

# Tanzanian Affairs

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**Test of popularity**

**Economic crunch begins to hit**

**Condoms passionately condemned**

**Foreign fishing boat caught**

**'Comic Relief' & 'The Apprentice'**

## TEST OF POPULARITY

President Jakaya Kikwete remains outstanding in the popularity ranks in Tanzania gaining 62% support according to the professional research agency - Steadman Group – in its quarterly opinion poll. The poll was held from February 13 to 19 and involved 2,000 respondents, distributed across the country. The National Chairman of the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) Prof Ibrahim Lipumba and the National Chairman of the opposition CHADEMA party Freeman Mbowe tied at 14% each in the popularity rating.

The poll further showed that Tanzanians were likely to vote for either Maalim Seif Shariff Hamad, the Secretary General of CUF (23%) or Dr Mohammed Gharib Bilal, the likely candidate for the ruling CCM party (21%) as the President of Zanzibar. President Karume cannot stand for a third term.

The national soccer team coach Marcio Maximo also received a substantial vote as did CCM Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda.

### **The main issues of concern**

Asked about the main issues which should be tackled immediately, the killing of Albinos came first (39%) and corruption (18%) came second. A little less than 20% said they would like the escalating costs of living to be looked at constructively.

On the government's performance in the last twelve months, 41% approved. Asked whether democracy was effective in the country, 57% said that there were minor problems but 26% said there were major problems.

## ECONOMIC CRUNCH BEGINS TO HIT

At a meeting organised by Tanzania and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Dar es Salaam from March 12 to 13 President Kikwete said that the consequences of the world economic crisis were not yet too pronounced in Tanzania but the country was being affected. Examples: the postponement of a \$3.5 billion investment in aluminum smelting

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*cover photo: President Kikwete and President Hu Jintao on the occasion of the Chinese leader's visit to Dar-es-Salaam in February 2009*



*Bob Geldof, IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn and President Kikwete share a joke at the IMF conference (Photo Stephen Jaffe/IMF/Getty Images)*

and a \$165 million nickel mining project. A Swedish company, SEKAB, which had leased 40,000 hectares of land in Bagamoyo and had invested \$250 million in an effort to produce ethanol (*see TA No 91*), had now decided to abandon the project.

Other negative consequences of the economic downturn were the falling world prices for Tanzanian commodities. The 2009 price of cotton, one of Tanzania's major exports, had fallen from \$0.82 in 2008 to \$0.45 this year. Arabic coffee had fallen from \$158 to \$104 per 50 kilometre bag and Robusta coffee had dropped from \$93 to \$65. The prices of most minerals except for gold had also fallen and there was expected to be a decline of from 7% to 18% in tourist arrivals in 2009.

Also affected had been Tanzanite where the fall in price was some 80%. In Mererani, Arusha district, the owners of the nearly 200 Tanzanite mining pits had reportedly opted to suspend their operations between October 2008 and January 2009 rather than operate at a loss. The situation had been made worse by political unrest in Thailand, one of the leading markets for Tanzanite gems.

The price of Nile Perch, of which 80% are exported, was likely to fall by 50% in 2009. This situation was complicated by stiff competition from

Vietnam - Sunday Observer.

However, on the brighter side, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Mustafa Mkulo said he expected that Tanzania would be among the first beneficiaries of the \$750 million aid package agreed by the G20 powers at their meeting in London. "We have already communicated our interest in the package" he said. "How much we get depends on decisions of the IMF board" – The Citizen.

## PRAISE FOR WAR ON CORRUPTION

France is just one of many donor nations which have said it is encouraged by actions taken by the Tanzanian government in tackling corruption cases, and is now happy that the money it donates will not end up in the pockets of corrupt individuals.

European Union (EU) head of delegation Tim Clarke and Swedish Ambassador Stefan Herrstrom also hailed the actions being taken by the government. Clarke said that legal steps being taken against senior state officials implicated in corruption scandals were a true indication that there was maturity in the political leadership - Guardian.

The following is a summary of recent events:

### **The 'Radar' deal**

After nearly three years of investigation, the UK's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has published remarkably detailed accounts of what it believed had happened during the negotiations leading up to the purchase in 2002 by Tanzania from Britain's BAE Systems of an air traffic control (radar) system at an inflated price of \$40m including an apparent figure of \$12 million as 'commission.' (*See many previous issues of TA– Editor*). The report was summarized in several Tanzanian newspapers. It named former Infrastructure Minister and now Attorney General Andrew Chenge and several other persons, including Sailesh Vithlani (a Briton of Asian background, who is alleged to have played a major role) and Dr Idriss Rashidi a former Governor of the Central Bank plus six British people as having been involved in the deal. The SFO believe that Chenge was 'a conduit' through which the lost money was distributed to selected top government officials whose decisions were crucial to the deal. The SFO established that Chenge received money through a



*Andrew Chenge is escorted to Kinondoni court to hear the charges against him with regard to the recent traffic accident (photo Mroki Mroki/TSN)*

slush fund he set up in Jersey when he was serving as Attorney General. According to information provided by the authorities in Jersey, the \$1.5m was transferred from a Frankfurt branch of Barclays Bank to Chenge's account in Jersey. Chenge was said to have used the money to pay others involved in the radar deal.

The SFO established that on September 20, 1999 Chenge personally authorised the transfer of \$1.2m to the Royal Bank of Scotland International in Jersey. The SFO report concluded that Rashidi and Chenge were key figures in the deal, but they were acting with the full support of top government officials.

The SFO investigation established that, to avoid being caught, the facilitators of the deal gave Vithlani the codename 'Mr Fat', while any mention of bribing or corruption was replaced with the euphemism

'commitments'. In what is believed to have been a tactic to obscure the deal's corruption, Vithlani and his partners registered a front company in Panama which received \$8m between 2000 and 2005. The payments came from 'Red Diamond Trading Co Ltd' registered in the British Virgin Islands, alleged to be a front company of BAE Systems - until December 2005 when it was terminated through a settlement of \$3.36m.

Meanwhile, in Tanzania, the Guardian has reported that the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) had been contacting various sources outside the country in order to build up convincing evidence to enable it to prosecute. The Bureau urged people to be patient while the investigations continued.

To add to his troubles Mr Chenge was recently involved in a car crash in which two women died – *Mtanzania*.

### **The Richmond/Dowans Electricity saga**

There have been several new developments in the on-going Richmond/Dowans electricity saga but space in TA does not allow for a full account of all these extremely complex events. Most of the print media outlets in Tanzania have been competing with each other to make further revelations about what has been happening. The Sunday Observer has played a prominent role.

TANESCO announced earlier this year that Tanzania would again face serious shortages of electricity in the coming months unless urgent action was taken to increase electricity supplies. It recommended that TANESCO should procure (for some TShs 60 billion) the defunct, but apparently still operational, 100 Megawatt electricity generating plant which was to have been built by the Texas-based Richmond Development Company (but this company was found, after its contract had been signed, to be incapable of doing so) and the successor company Dowans, in association with the Tanzanian company Independent Power Tanzania Ltd. Dowans eventually completed the job in 2006. After very detailed investigation by a Parliamentary Select Committee under Dr Harrison Mwakyembe MP (*TA No 92*), which resulted in the resignation of the then Prime Minister, Minister of Minerals and Energy and Minister for East African Cooperation, attention began to focus on the responsible parties of Richmond (the head of the company was revealed to be Naeem Adam Gire) and Dowans, whose actual leader-



ship was determined only recently by the media. Gire was taken to court in Dar es Salaam in January 2009 on five counts of forgery and giving false information to TANESCO. He pleaded not guilty and was given bail. The major shareholder in Dowans turned out to be Suleiman Mohammed Al Aawi, a retired general and businessman in Oman.

As the Sunday Observer reported that TANESCO was on the brink of collapse with heavy debts, dilapidated infrastructure and losses of electricity in transmission of 24% (South Africa which, is also facing an energy crisis, 4.5%) politicians began to fall out about what should be done. Dr Mwakyembe, who strongly opposed the procurement of Dowans by TANESCO and accused some people of pushing the deal for personal reasons (*Mtanzania*), was later found to be one of the leading lights in a private company planning to generate electricity in Singida.

As this issue of TA went to the printers the media revealed that the government was in negotiations with another company for the construction of a 300 Megawatt, \$300 million generating plant at Mnazi Bay by Barrick Tanzania but the negotiations were taking longer than expected.

### **The Bank of Tanzania scandal**

As reported in TA No. 92 and previous issues of TA, this major scandal involves the loss from the External Payments Arrears Account of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) of Shillings 133 billion. Some 20 Bank staff and prominent businessmen have been arrested.

In a separate case former Minister of Finance, Basil Mramba and a former Minister for Minerals and Energy were also arrested. All of the accused persons were allowed bail and investigations have been proceeding slowly. In the Mramba case the prosecution said that it would call 13 witnesses and Mramba admitted that he had asked the BoT Governor to pay \$1 million to a British firm to extend a gold production assaying agreement for two years, which was contrary to the relevant legislation. He added however that this had been in response to an order from the State House - *Mwana Halisi*

*Mwana Halisi* recently claimed to have obtained a set of documents which indicated that the loss of funds from the BoT had been done with the full knowledge of the government. It went on to allege that

Shillings 50 billion of fake bonds had been sold to a company called Tangold, plus another called the Deep Green Finance Company, and to Nedbank of South Africa. The paper went on to claim that some of the crucial documents in the case were missing and had been replaced by forged ones and that this would make it more difficult to prosecute the accused persons.

Similarly, a company called Kagoda Agriculture, was alleged to have taken Shs 40 billion from the BoT. Under pressure from the media to reveal who the owners of this company were, in January, the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA) published the names of two individuals. The company had an address in Temeke, Dar es Salaam.

