

Tanzanian Affairs

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SUSPECTS FINALLY ARRESTED

For months the people of Tanzania have been waiting to see whether any of the people exposed in the many corruption investigations haunting Tanzania (TA Nos 90 and 91) would be punished for their alleged misdeeds.

Eventually, by the end of November 2008, some 25 top business people and two senior former cabinet ministers had been arrested and it was believed that others might follow.

Public opinion

After four months had passed with no sign of further action against the suspects, people all over the country, actively supported by a free and critical press, became impatient.



Kikwete addresses the crowds in Mbeya (photo Issah Michuzi)

The Swahili press reported that when President Kikwete visited Mbeya region in October his entourage was mobbed and stoned by a crowd wanting him to take stern steps over the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) External Payments Account (EPA) scandal (see TA No 91). Thousands of people shouted slogans complaining that, while billions were being pocketed by a few culprits, people were suffering from severe economic

cover photo: Freedom Mbowe (leader of CHADEMA) speaking at the Tarime by-elections (photo courtesy Mussa Juma <http://haki-hakingowi.blogspot.com>)

hardships. Some were heard urging the President to step down if he couldn't do anything about it. The crowd became more frenzied as the President stepped out of his car to talk to them. In the end he gave up as security and police tried in vain to jostle with the crowd. As the entourage drew away people jeered and booed the officials and journalists were told that they were traveling with corrupt leaders. Similar incidents occurred twice when Kikwete was driving to Kiwira, though the crowds were smaller.

The State House later denied that it was the presidential motorcade that was pelted with stones, noting that it was the second motorcade that followed behind and that is why the "President did not notice the incident" - *Habari Leo*.

Then the ruling Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party lost an important parliamentary by-election. Foreign donors, who are providing a major part of the country's recurrent budget, piled on the pressure and some threatened to withhold aid unless action was taken against corruption.

There was some surprise when in the EPA case President Kikwete announced that those implicated had until the end of October 2008 to repay the money they were alleged to have taken illegally or they would face further action. The implication was that if they did return the money they would not be punished.

The sums involved totaled \$230 million and involved 22 different companies (TA No 90).

A trap

On November 28 the Guardian published a story claiming that President Kikwete's strategy had been carefully planned for nine months. 'He had not been willing to sacrifice his popularity and credibility for the protection of a cadre of powerful but crooked businessmen'. The article went on to say that the President's low profile had all been part of a plan to trap the key suspects so as to ensure that they stayed in the country and returned the money. The President later revealed that TShs 69 billion out of TShs 90 billion or 76.7% stolen from the EPA account had been recovered. Just after the release of the Ernst & Young auditing report which had revealed what had been going on, there had been panic among key suspects and some of them were said to have been planning to destroy evidence or escape to unknown destinations.

4 Suspects finally Arrested

A senior official was reported to have said “We had to do something to calm the situation and restore confidence.”

The investigators were also wary of repeating any of the mistakes that led to Sailesh Vithlani, the key suspect in the controversial BAE Radar deal, fleeing the country and avoiding prosecution by staying in Switzerland. Just hours after Kikwete’s speech some suspects celebrated with champagne, according to reliable sources.

The arrests

Then suddenly in the EPA case, a series of arrests were made and by November 15th over 20 people had been taken in on numerous different charges of conspiracy, fraud, forgery, theft and/or obtaining credit under false pretences between 2003 and 2006. They included four Central Bank senior officials (two of the female suspects wept bitterly as they were brought to the courtroom) but most were prominent businessmen. The accused pleaded not guilty and the prosecution told the court that investigations were still incomplete. Many suspects were unable initially to meet the bail conditions and were remanded in prison until later in November but most were eventually given bail - Guardian.

Former senior cabinet ministers arrested



Daniel Yona and Basil Mramba (photo Issah Michuzi - <http://issamichuzi.blogspot.com>)

On November 24 there was a further dramatic development when two former senior cabinet ministers appeared before the Kisumu Resident Magistrate’s Court in Nairobi charged with abuse of office and occasioning the loss of over TShs 11billion to the government. They both denied the charges and were remanded in custody for failure to meet bail conditions.

Former Finance Minister Basil Mramba and former Minister for Minerals and

Energy Daniel Yona faced a total of 13 counts. They pleaded “not guilty”. Members of the public booed them as they were being taken to Keko Remand Prison.

The charges were not related to the EPA scandal as was previously assumed by many. Both accused faced jointly five charges of abuse of office and one count of occasioning loss to the government. Mramba alone faced eight similar counts.

The prosecution alleged that between August 2002 and May 28, 2005, the duo were said to have arbitrarily procured M/S Alex Stewart (Assayers) UK and its subsidiary company, M/S Alex Stewart (Assayers) Government Business Corporation to sign and execute gold production assaying agreements in Tanzania in contravention of the Public Procurement Act and Mining Act, respectively. The prosecution alleged that the former ministers left the Alex Stewart Government Business Corporation to sign an addendum extending a gold production assaying agreement for two years from June 14, 2005 to June 23, 2007 in contravention of the relevant legislation. It was alleged further that the duo invited Dr. Enrique Sugura of the company to formalise the two years extension before the Government Negotiation Team was convened to work on the matter. The accused also abstained from attending discussions on the mining assayer’s fees issue and submitting the agreement to the Attorney General for vetting as had been recommended. The result was said to have been an extension of a gold production assaying agreement for two years.

The prosecution alleged that there had also been unjustified tax exemption in favour of M/S Alex Stewart thereby occasioning loss to the government to the tune of TShs 11,752,350,148.

Protracted cases

The preliminary hearing of cases in the EPA scandal began on November 20 and, according to the Guardian’s report, covered debt collection, a company in India, a fictitious company director and some uncertainty about whether two culprits with the same name were related. Because of space constraints TA is only likely to be able to cover the briefest details of these cases in the coming months. The Inspector General of Police warned that the cases were going to be very protracted.

Reactions

Reactions to these sensational developments came from all sides.

“This is a good start....the new spirit should go beyond the EPA scandal” said Secretary General of the opposition CHADEMA party Dr Wilbroad Slaa. He added however that if the owners of one of a line-up of companies linked to the scam - Kagoda Agricultural Limited - which was alleged to have taken TShs 40 billion - were not taken to court he would name them. He told reporters that it was surprising how government officers avoided naming them although they were ‘known.’

Chairman of the opposition CUF party, Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba, also urged the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) PP to stop being secretive and evasive about Kagoda and drag them to court – *Majira*.

Confederation of Tanzania Industries Chairman Reginald Mengi applauded President Kikwete’s handling of the matter.

However, he also called on the DPP to give the public full details about Kagoda as they were anxious to know what Kagoda was.

The government owned Daily News wrote: ‘At last persons involved in one way or another in siphoning money out of the EPA have been brought to justice, which is one-up for the government. Therefore, if there is any ‘doubting Thomas’ out there who had doubts on the ability of the government to effectively deal with its most pressing challenges, the court appearance of the suspects would prove them wrong.... But patience is always finally rewarded. After all, you cannot bring people before the law overnight before exhausting all the necessary investigations.... It was, therefore, not an easy job to get to the core of the financial chain and haul out suspects.... At times, the police had to operate beyond the country’s borders to check whether some of the loot was stashed in some foreign accounts. Let all agree that the speed at which the government has handled this matter is commendable. At long last, the government has proved its critics wrong by acting – and very decisively – on the matter’.

Some members of the Tanganyika Law Society praised the DPP for the way he speedily and efficiently handled the EPA prosecution. But the advocates differed on the way the accused were brought to court and charged. Talking anonymously, they pointed out that the charges were

varied with different dates, amounts and nature. As such the accused should have been treated individually instead of being charged in the group trial that was taking place.

Special treatment?



Jeetu Patel (far right) and other defendants appear in court (Issah Michuzi)

Nipashe reported that the suspects were said to be being given special treatment at Keko prison. They were being kept in VIP rooms, away from ordinary prisoners who lived under squalid conditions. But a prisons spokesman denied this. He said the suspects were separated for their personal security, since the EPA was a high profile case that had generated lots of public resentment.

The Sunday Observer gave more details under the heading: 'How they spend their days inside the prison.' Extracts: 'One relative of the imprisoned tycoon Jeetu Patel said that the boss didn't believe what was happening and felt that he had been betrayed by his allies in the government. But he has now surrendered his fate to the Almighty God..... According to a week-long survey conducted by The Guardian on Sunday, despite being locked behind bars, some suspects were still managing their businesses from the prison.... The prison's parking yard is full of posh cars as relatives and friends gathers here to visit the

suspects.

Inside prison however, some of them are enjoying a relatively good lifestyle compared to their fellow inmates, one of the aspects of which is the allowance for accessing food from outside, while ordinary inmates scramble for the little, unpalatable official variety. Some suspects are confined to sickbays to protect them from attacks by ordinary inmates.... in future all visitors must secure special permission from the Prisons Department Headquarters as the suspects hold financial power which could easily corrupt low paid staff.

Overheard during the court case a joke to the effect that: "The police have taken theirs, it is now the turn of the judiciary to take theirs."

Need for stability

The Managing Director of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), Edward Hosea said that prosecuting all the corrupt elements in the country might lead to chaos. He told a university seminar: "To take them all to task is to paralyse the whole country. We have got to have some stability. Fighting grand corruption needs political will and the right strategy. These people have financial clout which they can use to disorient us."

Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda told parliament that moves against corruption needed to be carefully handled because the persons involved were powerful – *Mtanzania*.

OTHER CORRUPTION CASES

The Richmond Saga

The Richmond saga continues. On June 23, 2006 Richmond Development Company signed a contract with TANESCO to generate 100 megawatts of electricity when the country was experiencing acute power shortages. Several months later, some legislators said that Richmond lacked experience, expertise and was financially incapacitated (For details see several previous issues of TA) but there had been little progress in bringing to justice the many people involved. The House of Assembly's Select Committee had produced an impressive report containing 23 recommendations which had resulted in the resignation of the then Prime Minister and Energy Minister. MP's waited to see what other actions the

government would take.

Finally in early August, Prime Minister Pinda announced each of the recommendations in parliament. He said that the Director General of the Prevention of corruption bureau (PCCB), the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Finance and Energy and Minerals and several technical advisers in government and TANESCO plus the members of the government negotiating team had been served with letters to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them for their role in the controversial contract.

Pinda said that Attorney General Johnson Mwanyika had had the responsibility of advising the Minister for Energy and the government in general on the implications of the contract. His case would be determined by the State House in line with the country's constitution, as the Attorney General was the government's advisor on all legal matters.

The House of Assembly had recommended disciplinary action be taken against the AG and a State Attorney for causing the country to enter into a 'shameful contract.'

Pinda said principles of natural justice demanded that the officers be given an opportunity to give their defence before further action should be taken against them. The PM also said that as recommended by the House, all important government contracts would henceforth be kept in the special library in Parliament so that members of the parliamentary standing committees could go through them and advise accordingly.

Pinda said the government had already terminated its contract with Dowans, the firm which took over from Richmond, as of August 1, as recommended by the House and had also terminated the contract with Independent Power Tanzania Limited (IPTL) and was now reviewing contracts between TANESCO and Songas. He added that the government would table a bill in the next House session to amend the law on public procurement as recommended by the House, so as to give the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority more autonomy.

The leader of parliamentary Opposition Hamad Mohammed said the opposition was happy with the way the government had worked on the House recommendations.

Another MP said Tanzanians should remember that those in the gov-

ernment were human beings who would never enjoy seeing someone's "blood being spilled. We should exercise patience to hear what the next steps will be" - Guardian.

