

# Tanzanian Affairs

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## BREAKTHROUGH IN ZANZIBAR?

During his recent official visit to London recently, President Kikwete was asked what was happening about the continuing tensions between the parties in Zanzibar, as he had said that he was determined to resolve the problem. He replied that things were moving and that we would soon hear what was happening.

Almost immediately afterwards, on January 17, Assah Mwambene, writing in the Daily News, reported that talks between the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the opposition Civic United Front (CUF), aimed at ending decades of political impasse in Zanzibar, had started and the two parties were calling for public support. A joint communiqué signed by Civic United Front (CUF) Secretary General, Seif Shariff Hamad and the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) Secretary General Yussuf Makamba said the two parties were determined to bring about mutual understanding. "We have started our negotiations and appeal to our respective parties to be patient and have confidence in us that these talks will meet their expectations" the statement said.



*President Karume takes part in a CCM rally in Zanzibar (photo Issa Michuzi)*

However, there was some surprise a few days later when Makamba was reported to have spoken in an entirely different way according to *Majira*.

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*cover photo: Asha-Rose Migiro, recently appointed Deputy Secretary General of the UN (see page 8)*

At a CCM rally in Zanzibar two CUF leaders who had defected to CCM, Tambwe Hizza and Ali Shamte, castigated CUF leaders in general and Seif Shariff Hamad in particular, calling them cheating and dishonest. Makamba was reported in *Tanzania Daima* to have said that as long as he was in command of CCM the opposition should forget about winning any election, adding that the Union and Zanzibar governments “belong to CCM”. He pointed at the RC and DC, telling them to make sure that CCM always wins.

Then *Tanzania Daima* went further. It quoted a CUF MP from Pemba as saying that he doubted if CCM was serious about seeking a solution to the political impasse in Zanzibar. CCM leaders were just buying time. The MP criticised certain CCM leaders who were given to attacking CUF all the time. The Pemba MP however said the only person in the team he had faith in was veteran CCM leader Kingunge Ngombale-Mwiru whom he described as ‘honest and sensible’. He said the CCM team at the negotiations had been composed in such a way as to fail, so that the party could then “go to the donor community and throw the blame on CUF.”

**STOP PRESS:** As this issue of TA went to the printers, *Rai* published an interview with Ismail Jussa, the Personal Assistant to the CUF Secretary General, who is a member of the negotiating team. He said that the talks were likely to be concluded at the end of April. He declined to go into details or to comment on the possibility of power sharing, but said everything would be laid on the table. Jussa lauded President Kikwete, saying he had played a crucial role in ending the political polarisation that had been going on for ten years.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Don McKinnon, has explained why his organisation could not take steps against the Zanzibar government over the 2000 elections and the shooting of marchers in Pemba in 2001. Addressing students at the University of Dar es Salaam, he said the problem his office faced was how to separate the Union government of Tanzania from that of Zanzibar. He said another reason for lack of action was because the talks going on at that time between CCM and CUF looked like they were going to lead to a national consensus. “It is true that the 2000 elections were not entirely free and fair, yet it did not produce an authoritarian government that was not willing to listen and negotiate”, he said – *Majira*.

## AVOIDING SCHISM IN 'HAVEN OF PEACE'

The international Anglican Church, a federation of 38 national churches, with 77 million adherents, chose Dar es Salaam, the 'Haven of Peace', as the gathering place to deal with the threat of schism facing it over homosexual priests and same-sex marriages as well as the issue of women bishops.

Just before the meeting began on February 14 the spiritual leader of the Anglicans, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, invoked the power of prayer to help him save the Church. The Guardian in Dar wrote of the biggest clash yet between 'Global South' conservatives in Africa, Asia and Latin America where the Anglican Church is growing and liberals in the more affluent West, where congregations are shrinking. Conservatives say that homosexuality is sinful and unbiblical and in December 2006 the Anglican Church in Tanzania had announced that it was cutting links with "bishops who consecrate homosexuals and ordain such persons to the priesthood." The conservatives were described in an article by the Catholic writer Libby Purves in the London Times (which gave good coverage of the meeting) as the 'illiberal, genitally-fixated wing' of the Church. Liberal theologians suggested that the Church should focus on tackling poverty, AIDS and the challenge to Christianity from Islam.

Tensions had flared into a near revolt by the Global South in 2003 when an openly gay man, Gene Robinson, was named bishop in the US Episcopal Church. The traditionalist primates at the meeting in Dar were threatening to snub their U.S. counterpart Bishop Katharine Schori who was at the meeting supporting Robinson and same-sex unions.

The Global South set up camp in an Indian Ocean beachfront hotel to discuss the issues while next door the U.S. Episcopalians were doing the same.

### TANZANIAN BISHOP PROTESTS

In December 2006, The Anglican Church in Tanzania announced that it was cutting links with 'bishops who consecrate homosexuals and ordain such persons to the priesthood.' It would no longer accept funding from dioceses in the U.S. Church.

However, according to the Episcopal News Service, Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of the Dodoma-based Diocese of Central Tanganyika, in a

January 26 Epiphany letter, questioned the legitimacy of singling out the Episcopal Church on matters of human sexuality when the issues permeated 'all of our development and mission partners - churches, missionary agencies, governments and secular organizations.' His letter was in part a response to the Tanzanian bishops' December statement that had declared the province in a state of 'impaired' communion with the Episcopal Church – and had asserted that there had been a 'failure to register honest repentance for their actions that were contrary to the dictates of Holy Scripture.'

Bishop Mhogolo wrote that not all Tanzanian bishops were of one mind. "The way we do God's work is to strategise our mission and then look for resources for the mission," he said. "The recruitment of people, both within and outside the country, becomes part of our efforts in realising God's mission.... We then ask ourselves, why should we single out the Episcopal Church and treat it differently?... We know that a substantial amount of money and funding that governments, churches, and missionary societies receive comes from gay and lesbian people."

He noted that in the Tanzanian cultural context "gay and lesbians are regarded as criminals punishable by long-term imprisonment.... We live in a country where gay and lesbians are violently persecuted, mistreated, hated and ostracized.... We as Black Africans know the hurts and permanent damage caused by our past experiences which still linger on to the present," he said. "We have gone through all that and we know how it hurts... and we don't want to go that way again."

The Bishop said that it was with a clear conscience that his diocese continued to accept money from its liberal counterparts in New York. With individual donations of \$50 a year, hundreds of Americans provided shoes, clothes, food and exercise books so that AIDS orphans in the Tanzanian diocese might attend primary school. "If a gay person wants to help an HIV orphan to go to school and you say: 'No, I'm not going to receive that money, you are rejecting the person and you are rejecting an answer for the HIV person'" he said. The Bishop said he opposed last year's statement by his church because it did not reflect the realities of life in Tanzania where most of the population eked out a living on less than a \$1 a day.

However, the Bishop sidestepped the issue of gay clergy. "Let the judgment be done by God, not by me" he said.

## 6 *Avoiding Schism in "Haven of Peace"*

When Easter came the Bishop was reported to have been barred from conducting mass at the Cathedral in Dodoma. Three parishes in the Central Diocese had announced a total rejection of benediction, baptism and confirmation of their children by Bishop Mhogolo.

Although, according to the Guardian, the bishop actually stayed away from the cathedral on advice from the police on the eve of Good Friday, he maintained that his absence was in compliance with his work schedule, although acknowledging continued tension around the diocese.

The bishop nevertheless admitted the existence of friction between him and some worshippers whom he alleged are supporters of his rival.

"I know who is behind all this (his rejection)", said the bishop. He added that a former high ranking church leader in the diocese he had accused of embezzling funds set aside for renovation of the house of the bishop, had instigated his downfall. "He goes around tarnishing my image but I am not worried as long as I stand for the truth" he said.

"It is not true that I support homosexuality", the bishop complained. He said his comments on homosexuality implied that the church should not consider it as the greatest sin compared to robbery, corruption, adultery and others. Bishop Mhogolo reiterated that homosexuality has never been a problem to the church in Africa. There are so many other problems ranging from poverty, ignorance and diseases that the church in Africa could address instead of importing the issue of homosexuality which is a problem of the American church, he said.

### **ZANZIBAR**

Three days into their Dar meeting the bishops went to Zanzibar. President Karume in Zanzibar joined them for special prayers for unity and remembrance of the abolition of the slave trade. "I wish to make a special mention of the earlier church missionaries who contributed to the abolition of slavery in Zanzibar and East Africa and their establishment of care centres for freed slaves," Karume said.

### **THE ULTIMATUM**

Back in Dar es Salaam the Archbishop of Canterbury had reminded his bishops of the need for humility in a veiled rebuke to those whose wrangling over gay clergy threatened to tear the church apart. "Very early in the history of the church there was a great saint who said God



*Dr Rowan Williams shakes hands with President Karume during the visit to Zanzibar. To the left is Donald Ntetemela, Archbishop and leader of the Anglican Church in Tanzania (photo Issa Michuzi)*

was evident when bishops were silent.... There is one thing a bishop should say to another bishop ... that I'm a great sinner and Christ is a great saviour."

However, the Global South primates decided not to celebrate the Eucharist with the Presiding American Bishop, as they continued to stand behind their September declaration that they would "not be able to recognize Katharine Jefferts Schori as a Primate at the table with us." The "table" he noted, was the language used for an altar as found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Australian Archbishop Aspinall was quoted as saying that the bishops had "frankly and passionately" discussed the state of the Episcopal Church. The views raised by the four American bishops ranged from pain and confusion on the part of those who did not share the majority position to criticism of "unwanted and uninvited" interventions by Global South primates in the United States. However, "whatever happens, we still will be friends," Archbishop John Chew of South East Asia said.