But opposition CHADEMA Secretary-General Zitto Kabwe MP questioned this and alleged that Kagoda had been formed by the ruling CCM party with the aim of getting money from the Central Bank to fund its 2005 general election campaign. The two individuals who had been named did not exist, he said. In response CCM Publicity Secretary John Chiligati said that CHADEMA was engaging in childish politics. BRELA was an autonomous body which should be trusted as a free and independent public institution.

Under pressure from *Nipashe* and others in the media to explain how far the investigation into Kagoda had gone, it was revealed that the relevant files were still being studied by the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Criminal Investigations.

### **Identity Cards**

The contract for the implementation of the government's TShs 200 billion ID card scheme (there were 54 bids for the contract) has come under scrutiny by MP's and allegations have been made against a government minister. But the minister filed a lawsuit in the High Court against three newspapers and demanded TShs 2.5 billion in damages.

At about the same time National Assembly Speaker Samuel Sitta barred MPs from discussing sensitive issues, including the tendering process for the identity card project, and said that a debate on this particular issue could have caused needless delays in proceedings and huge losses. The tendering process was still under way, he said.



## **Former President Mkapa**

Former President Benjamin Mkapa has been the subject of a number of allegations described in earlier issues of TA. According to *Majira* he said recently that he regretted having led the country into rampant privatisation leading to foreign control, and leaving local citizens out of the loop. His intention had been to deliver Tanzanians from poverty by inviting foreign investment. If it were possible to turn the clock back he would review the privatisation policy.

As the debate in parliament and in the media on whether the former President should be prosecuted (*See previous issues of TA*), National Assembly Speaker Sitta finally declared that such a move was impossible under the current parliamentary rules and the current political system. However, according to the Guardian, some MPs, even within the ruling CCM party, were planning to initiate a process to prosecute. There was said to be talk of a private members' motion to lift his legal immunity.

Prof. Mwesiga Baregu, a senior political science lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam, came out in support of Mkapa's prosecution, saying that although the constitution granted immunity to ex-presidents, such immunity was conditional and only applied to offences the ex-president committed in the course of executing presidential duties, not otherwise. If necessary the immunity could be lifted through parliamentary procedures.

CHADEMA MP Philemon Ndesamburo quoted in the Sunday Observer said that since the former president was the chairman of the cabinet meetings that had made important decisions (including hiring a certain person who is being mentioned in other corruption cases) he too, should be taken to court.

But many are said to believe that the presidency is a post that should be highly respected if national unity is to be strengthened. The normally outspoken CHADEMA MP Zitto Kabwe said that grand corruption in the country could not be fought by taking ex-presidents to court. "Once we start arresting ex-heads of state then the country will never be the same again" he said.

President Kikwete was quoted as having said in 2006 that Mr Mkapa should be left alone to rest.

But the former president continued to be pursued by the media. The Sunday Observer published extracts from a 27-page Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) report on the sale of government houses to senior politicians and officials during his rule. Extracts: 'As a result of selling public housing and land at a fraction of market values to a relatively small group of politicians and senior officials, the government had foregone a windfall income of hundreds of billions of shillings and would continue to lose money on future sales. In Oysterbay, Upanga, Sea view and other prime areas in Dar es Salaam, the current market value of the land on which the auctioned government houses were built ranges between \$150,000 and \$500,000, yet the buyers paid not more than \$50,000 to acquire the properties. A total 7,159 houses were sold countrywide'

### **The National Development Corporation (NDC)**

A new scandal seems to be emerging after reports that the NDC took a loan of \$2.0 million from a bank, most of it disappearing in such a way that even government auditors had failed to detect it. Sources quoted in *Nipashe* said that the NDC management had borrowed the money from Barclays Bank in 2000 in order to finance the Mchuchuma Coal Mine and the Liganga Iron Mine. But \$1.5 million was said to have been used as guarantee for a personal loan from the Investec Bank in Mauritius without the authorisation of the NDC board. Investigation was said to have been stopped because certain documents had disappeared.

## **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Intense competition for seats**

Some CCM MP's are not sure of retaining their seats in the elections next year due to the intense rivalries in their constituencies. *Raia Mwema* named 15 well-known MP's and ministers whose seats were said to be in danger. The battle seems to have already begun although this is contrary to electoral law.

Meanwhile CHADEMA Chairman, Freeman Mbowe has launched a series of rallies under the title 'Operation Sangara'. In one ward in Moshi people donated more than TShs 300,000 to help the Operation and in another ward people donated TShs 600,000. Mbowe said CHADEMA needed financial support, unlike CCM, which got TShs 2 billion in state

subventions every month – *Majira*.

### **Opposition MP bugged**

The rooms in a Dodoma hotel in which the opposition CHADEMA's Secretary General Dr Wilbroad Slaa and a fellow CHADEMA MP were staying was bugged recently. The device used was a digital sound recorder made in Russia. *Mwananchi* quoted the acting CHADEMA Secretary General John Mnyika as claiming that the bugging was part of a broader conspiracy against Dr Slaa and other outspoken MPs.

### **By-election 'inquests'**

There have been all kinds of 'inquests' into what happened in the recent Mbeya by-election which was won comfortably by the ruling CCM party. The big surprise was that the results set a new record with 65% of the registered voters failing to turn up to vote. Why? One reason given was that they did not see any real choice between CCM and CUF, after the CHADEMA candidate (who was said to be popular) was disqualified because he used the wrong lawyer when submitting his application. Voters may have assumed that CCM would win easily and that there was therefore no point in voting. Officially, CCM was said to have won the seat with 73% of the votes but it was 73% of the 35% of those who voted. Questions were raised when counting of the small number of votes in the 17 wards took 10 hours despite the low turn out. CUF Chairman Ibrahim Lipumba told the Guardian that a big number of would-be voters reported having had their IDs taken away by village and ward executive officers as a condition for being given vouchers for fertilisers.

While support for CHADEMA on the mainland seems to be growing, CUF still seems to find it difficult to appeal to mainland voters. The two parties who are supposed to be joined in an election pact are falling apart as they are unable to agree on candidates to stand against CCM in by-elections. Although their leaders are reported to be working together in Parliament they seem to be having real problems cooperating at party level in by-elections.

### **Two by-elections pending**

The present political temperature in Tanzania is likely to be revealed when two by-elections take place in May. One is at Magogoni in

Zanzibar where, among the first CCM members to compete for selection as the party's candidate, was the son of former Zanzibar President Salmin Amour but he received only five votes during the party's selection process.

The other by-election was to be in Busandu in Geita District and once again it seemed that CCM might win because of the intense rivalry between the opposition parties CHADEMA and CUF, both of which selected candidates to fight each other.

### **CCM challenges Mbowe**

According to *Mtanzania* the CCM has claimed that CHADEMA leader Freeman Mbowe had 'misused' TShs 78 million given to him by the British Conservative Party for buying motorbikes. He had also been asked to account for TShs 15 million earmarked for bicycles for party councillors around the country. The CCM Treasurer said "Let him stop beating about the bush. He promised bicycles to the councillors. Where are they? If they intend to fight corruption let them start with themselves instead of accusing CCM all the time."

### **"CUF victory in Zanzibar is a pipedream"**

According to *Habari Leo* President Kikwete surprised many when addressing a crowd in the CUF stronghold of Pemba by saying that it was unlikely the opposition parties in Zanzibar would ever get to form the government. It was therefore in their interest to cooperate with the CCM government to bring about development. "Don't wait for your party to win power, because that day may never come," he said.

### **Zanzibar Minister: "We won't share oil revenue"**

The Act which originally established the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) ruled that exploiting oil and natural gas was a Union responsibility and not the responsibility of the Zanzibar government. However, Zanzibaris have not been happy about this and the disagreement has held up exploration in Zanzibar territory.

Addressing the House of Representatives, Zanzibar's Minister for Water, Works, Energy and Land, Mansoor Himid, said the government wanted to remove the clause on oil and natural gas from the list of issues dealt with by the Union government on the ground that it did not benefit Zanzibaris. He said it was a contradiction of the Union constitution and

that of Zanzibar. CUF MP's agreed.

A team of British consultants had recommended that oil remain a Union matter and that a special joint body should be set up to oversee licensing, prospecting and drilling. Himid told the House, to considerable applause, that the Zanzibar government rejected these recommendations. The consultants had noted that the oil deposit in Zanzibar was very small and was therefore not economically viable. One MP said: "Even if it is only a pint it is ours and ours alone" – *Mtanzania*.

### **Muslims declare jihad**

The 'League for Awakening and Propagation of Islam' in Zanzibar (JUMIKI), also quoted in *Mtanzania*, declared that people supported the Zanzibar government and were prepared to form a special squad to defend the oil deposits in the island. A spokesman said: "We will volunteer to work with local forces such as the coastal guards (KMKM), the National Service (JKU), fire brigade and militia to protect our oilfields." Minister Himid later said that the government had accepted the recommendations of the House over oil and they would be tabled before the Revolutionary Council. The final recommendations would be handed to Zanzibar Chief Minister Shamsi Nahodha to present to the joint Union Consultative Committee. Nahodha promised to work on the recommendations of the House "in the interest of Zanzibaris."

### **CUF elections**

The CUF party held elections for its top posts in March. Its leader, Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba (56), although he was unsuccessful in fighting for the presidency of Tanzania in 1995, 2000 and 2005, won a landside victory amongst party delegates with 646 votes. A retired army officer, Stephen Massanja came second with 10 votes but a Professor Abdul Safari (56) who came third with six votes, complained that the entire party machine had been mobilised against him. Seif Shariff Hamad, the leader of the CUF party in Zanzibar, easily held on to his position as Party Secretary General – The Citizen.

