007 and 2008, any complacency was jolted by food price shocks, as grain prices soared. Since then, the growing competition for land and water is now thrown into stark relief as sovereign and

commercial investors begin to acquire tracts of farmland in developing countries. Production of feedstock stability of land and water resources.

"Deeper structural problems have also become apparent in the natural resource base. Water scarcity is growing. Salinisation and pollution of water courses and bodies, and degradation of water-related ecosystems are rising."

### Waters are shrinking

In many large rivers, only 5% of former water volumes remain in-stream, and some rivers such as the Huang He no longer reach the sea year-round.

Large lakes and inland seas have shrunk, and half the wetlands of Europe and North America no longer exist. Run-off from eroding soils is filling reservoirs, reducing hydropower and water supply, it explains.

### Groundwater, over-pumped

Groundwater is being pumped intensively and aquifers are becoming increasingly polluted and salinised in some coastal areas.

Large parts of all continents are experiencing high rates of ecosystem impairment, particularly reduced soil quality, biodiversity loss, and harm to amenity and cultural heritage values, the report continues.

### Agriculture, a major contributor to greenhouse emissions

Agriculture is now a major contributor to greenhouse gases, accounting for 13.5 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (IPCC, 2007). At the same time, climate change brings an increase in risk and unpredictability for farmers - from warming and related aridity, from shifts in rainfall patterns, and from the growing incidence of extreme weather events.

"Poor farmers in low-income countries are the most vulnerable and the least able to adapt to these changes."

### Also aquaculture

The steady increase in inland aquaculture also contributes to the competition for land and water resources: the average annual per capita supply of food fish from aquaculture for human consumption has increased at an average rate of 6.6 percent per year between 1970 and 2008, leading to increasing demand in feed, water and land for the construction of fish ponds.

The deteriorating trends in the capacities of ecosystems to provide vital goods and services are already affecting the production potential of important food-producing zones, according to FAO.

"If these continue, impacts on food security will be greatest in developing countries, where both water and soil nutrients are least abundant."

"On present trends, a series of major land and water systems and the food outputs they produce are at risk."

**CAPITAL RADIO**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI  09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI  01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO )

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya

# Family strengthening vital for children survival, development

THE future of any nation hinges on how the country invests on its children, simply put it, how the country observes children's rights to make sure that each child can survive, thrive and fully enjoy his or her rights.

Of recent days this reporter has been following up on avenues available by the government or other children welfare stakeholders who work to make sure that children in Tanzania can survive, thrive and transform.

Findings by the reporter has revealed that great strides has been made by the government of Tanzania and stakeholders like SOS Children's Village Tanzania, Children in Crossfire (CiC) Tanzania, Save the Children, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children on children's survival, protection and development.

The reporter has learnt that, the government of Tanzania working with its stakeholders/ partners like SOS Children's Village Tanzania, CiC Tanzania, Save the Children Tanzania, UNICEF Tanzania and many others, has much to celebrate for children, from universal immunization coverage, decline in under five mortality by almost 40% in the past decade, increase in birth registration, matter relating to early childhood development (ECD) championed by CiC Tanzania and other ECD stakeholders, as well strengthening families to be able to take care of the children under their care through government interventions by TASAF and SOS Children's Village Tanzania.

"Awareness of children's rights and understanding of the government and stakeholders' obligation or responsibility is pivotal to achieving the desired result for a blighter future," UNICEF Tanzania said.



Alternative care facilities in Arusha

Children's rights are human rights, besides that child in Tanzania make up more than half of the population according to Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) 2015/16. DHS is a government survey on health and demographics undertaken every five years, the last was released in 2015/16.

According to Rene Van Dongen, UNICEF Deputy Representative to Tanzania's message on the children and young people's agenda 2019, the government's commitment and efforts towards achieving milestones relating to children's rights have been commendable, but with Tanzania's size, growing population of children and young people, socio economic

and cultural diversity and its regional gender and social disparities, challenges still remain for fulfillment of the vision the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC).

"Children and young people form a large part of Tanzania's growing population. Taping into their creative thinking, commitments, and energy is an essential driver for Tanzania's development now and in the future," says Rene in his message.

According to Rene, no human rights can be fulfilled without people being responsible and taking action to improve the lives of children and their families. The government has a huge responsibility but also mothers, fathers, teachers, nurses, social

workers, religious leaders, NGOs and CSOs, the media, development partners and the private sector need to play their part.

SOS Children's Village Tanzania has responded very well to this call to action. Noting that many children in Tanzania are growing up without the care, protection and guidance they need. SOS Children's Villages among other interventions is working with children, young people and families to tackle this issue.

According David Mulongo SOS Children's Village Tanzania National Director SOS Children's Village Tanzania works to keep families together, provide alternative care when needed, support young people

on their path to independence, and advocate for the rights of children. Together with donors, partners, communities and governments, SOS Children Village lays the foundations for a Tanzania brighter future.

SOS Children's Villages focuses on the care and support of children who have lost, or who are at risk of losing, the care of their biological family.

"Family strengthening program (FSP) aim to prevent children from losing the care of their family," Mulongo said recently, adding that SOS Children Village empowers families, by strengthening their capacity to protect and care for their children, and strengthen safety nets for vulnerable children and their

families within the community. FSP is different from institutionalized care, where by vulnerable children are taken care by staying at the campus. FSP reaches families and children in their homes and communities.

Mulongo underscored that, each child needs someone to support and protect them as they grow. But many parents face hardships that prevent them from giving proper care. SOS Children's Villages offers tailored support to strengthen families in need, helping to keep them together. From counselling to skills development, parents are empowered with the resources they need to overcome their difficulties.

"With strong families, children and young people can receive the care and support they need to thrive," Mulongo said.

This year according to Mulongo SOS Children's Village Tanzania under Family Strengthening Program they have supported 1,924 families across the country reaching 6,786.

The reasons why families participate in SOS family strengthening include economic hardship, death of one or both parents and unstable relationships of the parents, according to Mulongo adding that the absence of a stable, protective family exposes children to multiple risk factors and makes them vulnerable to neglect, abuse, discrimination and exploitation.

According to Kaiza Sakafu Family Strengthening Program Coordinator from Arusha, some of the ways in which SOS Children Village help families, include but not limited to coaching in parenting and household management skills, family counselling to resolve issues, access to health care services for children and nursing mothers, access to education for girls and boys, including school needs such as school uniforms, learning materials, tutoring and after-school help, training and equipping parents to earn an income and create a stable home.

# 'Safe travel for girls and students without sexual exploitation is possible'

By Correspondent Sabato

Kasika

FEMALE students are among the major victims of sexual harassment implemented by folks including motorcycles, tricycles and daladala drivers, a situation that hampers them from achieving their education goals and development.

To help address the challenge, the Women in Development Initiative (WAJIKI) came up with a campaign dubbed, 'Safe Travel for Girls and Students without Sexual Exploitation Is Possible' which is taking place in Kinondoni and Ilala districts and has now reached Temeke in Dar es Salaam Region.

The campaign works closely with the drivers, educating them to value and protect girl students.

For Temeke district, the campaign was officially launched last week and was attended by various stakeholders including teachers, social welfare officers and the district commissioner's representatives

The campaign has been taking place in primary and secondary schools on the streets and in the bodaboda drivers' stands.

The campaign involves over 72 bodaboda and Bajaj stands which have 2,598 drivers and eight groups of 543 daladala

drivers.

Janeth Mawinza, director of WAJIKI says fight against sexual exploitation is among the violence, which they will put more efforts to ensure that girls are protected top achieve their dreams in life.

Mawinza says, through the campaign they have rescued a number of girls by setting up committees to transport students to school or home so that they do not scatter on daladala stops.

"This campaign was officially launched in 2018 and is based in Kinondoni and Ilala districts, and now we have expanded to Temeke district, and our strategy is to reach all districts of Dar es Salaam Region," Mawinza says.

She says, her organization is facilitated by the Women Trust Fund Tanzania (WFT) and is partnering with bodaboda, Bajaj and daladala drivers as they are an important link in cracking down on sexual exploitation.

"WAJIKI believes that if these drivers and their conductors decide to refuse to be involved in such exploitation, which is also sexual violence, such acts will not flourish in society," he says.

Mawinza says WAJIKI wants to ensure that students travel safely and achieve their academic goals.



According to the director, sexual violence, including sexual harassment of students, is one of the most frequently reported incidents in the country, and that they as an organization are striving to play their part.

"If you look at the police statistics, it shows that cases of child abuse are on the rise, for example, from January to September this year, it has reached 6,168

cases," says Mawinza.

She explains that 5,287 are girls and 881 are boys, while 3524 are raped and 637 are raped, of which 567 are boys and 70 are girls.

"There was a total of 1,887 pregnancy, 130 were set of fire, of those 97 were girls and were 33 boys 3,800 suspects arrested while 2,368 cases were being investigated and 88 cases were decided," she said.

She says that the violence is taking root in the community, wherewith the empowerment of their WFT donors, continue with a campaign to educate the community about the effects of sexual violence, including sexual exploitation. "We are empowering men to fight sexual violence and enable bodaboda, Bajaj and daladala drivers as well as conductors to carry out an anti-sexual exploita-

tion agenda and protect students, developing a network that defends women's rights in the fight against gender-based violence," she says.

In addition, she said the organization plans to expand its activities by having branches nationwide so as to rescue more girls from abuse.

Doto Killangi, who represented the Temeke district commis-

sioner at the launch of the 'Safe Travel for Girls and Students without Sexual Offenses,' urged people to work with the government in the fight against gender-based violence and end such acts in society.

Killangi said that everyone must do their part to end such practices, including providing information to state agencies, rather than leaving it to governments and civil society organisations to combat gender-based violence.

"Sexual violence is not a matter of turning a blind eye, let everyone do their part to end such acts so that all children and women can achieve their goals," Killangi said.

She said there are many forms of violence, including sexual violence, child abuse, so it is important that the community actively participates in the fight to end them.

Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB's) district representative, Esther Mkokota, said drivers should know that they have a great opportunity to help students realise their potential by not dragging them down.

"We are there to support the government's efforts to combat such acts, corruption is a crime and violence is also a crime, so avoid those mistakes," Mkokota said.



# The impact of air pollution on child health

INDIA

Air pollution is a global public health crisis, and air pollution levels in India are among the highest in the world, posing a heavy threat to the country's health and economy. According to the 2019 World Air Quality Report, India is home to 21 of the 30 most polluted cities in the world. In these cities, air quality can be as much as 10 times over the safe limits of air pollution recommended by the WHO.

**Why is air pollution such a significant issue?**

**Loss of life**

According to the State of Global Air 2020 report, air pollution was the fourth leading risk factor for early death worldwide in 2019, and is estimated to have caused 1.7 million premature deaths in India in that year. The burden of disease due to air pollution is higher in low- and middle-income countries, causing about 91 percent of premature deaths.

**Economic losses**

While the hazardous impact of air pollution on health is well recognised, its negative economic impact is less investigated. Lost output from premature deaths and morbidity attributable to air pollution accounted



A view of India Gate, a war memorial located in New Delhi, covered by a thick layer of smog. Credit: Malav Goswami/IPS

for economic losses of USD 28.8 billion and 8 billion respectively in 2019. In India, economic losses from air pollution were equivalent to 1.36 percent of the country's GDP.

**Why are children at higher risk?**

According to a WHO report, every day around 93 percent of the world's children under the age of 15 years breathe air so polluted that it puts their health and development in serious danger. Children are at greater risk than adults from the many adverse health effects of air pollution owing to a combination of behavioural, environmental, and physiological factors. Some key reasons for this higher risk include:

Children are more susceptible because their lungs, brain, and immune system are still developing and their respiratory tract is more permeable.

Children breathe more air per kilogram of body weight, so their exposure to air pollution is much greater than adults. The consequences of their exposure—through inhalation, ingestion, or in utero—can lead to illness and other lifetime health burdens.

**What are the effects of air pollution on children's health and development?**

Air pollution is one of the leading threats to child health, globally accounting for almost one in 10 deaths in children under five years of age. Around

8.8 percent of deaths in children under the age of five in India in 2017 can be attributed to air pollution, according to a Lancet study. Some of the effects on children's health and development include:

**1. Serious respiratory illnesses**

Air pollution causes more than 50 percent of acute lower respiratory infections in children under five years of age in low- and middle-income countries. It can lead to asthma, childhood cancers, chronic diseases, poor lung function, pneumonia, and other types of acute lower respiratory infection.

This study from Delhi observed a statistically significant positive association between air pollution (PM10 level) and the prevalence of lower respiratory tract symptoms. These symptoms were more prevalent in girls than in boys. Every third child in Delhi has impaired lungs due to the high level of pollutants that are present in the city's air.

**2. Premature births, infant deaths, and a negative impact on child growth**

Pregnant women exposed to polluted air are more likely

to give birth prematurely and have small, low birth-weight children. A recent study from India revealed a negative impact of exposure to air pollution during the first trimester of pregnancy on child growth indicators.

Air pollution contributed to nearly 5,000,000 infant deaths worldwide in 2019. In India, a fifth of neonatal deaths from all causes can be attributed to air pollution.

This Lancet study indicates a plausible link between air pollution and stunting in children.

