

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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“I JUST WON A HOUSE IN ZANZIBAR!”

The CheiChei revolution: Beautiful living for all

The winner takes it all: Abulrahman M. Said, 27, receives a symbolic voucher for the apartment he won in a raffle from sales director Fatma Mussa in Fumba Town

By Andrea Tapper

Fumba Town is growing. CheiChei apartments and shops are the latest addition to the green seaside city near the capital of Zanzibar. The super-affordable units are on sale now. One young man was lucky enough to even win one!

Abulrahman Mohamed Said's life changed overnight. The 27-year-old public relations officer of government investment agency ZIPA is still a bachelor but with his newly found luck he feels “100 percent sure to find a wife soon”. Said won a one-room apartment in Fumba Town during a recent raffle marking the launch of the newest addition to the town, the so-called CheiChei units, named after a traditional Swahili greeting.

A festive dinner reception at the Mao Zedong stadium attracted around 1,000 guests, young and senior, many of them coming from well-known Zanzibari families, eager to hear about equitable housing on the island. “That event was a milestone for us”, said Fatma Mussa, sales director of Fumba Town. In the beginning “there were some sceptics among locals”, she concedes. “We adjusted products and prices creating residencies with a Zanzibari identity.”

Studios starting at \$14,900

270 CheiChei units in nine buildings start at an incredible TZS 35 million (around \$14,900) for a one-room apartment. Embedded in a Swahili

marketing campaign, the units are “selling like hot bread”, Mussa says. 72 units were booked immediately once they hit the market. 32 of more than 50 planned *dukas* - Swahili for shops - also sold at once. Each shop has a bath or store area. Prices begin at \$12,900. The CheiChei bazaar will accommodate a big variety of merchandise and businesses from home-deco to gastronomy, from dentists to digital devices. “CheiChei is powerful”, Fatma Mussa said.

From the beginning, Fumba Town, a new model of a modern African town launched in 2015, was meant to cater to all income groups with one common goal: to create ecologically sound, beautiful living spaces with a complete infrastructure. With a school and a clinic, 94% waste recycling and lush permaculture gardens, the urban housing project overlooking the Indian Ocean is

a novelty not only for Zanzibar but for Africa, a hybrid between residential and holiday living. Everybody, including foreigners, is free to buy here.

Wooden walls, concrete bathrooms

Situated at the outer brink of the estate, along the main road, the CheiChei section will have living spaces of different sizes, with lovely wooden balconies. 3-bedroom residencies start at \$75,900; large shared units with up to seven bedrooms are also available. The flats and the bazaar shopping area will also be accessible from the main road. “We are creating a perfect link for shoppers and residents”, says Leander Moons. The young architect from Holland with an office in New York is

responsible for the unusual, innovative design of the CheiChei quarter. The four-storey buildings with artfully decorated wooden balconies – very much Zanzibari style – are stabilised by a concrete core harbouring bathrooms and staircases. The outer frame of the houses is made of climate-friendly engineered timber.

“Only by using local materials, can we build at such prices”, stresses Moons. The wooden wall elements are prefabricated in Fumba's Volkshouse factory from locally sourced timber studs.

How to save costs?

Still, many people wonder how one can construct a home costing less than a small car? “Optimised planning, higher

buildings and similar bathroom designs for all apartment types save money”, the architect explains. Ceilings consist of timber boards simply nailed together – an old technique almost forgotten, “but ideal for cost savings”, says Moons.

On the other hand, in a Zanzibar context, TZS 30 million for an 11-square-metre one-room studio still seems a lot of money to many who argue that for the same amount they would build a whole house somewhere in the countryside. “It all comes down to standards and lasting quality”, says Moons. “An informal building may still be lower-priced but when buying in Fumba, one is not only buying a single unit, but state-of-the-art infrastructure. One becomes part of a community with top-notch services. This is often not considered when comparing it to building your own house.”

Living room for generations

“With a rapidly growing population there has never been a greater demand for housing”, stresses Tobias Dietzold, one of two German brothers who founded Fumba Town. More than 100,000 houses are urgently needed only in the zone including the Fumba peninsula. “People are encroaching more and more on agricultural land to build houses”, Dietzold recently warned. That certainly rings true for home winner Abulrahman M. Said who has nine siblings. “Where would we all live in the future?” he often wondered. “I never expected to move to Fumba Town, but I love the greenery here. Big or small house, it does not matter”, he said, “the most important thing is to have a home.”

Information and prices:

fumba.town

TOP TEN BUYERS IN FUMBA TOWN

1. Tanzania
2. Oman
3. USA
4. Kenya
5. UK
6. Zanzibar
7. Germany
8. UAE
9. Canada
10. Zimbabwe



270 apartments in 9 buildings situated around pleasant green courtyards - that will be CheiChei living in Fumba. An integrated bazaar has more than 50 shops

TOGETHER AGAIN



German Ambassador Regine Hess (right) with Consul Tobias Dietzold

Universal health insurance is on the way for Zanzibar, with German support. The two are growing closer again after more than seven years of estranged relationships, the German ambassador to Tanzania, Regine Hess, disclosed in Fumba. She spoke at a New Year's reception for German residents in Zanzibar. The connection had soured after the Zanzibar elections 2015. Under a renewed cooperation agreement, Germany will support sports and youth in the isles and commit TZS 1.7 billion to water security. The blueprint to introduce health insurance is developed by the German GIZ agency, Hess announced.

THE END OF BUSARA?

After a blast of a festival this February, it seems uncertain whether the iconic African show “Sauti za Busara” will continue. The Zanzibar festival, which has greatly promoted the island and culture since 2003 and survived despite corona, is in dire need of funding. Norway, donating 300,000 euros over the last three years, is pulling out. For the first time, festival director Yusuf Mahmoud could not announce a date for the next annual event. This year's 19th edition proved especially vibrant with Sampa the Great from Zambia and Fanie Fayar from Congo delivering edgy performances.



Eclectic singer Sampa from Zambia

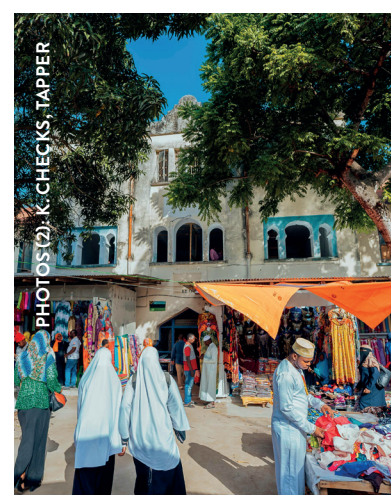
BINTI ON NETFLIX



An award-winning film, Binti – Swahili for ‘young women’ – is Tanzania's first-ever Netflix release. The polished debut by sisters Alinda and Angela Ruhinda tells the story of four women in Dar es Salaam touching on topics like domestic violence and childlessness in a modern urban setting. Binti premiered at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles before being picked up by Netflix.

HISTORIC SCHOOL BECOMES A SOUK

Stone Town conservation once more at crossroads



Good or bad? A school has turned into a market in Darajani

The historic Darajani school has become a market: historian Parmukh Singh fears forever.

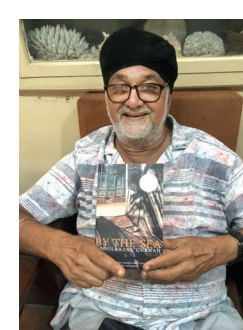
Consumerism beats education. “It's a shame”, says longtime parliamentarian Parmukh Singh Hoogan, 66, who is advocating for the preservation of the historic Darajani Boys School. It was here that Nobel Prize winner Abdulrazak Gurnah learnt his ABC before his departure from Zanzibar in the late 60s.