### **'Pinda and the Speaker should learn from Obama'**

The Muslim newspaper *An-Noor* in an editorial in April wrote that, while he was in Turkey, President Obama told Muslims that the USA "is not, and will never be, at war with Islam". Extracts from the article:

‘Obama then spoke to university students. As he was answering their questions, the mosques started calling worshippers to prayers. Obama told the students he would have to wind up as it was time for prayers. This is a far cry from the attitude of our Speaker Samuel Sitta and Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda. For them Friday prayer time was an appropriate time for them to present speeches for winding up the Parliamentary session. Our leaders need to learn from their mentor (Obama), for many a time we see state officials ignoring Muslims while planning their meetings. Of course, Obama has a long way to go, for his peace overture to Muslims is not enough while he continues arming and empowering Israel to massacre Muslims in Gaza.’

## AN EXEMPLARY RELATIONSHIP

Needless to say, considering the good relations that have existed between Tanzania and China for over 45 years, when President Hu Jintao planned his second visit to Africa, Tanzania, was on the itinerary – together with Senegal, Mali and Mauritius.

“Our relationship with Tanzania can be viewed as an exemplary relationship of sincerity, solidarity and cooperation” said President Hu. President Kikwete said Tanzania and China enjoyed a special relationship, which was initiated by the previous leaderships of both nations. The visitor was accorded a 21-gun salute before inspecting a guard of honour at the welcoming ceremony at the Karimjee Hall. A large number of Tanzanians greeted the Chinese leader by playing drums and trumpets, clapping their hands and waving flags.

Major streets of Dar es Salaam were also festooned with the national flags of both countries and banners that read ‘Welcome President Hu’ and ‘Long Live China-Tanzania Friendship.’ Some local people wore costumes and shirts featuring Hu’s picture.

In his speech President Hu said he appreciated Tanzania’s efforts to ensure the smooth relay of the Olympic torch when it was in Dar es Salaam last year (*see TA 90*) as well as its adherence to the ‘One-China’ policy. The Chinese President brought a \$21.95million aid gift with him and said his government would invite young Tanzanians to visit China and would offer more scholarships. On the global financial crisis, he said China would keep its promise not to reduce aid to Africa – Guardian.



## NEW CHAIRMAN OF AU

President Kikwete has completed his term as Chairman of the African Union (AU) and Libya's leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has succeeded him. At a summit meeting in Addis Ababa, Colonel Gaddafi lost no time before making some highly controversial statements. "Our parties (in Africa) are tribal parties - that is what has led to bloodshed." He referred to countries like Kenya where elections were followed by ethnic killings and there was also war-torn Somalia. "We don't have any political structures, our structures are social" he said. The best model for Africa was his own country (where opposition parties are not allowed).



The meeting had to be extended into a fourth day after disagreements over Gaddafi's plan to create a United States of Africa. He envisaged a single African military force, a single currency and a single passport so that Africans could move freely around the continent. He called for integration to begin immediately. But many of his fellow leaders said the proposal would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. They said they would study the unity proposal, make a report and

*Colonel Gaddafi at the AU summit*

meet again in three months time.

The BBC quoted one participant as saying that Gaddafi then appeared to admit defeat and laid his head on the table in despair, before he left the meeting. Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf said: "He didn't walk out, he just got tired."

Before arriving at the summit, Col. Gaddafi had circulated a letter saying he was coming as the King of the traditional kings of Africa because in August 2008 a group of 200 traditional leaders had named him the "King of Kings" of Africa.

The BBC's Mark Doyle commented that many people were wondering what direction the 53-member African Union would take under his leadership over the next 12 months.

## CONDOMS CONDEMNED

The use of condoms against Tanzania's AIDS plague was condemned by religious leaders and others in a series of widely publicised events in March this year.

On the BBC TV's *Newsnight* programme a lady representing the Catholic Church became so excited in her defence of the 'Catholic way' that the presenter, Jeremy Paxman, had to ask her to calm down. Such outbursts, he said, were not the way debates were conducted on his programme.

Jonathan Clayton writing in the *Times* recalled that, on a balmy late afternoon in September 1990, Pope John Paul II visited Mwanza and gave a speech that many believe set the tone for the AIDS crisis in Africa. Those inside the packed church and a huge crowd gathered outside hung on to every word. The Pope promised to give answers about the strange 'slimming' disease that had seemingly come from nowhere to destroy local and other communities. He was unequivocal. He said that condoms, then internationally accepted as the only real way to curtail the spread of the disease, were a sin in any circumstances. He lauded family values and praised fidelity and abstinence as the only true way to combat the disease. AIDS activists, including many Catholics were appalled. Clayton wrote: 'For many, in that one afternoon, the Vatican destroyed more than a decade of patient campaigning and sentenced millions of Africans to death.'

During his recent visit to Germany Pope Benedict XVI reiterated Pope John Paul's view with passion and thus raised further controversy.

### **Mwinyi provokes a storm**



*Former president Ali Hassan Mwinyi speaking just before the incident (photo Issah Michuzi)*

A few days earlier in Dar es Salaam, on Maulid Day at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, some in the audience were reported to have been incensed when former President Ali Hassan Mwinyi advised Muslim clerics to discuss the use of condoms to help reduce the impact of AIDS.

A Mr Ibrahim Said was so angry that he climbed on to the platform and slapped the face of the former President. The result was that he was arrested and subsequently sentenced to one-year in prison. The Magistrate said the accused was being convicted on his own plea of guilty and the penalty was the right one for the offence, which had attracted widespread public interest. Before pronouncing sentence, the Magistrate gave the accused the opportunity to ask for the court's leniency but the man then loudly began praying and reciting verses of the Holy Koran. The magistrate intervened and instructed the accused to go on with his prayers silently. The accused complied and then thanked the magistrate for giving him the opportunity to pray to the Almighty God. He had earlier said he attacked the President because he was promoting the use of condoms.

A fatwa (edict) was then issued by the Islamic Association (Jumuiya) in Dar es Salaam which said that extra-marital sex had been forbidden by God and no human being had the authority to amend the Koran. The question of condom use could be discussed in the case of married couples or in case of life and death but not otherwise. "Let Mwinyi inform us when have people died from abstinence," said the fatwa. It called upon Mwinyi to retract his statement and ask for forgiveness from God. The congregation donated TShs 700,000 for Ibrahim Said. A businessman said that in the government's eyes Said might be guilty but he would be rewarded in heaven. He agreed to donate TShs 10,000 every month to his family as long as Said was in prison.

At a mosque in Kinondoni Said was proclaimed as a 'Muslim hero'. Hundreds of worshipers resolved that politicians should be banned from officiating at Muslim functions - *Majira*.

In Mwanza the head of a mosque was reported to have said that it was wrong for Mwinyi to mix religion with politics, adding that the meeting was an Islamic platform where promotion of condoms should not have been allowed - *Mwananchi*.

### **Clarification**

In mid-April Muslim sheikhs and clerics met for four hours under the 'Mwinyi Baraka Islamic Foundation' to discuss the speech by the former president. They agreed that Mwinyi had not advocated condom use during the Maulid function but was merely describing the division among clerics on the issue of condoms. A spokesman of the Foundation, Hamis Mataka, told reporters that they had deliberated on two viewpoints elaborated by President Mwinyi. One was that in Islam extramarital sex is forbidden and sinful and should therefore be avoided at all costs. On the other hand those who failed to abstain should resort to safe sex so as to avoid spreading HIV/Aids. The meeting appointed a committee to go and see Mwinyi and apologise to him for the physical assault on him.

During the meeting the Chief of the Muslim Council (Bakwata), Sheikh Issa Simba, complained that there was a proliferation of sheikhs and clerics many of whom he said were 'unqualified and half-baked'. He called for a procedure for approval of clerics. A committee of scholars and jurists was formed to coordinate such a procedure at national and international level - *Nipashe* and many other newspapers.

Finally in April *Nipashe* reported that the person who had slapped President Mwinyi had been transferred to Mirembe mental hospital.

### Meanwhile the AIDS rate goes down

There has also been some good news on AIDS. The prevalence rate in Tanzania has dropped to 5.7% from a high of 7% in 2004, according to the most recent HIV/AIDS and Malaria Indicator Survey 2007/08. The study was carried out among people aged between 15 and 49 in all 26 regions on the mainland and in Zanzibar (*see TA No 92*). The government recently imported 100,000 female condoms (AIDS is more prevalent among women than amongst men) to be distributed countrywide as part of its efforts to empower women.

## AIR TANZANIA & THE RAILWAYS

The crisis ridden Air Tanzania Corporation Ltd (ATCL) is once again in trouble, in spite of having been bailed out in January with \$2 million by the government. Some ATCL workers have blamed the Director of Operations and other officials for the collapse of the airline. They referred to what they described as some dubious contracts, for example, the employment of four foreign pilots at a monthly salary of \$10,000 who ended up with no work and the money was lost. An aircraft was said to have been leased at \$370,000 a month but it did not fly for seven months – *Mwananchi*.

In August 2008 the airline's planes were barred from flying for what were described as safety reasons. In December it was banned from flying by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority because it was found not to be airworthy. This forced the airline to ground its planes, leaving the monopoly of the local routes to the successful privately-owned Precision Air and air charter companies. The main shortcomings were said to be poor inspection of aircraft and lack of pilots and aircraft engineers.

In December 2008 the government set up a seven-member task force under the chairmanship of Prof. Idris Msolo, the Vice Chancellor of the Ardhi University College, to make a critical analysis of the problems. Some of the regulations needed updating including the safety management manual, the risk management manual, the security manual and

also five operational programmes including those dealing with pilot and aircrew training.