**3. Negative impacts on children's neurodevelopment**

Prolonged exposure to polluted air negatively impacts neurodevelopment in children. According to the WHO, new research has shown an association between prenatal exposure to high levels of air pollution and developmental delay at age three, as well as psychological and behavioural problems later on, including symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and depression. Air pollution affects children's learning process by exacerbating respiratory illnesses, fatigue, school absenteeism, and attention problems.

**What is the way forward?**

India has taken the following steps at the central and state levels to control pollution and improve air quality:

**1. National Clean Air Programme**

Government of India's National Clean Air Programme is a powerful step in acknowledging and resolving the problem of deteriorating air quality. It is a national-level strategy to tackle the country's air pollution challenge, calling for a 20-30 percent reduction in particulate matter pollution by 2024.

**2. Performance-based funds transfers to cities**

In 2020, the central government allocated approximately USD 1.7 billion to fight air pollution in 42 Indian cities that have a population of more than one million. This is

conditional on these cities reducing their air pollution levels by 15 percent every year. It is the world's first performance-based fiscal transfer funding programme for air quality management in cities.

**3. Coordinated action to improve air quality**

Parliament approved a law in August 2021 to establish the Commission of Air Quality Management for better coordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas.

However, much more needs to be done. The air pollution challenge in India is inherently multisectoral. Policies and investments supporting cleaner transport, power generation and industry, energy-efficient homes, and better municipal waste management will reduce key sources of outdoor air pollution. Experiences in tackling air pollution in cities suggest three possible ways forward:

Disseminating information about the problem and health risks.

Providing incentives to cities/states and other stakeholders for tackling air pollution.

Building institutions that support air quality management. This requires sufficient funding and a sustained focus on capacity building.

The right combination of political will, appropriate implementation, and a strong compliance mechanism from both government and the private sector are required to move forward. Given Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement that India aims to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2070, the time to act is now.

*The author of this opinion editorial, Dr Vinod Kumar Anand, is a technical adviser for maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) at Save the Children India.*

*This story was originally published by India Development Review (IDR)*

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 191 00--

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

3 LETTERS: CRY, ICE, ORE  
 4 LETTERS: LOAD, SOME, ODDS, RACE, AIDE, GOLD, MALL  
 5 LETTERS: ADAPT, DODGE, SEMEN, ACRES, CHEER  
 6 LETTERS: EMPIRE, MAIDEN, AGENDA, ASSIST, ENDURE  
 7 LETTERS: MANDELA  
 8 LETTERS: CLIMATES  
 10 LETTERS: SUGARCANES

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**CLUES: Across**

1 New country in Africa  
 5 laid by female birds  
 7 a church decree  
 8 a tripod frame used to support an artist's canvas  
 10 deploy as a means of achieving something  
 11 to choose  
 13 a chemical substance soluble in water, sour in taste  
 15 a piece of writing on a topic  
 17 officials who watch matches to ensure that rules are adhered to  
 19 a thought  
 20 something forming an edge or border

**Down:**

1 stalk of a plant  
 2 to try to make someone to do something  
 3 a kind of freehold tenure based on interrupted possession  
 4 to awaken  
 6 the exchange of goods for money  
 7 part in the middle  
 9 responded to something  
 12 Lake Victoria in Kenya  
 14 fear, horror  
 16 a soft lustre on a surface  
 17 one of many narrow bones surrounding the chest  
 18 money charged for something

**WORD-FIT**

**CROSSWORD**

**SOLUTIONS**

W A G E A C O R N  
 R V O N  
 M I N E R A L S U  
 R A L N O A  
 S T S H I R T L

M A N A G E M E N T  
 N I N E L O U S E  
 U A V O I D T  
 S E S O L D  
 R E G R E T E  
 D E E A  
 M U L E N O N O S  
 C D Z S  
 S E L E C T O R U  
 A D A M N R  
 D D A N G E R E

**RADIO One**

**RATIBA YA VIPINDI**

**JUMATATU - JUMAPILI**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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05.00HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	





**CURRENT NEWS**  
Sugeco graduates planning to commercialise extension services

Page 15



**OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS**  
Japanese company seeking contract farmers to cultivate sweet potatoes

Page 14

## Business women encouraged to use tender portal TANEPS in submitting bids

By Friday Simbaya, Iringa

**B**USINESS women in the country have been encouraged to make use of Tanzania National e-Procurement System when submitting tenders to seek government jobs because they stand a chance to succeed.

National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC)'s Executive Secretary, Bengi Issa said last week when opening a Public Procurement Regulatory Authority training on how women can use TANEPS that use on the online system is simple and more accurate.

Issa said use of the online purchasing system which has been developed by TANEPS and is operational since January 2020, has almost all public institutions connected and is also integrated into Government electronic Payment System and Taxpayer Identification Number system.

"Make the most of the smartphones you have, which have almost the same capabilities as computers to grow your business and join bidding opportunities through TANEPS," she advised them.

"The training you will receive here on TANEPS and the Public Procurement Act should be used appropriately and



Public Procurement and Regulatory Authority's CEO, Dr Irene Isaka (L) presenting a certificate of attendance to Jackline Nyangalima who attended Public Procurement Act training for business women in Iringa region last week. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya.

encourage other women to use technology to access public tender opportunities to become economically successful," the NEEC chief executive noted.

Issa said that the government

through PPRA has established TANEPS and instructed that all public bidding processes will be conducted through the system hence women have been given privilege of being a special group by the Public

Procurement Act. The NEEC Executive Secretary further urged women to ensure that they register their groups and companies to gain the status of being listed as special groups so

that they get opportunity provided by the Public Procurement Act. She said the law requires government institutions to set aside 30 percent of its procurement budget for specific groups which are women, the elderly, youth and people with disabilities.

Earlier, PPRA's CEO, Dr Irene Isaka said a total of only 40 groups met the registration criteria as required by law and have been listed by PPRA. Dr Isaka stated that although the number of women groups was large compared to other groups of the elderly, youth and people with disabilities, it is still small considering that 54 percent of the country's entrepreneurs are women.

Thus, she called on women to join and follow the registration process to get those opportunities while urging Iringa

business women to be honest and fair when participating in public bidding processes, as integrity is the main pillar of the process.

"An honest person will abide by the rules, regulations and procedures of public procurement, and will be a true patriot. If everyone is honest, we will get real value for money on public purchases. Therefore, I would like to urge participants to avoid acts of corruption and fraud," Dr Isaka insisted. She added that PPRA will continue to empower women to support efforts of the Sixth Phase Government led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan which is committed to the group economically.

The training was organized by PPRA in collaboration with National Economic

Empowerment Council (NEEC) and attended by 150 participants, who are women entrepreneurs in areas of service delivery, product distribution and construction.

Speaking on behalf of the participants of the training, Chairperson of the Tanzania Women Chamber of Commerce (TWCC) - Iringa Region, Flora Sumaye thanked PPRA and the government as a whole for empowering women in the region so that they can benefit from public tender opportunities.

The training for women entrepreneurs funded by the government through PPRA, under the auspices of African Development Bank (AfDB) and has already been conducted in five regions of namely Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya, Dar es Salaam and Iringa.

## State plans Sh146bn KQ bailout, drops takeover

NAIROBI

The Treasury will offer Kenya Airways a further Sh146.9 billion bailout amid delayed recovery from a travel slump following Covid-19 in financial support that will see the State drop the plan to nationalise the airline.

Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani has said the government will take over Sh93.4 billion of national carrier Kenya Airways' debt owed to multiple suppliers. It will also give the airline Sh53.4 billion in direct budget support in the fiscal year that ends in June 2022 as well as the subsequent one, making it the largest corporate bailout.

The national carrier needs money for the maintenance of grounded planes, payment of salaries and settlement of utility bills like security, water, electricity and parking as well ease the effects of the virus that has obliterated global demand for travel. Without State aid, the airline risked running out of money in the near future against the background of unease among banks about lending to African carriers.

The bailout comes as the State dropped the favoured long-term solution for the ailing Kenya Airways that was anchored in nationalisation of the airline—which was approved by lawmakers in July 2019 and would have led to the delisting of the airline from the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE).

"As part of putting KQ on a sustainable footing, GoK will take over US\$827 million of KQ's debt. In addition, in FY2021/22 and FY2022/23, US\$473 million will be provided as direct budgetary support to clear overdue payment obligations and cover the upfront costs of restructuring," Mr Yatani said in a December 2 letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The authorities do not intend to nationalise the carrier and are considering appropriate mechanisms to protect the Exchequer's financial interests during the restructuring process," the CS said in a letter that IMF made public yesterday. This marks a departure from the Treasury's earlier position to pursue a turnaround under the plan to nationalise Kenya Airways. A law to



Kenya Cabinet Treasury Secretary, Ukur Yatani.

pave the way for the nationalisation of the airline, which had been proposed before the pandemic, is before Parliament. Kenya wanted to emulate countries like Ethiopia which

run air transport assets – from airports to fuelling operations – under a single company, using funds from the more profitable parts to support others. Under the model approved by MPs, Kenya Airways would become one of four subsidiaries in an aviation holding company.

The others would be Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, an aviation college and the Kenya Airports Authority operating all other airports. The government owns 48.9 percent of KQ shares. Trade in the company's shares on the Nairobi Securities Exchange has been suspended since July last year as the carrier works on a restructuring plan.

Now, the State is keen on pushing for the restructuring of the carrier on the back of the multi-billion shilling bailout. "KQ will be required to trim down its network, rationalise frequencies of flights, operate a smaller fleet, and rationalise its staff complement," Mr Yatani told the IMF. Like other airlines, Kenya Airways has seen its passenger business severely hurt by Covid-19 travel curbs.

## Binance gets its first Gulf crypto regulatory nod in Bahrain

BAHRAIN

Binance Holdings received in-principle approval from Bahrain's central bank to be a crypto-asset service provider in the kingdom, according to a statement from the company.

Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange by trading volume, still needs to complete a full application process, chief executive officer Changpeng "CZ" Zhao wrote in an email to Bloomberg News. He said that would be completed "in due course."

If successful, this would mark the first regulatory approval for a Binance entity within the Middle East or North Africa. The exchange has been attempting to expand its regional footprint, particularly in the Gulf, as executives prepare to set up a potential headquarters. "I am grateful for the support from the Central Bank of Bahrain and the broader Bahraini ecosystem during the process," Zhao wrote in the email.

Abdulla Haji, director for licensing at the country's central bank, said the licensing is "a matter of formalities" once Binance completes the establishment requirements. He touted the kingdom as "the perfect place" for the exchange to set up its headquarters in the region. Bahrain, the Gulf's smallest economy, has been one of the Middle East's early adopters in the digital assets space.

Rain Financial became the first licensed crypto-asset platform in the region when it secured approval from the kingdom's central bank to operate in 2019. Earlier this year, Bahrain's monetary authority granted another licence to Manama-based CoinMENA.

Binance's move underscores its increased focus on the Middle East. In recent months, company executives have held talks with regulators in the United Arab Emirates about a potential headquarters in the country, Bloomberg previously reported.

Last week, Binance struck a deal with the Dubai World Trade Centre Authority to cooperate on virtual asset regulation. Founded in China in 2017, Binance Holdings hasn't set up a global base yet. Instead, Zhao has incorporated firms in locations where Binance operates.

## FairPlay welcomes provisional anti-dumping duties on chicken imports



Francois Baird, founder of the FairPlay movement.

JOHANNESBURG

FairPlay has welcomed the imposition of provisional anti-dumping duties on chicken imports from Brazil and four European Union countries - Denmark, Ireland, Poland and Spain.

The provisional duties will remain in effect until 14 June 2022. By that time, South Africa's trade regulator, the International Trade Administration Commission (ITAC), is expected to have completed its investigation into an application by the South African poultry industry for anti-dumping duties against the five countries.

"This is an innovative and very welcome solution to the problem of extremely lengthy investigations into applications for anti-dumping duties," said Francois Baird, founder of the FairPlay movement. "The application was lodged in February this year, and a decision was not expected until mid-2022. Now we have provisional duties

in place from now until June next year, which will help level the playing field for South African poultry producers until ITAC makes a final determination.

"FairPlay has repeatedly called for speedier action on anti-dumping applications, and we are pleased with this decision. Moreover, this is another nail in the coffin for dumping and predatory trade denialists."

The provisional duties apply to bone-in chicken imports such as leg quarters, drumsticks, thighs and wings from the four EU countries. For Brazil the provisional duties apply to bone-in chicken portions as well as chicken breasts. The duties range from 6% to 265.1% for various poultry producers from Brazil, from 39% to 67.4% for Denmark, 158.42% for Ireland, 5% to 96.9% from Poland and 3% to 85.8% from Spain.

"The duties are sorely needed," Baird said. "The application from the SA Poultry Association showed that

dumped imports from these countries comprised more than half of bone-in imports in recent years. These are specific anti-dumping duties, applicable to these five countries being investigated for dumping chicken portions in this country."

"Chicken dumping has been going on for nearly two decades, and has cost thousands of South African jobs. Anti-dumping duties are already in place for bone-in chicken imports from four countries - Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. Adding the five new countries to that list gives some protection against dumped imports from nearly all major poultry producing countries."

Baird noted that action against unfair and illegal imports was part of the poultry master plan, which commits government, the poultry industry and chicken importers to reducing imports and helping the industry to grow to serve expanded local and export markets.