The BAE Radar saga

The person who is regarded as the organiser of the \$40 million deal between the UK arms supplier British Aerospace Engineering (BAE) and the Tanzanian government, Sailesh Vithlani, who allegedly received kickbacks amounting to \$12 million, apparently shared the money with at least seven high-ranking officials in the previous Tanzanian administration.

Though he has been granted immunity in the UK, the Guardian reported that he was still a wanted man in Tanzania and an arrest warrant has been given to Interpol. The paper said that Vithlani reached a deal with the UK's Serious Fraud Office, which has been investigating the BAE deal, in which he helped them to identify the others who got part of the money in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Plea bargains reached abroad are not recognised in Tanzania.

According to *Tanzania Daima* and several other Swahili newspapers, a certain Tanil Somaiya, who is said to be a partner of Vithlani, donated over TShs 400 million towards the cost of recent elections in the CCM youth league (UVCCM). The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) was said to be investigating a bonded warehouse belonging to Somaiya who also owns another company whose 22 warehouses have been shut down by the TRA.

Majira reported that investigations on the part alleged to have been taken by former Infrastructure Development Minister, Andrew Chenge (who later resigned) - see TA No 90 - were continuing in Jersey where \$ 1 million was said to have been placed by the Minister. Ms Cathy Cair, the spokesperson of the Prime Minister of Jersey promised to follow up on the matter but then, two weeks later, announced that no information could be given about Chenge. Ms Cair said: "I have communicated with the office of the Jersey Attorney General regarding how far the investigation has reached and it has become evident that for now they cannot give any statement." The AG, William Bailhache, said that he was bound to remain silent under the Investigation of Fraud (Jersey) Act 1991.

Ambassador to Italy case.

A senior public official testifying in the grand-corruption case facing former Tanzanian ambassador to Italy, Prof Ricky Mahalu, told the Dar es Salaam court that it was improper for the envoy to have purchased the embassy structure in Rome through the use of two contracts. He said before joining the Home Affairs ministry, he used to work with the ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation when he heard there were plans to purchase a building in Rome to house the embassy. He said his role was to ensure the buildings were in good condition and also keep custody of house purchase agreements. He told the court that normally the ambassador would inform the chief secretary of an intention to purchase an embassy building, and a team would be sent to survey the house, and finding it satisfactory, would report back to the chief secretary.

In the main case Mahalu and Grace Martin, an ex-counselor, are alleged to have conspired and stolen more than Euros 2m/- after forging various documents.

The court heard that the former envoy had said that the building had been bought at a cost of Euros 3 million, but during the course of the investigations, it was learnt that the building had been acquired for only Euros 1.3 million - Guardian.

Journalists win investigative reporting award

Five local journalists have won the 2008 investigative journalism awards on corruption and good governance awarded by the Media Institute of Southern Africa, Tanzania Chapter. The overall winner got TShs 2 million.

STATUS OF ZANZIBAR

To finally resolve the controversy as to the precise status of Zanzibar (TA 91) the Attorney Generals of the Union and Zanzibar have announced that, after studying both constitutions, they had decided that the Isles were an integral part of the Tanzanian state, and Zanzibar was therefore not a sovereign state.

CCM'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS

Several Swahili newspapers reported in October that during elections for leadership positions in CCM's mass organisations there had been further dissension. The party's Central Committee and National Executive Committee (NEC) rejected certain prominent candidates. Party members wanted to know why they had disqualified Musoma Rural (MP) Nimrod Mkono for the party's Parents' Wing (*Wazazi*) and a final decision was postponed. For the CCM Women's Wing a controversial candidate had stated that she wanted to withdraw from the race because of 'corruption and dirty campaigning' but was eventually allowed to stand. For the Youth Wing (UVCCM), it was decided that the chairman should come from Zanzibar and that a controversial candidate named Nape Nnauye, who had been expelled earlier as a member allegedly for uttering unproved statements against the party's senior leaders, should not be allowed to stand. But he remains a National Executive Committee (NEC) member.

CCM's Secretary General Yusuf Makamba was criticised following the by-election defeat (see below) but no action was taken – *Majira*.

Government reacts forcefully

Mwana Halisi published a story to the effect that several top CCM officials were plotting to make it difficult for President Kikwete to win the next election in 2010. The Government then asked *Mwana Halisi* to show reason why steps should not be taken against it over this conspiracy story. In the past the paper had been warned several times about its radical stories according to *Majira*.

One day after this the State House Director of Communications, Salva Rweyemamu, told the press that the story was a pack of lies aimed at tarnishing the image of Kikwete and his family (his son was mentioned in the story), while instigating hatred among the leadership. He said allegations were a figment of imagination of the newspaper aimed at boosting its sales. Meanwhile, one of the politicians named in the story filed a lawsuit against the editor of the paper, Saed Kubenea, as well as its publishers and printers.

Kubenea said he stood by his story and was prepared to meet the big-wigs in court – *Mwananchi*.

Mwana Halisi was then banned for three months by the government.

Editors from different media houses staged a peaceful demonstration to register their opposition to the ban and marched with sealed mouths, illustrating how the government was silencing the media and suppressing its freedom. Placards read: 'Mwana Halisi is banned but the corrupt leaders are still in office.' 'Who revealed the EPA, Richmond and UVCCM scandals?'



Demonstrators at the protest

But some journalists said that the protest was instigated by CHADEMA and that some locally-engaged staff from the British, Swedish and Netherlands embassies had also taken part. President of the Tanzania Journalists Association (TAJA), Hamza Kondo, said the whole episode was politically motivated. He said the story on Kikwete lacked attribution, objectivity and balance. *Mwana Halisi* was also criticised by the Media Council of Tanzania's Secretary General Kajubi Mukajanga.

Minister for Information, Culture and Sports, Capt George Mkuchika then banned the paper for three months. He said the tabloid had been publishing stories 'inciting hatred' among the government and CCM leadership and even within the president's family. The ban would serve as a 'lesson for others' - the Guardian and virtually all other newspapers.

On November 11 the CCM's NEC admitted that there had been foul

play in its internal elections and it was calling for amendment of legislation governing leadership ethics.

CCM publicity secretary John Chiligati said the fate of Nape Nnauye's appeal regarding his expulsion from the UVCCM membership lay in President Kikwete's hands. He said Nnauye had appealed to President Kikwete and the normal procedure was to submit his petition to Secretary General Yusuf Makamba, who would forward it to the NEC secretariat.

Nape said he would not want to compel the President on the issue. He said he was sure that the President would work fairly on the appeal at an opportune moment. Nape was expelled from the UVCCM apparently for revealing party secrets and alleging that UVCCM had a business partnership with a private company, which was putting up a multi-storey building in Dar es Salaam – Guardian.

BY-ELECTION SHOCK FOR CCM

It is virtually unknown for Tanzania's formidable ruling CCM party to lose a parliamentary by-election but, on October 13 it happened - in Tarime, Mara region. The by-election was caused by the death of the party's controversial MP Chacha Wangwe who died in a car crash (TA 91). The new MP Charles Mwera (CHADEMA) got 34,545 out of 64,795 votes cast at 406 balloting centers. 2,938 votes were spoilt. At least 149,919 voters had registered for the by-election and were expected to vote. CCM's candidate got 28,996 and two minor parties got 949 votes and 305 votes respectively.

In a parallel council election CHADEMA also triumphed by 4,820 votes to 3,239.

Voting was peaceful but the campaign was one of the hottest on record. The CCM sent some of its top people to campaign and spent a vast sum of money in trying to regain the seat from the opposition even though CHADEMA has only ten seats in the National Assembly and CCM has most of the remaining 222. There was sporadic violence. The leader of a small party was stoned and injured as he was addressing an election rally, a group of CHADEMA supporters were beaten up.

When CHADEMA leader Freeman Mbowe arrived in Tarime to cam-

paign he was greeted by thousands of party members and accompanied by a procession of some 200 motorbikes and cars. Three kilometres from the town he left his car and started marching with the crowd, entering the town in style as people chanted: “commander, commander”. Mbowe was in his signature khaki safari suit (*see photo on cover*). Police said that CHADEMA had ‘declared war’ on them and that the party’s supporters stoned police and smashed their vehicles, as they were dispersing an unlawful assembly – *Mwananchi* and all other Swahili newspapers.



British High Commissioner Philip Parham and ambassadors Staffan Herrstrom (Sweden) and Janeth Siddall (Canada) with the Head of the Police Special Unit, Commander Venance Tossi. The ambassadors visited Tarime during the run up to the by-election and met with the police and the constituency returning officer (photo Mussa Juma)

The new MP-designate, Charles Mwera, was born in 1959 and went to primary school in Tarime, secondary school in Ifakara and College of Business Education (CBE) in Dar es Salaam. He was then employed as a procurement officer in the Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC). He launched Save the Children of Tarime NGO whose director he now is. He was a member of the NCCR-Mageuzi Party until 2004 when he joined CHADEMA. - *Tanzania Daima*.

CONNECTIVITY FOR REMOTE SCHOOLS

In August last year I spent two weeks helping on a project delivering internet connectivity within the Bunda and Serengeti regions of Tanzania. The project, run by a Tanzanian group called ICT for Rural Development (ICT4RD), is identifying the most appropriate and sustainable technical solutions for use in delivering connectivity to rural Tanzania, so as to work out the best technical design as a model to roll out across the country.

The project is partnered with the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology, The Tanzanian Commission for Science and Technology, and the Swedish International Development Agency.

The project initially links up schools, health centres, hospitals and council offices over 150 km into the Serengeti between Bunda, Natta and Mugumu, providing Internet connectivity and Voice over IP between these locations. The next phase of the project is to attract commercial customers, who are willing to pay for the connectivity thus making it

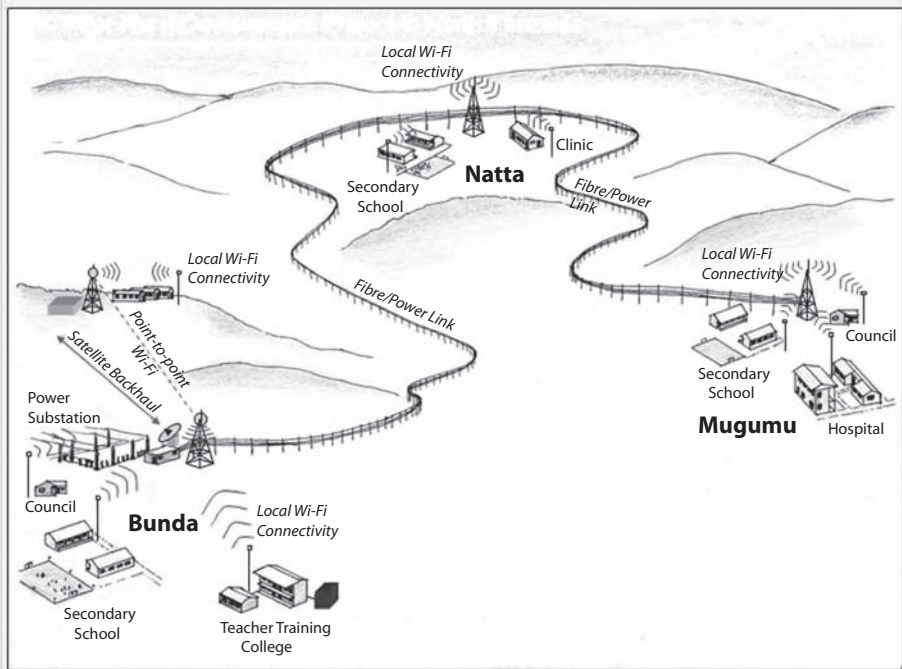


Fig 1 - Internet connection layout for the project area



Fig 2 - Wi-Fi aerial at teacher's office in Natta

economically sustainable.