ATCL has 300 workers and three aircraft, a situation which Minister for Infrastructure Dr. Shukuru Kawambwa, described as unsatisfactory, saying that the number of workers may have to be reduced to enable the company to operate profitably.

Since June 2008 ATCL had lost about 60% of its market share on both domestic and regional routes, with routes between Dar es Salaam and Mwanza and Johannesburg plagued with cancellations – Sunday Observer.

Company Chairman Mustapha Nyanganyi blamed the government for not heeding several SOS messages sent out for financial help. He urged the government to inject something like \$67 million to revive the ATCL, but other authorities were said to have estimated a need for between \$300 million and \$600 million.

The workers accused the managers of sloppy performance and called for their immediate removal. However, as many people pointed out, few public airlines in Africa are currently performing well. The government has entered into discussions with a Chinese investor for a possible partnership with ATCL.

President Kikwete has criticised Tanzania Railways Limited (TRL) for making crucial decisions on operations of the central line without involving the government. The railway was not the property of TRL, but of the government of Tanzania even though the RITES Company (from India) had taken over management responsibilities. He told TRL officials that they were just employees tasked to operate the railways. Kikwete explained that the government and RITES were in partnership and therefore, all decisions must be made jointly. The disputed plans included obtaining credits without involving the government, applications for more tax relief and the proposed removal of rail tracks between Tanzania and Kenya on the grounds that they were not profitable. The President said that that removal of any rail tracks would be tantamount to sabotage. He also wanted to see that all repairs of wagons were done in the TRL workshop in Morogoro and not elsewhere.



## FOREIGN FISHING BOAT CAUGHT

An agreement in July last year between Tanzania, South Africa, Kenya and Mozambique to step up the attack on illegal fishing boats has brought results. In March a trawler was found in Tanzanian waters with no proper documentation, flag or valid fishing permit. It had already caught some 70 tons of tuna. It had a crew comprising fifteen Chinese, three Kenyans, eight Philipinos, five Vietnamese and six Indonesians. President Kikwete commended the South African government for providing a modern surveillance ship to assist in the operation – Guardian.

## FLOGGING CONDEMNED

President Kikwete has terminated the appointment of the DC for Bukoba Rural, Albert Mnali, after he had ordered the flogging of 31 primary teachers. A statement issued by State House said that the DC had violated public service regulations and tarnished the image of the government. Mnali instructed that the teachers be flogged after schools in his district got the worst results in the territorial primary examinations. He told reporters that many people had sent him messages of support but Deputy Minister for Education and Vocational Training Mwantumu Mahiza said Mnali should be sent for a ‘psychiatric check’.

Some local residents were quoted as saying that the DC had been right in flogging the teachers because the standard of teaching had deteriorated. They told reporters that, after the teachers had obtained bank loans, they virtually abandoned their classrooms. Some of the supporters even suggested that the DC should stand for election next year and they would campaign for him - *Majira*.

## DECI – PYRAMID SCHEME ?

The government has ordered the Development Entrepreneurship for Community Initiative (Deci) Tanzania to stop operations pending investigations as to whether it is operating a pyramid scheme. Deci, run by the Jesus Christ Deliverance Church, is understood to have been promising depositors up to 250 per cent interest on their deposits for periods ranging from three and 12 months, and may have links with a now defunct company in Kenya which is also under investigation.

# TANZANIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

Compiled by Donovan Mc Grath

*In order to make this section as interesting and representative as possible we welcome contributions from readers. If you see a mention of Tanzania in the journal, magazine or newspaper you read, especially if you live overseas or travel outside the UK/Tanzania, please send us the relevant item together with the name and date of publication to the address on page 51. If you do not wish your name to be published please say so - Editor*

2009 marks the third year of Jakaya Kikwete's presidency in Tanzania. Elections are scheduled for October 2010 and Kikwete, whose popularity is not as high as it was a year ago, is widely expected to achieve a second and final five-year term of office. However, such optimism is not without its challenges. There is an impending Bill that approves the amalgamation of several rival parties, strengthening the opposition. Old allies, like former-prime minister Edward Lowassa and businessman Rostam Aziz, may also challenge the president. Lowassa, who was forced to resign after being implicated in a corruption case of which he claims innocence, is currently thought to be considering presidential ambitions. It is Kikwete's 'moves against high-level graft in government and the ruling CCM' that has earned him rivals among former allies - Extract from **THE AFRICA REPORT** (No 14. Dec – 08 Jan 09): 'The CCM will want to maintain the tradition of allowing the sitting president to serve a second term, but powerful cliques are fighting Kikwete's determination to reinstate a leadership code of conduct that will forbid business people from holding office and running their private companies concurrently. If this pressure were to threaten his hold on power, the president could yet go after more high-profile politicians and bureaucrats accused of corruption.

'Another area of pressure on Kikwete comes from Zanzibar's main opposition party, the [Civic United Front], which hopes to force Zanzibar's President Amani Abeid Karume and conservative ruling party members into a power-sharing government before the 2010 elections. Karume reneged on an earlier deal to do so but now says a coalition could follow the next elections, after he steps down.'

Under the headline: 'Africa's hungry tribe' (**OBSERVER MONTHLY** Dec 08), Oxfam reporter Alex Renton expresses the plight of the Maasai

of northern Tanzania who are experiencing increasing hunger due to high-prices of staple food. Focusing on a Maasai family living close to Oldonyo Lengai, 'God's Mountain', near Engaresero village, Arusha, the reporter explains how they have resorted to selling family heirlooms in order to survive.

Extracts: '...[B]eaded bracelets, anklets, necklaces and chokers in the white, blue and yellow of the Kisongo clan. Some were studded with discs of tin or silver. One Maasai woman was selling her inheritance: wedding gifts, pieces from her mother. All were for sale to the tourists...She had to sell something, or the family wouldn't eat that night... There were no animals healthy enough to sell, so to put food in their children's bellies they had to sell jewellery or beg or borrow money. 'The principal problem is the global price of food staples – driven up over the past couple of years by the international oil price and the demand for biofuels.'

...A 25kg container of maize grains, enough to feed a family of five for a week, costs up to Shs 10,000 (£5). That may not sound much – but it is nearly double what it was in January.

'...The biggest problems, though, lie with the volcano, Oldonyo Lengai... When it exploded at the beginning of the year the displacement of people fleeing it also disrupted the food supply.' – *Thanks to Roy Galbraith for sending this – Editor.*

Over 80% of the Tanzanian population is employed in the agricultural sector. Tanzania has approximately 44m hectares of fertile land, of which only 10.2m hectares at present is being cultivated. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that President Kikwete promises to invest heavily in agriculture. However, there is a major drawback as **THE AFRICA REPORT** (Dec 08-Jan 09) reported.

Under the headline: 'Roadblocks to Tanzania's green revolution', the reporters highlighted the difficulties faced by foreign companies who wish to invest in the country.

Extract: 'Tanzania's sugar industry [...] has tripled following the privatisation of four government-owned producers in 1998, but in the last ten years there has been no new foreign investment in the sector. "I imagine that [the lack of investment] is because they [foreign investors] have not been able to find the land to set up a new project," says Ashwin Rana, general manager of Kagera Sugar and chairman of the Tanzanian Sugar

Producers' Board. One producer, Kilombero Sugar Company, owned by South Africa's Illovo Sugar, has been waiting to expand its production on a plot of 2,000 hectares to which it has been legally entitled since it bought its plantation in Morogoro ten years ago. There are villagers on the land and [the] government has been slow to relocate them or find a replacement plot. Illovo lost interest and in 2007 took the \$200m it had earmarked for Tanzania and invested it in sugar plantations in Mali and Zambia.'

The lives of Albinos in East Africa, reports the **ECONOMIST** (17 Jan) are at risk from a 'horrendous trade'. Tanzania's Head of Police, in Dar es Salaam, distributed 'free mobile phones to several hundred locals with albinism.' Extract: 'Each phone comes with a "hot line" to the police. Albinos text in their location if they suspect they are being tracked by gangsters determined to kill them and harvest their body parts. 'According to the Tanzanian Albino Society, at least 35 albinos were murdered in Tanzania last year to supply witch doctors with limbs, organs and hair for their potions.' This is not solely a Tanzanian problem as the killing of albinos has spread to Kenya, Uganda and Burundi. *Thank you Simon Hardwick for this item - Editor*

The **WEST AUSTRALIAN** (2 Dec 08), under the headline: '100 years ago: Antediluvian Monsters', published a short article about an important archaeological discovery made in Tanganyika during the early period of German colonial rule: 'The German Government is sending an expedition to investigate the remains of gigantic antediluvian animals discovered by Professor Fraas in the southern portion of German East Africa. The bones of the hind leg of one animal are 11½ feet long, while the spine is a third longer than that of any animal yet discovered.' *Thank you Douglas Gledhill for sending this item - Editor*

'Game hunting in Tanzania has over the years become a well-established industry and an important source of income for the government,' writes Mike Mande for the **EAST AFRICAN** (19-25 January). There are 54 licensed hunting companies operating in the 158 hunting blocks located in the game reserves across 42 districts. This is an increase of the 1988 accounts that stated there were only 21 hunting firms and 128 hunting blocks during that period.

Between 2004 and 2007, Tanzania earned \$48m from game hunting. The

country's game fees for each animal hunted are charged according to species. 'For example, [the] fees for shooting an elephant can be as high as \$20,000 while baboons are only charged \$110; birds range around \$30 each...

'Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Shamsa Mwangunga said that 25 per cent of the earnings from hunting fees and licences go to the villages of the area where hunting takes place through the respective district councils. This money, according to Mrs Mwangunga, "is used to provide social services...'The government sees the policy of 25 per cent contribution to district councils as part of its poverty alleviation effort.'