# Japanese company seeking contract farmers to cultivate sweet potatoes

By Francis Kajubi

**G**ROWING demand by Japanese consumers for a sweet potato native in that country but which also grows well in some parts of the country has forced Matoborwa Company Limited to look for smallholder farmers to give them contracts for the tuber.

Founder and Owner of Matoborwa, Tatsuo Hasegawa said in Dodoma that in order to boost production of the sweet potato known as 'Tammayutaka' his company is currently working with 15 contract farmers in various parts of the country.

He said he secured a Ministry of Agriculture registration and permit to cultivate Tammayutaka sweet potatoes in 2020 with financial and technical support from Japan International Cooperation Agency. Hasegawa stated that his company expects to expand its sweet potatoes processing facility as demand for the products grows in Japan and other Asian countries.

Without giving more details for the current production, Hasegawa admitted that favourable weather and fertile soil are key factors that convinced him into deciding to adopt cultivation of the sweet potatoes in the country.

"Our factory produces dried sweet potato snacks, dried fruits and nut bars. Just in the first year of production of the sweet potatoes, we have signed agreements with 15 farmers in Dodoma and Morogoro regions," the Matoborwa Founder said while explaining that under the deal, the farmers have access to farm inputs and technology needed to produce quality sweet potatoes in big quantities.

Hasegawa, who studied at Sokoine University of Agriculture under JICA's scholarship, said he chose to cultivate the Japanese sweet potato variety because with fertile soils the cultivation needs no fertilizers.

"Agricultural development in Africa has turned to be my lifework and my experiences made me choose Tanzania as my investment destination. At a tender age of 24 when I came to Tanzania as a volunteer, I learnt



Founder and CEO of Matoborwa Company Limited, Tatsuo Hasegawa.

Kiswahili language and got many Tanzanian friends," he added.

Hasegawa, a former member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) program who came to Tanzania in 1990 and established Matoborwa Company Limited in Dodoma in 2014 with an initial capital of US\$96,000 (165m/-).

A co-founder of the company, Crispin Sukwa said the factory's capacity is limited due to the existing supply of the raw materials and market demands. "We buy raw materials, according to our production capacity. Plans are on hand to install new machines to meet growing demand," Sukwa noted.

Some contracted farmers who work with Matoborwa said the arrangement is

a game changer for smallholder farmers. "Agriculture is stress-free when seeds, inputs and markets are assured and if new technologies and business models from developed countries like Japan are employed," said Peter Chisina from Gairo district in Morogoro.

Chisina was backed by Mwapwa based Saimon Mlali who said his life changed soon after starting to work with Matoborwa in 2018. "Applying a Japanese business model, the company provides seeds and cultivation skills to us and buys the products as raw materials for its factory, an approach that is most appreciated by farmers because they are assured of a ready market for their produce in Japan," Mlali said.

# Oppo gains ground in SA's smartphone market

JOHANNESBURG

Just over a year after launching in the South African market, Chinese smartphone brand Oppo is gaining market share. So said Liam Fourie, head of go-to-market and operations for Oppo South Africa, in an interview with ITWeb.

The interview followed Oppo last week hosting its annual Innoday event, which saw the Chinese smartphone maker make huge global announcements on its latest technology innovations that will become available to the local consumer, including a rollable smartphone, as early as the first quarter of 2022.

According to Fourie, Oppo now has a 10% market share in South Africa's post-paid smartphone market. "Since we launched in South Africa a year ago, the year has gone by very quickly. The Oppo brand launched in SA in October last year," says Fourie.

"From 1 January this year, we sold about 246 000 Oppo smartphones. That puts us at about 10% of the market share within the post-paid market. We see our devices selling mostly in the contract market in the branded operator stores like Vodacom, MTN, Telkom and Cell C.

"That's really where we focus our business on, and we have really broken through this year and achieved some amazing results all due to strong team work and good partners from all our operators and retailers.

"The 10% market share has put us in the top four smartphone brand in South Africa. We have seen South Africans really adopt the Oppo brand very well." Fourie also points out that the company has created massive employment opportunities in the local market.

"We have provided jobs for over 600 people - that's the direct jobs that we have created. We also have support staff that has assisted us during this time," he says. Nonetheless, he acknowledges the fierce competition in SA smartphone market.

According to Statista, in June 2021, Samsung was the market leader with 45.28% of the market share of mobile device vendors in South Africa. Huawei ranked second, with almost 29%, followed by Apple with 16% of the market share.

Says Fourie: "The competition in this industry has always been very fierce. There are many brands that fight for the

pie, and the pie is so big. So, we respect our competitors as Oppo. That's one of our big company cultures but we remain focused on our goal. It's like when you are driving very fast on a highway; you don't really have time to look sideways to look at what's happening around you. You need to stay focused.

"We respect our competitors - they need to do what they need to do; and we will also do what we need to do. The likes of Samsung and Huawei are already ahead of us and we would want to get there at the end of the day. Our goals are what they have achieved already; so at the end of the day, we have the respect for them but we would also want to chase them."

However, Fourie points out that the company is still to bring its flagship devices to the South African market. "We haven't really brought the Oppo flagship phone, which is the Oppo Find X series as well as the Oppo Find N series into the South African market yet. We are introducing our brand step by step focusing on the Reno series that is affordable but with flagship-like features."

To grow the brand in SA, Fourie says: "We have to continue investing into the market. We will continue to invest in our team because if you don't have the right team, you won't be able to execute your strategy." Talking about the Innoday, Fourie notes that there were several announcements made by the Chinese-based company.

These include the Oppo Air Glass, which the company dubs a groundbreaking aR (assisted Reality) device - which is equipped with Oppo self-developed Spark Micro Projector, Micro LED, and a bespoke diffraction optical waveguide display which supports four different user interactions through touch, voice, head movement, and hand motion, allowing users to have faster and easier access to the information they need.



The Oppo Find N foldable smartphone.

# IFC and Carrinho Group partner to support agriculture in Angola

LUANDA

With the support of the International Finance Corporation, one of the World Bank Group and the Carrinho Group, Angola's largest food processing company, more than 100,000 farmers in Angola's agriculture sector would be able to improve their productivity and access to markets.

It is IFC's goal to assist the Carrinho Group in developing sustainable farming techniques, which include crop diversification and establishing value chains in rural markets, with an emphasis on soya bean cultivation and chicken farming. IFC will train over 300 agricultural technicians from Carrinho Group in agronomy and commercial strategies to assist enhance local soya bean production.

The specialists will next provide training, access to production packages, and new crops to over 50,000 small-scale farmers in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Bié Huila, Kwanza Sul, and Malange. Farmers will also have access to loans and equipment, as well as becoming part of Carrinho's own supply chain.

Angola presently imports more than 90% of its poultry meat, with local production behind due to a scarcity of raw materials and animal feed. This presents a chance to boost the country's domestic value addition.

"We are honoured to collaborate with IFC on this endeavour. Our objective is to execute strategies that boost local agricultural production while also providing inputs and market access to the poultry sector. The relationship with IFC will accelerate Carrinho's expansion strategy and contribute to our goal of food self-sufficiency in Angola," stated Nelson Carrinho, CEO of Carrinho Group.

"Carrinho Group intends to reintroduce private rural agriculture extension services and to launch Angola's largest chicken program." "The agro-processing industry has the potential to be a substantial engine of economic growth in Angola. By supporting in the enhancement of local production and supply chains and the establishment of sustainable value chains, the IFC will contribute to job creation and economic growth in rural Angola." Indira Campos, the IFC's Country Officer for Angola and Botswana, agreed.

Agriculture, financial services, and energy have been designated as key sectors with strong potential to promote Angola's economic growth by the IFC. In order to strengthen the industry, IFC is also providing advising help to boost private investment, create market connections and supply chains, and encourage access to finance for small farmers.



Nelson Carrinho, CEO of Carrinho Group

# Ridesharing spend by consumers to exceed \$930bn globally by 2026

LONDON

A new study by Juniper Research has found that ridesharing spending by consumers globally will exceed \$937bn by 2026, comparable to 50 times the combined annual revenue of Transport for London, New York City's MTA, and the Beijing Metro in 2021.

This spend represents an increase from \$147bn in 2021 and total growth of 537% over the next five years. The concept of ride-sharing involves users accessing single-occupancy and shared carpool-style services provided by private drivers operating their own vehicles; coordinated by platforms such as Lyft and Uber.

The research identified consumers in the US and China as leading global spend on ride-sharing services; accounting for 65% of market value in 2026. It highlighted future government initiatives to reduce private vehicle usage in cities, allied with a strong pandemic recovery, as key to these countries' positions as leaders.

However, the new report, Ride Sharing: Value Chain Analysis, Market Size & Forecasts 2012-2026, cautioned

that only 13% of consumers are set to use carpool-style ride-sharing services in 2026, with the remainder opting for single-occupancy services; reflecting that the majority of consumers are willing to pay a premium for the privilege of travelling alone.

It noted that while this is understandable given the ongoing pandemic, the emissions generated by single-occupancy services mean that platforms must explore non-financial incentives to drive adoption of carpool services. This could include collaborating with city authorities to allow carpool vehicles to use public transport-only lanes, to make these services attractive in terms of both cost and efficiency.

Research author Adam Wears explains: "There are multiple strategies that ridesharing platforms must leverage to drive adoption of carpool services, but these will need to be implemented carefully to avoid the perception of prioritising carpool users over non-carpool ones. If implemented poorly, this will generate a negative reaction from users and lead to increasing competing services."



# Sugeco graduates planning to commercialise extension services

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

**L**EADERSHIP of Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (Sugeco) is working on plans to come up with professional commercial extension officers in the country.

The objective is to contribute to government's efforts to create more employment opportunities for youth, women and graduates of colleges and universities while increasing the number of extension officers in the market.

Sugeco members agreed during their annual general meeting held recently in Morogoro, that there is a need to commercialise extension services so that farmers can access the right and timely services from Sugeco graduates.

"The government alone cannot manage the extension services throughout the country to reach every farmer, we want to show that agriculture and its value chain is all about business. In fact this will create more employment, change the livelihood and transform the farmers," said Sugeco's Executive Director, Revocatus Kimario.

The members said the country is huge and the gap between demand and supply for extension officers growing hence the need for partial commercialization of the service. They said Sugeco has a role to play in addressing the shortfall to support the government's efforts.

Kimario said Sugeco members will train graduate from SUA or any other agricultural colleges in the country to offer professional extension services which will be paid for by farmers with payment on quality and performance.

Citing an example, he said if you have a group of farmers who are farming rice and they are currently getting 20 bags per acre, then if they work with private extension officers and improve their yields, to 30 bags per acre, the farmer can get the first 20 bags he or she used to get and the remaining 10 surplus bags can be shared equally with the extension officer.

The Sugeco chief executive noted that such development will help other farmers to learn from their peers who had hired private extension officers. "Sugeco's role in this arrangement will be to coordinate, train and equip them so that they provide the best services including being flexible and mobile to reach wherever they are," he added.

He said there are many graduates who have returned from Israel and United States where they had undergone internships for a period of between 6-18 months who can be engaged to help farmers with new tools, knowledge and skills to run their farms profitably.

Explaining how this exercise will work and start, Kimario said it will depend on demand from the value chain with Sugeco targeting four value chain groups for maize, coffee, horticultural produce and poultry production. The service will start with the Eastern Zone, Southern Highlands and will later extend to other zones of the country.

"The youth are ready; they are energetic and dynamic, creative and very mobile. It's for us to set up a plan and design the modal on how it will work effectively and efficiently," he stated saying private extension officers will help speed up commercialization of agriculture in the country.

Earlier on while opening the AGM, a Cooperative Officer from Morogoro regional secretariat, Ester Kisiga urged youth, women and the general public to join forces with Sugeco's vision to create more job opportunities through agribusiness adoption.

"Sugeco started from a humble stage, but through creativity, it has grown into one of the biggest cooperatives in the country. It has opened doors for every person from every corner of the country to join," Kisiga said.

He also called on university and college graduates to come forward and join the cooperative so that they can benefit from different training programs such as internships in Israel and the US which are being run Sugeco in collaboration with part-



Sugeco board chairperson, Dr Anna Temu speaks to members during an annual general meeting last week. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu.

ners.

"When the youth participate in one program, he or she will be capacitated in terms of hands-on knowledge and skills. The young boy or young girl will be able to start entrepreneurship or agribusiness ventures, employ himself, create jobs by employing other people," she noted.

Speaking at the same event, Sugeco Board Chairperson Dr Anna Temu urged members to be active and build a culture of visiting their office regularly so that their information can be updated. "I urge you to be active and not only paying your fees. We need your current personal information such as where you work, what you do so that we understand you well and when you encounter any challenge we can be able to intervene immediately," Dr Temu said.

She pointed out that recently, Sugeco announced key objectives and explained the meaning of Kizimba and how it works but unfortunately many people who attended were non members. "I urge you to be active and air your views so that together we can improve our daily activities and strategic plans," she added. The AGM was attended by more than 300 members.

## Smartphone industry to face headwinds from supply chain disruptions in 2022

DUBAI

The global smartphone industry will continue to be hamstrung well into the next year by supply chain disruptions and component shortages, with the Omicron variant further exacerbating the situation, according to the industry experts.

In wake of the lower-than-expected third-quarter performance and the continued logistical challenges, International Data Corporation has lowered its growth forecast for this year and next to 5.3 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively from 7.4 per cent and 3.4 per cent.