Recently, the arched building in soft earth and light blue colours has turned from a learning institution into a busy shopping centre. Former classrooms are occupied by kaftan sellers; traders of all kinds dis-

play soaps, underwear and cooking pots in and around the school. Its students were transferred to Mkunazini school. Singh's grandfather, colonial architect Ajit Singh designed the school between 1946 and 1954. He was one of the most prominent architects of historic Zanzibar and built Zanzibar's Mnazi Moja hospital and science museum among others. Under Zanzibar's conservation laws, the school is protected from demolition, as is indeed the entire area opposite the Darajani food market, a so-called buffer zone of historical Stone Town. In the meantime it has been largely fenced off and billboards announce a “Darajani commercial souk” to be built here, in what looks like a semi-traditional design. One might argue that an ever-growing population needs larger markets, but

“don't we need education more than we need malls?” asks Parmukh Singh.

“With ever more shops they are just choking the city”, criticises the historian, who belongs to the micro-minority of Indian Sikhs in Zanzibar. For him the re-purposing of the school means “not valuing historic Zanzibar”. (AT)



Historian Parmukh Singh holding a book of Nobel Prize winner A. Gurnah: “Choking the city”

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EXCLUSIVE
HOW TO RUN AN AIRPORT

Dubai firm takes over operations at Zanzibar's new Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA)

Red sneakers and an MBA in aviation: Janis Balkens from Latvia leads the way in propelling Zanzibar's new airport Terminal 3 into the future. An entire new hub for state-of-the-art cargo planes (right) will be built in 2023

By Andrea Tapper

After a delay of eight years, the new Zanzibar airport terminal will be fully operational within weeks. Dubai firm dnata, an industry veteran running airports in 129 locations worldwide, is overseeing the countdown towards a smooth take-off. **THE FUMBA TIMES was granted an exclusive glimpse into future operations.**

Everything shines in grey, silver and white. The marble floor tiles are so well polished that I can see my reflection in them like in a mirror. We have passed the new Covid testing station downstairs with the first mobile, non-invasive screen testing in Africa, developed

by a firm from Abu Dhabi - a revolution for the continent and Zanzibar! Now we are taking a smoothly running escalator to the first floor departure area, but once on its open gallery, Janis Balkens' expression suddenly darkens. Pointing at a strange array of standing desks just before the electronic security checkpoints, he turns to me and says: "These should actually not be here any more." Frequent Zanzibar travellers know only too well what the aviation expert is referring to: the chaotic place to fill ominous immigration forms - a much dreaded hassle for passengers upon arrival as well as departure. "We have even suggested to the airport authority to make visas more costly at the airport", comments Janis Balkens, "just to encourage more passengers to get them online." He assures me: "We will definitely have a one-stop immigration in the future."

"No chaos is the most important!" To get rid of chaos, to alleviate anxiety and instead to allow for safe, efficient

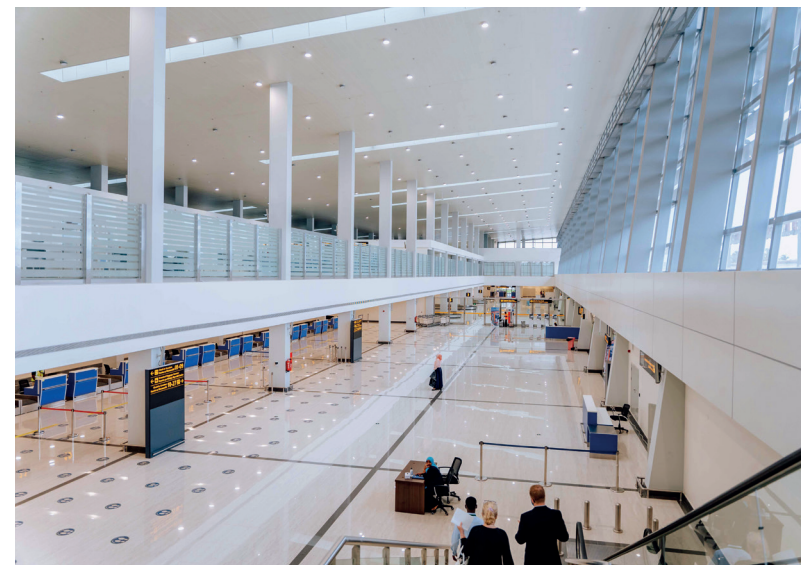
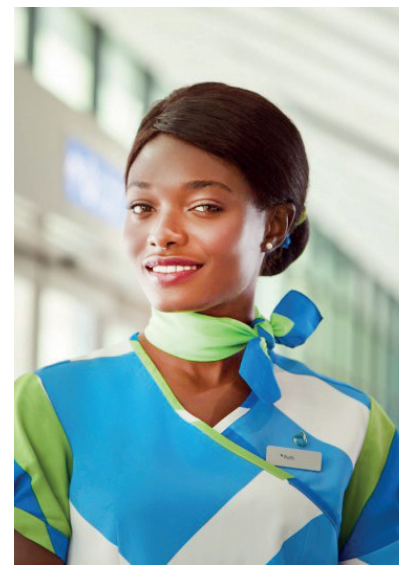
operations is Janis Balkens' job. The 42-year-old highly-skilled airport operations manager from Latvia has been chosen to facilitate Zanzibar's take-off into the future by planning and installing the entire operations at the sleek new, Chinese-built International Terminal 3.

Zen' flair and top technology
Balkens has come up with a blueprint to blend local Zanzibar flair with the latest technologies, such as seamless payments and digital advertising screens. He is attending to each and every detail: "For instance, we want airport employees to be properly dressed and trained to give a top first impression of the country", he points out to me. 400 newly created local jobs, from porter to general manager, are currently being filled. "We had an enormous wave of applications", the manager says. Balkens himself is the regional CEO for new and emerging markets of Dubai firm dnata, the world's largest air and travel services provider.

Contrary to what I first believed, it is not unusual for an international airport to be managed by a foreign firm. That said, illustrious airports run under dnata's wings: London Heathrow, the Singapore airport and John F. Kennedy New York, just to name a few. And now comes Zanzibar. Until recently the new terminal here was a ghost building. But soon, says Balkens, there will be "efficiency and a beautiful Marhaba business lounge". There will be a Freddie Mercury theme location with merchandise and music (as announced in Forbes magazine) amidst 14 other shops and gastronomy outlets to help kill the long hours before often late-night departures.

There will be two top-notch duty free shops upon departure and even upon arrival, mobile charging stations, sim card sellers, spice and coffee shops, and a playground for kids. "The airport will feel distinctively Zanzibar, yet spotlessly modern", says Balkens enthusiastically, "you will feel, see and sense Zanzibar up to the last minute before departure. Your holiday will continue in the airport".

Costa Coffee and fish exports
To ensure the envisaged metamorphosis of dead-end Terminal 3 into efficient airport hospitality fun, a whole range of partner firms have come on-board. Some have been networking with dnata since



Good looks, smart operations: In the future all employees at Zanzibar Airport will wear fashionable uniforms; check-in (photo right) and departure areas are clearly marked and clutter-free. Immigration is a one-stop procedure

it was founded in 1959, among them the firm SEGAP which specialises in managing airports, Egis for construction and mobility services, and Emirates Leisure Retail, a subsidiary of Emirates Airline, for shops and outlets. These include well-known Costa Coffee, Pret à Manger and Cooper's Alehouse. All operations will be conducted in close co-operation with the Zanzibar Airport Authority (ZAA), Balkens said. "What impressed us is its growth, resilience and diversity as a destination", the Dubai-based manager explained to me. Zanzibar is dnata's first African airport client. "The island has visitors from everywhere", Balkens says, "on top of that, the airport will also be a future export hub of cargo from the blue economy." Towards this end, an entire new cargo handling plant with deep-freeze compartments and facilities for live animals, vehicles and dangerous goods is planned for 2023. "Zanzibar has an incredible combination of history and holiday", the aviation expert says. "The new airport will showcase the island's tradition and style and unlock constant tourism and export growth." The new terminal is expected to handle 4,000 flights and two million passengers per year. Before Corona, Zanzibar received about 530,000 visitors per year.