A recent letter to the Editor of **TANTRAVEL** brought readers' attention to the poor state of the materials documenting slavery that are held in the Roman Catholic Museum at Bagamoyo.

On a recent visit, the historian Jeffrey A. Homburg noticed that much of the material (documents, photos, and artefacts) 'is fast being destroyed by light, and heat ... The labelling is also very poor and includes errors.' The historian calls for outside intervention: 'This is a World Heritage collection, and some action should be taken immediately to save it from oblivion.' *Thank you Liz Fennell for sending this item - Editor*

Abdulaziz Y. Lodhi, the distinguished professor at Uppsala University, Sweden, wrote an interesting article in **HABARI** (Journal of the Sweden-Tanzania Society. Issue No 1, 2009) on the impact of Arabic on the Swahili language. His main argument: 'Arabic in East Africa has minimal formal and academic recognition in spite of its historical predominance on the East African littoral and the rim of the Indian Ocean in general.'

Lodhi begins with a brief historical background on the status of Arabic, Swahili and English in Zanzibar and Tanganyika during the colonial era.

Extract: '...In 1890 when the Sultanate of Zanzibar became a British protectorate, Arabic had been the sole language of administration commerce, diplomacy, education, and liturgy in Muslim East Africa. Swahili gradually replaced Arabic in many fields during the 30 years of German occupation of Tanganyika, but after the First World War and the British takeover of Tanganyika, English was formally encouraged and spread there at the expense of both Arabic and Swahili.'

The article then briefly discusses the historical context of Arabic as a medium of instruction in Zanzibar where its use fluctuated according to colonial and post-colonial government policies, and then noted that Arabic, the spiritual language of the Muslims, which 'is also the "Latin" of Swahili ... is included in neither the programs of the Institute of Kiswahili Research (IKR), nor the Department of Kiswahili and African Languages at the University of Dar es Salaam. Only an extramural course is occasionally offered at the Institute of Adult Education in Dar es Salaam, but at the university, no graduate course in Arabic is offered. This is despite the fact that approximately 42 percent of Swahili vocabulary is of Arabic origin.

Towards the end of the article Lodhi restates his argument by saying: 'there is an abundance of Arabic grammatical or structural loans in Swahili, which the other languages of East Africa borrow freely from Swahili...Arabic continues to make important contributions to the development of the modern Swahili lexicon, and indirectly the lexicon of other East African languages...However, it is English which is the largest language contributor to East Africa today, but its contribution is limited to nominals belonging primarily to the fields of modern technology and science.'

Disney returns to the genre of wildlife films on the big screen after an absence of almost fifty years – **THE OBSERVER** (11 Jan) wrote about *The Crimson Wing*, scheduled for UK release in the autumn, which highlights the plight of 1.5m flamingos that feed and breed on the shores of Lake Natron, a shallow soda lake at the foot of Ol Doinyo Lengai (Mountain of God). It is believed that a new soda ash mine, proposed by the Indian conglomerate Tata Chemicals, would be disastrous for the wildlife around the lake. *Thank you Liz Fennell for sending this item*  
– Editor

'A new sweetened malaria drug for children will be introduced in Tanzania early [2009] after official approval from the Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)', writes the **EAST AFRICAN** (Nov '08) Special Correspondent Mohamed Issa.

Extract: The tablet has a pleasant taste and speedy solubility, which eases administration for malaria's youngest victims...

'Malaria kills almost one million people each year, mostly children. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that of all malaria-related



reported deaths, nearly 85 per cent are in children 5 years old and younger.' The introduction of this latest ant-malarial drug is due to the fact that 'many young children cannot swallow whole tablets and crushing them is an inefficient procedure.'

This latest drug in the fight against malaria is described as: 'The new sweetened, fruit-flavoured Coartem dispersible anti-malarial tablet ...'

January's edition of **NEW AFRICAN** published an interesting article that connects Tanzania, USA and Russia through the life of Lily Golden. Golden, who is described as a Russian African-American professor of history, has an extraordinary family background, which includes African, Native American, Jewish and Russian ancestry. Born in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, in 1934, Golden is the widow of Kassim Hanga, the Zanzibari nationalist who became one of the masterminds of the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution. The couple met in Moscow in 1957 and married three years later when he returned to the Russian capital to study economics. Hanga was a parliamentarian in the pre-independent Zanzibar Sultanate, then a British protectorate. During the coup he was appointed vice-president of the "revolutionary" government. He later became minister for union affairs in the interim union government of Tanganyika and Zanzibar following the merger between the Republic of Tanganyika and the People's Republic of Zanzibar on 26 April 1964. 10 years ago, their daughter Yelena, a Russian TV-star, went on a trip to Zanzibar to discover her family roots and met her paternal grandmother among scores of relatives.

Lymphatic filariasis (LF) is a disease that affects poor people in Africa, India, South America, South Asia and the Pacific. Mandy Turner, writing for the **GUARDIAN** (24.11.08), reports on its sufferers in Tanzania. Its painful and debilitating symptoms include fevers and grotesquely swollen limbs.

Extract: 'While malaria can be contracted from a single bite, LF needs hundreds of bites from mosquitoes infected with male and female worms, which must enter the victim's body, find each other and mate. An estimated 120 million people [worldwide] have the disease – around 40 million have been severely incapacitated and disfigured by it. Disturbingly, a further 1.3 billion are at risk of infection.'

'One-third of people infected ... live in Africa ... There is no cure for LF; the damage done to the lymphatic system is permanent .... The patho-

genesis of the drug is still not fully understood. But there are drugs that can break the cycle of transmission ...'

Ten years ago the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis based on a two-drug, once a year of at-risk communities. The WHO recommends a minimum of five rounds, before mass drug administration can be stopped.'

The Guardian reporter interviewed LF sufferers from various parts of Tanzania, an LF endemic country, where there is a concerted effort to eliminate the disease. President Kikwete has 'launched a campaign to raise a further Shs 500billion (£250,000).' *Thank you Roy Galbraith for sending this item – Editor.*

'More refugees leave as UN, Tanzania closes camps' reads the headline in **THE EAST AFRICAN** (January 5-11). Tanzania's Burundian refugees (TA No 92) are continuing to return to their homeland as the peace process between major rebel forces and the Burundi government enters its final phase.

Extracts: 'The long wait to return home by Burundians who fled to Tanzania to escape ethnic conflict is finally coming to an end, with the last camps closing down. As of January 2009, only a single camp hosting less than 50,000 refugees will be left ...' Approximately 165,000 Burundians have expressed their wish to stay on in Tanzania by submitting their applications for citizenship.

## OBAMA BRINGS HOPE

According to the Citizen, Tanzania now has hope of accessing billions of shillings in contraceptive funds from the United States following the departure from office of former President George W. Bush. President Obama has reversed an executive order by Bush that dried up family planning funds to many poor countries, including Tanzania. Pressure from religious bodies concerned about abortion had resulted in the loss to Tanzania's family planning budget of substantial aid sums. Crucial contraceptives, like family planning pills, condoms and other related health services were funded heavily by money donated by the US to organisations such as the Marie-Stopes International and USAID, which channelled the funds to national family planning associations.

# ALBINOS

Visiting Shinyanga, the region most affected by the killing of Albinos, so that their body parts can be used in traditional medicine, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda made a controversial statement suggesting that those caught red handed murdering albinos should be instantly killed. To wait for court action was to delay justice, he said. "I know some people will raise the question of human rights but I can't accept a situation when someone is handed to the police and then stands trial that drags on for years."

He said that while he was on tour three more albinos had been killed and the people who killed them just cut off the organs which they needed. He went on: "My intention was good. I intended to threaten the killers into stopping their brutal actions and I thought that what I said would help in the efforts to curb the problem."

The Chairman of the UDP party, John Cheyo, said his party supported the idea of summary execution of people caught killing albinos, adding that no other punishment was suitable for them. He said that the ritual killing of albinos had become a national crisis while many of the perpetrators were acquitted – *Majira*.

When the PM returned to the parliament in Dodoma, opposition parties demanded that he should resign. Pinda apologised for his remarks in Shinyanga and, in tears, explained that he had been very upset by the magnitude of the problem he had found while on his tour. His apology was accepted. He added that he had requested religious and political leaders to help end the problem which was ruining the good image of the country.

Al-Shymaa Kwegyir MP, who is an albino, said there had been nothing wrong with the statement because the PM's intention was to end the killings. Those condemning the PM had never visited the places where albinos were being killed – *Guardian*.

Pinda also announced that he was going to revoke licences for traditional healers as a step towards combating the killings. He has been assured by the Attorney General that this could be done under the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Act 2002. Pinda asked regional and district heads and local governments to enforce the order. Those applying for fresh licenses should submit their medicines to the Muhimbili National

Hospital for scrutiny and approval - *Tanzania Daima*.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Observer asked: 'Is Ukerewe Island becoming a safe hideout for albinos?' It reported that many Albinos were flocking to the remote island in Lake Victoria, where killing them is rare.

## NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER



*Ms Corner presents her credentials to President Kikwete*

Britain has a new High Commissioner in Dar es Salaam. She is Ms Diane Corner and is being accompanied by her husband and four children. Ms Corner has wide diplomatic experience in Africa. She has just finished a tour as Deputy High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, prior to which she held a similar position in Zimbabwe.

The outgoing High Commissioner, Philip Parham, is being posted to New York as Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN.

At a very large Britain-Tanzanian Society reception at the Central Methodist Hall in London in honour of the departing and arriving High Commissioners, guests included Mrs Sarah Brown, the Prime Minister's wife who had taken time to attend, even though she was hosting a dinner at No 10 later that evening (Mrs Brown is a member of the Society, as she spent her childhood years in Tanzania). Former British Home Secretary David Blunket MP and Shadow Minister of Health and Chair of parliament's 'All Party Group on Tanzania' Stephen O'Brien MP also attended as did the Tanzanian High Commissioner in London Mrs Mwanaidi Maajar.