The principle behind the technical design of the project is sharing a single satellite internet link between multiple users, therefore sharing the cost and making it more affordable. The cost of a satellite link is the most expensive operational cost in providing internet connectivity to remote areas. For example, Bunda Teaching Training College was paying around \$400 a month for its satellite connection, but found this too expensive, and was going to have to shut it down or ask students to fund it out of their pockets. The ICT4RD solution now provides Internet connectivity to the college at a fraction of the cost.

Figure 1 shows a layout of the project. The satellite link, and associated server equipment is housed in Bunda electricity substation. This is a good dual use of infrastructure, as the substation provides a secure and air-conditioned environment for the ICT equipment, as well as a reliable source of power. The Internet connection is transported 150 kms to Mugumu via Natta through the use of a fibre optic cable running above the electricity cables. Again this is a good dual use of infrastructure with the electricity poles being used for two purposes, and the copper shielded fibre acting as lightning protection for the electricity cables.

The internet access is delivered from Wi-Fi (Wireless network con-

nectivity) hubs located along the cable, to the schools, hospitals and council offices. Wi-Fi is a good choice as it is quick and easy to deploy, requires no cables to be run to the buildings, is readily available and low cost. Also, if focused in a point to point beam, it can transmit over long distances of several miles.

Figure 2 shows the Wi-Fi aerial located in the teachers office at Natta Secondary School. As can be seen, it is a simple technology making it easy to install and maintain.

The potential benefits the internet can bring to these locations are already being seen in the schools connected. The Headmaster in Natta secondary school advised that the teachers are able to research lessons using up to date subject matter, or teach on subjects which before they could not as they had no suitable text books. They are also looking at remote learning possibilities for teachers, allowing them to continue their professional development without having to leave Natta. This could help alleviate the issue of teachers only staying short periods at remote schools due to returning to university. Bunda Teacher Training College has seen monthly evaluation exam results improve, and better quality material prepared for lessons. The number of scholarships and placements achieved by the trainee teachers has also gone up. Further work is required to help the other schools, and hospitals make use of the computers and internet, but once a few are using it productively, it should help spread the benefits. The advantage Tanzania has, along with other countries in a similar position, is that they can make a technology leap to the latest appropriate technology without making incumbent infrastructure redundant. Access to information and the ability to communicate is key to improving society, services and businesses.

Peter Leonhardt

TANZANIA AND OBAMA

‘We share America’s excitement in Obama’ wrote the Tanzanian Guardian’s editor, the morning after the historic American election results came out. The paper went on: ‘Americans have spoken - and spoken well. The world is genuinely excited for the United States, whose election has made history by producing a black president, and for the world as a whole....Indeed President-elect Barack Obama’s victory

is not only an inspiration to millions of people all over the world but also has special resonance with the people of Africa, where his Kenyan father originated.

Another significant fact is that Americans have taken us through a major lesson in democracy - and this is that, despite the intensity of the contest and the stakes for the contestants, they have come out of it gracefully and truly tested.

One lesson that African politicians must take note of comes from the telephone call made to President-elect Obama by his main rival, Republican Party candidate John McCain. In that call, McCain acknowledged defeat with dignity and went on to concede the historic significance of Obama's victory to the American people and their country's politics. "I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him (Obama) but offering our next president our goodwill," McCain stated.

That is how politicians in Africa should conduct themselves if our democracy is to grow to maturity and stabilise the continent.....We wish the new US president and the American people well.

KITCHEN PARTIES (BRIDAL SHOWERS)

IRIN, the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs wrote in November about 'Kitchen parties' (bridal showers) now becoming popular in Dar es Salaam. Extracts:

Tips for managing domestic arguments and ensuring a happy sex life are just some of the bits of wisdom passed on at kitchen parties. No subject is taboo as the guests prepare brides-to-be for life as a wife....

Scores of elegantly attired female guests attended a recent kitchen party for a 25-year-old banker where the only men were the cameramen and disc-jockey. Gifts, mainly domestic utensils and kitchen equipment, were piled on an elevated platform where the bride-to-be patiently awaited her lesson. A procession of relatives and friends, each with years of marriage experience, took their turns on the microphone.

"If he comes home late, ask the house-girl [domestic worker] to open

the door to show him you're upset," one elder suggested. "You are the one to wash the bed sheets clean and white," another guest reminded her.

"The training at kitchen parties is geared toward making the bride so subservient, so docile and quiet. It gives women all the responsibility to make the marriage work," said Charles Kayoka, of the Association of Journalists against AIDS in Tanzania, a group advocating greater male involvement in HIV prevention. "The intention is not bad - to make the marriage home peaceful and harmonious - but the outcome can be dangerous."

Salama Jumanne, 37, a Tanzanian mother living with HIV, commented: "At kitchen parties you are able to learn about your husband's expectations, which may help to make the marriage survive for a short period of time. But, really, what you are learning is how to think of your husband's needs above yours."

Women rarely control the timing and frequency of sexual intercourse in marriage; many African women experience sexual violence and coercion. The inability to negotiate safe sex, especially in a society where concurrent partnerships are common, places married women at greater risk of contracting HIV.

Prisca Rwezahura-Holmes, marketing director of Tanzania Marketing and Communication, a social marketing company, said change might be slow but it was happening. "Kitchen parties are candid; it's a rare chance to reach out and share other women's marital experience. They originally had ... [the approach], 'please your man sexually and do what's necessary to keep him in the house', but I think that's changing."

Some NGOs have started distributing traditional wraps, called *khangas*, at kitchen parties, printed with HIV and reproductive health messages to encourage discussion on these topics.

"Kitchen parties are becoming more sophisticated and willing to push the sexual agenda," Rwezahura-Holmes said. In Tanzania's largely conservative society, matters of sex and relationships are difficult to discuss at home, whereas at kitchen parties there are no attempts to censor the conversation for sexual explicitness.

WHO CONCEIVED/LED THE WAY TO UJAMAA?

A contribution by Lawrence Cockcroft with the assistance of Gerald Belkin, and Ralph Ibbott.

In responding to a call from the late Julius Nyerere in 1960 to people to work hard and work together on farming in the interest of the country's development, a small group of the TANU Party Youth League (TYL) led by Ntimbanjayo John Millinga (see obituary below) established, in the Litowa valley in Songea District, what became known later as the Ruvuma Development Association (RDA). Millinga had a vision of developing a village where its families, by working together, would improve their lives and provide a better future for their children.

From this small start in 1961 other groups came for advice and as a result the RDA was formed. All members had agreed that a large part of the work would be carried out communally. In 1966 Griff Cunningham, the Principal of Kivukoni College wrote, "An unique set of circumstances prevailed in the RDA, for the founder and chief sustaining drive behind the settlements is undoubtedly Ntimbanjayo Millinga...(who) has provided a genuinely charismatic leadership from the beginning and has, by his messianic zeal, created a small group of disciples."

The RDA type villages came to be known as *ujamaa* villages which soon attracted considerable attention. President Nyerere became very interested. He began to see it as a pattern for the rural development of Tanzania. In the villages and the association there was always much practical discussion, which often led to new enterprises. From past experience, the people knew that if their children went far enough in the school system, they generally went off to work in the big city. This led to them setting up a school at Litowa for the children from all the RDA villages. Millinga's position had enabled him to select a fine person to be head of this school and to get the authority from Nyerere for them to develop their own curriculum suitable for the needs of the villages.

Discussions also led to the questioning of the law which only allowed the sale of people's excess maize to the local inefficient co-operative which sold maize flour at more than three times the price at which it purchased the grain. A better price for them would mean earning more development capital. This led to them buying out the Songea grain mill. President Nyerere helped with this purchase by donating Tsh 90,000/- Later the association also purchased the timber mill.

In 1967 Nyerere appointed Millinga Principal Assistant Secretary of TYL responsible for Youth Settlement and the following year moved him to be head of the *Ujamaa* Villages Department of TANU.

Milinga's dream was becoming a reality. The 16 village groups and their association were showing impressive results and setting a high standard. At the end of the decade, aid agencies were saying that the RDA was perhaps the finest grassroots project on the continent. In Millinga's perception their critical value was that: 'Any action which increases people's capacity to decide their own affairs is development even if it does not bring them more food and water; any action which reduces people's capacity to decide their own affairs is against development even it improves their nutrition and general well being'.

The tragedy is that, in spite of this success, it received great opposition from successive regional commissioners and most government officials. They could not sit down with and discuss with the villagers as equals.

During 1967/8 Nyerere wrote three papers, 'Education for Self Reliance', 'Socialism and Rural Development' and 'Freedom and Development'. These were all obviously based on the development of the RDA and dealt with the problems the association was facing. Without Millinga's initiative, which led to the RDA, it is obvious that these papers would never have been written.

Nyerere took many steps in an attempt to spread the practice of the RDA ideology. One of these in 1969 was a week long seminar for the members of the CCM Central Committee attended by three RDA members. Shortly after this the whole of the party's Central Committee met at which 21 out of the 24 members voted for the banning of the RDA. Millinga had successfully built a team of people able to understand what was needed for the development of their dreams. Nyerere was not able, despite great efforts, to build such a team at government level. The party took over. People power was not accepted.

In the mid 1970's the peasant peoples of Tanzania were forced into villages nationwide causing much hardship and resentment. In many peoples' minds today the villages of this villagisation project by dik-tat are seen as having produced *ujamaa* villages. However, they were the antithesis of the RDA methods and of the three papers written by Nyerere.

FAITH NEWS

The IOC controversy

Something of a hornets nest was stirred up by Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Membe when he dared to intervene in a Muslim-Christian dispute.

The Muslim people of Zanzibar have been pressing for years for Tanzania (or, at least Zanzibar by itself) to join the Organisation of the Muslim Conference (OIC). The Minister hinted that there might be some economic advantages in joining, even though Tanzania was a secular country. (*For background see TA No 89*).

The debate then escalated. On October 24 the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) called for the Minister's resignation. His proposal would violate the country's constitution. CCT Deputy Chairman Bishop Peter Kitula said section 19 (2) of the Union Constitution spelt out that Tanzania was a secular state and that religious issues were separated from all duties of running the country. He said the section was completely against the OIC charter (revised in March 2008) whose Section 1 (11) states: 'to amend, promote, and preserve Islamic teachings and values based on modernisation and tolerance, promote Islamic culture and safeguard Islamic heritage. "We do not want religiosity here and we are not talking of any particular religion but there are people who have a hidden agenda while knowing that our constitution does not allow that." he said.

Chairman of the CCT, Archbishop Donald Mtetemelwa, speaking on behalf of some 64 bishops belonging to the protestant churches, said that Membe was dividing the nation by pushing for membership. Bishop Stephen Munga: "We are here to defend our constitution. There is nobody, even the President, who has the authority to break the constitution. I am surprised by Membe's move" he said.

Back tracking hastily, Minister Membe said that the government would seek the peoples' consent before deciding whether Tanzania should join or not. It was considering two options: - registering for full membership or joining the body but agreeing only on issues of benefit to the country and its people.

On November 1 six Islamic organisations registered under the 'Supreme Council for Islamic Institutions and Organisations' warned the govern-

ment against succumbing to pressure from Christian ministers. They said the IOC had no religious agenda and its mission was 'development of the people regardless of their religious or political affiliation.'