At the end of the meeting, according to the Guardian, with the main problem not resolved, the bishops issued an ultimatum under which

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the liberal bishops would be given seven months to prove that they had fully reversed their pro-homosexual agenda or face expulsion from the Anglican Church.

The London Times reported that the Church then took another step towards its apparently inevitable schism. The US Episcopal bishops were reported to have rejected the ultimatum.

## TANZANIAN TAKES TOP UN JOB

Tanzanians felt proud when they learnt that the country's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Asha-Rose Migiro [*see photo front cover*], had been appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the UN. The Guardian wrote: This is a pointer to her personal skills and experience in world politics coupled with her country's dynamic internal and foreign policies...indeed, she adds to the list of Tanzanian 'super stars' on the international social, economic and political scene. President Kikwete named former Deputy Minister for Energy and Minerals Bernard Membe as the new Foreign Minister.

## CCM STILL POPULAR

President Kikwete and his ruling CCM party have lost none of their popularity on the mainland judging by the results of the parliamentary by-election held in Tunduru on March 18. CCM candidate, Mtutura Abdallah Mtutura, got 35,876 (64%) of the votes. Of the opposition parties, CUF got 32%, CHADEMA 3.8%, the United Democratic Party (UDP) 0.22% and the Democratic Party 0.18 %. The by-election was held to fill the vacancy left by the death of the former MP who had died of injuries sustained in a plane crash in Mbeya.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) announced in February that it would not allow private candidates to be nominated for elections in spite of a High Court ruling a year earlier which stated that this was unconstitutional. NEC Chairman Judge Lewis Makame said the High Court decision directed the government to prepare a legal system which would help private candidates to take part in elections. According to article 30 (5) of the country's constitution, the rule which does not allow private candidates 'shall remain in force until the time cited by the High Court is over' - Guardian.

## RADAR ISSUE BACK AGAIN

The purchase by Tanzania in 2002 of a \$40 million Radar system from BAE Systems, the UK's biggest arms supplier, which caused so much controversy at the time, has come back again to haunt the governments of both countries.

The London Guardian chose Monday January 16, the day on which President Kikwete began an official visit to London, to splash on its front page a dramatic new development in the case. It described how two 'business moguls' had admitted that they were secretly paid \$12million (30% of the contract value) as part of the deal. The tycoons, Sailesh Vithlani and business partner, Tanil Somaiya, were said to have made the admission to British detectives who had flown into the country to further investigate the graft allegations and find potential witnesses. Vithlani, who acted as a middleman in the deal, and has a long-standing relationship with military and government figures, has admitted that the sum was covertly moved to a Swiss account by BAE Systems, which is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) in Britain. The SFO, which was recently forced to abandon its investigation into commissions paid on a massive arms contract with Saudi Arabia, is now focusing its attention on Tanzania.

Tanzania borrowed from Barclays Bank to finance the purchase, which many critics said was unnecessary and overpriced. When asked, Vithlani told the Guardian he had made no disbursements from the \$12 million to public officials in Tanzania nor to any third parties outside Tanzania.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the time of the sale the British Government had been divided on what it should do. Tony Blair supported the deal but he was strongly opposed by his then Minister of Overseas Development Clare Short and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

### **REPERCUSSIONS**

This news story soon had repercussions in the international media and amongst politicians and others in both Tanzania and Britain.

BAE was alleged to have made two parallel arrangements with the alleged middlemen. In the first, a conventional agency agreement was

signed under which 1% commission was to be paid if the deal went through. But under a second, more unusual agreement, BAE owned offshore company 'Red Diamond' was said to have deposited another \$12m, representing 30% of the contract price, in Switzerland. This money was said to be under the under the personal control of Vithlani. In the world of international arms deals, a commission of 1% to local agents is generally regarded as legitimate but commissions of over 5% are regarded as questionable.

BAE Systems, asked if they had made a payment into Vilani's account refused to answer, saying: "We will not be commenting on any point of substance. This cannot of course be taken as any kind of admission."

### **THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DEBATE**

In a heated 3-hour debate in the House of Commons Clare Short, now an independent MP, joined the Conservative opposition in accusing Tony Blair of pushing through this 'scandalous' and 'squalid' deal. Short has consistently argued that Tanzania could have paid much less for the same equipment. Lynne Featherstone, for the Liberal Democrats, said that Britain had to be 'squeaky clean' if it wanted to retain any influence, reputation or credibility in world affairs. "Somewhere between the government, BAE and Barclays - and perhaps all three - our reputation is in tatters," she said.

Shadow International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell said BAE had sold 'ageing technology' and that the system was not adequate and too expensive. Mitchell said the deal had all the warning signs of impropriety - "a vastly inflated price, an unsuitable product and unorthodox financing".

Clare Short revealed detailed conversations she had had with former President Mkapa after she had taken the decision to cut back UK aid to Tanzania by £10 million (\$19.2 million) as a result of her concerns over the deal. "He told me that the radar contract had been signed before he came to office, a deposit had been paid and there was a penalty clause if Tanzania did not go ahead" she said. At this point, Liberal Democrat MP Susan Kramer asked, "Is the Hon Lady saying that, after the presidential election, the Tanzania government was interested in finding a way out of the project." Ms Short replied: "President Mkapa was a technocrat and a fine president, but he was not politically powerful and

he had inherited the contract. If the UK had done the right thing by refusing an export licence he would have been a happy man." However, "the Ministry of Defence had given approval for the project, which was already under construction in the Isle of Wight, on the basis that it would not be contested because it was uncontroversial." Ms Short said: "President Mkapa and I reached an agreement that if he promised that there would be no second half to the project, we would go ahead with increasing our aid again. I saw him after he had ceased to be president and he told me that he had kept the promise."

Conservative shadow minister Andrew Mitchell wanted to know why the Government approved an export licence against the recommendations of the World Bank and the International Civil Aviation Authority. "If the government argues that a judgement call was taken after lengthy consideration, why did it act without reference to the opinions of those best placed to comment? Did the Government know of the \$12 million payment to a Swiss bank account when the export licences were granted." When the (UK) Government gave evidence to the Committee reference was made to the fact that Tanzania was, self-evidently a sovereign state. The point was made and largely accepted that it therefore had the right to decide what air traffic control system it wanted to buy.

Conservative MP Peter Lilley said: "We in this country talk a lot about governance. We lecture the governments of developing countries, telling them that they must investigate, be transparent and hold Ministers to account. But the sad truth is that on this occasion the suspicions fell on a British company. It was British ministers who turned a blind eye; it was the British government who rushed a decision through before the World Bank could even publish its report."

In defence of the deal, Secretary of State for International Development Hilary Benn said the government had considered whether the export would seriously undermine the economy or seriously harm the sustainable development of the recipient country. "At the time the government judged it would not and, looking back from this vantage point, it would be hard to argue that it did" he said. He added that he could not comment on bribery allegations because they were under investigation. He said: "One decision taken on one case does not mean we are going soft on corruption. Look at the broad range of the things we are doing."... "That is not to say that there were no concerns about the system and its

suitability - there clearly were.”

The Conservative motion holding the government to account was lost by only 76 votes, a small figure given the overwhelming majority Labour has in Parliament.

Some experts believe that there were other considerations which caused the Tanzanian government to buy the equipment but these could not be revealed because they involved Tanzania’s security.

## **PROTESTS IN DAR**

On January 21 opposition leaders in the National Assembly in Dar es Salaam demanded that government leaders who were involved in the deal should resign immediately, to facilitate proper investigations. The demand was made at the climax of a 2 hour procession organised by five opposition parties to express misgivings about alleged corruption in government circles.

## **PRESIDENT KIKWETE’S COMMENTS**

President Kikwete said that Tanzania would seek a refund from the UK if a corruption probe into the sale reveals it was overcharged. The President said officials found guilty of taking bribes during the deal would be punished. He added that Tanzania had the right to buy the air traffic control system and Britain should be ashamed if British businessmen had taken advantage of the transaction to earn illegal income. “It does not make sense for a rich government like that of Britain to milk a poor country like Tanzania” he said. President Kikwete said that the BAE agent who sold the air defence system lives in Tanzania but has British citizenship. “The British investigators came to us and asked for our cooperation in investigating the role of the BAE agent in Tanzania, which we provided”, he said. He added that the British detectives suspect that the BAE management was sharing the spoils with the agent who transacted the deal. However, he said his government was looking into the possibility that some Tanzanian accomplices were involved in the deal.

More recently, Tanzanian Minister of State (Good Governance) Philip Marmo said he was surprised about the graft claims since the procurement followed all procedures including parliamentary approval. The same was said by Andrew Chenge, the present Minister for Infrastructure

Development who was then the Attorney General. – *Majira*.

BAE said it was co-operating fully with the investigations but strongly denied operating a secret slush fund to sweeten deals.

## TANZANIA & ZIMBABWE



An Extraordinary summit meeting of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to review regional peace and security began on March 29 in Dar es Salaam. The meeting was called to discuss the situation in the Congo, the recent elections in Lesotho and especially the political situation in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean government newspaper the Herald explained that President Kikwete had visited the country on March 15 and held talks with 'Comrade Mugabe' to brief him about his visits to Europe and discussions that 'always cropped up there about Zimbabwe'. The Herald also

President Kabila (Democratic Republic of Congo) attends the SADC meeting in Dar. 15 and March 25, opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) conspirators had petrol-bombed several police stations resulting in serious injury to police officers and destruction of property. Later, the MDC 'thugs' had petrol-bombed a train, injuring five people, a supermarket in Harare, and the ruling Zanu-PF district offices in Mbare. Western powers, led by Britain and the United States, had openly sided with the MDC despite the trail of violence and destruction the paper said. It went on: While Britain

had managed to influence the EU to take a position against Zimbabwe, it was finding it difficult to do so with SADC countries.