Philip Parham, in his speech, said that existing good relations with Tanzania would continue in New York, as the alphabetical arrangement of seats in the Assembly meant that the UK and Tanzania always sit next to each other!

# COUP D'ETAT

## COUPS IN MAURITANIA, GUINEA BISSAU AND MADAGASCAR

As parts of Africa seemed to be returning to the era of government change by coup d'état, President Kikwete reiterated his strong objections, upholding the stand he has been taking during his one year as Chairman of the AU. He said he differed emphatically from the newly elected AU Chairman, Col. Muammar Gaddafi and the Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, who had presented a request that membership of Mauritania and Guinea Bissau be restored to the AU.

Kikwete spoke even more strongly against the coup in Madagascar. With the support of many heads of state and to widespread applause of other members at the UN Conference Centre Economic Committee for Africa (UNCC-ECA) in Addis Ababa, he requested his fellow leaders in Africa to be honest when discussing important issues about African development. President Wade had defended his call to allow military governments in AU, saying that the Guinea coup was being supported by the people. President Kikwete said: "It is very simple for the army to organise people into the streets and make them sing praises. You can do anything when you have a gun, and I know that because I was once in the army....If you want to become a President, first resign from the army, as I did" he said. – Guardian.

## AND THE SUDAN

President Kikwete, together with other African heads of state has condemned the action of the International Criminal Court in indicting Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir for war crimes. Their fear is that arresting Al-Bashir could worsen the situation in Darfur.

However, former Tanzanian Foreign Minister Dr Asha Rose Migira, who is now the Deputy Secretary General of the UN in New York, does not agree. According to the East African she told the media in Dar es Salaam that the UN recognised and respected the decisions of the Court as a legally instituted authority. "President Al-Bashir must cooperate with the court" she said.

## THE NEW 'CHOO MEN'

Of the 3 million people living in Dar, around 13% discharge their effluent into a sewer, another 13% have a septic tank and 74% rely on pit latrines. A “good” latrine is permanent, clean and with a porcelain bowl within a walled and roofed area. Such latrines, which are available only to the better off, cost around US\$350. Others are more basic and vary in depth from 1 – 3 metres. The median number of users per latrine is 7 adults, which suggests that there are around 300,000 pit latrines in Dar.

Because the pit is of a fixed volume, it will inevitably fill up and need emptying - which costs up to US\$80. Formal ways of doing this include draining into a parallel pit – this option is usually cheaper, but not effective for sludge removal, emptying manually (using a bucket) or sucking out with a vacuum tanker - although in the unplanned areas there is rarely vehicular access to latrines. Officially the responsibility of the landlord, few landlords are interested in paying for pit emptying and the reality is that it is often left to the tenants. As many lack the funds, or have other more immediate priorities, many resort to “flooding out” during periods of heavy rain – when the contents are simply allowed to spill out into the general (often open) drainage. Apart from many pits being full, where the water table is high or where the soil is sandy and walls collapse, sewage seeps into, and pollutes, the groundwater.

### Health Hazard

These unsanitary conditions are reflected in high levels of oral-faecal transmitted diarrhoea diseases. The 2004 Demographic Health Survey found that 7% of children under five in Dar es Salaam had experienced diarrhoea in the two weeks prior to data collection and the Ministry of Health report that 60-80% of hospital admissions are due to sanitation-related diseases. Temeke Municipality report that 97% of out-patients attending health centres were suffering from sanitation-related diseases. Between 1998 and 2005 close to 7000 cases of cholera have been reported in the city (MoH 2006). Thus sanitation in Dar es Salaam remains a primary public health concern.

### The Costs

As is often the case, the poorest pay most for basic services. Whilst those on mains sewers pay TShs 300 per m<sup>3</sup> for complete disposal of their sewage (having paid nothing for the construction of the sewer lines), those





*Operators on their way to service a pit latrine (photo by John Meadley)*

with septic tanks and pit latrines pay TShs 1,000 and TShs 1,700 per m<sup>3</sup> respectively just for the cost of dumping into the lagoons. Add in the cost of emptying and transporting to the lagoon (excluding the cost of building the tank/latrine in the first place) and the cost increases to TShs 7,500 per m<sup>3</sup> for a tank and TShs 70,000 per m<sup>3</sup> for a latrine! It is not surprising that most people find an easier way to dispose of the contents of their latrines.

### **Emptying and Transporting**

There have been a number of attempts to empty the latrines and transport the contents to the lagoons. There are two quite different elements – emptying/sucking out and transporting. Transporting long distances should be done in large volumes, but equipment needs to be small to be able to manoeuvre in the small spaces between the houses. Most dual-purpose equipment has failed – perhaps good at sucking out but too slow on the road. However, a new approach has emerged – which separates extraction from transport – and builds on the way in which solid (household) waste is disposed. It was developed by Steven Sugden of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Water Aid, working with officials in Temeke Municipal Council.

## **The Gulper**

The Gulper - developed by Steven and a dairy farmer in Yorkshire - is a simple but effective piece of hand powered equipment that sucks the top 800 mm of sludge out of the latrine into (enclosed) buckets, which are hand carried to a waiting cart.

In the early 2000s, a new franchise system for the collection of solid waste was introduced into Dar. The franchisees were originally large companies with trucks, which tended to focus on the planned areas where collection was easier. In the unplanned areas the work has been done increasingly by individuals using the ubiquitous hand carts – which can carry up to 300kg of solid waste and which take the waste to collection points, from where it is transported to the landfill sites which are now located outside the city. By adding a plastic tank the conventional push cart can be converted into a small tanker to transport the sludge to the treatment lagoons. As there is clearly a limit to how far someone can push a cart weighing 300kg, the possibility of building a number of transfer tanks is being investigated – which can hold the sludge for 2-3 days until there is enough to justify emptying by vacuum tanker.

These are still early days. The gulper works well and is likely to be replaced by a modified and more efficient one. With the combined cost of a Gulper and a modified pushcart being around US\$500, the cost of starting a small business is reasonably affordable. Charging TShs 18,000 for removing 300 litres of sludge, a two-man team can make a reasonable living emptying two latrines per day. The main constraints are people's willingness to pay and the distance to the lagoons. The cost of emptying could be subsidised through a voucher scheme – why should the poorest pay most for the disposal of their waste? - whilst discussions continue with the local authorities. It is possible that in the coming years an increasing number of latrines will be emptied by small operators who both make a living for themselves and create a healthier environment. Ironically, the capital cost of providing enough guplers, carts and transfer tanks to remove 300 litres from 30% of the latrines in Dar each year is less than US\$300,000 – too small to interest most international donors!

John Meadley

# 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.

Security and cleanliness are of paramount importance to us. All rooms are air-conditioned with on-suite facilities, and we can accommodate up to twelve adults. There is a lovely Swiss restaurant next door, or if required our staff can provide delicious local dishes such as “ugali kwa samaki”.

Rates	Non-Resident	Resident
Single	US\$ 35	TShs 35,000
Double	US\$ 45	TShs 45,000

For more information visit [www.kunduchihouse.com](http://www.kunduchihouse.com)  
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# COMIC RELIEF & THE APPRENTICE



*The Comic Relief team*

The Comic Relief team of pop-stars, DJs and television presenters including Chris Moyles, Ronan Keating, Gary Barlow, Wearne Cotton, Denise Van Orton, and Cheryl Cole who recently climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, raised some £1.6 million for the charity, which supports many causes including some in Tanzania. But, according to the Independent (March 13th) they needed an army of helpers to get them to the top. There were some 33 climbers, two doctors, 100 porters, and two runners plus a detachment of security guards. Half a ton of broadcasting equipment, several open-air latrines and an awful lot of soup also had to be carted up the mountain. Weather conditions, which saw temperatures reach 30°C by day and minus 15°C by night, meant that as they neared the summit, each of the climbers was swathed in four pairs of trousers, six fleece tops and a balaclava. They had to cope with 75 miles per hour winds and extreme cold. *Thank you Elsbeth Court for sending this*  
- Editor.



*Mona Lewis, contestant in 'The Apprentice'*

The latest series of the very popular BBC TV programme 'The Apprentice' had a Tanzanian angle. Joseph Kilasara sent us this in mid-April when the contest was in full swing:

Mona Lewis, a former Tanzanian beauty queen is flying the Tanzanian flag sky-high in the award winning TV show now in its fifth run - "The Apprentice". For three weeks running she has proven by a long mile to be a strong candidate for our next best Ambassador at large. One can only bet that her next date in Tanzania will be at Magogoni Street in Dar es Salaam for the country to say thank you for doing us proud.

Hailing from Arusha, Mona was born in Karachi, Pakistan and is now living in Sittingbourne, Kent. She was a runner up in the 1996 Miss Tanzania beauty Pageant. The ex-Natwest Customer Advisor is reportedly to be honest, self driven and with a positive attitude summed up in her own words; "Having the ability to drive a dead horse to the winning line".

Sadly, in this show Tanzanians and friends in UK cannot vote to influence the one man as hard to play as Stradivarius - Sir Alan Sugar, but in Ms Lewis we have reason to be confident confident that she will stay long enough to hear the famous phrase: "You are hired".





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# Tanzania



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# SAVING THE BLACK RHINO

Robert Ochieng writing in the Sunday Observer in January said that a pregnant black rhino kept in the protective enclave of the Singita Grumeti Reserve in the Serengeti National Park gave hope of saving the black rhino, one of the world's rare species from extinction. If it gave birth it would give new hope that the once zoo-bred rhinos can breed in the wild at levels high enough to keep the local population alive into the future. Besides cutting them off completely from human contact, the next most important thing that can be done is to protect their habitat so that they can breed easily and adapt to the wild nature.