Then President Kikwete stepped in and made what was described as a passionate appeal to the people to give the Ministry of Foreign Affairs time to deal with the matter. He said "The government has not made any decisions yet" - *Mwananchi* and many other Swahili newspapers.

Strikes and demonstrations

Several religious leaders have said that the wave of strikes, demonstrations, criminal violence and rows within the leadership of the country showed that all was not well. Talking to the press, they cautioned that remedial action had to be taken by the government since it was the result of failed promises. Auxiliary Archbishop of Dar es Salaam Methodius Kilaini, said that if this was not done things might get worse. He was supported by the Secretary General of the Muslim Council (BAKWATA) Sheikh Ramadhani Sanze who said the government must be 'legally and politically' answerable to the people. He also advised President Kikwete to reduce his foreign trips, especially to the USA, arguing that the country was not a genuine ally of Tanzania. A similar statement was given by Archbishop of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, Dr Benson Bagonza, who called upon state leaders to serve the state and stop 'politicising and campaigning' - *Raia Mwema* and other Swahili newspapers.

Plates of food

According to *Nipashe*, police in Zanzibar South region stormed a house belonging to a lady food vendor and confiscated plates of food from people, including casual construction workers, who were having lunch. After entering the house police put all customers under arrest and told them to surrender their rice plates. One of the workers said even those who had finished eating had their empty plates taken as 'evidence'. Restaurants in the Isles are usually closed in the afternoons of Ramadhan. People not fasting are required to eat 'secretively' so that those fasting are not inconvenienced.

TANZANITE IN ALASKA

There appears to be more Tanzanite in Alaska than in Tanzania!



Tanzanite on sale in Skagway (photo by the author)

Judging by the range of jewellery and gemstones on offer on the cruise ship from Vancouver exploring the Inner Passage and the many shops lining the streets of Skagway and Juneau in Alaska, Tanzanite is apparently the number one gemstone in vogue at present. Whereas it is good to see a mineral product of Tanzania being exported for sale, the almost profligate quantity of Tanzanite being marketed raises the question, for how long can this continue? Is the Tanzanian economy gaining a fair income from its sale?

Minerals, notably gold and diamonds, have been a major revenue-earner for Tanzania for decades. How relevant it was to be able to include some geology alongside and within the chemistry teaching at St Andrew's College/Minaki Secondary School in the 1960s. I recall a colleague, Matthew Ole-Kasaro, jokingly recall how he and his friends used to play football in his home Arusha region with pebbles of minerals that by 1970 were becoming recognised as semi-precious stones. For more information on Tanzanite, see the website:

www.tanzanitefoundation.org

David and Jackie Morgan

A new museum called the 'Tanzanite Experience' has been opened in Arusha. It is the first ever facility dedicated to Tanzanite which is found only in Manyara Region. The museum will collect, document, preserve, exhibit and interpret material connected with Tanzanite mining. Interactive media will be deployed to present the fascinating story of the rare violet-blue gemstone including sophisticated processing, cutting and polishing, all of which are being done within the country. Tanzanite One Limited, the largest miner of the rare gemstone, is supporting the project - Guardian.

THE CREDIT CRUNCH & TANZANIA

by Joseph Kilasara

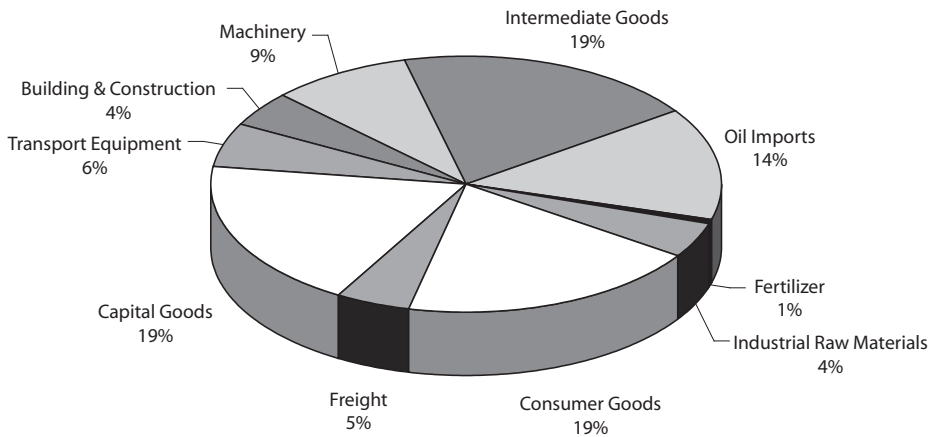
It is stimulus time. Finance ministers in the developed world are reaching for their red boxes trying to tighten or loosen some economic bolts and nuts in order to stimulate their faltering economies.

Reacting to the fallout from the credit crunch, President Kikwete pleaded with them not to touch the aid nut or perhaps try to loosen it a bit further. He went on to point out how our economy could be affected by the fall in future aid pledges, tourism related revenues, fall in demand of exports, increased borrowing costs of foreign loans as well as fall in foreign direct investments as capital markets in the developed world keep turning south.

For his part Governor Ndulu of the Tanzania Central Bank (BoT) assured the nation that the financial stability of the banking system is sound as demonstrated by an increase in private credit lending of up to 48% by September 2008. The banks are also not exposed to the secondary debt market championed in the northern world which has all but dried up and are said to be well capitalised to meet their maturing obligations. With a foreign exchange reserve of about \$2.7bn, which is equivalent to about 5 months worth of importation, \$1.6bn foreign currency deposits of Tanzania residents and \$600m in commercial bank net foreign assets the BoT forecasts that going forward the economy is well cushioned against the potential fallout from the crisis and its ensuing recession.

Despite the Governor's bold assurance and his immediate follow-up warning to banks against currency speculation, one could sympathize with the banks for making a quantitative interpretation of some of his statements such as: "The robustness of the foreign reserves is important for the stability of the Tanzania Shilling and confidence in the economy" and cause the US dollar to rise against the Shilling from 1,160 to 1,310 in four weeks. Blaming this fall on speculation is much the same as when naked short-sellers were blamed for the falling share price of the UK bank HBOS when its capital was actually inadequate.

Financing of the current account deficit which jumped by 49.1% in 2007 to \$2,056.2m equivalent to about 17% of GDP is also a major cause of concern. At this rate of increase the reserve cushion looks very flat. Looking at BoT figures for the year up to August 2008, the structure of



Breakdown of Imports into Tanzania by value

imports, where 38% comprise consumer goods and intermediate goods excluding oil means despite being endowed with an abundant level of resources and generous donors we are still borrowing substantially to pay for our daily consumption (see chart).

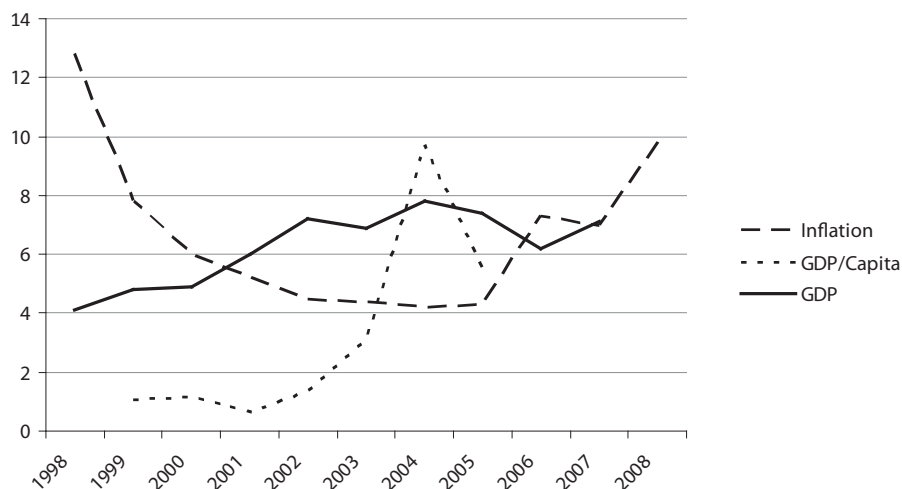
With external debt still standing at \$5.8bn, 23.3% of which is interest arrears, it is clear that, despite the level of debt relief and debt payments, since we are not servicing the interest fully the debt will continue to grow. Tony Blair was elected with one main objective “Education, Education, Education.” Perhaps we need to declare “Productivity, Productivity, Productivity” as our objective number one. With a country as big as ours and a population increasing by about a million a year the majority of whom are young, a GDP of \$13bn growing at about 6-7%, poverty will be a culture instead of being a challenge.

One of the positive outcomes from the credit crunch is the fall in demand for oil which has driven the price down by more than 50% of its July 2008 level. This will help in reducing the import bill as well as the inflation rate though the rising value of the dollar is likely to offset some of the benefit. Falling commodity prices and the potential fall in future aid pledges as donors’ hands becomes tied in paying off the profligacy of their stimulus package are other factors to consider.

On the other hand the low price of oil is likely to reduce importing countries’ appetite to diversify their energy uses as well as investing in energy efficiency while also acting as a disincentive to producing countries from investing in production facilities. When economies in

the north start to turn around, hence boosting the demand for oil, the International Energy Agency is projecting an oil price of over \$200 a barrel. This will not only pose an economic risk but also a security risk as it may comprise over a third of the import bill.

The primary objective of the BoT is deliberately defined in short as, "To maintain price stability", and with that in mind they have declared that, "Inflation is the nation's economic enemy number one", without defining an acceptable inflation rate or at least having some sort of a targeted psychological rate of say 5% which may seem to be a reasonable rate.



Growth and inflation statistics for Tanzania

In the UK, the Bank of England has to explain publicly when inflation diverts by over 1% from the targeted rate of 2%. With inflation rising from the low of 4.5% in 2002 to 9.8% in August 2008 not only is their a need for markets to have a clear idea of BoT intentions to avoid unnecessary volatility but a high inflation rate also dilutes the benefits of the economic growth (see chart). By merely declaring Inflation as enemy number one, may indicate that deflation is therefore a friend which is further from the truth.

BUSINESS & THE ECONOMY

Exchange rates £1 - TShs 1,994

\$1 - TShs 1,259

While western banks are reeling under the financial crisis Tanzanian banks reported a good year in 2007/8. On average, profit before and after tax for each bank increased by about 60% according to the Tanzania Banking Sector 2007 Performance Review by Ernst & Young. All the other banks, the report said, showed significant improvements and of the five loss-making banks of 2006 all recorded profits in 2007.

Among the commercial banks, Citibank recorded the highest interest income while the Dar es Salaam Community Bank was the highest among the non-commercial banks.

As at 31st December 2007 the banking sector comprised 23 commercial banks, three non-bank financial institutions and seven regional unit banks/financial institutions. The industry averages for return on average assets and return on average equity were 3% and 27% respectively, as in 2006. Standard Chartered Bank was the best individual performer in both cases with 8% and 61% respectively. Only one bank recorded a loss before and after tax – Sunday Observer.

Frank Mwakumbe writing in the Guardian noted that almost all banks experiencing the financial crisis in the USA operated as publicly traded companies and were privately owned and managed. He felt that this was a cause for caution about the privatisation process in Tanzania. A study by the 'African Forum and Network on Debt and Development' (AFRODAD) on Tanzania's experience with privatisation policies published in 2001 had summarised the benefits of privatisation, tersely: 'Well performing privatised enterprises can contribute meaningfully to government revenue and to the economy as a whole in the form of taxes, increased production of quality goods and services, creation of more employment opportunities and introduction of modern technology.