There is no respite in the short term either for the industry and the situation is not expected to improve until mid-2022, Ramazan Yavuz, senior research manager at IDC for Middle East and Africa region, told The National.

The concerns that the latest Omicron variant may lead to further disruptions in manufacturing and logistics "scenarios that point to the last quarter of 2022 to speak of an end of supply chain disruptions are gaining in weight", said Mr Yavuz.

Global sales or shipments of smartphones are expected to reach 1.35 billion by the end of this year and slightly more than 1.39 billion by the end of 2022, the Massachusetts-based researcher predicted.

"The smartphone industry will continue to navigate out of supply chain issues in the first half of next year. Industry wide component shortages will prevent market from hitting the double digit growth [in 2022]," Edward Moya, senior market analyst for the Americas at New York-based Oanda, told The National.

"The Omicron variant could wreak [further] havoc on supply chain disruptions in the first quarter ... the fight against Covid isn't over and inflationary pressures could lead to higher prices for the industry," said Mr Moya.

Global smartphone sales to end-users declined 6.8 per cent in the July-September period, compared to the same period last year, according to Gartner. Component shortages disrupted production

schedules, leading to lower inventory and delayed product availability, which eventually impacted sales to end-users, the Connecticut-based technology research and consulting company said.

"In 2022, we do expect sales to improve but it is not really going to be in a double-digit - probably around 8 per cent ... we may still be slightly behind to achieve that 2019 level [pre-Covid levels]," Anshul Gupta, senior director at Gartner, told The National. Mr Gupta said although the Covid-induced disruptions have started to really normalise on both fronts - chip-related shortages and supply constraints - but the situation is far from resolved.

"We expect the situation with regard to some of the key components especially the chip sets will likely continue until the second quarter of next year," he added. In the third quarter of this year, Samsung maintained its lead in the smartphone sales, though its overall market share declined 1.9 per cent on an annual basis.

The South Korean brand sold more than 69 million smartphones in the third quarter, grabbing a market share of 20.2 per cent. Its sales declined more than 14.6 per cent on an annual basis. Cupertino-based iPhone manufacturer Apple, which occupied the second spot, saw a 19.3 per cent annual jump in its sales to more than 48.4 million units. It took 14.2 per cent of market share.

The US company was followed by Chinese electronics manufacturer Xiaomi that controlled 13 per cent market share, selling over 44.4 million smartphones in three months to September 30. The component shortage is expected to affect those who are more "heavily concentrated" on the 4G devices than the 5G, experts said.

"The overall state of access to critical components is in varying degrees by each smartphone brand. Some budget phone makers have relatively better access to supplies, and they will be less affected compared to the competitors even in the same segments," said Mr Yavuz.



Chinese electronics manufacturer Xiaomi sold more than 44.4 million smartphones in three months to September 30.

## PhD, master's enrolment drops to eight-year low

NAIROBI

Enrolment for postgraduate courses in public universities dropped to its lowest in eight years amid a tight job market that has narrowed opportunities for master's and PhD graduates.

Data from the Ministry of Education shows that the number of students pursuing master's and PhD in the institutions dropped to 28,539 in the period ended June, reflecting a 36.09 per cent fall from 44,657 last year and 67,407 in 2017.

This is the lowest enrolment since June 2013 when 24,417 students were pursuing postgraduate courses, a drop that has further hurt the finances of cash-strapped public universities even as the Treasury cuts funding to Kenya's universities. Experts link the drop to reduced employment opportunities in an economy beset with layoffs in the wake of Covid-19 economic hardships.

PhD and Master's are considered as a ticket to promotions but stagnant pay in corporate Kenya seeking to keep a lid on costs has derailed pursuit of postgraduate qualifications. The drop - the second highest in the eight years - comes on the back of a rise in tuition fees as universities seek additional resources to plug their funding deficit.

"The three key factors behind the drops are the high cost of the programmes, lack of government support for masters and PhD students and lack of employment opportunities for those who graduate," Universities Fund CEO Geoffrey Monari told Business Daily. Kenya has struggled to create adequate jobs and Covid-19 has worsened the employment market.

The number of formal jobs in Kenya last year contracted for the first time in two decades, reflecting the struggle of the economy that also shrank for the first time since 1992 on the back of coronavirus-



Kisii University Chancellor Dr. Mildred Mudany (left) and the Vice-Chancellor Prof. John Akama (second left) during the conferment of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) at Kisii University on December 21, 2021.

induced shutdowns and restrictions.

The annual economic data released by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) on Thursday showed the economy shed 187,300 formal jobs in the year ended June 2020, marking the first time since 2001 when some 18,300 salaried workers were struck off payrolls.

The loss of formal jobs was more pronounced in the private sector, which laid off some 206,700 workers in a period businesses faced a tough operating environment, including reduced operating hours as a result of nighttime curfew and travel restrictions to contain the death-threatening pandemic.

The Covid-19 economic hardships also saw average earnings grow at the slowest pace in a decade. Official data show that companies raised average monthly pay by 3.82 per cent to Sh67,490 in the year ended June 2020, a drop from the 8.16 per cent rise to Sh65,006 the year before.

This marked the slowest rise in earnings since 2011 when firms raised average pay by 3.48 per cent, and nearly half the average 7.41 per cent in a decade before last year, reducing the motivation for workers to further their studies in the search for promotions that come with increased pay.

The drop in enrolment numbers for master's and PhD has further hurt efforts by the public varieties to raise more cash

amid a fall in the number of students pursuing parallel degree programmes and a drop in allocations from the Treasury.

The funding deficit for public universities grew to Sh27 billion in the year to June from Sh20 billion, reflecting the cash flow crisis at the institutions. University of Nairobi (UoN), for instance, increased the fees to ease its biting cash crunch.

UoN raised fees for students pursuing master's in courses like communication and business administration (MBA) to Sh680,000 for a two-year programme from an average of Sh275,000, reflecting an increase of 147 per cent.

The data shows that Maseno University posted the highest drop in postgraduate enrolment as the numbers plunged to 500 in the year to June, an 85 per cent fall from 3,337 in the period to June last year. The University of Eldoret and the Kenya University posted drops of 51 per cent and 40 per cent respectively to 1,199 and 8,964 in the year ended June.

Egerton University and the University of Nairobi posted growths of 310 per cent and one per cent in postgraduate enrolment to close the year ended June with 1,026 and 10,114 students respectively. UoN and Kenya University dipped into a combined Sh4.3 billion financial deficit, underlining the cash flow problems at the institutions that have prompted the increment of tuition fees.

VIEW FROM THE TOP



## WORLD

## Somali president suspends PM, accusing him of looting

MOGADISHU

SOMALI President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed said yesterday he had suspended the powers of the prime minister amid a corruption probe in what the assistant information minister said amounted to an "indirect coup".

Mohamed accused Mohamed Hussein Roble of looting public land owned by the Somali National Army and of interfering with a defence ministry investigation. All other ministers would continue with their duties, he said.

Roble was not immediately available for comment. But the government spokesperson, Mohamed Ibrahim Moalimuu, said on

Facebook the president's action was unconstitutional.

He said the prime minister would continue with his duties.

Mohamed and Roble on Sunday each accused the other of holding up ongoing parliamentary elections in a dispute analysts say may distract the government from its fight against the al Qaeda-linked insurgency al Shabaab.

Mohamed also said he had removed the commander of marine forces, General Abdihamid Mohamed Dirir, from office while a similar investigation was being carried out.

Dirir and a spokesperson were not immediately available for comment.

Assistant Information Minister Abdirah-



New Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble

man Yusuf Omar Adala said the deployment of security forces around Roble's office would not prevent Roble from carrying out his duties.

"What is going on this morning is (an) indirect coup but it will not win," Adala said on Facebook.

In September, Mohamed suspended Roble's power to hire and fire officials in a dispute nominally over a murder investigation that generated months of

tension in a country riven by militant attacks and clan rivalries.

Mohamed and Roble first clashed in April, when the president unilaterally extended his four-year term by two years, prompting army factions loyal to each man to seize rival positions in the capital, Mogadishu.

The confrontation was resolved when the president put Roble in charge of security and organising delayed legislative and presidential elections.

## Libyan High State Council chief blames parliament, elections commission for postponement of elections

TRIPOLI

THE Head of Libya's High Council of State Khaled al-Meshri on Sunday blamed the House of Representatives (parliament) and the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) for "failure to hold the presidential elections on time."

"The failure to create a clear constitutional base and electoral laws by the House of Representatives, and the inability and impartiality of the Electoral Commission in conducting the elections are the reasons for the failure to hold the elections on time," al-Meshri said during a council session.

"The parties that adopted the electoral process in this way are now exchanging accusations for the failure (of holding the elections on time)," al-Meshri said. The commission a few days ago announced a proposal to postpone the presidential elections to later January 2022, instead of December 24, 2021.

After that, the House of Representatives formed a committee to propose a roadmap after December 24, with the aim of considering several proposals to address the failure to hold the elections on time, in addition to determining the fate of the current interim government.

The elections are part of a roadmap adopted by the UN-sponsored Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), with the aim to bring stability in Libya following years of political division and insecurity.

The Libyan parliamentary elections, originally planned to be held on the same day as the presidential poll, have been postponed to January 2022. **Xinhua**

## Dams burst in northeastern Brazil as region hit by floods

ITABUNA, Brazil

TWO dams gave way in the northeastern Brazilian state of Bahia after weeks of heavy rains, swamping already swollen local rivers as flooding hit towns across the region, authorities said on Sunday.

The Igua dam, on the Verruga river near the city of Vitoria da Conquista in southern Bahia, collapsed on Saturday night, forcing authorities to evacuate residents, mainly in the town of Itambe.

A second dam gave way to rising water levels in Jussiapé, 100 kilometers to the north, on Sunday morning, bringing more alerts for residents to move to safer ground.

There were no reports of deaths or injuries caused by the dam failures, though bridges and roads were damaged.

Further towards the coast in Itabuna, a city of 200,000 inhabitants, fire brigade teams rescued residents trapped in their

homes in the downtown area that was under water, Reuters reporters said.

"It's crazy by the bridge, there are waves almost 2 meters high," shopkeeper Luiz Constanca told Reuters.

Rescuers rowed dinghies along flooded streets to reach trapped families or take them supplies. One man paddled on an inflatable mattress to reach a home.

Residents said the level of the Cachoeira river that runs through the town located 30 kms from the coastal port city of Ilheus was the highest in 50 years.

In Vitoria da Conquista, Mayor Sheila Lemos, said all residents close to the collapsed Igua dam had been evacuated.

In a posting on the city's website, Lemos said the flooding threatened to cut off the BR-116 highway, a major truck route between northeastern and southern Brazil.

Bahia Governor Rui Castro



Aerial view of floods caused by heavy rains in the city of Itapetinga, southern region of the state of Bahia, Brazil, on Sunday. AP

said at least 400,000 people have been impacted by the heavy rains and thousands evacuated from some 67 towns facing emergency situations due to floods caused by heavy rainfall for almost two months.

"Thousands of people have

had to leave their homes because the water rose one or two meters, even three meters in some places," he told reporters on Saturday.

The rains have caused 18 deaths in Bahia since the beginning of November, including a

60-year-old ferry owner who drowned on the swollen Rio das Contas river, civil defense officials said.

In the state capital of Salvador, weather officials said December rainfall has been six times greater than the average.

## Russia not bluffing on security proposals, going to explain this to West – senior diplomat

MOSCOW

RUSSIA is not bluffing by putting forward the security safeguard proposals on a part of NATO and the US and will make every effort to facilitate the West's awareness of it, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov (pictured) told the Foreign Affairs magazine yesterday.

"When we say loud and clear that we demand an official withdrawal of the decision made at the 2008 Bucharest summit relating to Ukraine and Georgia's [intentions] to join NATO, when we say that further expansion of NATO needs to be prevented, when we say that NATO facilities and

all kinds of activities that are provocative for Russia need to be rolled back to the positions that existed in 1997 when the NATO-Russia Founding Act was signed, we are not bluffing.

These are our real proposals. The West's awareness of this needs to be facilitated and we are going to make every effort to achieve it," the senior diplomat noted.

On December 17, the Russian Foreign Ministry released draft agreements on legally-binding security guarantees on the part of the US and NATO.

They were handed over to US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian



Affairs Karen Donfried on December 15. Russian President Vladimir Putin noted during his annual

press conference that Moscow viewed the US' positive reaction to the proposals on security guarantees. The Russian leader mentioned that Washington was ready to start talks in early 2022 in Geneva.

Furthermore, the NATO Secretary General has earlier confirmed that the alliance is going to carefully review Moscow's proposals.



**When we say loud and clear that we demand an official withdrawal of the decision made at the 2008**

## UN chief mourns death of Archbishop Tutu of S. Africa

UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday mourned the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, calling him a towering world figure for peace.

"I was greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an unwavering voice for the voiceless," said Guterres in a statement.

"Archbishop Tutu was a towering global figure for peace and an inspiration to generations across the world. During the darkest days of apartheid, he was a shining beacon for social justice, freedom and non-violent resistance."

