

# The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

September - November 2023 - www.fumba.town

International Edition 17

ISSN: 2683-6572 / Complimentary edition

**TOURISM**  
**GREEN, SMART**  
**AND CULTURAL**

PAGE 03 | ZANZIBAR



**BEST OF BUSARA**  
**FUMBA TIMES**  
**PLAYLIST NO 1**

PAGE 05 | PEOPLE



**INTERNET**  
**ELON MUSK,**  
**WHERE ARE YOU?**

PAGE 06 | MY HOME



## Duel of the giants

### Burj Zanzibar

- World's tallest timber tower
- 96 metres, 28 floors
- 136 apartments + hotel
- Building time: 4 years
- Average apartment price: \$3,500/m<sup>2</sup>

### Roots Germany

- Highest wood building in Germany
- 65 metres, 18 floors
- 181 apartments
- Ready in March 2024
- Average apartment price: \$10,000/m<sup>2</sup>



Straight-forward facade in Hamburg. Playful beehive style in Zanzibar (left)

PHOTOS (5): CPS, ROOTS, B.MOSHA

TOURISM

## FIVE-STAR HOTEL FOR FUMBA

A still secret 5-star hotel chain is coming to Fumba Town.

The opening of the first high-end hotel within the eco-city on the west coast will firmly place the Fumba peninsula on the tourist map. By the time THE FUMBA TIMES went to print, the name of the hotel chain had not yet been revealed. Developer CPS, however, disclosed that the hotel will have approximately 180 rooms, luxury wellness facilities and gourmet cuisine. It will be situated over the foundational six floors of the planned timber tower Burj Zanzibar (see cover story left).

A feasibility survey by hospitality specialists HTI from South Africa has forecasted a rosy future for Zanzibar tourism earlier this year. The average stay here is five nights, and the island is often booked as an add-on destination, for example in combination with a safari. The Free Economic Zone Fumba, the researchers have predicted, will become "a hub for leisure, business and conferencing". The hospitality experts advise, a hotel in Fumba should be a "destination in itself" with top restaurants and wellness. "An artificial beach and extensive pool offering", would be another draw, the study said.

# HIGHER GROUND IN ZANZIBAR

Countdown for the world's tallest timber apartment building

By Andrea Tapper

Ground planning and technical preparations for the 96-metre-landmark Burj Zanzibar are almost complete. "From our side, we could start building tomorrow", construction experts say. Developer CPS intends to kick-off in 2024. THE FUMBA TIMES visited a similar timber tower in Germany to assess chances and risks.

The holiday island Zanzibar is aspiring to get an outstanding global environmental landmark, the highest hybrid timber apartment tower in the world. Preparations for the extravagant green building have been continuing since the news broke last December. Media all over the world, from the London Times to the Economist, have reported about the green lighthouse project.

THE FUMBA TIMES visited the construction site of a very similar project in Hamburg - the highest wood apartment building in Germany. With 19 floors on 65 metres, the Roots tower is almost ready to move into. It was constructed without delay in just over three years. The Hamburg tower has 181 apartments, 53 of them social housing, as legally required in Germany. But the price of the luxury flats in best location is as sky-high

as the building: \$10,000 per square metre. For the Zanzibar landmark of even larger proportions, more than 30 percent of the 136 planned tower apartments have already been sold off-plan, disclosed Sebastian Dietzold, director of developer CPS, who initiated the project.

"Groundbreaking could take place around August-September next year, when we expect to have sold 60-70 percent of the units", Dietzold said. Prices for stunning holiday and residential apartments with panoramic views presently range from \$79,900 to \$959,880. They are likely to increase once construction on site commences.

### How ideal is timber for the tropics?

Can such a building really be built in Zanzibar, a tropical country? Are safety, stability and longevity guaranteed? I am standing on the rooftop of Roots, 65 metres high, a strong northern wind is blowing while I am posing these questions to architect Fabian von Koeppen. His company Garbe Real Estate is building Germany's highest timber building. The futuristic Hafencity (German for 'Port City') lies to our feet like a toy city. "Once the building is standing, stability is no problem, timber is actually more stable than concrete because it is lighter", the 53-year-old managing director explains.

"The most difficult phase is the construction when large pre-fab walls have to be lifted by crane." He has had to halt the assembly process several times due to heavy winds. His positive message: "In the tropics, a

timber building is even more suited than in northern Europe because of the constant humidity. In Germany, we have to handle temperature changes from minus 20 to plus 30 degree with a flexible construction to allow for the wooden parts to shrink and expand."

Looking around, I can see the entire outer façade of the rather plain building is made of original wooden planks while inside the walls are covered by white plasterboard. Glass sliding doors seal the front of balconies. Why? "Wind and rain protection", von Koeppen says, "inside, most homebuyers did not want to see knotholes of wood but a pure look." Crazy, I think to myself, that a sustainable building has to cover-up its wooden elements for style reasons! Architect von Koeppen has become a crusader for timber in Hamburg. "We will create a forest of houses", he

says, "and reduce the CO2 footprint by up to 145 per cent compared to conventional building." The world's oldest building material has a

renaissance. A fifth of new residence houses in Germany were built with timber over the last few years. CONTINUE, PAGE 2



Critical moments: entire walls with windows are lifted during construction

## "BIG ADVENTURE STARTING"

What do people expect of the wonder tower Burj Zanzibar?



HERMA KASIMIR, 63, a first buyer:

"Luxury, excellent client service and community - these are my expectations. The wonderful view of the Indian Ocean and the support of an ecological future project, make me happy. I am ready to start the adventure."