Domestic air traffic will from now on take place only at the old Terminal 2. The most historic part of the airport, the arched Terminal 1, built during British protection of the isles, is presently used as an office and local VIP lounge.

What went wrong in the past?
Why was the opening of the new airport terminal - first planned for 2014 - so drastically delayed although Zanzibar's air passenger numbers increased by 15 per cent annually in the same period? The construction funded by China and conducted by a Beijing company had started in 2011. Some rumours had it that the new terminal was built too close to the runway. Others cited financial misunderstandings between China and the union government. Fact is, that after years of non-transparent squabbles, in 2016, another \$56 million (approximately

TZS126 billion) were set aside to complete the building. But even after Zanzibar's former president Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein eventually inaugurated the terminal on 28 September 2020, in the midst of the first year of the corona pandemic, regular operations did not yet ensue. At 100,000 square metres the new terminal is five times bigger than the old one. "Retardations of such huge infrastructure projects are not uncommon", Balkens plays down the conflict, "look at Germany's new airport in Berlin."

Get the airport app!
What makes a good airport in 2022? "One customer experience for all was yesterday", says Balkens who holds an MBA in aviation from Donau University Krems in Austria. "Today everything needs to be customised. The Zanzibar airport will also have its own app." Zanzibar will be the 130th airport where dnata oversees operations, but it will be "a unique experience like no other" promises the new man in charge.

Freddie Mercury will come to life in Terminal 3



YOUTUBE TIP
Ally Jape, Youtuber, 8.99K subscribers, can be seen filming all over Zanzibar, and sure enough, he has also caught the new terminal on camera. Tune in to follow this active young man!

READY FOR TAKE-OFF!

How Zanzibar's new airport Terminal 3 will start operating:

- 27 March 2022: handling of flights by Dubai firm dnata to commence
- 1 May 2022: "Marhaba" Business lounge to open; day passes available
- June 2022: 14 restaurants and shops including duty free in departure and arrival section to be operational
- 4000 flights and 2 million passengers per year expected
- 2 1/2 hours average staying time per passenger
- Dubai firm dnata and partner firms to oversee ground and passenger handling, cargo, catering, a VIP "Marhaba lounge", 14 shops and restaurants
- Investment of US\$ 7 million
- 400 new local jobs created
- One-stop immigration procedure to be established
- Dnata operating 129 airports in 36 countries, including Dubai, London Heathrow, JFK New York, Singapore, Sao Paulo, Rio, Geneva, Munich, Sydney, Manila, Riga

"No more chaos": dnata manager Janis Balkens with FUMBA TIMES editor Andrea Tapper

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GO AWAY DUDUS, GO!

4 natural ways against insects

FLIES - BASIL

Put dried basil leaves in a small bag and rub it around doors, the place where flies often enter the home.

MOSQUITOES - APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

Mix apple cider vinegar with an essential oil, ideally one with anti-mosquito properties, like eucalyptus or citronella! Put in a spray bottle, and spray generously on terrace floors, furniture & in the air.

COCKROACHES - COOKING OIL & SYRUP CONCOCTION

Take an empty wine bottle and line the bottom of it with some maple syrup. Rub the top of the bottle with some cooking oil. This concoction will trap and kill roaches in a breeze.

ANTS - DISH SOAP

A natural insect killer for ants includes mixing some water and dish soap in a spray bottle. Spray generously wherever you find ants and around entrances.

BAH HUM BUG!

WELCOME NOTE
THE URBAN CHALLENGE

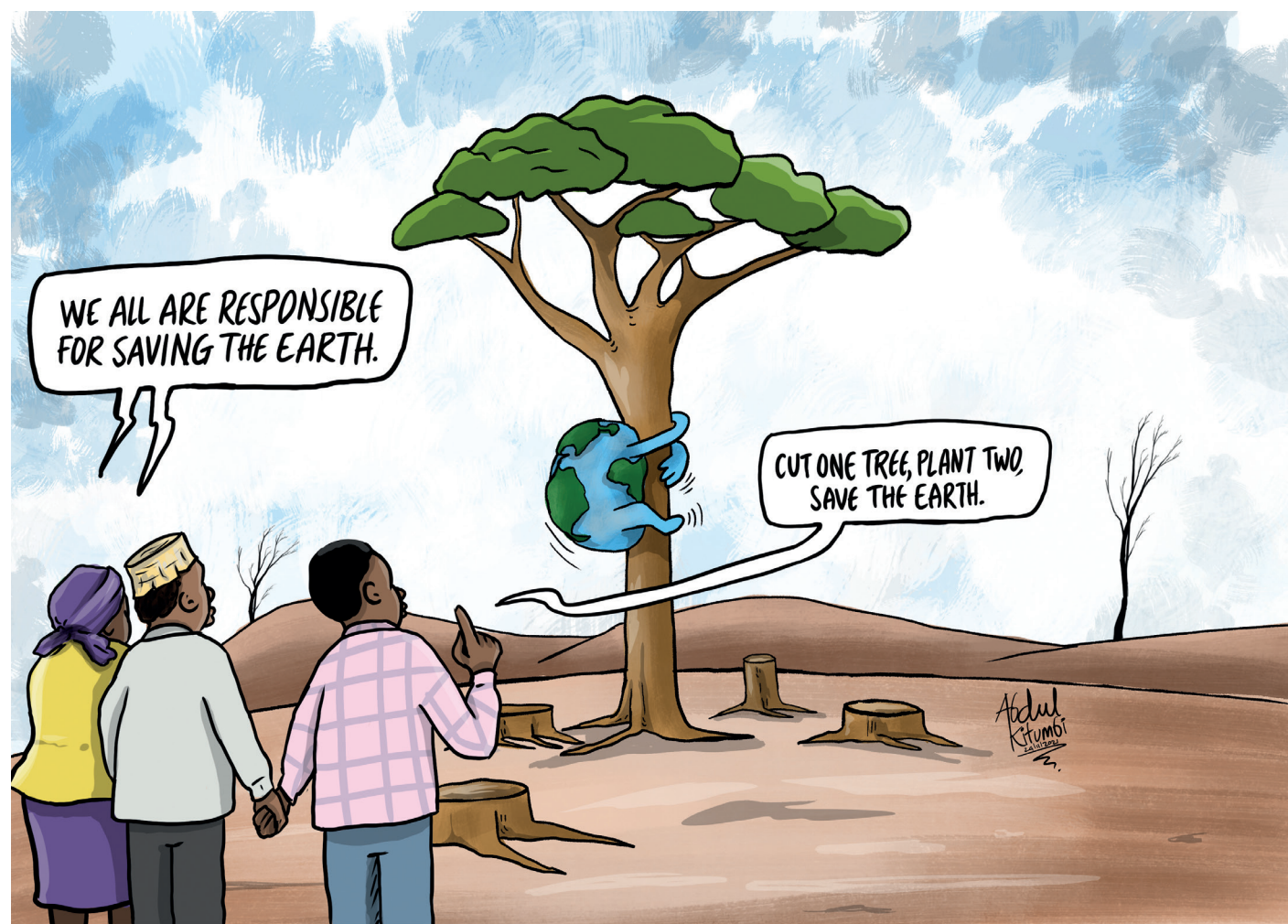


Sebastian Dietzold
Publisher of THE FUMBA
TIMES and CEO of CPS

My job requires me to commute regularly between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar, and I love it. Just today, as I was looking out from my plane window at the beautiful scenery of Dar es Salaam and arriving in our beloved Zanzibar, I realised again how important – and challenging – our job as urban planners is. Both cities are growing at an unparalleled speed. We are living in times of significant challenges – but even bigger opportunities. “Urbanisation is occurring faster in Africa than anywhere else in human history”, says a recent report of the World Politics Review. The population in Africa is expected to grow from 1.5 billion people today to 4.5 billion in 2100. That is two Chinas and one India, according to current counts! For sure, we will need a lot of new homes. But my point is, not just any homes! The mission of our company

CPS is to create safe, sustainable and affordable communities. Beautiful homes with all the infrastructure you and your family need, embedded in an environment worth living in. We have started precisely this in Fumba Town in Zanzibar and now take it to the next level. Read our cover story about the fast-selling CheiChei apartments we developed especially for the local market with unrivalled low sales prices in real estate. You’ll also be surprised to learn what is happening at the Zanzibar airport in our exclusive report on page 2. And, lastly, if you are not only looking for comfortable flights but some adrenaline injection into your life, turn to our exciting reportage about “Skyfall in Kendwa” on Page 8 – an adventure for the daring! As always, enjoy the read, and stay with THE FUMBA TIMES, your independent voice from Zanzibar.