Archbishop Tutu's relentless determination to build global solidarity for a free and democratic South Africa was fittingly recognized by the Nobel Committee in its decision to award him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

As chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he made an immeasurable contribution to ensuring a peaceful, yet just, transition to a democratic South Africa. His great wisdom and experience were always communicated with humanity, humor and heart, said Guterres.

Archbishop Tutu was a steadfast champion of multilateralism and had important roles, for example, as a distinguished member of the United Nations' Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention, and on a High-Level Fact-Finding Mission to Gaza in 2008.

In recent decades, Archbishop Tutu continued to fight passionately for action on many of the critical issues of today: poverty, climate change, human rights and HIV/AIDS, among others, he said.

"Although Archbishop Tutu's passing leaves a huge void on the global stage, and in our hearts, we will be forever inspired by his example to continue the fight for a better world for all," said Guterres.



## China maps out agricultural, rural modernisation in next five years

CHINA recently released a plan to advance agricultural and rural modernization during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), which specifies the goals and major tasks of the country's agricultural and rural modernization in the next five years.

Deng Xiaogang, vice minister of agricultural and rural affairs, said it was the first plan of China that designs agricultural and rural modernization as a whole and aims to advance the two simultaneously.

The plan includes the development features, general requirement, major goals, key tasks, major projects and policies of agricultural and rural modernization during the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

China's work concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers has gone through a historic shift in the 14th Five-Year Plan period, focusing on pushing forward rural vitalization in an all-round way, Deng introduced.

He said the plan takes the implementation of rural vitalization as a guidance and common prosperity as a goal, and pursues a path of integrated design and simultaneous advancement of agricultural and rural modernization.

According to the plan, China will see a further consolidated foundation of agriculture, comprehensive progresses made in rural vitalization, and significant advancement in modernizing agriculture and rural areas after five years of efforts.

Regions with better conditions will take the lead in basically realizing agricultural and rural modernization, while consolidating and expanding the achievements in poverty alleviation will be effectively aligned with rural vitalization in regions that have shaken off poverty.

By 2035, China will have made decisive progress in rural vitalization, and modernization of agriculture and rural areas will be basically achieved, the plan says.

The plan specifies seven major tasks in modernizing agriculture and rural areas between 2021 and 2025.

To advance agricultural modernization, China will improve its capability in supplying major agricultural products including grains, improve the quality and competitiveness of the agricultural industry, and improve the modernization of the industrial and supply chains in the agricultural sector.

To modernize rural areas, the country will take steps to make the countryside more livable, greener, and more civilized and harmonious.

Besides, China will also align rural vitalization with its efforts to consolidate and expand the achievements in poverty alleviation.

At present, new growth drivers represented by digital economy are rapidly taking shape, and the integration between digital technology and agriculture and ru-

ral areas is also accelerating. New technologies, products and modes are constantly emerging.

Infrastructure, intelligent agriculture and digital villages are three emphases of the plan.

The plan says the construction of 10000M fiber optic networks, 5G and mobile internet of things in rural areas shall be synergistic with those in urban areas, calling for digital and intelligent upgrading of agricultural production and rural infrastructure.

It also advocates the establishment and application of a rural big data system, as well as in-depth integration between agricultural businesses and a new generation of information technologies, such as internet of things, big data, AI, and block chain. It calls for efforts to build a batch of digital farms, digital irrigation areas and intelligent ranches and fish farms, to constantly improve digital development in the agricultural sector.

The plan proposes to build a "click-and-mortar" digital service system for rural residents, extend the "Internet+" government services to primary levels in rural areas, further enhance the construction of intelligent rural communities, drive rural education, healthcare and culture sectors with digitalization, and make rural governance and services more intelligent and targeted.

To accelerate agricultural and rural modernization, China must pursue integrated urban-rural development.

Taking counties as an important starting point for integrated urban-rural development, the plan has made a series of concrete arrangements, including granting urban residency to rural people who have moved to cities, promoting integrated urban-rural development at county level, and smoothening the flow of factors of production between urban and rural areas.



# Conflict-hit Ethiopia bids farewell to turbulent 2021 amid hopes for peace

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA has grappled with a turbulent 2021 as a year-long armed conflict between the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) in the northern Tigray region has continued to afflict the northern parts of the East African nation.

Despite the country's scramble to bring an end to the conflict, fighting had expanded during the year to even more areas, including the neighboring Afar and Amhara regions, eventually pushing millions into urgent humanitarian need and misery.

The conflict, due to what the government said was an attack on the Northern military command by the TPLF rebel forces, flared up in early November 2020.

The TPLF, however, claimed that the attack was a "pre-emptive strike" against the government forces' prior preparations that it believed were intended to oust the regional government and deploy forces along the regional borders. The Ethiopian government denied any of such claims.

The TPLF, an entity designated as a terrorist organization by the Ethiopian parliament, controls much of the Tigray

region. It used to lead a political coalition called the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) from 1989 to 2018, and established a new government in May 1991 that ruled Ethiopia until it was ousted from power in the federal government in 2018.

Prior to the conflict, the Ethiopian government had been blaming the TPLF, one of the four coalition fronts of Ethiopia's former ruling party EPRDF, for masterminding various terrorist acts across different parts of the country with an overarching goal of destabilizing the country.

Over the past month, the ENDF jointly with regional forces and militia fighters has intensified its push, eventually controlling strategic areas across Amhara and Afar regions, reversing months of battlefield gains by the rebel forces.

On Wednesday, the government announced that its army has been ordered to keep its stronghold in recently liberated areas without further proceeding.

The move, which came on the backdrop of the TPLF's decision to halt its military engagements in neighboring regions, has reignited hope over a possible end to the year-long conflict.

Early predictions have shown devastating impacts inflicted on public and private infrastructure as well as the live-



A humanitarian crisis is developing in Ethiopia

lihoods of affected communities as a result of the conflict. Eyob Belachew, an Ethiopian-based international relations and political analyst, said the conflict has sparked a large-scale humanitarian crisis that has captivated global attention "The war has taken a tremendous human and economic toll, and it is expanding beyond Tigray, with adverse repercussions for the country's overall growth and development," Belachew told Xinhua in a recent interview.

Last month, the Amhara regional state announced property damage amounting to 279.5 billion Ethiopian birr (about 5.7 billion U.S. dollars) in areas that were controlled by the rebel forces across the region.

The regional government accused rebel forces of vandalizing water, electricity, road and healthcare infrastructure, in which at least 1,466 hospitals and health care facilities were fully or partially damaged, state-affiliated Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC) reported, citing Anmut Belete, Amhara Region Plan and Development Bureau Head.

According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Education, preliminary information showed that more than 4,000 schools have been damaged in the Amhara region alone, leaving over 1.9 million school children out of school.

Dina Mufti, a spokesperson for Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters earlier this month that the spillover effect of the conflict in the Amhara and Afar regions is estimated to have displaced more than 1.8 million people while leaving 8.3 million people food insecure in the two regions.

According to the UN, the conflict continues to increase humanitarian needs due to displacement, loss of livelihoods, and lack of access to markets, food, and basic services.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has disclosed that about 94 million people are being targeted through humanitarian support initiatives in the three conflict-affected regions, while the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said the complex and fluid security situation is hindering the effective delivery of life-saving assistance to the most affected populations.

Xinhua

# More than 100 Japan flights canceled due to heavy snow

TOKYO

MORE than 100 domestic flights in Japan were grounded on Sunday due to heavy snow in the northern and western parts of the country, Japan's two biggest airlines said.

ANA Holdings had halted 79 flights as of 4 pm, affecting about 5,100 passengers, said Hiroaki Hayakawa, an operations director for the airline.

Japan Airlines Co had canceled 49 flights as of 4 pm, affecting 2,460 passengers, a representative with the airline's operations division said.

Worldwide, thousands of flights have been canceled over the Christmas weekend because of the rapid spread of the new Omicron coronavirus variant.

Japan, which tightened border controls to counter the threat from Omicron, has reported only about a dozen cases of community spread of the new variant and 231 total Omicron infections, including overseas arrivals, according to the health ministry.



**Worldwide, thousands of flights have been canceled over the Christmas weekend because of the rapid spread of the new Omicron coronavirus**

# Daily virus infections in France cross 100,000 barrier for

SANTO DOMINGO / PARIS / NAIROBI / ROME

FRANCE reported a record high of 104,611 COVID-19 infections on Saturday, breaking the 100,000 threshold for the first time since the pandemic began as the Omicron variant continued its rapid spread.

The country's infections

stood at 9,088,371, the third highest in the world after the US and the UK, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

With an additional 84 COVID-19 deaths, the national virus-related death toll has reached 122,546.

The French Health Ministry said that 52,712,462 people have received at least

one vaccine dose, accounting for about 78.2 percent of the whole population.

On Thursday, the French Scientific Council advised the French government on the ongoing rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

"Its progression is extremely rapid, especially among the 20-29 years olds. In January, we are expecting

hundreds of thousands of new cases a day," said Arnaud Fontanet, an epidemiologist and member of the scientific council.

French President Emmanuel Macron will hold on Monday a meeting of the Health Defence Council. An urgent meeting of the Council of Ministers is expected to adopt a draft bill to trans-

form the current health pass to a vaccination pass. In order to get the new pass, French citizens must be vaccinated.

The Dominican Republic has identified its first case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, the health ministry of the Caribbean country said on Saturday.

In a statement on Twitter,

the ministry said Omicron had been identified in a person with mild symptoms who had arrived in the country from South Africa.

The ministry also said it had later been informed by Chilean authorities that a person who traveled to Chile from the Dominican Republic had tested positive for Omicron. **Agencies**

# China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand mark 10 years of joint Mekong River patrols

A video conference was recently held in Kunming, southwest China's Yunnan province to summarize the experiences of the China-Laos-Myanmar-Tai joint Mekong River patrol and law enforcement mechanism achieved in the past 10 years.

The four sides all agreed to deepen cooperation and mutual trust, enhance friendly exchanges at all levels, show support on issues concerning each other's core interests, and improve their cooperation mechanisms, so as to advance the building of a Lancang-Mekong community with a shared future.

The four countries carried out their first joint patrol on Dec. 10, 2011, which marked the official initiation of the law enforcement cooperation on the Mekong River, also known as Lancang River in China.

Over the past ten years, the four sides, upholding a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, have consolidated and deepened the joint Mekong River patrol and law enforcement cooperation, and made innovations in and expanded service models and cooperation fields. They have developed a law enforcement cooperation mode that is more inclusive, a multilateral mechanism that is more effective, and regional cooperation that is more active.

On the section of the Mekong River in northern Thailand,



Representatives from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand participate in the launching ceremony of the joint Mekong River patrol and law enforcement mechanism among the four countries, Dec. 10, 2011. (Photo by Wang Xiaoxue/People's Daily Online)

commercial vessels are sailing orderly today after 10 years of the law enforcement cooperation, composing a harmonious picture with the chimney smoke curling up from the residential houses on the two banks of the river. Vessels would always sound their horns to greet each other when they meet.

"We sailing on the river are like families, as we all call the Mekong River home," said a Laotian captain Somphong.

What Somphong feels is felt by many. Sailors from various countries have expressed their gratitude to the joint patrol and law enforcement mechanism, saying it has brought back both vitality and security to the river.

Over the past 10 years, law enforcement departments from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand have carried out over 180 joint missions, clamped down on 36,173 drug-related crimes,

seized 136.93 metric tons of drugs, and cracked down upon 66 human trafficking cases.

Meanwhile, they also offered huge assistance for the people along the Mekong River. They have rescued 130 commercial vessels and 536 crew members, and escorted thousands of commercial vessels, recovering losses of nearly 200 million yuan (\$31.42 million).

At present, police vessels from the four countries are patrolling on the Mekong River 25 days each month on average. Police visibility stands at over 80 percent on ordinary days and may hit 100 percent on important dates. The cargo volume handled by ports along the river increased fourfold from ten years ago, and the number of tourists has been on a 20-percent rise each year.

The joint patrols have brought a sense of security to the people

along the river and the commercial vessels passing through it, making the river prosperous again.

An official Phichai works at the port management bureau of Chiang Saen, Thailand told People's Daily that the Thai government has built a new port in the district where cargos are no longer shipped in bulk, but in containers.

"The increased investment from the government and ship owners came from their confidence in the security on the Mekong River. The shipping business on the river will definitely become more and more prosperous," the official explained.

The water police station of Wan Pong, Myanmar undertakes the joint patrol missions on the Mekong River. The head of the water police station Yewinoo said the river has witnessed an obvious traffic increase since the joint patrol mechanism was initiated. "The livelihood and economy in the regions along the river have greatly improved," he said.

The four countries have enhanced communication and coordination in intelligence through joint patrol and law enforcement cooperation, which has resulted in fruitful outcomes in the combat against drug dealing, smuggling, and illegal immigration, said Wichai Chaimongkhon, Secretary-General of Thailand's Narcotics Control Board.

People's Daily

# Australia sticks to reopening plan despite 1st Omicron death

GAZA / DUBAI / JERUSALEM

AUSTRALIA yesterday reported its first confirmed death from the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 amid another surge in daily infections, but the authorities refrained from imposing new restrictions saying hospitalization rates remained low.

The death, a man in his 80s with underlying health conditions, marked a grim milestone for the country which has had to pause some parts of a staged reopening after nearly two years of stop-start lockdowns, due to the fresh outbreak.