SHALAMANTU LWAZI, 41, homeowner:

"Burj Zanzibar has made Fumba Town much more appealing. The soul of the project is gaining more and more momentum. I am very glad this is happening and excited to see the huge addition to the epic new area."



DEBORAH BARUTA, 26, CPS engineer:

"As an engineer, I can't wait to contribute to the creation of the world's tallest timber structure. The venture will allow me to further my expertise in hybrid construction. I am happy to support sustainability."

IMMIGRATION

## CLOSER TO THE GOLDEN VISA

Residence permits for foreign home buyers in Zanzibar are imminent. An amendment of the immigration act was finally tabled and discussed in the parliament in Dodoma in June. The investor must spend no less than \$150,000 on a home (or several homes), more than initially proposed. How and where to get the visa and at which fee, is yet to be announced. With the move Zanzibar follows holiday-home destinations such as Turkey, Portugal and Dubai in attracting investment with so-called golden visas.

## HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN

The eagerly awaited construction of a proper four-lane highway directly connecting Fumba Town with the airport was announced recently. According to the British High Commission in Tanzania, road work is supposed to commence this year. The UK is co-financing the new infrastructure.

# 13 FABULOUS FRINGE EVENTS



Cool jazz: Sibusile Xaba, guitarist & singer from Kwazulu Natal, live in Fumba Town on 23 September

Street markets, live music, after-work specials – Zanzibar has a rich social life beyond tourism.

### Kwetu Kwenu Chill

Chill, you can, at Fumba Town's first open-air beach club with sea access, deli pizza, drinks and top-notch live events. Regulars: Tuesday is movie night, Wednesday karaoke, Friday after-work, Sunday ladies reggae special. Meet Zanzibar's movers and shakers, enjoy west coast sunsets.

When: Every day except Monday, from 5 pm  
Where: Fumba Town, 20 min from Stone Town.  
Ph/Whatsapp +255 776 055 801  
@Kwetu Kwenu on Insta

### Kwetu Kwenu Market

Hugely popular, the community market on the west coast in Fumba Town celebrates its third anniversary this year. With farm honey and hand-made beauty products, local designer fashion and gourmet street food it draws about 100 vendors and a large bohemian crowd every first Saturday of the month.

New: 'Busara Vibes' presents a live concert with different entertainers at every market from September onward. The free shows are sponsored by the festival 'Sauti za Busara' and Fumba Town. Get into the groove!

When: 2 September, 7 October, 4 November, 2 December, special Xmas sale, 10am – 4pm.  
Where: Fumba Town, 20 min from Stone Town.  
Ph +255 776 055 081

### Island Festival Jambiani

Organized by New Teddys on the Beach in Jambiani in cooperation with Zanzibar artist Ras Coco, the vibrant day event with local live music, a craft market with around 30 vendors, acrobatic shows, affordable food and cocktails takes place every first Sunday of the month. "More and more hotels shut out locals, so we created one amazing day to celebrate the beautiful island life we are living", says Leonie Kaack, owner of New Teddys. Every month around 400 people enjoy the Sunday festival fun.

When: 3 September, 8 October, 5 November, 3 December, special Xmas sale, 12am – 9pm.  
Where: Jambiani south  
Ph/Whatsapp +255 776 894 389

ADVERTISEMENT

Unwind in ultimate luxury at our exquisite villa retreat - Daima Villas!

✉ zanzibardaimavillas@gmail.com  
info@daimavillas@gmail.com

☎ +255779042694

📍 zanzibardaimavillas

📍 Jambiani, Zanzibar

EXCLUSIVE

# WELCOME, STUDENTS!

First universities for Fumba – Top institutions from West Africa and India

By Andrea Tapper

Two top private universities of international prestige will open branches in Zanzibar, on the Fumba peninsula. Why Zanzibar and why now? Prof. Leonard Wantchekon, head of the reputed African School of Economics (ASE), talked exclusively to the FUMBA TIMES.

Another academic milestone is to propel Zanzibar, the dream island with a mythical name and white beaches, away from its dependency on tourism and into the modern age of top education and information technology. Two major private universities, the renowned

**NEW CAMPUS, NEW CITY?**

Fumba Town will grow with students – that much is certain.



The Fumba peninsula, just south-west of the capital Zanzibar City, could eventually harbour a city much bigger than the current Fumba Town. It would cover about 700 hectares, about half the size of the peninsula, sources say. Eco-city Fumba Town is presently occupying 150 hectares. Residential living, holiday homes, Silicon Zanzibar, universities and medical facilities would all come together. As one of the so-called ‘Charter Cities’, with a leaner bureaucracy

**Fumba Town: space for learning**

and tax benefits, the larger town would contribute to lifting people out of poverty”, Kurtis Lockhart, founder of the Charter Cities Institute in Washington says. 343 charter cities were founded worldwide since 1945, from Dubai to Dodoma. [chartercitiesinstitute.org](http://chartercitiesinstitute.org)

## WOOD IS BETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The seaside community Fumba Town in Zanzibar is already constructing townhouses, villas – and now the Burj – with timber technology. What exactly can tourists and holiday apartment buyers expect in Fumba? “Dimensional stability,

African School of Economics (ASE) founded in Benin, and the popular Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), are set to open campuses in Zanzibar.

Student registration for the Indian technology college has already started. Both institutions are presently evaluating physical and intellectual options such as locations, appropriate buildings, faculty requirements and possible study courses in Fumba Town and on the wider peninsula. The institutions signed an agreement to collaborate during the set-up phase. They could open and start teaching as early as 2023/2024.

“We welcome the universities and students”, said Sebastian Dietzold, head of Fumba Town’s developer CPS, “with their fresh inspiration they are the roots for urban development.”