CARTOON



Abdul Kitumbi Art Lovers

GUEST COMMENT
“TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER”



Pastor Anne Mika (third from right), 32, works for the Lutheran Church in Tanzania. With her Muslim counterpart Hidayat Dude (second from right) and other women she started an interfaith group

“Interfaith is peace building; it takes time”

If you want to start a new interfaith programme, an experienced colleague told me when I started my work for the Eastern Coastal Diocese (ECD) of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, “you have to either start with the youth or women.” - “Makes sense.” I thought to myself, “I am a woman and I am still comparatively young. So, let’s do this!” Unfortunately it is not as easy as this. I learnt already when I studied theology in Germany and later Islam at the Sharia Institute in Oman. Interfaith. It is a big and somehow abstract word. It means working between religions. Interfaith is not mission. It is decidedly not about pulling people over to your own faith group. Interfaith is peace-building. And peace-building takes time, patience and trust. In order to decrease prejudices, people need to get to know one another better. Need to understand why the other does what she or he does. So let’s talk, let’s share, let’s have some fun. Aren’t those three of the things women do best? The idea was born to start an inter-religious women’s discussion group. I wrote a concept and presented it to my colleagues. “We will talk about the female body, health, childbirth, old age.” All the men in the room stiffened in

their chairs. “Another discussion will dwell on love, married life and family. What do culture and holy scriptures tell us about these topics? What dress codes do apply in my community and why?” “Well”, said my head of department, looking at all the men who had visibly sunken into their chairs by now, “this is obviously something you do not need our expertise with. We will leave it in your capable hands.” Of course it is not only in my hands anymore. A number of great women, Muslim as well as Christian, have joined the ongoing preparations for our discussion groups in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Pemba. In the course of setting up the meetings and get-togethers, we have learnt, that peace building takes time, patience and trust. But by now we have eagerly started the exchange and it has strengthened our belief that women getting together can move a lot. Talking to each other, openly exchanging views, greatly helps to understand the other side, to find commonalities despite differences. Interfaith is an abstract word – but it works! If you’d want to participate in the groups, link up with us here:

anne.mika@ekib.de, Tel. +255 753 065723

ALL SET FOR RAMADAN

Celebrating the holy month in Zanzibar



Cooking during Ramadan: Afreeda (pictured) has prepared a special iftar dish for us.

Try a Ramadan recipe! Claudia Afreeda Boran, 35, who runs the KwetuKwetu kiosk in Fumba Town, has selected a traditional recipe for us. The holiest month of the Islamic calendar is expected to run from 1-30 April 2022. The fast-breaking meal after sunset is called iftar.

Sweet coconut bananas (in Swahili ndizi mbivu)
Ingredients for 2 portions (multiply as desired): 2-3 green bananas, 1 cup of water, 1 cup of coconut milk, 2 tablespoons of sugar, 3-4 cardamom pods, fresh vanilla.



Peel the bananas by knife, cut them lengthwise and into smaller pieces. Extract fresh vanilla (you’ll find the best in Zanzibar!), open cardamom pods, place seeds, bananas and water in a non-stick pot. Slowly bring to boil for about 10 minutes, when the water has evaporated add thick coconut milk and sugar, continue boiling over a low heat, until it has a creamy consistency. If you want to make this dish the real Zanzibar way, place a layer of banana peels on the bottom of your pot to intensify the flavour.



Sharmin Esmail, 48, Fumba Town manager

This month is not just about fasting, it’s about building my faith. I recite more Quran, do more charity and work on my spirituality.



Latifa Omar Habib, 29, travel influencer

Ramadhan for me means engaging yourself in doing and speaking only good, being more kind and giving more.



Faridi Hamid, cultural expert

Ramadhan is a physical and mental detox. If you are a visitor to this island, you are welcome to discover the meanings and customs of this period of calm and restraint for Muslims worldwide.

FIND US ONLINE!

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Vibrant marketing team (from l): Itika, Lydia, photographer Keegan & Chantal

LONGTIME READERS We are readers of THE FUMBA TIMES since the very first issue and like to congratulate you on your continued excellence. Recently we discovered your newspaper also online. Keep up the good work!

Simon and Pam Musuki, London

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Dear Simon and Pam in London, we are happy to keep you in touch with our home island. Tune in online @fumba.town on twitter, fb and instagram. - the editor

SUCCESS IN BLACK & WHITE

Tanzanian artist Sungi Mlengeya shoots to international fame



Being or performing? Tanzanian artist Sungi Mlengeya portrays African women in minimalist paintings. Her specialty: a curious use of white space

A sold-out show at Art Basel Miami, reviews in The New York Times – artist Sungi Mlengeya from Arusha wins global acclaim with her unique minimalistic black and white portraits of women.

She grew up in one of the world’s most dramatic landscapes. “We see the Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru from our doorstep”, says Sungi Mlengeya. But she chose to portray neither wildlife nor Africa’s highest mountain in her XXL-canvas paintings – but simply women. Women around her, women of Africa, women of colour. With four of her best female friends posing as models and inspiration, Sungi shot to international acclaim in the course of a few months last year. The New York Times attested her “an eye for capturing the spirit of contemporary African woman in paintings stunning in their simplicity”.

“I want my art to be striking and unforgettable”, says Sungi herself. In an exclusive telephone interview with THE FUMBA TIMES from her studio in Kampala, the 30-year-old daughter of veterinary parents, who divides her time between Arusha and Uganda, talked openly and in a very down-to-earth manner despite her newly won fame. “I am happy about my success, but nothing has changed much. I still live with my mum at our family home in Arusha. I paint there or in my studio in Kampala.”

Striking and unforgettable Sungi’s breakthrough came when she developed a unique format of minimalist and monochromatic paintings with “a curious use of negative space”, as she puts it on her own website. She places young black women with rounded faces and soft expressions on white canvases, their garments seamlessly melding into the background, as if the figures were floating in space. “A place of calm, free and detached from social norms and restrictions”, she says. “I was