Western governments were criticizing SADC for not doing enough to resolve it. President Kikwete, who hosted the summit amid growing Western calls for a tough line on Mugabe's political crackdown, said the regional grouping appealed to all sides in the dispute to step back from the brink. "Of course the appeal to parties is to be cooperative and give this initiative a chance, also for the parties to exercise restraint and avoid anything that's going to inflame the situation," he said. "I believe through open and frank discussions we will be able to diagnose properly the political and security problems facing our region and decide on a course of action to deal with them."

The statement issued at the end of the summit shocked Zimbabwe's opposition and disappointed many people outside the country who do not appreciate how extremely popular Mugabe has become on the African continent after fighting so hard for the independence of his country and for driving out most of its white farmers. The statement called on Britain to honour its commitments to fund Zimbabwe's land reforms, and called on the West to drop sanctions against Mugabe's government. It asked South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki to facilitate political dialogue in Zimbabwe.

## CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Crime continues in Tanzania as it does everywhere else. But the single incident attracting most interest during recent months has been the fatal shooting on November 4 last year of a commuter bus conductor, Hassan Mbonde, at a road junction in Dar es Salaam by the former Tabora Regional Commissioner Ukiwaona Ditopile Mzuzuri. He was originally charged with murder but this was then changed to manslaughter. Outside the court three journalists were hurt in violent clashes with scores of people believed to be relatives of the accused who were apparently celebrating his release from remand custody and unhappy with the way the media had been covering the case. Delivering his ruling on Ditopile's bail application, Judge Augustine Mwarija said manslaughter was a bailable offence and the court had found no grounds not to grant

the application. The accused was further ordered not to leave the city without permission from the court – the Guardian.

There were two serious incidents of armed attacks in Northern Tanzania in March. Gangsters shot and injured two tourists out of a party of four Americans and one Briton plus a tour guide.

In the other incident, thugs dressed in police uniforms placed a false roadblock along the Arusha - Dodoma Highway. Car passengers were forced to lie on the ground and were then robbed of their belongings including phone handsets, wrist watches, gold chains, necklaces and money.

The government immediately launched a special operation involving the army to hunt down suspects who were thought to be Somalis. “We will be tougher this time” said President Kikwete. “We will leave no stone unturned in seeking the criminals responsible.”

The Police have destroyed over 2,000 illegal firearms at the Lake Tanganyika Stadium in Kigoma. The Regional Commissioner lit the bonfire in the presence of five provincial governors from neighbouring Burundi. “The proliferation and movement of these firearms within and across the borders have left a trail of agony and destruction among our people” he said.

On January 17 the police published the names of 20 suspected drug dealers allegedly selling heroin, *bhang* and other illicit drugs. The suspects were sent to court.

Meanwhile, at the Dar International Airport a businessman from Mozambique was arrested carrying drugs. He said he had planned to sell the drugs within Tanzania but had failed to do so because, he said, the government had stiffened its war against drug dealers. He had swallowed some rolls as he was about to leave Tanzania for Israel through Dubai - Guardian.

The National Assembly has passed a ‘Money-Laundering Act’ which it is hoped will boost the effectiveness of the task force formed by the government to contain drug dealers and their syndicates in the country. The task force was said to be investigating 17 people suspected to be drug dealers. It had destroyed over 1,000 farms growing *bhang* in various parts of the country and also seized several tonnes of *khat* - Guardian.

## THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

As this issue of TA goes to the printer, the National Assembly is debating an important new 'Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bill, 2007.' This replaces the previous 'Prevention of Corruption Act' and provides for wider investigative powers for a new 'Anti-Corruption Bureau,' with powers to deal with offences other than those stipulated in the current law.

Many MP's wanted civil society organisations and the private sector to be represented in the new Bureau to make it more independent.

One opposition MP said the fact that the Bureau was under the President's Office would make it difficult for it to fight corruption properly. The new law should also be enshrined in the country's constitution to make it more independent they said.

Earlier, in March, the Swahili press reported that donor countries were taking a very close interest in the Bill as, according to Minister of State (Good Governance), Philip Marmo, they would like to ensure that their funds are well utilised. He said 75% of the Bill resulted from conditions included in international contracts.

The donors presented proposals that could lead to a 15th amendment to the Constitution. They wanted more powers to be given to the Anti-corruption Board (PCCB). The proposals were presented by representative of the development partners, Ambassador Bjarne Sorensen of Denmark, during a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional, Legal and Public Administration. It was proposed that the PCCB should be an independent body, similar to the Commission for Human Rights and Secretariat for Ethics. Sorensen also suggested that the PCCB should submit its reports to the President as well as to the Parliament as is the case in Nigeria, and that it should co-opt members from civil society. Donors would also like to see a similar law being passed in Zanzibar.

Several prominent people have been arrested recently on corruption charges.

Former Tanzanian Ambassador to Italy, Prof. Costa Mahalu, his Finance Attache and Counsellor have been taken to court accused of occasioning a loss of Euro 2.06 million to the Government.

A former Assistant Accountant in the Prime Minister's Office was

sentenced to 10 years in prison after she was found guilty of more than 30 counts of forgery and theft of TShs 300 million, the property of the government. The Guardian reporter wrote that some of the audience were in total disbelief as the prosecution succeeded in getting a deterrent sentence. The accused wept 'with torrential tears running across her cheeks' he wrote. In mitigation, she pleaded with the court to have mercy on her because she had stayed in remand custody since 2001.

A former Director of the Arusha City Council was expected to stand trial over a loss of TSh 36.9 million. The Arusha Regional Police Commander said other officers had been interrogated in connection with the loss and three of them had already been charged – *Habari Leo*.

## KIKWETE IN BRITAIN

President Kikwete paid an official visit to Britain at the invitation of Tony Blair in January. Speaking during a dinner on January 15 hosted by the Britain Tanzania Society in his honour, he commended the Society's continued support to Tanzania's economic development, terming the society members "ambassadors of goodwill." "One may be tempted to say that BTS is yet another Tanzanian mission in the United Kingdom. You have acted as our goodwill ambassadors, over and above your efforts to support the development activities of Tanzania".

He said the society's senior members were not just working towards sensitising retired people to be active in the pursuit of economic stability in Tanzania by soliciting aid, but were also encouraging Tanzanian students in Britain to join in these efforts.

Mr Kikwete said he felt proud and encouraged to see BTS members so committed to helping out in key areas of service delivery in Tanzania, particularly in the education, health and other social service sectors. The President also briefed BTS members on current challenges facing Tanzania.

*A full account of the dinner is in the current issue of the Newsletter of the BTS – Editor.*



*Mama Salma Kikwete, President Kikwete and High Commissioner Mwanaidi Sinare address Tanzanians in London (photos Issa Michuzi)*



The President later addressed a meeting of Tanzanians living in Britain. He said that his promise to help solve the Zanzibar impasse had taken time and some people had even lost hope. But in the end CCM had agreed on what was to be done. He said it was a 'win win situation', adding that people could expect to see early action. He was right. Three days later the meeting between CCM and CUF took place (see above).

Earlier, presenting a paper at a forum on African Development and

Public Sector Reform at Chatham House, which was attended by politicians, academics, researchers, businesspeople and ambassadors from Africa and Europe, President Kikwete said the reform was aimed at improving productivity in the public service, bringing in new ideas as well as offering better pay to civil servants.

President Kikwete also held talks with UK businesspeople and invited them to invest in Tanzania, especially in the financial sector.

When the President met Britain's Secretary for International Development Hilary Benn, he was told that Britain would contribute £105 million to Tanzania's 2007/8 budget, up from the original £90 million. It was to help the country's poverty alleviation efforts.



*When heads of state are invited on official visits to Britain they are normally allowed a little time off. President Kikwete decided to spend an afternoon watching English football. Newcastle United were playing*

*Tottenham Hotspurs. It was a very lively match. I tried to find out from his entourage which team he had been supporting. They were not sure but thought it was Newcastle. Newcastle is the one team I once supported actively - when I was a student - and I was rather pleased that the President had been cheering for the same team. After the BTS dinner I asked him which team it was. To my disappointment he said Tottenham. The next day he met Prime Minister Blair and the media published pictures of him receiving a present of a Newcastle supporter's shirt. Tony Blair can be very persuasive - perhaps he changed the President's mind! - Editor.*

## STOP BIOPIRACY !

Using the properties of plants from Tanzania, companies in the western world are making huge profits while giving nothing to the local people. An example is the 'Busy Lizzie' or *impatiens usambarensis*, one of the most popular plants among British gardeners, providing instant colour in even the most challenging flower beds. It is native to East Africa; its centre of origin is in the Usambara mountains.

The launch of a strain of 'trailing' Busy Lizzie by the multinational biotech giant Syngenta is a classic example of 'biopiracy', the term being increasingly used by environmental groups to portray a new form of 'colonial looting' where Western corporations reap large profits by taking out copyrights on indigenous materials from developing countries and turning them into, for example, medicines or cosmetics.

In very few cases are any of the financial benefits shared with the country of origin. *Usambarensis* make excellent hanging basket displays, a demand which feeds a lucrative market for the horticultural industry in the western world.

Launching the Busy Lizzie with a fanfare, the company claimed that 'after many years of research' it had produced a plant that 'can achieve, at maturity, trails including up to 70cm masses of large flowers throughout the summer until the first frost'. The plant retails at from £2 for a single small potted plant to over £10 for a hanging basket. In the US the *impatiens usambarensis* market is worth \$148 million a year.

Despite admitting that such hybrids happened naturally in Tanzania, Syngenta claimed the new plant was its 'invention' and the British authorities granted the company exclusive rights. Syngenta has applied for copyright in Europe and the US claiming that all trailing growth in crosses of *usambarensis* are its property including all plants, sexually or asexually produced, seeds, ovules, embryos and pollen. The copyright reveals that Syngenta obtained the seeds of the Tanzanian plant from the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh that had cultivated them 'from a wild collection from Tanzania'. The seeds were from the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew collected in 1982.