**“High demand for education”** Why Zanzibar? “We go where it’s needed most”, said Prof. Dr. Leonard



International academics for Zanzibar: Economist Prof. Leonard Wantchekon (left) is one of the few African scholars teaching in America. Indian IITM lecturers meet Kurtis Lockhart (second from left) of Charter Cities Institute

courses will be offered, ranging from economics to political science, marketing to engineering. Master’s programs cost between 5,000 - 7,000 dollars per year in Benin and Ivory Coast, a lot of money, but still less than at other private universities. Work & study programmes help to offset the cost of attendance. With a unique dual degree, students earn degrees from two different countries, like the U.S. and Tanzania for instance.

and Africa. “When you live in Africa, the wonderful thing is that some of the most interesting challenges and puzzles of economic development are right at your window,” Wantchekon says. In interviews he has described his surprise at how much poorer his mother’s village in Benin had become in 2009 since his previous visit in the mid-1970s. He became consumed with understanding the reasons for the degeneration.

**“My village became poorer instead of richer”**

Why have Asian countries – at a similar economic level as African countries around the time of independence – so dramatically overtaken the Black continent? “If not for slave trade, African countries would be in a much better position”, Wantchekon argues. “Colonialism was extremely extractive.”

a hybrid foundation of six floors”. The concrete core guarantees fire protection. A top global hotel chain is expected to occupy the ground wing of the Burj. The stunning beehive design of the tower with large panorama windows and cubic green terraces will be seen from the airplane when approaching the island.

**One floor per week**

Conventional construction with cement is responsible for 35 per cent of greenhouse emissions while wooden buildings do just the opposite and store CO2 like

a battery. A 4,000 cubic metre building like the Burj binds 3,200 tons of carbon dioxide.

- Wood is a fully re-growable raw material.
- Timber construction is faster and more precise than conventional building because of its pre-fab elements. “In Zanzibar we can assemble one floor per week”, forecasts engineer Prof. Helbig.

The pre-fab timber elements made of glulam and cross-laminated timber (CLT) will be produced by Binderholz, a global leader in timber construction, in Austria. In

the long run, however, the Burj is meant to jump start agroforestry and timber technology in Tanzania and to create valuable jobs. “The battle for sustainable building is being fought not in Europe but in Africa because of the continent’s vast potential agro-forestry and high population growth”, noted Prof. Helbig.

But as many similarities as timber landmark projects all over the world may have, they distinctively differ in price: a one-bedroom in Hamburg starts at half a million dollars, in Zanzibar at \$119,000.



Editor Andrea Tapper in Hamburg with architect von Koepfen



## PILAU, BYRIANI AND CO.

Best local food spots in Stone Town

Influenced by Indian, Arabian and African cooking, Zanzibari *chakula* (Swahili for ‘food’) is rich in flavour and taste.

**THE HIGH-END OF LOCAL**

Lunch is beautiful, dinner a show. On Persian carpets, on a legendary roof-top, eclectic local food is served, with superb views of town and the ocean. Goat curry, papaya salad, *pilau* – you name it. A seated dinner starts at the call of the Imam and ends with chilled Chardonnay. A holiday memory to last forever. Emerson Hurumzi, [emersonzanzibar.com](http://emersonzanzibar.com)

**LOOK MAN, LUKMAAN!**

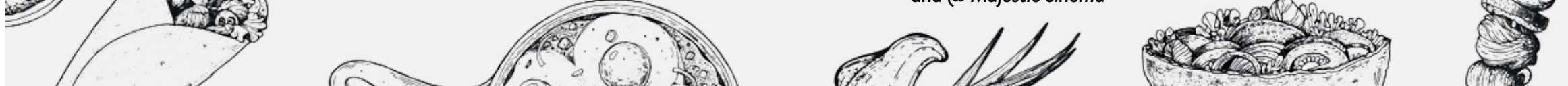
Mentioned by every guide and blogger, shed-like restaurant Lukmaan is indeed your preferred address to try it all – breakfast, lunch or dinner. The whole variety of Zanzibari food from *mandazi* dumplings to chicken curry and *mchicha* (spinach). Famous but still fair in price. Lukmaan, *Mkunanzini St.*

**IRRERESITABLE UROJO SOUP**

You haven’t been in Zanzibar, if you haven’t tried *urojo* soup, a consommé with *crispy bhajias* (a fried, pakora-like snack), potatoes, coconut chutney, a dash of chili and herbs. Available at street food kiosks and Indian neighbourhood kitchens mornings and lunch time. When you notice a queue, it’s time to eat. *Soup kitchen @ Parking Old Fort and @ Majestic cinema*

**TIK-TOK DELIGHTS**

Zanzibar’s youth flocks to Forodhani night market to date, take tik-tok shots and eat. When the sun sets, the vendors open their stalls. Try Zanzibar pizza, a local crepe with chicken or beef, egg and mayonnaise, or even Nutella. Sip a spice coffee at Babu Chai. Be wary of fish or octopus on display too long. *Forodhani Gardens, seafro*



# SMART TOURISM

Zanzibar is speeding up climate action - step by step and one commitment at a time

### #greenerzanzibar

Hafsa Mbamba is building up an army - an environmental army. In less than six months the head of the Tourism Commission has recruited almost 100 hotels, companies and individuals to sign her ‘Zanzibar Sustainable Tourism Declaration’ (photo). The sun-kissed island wants to become green. The Zanzibar pledge follows the UN Glasgow Declaration of November 2021 to reach net zero emissions before 2050. The idea behind it: become greener in your own environment, choose tangible targets - even if it’s not always easy to reconcile strict green ideas and comfort. “It’s a journey”, says Hafsa Mbamba - and gently stirs tourism here in the right direction.