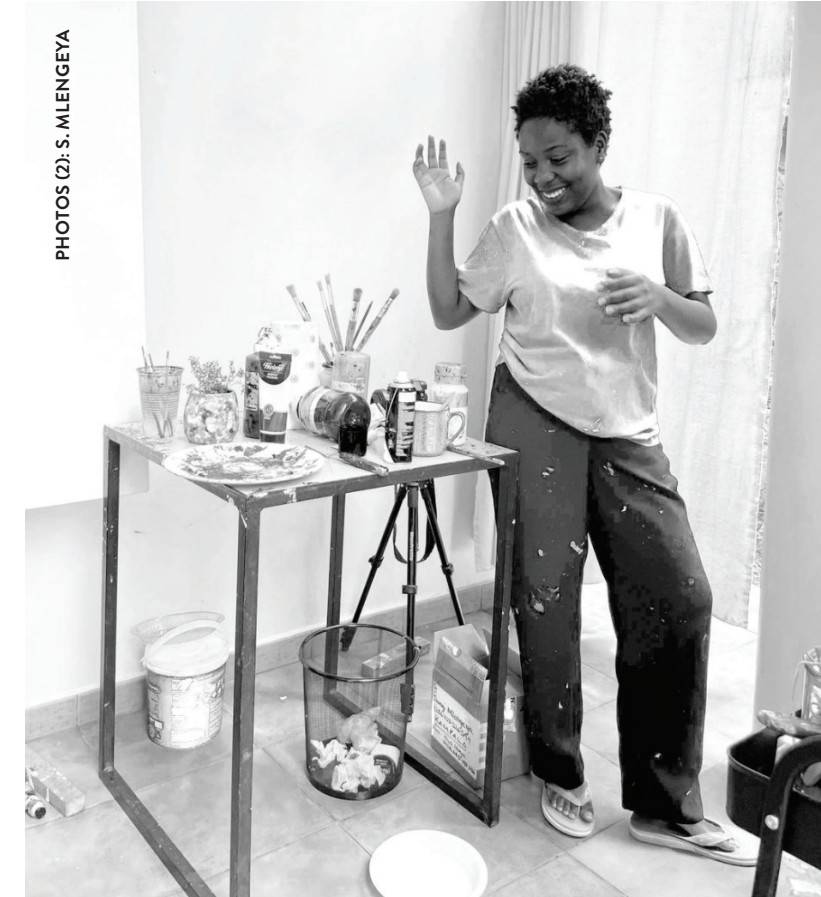
looking for the perfect background in my paintings around 2018”. Sungi remembers, “when I suddenly realised, I need no background at all! Dark skin against a white backdrop, I just loved it”. And so, it turned out, does her audience as well as international critics, elevating her into the realm of artists selling between \$15,000 – \$75,000 per piece. In April or May this year the self-taught artist will star in a solo exhibition at the London Africa Centre, the first show to be held after its renovation. At the most recent Art Basel in Miami she featured with a

series of paintings curated by Daudi Karungi, her partner of Afriart Gallery in Kampala, which quickly sold out. Women of colour coming forward Her very inclusion in Miami together with other African woman artists namely Marcelina Akpojoitor, 32, from Nigeria, demonstrates a shift in attitude in Miami. Until recently, Art Basel’s online iteration did not include a single African-American owned gallery. But at the first in-person show in Miami since 2019 due to Covid-19, three galleries from Africa and four Black American galleries

were present; additionally, showstar singer Alicia Keys performed in the Miami Design District. Sungi Mlengeya likes her paintings big. “I prefer to work with acrylic on canvas of large sizes of 150 x 140 cm or bigger”, she says. They are works that shine a light on women’s stories, their journeys, struggles, accomplishments and relationships.

“I celebrate women who surround me and want to share stories of their everyday experiences”, she explains. One critic admired her “tantalising balance between economic use of visual language and detailed engagement with her subjects”. The artists herself, who studied finance in Nairobi and worked as a bank accountant before going fully into art, simply says: “I am inspired by women who are not silent.” She is “unburdening women from the invisible labour of performing their identity”, aptly noted another art critic.

“My art is not typical Tanzanian and yet a reflection of women here”



A painter of passion: Sungi Mlengeya discovered her talent in kindergarten

“I love Tinga Tinga art” Born in Dar es Salaam and later raised in Arusha, Sungi said, she was surrounded by traditional Tanzanian Tinga-Tinga art all her life and “loves it”. But “I wanted to create something different, not typical Tanzanian and yet a reflection of women here. We are expected to be a certain way, we can hardly be ourselves”, she says. And with a smile she adds: “That seems even more so for women in Zanzibar. When I travelled to Miami I chose to depart from Zanzibar, and as a single local woman travelling all by myself I was looked at like an alien.” Sungi’s work has been collected extensively and exhibited at A Force for Change by UN Women at Agora Gallery, Just Disruptions Afriart Gallery, 1-54 Highlights Christie’s London, 1-54 Art Fair London and New York, Investec Cape Town Art Fair Solo Section, Latitudes Art Fair and Nairobi Railways Museum. The artist was recently honoured in the 40 under 40 Africa Artist list in 2020 by Apollo Magazine.

I Killimbe / A.Tapper
Links:
Instagram Sungimlengeya
https://sungimlengeya.com/



The divers of Forodhani have recently become known all over the world through social media - but few realise the dangers of their sport

DIVE, DON’T DIE!

A private initiative is making Forodhani safer for divers – just as the Zanzibari makachus are grabbing the world’s attention.

Half a million followers on Instagram for Yessjamaal. 74.1 k@makachu_forodhani: the young Zanzibari doing acrobatic dives from the sea promenade have become world-famous. Every night, just before dusk, the local youngsters dive into the sea with the most dramatic stunts, turning the historic Forodhani area in front of Stone Town into a stage. Recently, footage of the popular but dangerous pastime – exercised since generations – has gone viral. But the entertainment has a high price: Over the years there have been several fatalities and serious injuries; one paralysed boy has been in hospital for years. “When I met his family I knew I had to do something”, says Abdulsamad Abdulrahim, a local businessman and Honorary Consul of Brazil. Singlehandedly the Zanzibari, who used to jump from the promenade wall himself as a kid, started an initiative to clean up the ocean, improve the quay wall and introduce other safety precautions.

Mwinyi endorsing the plan With the consent of president Hussein Mwinyi, also a former teenage diver,



Heavy machinery removing stones from the sea; Abdulsamad Abdulrahim at the scene with officials and reporters (small photo above)

MIND MY BUSINESS
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE - TUPOMOJA CAFÉ

CUTE FAMILY OASIS IN MBWENI

Tupomoja is a different type of café and just the right spot to relax with your children.



Two best friends from the mainland came to Zanzibar with a dream of one day owning their own café. After seven years of working for its former owner, Saumu and Fatma made their dream come true and are now the new owners of the Tupomoja Café in Mbweni. Recently they have enlarged the space (photo left), which has from the beginning been attractive with families. “We receive so many guests with children, so we decided to open a bigger play area and also more seating space”, says Saumu. Tupomoja means “we are together” in Swahili. The café is tucked in the suburbs of Zanzibar town, in Mbweni, in a quiet, green street. The café has been operating since 2013 and is open for breakfast and lunch seven

days a week offering a unique style of healthy, homemade dishes such as garden salads, fresh tropical fruits, delicious juices. Try out their most popular food on the menu, salty pancakes and their breakfast deluxe for TZS 15,000. If that’s not for you, you may also build your own menu. Tupomoja offers lunch for school kids, very popular homemade birthday cakes, handmade jams, syrups, green pesto and brown bread as take-away. There is a free delivery service to Mbweni and Chukwani. Itika Killimbe

Tupomoja Café
Phone & WhatsApp
+255 774 229 423
Instagram - @tupomojacafe
Facebook - Tupomoja Cafe



Creating a relaxed space with fresh food for families: Saumu Mohamed and Fatma Juma at their Tupomoja Café in Mbweni



PHOTOS: GN.K. CHECKS

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THE COSY HOME OF MR. MWATAWALA

Fantastic sea-view above palm trees

Spacious living: to open up the kitchen worked wonders in a small two-bedroom apartment in Fumba Town

By Andrea Tapper

A bar counter on the balcony. An airy open kitchen. A feeling of space in a tiny two-bedroom – how an architect worked miracles in his Fumba apartment.

Aaah, finally on holiday! The apartment of Shabani Mwatawala, an architect from Dar, certainly feels like a 5-star hotel room. From his bedroom, from the living room and from a cute little wooden bar-counter which he installed on the balcony, he has got a first-class panorama sea view above rows of white shining town houses right down to the blue ocean. “That’s exactly what I wanted”, says the 56-year

old who was one of the early buyers in Fumba Town, the seaside satellite estate 18 km away from Zanzibar city. “I always wanted a home in Zanzibar, however small, with a sea-view. And I got it.” Mwatawala bought in 2016 and moved in recently. Still active as an architect in Dar, where he lives with his wife Salama and two grown-up children, he only comes to Zanzibar occasionally, renting out his space-miracle in Fumba the rest of the time.

