

Tanzanian Affairs

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Tanzania loses two stalwart former chiefs

Zanzibar negotiations collapse?

Heated debates in parliament

Upendo Leprosy Centre, Arusha

Tanzanian Affairs did not come up to scratch

TANZANIA LOSES TWO FORMER CHIEFS

Two of Tanzania's most distinguished chiefs in the period before independence have passed away.



Chief Abdallah Said Fundikira

The country's first Justice Minister after independence, **Chief Abdallah Said Fundikira**, died of heart complications in Tabora in mid August. The late Chief joined Makerere University College in Uganda from 1940 to 1946 and obtained a qualification in Agriculture. In 1957, he was ordained as Chief of the Wanyamwezi in the Nyanyembe chiefdom. He lost his title when founding President Nyerere scrapped all chiefdoms after independence.

He continued running private business until 1990, when he spearheaded the debate on multi-partyism in Tanzania in collaboration with other politicians such as the late Kassanga Tumbo, Prince Bagenda, Mabere Marando and Ndimara Tegambwage. Fundikira played a pivotal role in organising the opposition by chairing the first interim structure of an umbrella body under the name 'National Committee for Constitutional Reform' which became the NCCR political party.

He later formed his own party, the Union for Multiparty Democracy (UMD) but in 1999 he shifted camp to the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). After the 2000 general elections, President Mkapa appointed him a nominated MP until 2005 when he was nominated as a Member of Parliament.

Chief David Kidaha Makwaia (84), who died on March 31, was a much respected and prominent tribal leader in the years before independence. He succeeded his father as Usiha Chief and later became Paramount Chief of the 50 autonomous institutions which joined together to form the Sukuma Federation in the Lake region. He cooperated with the then Governor of Tanganyika in moves being made towards independence

and was the first African to be appointed to Tanganyika's Legislative Council.

He was born into a Muslim family but later converted to Catholicism.

As independence approached he facilitated the political rise of his old college friend Julius Nyerere but Mwalimu, as soon as he took over power, abolished the role of all chiefs and banished Chief Kidhaha temporarily to Tunduru district in the southern province.

This experience is said to have alienated him from politics and, from then on, he concentrated on private business. He was involved in market research, was the Public Relations Officer of the East African Railways and Harbours and later operated a private insurance company. At the time of his death he had resumed the leadership of the Sukuma community and was active in preserving their traditional cultural practices. He was buried in Shinyanga at the site of the State House he occupied in the heyday of his chiefdom.

ZANZIBAR NEGOTIATIONS COLLAPSE?

According to the Chairman of the Civic United Front (CUF) Professor Ibrahim Lipumba, quoted in *Mtanzania* and other media outlets, negotiations which have been going on between his party and CCM for the last eighteen months have reached a blind alley. He told the press that there was a very slim chance of a successful conclusion to the talks, which were due to end on August 15, unless there was international arbitration. Lipumba attributed the impasse to a lack of political will in the Zanzibar branch of the ruling CCM party. "It seems that President Kikwete (who had said at his inauguration that he was determined to solve the impasse in Zanzibar) has given in to hardliners who have been resisting any changes or amicable solutions," Lipumba said. Warning that the political situation in Zanzibar was very volatile he reminded people of what was happening in Darfur.

A few days later, and as this issue of TA went to press, all Zanzibar MP's in the National Assembly in Dodoma, except one who was left behind to look after parliamentary matters, went to Zanzibar to join Zanzibar-based MP's in going to their constituencies to discuss what to do next.

President Kikwete was quoted a few days earlier as saying that the pos-

4 Zanzibar - Negotiations Collapse?

sibility of power sharing was 'on the table' and CCM Secretary General Yusuf Makamba, said he was shocked by Lipumba's statement since the talks were still going on.

Mtanzania then reported that sources within CUF had said that the party had been approaching foreign diplomatic missions in Dar es Salaam, urging them to intervene and save the tottering negotiations. Then Lipumba turned to religious leaders and even Prime Minister Edward Lowassa, pleading with them to use their good offices. He also called on the CCM Vice Chairman John Malecela, Archbishop Cardinal Polycarp Pengo, Mufti Issa bin Simba and retired Bishop Elinaza Sendoro.

Prominent lawyer, Prof Issa Shivji, said CUF should not be gunning just for coalition government in Zanzibar as the problem was much wider and needed public debate. "They should be talking of the national interest of Zanzibar and not just of CUF," he said – *Mwananchi*.

President Responds.

President Kikwete then intervened on August 14 and gave some details about the talks. He said that they would come to an amicable conclusion. "The talks are still on the right track. It is true that they have stalled but I would like to assure the public that the parties concerned will resolve the impasse over the differences in a friendly manner."

The peace talks are popularly known as *Muafaka* and have been characterised by heated exchanges even outside the secret venues where they have been held.

President Kikwete said the joint negotiation committee had held 12 meetings since the talks started in January this year. "There has been encouraging progress in the talks because there are a number of issues on which agreement has been reached" he said.

The President explained that agreement had been reached on three of the five items on the agenda - equity and rights in politics, issues relating to how the Zanzibar government conducted its affairs, ways to strengthen political understanding in the Isles, and the need for free and fair elections. There was partial agreement on the issue of the 2005 Zanzibar elections. One of the items on which headway was yet to be made was in connection with the modalities of creating conditions that would allow political parties in Zanzibar, specifically CUF and CCM,

to work together in a peaceful and calm environment. "Negotiations on this particular item have taken long to conclude and the two parties are yet to agree. I think it is because of the sensitive nature of the issue in question" the President said. "But I think we have not reached a stage where we could justifiably say that the talks have collapsed. We definitely need to negotiate more in order to resolve the matter, with each party working hard enough on its arguments to make the other see sense in reaching an amicable conclusion."

OTHER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

On the mainland things have been relatively quiet politically in recent months. But, as this issue of Tanzanian Affairs went to press, there were heated debates in parliament as the opposition parties tried to exercise their limited muscle.

National Assembly Speaker Samuel Sitta prevented the tabling of a private member's motion by Dr Wilbroad Slaa, opposition CHADEMA MP over an alleged scam at the Bank of Tanzania - *Mtanzania*.

Then the outspoken CHADEMA MP Zitto Kabwe was suspended under House Standing Orders until January 2008 after the House voted against him, midst acclamation from ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) MP's. He was accused of humiliating Energy and Minerals Minister Nazir Karamagi. He had claimed that the Minister had lied about a controversial gold mining contract which he had signed in London. Kabwe had tried to table a private members motion requiring the formation of a committee to investigate the contract.

During the next few days there was a huge public outcry fanned by headlines in the media. The opposition parties joined together with lawyers and other public figures to condemn the length of Kabwe's suspension. The MP was greeted, midst heavy rain, by large crowds when he came back to Dar from the parliamentary session in Dodoma and CHADEMA announced plans for him to go on a nationwide tour by helicopter so that 'the people could be the final judges.' House Deputy Speaker Anne Makinda said that the suspension was not because Kabwe had presented a motion for an enquiry but for the language he had used against the Minister.

6 Other Political Developments

Tanzania Daima reported on August 14 that some major changes may be made in the way Parliament works. If agreed there would be in future a Prime Minister's question time every Thursday to answer direct questions from MP's as is done in the House of Commons. Another possible change would be that the chairmen of Parliamentary Accounting Committees (PAC) and Local Authority Accounting Committees (LAAC) would be elected from the opposition.

One CCM MP was quoted in *Tanzania Daima* as complaining about restrictions on his freedom of expression by senior party members whenever MP's became over critical of the government. He said that MP's were becoming toothless bulldogs.

Meanwhile National Parliament Speaker, Samuel Sitta said he was concerned that CCM was being 'hijacked by tycoons'.

In the Zanzibar House of Assembly the Speaker blocked a private member's motion on the importation of expired rice. He said that the matter should not be debated in the House since government was already investigating and a report would be submitted to the House. He and several other MP's were not happy with this answer.

Then there was a tightening up in the National Assembly. The Assembly's Clerk, Damian Foka, announced that, in future, meetings of House committees would be held behind closed doors, out of reach of the media, until they had been officially tabled in parliament for discussion. He said that this was 'in partial implementation of House Standing Orders' that prohibit the release of information on the activities of the committees before they are tabled in the House. The media were not happy.

According to *Mwananchi* the CCM victory in the March 18 Tunduru by-election (see '*CCM Still Popular*' in *Tanzanian Affairs* No 87) was due to its long experience, incumbency and financial clout. Even before the by-election was announced several party leaders had headed towards the constituency for what they described as official business. They were concerned that CCM might lose votes on two counts – lack of a market for cashew nuts and bad roads. First to visit the area was the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Co-operatives, Stephen Wassira. Then came party Vice Chairman John Malecela, Secretary General Yusuf Makamba and Minister Mohammed Khatib, followed by a solid campaign team of

28. They included Deputy Minister Emmanuel Nchimbi, Vita Kawawa (MP) and former opposition leaders Thomas Ngawaiya (TLP) and Richard Hiza (CUF).

CUF on the other hand thought their runner, Mazee Rajab, was popular enough to win and the Democratic party candidate was left on his own while his party chairman, Christopher Mtikila, was busy knocking at the High Court doors in Dar es Salaam.

Some people claimed that CCM poured lots of money into the campaign, especially for the buying of voting cards from opposition supporters. The heavy presence of security forces might also have played a role in intimidating voters, many of whom were said to have stayed away on polling day.

The opposition

Four of Tanzania's innumerable opposition parties made another effort on May 10 towards establishing a united front against the virtually impregnable CCM ruling party. The Civic United Front CUF, Tanzania Labour Party (TLP), National Convention for Construction and Reform (NCCR-Mageuzi), and Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema) signed the pact. The agreement was said to be the beginning of a process that would lead to the formation of a single political party that would front a common presidential candidate in the next presidential elections in 2010 - Guardian. According to *Mwananchi* the Deputy Secretary General of Chadema has defected to the CCM.