Join the pledge: <https://zanzibartourism.go.tz> - Click ‘Pledge Now’

Information and enquiries: [executivesecretary@zanzibartourism.go.tz](mailto:executivesecretary@zanzibartourism.go.tz)



Green paradise: Aqua Retreat Resort in Mbatweye

### HOTELS & ENERGY LESS IS MORE

Greenhouse emissions in Zanzibar “are significantly lower than in Europe and not a direct concern here”, says Graham Leslie, chairman of the Hotel Association (HAZ). Average carbon emissions per person worldwide is 4.76 tons per year – Tanzania has 25 times less, 0.18 tons per citizen. But there are warning signs: Electricity gets to the island via an underwater cable from Tanzania and has reached its limit. A hotel guest uses 20 times more water per day than a local citizen, according to water authority ZAWA. Alternative green energy, desalination plants and greywater use are therefore high on the agenda. **How much tourism can Zanzibar endure?** “The future lies in smaller resorts”, expert Leslie is convinced. The tourism ministry is conducting a “carrying capacity survey” to find answers. “In 3 to 5 years half of the hotels will run on solar”, Leslie forecasts. While that would be good news, hoteliers feel left alone: “Tax incentives or less bureaucracy could help”, they say, “we all want to be green but get little support.”

**Easy-to-reach target: install LED lights and adopt a stary-night policy with low-level outside lighting**



### NATURE GO FOR THE WILD

“Make space for nature”, is Rob Wild’s rallying cry. The British socio-ecologist based in Zanzibar has largely shaped the new sustainability campaign. His advice: plant indigenous trees like baobab, flowers like desert rose (photo) and fireball lily, avoid “invasive alien species” like bougainvillea and hibiscus, “no matter how beautiful. Why? Zanzibar is not Bali. And the African island in itself is a biodiversity hotspot. “If you bulldoze a plot, you shoot yourself in the foot”, the York university lecturer and long-time African resident says: “Hotels cut native coral rag and spice forests, and will spend a lot of money later to create shade otherwise.” Wild, 65, established Jozani Forest and would like to see more green corridors in Zanzibar like the blissfully shady Mango Alley between Stone Town and Paje, where, according to legend, Sultan princess Kholle buried the heads of disgraced lovers.

**Easy-to-reach target: hire a gardener with local knowledge to nurture indigenous plants**

### COMPANIES & CULTURE GREEN MOVES

As far back as 2009, Zanzibar passed a law “to promote and develop cultural and eco-tourism” but a coherent strategy has been lacking. “Sustainable tourism may now form the frame in which visitor numbers can safely grow”, says tourism executive Hafsa Mbamba. “We want to attract travellers who buy organic, don’t waste water and want to experience local culture.” Companies, too, start thinking more holistically. In Fumba Town, developer CPS plans to introduce steps and bikes within a town-based e-transport system, to extend public shuttle service, and will host local band gigs every month. After all, sustainability must be embraced by everybody - clients, staff and the community.

**Easy-to-reach target: more local art in hospitality**



### FOOD HOTELS TO SERVE MORE LOCAL FOOD

Something is wrong here. Zanzibar has about 100,000 local farmers, 2,000 of them organic, some too poor to buy a new pair of trousers, but hotels and restaurants import up to 80% of their food. Dr. Mwatima Juma, owner of the popular Msonge farm and godmother of organic food in Zanzibar, wants to address “the imbalance” - even if it’s a tricky task. How can a farmer with two coconut trees and five chickens supply 1000 eggs for 900 guests, say at RIU Hotel - per day? How can subsistence farming ever scale up to tourism needs? “At the moment hotels sit back and wait”, agronomist Dr. Juma criticises, “but they must invest in farmers.” Her catalogue of suggestions may sound surprising but makes sense: “A spice and veggie garden in a hotel looks pretty but hotels would fare better to buy from farmers around the area. Farmers must be paid in advance to assure them of their market. Local cooking classes can be staged at a neighbouring farm rather than a hotel. Hotels should cook more seasonal produce. Dr. Juma sees communal collection points and cold storage where hotels see convenient all-in-one truck deliveries. “Currently the market is too rough on farmers”, she summarises, but is certain: “We can change it.”

**Easy-to-reach target: at least one local food in hotels (and homes) on display too long**



PHOTOS: ITO, KEEGAN CHECKS, ISTOCK, TAPPER

### WASTE COMPOST, COMPOST!

Rubbish on Stone Town streets, empty plastic bottles on the beach: visitors often complain about too much garbage seen around and yet there are already quite a number of invisible forces at work to do away with waste. But it’s not enough. The undisputed waste wizard is Franko Goehse of Permaculture Design Centre (PDC) in Zanzibar’s first eco-city Fumba Town, near the capital. He recycles a staggering 94% of waste – more even than European cities. 60% per cent is biowaste; glass, plastic and metal are shipped to Dar es Salaam for processing. Zanrec is another private waste management company serving mainly hotels on the east coast; their recycling rate is 55%. The Kawa Training Centre has its students collect plastic on the beach; local company Orzi makes flowerpots from plastic waste. Still, island-wide, half of all garbage lands in Zanzibar’s only landfill, the rest is illegally dumped. A public masterplan seems missing. So, what’s the solution? “Reduce, reuse, recycle!” Franko Goehse has built an entire city on soil made of compost, and encourages companies to follow strict waste separation. His latest idea: fresh coconut water distributed in empty wine bottles. Residents in Fumba Town can’t get enough of it.