He has no problems finding short-term tenants: “Everybody likes the place because it’s well organised”, he says. As soon as he – or town management employees renting out on his behalf – open the entrance door to his apartment on the fourth floor to clients, an often heard comment is: “Oh, this is much bigger than I thought!” The main trick does an enlarged kitchen, achieved by knocking

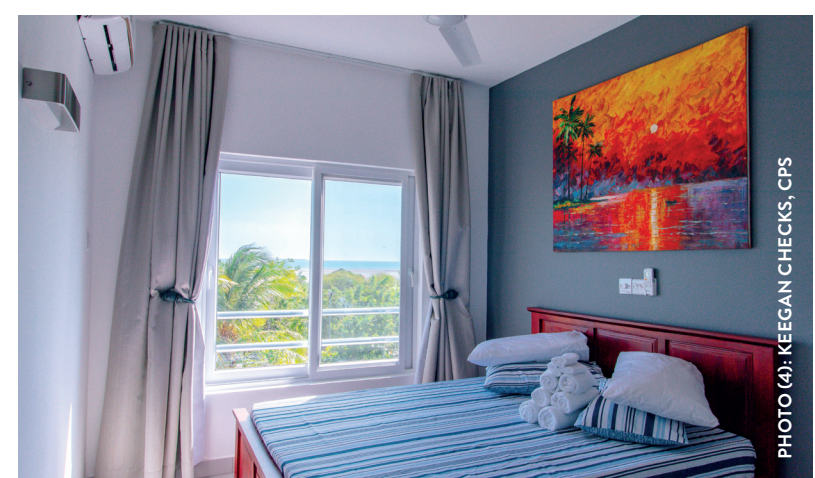
down part of the kitchen wall and removing the kitchen door. This change makes the entire 60-square-metre apartment look more spacious. Instead of a dining table, he built a wooden kitchen bar. Modern black bar stools can be used flexibly here and at the balcony counter. “It was the lifestyle which comes with Fumba which convinced me”, says the friendly, quiet man, “the community feeling, social events, the security, the infrastructure. Not so much the apartment itself.”

In fact, he admits that, when looking at the floor-plan with his professional expertise, he immediately saw a few flaws: a cramped kitchen, a bedroom door opening up straight into the living room, insufficient lighting. “The kitchen could change, the bedroom I have learned to live with”, he says. To hide the installation of ceiling lights he worked with

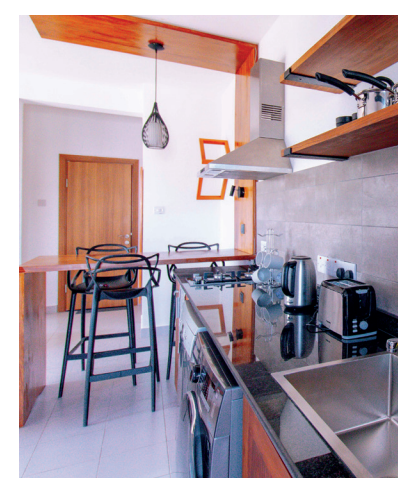


Smart ideas for interior decoration: architect Shabani Mwatawala

beautiful panels of dark mninga hardwood as a cover-up but also as a styling element, bringing together TV shelves, kitchen counter and table. “Using one material and a uniform design makes a room appear more generous”, he explains. The same goes for the distinct dark-grey wallpaint he applied on a dominant wall in each room – the perfect background for African paintings. What’s now missing is only some bedroom storage: “In the smaller bedroom we will only put open shelves”, the architect has decided.



Sea view from the bedroom, a well organised kitchen: Mwatawala’s apartment radiates holiday vibes



5 MAGIC TRICKS FOR SMALL ROOMS

- Open-up the kitchen
- Set colour accents
- Subtle lighting
- Use open cupboards
- Create sitting space on the balcony

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



Dentist Dr. Talib: “To live near the airport is important for me”

“I DID EVERYTHING SIMPLY ONLINE”

Dr. Talib Salim Ali is a dentist in Gainsville, Virginia – and a Zanzibari returning to his roots with a new apartment in Fumba.

Your home looks so neat with wood in a burner, and a pink rice cooker on the counter... Well, even if I live in America I still enjoy Zanzibari traditions.

What next?

I have decided to also buy office space in the CheiChei complex in Fumba. I will open a dentist surgery here. I might also add, that I have already convinced five more buyers to come to Fumba Town. Everybody seems to love the new community.

Is it true, you bought your flat in Fumba online? Not only that, I heard about it online, I saw it online, I signed online and I paid online.

What gave you the trust to believe in the project? It looked trustworthy; then I sent my brother and sister-in-law over to check it out personally and physically. She also helped me to furnish it.

Zanzibar is your home? I am from Pemba.

But now you live and practice in the US? Yes, and I got my wife and five children there. They all look forward to visiting Zanzibar again, now that we have a base here. Two weeks ago I arrived to see the apartment myself for the first time. I was amazed. I sleep here like a baby!



Dr. Talib and Ally Mwingi, CPS salesperson: “He helped me a lot”

POA! A BEACH BAR IN THE MAKING

Where is Fumba Town heading?

By staff writer

He is like a mayor and construction boss all in one: Christian Dubiel, project manager of Zanzibar’s new seaside community Fumba Town, takes stock and discloses new highlights.

Reaching home at night, “I see more and more lights switched on in various apartments, the guards at the security gate pull up the barrier and the entire stress of my day vanishes”, says Amina Mohamed, 42. The accountant and her family happily moved to Fumba Town one year ago. “Content” with her life in the pioneering new community by the sea, she however also expressed some concerns: “I wish we had solar energy to be independent from public power supply blackouts are just too frequent.”

850 houses and apartments have been sold

- a beach or public place by the sea to enjoy the ocean
- tarmac access road outside, paved roads in town
- pro-active rental management
- infrastructure improvements, i.e. solar energy, adjusted utility prices, shopping opportunities

On the beach and shopping issue, there is positive news: “We will have a beach, or at least a beach bar on sand with water access in two months”, promises manager Dubiel. A 2,000 square metre, two-storey mall with supermarket, clinic and a lush rooftop restaurant is almost completed. Super sport facilities including a public pool, beach volleyball and a tennis court are being planned near the mall. “No other town in Zanzibar will have such offers”, says Dubiel proudly.

Solar energy coming Regarding the long-awaited access roads, there is good news, too: The government, disclosed Dubiel, has contracted Turkish road builders to construct 300 kilometres of roads in Zanzibar, among them two feeders to Fumba Town. “The

Teething problems Parking lots have been finalised, inviting barazas placed where there was just building debris a few months ago. Permaculture gardens have greatly matured with mulberry and mango trees bearing sweet fruits. But in a new town of such dimensions, there are also “teething problems”, project manager Christian Dubiel admits. THE FUMBA TIMES accompanied him during one day on the job to learn about progress made and challenges faced.

Just seeing Dubiel in his working gear – construction helmet and security vest – it becomes clear that construction is still a priority in Fumba: “70 percent of my time has to do with building”, he confirms. The 42-year-old was senior manager at the German Rail before coming to Zanzibar and is considered an expert in public-private management entities. In Fumba, he coordinates 15 different



A top manager & his goodies: Fumba Town chef Christian Dubiel (above) promises a beach bar with ocean access within two months

pothole journey will be over soon”, he says. Solutions for solar energy are also being developed: “It’s a difference whether you produce solar for one house or for an entire town”, explains the manager. Important is the possibility to connect into the existing grid – a provision the Zanzibar government has now agreed to ensure. As for the streets in town, “they will get completed once

construction in a given area is finished”, explains Dubiel. Good news: developer CPS has recently acquired its own cobblestone-making machine for this purpose. Because even here the “green principle” is applied: “Cobblestones enable rain water to filter down to the ground, whereas a tarmac surface would not allow that.” Fumba Town is to remain a green city after all. (AT)

GOURMET TO GO



Pasta & more: Reynita in her new “Eat Zanzibar” delicatessen in Kombeni

Tired of pilaw? Grab delicacies from pesto tortellini at a first gourmet roadside shop in Kombeni.