I reviewed the relevant Syngenta sources in search of information about how Tanzania might have benefited over the years. The only mention I found concerned a contribution of a portion of its profits from *impatiens*

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to a British hospice for ill children. Nothing at all to Tanzania's poor people. More interestingly, there is nothing to suggest or explain how the application to own the copyright of a plant originating in Tanzania was acquired without Tanzania being involved.

I am of the view that this is a classic case of biopiracy that responsible authorities in Tanzania need to look into. To date there are more than 30 examples of western medical, horticultural and cosmetic products alleged to have been 'pirated' from Africa. An analysis of these copyrights reveals that *impatiens usambarensis* is one of seven granted by the UK authorities without involving Tanzania.

Even though the development of such products is widely hailed and the companies involved deny the accusations of biopiracy, there is a need to be aware of the fact that it is no longer acceptable to trawl across other countries taking what you want for your own commercial benefit. As there are internationally recognised rights for oil, so there should be for indigenous plants, resources such as tanzanite and knowledge.

To Tanzania this biopiracy can be described as 'a silent disease', it is hardly detectable, it frequently does not leave traces. Regrettably, such issues do not attract the same media coverage or public outcry as other

environmental problems, such as deforestation, pollutant emissions and the threat of global warming.

A few years ago a British drug firm known as Phytopharm patented an active ingredient in a plant called *hoodia* found in some parts of Tanzania. This is a cactus-like plant that is used by the Hadzape people in Singida to ward off hunger before hunting trips. Phytopharm linked with Unilever are developing this as a diet drug to curb the obesity problem which is said to claim about 30,000 lives every year in the UK. Unilever has agreed to pay up to £21m to Phytopharm.

Some form of benefit sharing is what is needed. I would like to challenge Tanzanian lawyers to forge a benefit-sharing agreement that would see the local people getting a small share of any profits

It is not just in the world of medicine and horticulture but also in fashion that there is a debate over biopiracy. In 2004 British university scientists working with a US firm copyrighted bacteria that are found only in the caustic Lake Natron Rift Valley in Tanzania. When jeans are washed with a chemical made up of the microbes, an enzyme is produced that 'eats' the indigo dye, giving them a naturally faded look. The company making this product makes more than \$1million a year in sales of this detergent to textile firms.

Entering into a benefit-sharing agreement is the only way forward. In the case of *impatiens usambarensis* there are unanswered questions. For example who would Syngenta share the benefits with? The Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh where it got the seeds? Or The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew where the seeds had come from previously? Or The Tanzanian government - Tanzania being the only country on the planet where the plant with the trailing characteristic is found? Or a local community in Tanzania?

The International Convention on Biological Diversity that promised to recognise property rights was signed in 1994. This agreement did not prohibit the collection of indigenous material but it did recommend that agreements should be reached to share any commercial benefit that later emerges.

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## BUSINESS & THE ECONOMY

The Tanzania Investment Centre has been named the world's best Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) of the year 2007 by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) during an investment conference in Geneva. WAIPA is under the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). More than 200 WAIPA members had competed for the award. Other winners were: 'Invest in Portugal' and South Korea's 'Trade IPA'.

The TIC was selected due to the effectiveness of its one-stop-shop services and its successful international and local investor roundtable meetings with the President, and the National Investment Steering Committee, which deals with investment of cross cutting nature chaired by the Prime Minister.

It registered 679 projects in 2006 as compared to 550 projects in 2005. It also provided services to 11,229 investors as compared to 8,948 in 2005.

According to *Mwananchi* the government seems to be having trouble in controlling the production and marketing of uranium. The mineral, which is obtained in Ruvuma region, is being sold discreetly in the streets of Dar es Salaam to traders from the Democratic Republic of Congo who then export it. Minister for Minerals and Energy, Nazir Karamagi said that it was true that the mineral had been discovered in Ruvuma. Regarding the smuggling, he said the government was being very careful and a very close watch was being kept by his ministry's officials who paid frequent visits to the mining and prospecting areas.

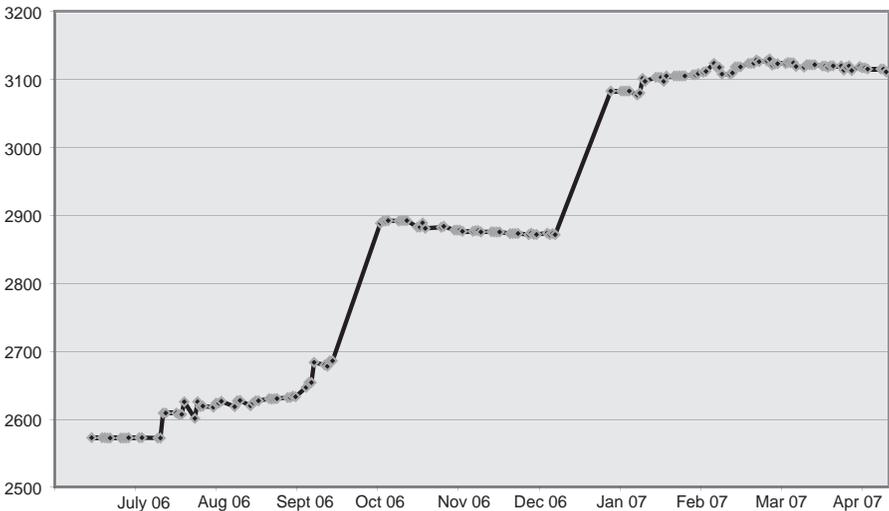
### PERFORMANCE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE

The performance of the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) since its inception in 1998 has been very positive and has also demonstrated that there is huge untapped potential financial capital within the country. The second half of last year witnessed a massive over subscription (295%) of Twiga Cement Company's initial public share offer in which TShs 70bn had to be refunded. This shows how the public yearn for good investments.

Between the years 2000 and 2005 the major shares listed on the DSE experienced a remarkable appreciation in growth from their initial offer

price. For example, Tanzania Breweries Plc (TBL) about 21%, Tanzania Cigarette Company Plc (TCC) 37% (2000/05), Tanzania Tea Packing Company(TATEPA) 13.7% and Simba Cement Company(SIMBA) 56% (Year 2002/04).

However, during the period between 2005 and the end of February 2007 the growth rates have dropped dramatically with Tanzania Oxygen Company (TOL) recording -2% growth (year 2003/07), TBL about 7% (Year 2004/07), SIMBA about 3% (year 2004/07) while TATEPA remained almost unchanged between the years 2004 and 2007. Excluding the new listings of Twiga and Jubilee Shares in the fourth quarter of 2006 the market growth was flat (see chart) at a time when the shilling depreciated by about 9% against the US dollar.



*Dar-es-Salaam Market Capitalisation (TShs billion)*

Dividend yields (Dividend per share/share price) fell significantly - TBL from 17.1% in 2000 to 11.7% in 2005, TATEPA from 10.5% in 2000 to 1.3% in 2004, TCC from 28.6% in 2000 to 12.7% in 2004 with only SIMBA increasing from 2.8% in 2002 to 9.7% in 2004.

The yield on Treasury Bills (364 days) in December 2006 was 15.6% which can reasonably be presumed as a risk free return so that a rational investor will require a return from the market of not less than 15% to compensate for the risk of investing in the market. In other words one

may ask whether an investor with TShs 1bn will be better off investing in the market or in treasury bills! Unfortunately, not having current information about company performance over the previous couple of years, means it is not possible to work out the appropriate answer.

The ultimate duty of company management is to maximise shareholder value. In a capital market environment it is vital for investors to be in a position to assess whether the management is meeting this objective. And this is only possible if relevant, up to date, reliable and comparable information is made readily available.

Investors measure the return on their investment by the dividends they receive and the capital appreciation on their stock. And in a market like the DSE where the majority of public investors do not hold shareholdings big enough to influence management decisions, this is the only way they can enjoy a return on their investment.

The major objective of DSE therefore is to create the right environment for the market to ensure that capital changes hands at the right price. This will only be possible if the investors are well informed about the current and expected performance of the listed companies and company managements maintain a sense of accountability to the market. In the absence of that it may appear that the investor's money is being taken for granted, or as they say in other circles, they might be being short-changed.

DSE and indeed the CMSA (the regulator) could and should strive to increase efficiency in the market by requiring companies to report to the market on a timely basis on their performance in meeting budgeted forecasts as well as on any future deviation from expected trends if any – the profit statement.

The DSE could also ensure that more information about the companies, the general economic performance, particularly in the sectors represented in the market such as cement and beverage, is made readily available to enable investors to make informed decisions.

In an era of instant information it is not good enough when news items on the DSE website are about events supposed to take effect in January 2004. Websites in the modern world are the windows of the company for their stakeholders.

At the moment only six dealers are allowed in the market and moreover they are required to charge a standard fee of 2%. This may be contributing in stifling competition and discouraging innovation. It is perfectly reasonable to expect more dealers to participate in the market in order to improve competition.

This lack of transparency as perceived by the wider public clouds the quality of even the scant information available. It might even be creating a thriving environment for insider dealing at a huge cost to investors and the public. Not that there is any evidence of it at the moment but it is difficult to rule it out under the current reporting environment.