**Easy-to-reach target: use plastic-free options for water and other drinks**



WELCOME NOTE  
**OUR TOWN IS GROWING**



**Sebastian Dietzold**, chief developer of Fumba Town and CEO of CPS

I still vividly recall the feeling when we opened the first show house in Fumba Town (see how it looked on the right of this page!) It was August 2015. I never imagined the town we are seeing today, calculating for at least 20,000 inhabitants. Our vision has become reality on an island which has grown from 1.6 to 1.9 million inhabitants in just ten years.

We have grown, but our mission has stayed the same – creating beautiful homes and communities.

Growth is key. A growing town will attract businesses and talent and inspire people worldwide, creating a strong community supporting Zanzibar's development. Fumba Town has always been planned as a supporting town for Zanzibar City.

In the issue you are now holding in your hands, we are looking to the future. Read the exciting cover story about our unique landmark project, Burj Zanzibar, entering into its detailed design phase. The editorial team has collected many facts and figures for you in the report about smart tourism on page 3. I find it commendable,

how the government has initiated a movement to make our island greener. On the lighter side, enjoy the entertaining interview with the outgoing and incoming directors of Sauti za Busara. The vibrant festival has kept Zanzibar dancing for more than 20 years. We at CPS have decided to become a main sponsor of the extraordinary event because we care about local culture. I would like to warmly congratulate the new Busara director Lorenz Herrmann, a dedicated music enthusiast who has been with the Fumba family for several years in various positions.

And if you, dear reader, happen to belong to those who are no longer familiar with each and every Busara song – don't worry, we can assist! We have compiled a first playlist curated by Yusuf Mahmoud, the founder of Busara - a cool potpourri of 20 years of best African sounds.

Now you cannot only read but listen to THE FUMBA TIMES! In this sense, wishing you a wonderful time wherever you are, and see you soon in Zanzibar.



From bush to beauty: Fumba Town today (above) and with a lonesome first show house in 2015 (photo right).

**NOW & THEN**

When you told somebody eight years ago, you were going to Fumba, they said, what do you want there? There is nothing!" first residents remember. For a long time, people were sceptical if Fumba Town would ever be built. Taxi drivers drove automatically to Fumba uptown, the Bakhresa luxury development a few kilometre further down the peninsula. Where the wonderful Safari Blue starts and dolphins come by playing, the so-called urban west area of Zanzibar ends. From the beginning, Fumba Town - with its neat white apartment blocks and town houses planned for at least 20,000 people (photo above) - was meant to be a satellite town for overflowing Zanzibar City and, very importantly, affordable for all budgets. "We sat under a baobab tree with elders and counted the trees of local residents for compensation," recalls longtime employee Omar M. Simai. Open house events with live music were staged to attract curious visitors. Sales director Fatma Mussa, a valued senior with developer CPS, moved into the first show house "just to be on site". With buyers from 60 nations, the eco city, modelled along permaculture principles, grew. When will it be finished? "It's a process", says CEO Sebastian Dietzold. The west coast peninsula has - quite exactly - the size of Manhattan.

**FAKE PICTURE - OR NOT?**

By Elias Kamau

A tree house in Stone Town? Too good to be true! When we received this photo at THE FUMBA TIMES, we became highly sceptical. Here's a guide to help you recognise fake shots – especially in your social media.



Could this really be Stone Town? Some fakes are easier to dismantle than others

The commonsense warning is clear: don't believe everything you see on Facebook and Instagram friends throw at you. In a world where visual misinformation is becoming more prevalent, developing a critical eye for photos is crucial.

Why do people fake photos? Some like pranks, jokes and scams. Others want to promote a certain agenda and manipulate readers to accept photos as evidence. You might have seen examples of photos intended to mislead. A fake Aleppo skyline circulated on social media during the conflict in Syria in 2014, showing a vibrant city skyline and a devastated landscape afterwards. However, it was later revealed that the "after" image was heavily manipulated. Another case was the US Capitol riot. After the 6 January 2021 attack, conspiracy theorists attempted to spread a narrative that the rioters were not actually supporters of then-President Trump, but Antifa activists. The claims were debunked by fact-checkers who confirmed the identities of the individuals in the photos and their connections to far-right ideologies.

Act like a media professional. Editors rigorously verify the source of a photo. They ensure that the image comes from a reputable and reliable source, sometimes cross-referencing the image with news agencies, official websites, and – very importantly – their own reporters' or credible eyewitness accounts. If the photo appears on multiple reliable sources, it adds to its credibility.

Use tech tools. If you're uncertain about the authenticity of an image, consider performing a reverse image search using online tools or search engines.

How real are AI photos? Photos generated by artificial intelligence (AI) are not inherently fake photos in the traditional sense. They are not photoshop versions of real images but entirely new creations. The authenticity of an AI-generated photo depends on how it's presented and used. If the intention is to depict a fictional scenario or artwork, it's not necessarily "fake" in the sense of misrepresentation. But if an AI-generated image is presented as evidence of a real event or as a factual representation, then its authenticity comes into question. It therefore becomes increasingly important to disclose when an image is computer-generated, media experts advise.

Use common sense. Check if the photo violates any physics laws or known facts, become an eye-witness! Alleys in Stone Town are narrow and have no room for such a tree house. Look at company signs and writings on the wall to identify where you are.

Check the metadata. Photos often contain embedded metadata, information about the camera used, date and time of capture. Discrepancies should raise red flags!

Blurred is bad. Pay attention to details such as unusual shadows and reflections. Many fake pictures end

up with distorted surfaces, blurred faces (like the boy in the Stone Town picture) and wrong body parts such as a short or twisted arm. If something seems oddly out of place or proportion, or details seem fuzzy, it gives away a fake photo.