A new constitution?

Former Prime Minister Joseph Warioba has joined others in asking the Government to prepare for the enactment of a new constitution – something to which it is strongly opposed. He said that what was needed was a comprehensive document without the deficiencies that have made the present one “face a barrage of scathing attacks from academics, legal experts, opposition politicians and various other Tanzanians.” “So far” he was quoted in the Guardian as saying, “fourteen amendments have been made to the Constitution, with none involving the direct participation of the people.” He proposed that the Assembly be given constitutional powers to run its affairs independently and that cabinet ministers and their deputies cease to be drawn from outside the House.

BUDGET 2007/8 CRITICISED

In her 2007/2008 budget statement in June, Finance Minister Mrs Zakhia Meghji stated that she would not borrow from the domestic market this year through Treasury bill and government bonds. The East African described this as the most ambitious fiscal target by a finance minister in years. She must have felt under some pressure to do this because large government deficits make it difficult for the private sector to obtain credit and contribute to inflation. Interest rates on Treasury bills are 16% in Tanzania compared with 12% in Uganda and 6% in Kenya. In the previous year the Government took TShs 35.92bn from the Bank of Tanzania.

Mrs Meghji indicated that next year's revenue should be enough to enable the government not to borrow locally as weather forecasts appeared encouraging. She will be relying on considerable support from the donor community however to do this. Some 42% of the budget would come from donors - up 3% on 2006/2007.

Many of the other measures she announced attracted strong criticism especially a proposed increase of almost 9% on diesel and petrol and also more tax on kerosene which would have seriously affected the poor. Some opposition MP's described the budget as the worst since independence. Eventually, under heavy pressure from MP's, she deleted the kerosene tax increase from the budget, and reduced the proposed increase in vehicle licenses for smaller vehicles and increased them for luxury cars.

Priorities for expenditure were: education (18%), roads (12.8%), health (10%) and water (5.1%). She was criticised by MP's for allocating only 6.2% to the agricultural sector.

Funds were also provided for the identity card scheme which is aimed at facilitating tax collection, accessing bank credit and to help in the war against crime. Income tax for low income earners was reduced from 18.5% to 15%. The budget also had a 'green' element. Tariffs for low energy consuming bulbs and solar energy panels were zero rated.

In summary, the Government expects to spend TShs 6.06 trillion, an increase of TShs 1.20tn on the previous year.

Meghji praised the efforts being made in revenue collection and estimated that GDP would grow at 7.3% this year.

BUSINESS & THE ECONOMY

Tanzania no longer needs financial support from the International Monetary Fund according to IMF Deputy Managing Director Murilo Portugal quoted in the Guardian. He said that Tanzania had achieved strong growth and low inflation through macroeconomic policies in the past few years. He added that the external position had strengthened in recent years, and debt relief had reduced Tanzania's external debt burden. He said the role of the Fund now would be to continue supporting Tanzania's development of a sound macroeconomic policy framework and to encourage reforms in areas that are critical to securing higher and more sustainable growth. Much remained to be done for Tanzania to make greater inroads in reducing poverty and raising living standards especially in creating a business environment conducive to private investment.

Power consultancy firm Vattenfall is to do project analysis for a power generation project on the Rufiji River in Njombe district. The \$400-500 million 360 MW project is to be built by the British firm Aldwych and is to be funded by the World Bank – *Habari Leo*.

Zanzibar Finance Minister Mwinyihaji Mwadini reported in July that the islands could fail to achieve their millennium development goals because of high population increase. He said the Zanzibar Government was planning to step up its family planning campaign and impose stricter migration rules to regulate the flow of outsiders wishing to settle in the islands.

Opposition politicians have expressed concern over what they claimed were large numbers of people from mainland Tanzania settling in Zanzibar. The leader of the opposition in parliament, Abubakar Khamis Bakari, has advised the Zanzibar government to reintroduce entry permits for mainlanders coming to the islands. Zanzibar's population is estimated at just over a million and is growing at an annual rate of 3.1 percent - IRIN.

DOLLARIZATION OF THE ECONOMY

In 1993 the Tanzanian shilling was trading at 479.9 to the US Dollar. Ten years later the shilling was 1194.5 to the dollar, a fall of about 150%. To-date it is trading at over 1200. Of late the shilling has been appreciating against the American dollar mainly because the US currency value has

been depreciating in the world market.

The shilling is also falling against Tanzania's East African partners' currencies. The Tanzania shilling last year dropped by almost 18 percent.

This has led some opposition politicians to call for an urgent intervention by the government to stop the growing tide towards the use of the dollar as a medium for transactions. The spokesman of the opposition alliance Mr. James Mbatia said it was a pity to see the government allowing what he described as "the on-going dollarization of the national economy" for such a long time such that the strength of the shilling had been weakened compared with the currency of neighbouring countries. He castigated the use of US dollars in payments for accommodation in tourist hotels and also claimed that some employees were also being paid in dollars albeit often in a dubious manner.

"In order to curb the effect of dollarization of the Tanzanian economy on the people, we propose that from now onwards, the government should clearly direct all economic sectors to use the Tanzanian shilling in all their transactions," Mbatia said.

This is happening at a time when the custodian of the Shilling, Governor Daudi Balali, is alleged to be mired in scandals regarding the misuse of funds in the Central Bank which resulted in a heated debate during the budget session of Parliament. The Governor has insisted that he has done nothing wrong.

The measures being suggested by the opposition appear to be aimed at the disease rather than the cause which is the continuing low level of exports, the increasing import bill and low productivity level in the country.

Though exports have increased from US\$390.43m in 1995 to US\$1,723.0m in 2006, imports have increased from US\$770.8m to US\$3,864.1m in the same period creating a current account deficit of more than 10% of GDP. This increases pressure on the general reserves which have fallen from their peak – the equivalent of 9.2 months of imports to about 5 months this year.

While announcing her second budget this June Minister Meghji estimated that the economy will reach a growth level of 7.7% by year 2008 though she did not indicate how that is going to be achieved. She is also

planning to reduce the level of dependency by increasing internal revenue collection to 18.1% of GDP. It is however difficult to see how this is going to be achieved without hurting the economy as no attempt has been made to expand the tax base. Instead, more revenue is expected from existing sources with several hikes in current tax rates. One example is the increase in excise duty on mobile phones from 5% to 7% which has netted the government an extra TShs11bn (90%) even with minimal growth in subscribers.

In her first budget Mama Meghji reduced tax on Collective Investment schemes from 30% to 10% and in this journal it was suggested that she should go further to encourage a saving culture. Employees should be allowed to invest through the PAYE system as its tax effectiveness would be an incentive. This idea has however yet to catch her eye. Perhaps she may borrow a leaf from the UK Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS), Venture Capital Trust (VCT) or the idea being concocted by Mr Cameron's Conservative Party of Lifetime Savings Accounts (LSA). The benefit of these schemes is that they reward individuals through the tax system for taking risks while encouraging savings and investments.

In an effort to seek a fast means of escaping poverty Tanzania, just like many African Countries, has been exploring for oil in and around the country. In one of its August editions the Economist described Nigeria as behaving like a suicide maniac after having earned US\$223bn from oil over the last 8 years while still languishing at 159th in the UN development index (HDI). There are 177 countries in the Index. Congo-Brazaville earned over US\$3bn last year alone but has only known coups and wars from it. One is bound to ask a curious but very serious question. Tanzania, with her US\$10bn+ GDP is on 162 in the HDI but is peaceful and is enjoying a moderate growth with an economy proving resilient during harsh time such as the just ended drought season. However will the discovery of the much sought Black Gold in Tanzania be a blessing or a curse? As some people might sometime say, "The future is a moving target!"

Joseph Sabas

THE TABORA GOLD COIN

In March 2007 a gold coin minted in German East Africa in 1916 was sold for £1,400 by the London auctioneers Dix Noonan Webb. Sometimes known as the 'Tabora pound', this coin has an interesting history.



The Deutsch Ost Afrika 15 Rupien coin

At the beginning of 1916 the Governor of German East Africa, Dr Heinrich Schnee, was confident that the colony's small army would continue to hold the Allied forces at bay. His immediate problem was the shortage of metallic currency caused by hoarding and the impossibility of getting fresh supplies of coins from Germany because of the Royal Navy's blockade. That same blockade prevented the export of gold to Germany and the Governor decided to use Tanganyikan gold to mint coins locally.

An improvised mint was therefore established in the railway workshops at Tabora by a German mining engineer, Friedrich Schumacher. His total workforce was eleven men – two Indians, two Africans and seven Singhalese goldsmiths recruited from Dar es Salaam. A blacksmith's forge was used to melt the gold, while a mill for rolling sheets of rubber was adapted to turn it into strips. A small hand press punched out 'blanks' from the metal strips and the coins were struck, one by one, by a hand-operated pipe-bending machine.

The pre-war coinage had a portrait of the German Emperor William II on the obverse (head) and the German eagle on the reverse (tail). Concerned that a locally produced version of the Imperial face might not be to the Kaiser's liking, the Governor held a competition for an

alternative. The winning design, by a German railway worker, showed a charging elephant against a mountainous background (possibly intended to represent Kilimanjaro). One of the Singhalese goldsmiths engraved the dies for both obverse and reverse. The eagle was retained for the obverse, which also had the date '1916' and the mint mark T (for Tabora), while the reverse was inscribed 'Deutsch Ost Afrika 15 Rupien'. Each coin weighed 7.168 grammes and was 75% pure gold.