'Has our government considered the impact of privatising financial institutions like the CRDB Bank Ltd, National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and the recently privatized National Microfinance Bank (NMB) he asked. The Tanzania Housing Bank and Greenland Bank had closed. He

went on: 'A little thinking directs us to conclude that entrusting financial institutions into private investor's hands seems to have a detrimental impact on performance. The British government's decision to support the Lehman Brothers Bank and nationalise the Bradford and Bingley Bank confirmed our belief that some government participation in the financial system of a country is crucial to keep the economy stable and under control.

The state of our economy and the position of the government leave us with much doubt as to whether the government has any plans or even ability to intervene should we start heading in the same catastrophic direction as the USA and EU counterparts. Think for a moment: What will happen if the CRDB Bank, NBC, and NMB face a shake-up? These financial institutions serve more than 50% of account owners in Tanzania.

Do we have an effective oversight mechanism able to deal with economic woes which may result from an ailing privatisation process?'

The proportion of Tanzanians living in poverty fell by some 2.4% between 2001 and last year, the most recent household budget survey conducted in the country shows. A report on the Development Partners' Poverty Monitoring Group study says 33.3% of the country's population were living in poverty by last year compared to 35.7% in 2001. The report was issued by the World Bank on behalf of other members of the group.

However, the reduction in the poverty ratio indicated by the survey had not been able to compensate for the annual growth rate of the population of about 2.6%. As a result, it noted, the reduction in the proportion of poor people translated into an increase of a million people living in poverty in mainland Tanzania from 11.7 million in 2001 to 12.7 million last year - Guardian.

Minister for Livestock Development and Fisheries John Magufuli has called for a law that would oblige banks to advance loans to agriculturalists and pastoralists. He said there were some 33 banks in the country, most of them foreign, yet it was unfortunate that despite the contribution of the farming sector to the national economy, they did not wish to finance them. The Minister said there is a need now to table a bill proposing that either the banks change their ways or they 'pack up

and go'. He was responding to MPs who complained that banks in the country did not support farmers – *Mwananchi*.

A British firm, Petrodel Resources Limited, is to carry out a 12-day offshore seismic survey in Tanga to determine if there is oil. Work was due to start in the first week of 2009, using a survey ship that will collect geological data – *Mwananchi*.

ALBINO ATROCITIES CONTINUE

Police have said that they have taken to court all people suspected of being involved in the killing of albinos and the subsequent sale of parts of their bodies to be used by witchdoctors. However a Police spokesperson said it was near impossible to control elements bent on perpetrating the killing of albinos "if the communities continue harbouring these murderers and their accomplices."

Mwanza Regional Police Commander Jamal Rwambow said that 11 albinos - five men, a woman and five children - had been murdered in his region. He added that 28 suspects had been arrested and charged in court.

Six suspects were arraigned in Mara, two in Mbeya and one in Shinyanga.

Tanzania has more than 8,000 registered albinos. Addressing a rally organised by the Tanzania Albino Society, President Kikwete said the government would stand firm in its efforts to ensure the safety of albinos and would not tolerate anyone bent on harming them - *Guardian*.

More incidents reported

In November however a more sinister development was reported in the *Guardian*. There were two attempts to catch albino children. In Kibondo District attackers forced a woman to take them to her home, to look for her nine-year-old daughter. The girl was not in the house and so the men attacked the mother. In the second attack, a gang of four men broke into a house at the Lugufu camp in Kigoma, which hosts refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, looking for a child with albinism. The child, aged two, escaped kidnap after falling under the bed unnoticed.

Police in south-western Tanzania then arrested a man who was attempting to sell his albino wife to Congolese traders.

The BBC's Vicky Ntetema in Dar es Salaam said that the attacks appeared to have spread from north-western Tanzania, where they were first reported.

On November 22 the Shinyanga Regional Police Commander was reported to have said that a clandestine albino killing network had been discovered but some traditional healers in Kahama alleged that some members of the police force had taken over TShs 30m/- from them in return for not arresting them. Healers were allegedly being forced to pay between TShs 500,000/- and 1m/- or risk arrest. Bullying was said to be involved as those without money were taken for questioning.

"WILDEBEESTS WILL VOTE FOR YOU"

There was a sharp debate in parliament when MP's and others were invited to comment on the new 'Wildlife Act 2008.'

"This Bill favours wildlife protection more than human beings" according to one participant." "If you MP's let it pass and become law, you must recruit wildebeests to vote for you come 2010" a village chairman said. The Bill would undermine indigenous Maasai people residing adjacent to the controlled areas in the vast districts of Simanjiro, Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro. Mbakule Laizer from Longido was concerned by a certain section on the Bill that directed investors within the Wildlife Management Areas to pay fees direct to the Wildlife Division contrary to the previous system where they used to pay the respective village authorities. "We have spent a considerable time in our life to conserve the wildlife believing that one day we will reap the benefits of our efforts, but now when the government wants to rob us of the fees, I fear the move will spark off a dispute" one participant said amid applause from the floor.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Environment said it was unfair for villagers to threaten to deny MP's their votes in the forthcoming general elections. "We have brought the Bill before you so that you can suggest what is to be removed or added, and we are ready to take your views in order to come up with a fair Wildlife Act at the end of the day," he said - Guardian.

TANZANIA & THE WORLD CUP

Tanzania did not do well in the preliminary rounds of the World Cup to be held in South Africa in 2010. The results of the qualifying matches were as follows:

01-02/06/08: Tanzania 1-1 Mauritius

06-08/06/08: Cape Verde 1-0 Tanzania

13-15/06/08: Tanzania 0-0 Cameroon

20-22/06/08: Cameroon 2-1 Tanzania

05-07/09/08: Mauritius 1-4 Tanzania

This placed Tanzania in third place in its group and hence not eligible to continue in the competition. Teams have to be in one of the top two places to qualify. The group results were as follows:

	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	Pts
Cameroon	5	4	1	0	9	2	13
Cape Verde	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Tanzania	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
Mauritius	5	0	1	4	3	1	2

STUDENTS STRIKE

In November some 16,000 Government-sponsored University of Dar es Salaam students and most other university undergraduate students were suspended indefinitely following their boycotting of classes in protest against loan fund allocations. They demanded that the government, through the 'Higher Education Students Loans Board' give them 100% loans instead of basing the loans they get on the financial status of their families, parents or guardians. The government decided to be tough and the affected universities were then closed. This seemed to exacerbate the situation with opposition parties condemning the government's actions.

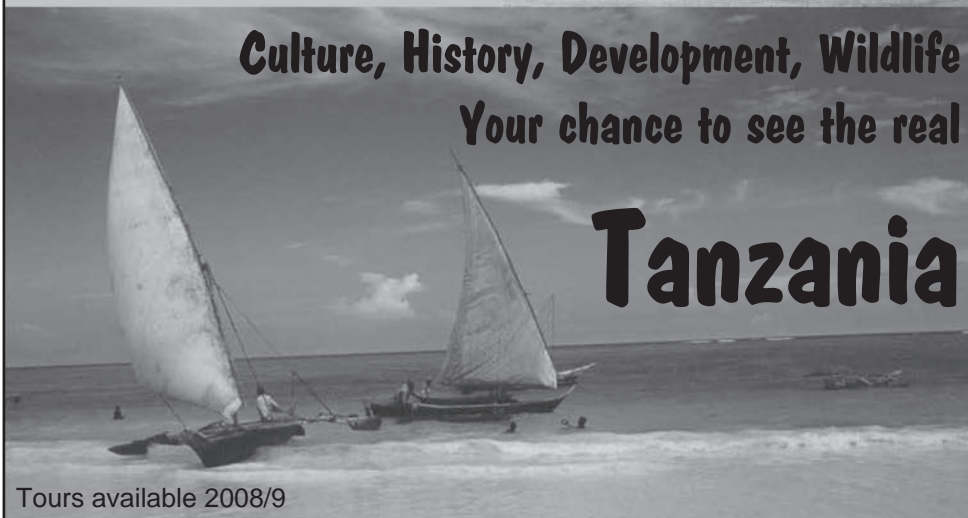
Tony Zakaria, a columnist writing in the government-owned Daily News was not impressed by the behaviour of the students. Extracts:

'The pictures of students and teachers (also threatening to strike) on TV screens and on newspaper pages in the past few weeks have been colourful to say the least. Students dragging others from buses or classrooms to force them to join the strikes amounts to violence. So does the action



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of striking teachers throwing chairs at their leaders in a meeting hall.... teachers have been going to school but doing zero teaching in class.... Are they being paid salaries at the end of each month to silently 'teach' from their offices? We have seen hordes of pseudo-intellectuals on TV... struggling to juggle TVs, DVD players, impressive music systems and their suitcases large and small, as they scrambled to leave campus after they were booted out...The defiant, fire-breathing future intellectuals have vowed to fight on and strike again upon being reinstated at some unknown future date. You want to know how they spend their money, loaned or otherwise? Visit Mabibo hostel or any other dormitories of these potential future servants of the public. TV antennae growing like a forest of potted plants on windows for all to see. A cacophony of sound that passes for music will assail your ears, unless you are deaf to the obvious.... When do they seriously study, these music and vision lovers?'

THE VICKERS VIMY & THE TABORA ANTHILL

An almost forgotten episode in Tanganyikan (and aviation) history was recalled by an auction in Shropshire on June 25 last year. Lot 42 was described as 'the original Album of Captain F C Broome DFC covering the epic African Exploration Flight of January 1920 including Broome's original typed notes for his log of the flight.' It sold for £700.

In 1919 there had been record-breaking flights across the Atlantic and to Australia by Vicars Vim aircraft and the South African government was keen to see a similar flight from London to Cape Town. Lord Northcliffe, owner of the Times newspaper, saw the chance of a scoop. On 4th February 1920 the Times announced in bold headlines that it was sponsoring a flight to Cape Town. This would not be a race, but a serious attempt to show 'whether Africa can be traversed easily and safely from end-to-end by proper aircraft in ordinary conditions'.

The twin engined Vimy byplane, with two experienced RAF pilots (Captains Broome and Cockerel) and two mechanics on board, left England on 24th January and Broome's logbook records their rather chequered progress. After leaving Brooklands aerodrome, he 'nearly took the towers off Crystal Palace'; and having landed at Lyons to refuel, almost caused a strike by 'asking for 600 gallons of juice' on a Sunday night.

Kunduchi House



Kunduchi House is a friendly, family run Bed & Breakfast situated in Kunduchi Village 18km northwest of Dar-es-Salaam, offering breath-taking panoramic views and the cool breeze of the Indian Ocean. Zanzibar and Bagamoyo are within easy reach, and the famous Kunduchi Hotel with its fantastic water-sports facilities is just two minutes walk away.

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Leocardia & Peter Tesha

The plane also stopped at Naples, Malta, Tripoli and Benghazi and finally arrived at Cairo on 3rd February. There it was joined by Dr Charles Mitchell, Director of the London Zoo. who had been appointed Times Special Correspondent. Describing the hazards to be faced in Africa, the Times noted that the aircraft would fly along the east shore of Lake Victoria to avoid the 'active volcanoes' on the western shore which were 'likely to cause atmospheric disturbances, which in their turn might bring about a forced landing among tribes addicted to cannibalism.'

On 5th February the Times revealed that another Vickers Vimy had set out from Brooklands aerodrome the previous day, piloted by two South Africans, Lieutenant Colonel van Ryneveld and Flight Lieutenant Brand. Their aircraft was imaginatively named 'Silver Queen'.