Joseph Kilasara

Email:sasaimi@hotmail.com

## TANZANIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

*(In order to make this section as interesting and representative as possible we welcome contributions from readers. If you see a mention of Tanzania in the journal, magazine or newspaper you read, especially if you live overseas or travel outside the UK/Tanzania, please send us the relevant item together with the name and date of the publication to the address on the back page. If you do not wish your name be published please say so - Editor).*

According to the Kenyan **NATION** a Tanzanian held in connection with the US embassy bombings in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998 has apologised to victims. Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani (33) told a US military tribunal at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba on March 17 that he did not know about the bombing and was sorry for assisting the bombers. But he denied charges that he bought a lorry used to deliver the Dar embassy bomb. He also said he did not know that he was transporting TNT used in the bomb. A member of the terrorist cell told him the substance was "soap for washing horses." After the attack, he told the tribunal that he travelled to Afghanistan where he met Osama bin Laden and was trained in weaponry.

'The wheels seem to spin in the sand as we hurtle down the bush track mile after mile from Mtwara. The land is parched, waiting desperately for the rains. This is truly one of the poorest backwaters of this very poor country.' So wrote Jonathan Power in the **INTERNATIONAL**

**HERALD TRIBUNE** (December 1). He went on: 'Suddenly there is a clearing and in it, well, what? The set for a James Bond film? Or a secret Tanzanian missile site, perhaps rented out to the encroaching Chinese-African empire? The new president of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, jumps out of our convoy's lead car and briskly walks up to a white man in a white helmet and grabs his hand. Soon we are all ensconced in helmets and goggles to view a space-age machine that drives a pipe deep into the ground. A burly Canadian tells me he works 28 days - 12 hours a day, seven days a week - and then gets a free ticket home for 28 days off. ....We have arrived at the saving grace of Tanzania's mounting energy crisis. Tanzania has depended on plenty of rain, full lakes and cheap hydroelectric power, but the recent drought depleted the lakes and knocked nearly two percentage points off Tanzania's once rapid rate of growth. God works in mysterious ways, however. Underneath these coastal sands gas was discovered last year - enough to provide electricity to Mtwara for 800 years - and more is likely to be found. Before Christmas, Mtwara and nearby Lindi will have the gas flowing into the turbines and the electricity into their streets, factories and homes....'

The **EAST AFRICAN** (March 20) wrote about population growth. It quoted a UN report as saying that by the middle of this century, Uganda will be the world's 19th most populous nation, and Tanzania's population will grow from some 40 million today to 85 million. Life-expectancy is likely to increase from 52.5 to 65 years. The report also states that the increase in AIDS in Tanzania will be less than anticipated - *Thank you Keith Lye for sending this extract and the one below - Editor.*

The UN Network **IRIN** (March 20) reported that an outbreak of Rift Valley Fever has killed 16 people and infected at least 100 in Tanzania and is spreading. The Dodoma region is the worst affected by the mosquito-born illness which spreads from infected livestock to humans. People are being asked to be careful with meat and not to eat dead or sick animals.

A recent issue of **THE TABLET** states that there is now a Swahili translation of the 525 page 'Compendium of the social doctrine of the Church' which is published by the Benedictines at Ndanda. It surveys Catholic social teaching from 1878 to the present day - *Thank you John Sankey for this - Editor.*

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*Tanzania's football coach Marcio Maximo is interviewed by the press following the Taifa Star's defeat in Senegal (photo [issamichuzi.blogspot.com](http://issamichuzi.blogspot.com))*

Tanzania's National Football team Taifa Stars arrived in Senegal for an Africa Cup match on March 24. The final will be in Ghana in 2008. For the first time in many years, under a new Brazilian coach, there was real hope that they might win. Taifa Stars had started their Cup campaign with a 2-1 win against Burkina Faso followed by a 0-0 draw away to Mozambique, which had put them on top of their group, even above Senegal. The Stars had also had draws at home to Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo in friendlies. But the next day Senegal's **LE SOLEIL** and all the other newspapers in Dakar, were triumphant. The Taifa Stars had been humbled 4-0 by Senegal. The Stars were said to have been in awe of their famous counterparts. Senegal is a team of professional players who ply their trade in the top leagues in England and France. They have been one of the top African teams in the past few years and in this match they showed why. The Tanzanian players, by contrast, all play in the local Tanzanian league. They do not have one 'overseas' professional player.



*Tanzania's new national football stadium in Dar es Salaam nearing completion (photo Issa Michuzi)*

The Kenyan **NATION** reported on February 5 that, responding to requests from the Somali government, Tanzania had agreed to provide training for its troops in Tanzania but would not be joining the African Union's peacekeeping force in the country. Some 1,000 troops will be trained in Manyara, at the Monduli Military Academy. Tanzania has already sent 100 soldiers to Lebanon for a UN peacekeeping mission.

Novelist M G Vassanji writing in the December issue of **NEW NATIONALIST** described 'growing up with graft' in Tanzania. In the 1960's he said he was a 'soft Asian'. But he was called up to do his national service and posted to distant Bukoba where he had neither friends nor relations. His mother was a widow scraping a living and they didn't know anyone with influence in government. But they found a friend who had 'married well'. In spite of help from this gentleman in sending him first to speak to a senior police officer and then to a senior National Service officer he was shocked when the latter refused to hear him out when he said he had a bad knee. Instead he was given a sound tongue-lashing and was told to report to his camp as required. Vassanji then went on to describe graft at that time and how it soon became possible to circumvent the whole of the nation's new socialist rules and

regulations. If you were a student the government would decide which school you went to and whether you could go overseas to study..... However, because the decisions were arbitrary, they could be amended - at a price. The writer went on: 'Nyerere was a principled man and his African socialism made sense to many of the younger generation.... We sympathised with the poor but we had our own ambitions to attain what we had worked hard for all our lives.' The article went on to describe how corruption was not a simple bending of rules to supplement low salaries or to assist a friend in need. 'If it was allowed to persist it grew like a cancer....' The article concluded by pointing out that with graft there has to exist a corrupt public willing to pay and also noted recent cases of British companies alleged to have been corrupt over the years - *Thank you Sister Lucia for this - Editor.*



*Artist's impression of the proposed hotel*

The **LONDON PAPER** (26th January) described what it said was the world's first five-star zero-carbon hotel. It is the 'Per Aquum' in Nungwi, Zanzibar, due to be completed next year. Designed by London based architect Richard Hywel Evans, it will harness the wind and

sun to power 35 state-of-the-art villas and will include an air-conditioning system under which the shape of the walls will channel cool sea breezes into the bedrooms; the efforts of guests working out in the gym will be used to drive turbines to create electricity; waste water will be reed filtered and recycled; guests beds will be cooled by cold water pipes running through the beds; and, a giant swimming pool will be filled with rainwater and recycled water - *Thank you Pru Watts-Russell for sending this - Editor.*

The **EAST AFRICAN** reported in March that a dramatic drop in flights landing at Mwanza Airport could spell doom for Tanzania's fishing industry. The decline was being blamed on high taxes and poor maintenance at the facility. According to records at the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), the number of flights fell from 60 per week in

February 2006 to just two in March.

Landing, parking and airport charges were high for the Illyushin Strobe 76, Boeing 703 and DC8 that frequently used the facility.

But sources in the fishing community pointed to a different possibility - that the decline in flights was caused by a decline in the number of fish fillets being exported out of Mwanza. Madole Athumani, the Chairman of the Tanzania Fishermens Union, was quoted as saying that export procedures and formalities around Nile perch products, had driven up processing factories' costs, with the result that the prices they offered to fishermen had dropped. Much of the fish was going out either through Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport or Mombasa Port. European Union countries were said also to have placed restrictions on aircraft that make too much noise and set standards for aircraft allowed to land in Europe.

The Nile Perch plays an important role in the East African economies, supporting 3.4 million people and contributing about 3 per cent of Uganda and Tanzania's GDPs and 0.4 per cent of Kenya's. Fish exports contribute foreign-exchange earnings of about \$50 million to Kenya, \$82 million to Uganda and \$100 million to Tanzania.

In what it described as a £1 billion property spree the **OBSERVER** (2nd April) reported that although the British Foreign Office had sold £100 million worth of property between 2002 and 2005 it had bought new land and buildings worth almost twice that value. One of the buildings was said to be an office in Dar es Salaam port which had cost more than £6 million - *Thank you Peter White for this - Editor.*

The **TIMES** (November 11) reported that Zanzibar has banned plastic bags in an attempt to save its threatened ecology. Anyone found producing, importing, using or selling plastic bags could face a fine of over £1,000 or a jail sentence of up to 12 months. The arrival of thousands of tourists has brought with it an avalanche of plastic, much of it in the form of thin, blue bags. The bags can provide micro-habitats for malaria-carrying mosquitos, block drains and choke animals and marine life and take up to 1000 years to decompose. The ban has been welcomed around the world as it has been feared that Zanzibar was in danger of becoming one of the world's most environmentally damaged island chains. *Thank you Simon Hardwick for sending this - Editor.*

## MISCELLANY

The Tanzania Tourism Board (TTB) has won the 'Golden Europe for Quality and Commercial Prestige Award' for offering quality services in the tourism sector. The award was given in Berlin on January 27 this year by France-based 'Otherways International Research and Consultants Company'.



*Newspapers on sale in Dodoma (photo Issa Michuzi)*

Members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives have passed a bill that many see as violating press freedom. Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Constitutional Affairs and Good Governance, Ramadhan Abdalla Shaban, said that "From now onwards, House activities will be regarded as court issues."

However, he said, the bill did not bar journalists from reporting what went on inside the house, but rather wanted them to perform their duties in accordance with rules and regulations set by the House.

Opposition leaders called on the government to get rid of all rules interfering with the freedom of the press. Article 28 of the Bill declares that journalists can only report matters concerning the House with the



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permission of the Speaker. Failure to follow this rule would mean a TShs 50,000/- fine or six months imprisonment. The Bill states that it is a criminal offence for journalists to report blunders committed by legislators or any information that may in any way tarnish their image in society. The Minister said: "No arrests will be carried out in regard to criminal offences committed by media personnel without the written consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions and after the report has been sent to the Speaker". Asked why journalists should be treated like strangers in the legislature although they were serving the people, State Attorney Iddi Pandu Hassan said such a Bill was common in Commonwealth parliaments. He said the House only recognized its members adding that anyone else, including government officers, was a stranger. He said that journalists might carry identity cards but could only get inside the House with the permission of those responsible.