Use tech tools. If you're uncertain about the authenticity of an image, consider performing a reverse image search using online tools or search engines.

How real are AI photos? Photos generated by artificial intelligence (AI) are not inherently fake photos in the traditional sense. They are not photoshop versions of real images but entirely new creations. The authenticity of an AI-generated photo depends on how it's presented and used. If the intention is to depict a fictional scenario or artwork, it's not necessarily "fake" in the sense of misrepresentation. But if an AI-generated image is presented as evidence of a real event or as a factual representation, then its authenticity comes into question. It therefore becomes increasingly important to disclose when an image is computer-generated, media experts advise.

FIND US ONLINE!

Access all our past issues  
@Fumba.town/fumba-times

Send an email  
readersletters@fumbatimes.me

Follow us on  
@fb/fumbatimes

Follow us on  
@insta/fumbatimes

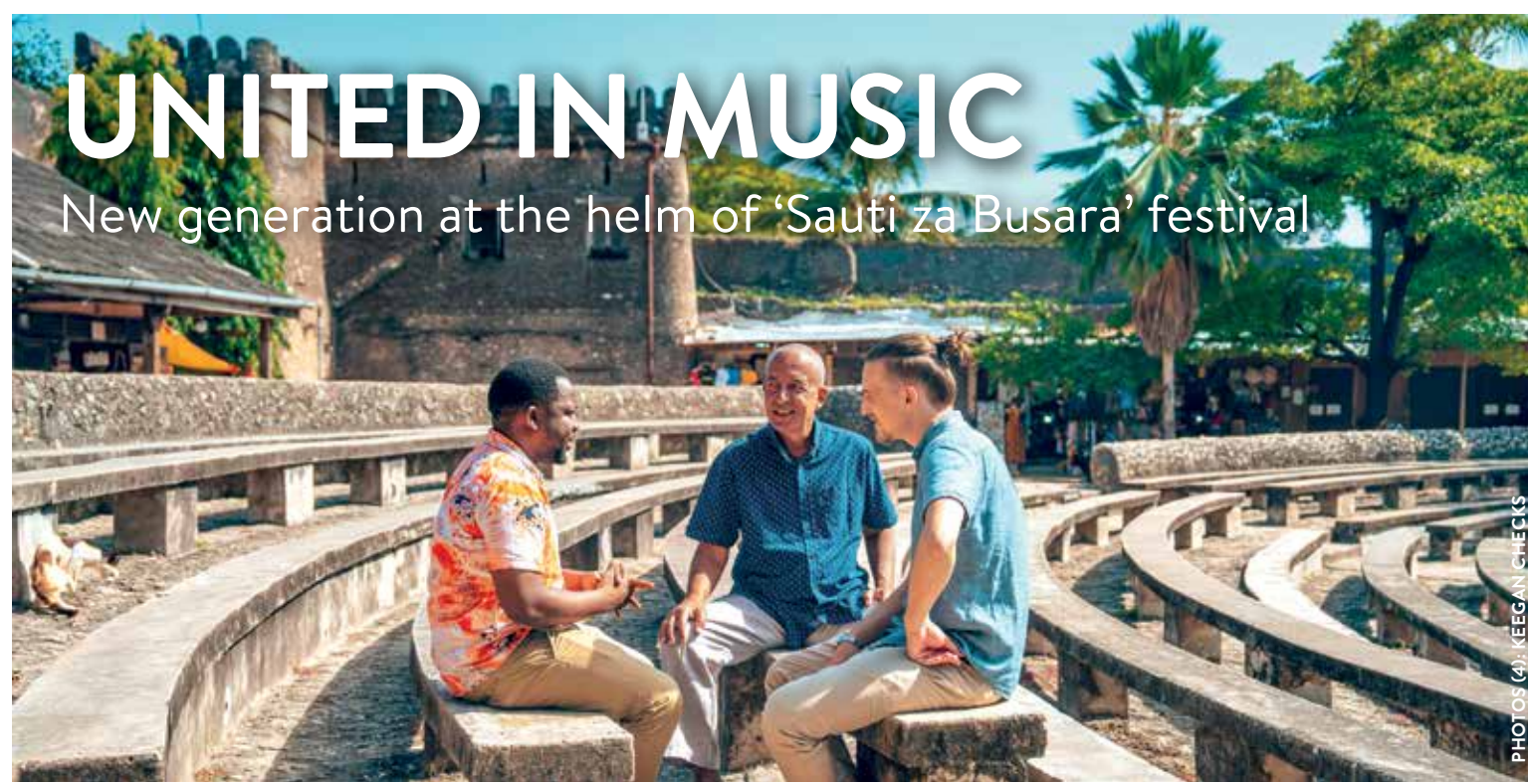
Watch us!  
@yt/fumbatimes



Printed or online, keep abreast of news with THE FUMBA TIMES

Publisher: CPS Live Ltd.  
P.O. Box 3564, Fumba Town,  
Zanzibar, Tanzania  
www.fumba.town  
International Chief Editor: Andrea Tapper  
Editor: @fumbatimes.com  
Local Editor: Hissham M. Abdukadir  
Acting Managing Editor: Katrin Dietzold  
Art Director & Layout: Sidney Tapper  
Photography: Keegan Checks, H. Kwayu

Contributors to this issue: Dr. Jenny Bouraima, Sara Hemed, Yusuf Mahmoud, Marie Maedage, Baraka Strato Moshia  
Proofreading: Jeff Kavangh  
Advertising & Distribution:  
Lorenz Herrmann  
Advertising@fumbatimes.com  
Readers Letters:  
Readersletters@fumbatimes.com  
Print: Mwananchi Com. Ltd, Dar es Salaam



Historic location, new leadership: Outgoing festival director Yusuf Mahmoud (centre) with his successors at the amphitheatre of the Old Fort

By Baraka Strato Moshia

New Busara director Lorenz Herrmann, outgoing director Yusuf Mahmoud and new festival chief Journey Ramadhan discuss the beats. What were the best shows, the biggest challenges and here is one of Africa's best-known music festivals heading?