The Times insisted that there was no race, noting that 'it was of course never intended that the flight of the Times aero plane should be undertaken in a competitive spirit, but wholly for the purpose of scientific exploration and to test the route through Africa'. Nevertheless, Northcliffe wanted his plane to get to the Cape first.

The Times aircraft left Cairo on 6th February encouraged by a message from Queen Alexandra, and arrived at Khartoum on February 8th after two forced landings. It left Khartoum on February 10th but did not reach Jinja in Uganda until 22nd February. Repeated engine troubles caused more forced landings; adulterated fuel was probably to blame. Several nights were spent camping in the bush with 'repose often disturbed by lions.' Meanwhile Van Ryneveld was having his own problems. The Silver Queen crashed between Cairo and Khartoum and was damaged beyond repair. Undaunted, Van Ryneveld returned to Cairo and was lent a Vimy by the RAF. It was christened 'Silver Queen II'. He left Cairo in the replacement plane on February 22nd After a refuelling stop at Mwanza the Times aircraft landed at Tabora on 26th February. They were greeted by a large crowd led by the Administrator of Tanganyika territory. Broome wrote: 'Arrived Tabora cheerful. Thought worst part was over.' But during take-off the next day the Vimy's starboard engine cut out and the aircraft crash-landed in the scrub. It hit a large anthill and the impact forced the undercarriage into the lower wing. Fortunately none of those in board was injured but the plane was damaged beyond repair. Broome recorded: 'All disgusted with rotten luck.'

Thus the Great African Exploration flight ended ignominiously on an ant hill.

Meanwhile 'Silver Queen II' reached Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia where it crashed on take-off. The South African Government promptly sent a two seater single engined de Havilland DH9 christened 'Voortrekker' as a replacement. Whether or not it was within the spirit of the competition for a different plane to complete the final leg of the journey the two pilots were greeted as heroes when they arrived at Cape Town on 20th March 1920. They were awarded a prize of £5,000 each by the South Africans and were knighted by King George V. In the best traditions of British sportsmanship, the Times commented that 'while extending our deepest sympathy to Dr Chalmers Mitchell and his gallant companions for the great disappointment which befell them..... we feel that no one will join in our congratulations to Colonel van Ryneveld and Major Brand more heartily than they'.

Postscript - The fuselage of the wrecked Vickers Vimy was taken over by the Tabora Sporting Club for use as a pavilion. Do any of our older readers remember it?

John Sankey

TANZANIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

An editorial in the Kenyan newspaper **THE NATION** (October 21) quoting from the Tanzanian paper *The Citizen* wrote: 'Hardly a day after President Kikwete called for a crackdown to stem the killing of albinos another horrendous case was reported. An albino girl was on Sunday night slain in Kahama, Shinyanga. It's not surprising that the story has gone all over the world. The international community is rightly puzzled about the madness that has befallen our country. That the killers stormed the Standard Three pupil's home, killed her and chopped off her body parts before the very eyes of her terrified parents, speaks volumes about how cruel and inhuman these criminals can be. Serious measures must be taken now to stem the killings. Police cannot be everywhere, but the *wananchi* can. We should unite to fight the primitive acts by criminals driven by senseless superstition' - *Thank you Keith Lye for sending this – Editor.*

Tanzania has a large population of refugees from neighbouring countries and London's **GUARDIAN WEEKLY REVIEW** (September 26) devoted a piece under the headline: 'Last of the exiles return'. Extracts: 'Peace has now returned to Burundi, and many who fled 30 years ago are returning home. 85-year-old Michael Bihonzi is among many who fled the ethnic massacres that started in 1972 and which consequently left up to 200,000 people dead, reports Xan Rice. Bihonzi, who found peace and safety in a Tanzanian refugee camp, climbed on board a truck with 23 of his children and grandchildren, and headed across the border with a cash grant of \$40 from UNHCR, the UN refugee agency that is managing the repatriation effort.

'More than 450,000 refugees have already returned. Now, with the last active rebel group in Burundi showing willingness to lay down its arms [...] Tanzania has decided to close its remaining refugee camps near its western border.'

In an exclusive interview, **AFRICA REPORT** (October-November) asked Tanzania's President Kikwete some pertinent questions regarding the country's economy, the fight against corruption and, as he is currently chairman of the AU, his thoughts on democracy in Africa. The paper wanted to know why 'statistics on malnutrition and sanitation remain appalling' even though 'Tanzania has a record of sustained growth and investment'? The President explained that 'the huge investment' Tanzania has made is just 'beginning to translate itself.' A sustained economic growth [7%] over a period of ten years will double the country's GDP. 'We are now seeing the result of that. It is close to \$20bn from \$15bn seven years ago.'

In a brief explanation of Tanzania's economic history, the President said there was a time when there were empty shelves in the shops, which were then owned by the state. However, with the start of the economic reforms in 1986, under the leadership of President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, the economy began to turn around. Mwinyi allowed anyone who had the money to bring goods into the shops. "We came from very difficult beginnings, to the extent that if today somebody preached socialism, we would think he must be crazy."

In a report published in **THE EAST AFRICAN** (October 13-19) Tanzania has opposed the consensus reached by Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya that residents in one of the partner states can acquire land in

another, saying that it is too early for the country to fully open its lands to other East Africans. One of the barriers to committing to the acquisition of land seems to be Tanzania's land tenure system which declares that 'all land is publicly owned by the head of state in trust for the whole nation with different legal regimes applying to rural and urban areas.'

"In Tanzania, you must have big investments to acquire land," said Barack Ndegwa, a director in the Kenyan Ministry of EAC Affairs. It should be noted that Tanzanian negotiators declined to speak to the East African. Apparently, language sparked off another disagreement. According to Edith Kateme, Burundi wanted "access" to lands in the five-member states whereas Rwanda insisted on the word "acquire". Kenya and Uganda opted for "may access". There was hope that the issue could be resolved during the meeting in Zanzibar in November.

'Now make way for us'. [Norway learns:] 'A lesson in sustainability from Tanzania', reports the economist Michael Fergus in **HABARI**, the journal of the Sweden-Tanzania Society. Fergus's article debunks the 'persistent, and very depressing myth that much of the infrastructure built in rural Africa in the 1970's and 1980's financed by the West, turned to dust, as soon as the donor left.' A study (published in November 2007) of the water and sanitation schemes in Tanzania and Kenya, supported by Norwegian development aid, gives a complete lie to this myth. It shows that between 70% and 90% of the schemes built between 20 and 30 years ago are still working well. To the surprise of donor agencies, villages in the remote Tanzanian regions of Kigoma and Rukwa, in the spirit of *kujitegemea*, self-reliance, have managed to maintain a high percentage of water aid investments without assistance from the Tanzanian government.

The **EAST AFRICAN** (18th August) reported on a new export market being developed in the East Usambara mountains in Tanga region. Under the 'Amani Butterfly Project' insects are exported to the UK, USA, Switzerland, France and Germany. Depending on the species, butterfly pupae are sold for between \$1 and \$2.50 each. On arrival at their destinations they are cultivated in butterfly houses which charge fees to tourists wanting to see tropical butterflies flying under glass roofs. Since 2003 the project has paid more than \$70,000 to butterfly farmers.

Columnist Melanie Reid informed readers of **THE TIMES** (May 26) of the disturbing plight faced by Tanzanian escorts (guides and porters)

who accompany some 25,000 Western tourists on their quest to climb Africa's tallest peak, Mt Kilimanjaro.

In stark contrast to their Nepalese counterparts, working on Mt Everest, who are well-fed and well-clothed and who are now 'recognised and recompensed for the unique skills they offer the developed world at play', Tanzanian guides are extremely low-paid and ill equipped by the companies that organise the lucrative trips.

According to Reid, 'Up to 20 guides and porters die on Kilimanjaro every year[...] These young men exist in a ruthless free-market economy vying with each other for the jobs, and risking their own health with enforced lay-offs and lack of proper re-acclimatisation,' says Reid. Porters (who carry 20kg packs containing water, food, firewood and the tourist's possessions) earn \$3 a day; guides up to £10. 'Allegedly,' says the columnist, 'some companies do not pay their staff any salaries at all, but let them rely on tips.' - *Thank you John Sankey for sending this*
- Editor

Several international media (including **BBCSwahili**, and **MSNBC**) reported the ceremonies held in Kenya and Tanzania in memory of the victims of the al-Qaeda bomb attacks on the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. The attacks, which took place on August 7, 1998, killed over 200 people and wounded 5,000.

On Thursday 2nd October, **FOXNEWS.com** wrote under the headline: 'Dance Turned Stampede Kills 20 Children in Tanzania'. Extracts: 'At least 400 children aged 5 to 13 were inside the hall in the town of Tabora when the stampede occurred. [The children] were dancing to English and Kiswahili songs [while they celebrated] the Islamic *Eid al-Fitr* holiday.' Police Commander Daudi Siasa said, "The children were trapped inside the hall, which has a capacity to accommodate maximum 200 people, but the number was more than double inside at the time." President Kikwete sent condolences to the children's families and dispatched a senior cabinet member to investigate.

In its 'Country Profile on Tanzania' by Walragala Wakabi in October the **NEW INTERNATIONALIST** awarded star ratings to various aspects of Tanzania today. In income distribution it awarded three stars, for life expectancy two, literacy three, freedom five ('a thriving and powerful media and civil society') and for its treatment of sexual minorities

one star. On the latter it wrote: 'Homosexuality is illegal; new laws have criminalised lesbianism and same sex marriage is punishable by imprisonment for seven years.' On President Kikwete it wrote that he had maintained the neo-liberal and pro-privatisation policies of his predecessors..... but he had pussy-footed about the lingering issue of the relationship between mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar which feels marginalised and wants greater autonomy - the rising friction between the two has become a threat to what has hitherto been among the most politically stable countries on the continent' - *Thank you Sister Lucia for this - Editor*



Royal Engineer Boniface Hima (photo courtesy Mr & Mrs B.Hima)

TZUK NEWS (September-October) published a story written by Gloria Mutahanamilwa about Boniface Hima (25) who is training to be in the British army where he hopes to be working as a Royal Engineer. Extracts: Hima is a born again Christian and I asked him how he mixed his strong Christian beliefs with a job in the armed forces. He replied: "If you read the Bible, there were wars and killings and God didn't condemn Moses when he killed and buried someone with his own hands. He went on to say that if he were asked to go to the front line nothing would stop him as he had taken an oath of allegiance swearing to be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her heirs and successors.

He is enjoying every minute of his training and is encouraging other ethnics to join. The writer concluded: "I am left with one big question. If Tanzania and the United Kingdom shouldwhere would his allegiance lie?"

Who owns Obama? was the question posed in the **EAST AFRICAN** on November 10. Everyone knows that Kenya owns half of him but, according to the Tanzanian 'Weekend African' Obama is actually a quarter Tanzanian. The president-elect's grandmother on his father's side, the paper claims, hailed from Kowak village in Tarime District close to the border with Kenya.

KILIMANJARO SNOW WILL NOT GO

Tanzanian researcher Prof. Ernest Njau has said that snow on Mt. Kilimanjaro will not disappear around 2017, as suggested by foreign scientists. He said that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report contained prediction errors due to imperfections in the climate models used. Recent scientific reports had taken the sunspot-climate relationship into account and had come up with a prediction that a 430-year-long global cooling trend was due to start in about the year 2060, and the Ice on Kilimanjaro would return to its original state. He said it was true that the average global temperature had not increased since 1998, despite the increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide by 4% over the same period.