Food lovers who live in Fumba Town or shop at the colourful first-Saturday-of-the-month KweTuKweu markets there, know Reynita Alankalee already. The wife of master chef Alan from Melia and a super-cook in her own right, has brought all her delicacies now to her new gourmet roadside shop on the Fumba road just after the new highway junction to Fuoni.

Eat Zanzibar, 10am – 7 pm, junction Fumba Rd/Fuoni Rd, dukas with green shutters on the left, Tel +255 774 268 077

NEW & HOT IN STONE TOWN

The face of English TV news at ZBC, Ramona da Silva, has personal tips for us.

ginger juice at TZS 2,500. At ever-so-dollish Pink Sugar London on Kenyatta Rd, enjoy pink candy floss with vanilla ice cream for TZS 3,000. As usual I always look at the cheapest on the menu – ciaoooo, yours Ramona.”

Born and bred in Zanzibar, stunning TV host Ramona da Silva went trend-scouting in and around Stone Town for THE FUMBA TIMES: “New in Zanzibar, Taste Me, a large, artsy cafe in Mazini area, offers even a book corner. Cinamon Spa on Shangani Street had an interior deco facelift – you feel peace inside. And ladies, watch out: Hyatt hotel has a new



Charming TV host Ramona da Silva

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Kibabu Cars Zanzibar is a young and highly professional car hire company located in Stone Town. We offer a diverse portfolio of cars; all our cars are regularly serviced and in excellent condition for short- and long-term use. Our prices include insurance, taxes, unlimited mileage and a free breakdown service. Kibabu – your customer-friendly option to ensure mobility in Zanzibar. Also taxi services. 35 USD/day, special low season rate, March – June 2022. In: Toyota Rove 4-3 or Suzuki - Escudo 3 | Bookings Tel +255 77 275 5788; http://kibabucars.com/



BLUE OYSTER HOTEL: RELAX RIGHT ON THE BEACH

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With comfort and luxury, the Aqua Beach Resort in Pwani Mchanganani at the North-East Coast gives you the ultimate holiday experience. Contemporary bungalows are equipped with modern amenities. A luxurious Balinese spa will take care of your every need. Feel the serenity on our long beaches, try diverse activities to keep you busy and visit our excellent restaurant and bar during your romantic getaway 120 per person per night, special low season starting price including half-board Contact us: booking@aqua-beach-resort.com

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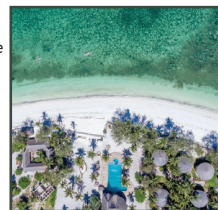


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Jambiani Villas are located in Jambiani on three properties in walking distance, 400 metres from each other. All properties are right on the beach & offer amazing outdoor pools & free WiFi throughout. The A/C villas & apartments provide you with en-suite bathrooms and a fully equipped kitchen. Available are 1, 2 & 3 bedroom luxury villas & apartments, ideal for couples, families or a group of friends. From as little as 125 USD per night based on 2 people sharing including breakfast Contact bookings@jambiani-villas.com for your quote

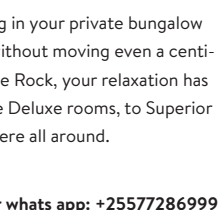
KAE BEACH RESORT & SPA: GREAT SUNSETS FOR YOU

Time to explore THAT part of Zanzibar, where the East Coast forms a lagoon at the tip of Michamwi and gives way to the most marvellous sunsets. Nestled on one of the most beautiful beaches in Chwaka bay lies Kae Beach Resort & Spa Zanzibar with 80 rooms. Here you will find a white beach, turquoise waters and pure relaxation with a unique and delightful blend of excellent hospitality. Low Season Rates starting at 78 USD per night based on 2 people sharing including breakfast Contact Resa@kaebeachzanzibar.com



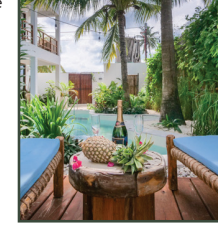
HOTEL ON THE ROCK: SLOWING DOWN IN PAJE

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NATURAL CURES 4 KIDS

Grace Vumbi, Chukwani

Dear Dr. Jenny, My two children, four and 11 years old, are falling sick frequently with typical children’s diseases like sudden high temperature or a bad stomach. While I tend to give them treatments such as panadol, I wonder if there are more natural remedies?

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

Dear Grace, I understand that you must be worried if you feel that your children are getting ill more frequently. Many times, the frequency in which a child gets ill, might appear quite high to the worrying parent, but is often still considered to be in a normal range.

8 bouts of the flu per year

It is normal for children up to preschooler age to suffer from up to eight colds per year. This reduces slightly

ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA READERS’ QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

during school years, but until adolescence, having a cold up to six times per year is usually still nothing to worry about.

The adaptive part of our immune system “learns” with the exposure to a pathogen – for example a virus or bacteria. This means that childhood illnesses such as colds and runny stomachs are needed to a certain extent to “train” our immune system. You are already doing the right thing by offering so-called supportive treatment with antipyretics and fever-reducing medication. Be sure to also give your child lots of rest. Additional natural remedies such as ginger and honey for a cold or lemongrass and cumin water for an upset stomach work wonders too and have proven to be very effective with our little ones. It is important to note that you should check with your family physician and/or pediatrician, which herbal remedy is safe to give from what age; they can be very potent and potentially harmful, too, when not given as directed. Also work on prevention: you can

not completely prevent your children from becoming ill for the reasons mentioned above. But you can take certain measures to strengthen your children’s – and also your own – immune system: a diet with a great variety of fruits and vegetables, exercise and regular movement, enough sleep, hygiene, no smoking around your children are a few ways to make sure that all your family members have an immune system that is strong enough to deal with common illnesses.

Doctor to monitor child’s development

Regular visits to your child’s doctor for so-called “baby well checks” help further. There, your child’s development is monitored and compared with normal expected developmental milestones.

Concerns such as frequent illnesses can be mentioned and your doctor will be able to evaluate whether additional check ups or similar might be needed – or if everything is still within the normal range.

Happy & Healthy



WRITE TO US!

Do you have any health or lifestyle questions? Dr. Jenny Bouraima of the Urban Care clinic is happy to answer them. Please e-mail: DrJenny@fumbatimes.com Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011 Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm | www.urbancare.clinic



Eleven years old and knowing no fear: Tulie and her family skydiving above northern Zanzibar, the latest adventure on the island

SKYFALL IN KENDWA

Skydiving James Bond style over Zanzibar

By Mike El Pike

Three generations of the same family, including an eleven-year-old and a seventy-year-old, jump out of a wee plane in Northern Zanzibar. First it gets your adrenaline pumping, then comes pure bliss.

My family who lives in Uganda were over to visit for a few days, my parents, my brother and sister-in-law and my two nieces. My daughter and I had been looking forward to their trip, as with Covid and travel restrictions, we hadn't seen each other for a couple of years, so it was exciting even if it was only for four days. Normally when they visit we just chill at the beach at Seasons Lodge, which I own, and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of our beautiful island; I hadn't really expected this trip to be any different. I think the turning point came when I picked them up from the airport and we went to my friend Salha in Fumba who gave us a demonstration of aerial yoga that she teaches. It involves hanging upside down from a rafter with the purpose of stretching. She suggested we have a go, and even my dad volunteered willingly.