The Governor's proclamation authorising the new coinage was signed at Tabora on 15 April 1916 and production began on the same day. Using the primitive hand-operated machine, the small workforce produced 6,395 gold coins in the period to 30 June 1916. At this point the machine broke down and the task of striking the coins was transferred to Lulanguru, fifteen miles west of Tabora. A steam-driven press designed to extract oil from groundnuts was brought into use and the rate of production was almost doubled. In the nine weeks to 31 August 1916, when production ceased, 9,803 gold coins were minted.

During the four months the mint was operating, the military situation changed completely. The Allied offensive was finally launched. General Smuts captured Moshi at the beginning of April and reached Dodoma on 29 July, cutting the Tabora/Dar railway. Meanwhile the Belgian army advanced from the Congo and occupied Tabora on 19 September. As the Belgians approached, Schumacher buried the precious dies and delivered the last batch of 1,500 coins to the bank in Tabora. Schumacher was captured by the Belgians, but managed to conceal forty of the coins. He was sent to England for repatriation to Germany as a non-combatant. While in London, he was questioned by the police at New Scotland Yard, where thirty nine of the forty coins were taken from him.

The Tabora 15 rupee was only in circulation for a relatively short time. Many were hoarded or kept as souvenirs. As over sixteen thousand were produced, it is hardly a great numismatic rarity. However, it only appears rarely at auctions, hence the handsome price at the March sale. If you are lucky enough to own one, or are offered one to purchase, be warned – there are forgeries about!

The above is based on an article by D.D.Yonge which appeared in Tanganyika Notes and Records Number 62, March 1964

John Sankey

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT

Extracts from the Tanzanian section of the 2007 Annual Report of Amnesty International:

Journalists writing articles criticizing the government were at times harassed, threatened or arrested. Three journalists of *Rai* newspaper were arrested and charged in July. In August a *Citizen* journalist was arrested and threatened with being stripped of his citizenship and expelled from the country on account of an interview he gave in a documentary film about arms trafficking. Three visiting mainland journalists were briefly arrested in Zanzibar in September.

Female genital mutilation continued to be illegally practised in many rural areas on the mainland, with rates of over 80 per cent among some ethnic groups. No prosecutions were reported. The World Health Organization reported a high rate of domestic violence in Tanzania, with 30 per cent of victims suffering serious injuries due to severe beatings.

The government accepted the need to reduce severe overcrowding in prisons but little action was taken. The National Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance inspected mainland prisons and criticized harsh conditions, particularly the holding of juvenile prisoners together with adults. The Commission was still barred by the Zanzibar government from working or opening an office in Zanzibar.

The government ordered the deportation of all illegal immigrants who had failed to register or apply for citizenship. Deportations began of several thousand people originating from neighbouring countries such as Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo who had lived in Tanzania for up to 15 years or longer. There were a much larger number of such people, some of whom were former refugees integrated into rural communities who had never regularized their status.

In August President Kikwete commuted all death sentences on mainland Tanzania to life imprisonment. The total number of commutations was not officially disclosed, but was estimated to be about 400. At the end of 2006, no one was under sentence of death in Tanzania.

STEALTH VIRUS

NEW SCIENTIST (April 21) described how a farmer in Zanzibar, had a severe shock four years ago when he went to harvest his cassava (manioc). "The bushes looked healthy" he said, but when he dug up the tubers he found every last one had rotted away. "I had lost my entire crop. And we were hungry and I was desperate".

What he didn't know then was that his crop was the first known victim of a plague caused by a new and virulent strain of the 'cassava brown streak virus' that is now spreading across eastern and central Africa. Other pests and viruses that afflict cassava - notably the 'cassava mosaic virus', which has been advancing across East Africa since the late 1980s, leave visible marks on the foliage but always spare some of the crop.

Brown streak is a stealth virus. It has been known since 1935 when British scientists reported it in coastal Tanganyika but, until recently, it remained largely confined to Tanzania's low-lying coastal plains. Now it has become much more virulent - apparently starting from this farm in Zanzibar. It is a threat to the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the Institute for Tropical Agriculture's branch in Dar es Salaam, cassava yield in Tanzania has fallen by between 50 and 80 per cent and during the past five years. The economic damage to farmers is conservatively estimated at more than \$50 million a year.

The institute has cross-bred some of the local varieties in Zanzibar with other varieties that seem to tolerate the new virus. The first trials have been successful and some of the new varieties have now been released to farmers in Zanzibar so moving from trials to a fully operational project. Farmers in Zanzibar are clamouring for the new varieties especially a variety called *Kiroba* which is a favourite because of its sweet taste and smooth texture.

Thank you John Rollinson for sending this news - Editor

E.A. FEDERATION – A SLOW DOWN?

As happens from time to time in the European Union, enthusiasts for a 'fast tracking' process to expedite progress towards the establishment of an East African Federation, are coming up against more and more opposition. Many Tanzanian MP's have publicly declared their opposition to the establishment of such a federation by 2013 but, according to East African Cooperation Affairs Minister Ibrahim Msabaha in an interview with The Guardian, they had done so as individuals and not on behalf of the people they represented. Most of the delegates who contributed to a recent debate of legislators in Dodoma rejected the fast-tracking idea as a non-starter, saying the citizenry needed more time to evaluate the process before making a definitive stand that would take the nation's interests into account. Dr Msabaha explained that the Government was not against legislator's opinions so long as it was understood that they aired their views in their personal capacities and not by virtue of their being the official legislative representative of the people in their respective constituencies.

The fact that only a fraction of the legislators who gave their views were staunchly against the fast-tracking idea raised many questions. The dominant view among the MPs, just as is the case with the larger public, relates to fear of the possibility of Tanzania becoming a loser after the formation of the proposed federation.

Most people interviewed on the issue have said they do not see the need of having the federation at the moment because Tanzania is still lagging behind Kenya and Uganda in economic development and might end up being little more than a market for the goods they produce. Many recommended that the formation of the federation should get peoples' consent, preferably through a referendum.

EAC Secretary General, Juma Mwapachu, was quoted as saying: "People are completely confused. What we are currently doing is not fast-tracking the East African Federation but fast-tracking the building blocs i.e. the customs union, common market, monetary union, and ultimately, the Federation itself. The time for a full-scale federation may be years ahead. It is something that cannot be decided now."

CRIME

Police in Arusha engaged in a six-hour gun battle on July 21 with suspected bandits believed to be behind the killing of a policeman at a bank robbery incident in Mwanga, Kilimanjaro earlier in the month. The gun battle started when police detectives working on a tip off stormed into a villa at around 5:00 am and had to open fire to try and force the bandits to surrender. However the bandits fired back and hundreds of local residents rushed to the scene to witness the battle. The bandits, who wore bullet-proof jackets surrendered six hours later. They begged for mercy and were arrested – Guardian.

Police in Dar es Salaam are holding a person found in possession of 223 elephant tusks apparently harvested from 112 elephants killed by poachers. They were being specially packed for export.

In June last year two consignments worth \$3,100,778, were traced as having originated from the Dar es Salaam port. They were packed in 18 boxes, loaded in a container and shipped to Korea.

The development came as MP's, assembled in Dodoma for the National Assembly's budget meeting, protested over reports of gross violation of hunting laws by both Tanzanians and foreigners and called for immediate intervention by the government to arrest the situation. Opposition MP's decried what they called palpable lack of transparency and seriousness in the allocation of hunting blocks to local and foreign dealers.

Some MP's said that the government had endlessly embraced foreign investors in the management of the tourism sector, ignoring local players "who contribute greatly to the sector's development".

NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT

A new 'Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act, 2007' has been passed by parliament and signed by President Kikwete.

The Law Reform Commission had earlier stated that the Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB) was not able to combat corruption effectively because of structural weaknesses, lack of government support and inadequacies in the previous Act of 1971. International donor agencies had also been pressing government to take action.

The new Act contains preventive and enforcement measures.

It establishes a new 'Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau' (PCCB) whose work will be overseen administratively by a Board comprising members drawn from the private sector, civil society and the general public.

The number of corruption offences which can result in prosecution has been substantially increased and now includes: corrupt contracts, procurement, auctions, employment, and bribery of foreign public officials, sexual favours, embezzlement, and conspiracy. It allows for the freezing of assets, protection of whistle-blowers and protection of witnesses and victims.

But many Tanzanians have been highly critical. In particular, according to the Guardian, there had been uproar on a clause in the Act said to be limiting the freedom of the press.

Representatives acting under the umbrella of the 'Coalition for Advocacy of Freedom of Information and Expression', which includes the Media Council of Tanzania, Media Owners Association, Tanzania Media Women's Association, the Human Rights Centre, Tanzania Gender Network and the Tanganyika Law Society protested strongly to the Parliamentary Committee on Social Welfare and Community Development about Section 37 (1) of the Act. They said it infringed on freedom of the press because it prevented the media or individual persons from reporting alleged offences under investigation by the PCCB. The Act didn't describe procedures that were to be followed to make officials of the Bureau responsible when they announced cases or names of people under investigation. It would therefore be very difficult for any person, including journalists, to know that a particular issue was under investigation. They further stated that ordinary people would be denied the right to give information and it would be difficult for the PCCB itself to get information on people who were engaged in corrupt practices for the fear that at the end of the day, the informants would be taken to task. The Act also prohibits MP's from discussing people they suspect may have been involved in corruption.

The Human Rights Network (FEMACT) urged President Kikwete not to assent to the Act. FEMACT President Buberwa Kaiza said that the bill had lots of shortcomings and would punish ordinary citizens

while letting bigwigs go free. Lots of areas had been left out, such as the conduct of elections and the requirement that the Bureau would be answerable to the President and not be independent. He added that there were burning issues that would never come under the Act, such as the IPTL (electricity) case, the controversial BAE radar case, the privatisation of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and the Tanzania Telecommunications Limited (TTCL) – *Nipashe*.