According to the Daily News (February 6) The World Bank has shattered a plan of the Lake Victoria Environment Management Project (LVEMP) to introduce a new fish species from Egypt into Lake Victoria. The project management had planned to introduce the species originating from China which feeds on water hyacinth currently choking the lake. Apparently the World Bank, which supports LVEMP activities, feared that the introduction of a new species might upset the ecological system as had happened when Nile perch were introduced into the Lake many years ago.

President Kikwete has proposed sweeping reforms, the highlight of which will be the seizure of big tracts of land owned by rich individuals and to transfer of them to poor, landless people. The move is aimed at forestalling a land crisis in future. The President said he would not hesitate to revoke a land title deed if by so doing, he would be catering for the interests of poor people and broader national stability. All land in Tanzania is held in trust by the President on behalf of all Tanzanians and is therefore public property.

The idea of fast-tracking the proposed East African political federation faced fierce public rejection in January as a committee charged with collecting views on the matter sought contributions from Dar es Salaam residents. Most dismissed the idea as rushed, unacceptable and untenable. Rushing would deny most Tanzanians the chance to digest a plan with a direct bearing on their lives, if the envisaged federation

indeed materialised as planned in 2013. The three founder East African Community partner states, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, have adopted a fast-tracking concept to speed up the process towards the formation of a full federation with a rotating federal president. Critics pointed out that Tanzania was effectively two countries in one - Zanzibar and the Mainland - and its problems should be resolved first.

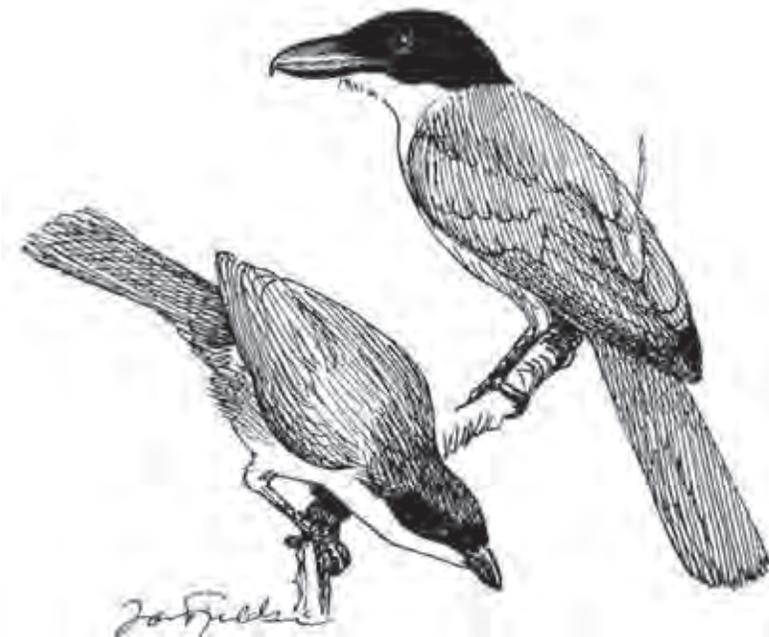
Committee Chairman Professor Wangwe would not be drawn into commenting on the public reaction, only saying that the committee's current task was to collect views from as wide an array of Tanzanians as possible before making its own informed recommendations.

A court in Kilimanjaro has ordered a British couple to pay TSh 90 million in damages to a prominent businessman in Moshi, for publishing defamatory statements against him in the Daily News. The Brits, David Middleton and his wife Sarah, who run the Silverdale and Mbono farm, were given an opportunity to apologise to Mengi but did not do so. The defendants are appealing – *Nipashe*.

The government has approved a three-year preparatory scheme for the issuing of national identity cards. Smart card technology will be used to print the ID's.

A state university is to open in Dodoma next September with an initial enrolment of 2,000 students. The campus will be at the Chimwaga complex initially which will be renovated by the Parastatal Pensions Fund. On completion it will have a capacity of 40,000, making it the largest university in the country. Dar es Salaam University has 17,500 students at present.

Abubakar Faraji has been elected chairman of the Tanzania Association in Britain. He replaces Nora Sumari whose term has expired. Faraji got 37 votes, defeating Saidi Yakubu (27) and Susanne Mzee (22). Ms Zebeda Mahugu was voted in as vice chair, while Juma Pinto became publicity secretary and Ms Lucy Shegikile treasurer. An executive committee of seven was also elected. Opening the meeting, Tanzanian High Commissioner, Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar, urged members to pick leaders who would be answerable and who would lead the association in keeping up with the changing times – *Majira*.



### *The Uluguru Bush Shrike*

A team of Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania experts has discovered a new species of rare bird known as the Uluguru Bush Shrike in Morogoro Region's Uluguru South Forest Reserve. The discovery took place at the 1.5 km long Bunduki gap. Adult Uluguru Bush Shrikes measure 22 cm in height on average. They have green and yellow undersides with washed green flanks and a distinctive black cap or head - Guardian.



*A Tanzanian school child's drawing featuring birds and animals of the Uluguru region. The art competition was organised by the Uluguru Mountains Biodiversity Conservation Project to try and improve local awareness of conservation issues.*

[www.africanconservation.com/uluguru](http://www.africanconservation.com/uluguru)

The Tanzanian government has appeared before the international investment tribunal (ICSID) in The Hague following a lawsuit filed by Biwater Gauff (T) Limited, the firm that used to run as City Water. It claims that it suffered a loss of \$ 20 to 25 million after the government

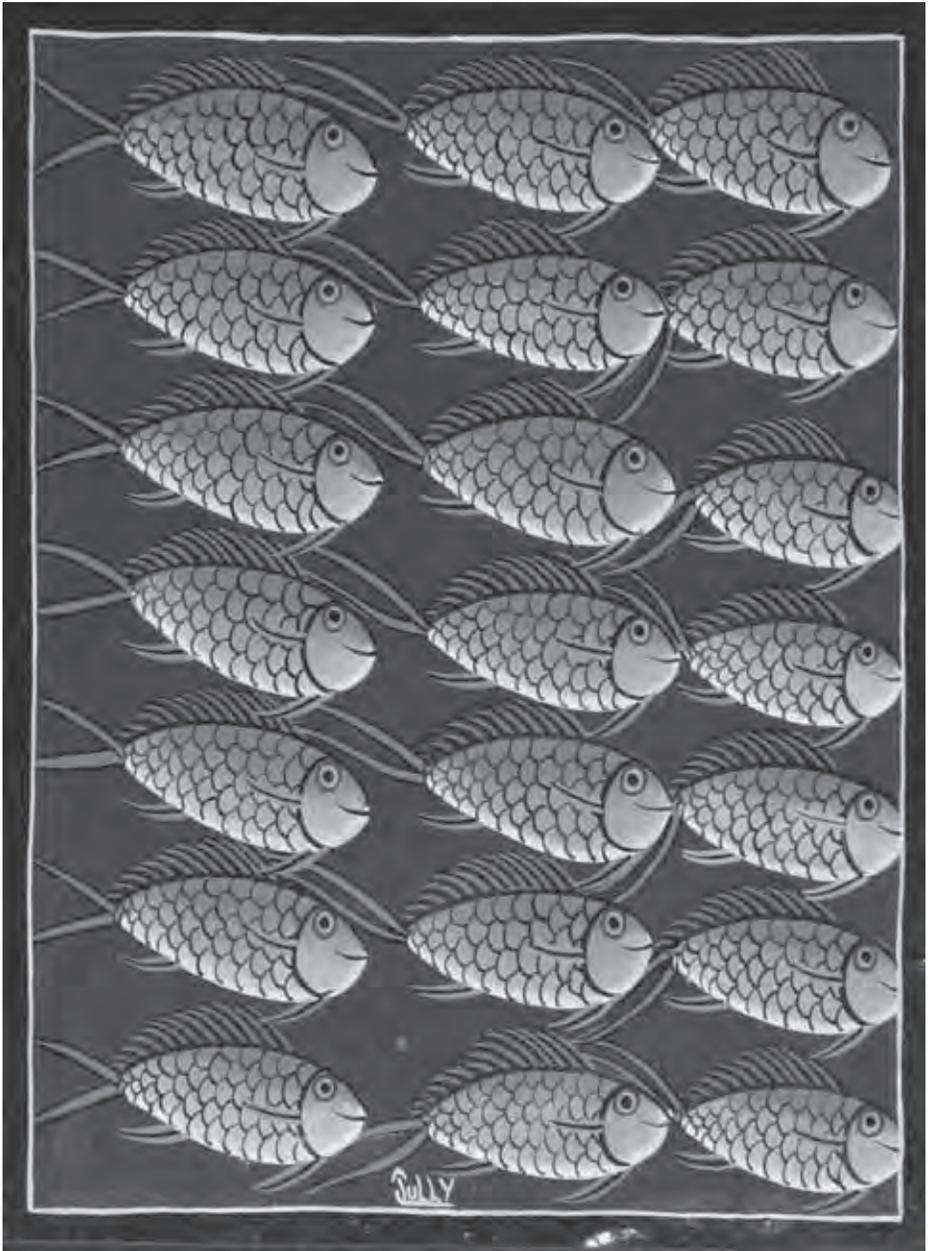
terminated its contract for running the Dar es Salaam water utility. But international activists have been quoted on the BBC as condemning Biwater for suing Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in the world.