Looking bad at two decades of Sauti za Busara's success, can you recall a moment that deeply resonated with you?

Yusuf Mahmoud: Without doubt, orchestrating the festival during the challenging Covid-19 pandemic was one of the toughest tasks. We never shut down and proved that resilience can prevail. Of course, we meticulously followed safety measures.

Journey Ramadhan: I have been with Busara since 2009. It has been like a prestigious college for many of us, and Yusuf was our professor, skilfully nurturing young talents.

Your favourite bands of all time?

Yusuf: Oh, there were many. In

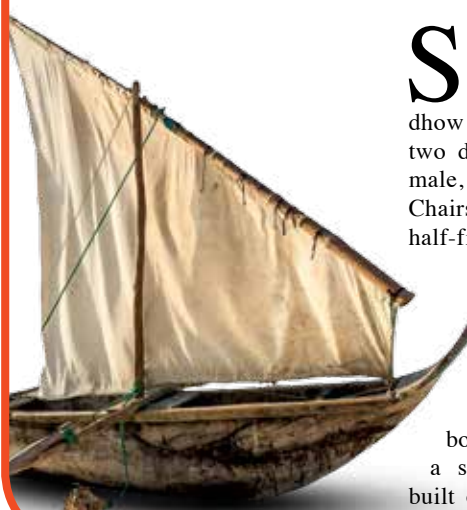


"Diversity is a must", new festival director Journey Ramadhan

2012. Nneka, the Nigerian-German singer-songwriter gave a show many will never forget. I also loved the original sounds of the African hip-hop fusions we featured, including Blitz the Ambassador (Ghana/USA) and Zambian legend Sampa The Great last year. Or more traditional groups like Madalitso band from Malawi who build their own instruments. To

MIND MY BUSINESS  
LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**FROM SEA TO SOFA**  
Carpenter transforms old dhows into stunning furniture



Only found in so-called dhow countries in Africa, Arabia and India, the traditional sailing vessels are made of teak, coconut or mango wood. For centuries they have traded across the Indian Ocean. To re-use their weathered wooden planks – from sunken, broken or simply old ships – has become fashionable and Isaac is at the forefront of the business. His look is rustic, not refined like, for instance, the bespoke Green Room collection in Dar es Salaam. But raw and clunky is exactly how his customer's like their dhow furniture. To make a small table takes three days, says Isaac, he sells it for \$70. A solid garden chair costs around \$140, a double-bed around \$400. For special pieces, such as an XXL dining table for up to 20 guests, he calculates a price on request. He even has clients abroad and ships container loads of dhow furniture

to Europe. To buy the remains of a large dhow can cost him up to \$20,000 or more, the carpenter says. The dismantling of a boat can take months. To find solid remains of old dhows, the 48-year-old family man and dad of three children travels and searches along the mainland coast and in neighbouring Kenya. How did he get into the business? "First, my idea was to use mangrove wood", the trained carpenter says, "but then some clients and business partners opened my eyes to the possibilities of dhow wood." What does he like most about his enterprise? "That I can employ and train many young people in my shop", he says, "among them six women carpenters. They do really good work." And that to him is "worth more than being a millionaire".

Spotify  
BEST OF BUSARA  
**THE FUMBA TIMES PLAYLIST #01**

THE FUMBA TIMES is proud to present our first playlist „Best of Sauti za Busara“ – the sound of two decades of the African music festival in Zanzibar. Lovingly curated by festival founder and director Yusuf Mahmoud. Enjoy the vibe of pure African music and mark the date for the upcoming Sauti za Busara Festival 9-11th Feb 2024! 44 songs, about 3 hr 30 min



#The Lagos Music Salon  
Somi



SCAN AND PLAY  
**THE FUMBA TIMES PLAYLIST**

BUSARA BACKSTAGE

Each year, the African music festival "Sauti za Busara" (Swahili for "Sounds of Wisdom") attracts up to 25,000 music lovers to the Old Fort in Zanzibar. The BBC called it "one of Africa's best and most respected music events". Yusuf Mahmoud, 61, the outgoing director, founded the festival in 2003. His successor Lorenz Herrmann, 34, is a German cultural entrepreneur and musician who has lived and worked in Tanzania since 2016. As new managing director of Busara Promotions he will work closely with Journey Ramadhan, 41, who becomes festival director.

The next Busara will take place from 9-11 February 2024. Tickets are now on sale at www.busaramusic.org/tickets/



"Maybe a gala night": new Busara production boss Lorenz Herrmann

The line-up for next year? Lorenz: We have a strict selection committee. We received 476 applications, but only 25 acts or so can make it – a very tough choice!

Some say the tickets have become too expensive?