Last year, another study on the dwindling ice on the mountain's cap suggested that global warming had nothing to do with the alarming loss of its snow. US-based scientists Philip Mote and Georg Kaser linked the problem to a process known as sublimation that occurs at below-freezing temperatures and converts ice directly to water vapour with the liquid phase skipped. They said that the Kibo icecap (19,340 feet above sea level) occupied about 12.5 square miles when first measured but this had dwindled to about 7.5 square miles by 1912, to about 4.3 square miles by 1953, and just over 1.5 square miles by 2003 – Guardian.

NEW VISA RULES

The British High Commission in Dar has changed its procedures for the issuance of visas. Applications will have to be lodged on-line at least six weeks before the date of travel. Political and Press Officer at the diplomatic mission John Bradshaw told a press conference that visa applications would in future be processed at a central office in Nairobi as part of a plan to reduce the number of British offices handling visa

applications - *Majira*.

Habari Leo commented: This is a shame, to say the least, for such a rich country because in this age and time of technological advancement, when speed and efficiency is the watchword, Britain has decided to impose stringent conditions thus delaying the visa application process.... What happens when, while the passport is being processed in Nairobi, one has to travel elsewhere? Obviously they looked at their own interest without considering the interest of travelers. A cartoon in *Mwanachi* included the words: 'You might as well shut down the embassy.'

Mtanzania stated that students from Tanzania applying to study in Britain as from March 2009 would have to get approval from officially accredited universities and colleges.

MISCELLANY

UK water company Biwater failed in its bid to claim up to US\$20 million in damages from the Tanzanian government following the collapse of the controversial water privatisation contract in 2005. The case was heard at the International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). In 2003, a subsidiary of Biwater, 'City Water Services', took on a water privatisation contract in Dar es Salaam. The Tanzanian government cancelled the contract after less than two years, citing City Water Services' failure to meet the targets set in the contract. The Tribunal has found that while technical breaches of Biwater's investor rights did occur, Biwater was not entitled to compensation because the breaches were worth zero in monetary value and that the termination of the contract was inevitable. The policy of water privatisation was imposed on Tanzania via a series of conditions set by the World Bank in return for aid, debt relief and cheap loans. The UK government supplied millions in aid to support the wider Tanzanian privatisation programme.

Two British tourists were robbed of £ 2,700 plus other belongings while staying at Breezes Hotel in the South Region of Zanzibar. It is believed that some hotel employees entered their room and broke open a safe deposit box while the guests were out having dinner - *Tanzania Daima*.

The French Ambassador to Tanzania has announced that the French government had committed \$2 million to promote the French language

in Tanzania in a three-year programme. He was addressing a meeting of French teachers who now number over 300 - Guardian.

Tanzania received an award for effective use of donor aid in the health sector. The award was made in Accra, Ghana during a review of progress in the implementation of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Participating countries were given the chance to showcase best practice examples in aid management and effectiveness.

OBITUARIES

NTIMBANJAYO JOHN MILLINGA (69), who died of cancer on July 12 last year, was born in one of the far corners of Tanzania by Lake Nyasa. He was educated to standard 8, had two years of nursing training and attended a nine months Political Science course at Kivukoni College in Dar es Salaam. He became well known for his work in setting up the Ruvuma Development Association (RDA) in the 1960's which is described in an article above. He became Chairman of the Songea District Council in 1963 and in 1965 MP for the Songea South constituency. He worked in a number of areas in the country as District Secretary, Regional Secretary and Area Commissioner of the CCM party. A drawn out fight with prostrate cancer dogged his later years.

However for the last decade of his life he re-engaged with the issues of production and enterprise at Litowa, successfully promoting a tile production factory and strengthening educational development. In all his working life he was greatly assisted by his wife Conrada and three surviving children.

Mbeya Rural CCM MP **RICHARD SAID NYAULAWA** (57) died in mid November last year having been suffering from colon cancer. President Kikwete said: "We shall remember him for his contribution in Parliament and society as well. He was in the forefront in defending the interests of his people and all the citizens". He was a member of the party's National Executive Committee.

BISHOP CECIL RICHARD NORGATE (1921-2008), always known as Richard, was ordained priest in England in 1950, and died in Tanzania in October 2008. After joining the then Universities' Mission to Central Africa (later merged with USPG, but now celebrating 150 years since its

inauguration) went directly to the diocese of Masasi in Mtwara Region, where he stayed for the rest of his life. In 1958 he was appointed parish priest of Mkomaindo. The hospital there was an important medical centre, and under Bishop Trevor Huddleston, a nursing school and training for rural medical aides brought new opportunities and responsibilities for the priest. In 1977 he was appointed by Bishop Hilary Chisonga as Vicar-General (in effect deputy to him) and then in 1984 he was elected by the clergy and laity of the diocese as their bishop. More than 25 years after Independence, it was unusual, to say the least, for local people to elect an *Mzungu* bishop, but Richard had the qualities and had earned the respect to enable him to undertake the task most capably. In 1992 he retired to live at St Cyprian's College Rondo. The present Bishop of Masasi, Patrick Mwachiko, writes that Bishop Richard contributed a lot to the building of the present new church at Mkomaindo, and "they decided to bury him inside the church where he had worked as parish priest for so many years, but also out of respect for him and his contribution to the diocese of Masasi." – *Thank you Revd. Graeme Watson, USPG Mission Companion (1967-77) for this* – Editor.

PROFESSOR A. B. WESTON, who died in London on 23rd June, 2008, laid the foundation of legal education in East Africa in 1961. Colonial neglect of legal education left Tanganyika, at independence in 1961, with only two African lawyers, both newly qualified abroad. Born in Australia in 1924 'AB', after combat experience as a pilot, was teaching in Toronto when Cran Pratt, the (Canadian) first Principal of the hurriedly established University College recruited him as Dean of the new Law Faculty opened in October 1961. It was a formative appointment for Tanzania and a life-changing step for AB, who (at the cost of his own research and teaching) plunged into the demands of organising the first, for long the premier, law school in the region, building a first class library, securing foreign scholarships for graduates and helping negotiate creation of the University of East Africa (1963). He learnt Swahili and left an enduring legacy to Tanzanian law in helping to compile the Swahili Law Dictionary. AB married three times - twice in Tanzania to Sandawe ladies - and had seven children. Many former students are still active as judges, professors or senior lawyers in Tanzania and elsewhere. In the Seventies he was particularly pleased to be formally admitted to practise as an advocate of the Tanzanian bar.

Jim Read

REVIEWS

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

Suggestions from readers about items for future review are always welcome.

ENDING AID DEPENDENCE. Yash Tandon, Fahamu Books, 2008. 133 pages, ISBN978-1-906387-29-7. £7.99. paperback.

The global financial crisis and predictions of imminent capitalist collapse possibly brought a smile to the face of Yash Tandon, director of leftist think-tank, South Centre, and author of this book.

In 'Ending Aid Dependence' Dr. Tandon develops his well-rehearsed arguments from earlier works and continues his tirade against the West, IMF, World Bank and various UN agencies perceiving them as neo-colonialist and neo-imperialist bent on perpetuating economic dependence and perverting the political independence of the developing nations of 'the South'.

In wishing to provoke a global dialogue whose laudable purpose would be to work towards an end to the unsatisfactory reliance on aid of so many impoverished nations of the South, it is a pity that for half the length of his book Dr. Tandon bites the (only) hand that feeds them.

He does make reasonable points - for example it is unconscionable that after nearly half a century of independence and despite billions of dollars of investment by the West and the institutions reviled by Dr. Tandon, many nations remain underdeveloped and penurious; true too that promises made by donors at high-profile international conferences are often diluted or put aside. He observes that much aid seems primarily to serve the 'charity industry' for its own benefit and continuing survival.

Unfortunately, he glosses over the endemic corruption and disreputable governance affecting nearly two-thirds of the South countries today, and unrealistically suggests as alternatives the immediate post-independence policies of Nkrumah's Ghana or Nyerere's Tanzania whose failed socio-economic experiments inflicted so much misery. Such naivety is apparent too in that despite past chronic misuse, Dr. Tandon feels that aid, unlike most lender/borrower relationships, should be donated without terms and conditions.

In this ultimately unsatisfactory book, Dr. Tandon offers few if any practical solutions, only discussion and the development of (yet more) strategy. The South nations can only become free of aid if and when they offer their peoples conditions for economic, social and financial progress backed by

incorrupt institutions and the rule of law. Until then, with unconditional assistance unlikely to emanate from any other source, the West and its institutions, however imperfect or self-serving, remain the South's only source of succour without which the situation would be even worse. The end to aid reliance unfortunately remains a distant dream and any smile can be only fleeting.

Roger Payne

The two following abstracts of papers likely to be of interest to readers were kindly sent by Professor Pat Caplan:

‘BETWEEN SOCIALISM AND NEO-LIBERALISM: MAFIA ISLAND, TANZANIA, 1965-2004’. Review of African Political Economy, special issue on ‘Class, Resistance and Social Transformation’, no. 114, 2007, pp. 679-694
By Pat Caplan, Goldsmiths College, London

This paper considers issues of equality and inequality in Tanzania with particular reference to Mafia Island over a period of forty years. It begins by examining an apparently paradoxical situation: in the recent period of neo-liberal economics, during which Tanzania has won plaudits from multilateral agencies for its economic policies, many ordinary people on Mafia consider that their well-being has actually decreased and that social differentials have vastly increased: *wengine wanapata, wengine hawapati* (some get, others don't).

The paper seeks to consider some reasons for this situation by considering the relation between state (and local state), political party(ies) and citizens, and the changes and continuities in these relations over four decades. This also involves an examination of the role of donors (*wafadhili*) and NGOs, on the one hand, and developers (*wawekezaji*) on the other. It is shown that the discourse in which issues of development are discussed contains both continuities with earlier periods, as well as changes.

The paper also examines people's perceptions of equality, inequality and poverty, with particular emphasis on the comparisons made between their own lot and that of others, as well as their views of their entitlements. It concludes with case studies of two villages on Mafia: Kanga in the north, which has remained relatively isolated and poor, and Chole in the south, where tourist development has taken place.

‘BUT THE COAST, OF COURSE, IS QUITE DIFFERENT’: ACADEMIC AND LOCAL: IDEAS ABOUT THE EAST AFRICA LITTORAL. *Journal of Eastern African Studies* vol.1 no. 2. 305-320. July. 2007 by Pat Caplan, Goldsmiths College London.

This paper examines identity and history on the coast of East Africa, an area long thought to be different from its hinterland in many respects, including the absence of ‘tribes’. It discusses the apparent paradox of recent calls by intellectuals of East Africa coastal origin for the Waswahili to be termed a ‘tribe’. In the first section, I consider the arguments of those who have maintained that the Waswahili are not a single people, and in the second discuss those who have argued the opposite. The third section considers some of the reasons for the differences, including historiography, identity politics, and the positionality of both authors and informants.

WORLD LEAGUE GUIDE, covering the ICC World Cricket League Division 4 tournament, held in Tanzania 4-11 October, 2008. 4-page leaflet, published by ICC (International Cricket Council).

A small, but unusual, literary offering, essentially a souvenir programme for the matches held in Dar es Salaam, a significant landmark in the history of Tanzanian cricket. The tournament involved teams from Afghanistan (the eventual winners), Fiji, Hong Kong, Italy, Jersey and Tanzania. There are welcome messages from the President of the ICC and from Zully Rehemtulla, the Chairman of the Tanzania Cricket Association; some useful facts about all the contesting countries; the tournament programme itself; a summary of the global structure of the ICC World League (for countries outside the Test arena); and a picture of the Tanzania squad.