As I looked at my seventy-year old father hanging upside down from a rafter, I thought to myself - hmm, this trip could be a bit more adventurous than I anticipated! So on the

way back to Pongwe I mentioned that my friend, Gary, had recently opened up a skydiving company in Kendwa, and what did everyone think about jumping out of a plane - citing the bucket list thing! He started skydiving in 2020 here and is the first in East Africa. It was going to be a proper skyfall like Daniel Craig did in the 23rd James Bond movie of the same name ten years ago.

distinct sound of the plane soaring higher and higher to reach its optimal height of around 3000 metres. At that point the noise of the engines stopped, and we could see another two dots falling from the sky out of the plane. Thirty seconds later the parachutes opened, and we watched as the divers floated slowly towards the beach.

whether you like it or not! There are no seats in the plane, you sit on the floor and there is just enough room for two divers and their instructors, so four people. It is a Cessna 206.

Hey, Daddy look at the cow!

Tulie is dangling her leg out the no-door, pointing at stuff and saying, "Hey Daddy, look at that cow!" I acknowledge the cow on the ground, but Gary catches my expression, and he and Tulie start laughing as they both have no fear but I do show apprehension about being so visibly very far from the ground.

Tulie opted to jump first. A quick I love you, and I watched her face disappear into the sky and heard her scream absorbed into oblivion. My turn next. Actually once you jump it's just adrenaline mixed with amaze balls, and actually you wish it would last longer. Thirty seconds of free fall, watching this beautiful island that I'm proud to call my home come hurtling towards me, and then the chute opens and then we're just floating in tropical skies down towards a beautiful beach. Just bliss.

Would YOU jump out of a plane?



Fresh from the rafter, maybe with side effects of the blood running to his head, my Dad said: "Yeah, okay", or... well... put it this way, he didn't say no! My brother and his wife also nervously confirmed, and my daughter, Tulie, who is just eleven years old, was at school, but I confirmed for her too, as she has no fear! So three days later, fresh from Migombani Covid testing centre, we were driving to Kendwa with a mixture of apprehension and excitement.

My time was getting closer, my beer was getting warmer. My dad was next. He had been harnessed up and strapped in securely so as he could be attached to Gary. One final 'Cheers!' and he walked off to the air conditioned Land Cruiser that would drive him to the plane. We watched from the beach as the plane reached the required height, and then I watched my dad fall out of the sky! He fell ever so gracefully, and as I watched his slow descent, I thought, Huh, now that's gonna be me in a minute!

In the meantime, Tulie and I had been suited and prepped. The instructors give us a briefing of what will occur, strap us in super tight with many checks and re-checks, and before you jump they tell you to put your head and feet back and make yourself like a banana, and then just - enjoy!

Once in the plane - me strapped to an instructor and Tulie strapped to Gary - we set off on our ascent. There is no door in that plane, so you get out with your tandem partner as he shuffles through the no-door and you jump out, or rather he jumps out and you are going with him

A beer to calm my nerves

When we arrived at Kendwa Rocks we congregated outside the skydive shop where we saw a young couple suiting up and being briefed before their jump. We were told we had about 45 minutes before it was our turn, so luckily time enough for a beer to calm our nerves! As we sat with a cold one, we could see a small dot in the sky and hear the



Setting off: Instructors strap you in tightly and tell you to make yourself "like a banana"

4 GREAT AFRICAN READS

Our special picks for this year



Zuhura Yunus - Revolution woman



Charles Onyango-Obbo - Press heroes



Jamal Mahjoub - Jazz in Khartoum

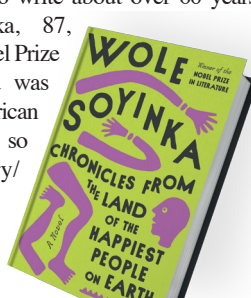
Biubwa Amour Zahor: Mwanamke Mwanamapinduzi (Biubwa Amour Zahor: The Revolutionary Woman), written in Kiswahili: Zanzibar was in the news for producing East Africa's first Nobel laureate for Literature. This path-breaking biography by BBC journalist Zuhura Yunus also merits attention. She retrieves from the Tanzanian archives a colourful character from the 1960s revolution. It should draw attention to forgotten heroines and introduce them to a younger generation (E&D Vision Publishing).

Pioneers, Rebels, and a Few Villains: 150 years of Journalism in Eastern Africa: The adage that "journalism is the first draft of history" affirms the importance of reporters. Charles Onyango-Obbo, the doyen of east African journalism, tells the story of storytellers here. A compelling read to understand journalism pioneers in the region, it is as entertaining as it is informative. Published by German Konrad Adenauer foundation (KAS), which has an active office in Tanzania. www.kas.de

The Fugitives: In British-Sudanese author Jamal Mahjoub's latest novel, a legendary jazz band, the Kamanga Kings, is invited to perform in Washington DC. The problem? They've long broken up, and a school teacher who resides in Khartoum, hatches a plan to get them to perform once more. Set between Khartoum and Trump's America, it is about friendship and the desire for home. Mahjoub brings to life a side rarely seen, the bohemian arts scene of Sudan suppressed by religious sanction. Publisher: Canongate.

Wole Soyinka - Happy people

Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth: Wole Soyinka, the great Nigerian poet and activist, has released his first novel in nearly 50 years. The title is inspired by a 2011 Gallup poll that listed Nigerians at the top of its annual happiness index, setting Soyinka off in search of utopia. What he finds is a dystopian world inhabited by charlatans masquerading as Christians; young professionals lured home to perform nefarious acts. A sweeping satire of a land that Soyinka began to write about over 60 years ago. Soyinka, 87, won the Nobel Prize in 1986 and was the first African writer to do so (Bloomsbury/Pantheon). Reviews by Peter Kimani, @TheConversation



JUST DISCOVERED RED MONKEY BEACH LODGE





Red Monkey enlarged and modernised

UPGRADED MONKEY

✓ **MUSIC:**
Jam Sessions & Karaoke

✓ **LODGE**
Local, modern, comfy

✓ **LOCATION:**
Southern end of the East Coast

✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE:**
Lets have fun together!

Let's call it the Dior challenge - to take over a well-established brand, maintain its soul and yet invigorate it with some new life. That is exactly what Kerstin Zippel, new owner of popular beach lodge and club Red Monkey has managed to do in no time. She kept the legendary **Red Monkey Jam Sessions**, Zanzibar's local life music event No 1, rough and rootsy as established by her predecessor nine years ago. Then she moved the weekly open-air happening from Mondays to Sundays - when it continues to draw a full house in a gently modernised setting.

VIP upper-deck
Zippel has installed a new and larger bar and a fancy and well-used upper-deck VIP lounge. For her guests at the adjacent Red Monkey Beach lodge she installed an extravagant swimming pool with inviting sun-deck. A professional tourism manager from Berlin, the new owner in her forties has a sharp eye on everything, including incoming bookings on her mobile phone. Her response rate is within 14 minutes, she was told. "I open a message, answer it and done", she describes what seems to be an efficient way of dealing with business without getting stressed.

Rock on a rainy day
She met her Tanzanian partner Mwakye Daniel 2018 while both were working at the B4 Beach Club; they took over Red Monkey in 2020, and erected a large makuti roof over the entertainment area, which can now, unlike before, be used even on a rainy day. In the middle of corona "what kept us busy and alive was a Polish version of Big Brother being filmed here", Kerstin Zippel says. "It was a crazy experience."
The lodge with 14 rooms has been

repainted and refreshed in light colours; together with the new pool and lavish buffets of seafood and home-grown veggies, the upgraded Monkey now radiates a more light and feminine feeling. However, party dwellers as well as staff have come to know that Zippel can also rule with an exceptionally firm hand. "I come from a police family", she explains with a smile, "my father, my ex-husband and one of my sons are senior policemen in Germany."



Modern and neat: the Red Monkey's 14 lodge rooms

What made the sporty mother of three boys start a new life in Zanzibar, after a stint as a diving instructor in Egypt? "I just came here and clicked with the place", she says. In addition to the jam nights she also has introduced Karaoke nights every Thursday. In April, during Ramadan, there will be no music at Red Monkey. Time to renovate some more...
Catharina Aanderud

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