Omicron, which health experts say appears more contagious but less virulent than previous strains, began to spread in the country just as it lifted restrictions on most domestic borders and allowed Australians to return from overseas without quarantine, driving case numbers to the highest of the pandemic.

The authorities gave no additional details about the Omicron death, except to say that the man caught the virus at an aged care facility and died in a Sydney hospital.

"This was the first known death in New South Wales (state) linked to the Omicron variant of concern," said NSW Health epidemiologist Christine Selvey in a video released by the government.

The man was among six COVID-19 deaths reported in Australia the previous day, all in the most populous states of NSW and Victoria, which are home to more than half the country's 25 million population.

NSW, Victoria and Queensland states reported a combined 9,107 new cases on Monday, putting the country on track for another peak in new infections. The five other states and territories were yet to report daily case numbers.

"Although we are seeing increased case

numbers... we are not seeing the impacts on our hospital system," said Annastacia Palaszczuk, premier of Queensland which reported 784 new cases with four people in hospital.

With reports of six-hour wait times for COVID testing for people hoping to meet requirements for interstate holiday travel, Palaszczuk defended the tourism-friendly state for mandatory testing, saying "everyone knew when they booked a ticket that if they wanted to come here they would have to do a PCR test".

"We need to make sure that we're protecting (Queenslanders)," she said.

Australian authorities have so far resisted a return to lockdown in the face of surging case numbers but have reinstated some restrictions. On Monday, NSW again made it compulsory to check into public venues with QR codes, while many states have brought back mandatory mask-wearing in indoor public places.

Gaza

The Palestinian health ministry said on Sunday it had identified the first case of the Omicron coronavirus variant in the Gaza Strip.

The carrier is a Gaza resident who was infected within the coastal territory, ministry official Majdi Dhair told a news conference.

Dhair said this meant the variant, first identified in southern Africa last month, existed in Gaza and was now spreading among the population. The discovery poses a new challenge to the enclave's under-developed health system.

"We are ahead of difficult days. It is expected that the Omicron variant will spread fast," he told reporters.

Gaza, with a population of 2.2 million people, has registered 189,837 COVID-19 infections and 1,691 deaths.

Dhair urged Gazans to get vaccinated, putting the percentage of those who had already received shots at around 40 percent.

# China's South-to-North Water Diversion Project benefits 140 million people over past 7 years

AS of Dec. 12, which marked the seventh anniversary of the comprehensive operation of the first phase of the eastern and middle routes of China's South-to-North Water Diversion Project, the project had transferred around 49.4 billion cubic meters of water from major rivers in southern China to the northern areas of the country and benefited 140 million people, suggested data released by China's Ministry of Water Resources (MWR).

The amount of water transferred by the project over the past seven years is almost equivalent to the average annual runoff of the Yellow River, said the MWR.

After water pipes were laid and faucets installed, Shi Shurong, a resident in Xiaoshitang village, Suliuzhuang township, Xiajin county, Shandong province, has been able to get clean drinking water at his home.

"We now have sufficient water pressure and stable water flow. Finding safe drinking water is no longer a problem for us," said Shi.

Thanks to the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, more and more people living along the routes of the project like Shi have bid farewell to the old days when they lacked access to clean drinking water.

Before the mega water diversion project was put into

operation, the per capita water resources of the basins of the Yellow River, Huaihe River, and Haihe River was only 462 cubic meters, which was one fifth of the national average.

Water resources in China are distributed unevenly in terms of time and space, and the country has faced low per capita water resources, said Liu Changming, an academican of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and a researcher with the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research under the CAS, who believes that the water diversion project has struck a balance in water resources between the north and the south.

The project has been proven effective in alleviating water shortages in China's northern regions, with the water transferred through the project becoming major water source of more than 40 large and medium-sized cities in northern China.

At present, more than 70 percent of the water supply in the urban area of Beijing is from the south part of China; water supply in the major urban districts of north China's Tianjin municipality almost relies entirely on the water diversion project; and Shandong province has established a T-shaped water network because of the project. So far, the water quality of

the water diversion project has consistently reached required standards. All the water transferred via main lines of the first phase of the project's eastern route has met required water quality standards and maintained a surface water quality of above Grade II, while the surface water quality of the Danjiangkou Reservoir, the source of water transferred via the middle route of the water diversion project, as well as the middle route's major lines has been maintained above Grade I.

The water diversion project has also helped with continuous ecological water replenishment, bringing many dry river courses back to life.

Baiyangdian of north China's Hebei province, which is dubbed the "Pearl of North China," used to be long troubled by inadequate water quantity and poor water quality. Since 2018, the middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project has continued to divert water to Baiyangdian for ecological restoration, which, in combination with water transferred from the Yellow River and local reservoirs, increased the water area of Baiyangdian from 171 square kilometers to 275 square kilometers.

"Since its operation, the first phase of the middle route has provided more than seven billion cubic meters of water for

over 50 rivers in the north, comprehensively helping restore the ecological environment of rivers and lakes," said Cheng Dehu, member of the leading Party members group of the construction and administration bureau of the middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project, China South-to-North Water Diversion Corporation Ltd.

Ecological environment of rivers and lakes along the middle route of the water diversion project has been effectively improved because of water transferred through the route, which has yielded notable ecological benefits, said Cheng, who is also the chief engineer of the bureau. **People's Daily**





Ben McDermott celebrates his century. GETTY IMAGES

## McDermott ton makes short work of Strikers challenge

HOBART

BEN McDermott continued to relish his elevation up the order with a blistering century as Hobart Hurricanes overcame struggling Adelaide Strikers at Blundstone Arena.

The recently promoted opener, who had started the season slowly at No. 4, thwarted Strikers' star spin tandem of Rashid Khan and Fawad Ahmed to lead Hurricanes' overhaul of the 176 target with nine balls to spare.

McDermott smashed 110 not-out from just 60 balls as the revived Hurricanes notched consecutive wins, while Strikers are falling off the pace.

McDermott's recent elevation to partner Matthew Wade has been a master stroke for Hurricanes. He took the aerial route in the powerplay to get Hurricanes off to a fast start even though they lost Wade for just six.

Much of Strikers' strength is their spin duo of Rashid and Fawad, who once again bowled in tandem after the powerplay.

But McDermott targeted Fawad down the ground and smoked him for three consecutive boundaries as he combined with D'Arcy Short in a strong partnership of 81.

Short has started to show a liking to No. 3 as he slowly rediscovers his best form underlined by smashing a pull shot out of the ground.

Just when the pair were taking control, Short fell to a superb yorker from Perth Siddle although the batter felt aggrieved with the lbw decision.

McDermott, however, remained unruffled and continued to toy with Fawad as he once again smashed the spinner to his sweet spot down the ground.

The 16th over loomed as defining, with Rashid bowling his final over but McDermott continued his merry way with a six although the Afghan star claimed the wicket of Harry Brook.

McDermott never gave Strikers a sniff and he effectively sealed the game when he clubbed three boundaries off Siddle in the 18th over.

He then reached a deserved century with a six in the penultimate over as he became the first player with two centuries in BBL chases.

Strikers had to guts it out with quicks Siddle and Wes Agar both injuring their fingers while bowling. With Fawad nullified by McDermott, the burden fell on Rashid who also could not weave his magic against the rampaging batter.

Strikers have a strong bowling attack although will be sweating on the fitness of Agar, who suffered a dislocated finger, and the indefatigable Siddle, who looked in anguish throughout after dropping a tough return chance off Short.

With teams being cautious against Rashid, Strikers need other bowlers to step up, otherwise their season will be quickly a lost cause.

Hurricanes did a serviceable job to restrict Strikers' batters on a belter of a pitch. Their attack has looked far more potent with the inclusion of speedster Riley Meredith.

After returning from a hamstring injury and bowling just one over in his season debut against Perth Scorchers, Meredith claimed three wickets in Hurricanes' win over Melbourne Stars and backed that up with another trio of scalps against Strikers.

The 25-year-old, who has played five T20Is for Australia this year, bowled with trademark fire but mixed things up nicely by taking the pace off the ball - a skill he has sharpened this season.

Amid a strong attack, Meredith looms as its talisman as he proved with the key scalps of Jake Weatherald and Matthew Renshaw in a momentum-shifting 15th over.

He was occasionally wayward and predictable but Meredith's impact has already been pronounced.

Renshaw and Weatherald provide silver linings

Strikers are in a rut but Weatherald's return to form and the belligerence of Renshaw, who had looked one-paced in his previous two games, are desperately needed tonics.

Renshaw mixed orthodox shots with inventiveness in the most commanding knock by a Strikers batter this season.

His fluency seemed to spark Weatherald, who had only mustered 53 runs from his previous five innings.

The pair combined in a century stand as Strikers laid their best platform of the season until their departures triggered fears of another collapse.

But impressive youngster Thomas Kelly continued his breakout season with an 18-ball 28 as Strikers conjured their highest total of the season, though it ultimately proved insufficient.

Strikers appear short of firepower underlined by hitting just one six on the small Blundstone Arena and they are running out of time to resurrect their season.

AGENCIES



Tanzania's senior national women soccer team 'Twiga Stars' players and their coaches celebrate having been crowned 2021 COSAFA Women's Championships winners after notching a 1-0 victory over Malawi in the showpiece's final at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in South Africa on October 9. PHOTO: COSAFA

## End of Year Reflections

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

**I**N every walk of life, it is a traditional custom to reflect on the goings-on that has occurred during the year that is steadily drawing towards an end at a quickening pace.

Incontestably, this same tradition applies to sports as a sporting year is chock-full of events, feats, and colossal botch-ups which merit deeper reflection to see the areas where we came up trumps and also the areas in which we came up short.

Thus, let us set the ball rolling on our sporting musings about the past eleven-and-a-half months by revisiting Simba SC's sterling league triumph in the 2020/21 domestic top-flight football season.

Indeed, despite the stiff opposition posed by Yanga and Azam FC, Simba SC impressively continued charging forward at

full steam right up to the final day of the season when they were crowned as undisputed champions.

The stellar league title victory meant that Simba SC had won the coveted league trophy for the last four consecutive seasons, which, in essence, translates to an age of Simba SC's dominance over domestic football.

Let us move on and ponder about the admirably extensive ground covered by the Twiga Stars, who earlier this year sublimely lifted the COSAFA Senior Women's Cup in what was fantastically a superb football feat.

In a tournament that featured the great and the good of the Southern African region's premier women's football teams, the Twiga Stars comfortably held their own and edged Malawi 1-0 in the tourney's finale to claim the title.

But, aside from their laudable

achievement, the Twiga Stars' title triumph was heavily significant for another reason.

Indeed, it underlined Tanzania's hegemony over South African football in recent years as our national U-17, U-20 and senior women's teams have each claimed overall title victories in the U-17, U-20, and senior categories of the COSAFA Women's Cup during the last few years.

It is an irrefutable fact then that the accomplishments of our various national women's football teams in the COSAFA Cup for the last few years represent a veritable tour de force on the part of our female football players and long may this unrivalled supremacy continue.

From women's football, let us now scrutinize the football exertions of our men's national team, the Taifa Stars, who were recently engaged in a ferocious competition to qualify for the 2022 World Cup, a campaign in

which they disappointingly and ultimately failed.

Despite the stellar fact that the Stars remained unbeaten away from home throughout their world cup qualifying campaign, they proved unable to translate their away heroics into reigning supreme on home turf.

This lackluster home form proved to be the Taifa Stars' Achilles Heel as they failed to advance to the world cup qualifiers playoffs stage.

The New Year, though, presents the Taifa Stars with a golden chance to wipe the slate clean and begin afresh the quest to achieve memorable football glory.

Good luck then to the Taifa Stars in their football doings next year.

And may the horse-drawn chariots of Lady-luck ferry all of our sportsmen and women towards the realization of their sporting dreams and ambitions.

## Premier League Board ought to efficiently promote top-flight

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

A contract between GSM Group and Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for financially backing the NBC Premier League has sparked controversy, with Simba SC making it clear that there are suspicious and striking flaws in the contract.

The contract, which was sealed in Dar es Salaam last month, now has GSM Group as the NBC Premier League's new co-sponsor.

One of the contract's provisions that demands all Premier League outfits to have their kits bearing the GSM Group logo is one of the reasons for the controversy.

Simba SC believes that the Premier League's participating clubs are required to have enough information before being told they would have their jerseys bearing the new co-sponsor logo.

What is worse is that the agreement was signed by the TFF instead of the Tanzania Premier League Board (TPLB), which supervises the Premier League.

The irony is that the TFF enters into a contract and then tells the third party, namely outfits, to comply with the terms of the contract signed by the federation.

It is really weird and Simba SC has some very basic points in it so it is important for TFF and the TPLB not to use force in the matter because in a very transparent environment all stakeholders had to be heavily involved in knowing the benefits and distribution of revenue of that contract.

I'm surprised to read that perhaps the leader of a Biashara United saying all he cares is his side gets money, and other issues do not concern the side.

That is a great deal of ignorance about the official's role as the leader of a Premier League club, the club's rights, and sources of revenue.

With a leader like that a person can see clearly why Biashara United failed to travel to Libya to play a CAF Confederation Cup's Second Preliminary Round's rematch with Libya's Al Ahli Tripoli after cruising to a 2-0 win at



Mtwara Sugar's attacker, Riphath Khamis (L), seeks to dispossess Kinondoni Municipal Council FC's fullback, Kelvin Kijiri, when the teams faced off in an NBC Premier League fixture which took place in Morogoro on December 18. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

home.