Initially being fed on manufactured food products while at separate zoos in the UK before they were flown into the Singita Grumeti Reserve, the rhinos have now adapted to the wild vegetation.

South African investor Paul Tudor Jones was planning to purchase 45 rhinos from his country to be donated to the Tanzanian government. The Government had previously admitted that besides the current world economic crunch having significantly affected tourism in the country, poaching had continued to deal a devastating blow to the country's highest foreign exchange earner.

Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Shamsa Mwangunga said: "What we have shown is that in partnership with governments and communities and business it is possible to stave off extinction for the rhino in some of its former range," Africa's savannas once teemed with more than a million white and black rhinos. However, relentless hunting by European settlers saw rhino numbers and distribution quickly decline.

Added to hunting and habitat loss, trade in rhino horn peaked in the 1970s and 1980s, when huge quantities were shipped to the lucrative markets of the Middle East and Asia.

Responding to the crisis, both species of African rhino were listed in 1977 in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which prohibited all international trade of rhino parts and products.

Despite this international legal protection, the black rhino population at its lowest point dipped to 2,400 in 1995.



In 1997, there were 8,466 white rhinos and 2,599 black rhinos remaining in the wild. Today, there are 14,500 white rhinos and nearly 4,000 of the more endangered black rhinos.

Today, most of Africa's black rhinos are found in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, where the species' decline has been stopped through effective security monitoring, better biological management, wildlife-based tourism and extensive assistance to enable communities to benefit from rather than be in conflict with wildlife.

## TRAIN CRASH IN MPWAPWA

Seven people were killed in Mpwapwa district, Dodoma, when a passenger train travelling to Dar es Salaam from Kigoma rammed into a freight train that had stopped due to engine failure. Speaking at the scene of the accident, Infrastructure Development minister Shukuru Kawambwa blamed the crash on "sheer negligence", and ordered the arrest of the drivers of the ill-fated trains and stationmasters in charge of the two stations.



*Injured passenger is attended to (Faraja Jube)*

The BBC later reported that Police suspect the train crash may have been caused deliberately so that petrol could be stolen from the fuel tanks.

The accident took place between Gulwe and Igandu stations near the spot where two trains collided in 2002, killing 281 people in Africa's worst rail disaster.

## MISCELLANY

A fire attributed to an electrical fault in a kitchen gutted three beach hotels - Paradise Holiday Resort, Livingstone Hotel and Oceanic Bay Hotel on March 23. Some 800 people depended on the hotels for their

livelihood and one of the hotels was hosting four seminars involving 70 guests at the time. Fire fighters had to drive from Dar as there are no fire engines in Bagamoyo. While waiting for the engines some people were said to have been busy helping themselves to fridges, bedding and drinks.

The Ministry of Education has revealed that the government is spending TShs 5 billion as loans to Tanzanian students studying abroad. The numbers are: China 255, India 158, Poland 64, Ukraine 86, Algeria 238, USA 4, UK 12, Uganda 594, Kenya 17, Cuba 25, South Africa 54 and Canada 4 - Guardian.

Girls secondary schools topped the list of ten leading schools for the second year running in last year's Form Four examination results. St. Francis Girls' Secondary School of Mbeya, which emerged number one in 2007, retained the position. Likewise Coast Region's Marian Girls' Secondary School remained at number two. 168, 420 (75.82%) out of 233, 848 candidates who sat for the exams passed. However, the pass level dropped by 10.13% from 85.95% in the previous year to 75.82 per cent.

## OBITUARIES

Zanzibar President Amani Abeid Karume expressed shock when he learnt of the death on March 14 of **SHABAAAN HAMIS MLOO**, the founder of the opposition Civic United Front (CUF) saying he played a great role in the Isles' independence struggle. In his condolence message the President described him as a man who was in the forefront in the fight for the rights of workers in the Isles during the colonial period. In a separate condolence message CUF Chairman Prof. Ibrahim Lipumba said the party would long remember him. Mlooo was the first CUF Secretary General for eight years from 1992 to 2000 and became the Vice Chairman until he retired in 2004. He attended the party's National Congress held in February - Guardian.

Retired **BRIGADIER GENERAL ALEXANDER NYIRENDA** (72), who is best remembered for hoisting the Uhuru Torch on Mt. Kilimanjaro on the eve of the country's independence, has died. While at Muhimbili Hospital, his health deteriorated, prompting the government to take him to India for specialised treatment. He had been suffering from malaria, heart complications and low blood pressure.

## REVIEWS

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

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

**TANGANYIKA DIAMOND PRESENTED TO PRINCESS ELIZABETH,** Jarat Chopra, *Old Africa*, No. 21, February/March 2009, pp. 16-17. The Old Africa website, which describes the journal, is: <http://oldafricamagazine.com/>



*IC Chopra Presents Pink Diamond to HRH Princess Elizabeth in 1948, photograph courtesy of Jarat Chopra*

A recent article in *Old Africa* by Jarat Chopra will be of interest to our readers. Jarat is the grandson of The Hon Iqbal Chopra K.C., Member of the Legislative Assembly, who was the partner of J.T. Williamson in the Mwadui diamond mine. The two men were very different in character; Williamson the self-effacing geologist who made the crucial discovery, and Chopra the extrovert man of affairs who arranged the finance, kept officialdom and potential rivals at bay and ensured that control remained with the two partners.

This short but very interesting article tells the story of the partnership, and also

of the legendary pink diamond which the partners gave to the then Princess Elizabeth as a wedding present, on behalf of the people of Tanganyika. Characteristically the actual presentation was made by Chopra who always revelled in the limelight, rather than by Williamson who preferred to remain behind the scenes. It all seems so long ago, and yet Chopra tells me that his family's two Rolls Royce's, which were a feature of the Mwanza scene in the 1970's are still around. As, of course, is the former Princess Elizabeth!

J.C-P.

## **THE POVERTY AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2007**

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Although it is hard to pick out a number of clear and concise themes from such a wide ranging series of documents, it is possible to perhaps draw out a few strands about what they imply for modern day Tanzania. The starting point seems to be that although there has been a sharp pick up in the overall growth rate since the mid-1990s, results of the 2007 Household Budget Survey (HBS), which provides the majority of the hard data for the Poverty and Human Development Report 2007, show the impact of this on the average person has been limited. In fact, this is the fourth country specific Human Development Report and the third HBS, and all tend to confirm that despite the pick up in the GDP growth rate there has still only been a marginal impact in reducing poverty.

But they also show that it is not all bad news. There has been significant progress by thousands of individuals in improving the quality of housing for example, with sharp increases in the use of metal roofs, non-earth floors and more durable walls. There has also been a sharp increase in the ownership of various consumer goods, led by mobile phones, in all parts of the country, but

also bicycles and mosquito nets in rural areas. However, the overall implication still seems to be that the growth rate is not high enough to have a sustained and deep impact on poverty.

Another important theme of the research seems to be how mixed the impact of rising government spending has been in terms of delivering government services to poor households. In particular, although the number of children attending school has increased there are still deep concerns about the quality of the education provided. Perhaps even more worrying, there has been virtually no change in access to health care, while access to water supplies has worsened in the last decade. This latter statistic is particularly worrying, as it comes at a time when a number of other studies have shown the huge potential impact of improving water and sanitation. Apparently simple measures such as installing toilets and providing safe water supplies have the potential to do more to end poverty and improve health than any other intervention.

The neglect of water and sanitation also highlights another theme across the documents. While donors can have a positive impact, they tend to focus on a limited number of areas at one time. In recent years this has been the provision of free education because this provides an easy to achieve target – hence progress on this front, if not on the quality of what is being taught.

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But they back away from other issues such as water sector reform once they seem too complex. This certainly seems to be the case in Tanzania, where donors supported the award of a ten year management contract for the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Authority (DAWASA), but when this fell apart in 2005 did not seem to have a back-up plan to support investment in the sector in a rapidly growing city, other than to re-establish what was arguably a failing parastatal, but with the new name, the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewage Corporation, and to engage in prolonged legal action with the consortium that had been awarded the management contract – City Water.

The other theme is that when governments and donors fail to provide services, or if the business environment is too bureaucratic as is the case in Tanzania, informal small scale businesses step into this vacuum. As the HBS data shows, although the number of households with access to piped water in Dar es Salaam fell from 86% in 2000/01 to only 58% in 2007, there has been an increase in access to “other protected sources”. But in an unregulated environment this can have a major cost. The rise of unregulated providers of “non-protected sources” has led to scandals about the quality of water supplies, with some private sector suppliers claiming they are providing clean water, when tests show this is clearly not the case. Moreover, the city’s traffic problem is clearly compounded by the growth in privately owned tanker lorries which ferry water into the city from the surrounding regions.

How are these trends viewed by the average Tanzanian? In the Views of the People the surveyors asked 7,879 Tanzanians aged between 7 and 90 years old in ten provinces around the country their views on a wide range of economic and governance issues. The broad finding was that 24% argued that their economic situation had improved; 26% reported no change, while the other half estimated that their living standards had deteriorated. The main economic concerns of those questioned related to the poor state of infrastructure, especially roads if they lived outside of Dar-es-Salaam. But as with the HBS the findings were not all negative. For example, although the rising cost of food was said to be a problem by 67% of adults surveyed, the survey also found that 47% also claimed they had not had a problem with eating enough food in the last year, while 63% stated they ate three meals a day (this proportion rose to 78% in Dar es Salaam).