The decline in enrolments in agricultural training institutions is likely to be reversed following a decision announced by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Cooperatives on April 18. 3,000 students are to be unrolled in the institutes every year so that by 2011/12 every village, ward and division in the country will have an extension officer. The Deputy Minister said that the main problem facing agriculture was lack of knowledge on the part of the farmers - Guardian.

## OBITUARIES

The former Paramount Chief of the Wachagga, **THOMAS LENANA MAREALLE** (92), died on February 14 from pneumonia. He held the post from 1951 to 1965. After school he was first employed as a clerk by the colonial government at the office of the Moshi District Commissioner, before being transferred to Mbulu, Chunya, Mbeya, Tunduru and Lindi, respectively. From 1944 to 1946, Chief Marealle was in Britain to complete advanced studies. He was one of the first two people from the then Tanganyika to be picked by the colonial regime to study in Europe. On return he was a Social Development Officer and in 1948 an Adult Education Officer at Usangi in Kilimanjaro region. In 1949, Marealle joined a welfare/recreation organisation – the Tanganyika African Association (TAA), which the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere later joined. He was the founder of the Tanganyika Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) and the Editor of the Swahili newspaper, *KWETU*, between 1943 and 1951 - Daily News.

A veteran journalist, media executive and diplomat, **SAMMY MDEE**, died of high blood pressure at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) in Moshi on March 10. He was the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tanzania Broadcasting Services, Managing Editor of the Daily News and Sunday News, Chief Editor of Radio Tanzania, Dar es Salaam (RTD), Press Secretary to President Julius Nyerere and Managing Director of the Arusha International Conference Centre. He had also served in Tanzania's Embassies in France and New York – Sunday Observer.



*Tinga-tinga style oil painting (named after the artist Eduardo Said Tinga Tinga (1937-1972) who was born in Mozambique but came to Dar-es-Salaam aged 16).*

# REVIEWS

Edited by John Cooper-Poole (UK) and Marion Doro (USA)

*Reviews Editor John Cooper-Poole would still be very interested to hear from anyone who would like to join his list of possible reviewers. We need people who are currently involved in Tanzanian matters, as well as people who have worked there in the past. Please contact him at the address listed on page 51*

**BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE**, edited by Jim Igoe and Tim Kelsall. Durham NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2005 xvii + 309 pp. ISBN 1 59460 017 1

This book is a collection of essays on the changed political landscape in Africa, more specifically on the interactions between government, NGOs and the international aid community. NGOs have everywhere become significant political actors, albeit that they may deny political aspirations. There are two contributions on Tanzania, one being by Ben Rawlence who wrote a sensitive article on the Jamiani Development Committee (JDC). This was spawned from a Danida school maintenance/ rehabilitation program. Teachers had formed a School Extension Group that capitalised on using Danida's services on a wider scale. When these teachers were transferred, it was renamed JDC. Rawlence shows well how novel this form of organization was and how it operated in the interstices of power.

The other contribution is by Jim Igoe on Barabaig NGO's in conflict with the Canadian supported wheat complex in Hanang. From the very beginning, the Barabaig have protested against taking their land for those big farms. These protests take another form now that there is the new phenomenon NGO. A visit by the Canadian ambassador to the complex is central in the story. The NGO representatives aim to draw lots of money out of the Canadian presence and the Canadian ambassador wants to make an end to their long-term involvement in Hanang. The Barabaig would however continue to grow wheat if the land would ever be returned to them.

Jan Kees van Donge

**THE PRACTICAL IMPERIALIST: LETTERS FROM A DANISH PLANTER IN GERMAN EAST AFRICA 1888-1906**, Jane L. Parpart and Marianne Rostgaard, (eds.), Brill, Leiden, 2006. List price US\$59.

A dusty corner of a provincial Danish museum might seem an unlikely place in which to seek out the history of German East Africa. Yet such was the origin of this edited collection of letters from a Danish plantation manager to his family which cover the period from 1888 until his death from blackwater fever in 1906.

The book begins with two introductory chapters from which we learn that the letter-writer, Christian Lautherborn, was born in 'a rather sleepy provincial town' in Denmark in 1859. In 1888 he accepted a job as a plantation manager for the German East Africa Company (DOAG) based in Pangani. His task was to use expertise in plantation agriculture he had acquired in Texas to grow cotton for the German textile industry.

And so might have begun a familiar story of the trials and tribulations of settler agriculture. Yet this is German East Africa in the late 1880s and as Jane Parpart's chapter on the political context explains, all was not quite as peaceful as the DOAG wished. Lautherborn was directly caught up in the armed rebellion which broke out in Pangani in 1888 and his eye-witness accounts offer a fascinating complement to recent historical work on the rebellion by Jonathon Glassman. After his rescue from Pangani, Lautherborn left the relative safety of Zanzibar to return to the mainland. In Bagamoyo he took an active part in the fighting. In a letter to a father clearly unhappy with the soldiering role he had taken on, and aware of reports of German cruelty circulating in the press, Lautherborn explained that he saw his role as one of 'helping to introduce civilization here' and wrote of the sadness he felt seeing the country 'at the mercy of heartless Arabs, whose only occupation is to capture Negroes and sell them'. His Danish identity and his defence of the German colonial enterprise in a universal language employing abolitionist rhetoric is particularly interesting.

There are also lighter moments, as in his description of Zulu soldiers using holes in their ears for storing first snuff and a toothbrush then, on becoming more accustomed to army life, a cigar and a bullet. He was a keen photographer and the book includes wonderful pictures of Bagamoyo town and of his plantations. The translation of these letters into English offers anyone interested in Tanzanian history a fascinating source and we must hope that, as promised in the foreword, a translation into Swahili will soon follow.

Emma Hunter

**SWAHILI MEDICAL DICTIONARY AND PHRASEBOOK** by M. J. K. Cooper, 2006. Pb. 180 pages. Can be ordered from [www.medicalswahili.org.uk](http://www.medicalswahili.org.uk) and the author at 2 Drax Avenue, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4DJ. £8.84+p&p

This English-Swahili glossary/phrasebook is aimed at doctors and clinicians working with Swahili-speaking patients and staff. A brief introduction to the language is followed by 60 sections covering general and medical topics such as presenting problems, anatomy, insects, death, equipment, cardiovascular, endocrine, gastro-intestinal, sexual health, obstetrics, contraception, ophthalmology, psychiatry, refugee healthcare and traditional treatments. The phrases are mostly questions addressed to the patient, though some are patient's /carer's responses. The author's experience is evident, for example Muslim prayer times are listed as a guide for taking medicines. Some knowledge of Kiswahili is presumed, so it is unfortunate that the bibliography lists the 1951 edition of "Teach Yourself Swahili" by Perrott, instead of J. Russell's 1996 edition. It has been well translated into Standard Swahili; some regional and colloquial alternatives are also helpfully provided. Compared with some recent Swahili dictionaries, misprints are few and minor; e.g. *onaonaje* for *unaonaje*, *stakhbati* for *stakabadhi*.

This pocket sized book is particularly welcome; there being no other up-to-date practical handbook currently available. It is recommended.

Peter White

**SHIPWRECKS AND SALVAGE ON THE EAST AFRICAN COAST**, by Kevin Patience. 2006. Available from the author, at 257 Sandbanks Road, Poole, Dorset BH14 8EY. £18.50 including P&P to UK address.

Another masterpiece from this prolific formerly Kenya-based author! His career was partly spent in salvage diving, and he has used this to provide us with a wonderful catalogue of the wrecks of the East African coastline. Now, catalogues or lists can be dryly written, but this offering is far from that. Though the wrecks are presented in list format, they are mostly accompanied by photographs and are fully described, many indeed in unimaginable detail.

There is a splendid Foreword by Capt Michael Bowman, which sets the professional tone of the book's 276 pages. The author's Preface provides the background, followed by some 85 Kenyan and almost 80 Tanzanian Indian Ocean shipwrecks, strandings and salvage operations. There is a piece on the 1872

Zanzibar hurricane and the final major section covers some 25 wrecks, sinkings and strandings on the East African lakes; and the author concludes with several pages of tugs in use through the region over the years.

Many well known vessel names appear in the pages, such as the *Konigsberg*, about which the author has written much in the past, and which ended its days in the Rufiji Delta; those splendid First World War twins sent out from London, *Mimi* and *Toutou*; and the *Goetzen*, now the *Liamba* which continues to serve on Lake Tanganyika. Many German and some Portuguese vessels are faithfully catalogued, and wartime action is accurately and interestingly recalled.

Though the book's subject may never achieve universal appeal, it is of significant interest to the East African readership. It not only catalogues and photographs the wrecks, the book places them in perspective as to why the vessels foundered, thus earning its place in the historical record.

David Kelly

**THE EVANGELIZATION OF SLAVES AND CATHOLIC ORIGINS IN EASTERN AFRICA.** Paul V. Kollman, ORBIS Books 2005. ISBN 13-978-1-57075-626-9 pbk. 356 pgs, \$25

They arrived in Zanzibar from France intent on evangelizing, then moved to Bagamoyo and from there inland. About 85 priest members of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost – called Spiritans – evangelized some 4,000 ex-slaves between 1860 and 1890, starting with ransoming them or receiving once-captives from Europeans who had freed them from slave ships and caravans. (About 92 nuns also arrived but the author found a lack of sources about their work, since “the term missionary applied only to men”.)

The book examines in interesting detail how the former slaves, who worked in the fields and at the missions until they were sent upcountry, were not all easily evangelized. Far from it! They resisted (some escaped), and the Catholic communities – the Christians and the Church - that emerged “represented a collective African achievement” through productive opposition that sought to reform, not overthrow the missionary system with its “missionary preconceptions of what it meant to be Catholic” *and* what it meant to be African.