And one can see the reasons for the Mara-based side heading to Djibouti to play in the CAF Confederation Cup's First Preliminary Round against Dikhil FC during the day of the match.

These are not the kind of leaders who are supposed to lead Premier League clubs as such officials' knowledge of sponsorship, transparency, and club rights are relatively little.

But it is also important for the TPLB to start promoting the Premier League brand as its main product instead of clinging to the old sponsorship system.

It is unlikely that the Premier League would have two main sponsors, one of whom has just moved in when the trip has just begun. It is just another controversy.

The key is for TPLB to take over the systems used by other countries like England, Italy, and Spain.

These countries have developed a brand of their main product, the Premier League, and given the tournament name.

There is no longer the exclusive rights sponsorship of the entire league as TFF and TPLB had been giving Vodacom Company for so long.

tie pitting the club against Yanga.

The incident was allegedly caused by Barbara being at the forefront of questioning GSM Group's sponsorship.

The TPLB officials stopped her because she was said to have been accompanied by children who were 'not allowed to enter the VIP area' and she insisted on accessing the venue with the children.

The TFF and the TPLB may be right, but Barbara has made soccer fanatics think about the importance of a family having an opportunity to watch entertaining league matches.

What should a person with VIP status who wants to go to watch a match with his children do?

If Barbara agreed to enter without the children she went with, what safe place would they be kept even if she paid for them?

Is there a special section for children who come with their parents who have VIP tickets?

Like our English counterparts, Lord Taylor's report on the Hillsborough tragedy that killed 95 Liverpool fans provided the security that enabled fans to go to the stadiums with their wives and children.

Why did football governing bodies treat Barbara Gonzalez the way they did?

Are football enthusiasts left to make claims that she was not obedient instead of looking at the challenge posed by her refusal to be separated from children who are not allowed to access the VIP section?



## Himachal win maiden Vijay Hazare title

JAIPUR

WICKET keeper-opener Shubham Arora's unbeaten 136 off 131 balls paved the way for Himachal Pradesh's maiden Vijay Hazare title as they beat Tamil Nadu by 11 runs via the VJD method at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Chasing 315, Himachal needed 16 from 15 balls with six wickets in hand when bad light stopped play.

Left-hander Arora was brisk right from the start. While Tamil Nadu's spinners struck back with three wickets after a rapid start, Arora found an ally in Amit Kumar.

The two put together 148 off 150 balls for the fourth wicket, ensuring the asking rate never went out of hand.

When B Aparajith dismissed Amit for a 79-ball 74, Himachal needed 71 from 8.5 overs.

That brought captain Rishi Dhawan to the crease, with the stage set for his strokeplay.

His quickfire 42 not out off 23 balls meant Tamil Nadu didn't have an opening.

Arora, who struck 13 fours and a six in his maiden List A hundred, was named Player of the Match.

Earlier, Dinesh Karthik's 116 off 103 balls, studded with eight fours and seven sixes, had lifted Tamil Nadu to 314 but in the end, it didn't prove to be enough.

After winning the toss, Dhawan cited moisture in the surface as a reason behind bowling first.

On a gloomy morning, he expected the fresh pitch to help his seamers early on.

Vinay Galetiya proved his captain right when he breached Aparajith's defense with the one that kept coming in with the angle.

Shortly afterward, Dhawan himself dealt Tamil Nadu a blow and N Jagadeesan caught behind with his first ball of the day.

With the sun not yet out and the ball hooping around, Tamil Nadu promoted lower-order batters R Sai Kishore and M Ashwin to No. 3 and No. 4 respectively.

The two added 17 for the third wicket in almost six overs, adding 17 before Kishore edged Pankaj Jaswal to first slip.

Ashwin fell soon after, becoming Dhawan's second victim. That left Tamil Nadu 40 for 4 in the 15th over but by now the sun had come out and they had two main batters, Karthik and B Indrajith, in the middle.

Tamil Nadu knew they needed to up the scoring rate and the first signs of that came from Karthik.

In the 21st over, he stepped out against Galetiya and hit him over long-on.

Two balls later, he slog-swept him over deep square leg for his second six before repeating the shot in the bowler's next over for the same result.

It was yet another sweep - this time off left-arm spinner Akash Vasisht for four - that brought up Karthik's half-century, off 67 balls.

Himachal could have sent him back when he was on 53 but Arora put down the chance off Jaswal.

Indrajith, who was playing second fiddle until then, also opened out.

With a flurry of boundaries, he reached his half-century off just 57 balls despite being on 27 off 44 balls at one stage.

At the other end, Karthik struck 6, 4, and 6 off consecutive Jaswal deliveries and moved closer to his hundred.

On 96, he offered Himachal another chance when ended up top-edging a lap sweep off left-arm spinner Mayank Dagar, but short third man grassed the opportunity.

Karthik brought up his century off 96 balls but Indrajith fell for 80 off 71. But their 202-run partnership off just 164 balls, followed by Shahrukh Khan's 42 off 21, gave Tamil Nadu a formidable total even though they were all out in 49.4 overs.

Himachal started their chase in a positive manner, with Prashant Chopra and Arora adding 60 in just 8.5 overs.

Seeing his seamers going for runs, Vijay Shankar turned to spin, and Kishore didn't take long to strike, castling Chopra for 21. In the next over, Washington Sundar bowled Digvijay Rangji for nought to make it 61 for 2.

Arora, meanwhile, brought up his half-century, while Nikhil Gangta hit a couple of sixes to keep the scorecard ticking.

However, their stand was cut short by Ashwin, who had Gangta holing out for a 23-ball 18.

Arora and Amit kept Himachal afloat and took the side to 150 in the 26th over. When the boundaries dried up, the duo ran hard between the wickets.

As a result, without taking any real risks, they brought down the equation to 142 required from the last 20 overs with seven wickets in hand.

Amit reached his fifty off 57 balls, two overs later, Arora brought up his hundred off 95 balls.

After reaching the landmark, Arora hit Aparajith for a straight hit to bring the target under 100.

Tamil Nadu had a chance to break the stand in the 38th over when both batters found themselves near the striker's end after a mix-up.

Vijay, though, failed to collect the ball, allowing Arora to trace back his steps. Arora was batting on 112 at that time.

Aparajith finally broke through with Amit's wicket, trapping him lbw when the batter tried to swipe one fine, but Dhawan slogged the bowler over deep midwicket on the second ball he faced to ease off the pressure.

AGENCIES

## England batters stumble again after James Anderson four-for limits Australia

MELBOURNE

SOME vintage James Anderson kept England in the contest on an eventful second day of the third Test at the MCG, only for the tourists' brittle batting to falter in the face of a devastating blitz by Australia's quicks which put the hosts on the verge of sealing the series.

Debutant Scott Boland and Mitchell Starc claimed two wickets each to crush England during a scintillating final hour and undo the effect of Anderson's four-wicket haul, which had fleetingly given the tourists hope.

With their warm-up routine thrown into chaos by four positive Covid tests among team staff and their families which delayed their departure for the ground - and the start by half an hour - England showed the sort of bottle that was sorely missing as Australia romped to a 2-0 series lead to wrest back some control with the ball.

Cleared to play after passing lateral flow Tests in the morning, the England players were scheduled to undergo PCR testing at the close of play, with the match allowed to proceed in the meantime.



Mitchell Starc ripped out in two in two balls. GETTY IMAGES

And it was the 39-year-old Anderson, who made his international debut at the same ground in an ODI in 2002, leading the way with two particularly miserly spells which yielded the important wickets of Steve Smith and Marcus Harris, who top-scored with 76, either side of lunch.

Australia were bowled out for 267, a first-innings lead of 82 runs. But England's top order had no answers as Starc claimed two wickets in as many balls to put

them 2 for 7.

As if the pressure on England captain Joe Root wasn't cranked up enough, he barely survived Starc's hat-trick ball, an unplayable delivery beating his outside edge.

By the close, England were in disarray after Starc struck in the fifth over of the innings when he found Zak Crawley's outside edge, taken by keeper Alex Carey for 5, and then trapped Dawid Malan lbw for a first-ball duck.

Pat Cummins maintained the pressure in an outstanding spell, while Boland came on for the penultimate over and had Haseeb Hameed caught behind with his third ball, then removed nightwatchman, Jack Leach, with a gem that clattered into the top of off stump two balls later as the match slipped back into a more familiar rhythm with England staring down a series defeat.

Root was unbeaten on 12 at the end of the day and Ben Stokes on 2 but, as capable as the England duo are of hauling their side out of trouble, the mission looked beyond even those two.

By the time Anderson took the second new ball in the final session, Australia was eight wickets down and led by 51.

He then proceeded to fling himself into the air at mid-on to stop a ball struck firmly by Cummins that was surely headed to the boundary.

Anderson bowled 10 maidens en route to his haul of 4 for 33 from 23 overs.

Having dismissed opener David Warner the previous evening, Anderson bowled Smith for just 16 after Ollie Robinson had removed nightwatchman Nathan Lyon in the fourth over of the second day.

Smith fell in a superb Anderson spell of 6-5-1-1, the only run coming off the first ball, an inside edge when Smith was on 5 which Jos Buttler failed to gather behind the stumps, instead of parrying to fine leg.

Mark Wood, too, bowled well and he struck with his third ball of the day when the dangerous Marnus Labuschagne fell for just 1 as the first of Root's three catches at slip.

Under-pressure Harris went to lunch unbeaten on 48, having overturned an lbw decision to Ben Stokes when he was on 36 with replays showing that there was bat on the ball.

Australia helped themselves to six runs off the first over after lunch, bowled by Leach, and 10 off the second, from Wood, during which time Harris raised his third Test fifty.

Both bowlers' subsequent overs were tighter but, as if to ram home the fact that England was in danger of letting their good morning's work come undone, Buttler

then fluffed a stumping chance off Harris when he was on 63.

The opener advanced at Leach, who saw him coming and fired the ball down the leg side, only for Buttler to thrust out his right glove in vain.

Robinson broke through to dismiss Travis Head, caught by Root, and Anderson had Harris out in similar fashion three runs shy of equaling his best Test score during another outstanding four-over spell that yielded just two runs.

Australia hit the front late in the middle session before Leach, back after a torrid time at the hands of Australia's batters in the opening Test at the Gabba, trapped Cameron Green lbw in the second over after tea.

Stokes removed Carey before Starc and Cummins added 34 runs for the ninth wicket, the third-highest partnership of Australia's innings.

Anderson struck again in the fourth over with the new ball to dismiss Cummins, caught by Hameed at point and Wood had debutant Boland caught by Crawley, to close out the innings, for what it was worth, given what was to come.

AGENCIES

## Munro and Marsh make it six out of six for Perth Scorchers

MELBOURNE

ALL-conquering Perth Scorchers continued to march through this BBL season after once again defeating Melbourne Renegades at Marvel Stadium.

Having defeated Renegades by 21 runs at the same venue just four days ago, Scorchers were even more clinical in their sixth straight victory.

They restricted Renegades with a stifling effort with the ball before cruising in their chase as Mitchell Marsh continued his purple patch.

The game was shifted from Optus Stadium in Perth due to Western Australia's strict Covid-19 border controls, which has anchored Scorchers permanently on the road.

Scorchers had dominated their opening five games through a well-worn formula. Win the bat flip, post a strong total and then defend it with aplomb.

But their preferred strategy was upended when they lost the bat flip for the first time this season and had to bowl.

It didn't affect them as Scorchers exacted revenge on Aaron Finch and Nic Maddinson, who had been rare batters to cause the league leaders pain this season.

They had spent the days between games devising plans for Maddinson and attacked him by bowling full and straight.

It did the trick as a frustrated Maddinson erred when presented with a shorter delivery from Tymal Mills.

Scorchers then ran through the middle

order but they would have been disappointed with a lacklustre ending where they went through the motions and perhaps looked a little overconfident.

They leaked 42 runs in the last three overs but it only proved a brief lapse.

Renegades had hoped the dashing return of Finch last start would be the turning point for a season spiraling out of control.

The T20 World Cup winning captain, however, could not replicate his big-hitting antics, falling early with a big blow that almost hit the closed roof - which would have counted as a six - only to land safely in the hands of Marsh.

With Maddinson failing to fire this time, Renegades' batting fell away, youngsters Jack Fraser-McGurk and Will Sutherland underwhelming once again while veteran Mohammad Nabi's wretched season continued.

Mackenzie Harvey, who again impressed with a top-score of 45, unfathomably was run-out to a direct hit from Laurie Evans, the batter far too casual in completing a single.

Scorchers again dominated the power surge - taking their customary three wickets - only for Renegades' tail to wag at the death.

After being close to Ashes selection, Josh Inglis has struggled so far this season but he was determined to emerge from that rut tonight.

He smoked two early sixes off quicks James Pattinson and Reece



Mitchell Marsh continued his golden run of form. GETTY IMAGES

Topley in a confident start with fellow opener Cameron Bancroft also pressuring Renegades with sharp running between the wickets.

Inglis, however, could not build on his promising start as he failed to pick star spinner Zahir Khan's wrong'un and

was stumped while Bancroft departed shortly after.