Meanwhile, some sixty Prevention of Corruption Bureau investigators have attended a workshop on techniques to fight corruption supported by the US Agency for International Development and conducted by five members from the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI). The team learned about modern surveillance techniques, intelligence gathering and preparation of high-profile cases for courts and increasing media exposure of successful corruption prosecutions in order to create deterrence.

The DOI presentations were designed for senior PCB investigators who would be handling sensitive corruption cases involving high-profile political figures. He said the objective of the training was to reduce corruption by half in the country's local, district and central government agencies.

FAITH NEWS

According to the Muslim paper *An-Nuur* a plot has been hatched in the USA to introduce Islamic Studies in schools in such a way as to restrict the interpretation of the Koran. The idea was to turn Muslims into stooges of the West, also known as 'moderates'. Under the scheme various governments, including the Tanzanian, had been 'persuaded' by the USA to adopt the curriculum.

An Nuur has also complained that in the 2007/08 intake for some twenty courses at the state-owned Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Ardhi Universities not a single Muslim student had been selected. Subjects included were BA (History) and BSc (Computer Science). In the BA (Education) course there are only 26 Muslims out of 107 students. Dodoma University was said to be taking a total of 415 students of whom only 70 were Muslims.

According to *Majira* Muslims in Tanga are demanding that a secondary

school teacher be expelled after controversial remarks he made during a General Study class. It is alleged that while discussing gender and culture with 'A' level students he said that Islam oppressed women. Citing an example, he said the Prophet Mohammed had married four wives and had five concubines. Muslim students then walked out and decided to boycott the class. The teacher was transferred.

An alcohol merchant of Asian descent was seriously injured after unknown people sprayed acid on him at his shop in Michenzani, Zanzibar. The assailants had covered their faces with stockings. A man-hunt was said to be under way. According to *Nipashe* the attack was faith-motivated. Recently, Muslim activists have been complaining of 'moral erosion' through increasing influx of foreign influences.

CIRCUMCISION THE SOLUTION?

The UN has begun to advocate mass male circumcision in HIV/Aids stricken Southern African nations. Several recent medical studies have confirmed that circumcision cuts the risk of HIV infection among men by 50-60 per cent, and the findings have been backed by UNAIDS.

However, in Tanzania, the Government remained cautious. "We cannot rush into this idea. We want to conduct a thorough study on the suggestions and get clear evidence before incorporating the idea in our HIV/Aids policy framework" said Health and Social Welfare Minister, Prof. David Mwakyusa. He admitted that the prevalence rate in certain coast and central areas in Tanzania was low due to male circumcision. "I am talking to experts who are meeting in Arusha. I hope they will come up with sound suggestions and advise the government accordingly" – Guardian.

The government has assured the public that, Rift Valley Fever, which had been widespread for more than five months, is now under total control.

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HE DID NOTHING WRONG

This is the story of Tanzanian man called Hitler and a place called Upendo. Hitler is a gentle man, whose name is just another burden he bares in life. Hitler's home was on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro. When he first contacted leprosy nobody in his village had any knowledge of what it was. When he started losing fingers and toes the villagers were afraid. Superstitious stories abounded until it all became too much for them. The whispering suddenly stopped as he drew near. His fellow villagers turned their backs. Nobody wanted to drink with him. Few patronised his shop. People who he had known all his life now treated him as a stranger.

Hitler knew he had done nothing wrong, yet he was ostracised. He was confused, unhappy and in pain through no fault of his own. Gossip and wild stories, born of ignorance, abounded until the villagers decided to rid themselves of this fear. His shop and house were burnt down and he was chased from the village. There was no one to turn to for help; he had no home and no livelihood. Desolate, he walked away.

His brother, showing extreme bravery and true family love, decided to go with him for by now Hitler had lost all his fingers and most of his toes. Together they wandered and begged until his brother became ill and died.

Unable to take care of himself, Hitler was admitted to a local hospital where he says he was treated like a dog, the food thrown to him. But at least he had food and a roof over his head. There he stayed for eight long lonely years until one day a nurse told him about a place called Upendo. The hospital managed to persuade someone to take him on the carrier of his bicycle to Upendo, where he remains until now. Hitler cannot do anything for himself, but he has custom-made shoes so he can stagger around and is amongst friends with similar afflictions.

This is the story of Upendo. Arusha attracts beggars from all over the country. About 120 leprosy victims and families used to live under the trees on the banks of the river that runs through the centre of Arusha Town and existed by begging and scavenging. Their condition was pathetic and squalid, without even a pit latrine. Their bed was the hard ground.

In 1995, while I was Director of Vocational Services, our Rotary Club



Hitler at the Upendo Centre in Arusha

was approached by these lepers requesting help. We arranged a meal and gave them clothes. They were so grateful and in such need that we conceived the idea of building a shelter.

In December 1995 we arranged an international dinner and raised \$1000 towards this – it was a start, but of course only a pittance.

A few days later I went to a local market to buy dog meat. Outside, squatting in the mud and dressed in filthy tattered rags, was a man. He had no fingers, but managed somehow to hold a raw and nearly meatless bone, which had been thrown to him where he sat amongst the stray dogs looking for pickings. He was hungry and desperate with haunted eyes as he sat gnawing the bone.

What could cause anyone to lose every scrap of dignity and be reduced to this state? Joel, for that is his name, was not the only victim of leprosy. A qualified kindergarten teacher, he had lost his job together with his fingers and toes. This appalling scene increased the urgency to help these people. (He was one of our first residents. Now he is once again clean and smart living at Upendo. He has indeed come a long way since that day.)

In 1996, by coincidence, I met with Ab Moore from the Rotary Club of Guelph, who was visiting Moshi. I told him about this project and he travelled to Arusha to see for himself. He immediately became involved and started his own fund raising through the Rotary Club of Guelph, CRCID, and Rotary International. Later, through his efforts, all the furniture, except for the beds was obtained. St Francis Leprosy Guild in the U.K donated the beds and mattresses. On 1st May 1996 the Arusha Rotarians and their families pushed a golf cart from the Town Centre to Kilimanjaro Airport some 55 kms. The co-ordinator was PDG Amir Somji and clerk of the course PP Fidelis Malembeka. It took 12 hours and raised \$16,600 - sufficient funds to construct the Home.

And so the 'Upendo Leprosy Victims Rehabilitation and Self Reliance Centre' became a reality. On 2nd October 1996 we officially opened Upendo – which translated means 'cared for with love' and was the name chosen by the first residents. The Guest of Honour, Reginald Mengi, made a further generous donation.

When the lepers arrive they are in very poor condition. They are emaciated, not only by lack of food, but also, because the treatment for leprosy spoils their immune system, they suffer from scabies, dreadful ulcers, diarrhoea, coughs and eye infections. Medical bills are high – there is no National Health in Tanzania.

Soon after the start up of Upendo, Dr Peter Nichol from the Rotary Club of Canmore visited Arusha as a tourist intending to sponsor a kinder-

garten. We met and I happened to be talking on our leprosy project. Peter was hooked. The kindergarten shelved, he returned to Canmore and the Rotary Club there, CRCID and Rotary International raised funds which enabled us to start a number of self-sustaining projects.

Other assistance projects have come from the Rotary Club of North Shore New Zealand with other Rotary Clubs and the Rotary Club of Sutton Coldfield Vessey in the UK together with the help of this fantastic organisation The Rotary International. Through this we have been able to more than double our accommodation.

At Upendo currently we have 50 adults and 31 children. Thankfully the people with children never leave the home, whereas a few of the others, once the leprosy is under control, intend to go away and only return when the leprosy 'flares up.' The older children attend primary school for the first time in their lives and a kindergarten teacher comes daily to entertain the younger ones. After school, training in life skills such as tailoring, masonry and carpentry are offered. Some 300 desks and forms have been donated to needy schools. The adults are self sustaining in eggs, milk, fish and vegetables. Other activities include hand loom weaving, maize grinding, a small shop and handicrafts such as embroidery, recycled paper cards, papier machie beads, bowls and Christmas decorations as well as Christmas Crackers.

Others who have supported us include the St Francis Leprosy Guild, Terre des Hommes from the Netherlands, who pay the wages for the staff at Upendo as well as the children's food. So many have helped, both local and worldwide and we are indebted to them all. St Francis Leprosy Guild together with the Rotary Club of Guelph printed 'Fire Fire' – a true story about a fire at Upendo. This charming little book has been given to every secondary school throughout Tanzania to bring awareness of leprosy to the people and to spread the word that leprosy is not brought about by evil spirits, is not infectious and can be cured if treated in time. 1,000 extra copies will be sold towards the payment of the Upendo children's education.

Over 5,000 cases of leprosy were discovered in Tanzania last year. Thankfully many were found early and cured because they were discovered in time. We hope and believe that our little children's story 'Fire Fire' played a part in passing the good news that early treatment cures leprosy.

Faye Cran

ASHDEN AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Company Zara Solar of Tanzania won first prize in the Africa Award category of the world's leading green energy awards this year. All award winners, including Zara Solar representative Mohamedrafik A. Parpia, were received at a ceremony at the Royal Geographical Society in London by former US Vice President Al Gore. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Ashden Awards personally congratulated them in a separate private ceremony.

Zara Solar provide high-quality, reliable solar-home-systems to areas in the North of Tanzania around Mwanza particularly those which are not connected to the electrical grid. They estimate that only 10% of the Tanzanian population have access to the electricity grid, and in rural areas only 2% have access, leaving people dependant on kerosene for lighting, and with great difficulty to charge mobile phones, which are increasingly a vital form of communication for business and normal life.