Where does this leave the government? From their end it does seem that there is a need to really join up the dots and develop a coherent framework on what needs to be done to drive growth and to get donors to fit into this. All parties



would probably claim they are committed to this. In fact, this is the point of the Growth Strategy which seeks measures along these lines to try and push the growth rate up to 8-10%. But the reality is that progress has been slow and that talk of cooperation is greater than actual cooperation. Meanwhile, the rate of improvement is very slow, while expectations amongst the general population that their lives should be improving are rising more quickly. It is this gap that needs to be closed, and closed quickly.

David Cowan

**IMAGINING SERENGETI: A HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE MEMORY IN TANZANIA FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT.** Jan Bender Shetler. New African Histories series, Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio, 2007. xiv + 378pp. ISBN-10 0-8214-1750-9, ISBN-13 978-0-8214-1750-8. (paperback) £25.50

As my copy of a popular guide book says, the Serengeti needs little introduction. It is “one of the world’s most famous wildlife areas” and, thanks to “the largest mammalian migration on earth”, occupies a “hallowed place in our imagination”. What The Rough Guide doesn’t say is that the landscape of the Serengeti plays a very different role in the historical imagination of the people who live around it, but whose access to Serengeti National Park and associated protected areas is now severely limited. As consumers of wildlife and wildlife documentaries it is easy for us to forget that the “natural zoos” that we or the cameras are travelling through were once lived in and used by local people, many of whom have been removed or excluded against their will from the landscapes that still bear the names of their ancestors.

Jan Bender Shetler’s *Imagining Serengeti* is an ambitious attempt to restore local voices to their proper place in regional history, a study of the peoples of the western Serengeti and their narratives about the past from the “earliest times to the present”. It is based on the long-term research among the Bantu-speaking Ikoma, Nata, Ishenyi, Ikizu and Ngoreme of Serengeti and Bunda Districts in the south-eastern corner of Mara Region, and also draws in the history of other past and present users of the Serengeti, including the Kuria and Sonjo, and the Nilotic-speaking Tatoga and Maasai. In addition to material collected in the field the author has made extensive use of the available archives and published literature, and a full third of the book is taken up with the scholarly apparatus of glossary, notes, bibliography and index. It is also well illustrated, with a number of well-drawn maps and black and white photos.



Following a lucid introduction to “Landscapes of Memory” and the approach to social history which frames the book, the rest of the main text is divided into two parts, the first about historical memory before the 19th century, the second about the period after. Part I, “Past Ways of Seeing and Using the Landscape”, comprises separate chapters on “Ecological”, “Social” and “Sacred Landscapes”, focusing respectively on traditions of origin, clan histories, and histories of ritual and sacred sites. Part II, “Landscape Memory and Historical Challenges”, opens with a chapter on “The Time of Disasters” and includes an account of the ecological “collapse” that came in the wake of Maasai raiding and the penetration of global trade networks. This is followed by chapters on “Resistance to Colonial Incorporation” and the “Creation of Serengeti National Park”, describing how the peoples of the western Serengeti were excluded from the park and labelled as “poachers”, and concluding – as other critics have done – that recent community-based conservation initiatives have led to greater state control and provided limited benefits to the local population.

The book’s conclusions, “Imagining Serengeti History”, are squeezed into four pages at the end of the final chapter. To me this hurried ending is a bit of a let-down after being told in the introductory chapter that Imagining Serengeti “adds both a rich, new dimension to existing conversations about preserving African environments and a new methodological approach to precolonial African history.” There are a number of immodest statements of this kind at the beginning of the book, and they only serve to highlight the weakness of its theoretical pretensions. Although the author strives to link each chapter and each period of western Serengeti historical imagining to the use of different “core spatial images” (in the second half of the book these are “loss and dispersal”, “hiding and subterfuge”, and “constriction and restriction”), a less charitable view would see these as narrative tropes of her own invention that have been tacked onto the study in a misguided attempt to give it an analytic structure and added intellectual weight.

This is unnecessary. Imagining Serengeti is based on an impressive amount of scholarship and represents an important contribution to the social and environmental history of northern Tanzania. While reading it I wanted more: in the first half, for example, the further use of historical linguistic data to build upon and perhaps challenge general conclusions borrowed from Ehret, Schoenbrun and others; in the second half more detail about ongoing struggles over access to protected areas and the utilisation of natural resources, a subject which deserves its own full-length study.

But other than imagining a different book, I spotted relatively few mistakes in this one. The botanical name of the tree which provided arrow poison (obosongo) is misspelt in both the text and index, and should be updated to *Acokanthera schimperi* (A.DC.) Schweinf. (syn. *A. friesiorum* Markgr.). The standard abbreviation for Tanzania National Parks is TANAPA, not TNP. And something is missing from the first sentence of the second paragraph on page 31.

Martin Walsh

**A PARLIAMENT WITH TEETH** by Samuel Sitta, Willbrod Slaa and John Cheyo with an introduction by Mark Ashurst. Africa Research Institute. 43 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9JA. ISBN 978 1 906329 02 0

To paraphrase President Obama - Yes it has. Tanzania's parliament has got teeth, and, as explained succinctly by House of Assembly Speaker Samuel Sitta, in this short, very readable, 88 - page book, the teeth have grown or been implanted largely within the last two years.

He writes 'For the first decade after independence, Parliament was quite robust. People who came from areas where there were strong chieftains tended to be 'rightists'. The younger generation, who studied in Cuba, tended to be 'leftists'. People stood for issues. During the 1980s and 1990s party loyalty became more important. If you had different ideas you were looked upon as unpatriotic. Nothing really changed when the multi-party constitution was first introduced in 1992. The CCM, the majority party, still acted as if Tanzania was a one-party state.

However, the most recent changes include much greater independence for parliament. It no longer acts as an appendage of the Prime Ministers Office. It also has financial independence for the first time and is now able to receive money direct from external donors. The World Bank has provided \$19 million. More importantly, the House Standing Orders have been revised and the Prime Minister now has to come to Parliament to answer questions. Sitta writes that there is a new mood in parliament, an appetite to get things done in a different way. It is now possible for the first time to appoint select committees to investigate controversial issues such as the Richmond corruption case (see above).

The second contributor is the opposition's Dr Wilbrod Slaa, who must be becoming Tanzanian's most well known legislator as he tirelessly pursues more

and more cases of alleged corruption. He discusses how he thinks there will be, eventually, a change in the power structure in parliament and how the all powerful CCM party might eventually be defeated in elections to parliament. He also writes about foreign donors: '70% of government purchases are financed almost entirely by donors. Donors pay our salaries as MP's.' He suggests ways of improving relations between parliament and donors.

John Cheyo MP, who is Chairman of parliament's Public Accounts Committee, explains the changes brought about by the Public Audit Act of 2008 and how its first report was longer (450 pages) than usual, produced on time and was taken

much more seriously by the President and others. MP's were beginning to 'clean up the old system.'

In its final recommendations the authors seem to agree on the fundamentals about what needs to be done in future but differ on some of the details.

The longest single section of the book is an excellent introduction, full of insight, by Mark Ashurst, Director of the



Africa Research Institute which should be compulsory reading for those new to politics in Tanzania and also to those who already know a lot but need to up-date themselves. He is right in concluding that ‘a strong executive needs a vigilant parliament. The best prospect of a strong leader is a parliament with teeth.’

D.R.B

## LETTERS

As we embark on another year, faced with growing dismal news about the economy and the prospects for employment, it may be worth reflecting on how universities like ours i.e. UDSM, SUA and the mushrooming private ones such as St. Augustine, Kairuki, Tumaini etc., can play their part in the forthcoming economic downturn which currently is terrorizing developed nations such as USA, France, Japan, Germany and UK. Are these shocks not going to affect Tanzania?

Indeed, President Kikwete’s end of the year speech, followed by recent remarks on current and future economic challenges by the Governor of the BOT, make one think critically on the role of higher education in the future economy of Tanzania.

Around the world universities are seen as agents of economic change and not simply providers of education and training. Inevitably, contrary views are beginning to emerge about the role of education in this state of affairs. In the circumstances we should be expecting our influential leaders to be talking about re-skilling for unexpected shock.

I would like to call for a shift of emphasis away from up-skilling towards re-skilling. In my view the difference between these two words is important; the former assumes that the real challenge is to raise skill levels as the current market warrants; the latter stresses the consequences of providing alternative skill sets for those who may be facing unemployment.

Universities are engaged in both forms of skilling. Primarily, they help individuals to enhance their skills. But they also offer a wide range of courses or provide opportunities for individuals to change direction.

The irony is that if the reported decision to provide loans to individuals is correct, then this is the way forward. But if this isn’t correct then a bit of rethinking has to take place. Of course, I do understand that any

policy takes time to take root and to deliver benefits.

In this situation where the right skills are needed for the right jobs, are the employers in the private sector in Tanzania prepared to engineer co-funding of courses? Or when are we going to have training commissioned by employers? I believe this can help to provide the kind of graduates the market needs.

Hildebrand Shayo

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**Dr. Martin Walsh** helped to establish the MBOMIPA Association (Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga) in Iringa District and is now a U.K. committee member of the Friends of Ruaha Society ([www.friendsofruaha.org](http://www.friendsofruaha.org)). His study of the eviction of livestock keepers from Usangu (Pastoralism and Policy Processes in Tanzania: Mbarali Case Study) can be downloaded from the website of the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum ([www.tnrf.org](http://www.tnrf.org)).

**Dr John Meadley** has worked for many years in overseas development, with a focus on agriculture and on developing the private sector. His article about the Choo men of Dar es Salaam reflects recent work to encourage an entrepreneurial approach to emptying the pit latrines of Dar es Salaam.

**Joseph Kilasara** is a Tanzanian business student at the London School of management. He has also worked with the National Insurance Corporation.

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