David Kelly

MIOMBO, Newsletters of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania, Numbers 31 and 32. The Society, Dar es Salaam, 2008. 20 pages each issue. Free to members of WCST.

Quite apart from the knowledge that one’s subscription is helping the WCST’s admirable cause, one splendid advantage of membership of the body is to receive two issues of the Society’s Newsletter each year. The issues for 2008 were, as usual, excellent.

Number 31, datelined April, contained, as major features, a summary of

WCST's conservation projects under implementation; a survey of the rare warbler, Karamoja Apalis, in the Serengeti ecosystem; an article querying whether the water flow from the Eastern Arc Mountains is declining; an excellent piece on Tanzania's endangered marine turtles; the discovery of a new Shrew species in the south centre of the country; and pictures of a Parliamentary Committee visit to Lake Natron. Natron is the lake, north-west of Arusha that is the subject of heated debate: bird conservation vs soda ash extraction on an industrial scale.

Number 32, datelined November, continues the Lake Natron theme with a detailed update on that ongoing saga as well as offering a well-researched article on Peafowls in Dar; a fascinating piece on the threat to Tanzania's biodiversity from invasive alien trees and plants; and features on the distribution of the wild dog, climate change and environmental education.

The WCST is a wonderful organisation and always needs new members. They can be contacted at wcst@africaonline.co.tz. The newsletters on a whole range of flora and fauna topics are worth the annual cost of membership alone!

David Kelly

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HIV/AIDS IN AFRICA: A COUNTRY STUDY. Mandy Siebold, Saarbrücken, VDM Verlag Dr Müller, 2008. pp.101. ISBN 978-3-8364-6308-9. Received as a pdf document.

This book explores the current and potential impact of HIV and AIDS on the economy in Tanzania. Based on a review of existing literature, it argues that the disease represents an economic crisis because it targets the economically-productive groups in society. The first section of the book provides a general survey of HIV and AIDS, and Tanzania. The second part takes a more detailed look at the impact on key areas of the economy: the workforce; the macro-economy; particular sectors such as the formal, education, agricultural and public sectors; and how the disease affects households, women and children.

Whilst the book does provide a wide-ranging survey, its main weakness is reliance on data that is already out of date. This reduces the usefulness of the book, as the data cannot be relied upon to reflect the current situation. For example, on page 19, the book asserts that there are 42 million people globally living with HIV and AIDS. However, the latest estimate from UNAIDS is that there are 32.5 million people living with HIV and AIDS. Similarly, estimates

of the number of children orphaned are out of date (and the assertion that a large proportion live without family support of any kind is not supported by current research). Numbers currently receiving anti-retroviral treatment have expanded dramatically over the past two-three years with the implementation of programmes by the Global Fund, the Gates and Clinton Foundations and US funding. Ultimately, these weaknesses undermine the usefulness of the book as a key text in understanding how HIV and AIDS is affecting Tanzania's economy, society and politics.

Michael Jennings

KEEPING SOMETHING ALIVE. Glyn Roberts and Mark Smith. ISBN 978-1-906274-07-8. Brill Books 2008. paperback. 128 pages. £7.50 inc. p & p. Available from Tools for Self reliance, Netley Marsh, Southampton SO40 7GY. Tel: 023 8086 9697. Email: info@tfsr.org.

This is the story, written by two of its founding members, of Tools for Self Reliance from its start in 1978 up to 1995. The idea of collecting unwanted tools and refurbishing them for the use of craftsmen in Tanzania, was one which quickly caught on, with over sixty support groups in Britain, and tools being sent to a number of countries. As well as providing much needed tools, the organisation seems to have served as a conduit for the enthusiasm of many supporters of Mwalimu's policy of African Socialism and radical movements generally.

In its early days the organisation worked as a cooperative, everything being decided democratically, but it soon became apparent that a more structured arrangement was needed to meet the needs of a rapidly growing organisation. Clearer lines of authority, formal links between support groups, headquarters, and distributors had to be devised, not without much soul searching. There is surely the basis here for several worthwhile business school dissertations on organisational development.

There is useful information about the number of tools supplied, but more about finance and personnel numbers would enable the reader better to compare inputs with outputs, which on the basis of the information given appear to have been rather poorly related.

The shortcomings of the organisation are fairly discussed, particularly the difficulty, shared by many (most?) donors, of assessing their effectiveness.

Small though it is, this book is thought provoking and likely to interest anyone who is, or has been, involved in aid projects of whatever size. Given the ethos of the organisation it is no surprise that profits from the book will go to the organisation, rather than the authors. Very good value, and much to interest, at the price, particularly as a DVD is included.

RAISE YOUR VOICES AND KILL YOUR ANIMALS. Islamic Discourses on the Idd el-Haj and sacrifices in Tanga, Tanzania. Authoritative Texts, Ritual Practices and Social Identities. Gerard Cornelius van de Bruinhorst, 2007. Doctoral thesis, Utrecht University.

The book text can be downloaded at <http://igitur-archive.library.uu.nl/dissertations/2007-0907-200459/index.htm>

The Islamic Sacrificial Feast, one of the two major Muslim annual festivals and coinciding with the pilgrimage to Mecca, has long been neglected as a static, canonical ritual determined by centuries old, Arabic texts. This study based on extensive fieldwork and many written documents illustrates how the 'orthodox' Idd el-Hajj (as the feast is called in Tanzania) shows many different faces. The basic elements of the ritual shared by all Muslims and corroborated by authoritative texts are a communal prayer, a sermon and an animal sacrifice. The ritual reflects the influence of these authoritative texts but the interpretations of these scriptures are continuously reworked in order to reconceptualise Muslim identity in a changing social and political context. Although all Muslim groups in Tanzania accept the idea that Islam is embodied in a set of basic texts, the legitimacy of these texts and their applicability to particular situations is continually challenged and contested.

The discussions on the correct ritual practice are influenced by new developments like the vernacularisation of Islamic key texts and an exceptionally high literacy in Swahili which enables a large part of urban Muslim population to participate in these discourses on Islam and Islamic ritual. This study especially illustrates the ideas on time and place of the Idd el-Hajj. Differences in the date of the festival are connected to the problems of moonsighting: the lunar month only starts with the first sighting of the crescent but the validity of a sighting is not accepted by all Tanzanian Muslims. The personal authority of a religious leader, the loyalty to a local madrasa (Qur'an school) or the desire to synchronise the Idd with the ritual performance of the whole nation or with the activities of the pilgrims at Mecca results in different holidays.

Secondly, the notion of place in the Idd el-Hajj performance is very important

because of the link with the hajj: the annual pilgrimage to the sacred heart of Islam. Different conceptions of the religious and social importance of the hajj are reflected in the way Tanzanian Muslims perceive the role of Islam in their society. This is furthermore reflected in the place where each community performs its Idd prayers: inside the mosque or on public prayerfields. Also the significance of animal sacrifice changes according to the place where it is performed: in the private sphere of the house, on the public field in the centre of the town or in the state controlled abattoir.

The major point of this study is that in the particular forms of the Idd el-Hajj Muslim groups redefine their position within a field of different loyalties and identities and in this process continually reconstruct a Muslim moral community. These different identities are not necessarily contradictory or mutually exclusive. Sometimes the social significance of the ritual is primarily that of a family happening, sometimes the ritual is important to express the identity of a particular madrasa or mosque. But the two most important moral communities visible in the discourses and practices of the Idd el-Hajj are the Tanzanian nation state and the global Muslim community. Tensions between the daily reality of a Muslim minority living in a secular state and the ideal image of a unified Muslim community exemplified by the hajj are at the heart of these discourses.

J. C-P.

Double apologies to Elsbeth Court for the errors in TA Nos 90 and 91. In No 90 she was the author of the article about the East Africa 'Art Biennale' Eastafab 2007. In TA No 91 she was the author of the review of the book 'Art in Eastern Africa' although this was not made clear.

Apologies to all readers for the error on the cover of TA 91. This issue was for the period September to December 2008 and not as stated.

CO-EDITORS

I am very happy to announce that Tanzanian Affairs now has two co-editors.

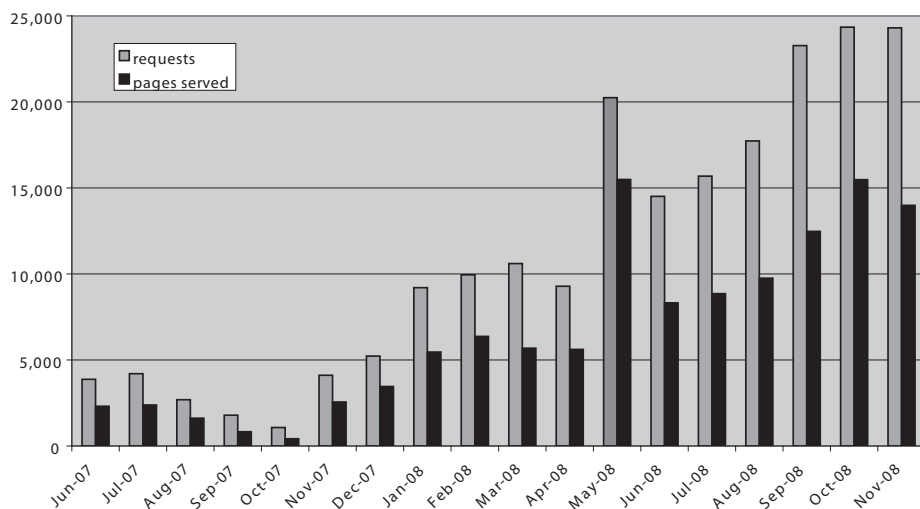
Seven BTS members responded to the advertisement I placed in the BTS Newsletter some months ago asking for a volunteer deputy editor. I would like to apologise to the other BTS members who offered to help in various ways and have not yet heard from me. It has taken several months to decide what to do in view of the wealth of experience which

you all offered. I am very grateful and would like to keep your names on file so that we can perhaps call on you again at some future date.

Both of the new co-editors speak Swahili fluently and visit the country frequently.

Donovan Mc Grath is a full-time lecturer in Media and Communications and a part-time lecturer in Swahili. He is an Alumnus of the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) where he gained a BA Honours degree in African Language and Culture. He also studied Swahili Poetry, the Swahili Novel and Advanced Swahili Usage at the University of Dar es Salaam. Later on, at Middlesex University, he achieved a Master of Arts degree in Film and Visual Cultures. He is co-author of *Colloquial Swahili*, published by Routledge in 2003. He has also written extensively on the subject of film and theatre for *Live* magazine here in the UK and book reviews (in Swahili) for *Femina* magazine in Tanzania. As his first contribution Donovan has written the largest part of our feature 'Tanzania in the International Media' in this issue.

The other co-editor is Jacob Knight, an engineer stationed in Botswana who keeps in close touch with what is happening in Tanzania. He has been playing a vital role in the production of TA for some time as typesetter and graphic designer and also now produces *Tanzanian Affairs* on line at www.tzaffairs.org which is attracting a growing readership.



Number of hits each month on the www.tzaffairs.org website

Jacob is hoping to upload more back issues of *Tanzanian Affairs* onto the website to make a searchable archive dating back to the first issue in 1975. While much of the process is automated, human input is required in tidying up the text files and correcting the mistakes made by the computer when “reading” the printed copies - any volunteers to assist with this would be appreciated (email jacob@kwangu.com).

David Brewin, Editor.

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