The upfront cost of PV systems is a major obstacle to many of the rural poor and there is also the problem of many small shops offering cheap, low quality PV modules which are made to look like well known good quality brands but fail after a short time. Zara Solar Ltd is working hard to overcome these obstacles by helping people identify 'fake' equipment and by providing people with high quality yet affordable solar PV systems. As one customer puts it: "I am very pleased with the lights and radio from the one-panel system I bought from Zara Solar, so I have come back to buy another. Before I came to Zara I had bought a cheap panel from another dealer which did not work, it was a waste of money."

PV is particularly suitable in rural areas since here, because of the poor road access, the cost of kerosene is high. For a typical family using 6-9 litres/month this represents a monthly cost of 12,000 to 18,000 Tsh (£4.80 to £7.20), a substantial burden in a region where the minimum employed wage is only 50,000 Tsh (£20) a month. From savings on kerosene alone, Zara Solar estimate their customers in rural areas could pay back the cost of a PV system in less than two years.

Several customers of Zara Solar are earning extra income from their solar PV systems, due in part to the UNDP having provided 60% grants



A man stands in front of his solar-home-system

- Photo Ashden Awards www.ashdenawards.org

to people buying the equipment to set up or support a small business. A number of bars and cafes use their solar PV to operate lights and a TV, attracting more customers and increasing their trade. Other applications include health centres and schools.

To date, Zara Solar have sold over 3,600 solar systems. In order to reach more remote areas, they use a network of trained local technicians that can service their own local customer base as well as providing customers with sufficient training to maintain the system properly once installed. The main limitation on future growth is the availability of consumer finance. Zara Solar is hoping to address this by exploring various micro-finance packages which will give the rural poor the chance to pay back the cost of the system over time.

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).

NEW AFRICAN in its May issue included an interview under the heading 'Jakaya Kikwete - SADC cannot abandon Zimbabwe.' The first question was: "You have been to Europe twice in recent months. Did Zimbabwe come up in your discussions with European leaders?" Reply: "Oh yes. Everywhere. The US, Europe, the Nordic countries. Zimbabwe is a big story of huge interest. There is a lot of dissatisfaction in Europe and beyond on what is going on in Zimbabwe and they see President Mugabe as some kind of devil. They think that we in Africa should have done something to have him removed..... But we have been saying: fine, you can condemn when something is not going right but our approach has been to say let's talk about the issues".

The interview was given a day after the African summit in Dar es Salaam at which the Zimbabwe problem was discussed. Kikwete said: "The discussions inside the closed sessions were very frank on the things that we think the Zimbabwe government is not doing right and our view on what could be done right. And also on the things that we think the opposition is not doing right." President Kikwete went on: "The answer is dialogue.....at the end of the day we will come up with an acceptable arrangement. South African President Mbeki will be the point man for this and the troika of SADC members for which I am the chair, will work with President Mbeki...." The President went on to discuss in some detail the bad economic situation in the country and the need for free and fair elections. He expressed surprise that although there had been some 100 killings in the Congo at the time, the Western world had shown little or no interest.

Nick Gordon writing in the **DAILY TELEGRAPH** (August 11) reported on visits he had paid to Beho Beho on the northern edge of the Selous wildlife reserve in the 1980s and again recently. The 1980s was a time when thousands of East African elephants were being gunned down on an industrial scale for their ivory. ... "I also remembered the down-at-

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heel grave of the great white hunter Frederic Selous - the prototype of H Rider Haggard's hero of King Solomon's Mines who was killed by a German sniper during a skirmish in 1917. Now the ivory wars are over and the elephants look relaxed..... The grave of Selous is now as neat and emotive as any you might see in a Commonwealth war cemetery. The game is in fine form. The threadbare little lodge has been replaced by a new camp built on the side of a natural arena with a magnificent millenium stadium view of the plain below.... There are dynamic guides too, an inspired chef and an underlying feeling of confidence and well-being.What brought about this change? I put it down to the Mugabe factor. How can the tyrannical Robert Mugabe bring about such marked improvements in Tanzania? It's simple. By denying human rights to some of the brightest and most energetic of his nation, he has forced them to seek employment elsewhere. Beho Beho is managed and run by Zimbabweans....." *Thank you John Sankey for sending this item - Editor*

The **EAST AFRICAN** (May 22) reported that Tanzania has introduced a grading system for hotels, restaurants and tourist establishments to conform to the internationally recognised star-rating system. The hotel classification and standardisation criteria were developed by a group of EAC experts and approved by the Council of Ministers in November 2006. The government has already completed an inventory of all hotels and testing was complete by April this year, he said. The inventory classified town and country hotels depending on their locations. "But in the case of establishments that were not specifically attracting holiday visitors - such as motels and town hotels - it was suggested that they be classified under the general term 'hotel' and individual operators determine their segment in the market." The grading, which is being done under the auspices of the East African Community, is aimed at attracting more tourists to the region. It is estimated that the country earns more than \$740 million in foreign exchange from international tourism, and receives just over 525,000 tourists annually. The tourism industry in Tanzania contributes nearly 25 per cent of the growth domestic product (GDP) and offers direct employment to some 200,000 people.

Is the East African Region moving East - to China and the Arab world - in terms of new investments and large contracts asked the Kenyan **NATION** in its issue of May 16. The evidence may be anecdotal, the paper wrote, but the broad picture is that of gradual replacement of

Europe as the main source of new investments and implementer of major contracts in the region. The article went on: 'Indeed, besides China and the Arab world, the only other major player in the investment arena in the region is South Africa whose companies have been clinching one privatisation deal after another in Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and to a lesser extent, Kenya. The South Africans have been very strong in the infrastructure and banking sectors, running privatised electricity and telecommunications utilities, and controlling some of the largest commercial banks in the region.'

'Still, the most remarkable activity is coming from China and the Arab world. For example, a company from Kuwait is involved in upgrading the Tanga harbour. As countries of this region negotiate the so-called Economic Partnerships Agreements (EPAs) with Europe, we must not lose sight of the realities that are emerging: that in terms of trade and investment, European firms are gradually being supplanted by other players. True, ACP countries will have to open their markets to Europe on signing EPAs. Indeed, it will mean an unprecedented change in the way we have done business with Europe for decades. Several dangers loom, however. If the deals are negotiated without well thought-out asymmetric arrangements, EPAs will end up hurting most of the countries in the region in terms of reduced tax revenues, substantial diversion of trade from third party countries, and possible surges of substandard imports from Europe. The saving grace is that non-dutiable products make up a large percentage of exports from most of the countries in this region.'

UCLA California's publication **AFRICAN ARTS** (Spring issue 2007) included a 6-page illustrated article by Barbara Thompson, under the title 'Namsifueli Nyeki - a Tanzanian Potter Extraordinaire'. She wrote: 'Even to the untrained eye in local markets, the unique pottery of Namsifueli clearly stands out from that of other potters. Although her work is grounded in the long-standing pottery traditions of her ancestor's, Namsifueli's interest in experimentation, new designs and individualised detailing lend her work the distinct touch of an artist unconstrained by the limitations of cultural tradition. As such, she poses an interesting contradiction to notions of anonymity, conformity and conservatism in African pottery.... Namsifueli is celebrated as the most accomplished and innovative potter in the Usambara Mountains.'

For her and her potting neighbours, selling their vessels in the main market town of Lushoto, means a four-hour trek carrying a heavy load of pots along narrow pathways, up and down the valleys and peaks of this mountainous terrain.... During a week-long visit I observed that this charismatic woman performed her daily tasks and back-breaking pottery chores with seeming ease and constant joy.' "I love my work" she said "which is why some other potters are jealous of me." 'Today, as in the past', Thompson wrote, 'ceramic production is closely associated with the cosmologies of human genesis in north-eastern Tanzania. Pottery often serves as a metaphor for the womb, the vessel from which life emergeswith the help of traditional healers, sacred ceramic vessels can embody ancestor spirits or harness their transformative powers' *Thank you Elsbeth Court for sending this item - Editor.*

The **UGANDA MONITOR** (May 25) reported that a \$200 million 60-80 megawatt hydro electric power station is to be constructed at the Rusoma Falls on the Kagera River to supply electricity to Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. Design of the project is being financed with African Development Bank and World Bank finance and construction work is expected to finish in 2011. The power line will provide electricity as far as Biharamulo. The project will be carried out under the 'Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP)' a subsidiary project of the 'Nile Basin Initiative'.

'Last week, I was touring northern Tanzania when we passed the small town of Karatu and suddenly came upon an open field splashed with colour so bright and varied it looked from afar as if someone had painted a 30-colour rainbow on the landscape'. So wrote Thomas Friedman in the **HERALD TRIBUNE** (April 23). He went on: 'As we got closer I discovered that it was Karatu's huge clothing market. Merchants had laid out blankets piled with multicoloured shirts, pants and dresses and were hawking their goods.... Scenes like this remind you that Africa is neither all tragedy nor all renaissance. It is a diverse continent struggling to find its way in the global economy which has both of these extremes but is much more in a middle place that looks like that field in Karatu: a wild, unregulated, informal, individual brand of capitalism which we need to channel into formal companies that can grow, even with corrupt governments. Africa needs many things, but most all it needs capitalists who can start and run legal companies even



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A good example of what happens when you combine patient capital, talent and innovation is the Nairobi company Advanced Bio-extracts, headed by Patrick Henfrey, which is cultivating the green leafy plant *Artemisia* - a botanical extract that is the key ingredient in a new generation of low-cost, effective malaria treatments commonly known as 'Artemisinin-based combination therapies'. The factory is not only processing the feedstock for the drug but has also contracted with 7,000 small farmers, including many Tanzanians, to grow *Artemisia* - a crop that gives them four times the financial yield of maize.... *Thank you Doreen Woodford for sending this information - Editor.*

As part of the commemoration of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade 200 years ago, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London put on an exhibition, under the title 'Uncomfortable Truths.' Amongst a group of specially commissioned 'interventions,' Zanzibar-born Lubaina Himid's contribution 'Naming the money' consisted of life-sized cut-out paintings of slave servants. The exhibits were sometimes propped up behind the barrier ropes of the displays, sometimes in the corner of a gallery so that only the truly vigilant would notice them. Reporting on the exhibition Thomas Sutcliffe in the **INDEPENDENT** was highly critical of this arrangement. 'Truths' he wrote, 'should not have been dispersed throughout the corridors to lurk in corners. The exhibition should have been a blockbuster.' *Thank you Elsbeth Court for this - Editor.*

In a highly critical front page article followed by comment, the communist paper, the **MORNING STAR** (17th April), quoted World Development Movement Head of Campaigns Murray Benham on the subject of the controversial \$102 million, ten-year contract between the British company Biwater and the Tanzanian Government, aimed at improving Dar es Salaam's water supply. The agreement was cancelled by the Government two years after it began on the basis that the company had failed to make even half the investment agreed and was not meeting its targets. (*See earlier issues of TA*). Biwater is suing.

"Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, it is the Tanzanian people who will be the losers" Benham said. "There is no justification for claiming millions from a country that is among the 20 poorest in the world.... On its comment page the paper said that the Tanzanian gov-

ernment did not seek this failed privatisation. It was thrust upon the country by the IMF and imposed as a requirement of a structural adjustment programme and as a condition of debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative. Biwater had rejected a request by the Tanzanian government that the case be heard in public and had also opposed the tribunal taking place on African soil....” *Thank you Jerry Jones for sending this item - Editor.*

Fresh from promoting his latest film, the actor Bill Nighy travelled to Tanzania to see how the G8 could help some of the world’s poorest people. He had only been to Africa only once before - to Kenya for a film called ‘The Constant Gardener’. In an article in the **INDEPENDENT** (June 5) he described his visits to a number of Oxfam projects in Ngorongoro district. He expressed his suspicion of people who say that there is a lot of corruption. They say that people in the developing world have to learn to look after themselves which I agree with. But, he continued “I also believe that we need to provide aid from the international community so that they can”. In one village the people were asked what the day would have looked like if Oxfam had not been involved in their lives. They all said they would be dead. The villagers showed him a ‘grain bank.’ “It might not sound much to us but it’s radical to them because it has freed them from what used to be a 10- day walk for one bag of maize..... Moving on to a village called Malambo, we were again met with great charm and generosity. The primary school here is a success story as a result of what has been happening with aid and debt relief. Free primary education was introduced in Tanzania in 2001 which is fantastic in many ways. But class sizes have exploded (an average of 100 pupils per class) and while aid helped build further classrooms there is still much more to be done. It’s a boarding school because the distances are so great between homesteads and school - sometimes a three-hour walk each way.”

Nighy met a women’s group and saw their bead jewellery business. “This was an extremely satisfying place” he said. “Their jewellery has been selling well - 60,000 pieces - the majority in white-bead ‘Make Poverty History’ bracelets - giving a sense of symmetry. It has revolutionised their lives..... it was marvellous to see how much dignity this whole enterprise had given them. Now they have money to spend. Some have constructed secure homes, others have bought clothes, goats

or been able to provide their children with that all important secondary education.....”

His journey convinced Nighy of the need for the G8 to stick to the promises of Gleneagles. “Aid does work. It gets through and it does make an incredible difference. We could actually save a generation. We haven’t got round to it yet but hope that Gleneagles will. There is absolutely no reason on God’s earth that they can’t solve this problem and I just hope that it can go to the top of their agenda so that one day no one will have this conversation again.” (*Thank you Keith Lye for sending this abbreviated version of the Independent article*).

MISCELLANY

A series of some 10 earth tremors including one estimated at 5.9 on the Richter scale hit northern Tanzania between July 12 and 18. They were close to the Ol Doinyo Lengai mountain, an active volcano on the floor of the Rift Valley. The last major eruption was in 1966. No major damage was reported, but several of the tremors caused panic in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, when buildings shook violently. Workers were evacuated from several high-rise buildings in Nairobi as uncertainty spread. The tremors also affected Arusha where the building housing the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda was evacuated on 17 July - IRIN.

Former US President Bill Clinton has launched a pilot scheme on the use of the highly effective Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies (ACT) against malaria for 450,000 initially in two districts of Maswa and Kongwa. The program is to be implemented jointly by Tanzania and the Clinton Foundation to ensure that the medicine is also available 95 percent cheaper. - Guardian.

British High Commissioner Philip Parham was quoted in *Majira* as saying that it was the Tanzania government that was responsible for the pensions of Second World War veterans. Talking at a wreath laying ceremony at the Askari Monument in the city centre, he said that Her

Majesty's Government continued to give assistance to Tanzania - this year the amount of general budget support being TShs 265 billion. "Government is free to utilise the money in any way it sees fit, including paying the war veterans their pensions." A former King's African Rifle's officer, David Nickol (87) said further assistance is given annually by the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Servicemen's Legion (RCESL).

A cricket team from Britain was due to arrive in Zanzibar in September to play several friendly matches, according to Deputy British High Commissioner, Tony Brennan. He said the UK had already given assistance in money and equipment for sports. He said the British cricketers would also look into the possibility of preparing cricket pitches.

On April 26 President Kikwete pardoned some 4,000 prisoners as part of celebrations to mark the 43rd anniversary of the Union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Prisoners pardoned included those who had served at least a quarter of their jail terms; had been jailed at the President's pleasure; had been in prison for not less than 10 years; or were suffering from HIV/Aids, tuberculosis or cancer. Pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers and people with physical or mental disabilities were also freed.

Environmental activists have been protesting against government plans to re-introduce Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) in the fight against malaria. Tanzania has declared its intention to re-introduce DDT as a solution to malaria control.

Meanwhile, in Zanzibar, where DDT use is not allowed, health practitioners have pointed to their success in cutting malaria numbers. "We have few or no cases in many hospitals or clinics in Zanzibar. The big drop has prompted us to reduce malaria therapy stocks by donating to our friends on the mainland where malaria is still a big problem," the Zanzibar Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Sultan Mugheiry, said. Mugheiry attributed the islands' success to increased awareness in seeking early treatment, accurate diagnosis and combination therapy, and the ongoing campaign to use insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS). "Since September 2005 we have distributed more than 300,000 treated mosquito nets to mainly pregnant mothers and children below five years of age. Our recent estimate shows that 82 percent of Zanzibar children below the age of five, and 62

percent of nurturing or pregnant mothers, sleep under nets,” Mugheiry said. Ninety percent of residential homes, he added, had been sprayed with chemicals against mosquitoes, and the ministry has started to spray larvae sites.

Vunjo MP Aloyce Kimaro said Tanzanian porters and guides, who routinely assist tourists in climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, receive peanuts despite the huge amount of foreign exchange generated in the process. In 2004, 2005 and 2006 expeditions on the mountain earned the country about TShs 10bn, TShs 14.2bn, and TShs 14bn, respectively, but very little went to these poor youths, he said.

OBITUARIES

The death of **Amina Chifupa** on 26th June 2007 caused a large outpouring of grief in the press and among ordinary Tanzanians. Aged only 26 and a Special Seats MP representing the ruling CCM’s youth wing, *Umoja wa Vijana*, Amina was something of a celebrity and her colourful life had been closely followed in the media.

Amina died some days after being admitted to the Lugalo Military Hospital in Dar es Salaam from what was described as complications from diabetes and malaria, although some speculation surrounded the exact cause of her death.

Thousands of people from all walks of life gathered at the last rites ceremony in Dar es Salaam, including veteran politician Mzee Rashid Mfaume Kawawa, the Chief Sheikh, Mufti Shaaban Simba, as well as musicians and media celebrities.

President Jakaya Kikwete described Amina as a fearless girl who staunchly stood for the truth. ‘Many of us will remember Amina for her contribution to debate in Parliament and elsewhere in society, notably among the youth. She was strong, creative and always ready to stand for the welfare of the youth and the nation at large’

In an unprecedented move, the National Assembly was adjourned for the whole day and the Speaker announced that he would be leading a delegation of more than 30 MPs from Dodoma to Dar es Salaam for the last rites, and later to the burial at Amina’s mother’s home village of



The death of Amina Chifupa received blanket coverage in the media - Photo Issa Michuzi

Lupemba Village, Njombe District in Iringa Region

In her remarks, Special Seats Representative Zahara Ali Hamad (CUF) said the death had robbed Tanzania of a fully dedicated leader who during her short tenure in the public service did a lot for the nation.

‘Most of the legislators fear to speak the truth, particularly when it comes to drug abuse and trafficking, but Amina feared nobody. The government should honour her by making sure that it fights drug trafficking even more vigorously’ he noted.

Amina was born on May 20, 1981 and attended primary school in Mwanza. She completed her schooling in Dar-es-Salaam in 2001.

Soon after that, she worked with the Dar es Salaam-based Radio Clouds FM as a broadcaster. She held the post until she ventured into politics in 2005 through the CCM youth wing.

REVIEWS

Edited by John Cooper-Poole

Our reviews pages have often featured books distributed by African Books Collective [ABC]. This is an organisation of 114 independent and autonomous African publishers from 18 countries. It is non-profit making, commercially self-sufficient, and receives support from funding agencies for development of publishing capacity in Africa. ABC stocks largely English language titles in 56 subject disciplines. Some 150 new titles are added each year. There is an emphasis on scholarly and academic books, literature, and general culture titles. There are a small number of children's titles in Swahili, and some titles in French. If you would like to receive monthly new title email announcements from ABC please send an email to Justin Cox – coxju@msu.edu.

BANAGI HILL, A GAME WARDENS'S AFRICA. John Blower. Librario Publishing Ltd. ISBN 1-904440-35-5. pp 303. Can be ordered at www.librario.com or from Brough House, Milton Brodie, Kinloss, Moray IV36 2UA. Tel. 01343 850617. £11.99.