There was no reason to panic for Scorchers with Marsh continuing his red-hot form and he combined well with belligerent Colin Munro, who mostly shed the pyrotechnics until shift-

ing gears with victory in sight.

Marsh combined trademark power with sweet touch to again thwart Zahir and underline his growing maturity which has propelled him into being arguably the in-form T20 batter in the world.

He fittingly hit the winning runs to wrap up the game at 12.15am local time.

Renegades had worked on their plans to try to do the seemingly impossible and halt Marsh with a slew of slower paced deliveries.

He did misjudge one from Sutherland, which cannoned into his helmet, but other than that adjusted well to put on a match-winning 99-run stand with Munro.

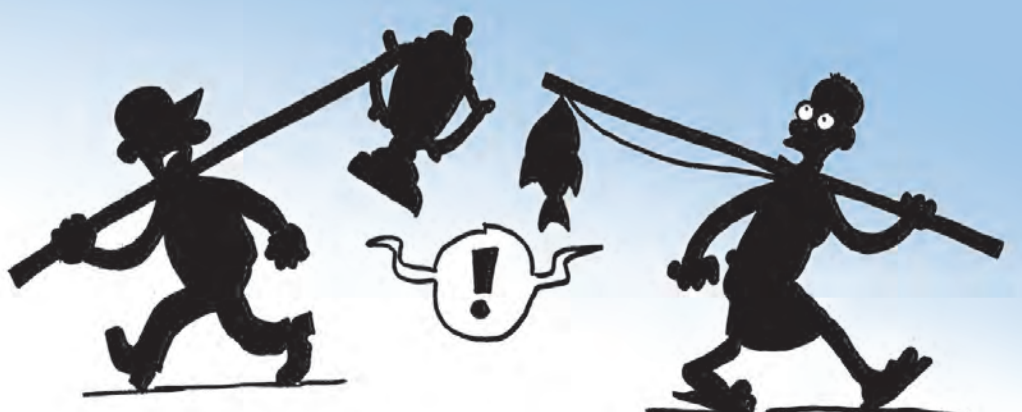
Last season's wooden spooners remain anchored at the bottom of the ladder with just one win from five games.

Their attack desperately missed veteran Kane Richardson, who was out due to illness, and there was a worrying malaise about them in the field, as if the Scorchers had just sapped their spirit.

In another potential headache for Renegades - and Australia - Finch moved around gingerly in the field having only just returned from a knee injury.

AGENCIES

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# Simba SC braces for CAF Confederation Cup draw

## SPORT

Himachal win maiden Vijay Hazare title

PAGE 19



Yanga's Tunisian head coach, Nasreddine Nabi. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

## Coach Nasreddine Nabi hints at Yanga's new signing

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's head coach, Nasreddine Nabi, has said that towards this season's mini transfer window, the side is looking to add one foreign player as well as one local footballer to boost its pursuit of this season's NBC Premier League's top honour.

Nabi made the remarks after a league match between Yanga and Biashara United, which ended in the hosts' 2-1 victory at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Boxing Day.

The Tunisian nationality revealed that Yanga's future depends on the young Tanzanian talents to move forward and develop the club.

"We look forward to introducing one young player and one new foreigner at the beginning of the next year," the coach noted.

"I'm looking forward to improving the talents of the players as well as making Yanga better in achieving our goals."

"I believe in Tanzanian talents, this is a country with many talents that we need to use, for the betterment of the country, I will mention the footballer's name during New Year."

Yanga has already signed midfielder, Salum Abubakar, from Azam FC on a free transfer on a two-year deal.

On the Sunday match, Nabi praised Biashara United for being the best team to give his club the challenge on Boxing Day.

"Biashara United is not a modest team, it is a big team I think we witnessed them in the CAF Confederation Cup after beating Al Ahli Tripoli of Libya here at home, playing good football, today (Sunday) was a continuation."

"They got an early goal, something that made the match difficult even though we knew the importance of the match and that is why we emerged with a victory."

Nabi described the defensive woes that lead to his team allowing goals, especially in the first half.

The Tunisian coach noted: "It's the second match we conceded an early goal in the first half due to mistakes made by our goalkeeper and defenders without forgetting the quality of our opponents."

Yanga has now collected 16 points after 10 games in the NBC Premier League whilst having an unbeaten spell, recording draw in two games against Namungo FC and Simba SC.

The domestic top-flight leader conceded four goals and recorded 16 goals.

By Guardian Correspondent

**T**ANZANIA'S Simba SC will today know its opponents in this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage as the draw for the showpiece and 2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League will take place in the afternoon.

The draw will be conducted at CAF Headquarters in Cairo, Egypt, starting at 13:00 local time (11:00 GMT). It will be live on CAF digital platforms.

The draw will divide the 16 teams that reached the CAF Champions League Group Stage into four groups of four teams each. The mini-league stage will start in February 2022.

The draw procedure and ambassador were set to be communicated to clubs in due time.

Simba SC made it to this season's CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage following a 4-3 aggregate victory



Simba SC fullback, Israel Mwenda (L), shoots past Red Arrows FC fullback, George Simbayambaya, when the outfits faced off in a 2021/22 CAF Confederation Cup Additional Second Preliminary Round match played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBAS C

over Zambia's Red Arrows FC in the showdown's playoffs that took place last month.

In the playoffs' first leg which took place in Dar on November 28, Simba SC recorded a 3-0 win over Red Arrows FC.

Red Arrows FC bounced back in the rematch that took place in Zambia on December 5, notching a 2-1 win which, however, could not guarantee the hosts the progression to the Group Stage.

Simba SC landed the opportunity to battle it out in the CAF Confederation Cup playoffs once the club crashed out of the 2021/22 CAF Champions League Second Preliminary Round.

2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League - Qualified teams:  
Al Ahli (Egypt), Al Hilal (Sudan), Al Merrikh (Sudan), AmaZulu (South

Africa), CR Belouizdad (Algeria), Esperance (Tunisia), Etoile du Sahel (Tunisia), and ES Setif (Algeria).

AC Horoya (Guinea), Jwaneng Galaxy (Botswana), Mamelodi Sundowns (South Africa), Petro Atletico (Angola), Raja (Morocco), Sagrada Esperanca (Angola), Wydad (Morocco), and Zamalek (Egypt).

2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup - Qualified teams:

Al Ahli Tripoli (Libya), Al Masry (Egypt), AS Otoho (Congo), ASEC Mimosas (Cote d'Ivoire), Coton Sport (Cameroon), CS Sfaxien (Tunisia), JS Saoura (Algeria), Orlando Pirates (South Africa), and Pyramids FC (Egypt).

RS Berkane (Morocco), Simba SC (Tanzania), TP Mazembe (DR Congo), US Gendarmerie Nationale (Niger), Za-

naco (Zambia), Al Ittihad (Libya) OR Enyimba (Nigeria), and JS Kabylie (Algeria) OR Royal Leopards (Eswatini).

\* Al Ittihad v Enyimba, JS Kabylie v Royal Leopards' second leg games TBC.

Meanwhile, Pitso Mosimane, the South African-born coach who has won the TotalEnergies CAF Champions League trophy three times, will headline Tuesday's 2021/22 TotalEnergies CAF Champions League and TotalEnergies CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage draw.

Mosimane, current coach of Egyptian giants Al Ahly SC, will share the stage with Khaled Nassar, CAF Head of Competitions, and the draw conductor on Tuesday.

Mosimane, aged 57, played for various sides between 1982 and 1996, including South African sides Jomo Cosmos, Mamelodi Sundowns, and Orlando Pirates.

He also played for Ionikos (Greece), Rita Berlaar (Belgium), and Al Sadd (Qatar). He donned South Africa 'Bafana Bafana' jersey in four caps.

After retiring, he started his coaching career in 2001 with SuperSport United.

He was the coach of the South African national team between 2010 and 2012 and left to join Mamelodi Sundowns.

In October 2020, he became the first Non-Egyptian African coach to guide giants Al Ahly.

Mosimane won numerous titles as a coach, including six CAF trophies, latest last week when he guided Al Ahly to win the TotalEnergies CAF Super Cup in Doha, beating Morocco's Raja on penalties.

His CAF memorabilia are three TotalEnergies CAF Champions League titles (2016 with Sundowns, 2020 and 2021 with Al Ahly) and three TotalEnergies CAF Super Cup trophies (2017 with Sundowns, 2020 and 2021 with Al Ahly).

## DR Congo pugilist unsatisfied with judges' decision

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

DEMOCRATIC Republic of Congo (DRC) professional Super Middleweight pugilist, Erick Tshimanga Katomba, has challenged the results of his fight against Tanzanian, Selemani Kidunda, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The pugilists were fighting for a vacant World Boxing Federation (WBF) International Super Middleweight title in a fight, which was expected to be a 10-round bout.

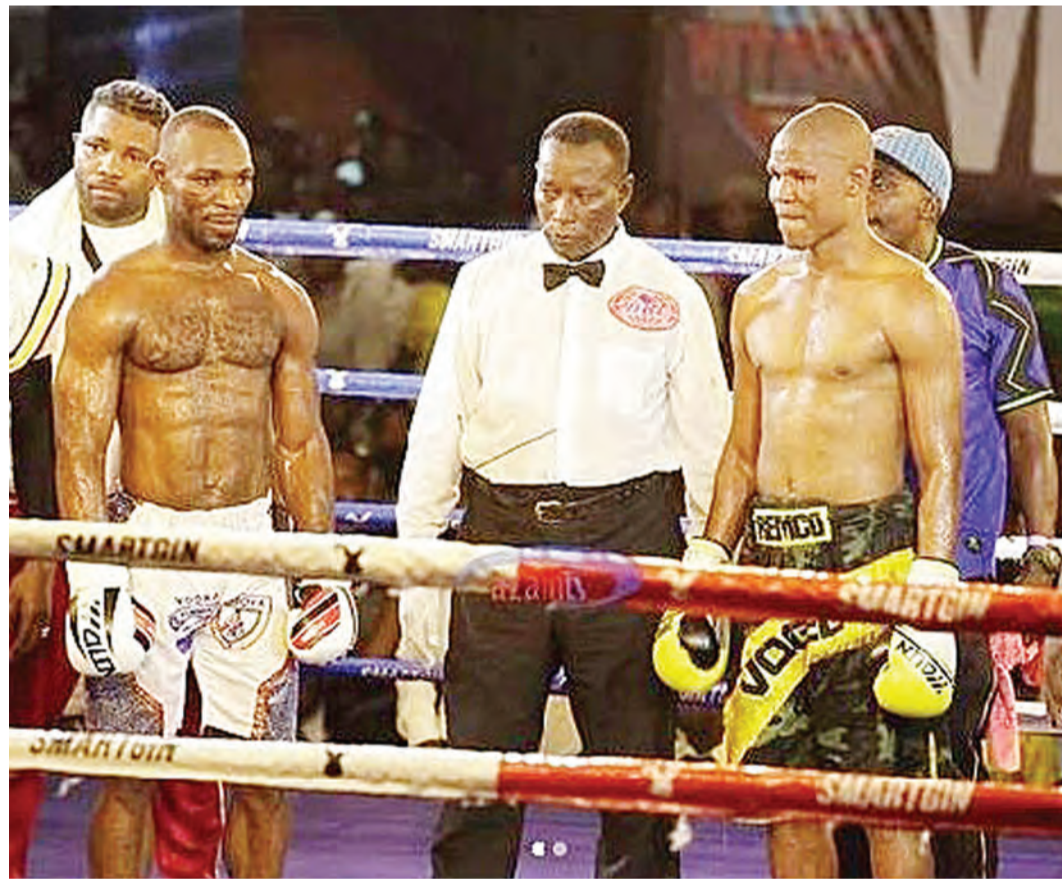
The bout was halted in the third round as Kidunda had sustained an injury that was caused by an accidental clash of heads.

Katomba has challenged the results, stating that his opponent Kidunda could have been treated and returned to the ring to continue the fight, instead of the referee order to stop the match.

In boxing, a technical draw is declared as the result when a fight has to be stopped because a fighter is unable to continue from an accidental injury.

Technical draws also occur when a fight has not completed four full rounds.

Regardless of what the judges had scored in the first two rounds, not enough action had taken place to declare either



Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)'s Super Middleweight pugilist, Tshimanga Katomba (L), and his Tanzanian counterpart, Selemani Kidunda (R), wait for the judges' decision after the boxers' World Boxing Federation (WBF) International Super Middleweight title fight, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday, was halted in the third round. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

boxer as the winner.

The results represented a frustrating night for

Katomba, who was vying for the WBF International Super Middleweight title.

The stoppage happened after the DR Congo pugilist headbutted Kidunda, causing

the latter to lose blood and fail to continue the fight.

The WBF rules require a bout's judges to declare it a draw only because the problem had arisen in the third round but Kidunda could have been declared as the winner if the fight had reached the fourth round.

Kidunda blamed Katomba for deliberately causing the injury and said the DR Congo pugilist has tarnished the former's record as he has never taken part in a fight that was declared a draw.

According to the bout organizers, Kidunda could have been declared the winner if the fight had reached the fourth round.

The organizers pointed out the injury he suffered was due to a deliberate unruly act by his opponent who used his head to injure the former.

The IBF rules though oblige the judges to declare the fight as a draw only because the problem has arisen in the third round.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

BEHIND EVERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, THERE IS A MAN...



... HER STYLIST!