P. Snyder

**THE DAR MUTINY OF 1964.** Tony Laurence aided by Sir Chrisotpher MacRae. Book Guild Publishing. 19 New Road. BN1 1UF. 2007. £16.99

Little has been written about the dramatic events in Tanzania on 20th January and succeeding days in 1964 when the Tanganyikan army mutinied and a reluctant President Nyerere had to call in military assistance from Britain only three years after he had obtained his country's independence. The other major book on the incident, *Tanganyika Rifles Mutiny January 1964* (Dar Salaam University Press) was published in 1993 and gave a very detailed account of what happened as seen by the Tanganyikans involved. This book, described rightly by former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington in a brief Forward, as a remarkable story and a very good read, describes the events more from the British point of view. Lord Carrington confesses that he has little personal recollection of the mutiny and its aftermath. This could not be said however of people living in Dar es Salaam at the time who are unlikely to forget their extreme anxiety as mutinous soldiers wandered around the city out-of-control and looters were allowed to attack property.

Tony Laurence was serving at the time as Signal Communications Officer in the aircraft carrier HMS Centaur, from which the British intervention was launched. Christopher MacRae was a newly appointed member of the British High Commission's staff in Dar es Salaam and was a specialist in African politics.

They start by tracing the causes of the mutiny - low pay and lack of promotion opportunities - because little had been done until then to Africanise the army by appointing Tanganyikan officers to replace the British officers who still held all senior positions. The authors blame both Britain and Tanganyika for this. They then go on to analyse briefly the performance of the principal government ministers involved, the leaders of the mutiny and the Tanganyikan army officers who had no easy choice in deciding what to do. Of all these, Minister of Defence and External Affairs, Oscar Kambona, figures most prominently. He is criticised in the book for what is described as his erratic style of management before the mutiny and then praised for courageously taking on the angry soldiers and persuading them to return to barracks while President Nyerere had gone temporarily into hiding. They do not accept the conspiracy theory that Kambona might have been in collusion with the mutineers. After it was all over, Kambona fell out with Nyerere over socialism and spent most of the rest of his life in exile in Britain, working initially for London Transport.

# THE DAR MUTINY OF 1964

*Foreword by Lord Carrington,  
KG, GCMG, CH, MC, PC*



TONY LAURENCE

It is not possible in a brief review to do justice to the many actions described. A few highlights:

The aircraft carrier *Centaur* was relatively small and it was suddenly called upon to take on board in Aden, army and Royal Marine Commando units, additional aircraft and helicopters, armoured cars, landrovers and vast quantities of stores before proceeding apace to Dar es Salaam. After finally setting off they were horrified to learn that they had left the ammunition for the marines back in Aden! Every inch of deck space seemed to be full of men and equipment and the officers had to draw up a plan for a lightning operation in a place many had hardly heard of.

The book covers the three days of planning on board and all the complications involved in launching such an operation. Marine commanders, Communications Staff engineers, intelligence staff, Air Traffic Control officers, gunnery experts and many others. The young commander of the accompanying destroyer was a very worried man when he received his orders. He had to aid the landing operation by providing lots of noise to disorientate the mutineers, using his main guns, at their maximum range, with no warning, in peacetime, into an independent foreign country, close to crowded barracks. He had to avoid casualties amongst the Tanganyikans at all costs!

The operation was a great success. The mutineers were disarmed and discharged. There were no British casualties and very few Tanganyikan and the new Tanzania then set about creating a new army.

In their conclusion the authors write: 'Julius Nyerere's admirers, of whom there were and remain many, would scarcely describe him as having been essentially a man of action..... his many qualities lay elsewhere. Yet in the days that followed his return to office he bore a load that might have crushed many a man without his strength of character and solid faith in his own vision..... Nyerere's handling of the post-intervention situation proved highly effective. He secured his immediate aim of quickly shoring up his political position at home and, by actively involving the OAU, deflected possible criticism from other African leaders for having asked the former colonial power for help..... even the longer term problem of how to retrain the army was eventually settled, with initial help from Canada. The fact that the national and international ripples from this incident had virtually disappeared six months later is a testament to the good sense of both the Tanganyikans and the British.'

David Brewin

**GEM SLAVES.** IRIN (UN) Films

Tanzanite is marketed as a more ethical and unique alternative to diamonds. The startling blue stones are only found in Tanzania, and given the peace in Tanzania, it is claimed Tanzanite is innocent of the charges sometimes levelled at 'blood' diamonds from Sierra Leone or the Congo.

This film by the United Nations Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN), demonstrates once again how few of the precious stones mined in Africa are ever brought to the surface without a human cost.

The short documentary interviews young boys who are sent down the artisanal mines of North-Eastern Tanzania to dig for Tanzanite. Some are motivated by the need to provide for their family, others are forced by gangmasters. All of them face the same risks of collapsing roofs, exploding gas and flooded tunnels. The artisanal mines around the industrial mining operations in Mererani are lawless places where holes are dug with no concern for safety or legality and where the spoils of the earth are quickly converted into cash, alcohol and prostitution. The children's tales are harrowing, and all the more moving for being told with such eloquence by the children themselves. Without prospects elsewhere, they have little option but to journey underground every day in the hope of finding the unique blue stones which are becoming fashionable in Europe and the United States. The boys are paid a fraction of the market worth for the uncut stones, however. A finished stone in London can fetch up to £800 per carat. In Dar-es-Salaam, the same stone would probably carry a price tag of only \$800. But the dealers in Arusha pay roughly a tenth of that for uncut rocks.

The situation in Mererani is dangerous. Not only do the youngsters face the natural hazards of mining in unregulated environments, but the desperation, greed and violence on the surface presents further threats. It is a place where the women must often chose between brewing beer or prostitution in order to feed their families; and a place where such women are often not accorded proper respect.

Despite the depressing picture painted by the film, there is hope. The film interviews the director of Good Hope, an NGO that aims to encourage some of the child miners away from mining and provide them with an education instead. The star of the film, David, ends up in a rehabilitation centre run by Good Hope. But he is no meek victim. Asked who is to blame for the widespread use of children in the mines he doesn't blink: "the government," he answers.

Child labour is forbidden in Tanzania but the government has so far done nothing to enforce the law in Mererani. There has been a long running dispute over rights to exploit the land at Mererani between artisanal miners who claim it is their land, and the government and the mining company, TanzaniteOne, formerly AFGEM, who uphold the right of the government to grant concessions. There have been numerous tragedies in the Mererani informal mines. 50 people died when mines flooded in 1998 and a further 30 were trapped when oxygen pumps failed in 2002. Added to that, there are regular reports of casualties caused by over zealous security guards of the mining company. Prime Minister Lowassa visited Mererani in April 2006 and promised that his government would work to resolve the dispute with TanzaniteOne and deliver much needed social services. He made no mention of child labour but asked for patience and trust. The people of Mererani are still waiting

Ben Rawlence

## LETTERS

### CHILD LABOUR

The film about child labour in the Tanzanite mines near Arusha which was screened by BTS, in association with other societies committed to Africa, on 26th March was deeply disturbing. It is small wonder that, according to the note about the film in Tanzania Affairs No. 86, some Tanzanite dealers had accused the regional authorities of inability to foresee negative consequences of this 'tainted' documentary. The film is the work of the United Nations. It shows how perilous the conditions

For disposal: A set of the nine volumes of The Laws of Tanganyika, and Subsidiary Legislation 1947-53. As issued by Government Printer DSM in cloth bindings to simulate leather. As once seen in the offices of all senior officers. Free to anyone willing to collect them from my home near Chester. See inside back cover for contact details.

John Cooper-Poole

are where children as young as eight mine for tanzanite, earning as little as a meal a day. The Mererani miners lack proper infrastructure causing territorial fights to break out underground. Above ground prospers a 300 million dollar industry.

What, as members of BTS is to be our response? To sit back and regret or merely to dispute the findings of the film would be contrary to all we stand for as a society founded by Mwalimu and Bishop Trevor Huddleston.

Sister Lucia, Community of the Sacred Passion,  
725 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 3JF

## TANGANYIKA

I would like to appeal to your readers to give me their thoughts on the meaning of a very particular word - *Tanganyika*.

I am interested for several reasons: having studied Swahili (and got no answers); because of a long-standing interest in the history of the country; and where the name fits into that history; and also because it is a word which in part inspired me to name our firm 'Kilimanyika'; lured by the sound of 'nyika' and of course its various meanings of bush or wilderness or hinterland which fits into my natural resources related work, as well as by this curious name. But more than all that, because everywhere I go in Tanzania I get a different answer.

Here are three variations on several that I have heard:

- A Bembe Congolese name, also shared by the Tongwe people of western Tanzania meaning 'big water' and used to refer to Lake Tanganyika;
- The wild hinterland behind Tanga, from where early European explorers first got to see and know the country; and,
- A reflection of the rich ethnic diversity of Tanzania's peoples and their social and genetic mixing of the ages; Tanganyika from *changanyika*, to mix things up, so the country was named because of its being a mixing bowl of Africa.

Answers on a postcard please.

Paul Harrison , Bankipore House,  
High St. Brill, Bucks HP8 9ST

## BOOKS AND JOURNALS

I am no longer making use of my collection of books, journals and research papers on Tanzania's political and economic development and I would like to pass them on to an educational establishment that could make use of them. They mainly date from the 1970s and 80s so may now be only of historical interest.

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**Dr Margaret Snyder** has been involved with Tanzania since 1964 when she was advisor to Umoja wa Wanawake for Bibi Titi. She has been a regional advisor to UNECA and director of UNIFEM, and an election observer in Dar es Salaam in 1994. She received the first PhD degree awarded by the University of Dar es Salaam.

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**The views expressed or reported in Tanzanian Affairs are those of the person concerned and do not necessarily represent the views of the Britain-Tanzania Society**

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