This book is a good read. It is a saga of one man's life and work in the "old" Africa of the 1950's and 60's. As well as bringing back many nostalgic memories to those who were John's contemporaries, it will also appeal to others who prefer their adventures second-hand. I knew John and the Serengeti back in 1953-4 when I was District Officer Musoma in which district Banagi lay, and I remember many of the places and people he mentions. I find it interesting that though the book is entitled Banagi Hill, his experiences in this area occupy only seventy pages of the book and the author only spent four years there. But it was a wonderful area and I for one understand his evident love of the place. If he were to go back there today, he might be disappointed, for there is now a luxury tourist resort nearby at Seronera, and the area swarms with tourists.

Before Banagi Hill and the Serengeti the book describes the author's earlier experiences as a Conservator of Forests in the then Southern Province of Tanganyika, and his long safaris by boat, truck, and on foot there. After leaving Banagi, where he was Game Ranger, he transferred temporarily to Kenya and took part in anti-MauMau operations in the forests of the Aberdares. From there he moved to Uganda where he was Game Warden in the south west of that country based on Mbarara, and then in Karamoja in the north-east. Subsequently he became Chief Game Warden of Uganda. The descriptions in the book of the African wilderness and the teeming wildlife of those days is

excellent and moving as are the pen portraits of the African people with whom he worked.

Later the author became a UN expert and spent several years in Ethiopia, South Asia, and the Sudan, advising on the establishment of Game Reserves and National Parks in those places, but there is little in the book about his experiences there.

The author's remarks in his epilogue may not be to everyone's taste, but it should be remembered that he and many others like him gave the better part of their lives to service in Africa, and their opinions are worthy of respect if not agreement.

John Cooke

The same publisher has recently re-issued **THE SHAMBA RAIDERS** by Bruce Kinloch. ISBN 1 904440 37 1. P/B 409 pages. £14.99.

First published in 1972, it has been updated with a new chapter "Afterwords" which assesses the state of game preservation since independence and its current outlook. Kinloch joined the Uganda Game and Fisheries Department in 1949 as Assistant to the Chief Game Warden whom he shortly succeeded. In 1960 he became Chief Game Warden of Tanganyika where he reorganized and enlarged the Department. A major achievement was the creation of the College of African Wildlife Management. This is another very readable account, and the two complement each other very well. The Shamba Raiders has the added advantage of a good index, which Banagi Hill lacks. Both books are well illustrated with photographs and attractive line drawings.

KILIMANJARO – Mountain, Memory, Modernity. Editors: François Bart, Milline Jethro Mbonile, François Devenne © Mkuki na Nyota Publishers Ltd, Dar es Salaam, 2006. ISBN 9978 417 99 X. pp317 + ills. Distributed by African Books Collective. Originally published as: *Kilimandjaro, montagne, mémoire, modernité* Pessac, France, 2003

This is a wide ranging, multi author work of 18 chapters (14 translated from French), closely printed on 300 pages. It is a very detailed book – the result of 6 years of research, long walks through the region and with much analysis of the potential impact of glacier disappearance which some predict by 2020. Although mainly a geographical work there are many chapters on related domains. The manuscript is supported by clear graphics: 45 figures, 20 tables,

16 maps and 41 photos – 18 as high quality colour plates. However, the grammar is often complex and there is a lot of jargon: for example, what does the following actually mean in relation to plant cover? *Observable continua can be modified to diverse degrees by ecological changes of various intensities known to affect rhythms.*

The heart of the book is not just about the dominant, snowy peak, but covers the entire mountain range. It is described as effectively acting as a ‘water tower’ for a vast area of forest, plain, and densely populated farm land. The mountain was ‘discovered’ during a search for the source of the Nile, when banana groves were the backbone of agriculture. The history of development from the mid 19th century is described, starting with missionary activity that was soon followed by German, Greek and British colonisers. There is a description of coffee development in the 20th century, which had such an important economic impact on the region, but latterly has declined in profitability and is adversely affecting the mountain and causing yet further changes.

The geology, geography and soils are covered in detail to illustrate their impact on the natural plant cover, particularly in relation to water supply and thus to agricultural systems. Many of these systems have been in place for several centuries but are now suffering from water competition and over use of irrigation. The Kilimanjaro ecosystem has supported a significant human population for a long time but a dramatic increase in population has largely occurred only in the last 100 years. Competition for irrigation water is anticipated to increase if climate change predictions come true and the ‘water tower’ becomes less reliable. The mountain system may even dry out for parts of the year: meteorological records from Lyamungu indicate that average daily temperatures have increased by 3°C in 30 years.

This book is essentially technical and will be a very valuable resource for specialists in many disciplines. It is a credit to the authors and editors who have contributed much time, effort and expertise. The chapter on “*The Mountain of Waters – the Furrows are Running Dry*” provided a fascinating analysis of the traditional Chagga systems which have irrevocably changed (for the worse) in the past 40 years. After independence in 1961 there was a scramble for land, loss of forest cover and increased soil erosion, all of which combined to increase flash floods, reduce infiltration and cause some of the canal systems to dry out for long parts of the year. Therefore the future for many farmers in the region seems uncertain.

Dr. Jim Watson

TIP AND RUN, The Untold Tragedy of the Great War in Africa. Edward Paice. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 2007. 488 pages. ISBN 978-0-297-84709-0. £25.00.

It has to be said at the outset that this is a marvellous book, seemingly thoroughly researched by this Cambridge history scholar and produced with admirable taste and quality. Paice's previous work of substance was *Lost Lion of Empire*, the tale of Ewart "Cape-to-Cairo" Grogan, who has a walk-on part in this masterpiece.

Though the book covers operations and events throughout the continent, the fact remains that most of the action takes place in present-day Tanzania, and hence its value and relevance to the readers of this journal are clear. There is much in the book on affairs of the time in German South-West Africa (Namibia) and Portuguese East Africa (Mozambique), though understandably less on Togo due to its capture within a month of the start of the war. There is disappointingly little on Cameroon even though its capitulation came just after that of German South-West Africa.

Paice has divided his book into five Parts, one for each of the calendar years 1914 through 1918, and he has skillfully interwoven his story between and within each. There are also his excellent Introduction, *Dramatis Personae* (which alone runs to seven pages) and Epilogue which add depth and meaning to the mainstream history. We re-visit three particularly familiar portions of the whole: the destruction of HMS *Pegasus*; the *Konigsberg* pursuit and sinking; and the adventure, decided upon and implemented by the British, of bringing those famous twins, Mimi and Toutou, all the way from Europe, across southern Africa to Lake Tanganyika. We are introduced to a wonderful array of personalities, some British, some German, many from other nationalities, who all play their role in the story. A great strength of the book is its perspective, one instance being our knowledge of the German leader, Gen Paul von Lettow-Vorbeck, his capabilities and achievements during the wartime years, how he was treated and regarded afterwards, and to what extent he became almost an international figure in later life. The role of the various troops from different countries, notably India and Nigeria, is well presented and the use of several illustrative maps, as well as many evocative photographs, superbly augments the text.

The sub-title of the book is critical, for Paice sets out to show the sheer extent of the tragedy in terms of human life as well as its "unknown" status. The so-called "butcher's bill" exceeded 100,000 fatalities on the British side alone,

44 *Reviews*

including African recruits – add to that the German casualties and their African recruits and the total may be close to half a million. The sheer scale of the tragedy comes across as does the fact that London hardly admitted what was taking place.

This is undoubtedly a scholarly book – indeed, in his Acknowledgements, Paice refers to it as a “project”. There is much information in the book’s eight appendices, and the text is supplemented by a large number of source notes and the like. The bibliography is outstanding.

“Here for the first time”, the publisher’s blurb runs, “is the true story” of the Great War in Africa. Maybe so across the continent, though Miller’s *Battle for the Bundu* from the mid 1970s, with its coverage of the East African theatre, should not be forgotten. In the text itself, this reviewer spotted just one spelling error (for the record, on page 236)! But the negatives are slight and do not detract at all from Edward Paice’s monumental achievement. The detail he has provided is tremendous; academia has been brought into the public domain; and the book is highly recommended.

David Kelly

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CHAMELEON AND OTHER STORIES Jane Bryce, Peepal Tree Press Ltd 2007. www.peepal tree press.com ISBN 1 84523 041 8; ISBN13: 9 781 84523 041 8 pbk. 112 pages, £7.99

In this book, there are seven short stories about the author's childhood (approximately from age three to early teens) in Tanzania, and six others about West Africa and the West Indies. I am concerned only with the Tanzanian ones, which are written mostly in the first person, her name never disclosed, and very often use of the present tense. The stories are beautifully written, charming and sensitive. What holds them together is the child's imaginative search to understand what is going on in her world. So there is an atmosphere of something beyond the everyday, intangible or spiritual, but important.

She was a 'colonial child' living with her parents and, later, younger sisters, in northern Tanzania up-country. She seems to have been left on her own quite often with Ahmed, the garden boy, and Mariamu, her ayah. They feature in the first three stories: The Prayer Rug; Chameleon; Mariamu and the Demon. Her parents are there in the background and she has a loving relationship with her mother, her father being rather a disciplinarian.

At some point, the family moved to Moshi and Rombo Avenue. There is a story describing a picnic they have at Marangu near the fast-flowing river on the slopes of Kilimanjaro. The oldest girl (the author) describes it. She goes off on her own to explore. The prose becomes quite dramatic: 'the water is so white against the black rock, she thinks of colobus monkeys with their long black hair with its flash of white, leaping through the trees.'

Finally it is time for 'the girl' to be sent to boarding school. She has to learn to live in a community with a disciplined atmosphere she has not experienced before. However, her lively personality is not wholly repressed. I think it's not surprising she found her way to become a writer. Now among other literary subjects, she teaches 'Creative Writing' for short stories at the University of the West Indies in Barbados. (*see TA edition 84 and 85 for Jane's story "The Walking Dream"*)

Christine Lawrence

TANZAN TALES. E Cory-King. Rabbit Books 2006. rabbitbooks.com ISBN 1 904500 50 1. 176pp, illus. £11.95

As part of African oral story telling tradition, centuries' old fables of myth,

superstition and legend were handed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next. The 37 tales of varying length, which make up this illustrated collection, were recounted to the author by family servants when she was living as a child in Tanganyika in the 1930's. She heard the stories so many times that she remembered them by heart and was then able to repeat them to her mother who wrote them down in German.

Years later in order that a new generation of English children might enjoy them just as she, and countless African children over many years, had, the author decided to translate and publish them in English. (This may account for the sometimes anomalous style of the prose and occasional use of a Kiswahili word such as 'tundu' whose meaning is not always apparent).

Each of these tales comes with a moral message; with good inevitably prevailing over evil, and those deserving it getting their come-uppance. An array of assorted characters in both human (kings, princes, princesses); animal (hares, hippos, turtles) and mythical (ogres, demons) forms abound. African folktales serve many roles. They are a way to transfer history and culture as well as being used as a means of teaching the values and morals of African peoples.

Although the names, situations and details of these stories change; their morals are often similar. Greed, dishonesty and spitefulness are punished; while generosity, respect and cleverness are rewarded. These tales, as might be expected considering their origin, are most likely to be most appreciated by a young audience when read out loud. Unlike European children's bedtime stories they do not necessarily end happily ever after. Usually they aim to teach a lesson, with that lesson being learnt the hard way.

Pru Watts- Russell

READERS LETTERS

THE MEETING OF THE PRIMATES

I'm afraid your splendid bulletin did not quite come up to scratch this time in its report of the meeting of Primates in Dar es Salaam. Its report on the meeting was inaccurate and the account of the statement by Bishop Mhogolo completely missed his main points.

Let me go through the errors of the article in chronological rather than logical order:

Page 4. Libby Purves' description of the illiberal wing of the Church as 'genitally-fixated' is laughable when read in the light of the vast amount of under-age sex and pregnancies and child pornography which has gripped the 'liberal society' of the U.K. Which culture is the genitally-fixated' one, I ask you!

Page 5. Bishop Mhogolo's chief points, missed by your correspondent, were (1) the Anglican communion washes its dirty linen in public yet fails to consult with its fellow-Christians, Lutherans, Methodists, Roman Catholics about an issue with which every one of them is struggling; (2) meetings of bishops, whether the primates of the Anglican Communion or the Bishops of Tanzania, have no authority to decide anything in the field of doctrine or practice, except after full debate in Synod including clergy and laity; (3) this issue belongs not to the essence of the Christian Gospel but to the ethical sphere about which different cultures hold different perspectives and about which there can be both lively controversy and differences of opinion.

Page 6. Bishop Mhogolo knows very well how much this issue is an American one as he was an invited guest at the General Convention of ECUSA, and saw how this tiny Anglican Church (compared with the huge number of Anglicans in Africa) is catastrophically divided among itself. The Bishop is far more abreast of the cultures both of the North and of the South than most of his counterparts from the South, and recognizes that this is more a cultural quarrel than a theological one. (A minor point at the top of page 6 is that the terms 'mass' and 'benediction' are not in normal use in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and suggest that the report was not written by anyone in touch with the situation.)

Page 7. The Global South primates as a body did not boycott the Eucharist. Seven of them did so, of whom the Archbishop of Tanzania was not one.

Nevertheless I remain a fan of your magazine and often recommend it.

Roger Bowen

Letters of this kind are more than welcome. The editor and our many contributors deserve occasionally to receive some response to what they have written – critical or otherwise. Unfortunately, the Readers Letters section of TA has practically died for lack of response to anything that has been written recently.

This letter is the kind of informed comment which can only add value to the contents of this journal by stimulating debate. I would like to appeal yet again to readers to go to their computers for five minutes and try to compose a paragraph or two about what has been written.

Thank you for pointing out errors in the article about the meeting of the Primates. It is very helpful to receive comments from people who know what they are talking about as we are very dependent on information provided – many thanks to the many readers who write sending relevant information – or on what we can discover through the internet and through personal contacts – Editor.

EVERLASTING SOLUTION NEEDED IN ZANZIBAR

Political confrontation in any country serves no good purpose other than derailing the development process. The earlier any sign of such conflict is taken care of the better. We Tanzanians therefore are very interested in the ongoing talks between the CCM and CUF aimed at ending the political impasse in Zanzibar. Zanzibar has had its share of political bickering, which has been largely attributed to discontent over poll results from the general elections of 1995, 2000 and 2005. Some political analysts point to the isles' history, that has cut across centuries of migration and power struggles, as providing some root to present day disharmony. Whether right or not, all that is now history. It is time to bury the hatchet. In fact it should have been buried a long time ago.

It's now time to think about the future. We have got our development goals to achieve, a task which requires a composed nation and not a divided nation.

We know that there have been two attempts before to end the political impasse in Zanzibar. The first one, which was brokered by the Commonwealth, had its origin in the 1995 general elections, while the second one, which was a good example of the ability of Tanzania to solve its own problems, originated from the 2000 elections in Zanzibar. It is a pity therefore that these two attempts at reconciliation, although they helped to set up a foundation for political harmony in Zanzibar, did not fully deliver the required goods.

I believe, where there is a will, there should always be a way. Let the

will to end the impasse prevail. God bless Tanzania

Hildebrand Shayo
shayoh@lsbu.ac.uk

BIO-PIRACY

I would like to praise Dr. Hildebrand Shayo's article 'Stop bio piracy'. *Tanzanian Affairs* brought to light long standing issues that for some reasons have been ignored. The issue raised in the Tanzanian Parliament by CCM special seat MP Fatma Mikidadi as reported by Ramadhan Mbwaduke in *Nipashe* on August 7, calling for the return of the biggest reptile bones taken from Tandaguru-Lindi Tanzania in 1906 by a team from the 'Museum fur Naturkunde Berlin' is of interest. Although at some point it was argued in the Parliamentary Session in 2000 that Tanzania wasn't ready to preserve the remains but, even so, his matter causes a lot of concern. It is well known that these bones in Berlin have attracted a significant number of tourists to Germany and that this has brought in a significant amount of money. But has the local community from Tandaguru received any share of the earnings?

I am of the view that Tanzania needs to be strong in demanding a reasonable share of such earnings. Dr. Shayo's concern has provided a point of reference to what poor counties and Tanzania in particular have been deprived of.

As one who knows very little about what has been taken from Tanzania from plants, animals and minerals, etc and the sharing of the benefits, I found this topic to be very useful.

The entire *Tanzania Affairs* is well-written, insightful and balanced and a pleasure to read. I recommend it as a fine addition to the Tanzania National Assembly library headquarters.

Elizabeth Maruma, Nairobi, Kenya

I would like to congratulate Dr. Hildebrand Shayo for his article in the last issue 'Stop bio piracy'. *Tanzanian Affairs* has brought to light a long standing issue that has been overlooked by major corporations owned by western companies. Responsible authorities in Tanzania need to

look seriously into such issues and if possible review the process under which Bio-resources are being exploited by Western owned companies' and learn lessons for the future. Can responsible companies provide evidence of what they have done to local people where they have taken these resources?

Shayo's article did not list all the materials being taken. I believe there are more products which have been developed and patented products worth hundreds of millions of pounds for example: from the trailing plant beloved of gardeners across Europe to a natural cure for impotence and a microbe used in fading designer jeans.

I think there is a need to identify what form of benefit sharing has been offered by the companies. This is a new form of colonial looting in a clever way.

I think there is a total disregard and disrespect for a poor country's resources. We are in a world where companies are used to taking whatever they want from wherever and thinking they are doing it for the good of mankind!

William Mrema, Marangu, Moshi

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Tanzanian Affairs is considering uploading the news stories, articles and reviews onto a website at

www.tzaffairs.org

The intention would not be to replace the printed pamphlet format, but rather to create an online resource which is accessible to a wider audience.

If any contributors are not happy with their material appearing on the web, then please contact us at editor@tzaffairs.org Email addresses of contributors will not be included in the online version to protect them from possible spam.

Over time, the hope is to upload many of the past issues to create a searchable archive which could be of use to historians and others. Please comment and let us know if you think this is worthwhile.

Jacob Knight

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Faye Cran's late husband Derick was the General Manager of General Tyres in Arusha for many years. Faye herself has been involved actively in many projects from water, malaria, helping leprosy victims, to education. Her husband always said that when you are writing about yourself you should just cut it short. It should be like a mini skirt - long enough to cover the essentials but short enough to be interesting!

David Kelly has been involved with East African business for much of the last 33 years. He is currently a director of a Dar es Salaam based company and is a book dealer with Africa as one of his speciality areas. Other interests include cricket and bird-watching, both with an East African content.

Joseph Sabas is a business student at the London School of Management. He has also worked with the Tanzania National Insurance Corporation.

Christine Lawrence was Bursar of Mahiwa Farm School from 1965 to 1971.

Dr Jim Watson spent 5 years in agricultural research in Tanzania in the 1960's then 11 years in Swaziland working mainly on irrigated crops. He has been a consultant in agricultural development in Africa and Asia for the past 25 years.

Pru Watts-Russell was British Council Books & Libraries Officer in Tanzania from 1982 to 1987.

Dr Hildebrand Shayo is a policy research economist in London. He conducted research on natural resources management particularly timber for construction between 1997 and 2004 in Tanzania.

John Sankey was British High Commissioner in Tanzania from 1982 to 1985.

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

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