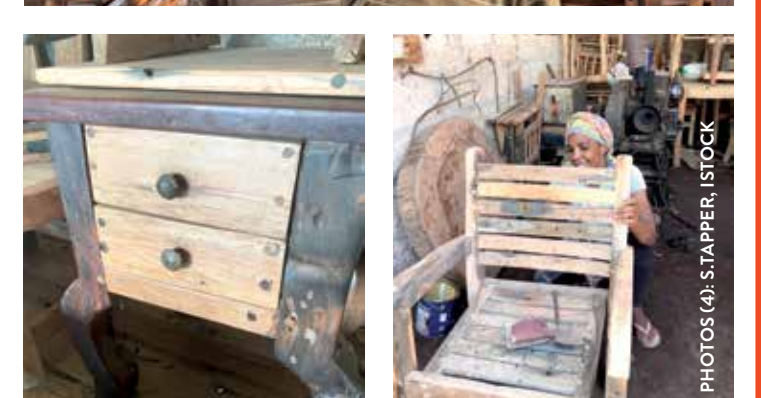
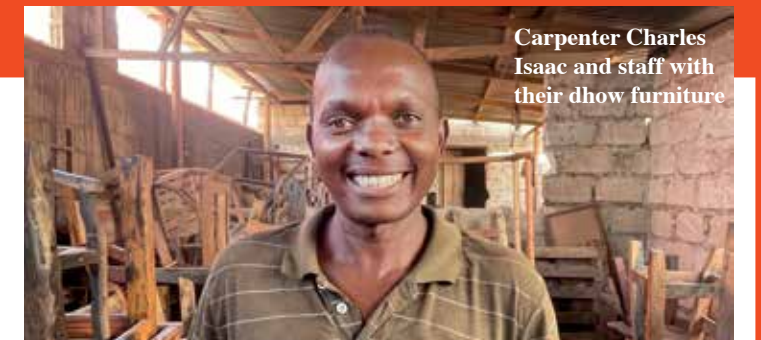
Lorenz: An early bird VIP ticket priced at \$149 for all festival days provides full access and a seat on the grandstand. The

pricing aligns with international norms. And don't forget, our non-resident tickets subsidise a low entrance price for Zanzibari who pay TZS 20,000 for the entire show.

The festival has few big names... Lorenz: More than one or two headliners would strain the budget. And we want to discover amazing talents from all over the continent.



Surrounded by fate: The collapsed Sultan's palace hovers over the festival venue where the Busara directors are seated



Handmade dhow furniture by Charles Isaac  
Main road, between Kendwa and Nungwi/  
Ph. +255 765 649 672 / www.dhowfurniture.com



# “GLASS FIBRE BETTER THAN ELON MUSK”

PHOTOS (EN LISTOCC, CANALINK)

### WHAT TO DO WITH 1 GB DOWNLOAD

Broadband connections at home and offices have no data limit (what you buy is the speed), but when buying prepaid cards for your mobile you can do the following with one gigabyte (GB) download limit. One GB is 1024 megabytes.

- Surf non-stop for about 10 hours
- 18 hours of streaming music
- 1 hour of HD video streaming
- 5 hours of online gaming

## 1GB

Connected! Nowadays, for economic development nothing is more important than the internet

**Why is the internet so expensive here?**  
Zanzibar probably has one of the priciest internet networks in sub-Saharan Africa. The reason: the internet bandwidth is mainly transported from Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar through a government-owned submarine fibre cable. The transport alone costs more than the internet bandwidth itself. The result: in Zanzibar we pay ten times as much as in London, and almost three times more than in Dar es Salaam.



Award winning: Sanjay Raja (left) of Zanlink, best internet provider

**Let the numbers speak: A global nomad working online pays \$225 per month for about 17 MB/s in Zanzibar, in Amsterdam they pay \$40 for 1,000 MB/s.**  
The higher price, as I explained before, is because we are an island. It is not because of any monopoly. It is a generic problem affecting all internet providers in Zanzibar at the same way.

**How can connectivity become cheaper?**  
The government will need to play an enabling role here. Capacity costs from the mainland to Zanzibar would have to go down substantially; the same goes for some excessive duties. We cannot reduce the consumer price if our costs are too high. Conductive internet infrastructure policies will not only help the business environment but also public and educational establishments. It will drive significant socio-economic development, reduce the digital divide and finally increase taxes collectible. Some deliberate and big decisions have to be made here for a better digital future for Zanzibar.

### ONLINE TIPS FOR TRAVELLERS

- Buy a sim card at the airport (Zantel for Zanzibar, Vodacom for Tanzania)
- Get a large amount of data so you can hotspot when the wifi is not working
- Always keep your phone, iPad, and laptop charged; power cuts can occur
- Work from a resort or hotel, they have the strongest wifi and generators when the power goes down
- Use a co-working space in Stone Town, for instance: The Train's House co-working space, [www.coworker.com/Tanzania/Zanzibar](http://www.coworker.com/Tanzania/Zanzibar)



### INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS

Ready for a greener future: Ronny Paul and Christine Linsser want to go solar in Fumba Town

## LET THE SUNSHINE IN

A German couple, one of the first buyers of a beach front house in Fumba Town, wants to start a solar business here. Engineer Ronny Paul, 44, produces custom-made solar systems.

**What's the most important first step to a solar future?**  
Preferably electricity companies open their grid for the alternative energy. Then your house system can switch automatically between grid and solar. You can even monitor your consumption with smart home devices from abroad.

**And a system with batteries?**  
With the latest storage technology it makes sense, and you are completely self-sufficient. We will bring the latest equipment from Germany to start installing this year.

**And wind energy?**  
Very small wind turbines can be installed in the garden.

**Like in yours next to the sea...**  
Yes, we will try that.

**How do you like living in Fumba?**  
We come here around four times per year. Initially we planned the house as an investment and have built a pool in only four months.

**Christine: Now we really like it here, it's less stressful and a wonderful holiday spot.**

**There seems to be good news on the solar front: a first photovoltaic project is planned for Bambani in the heart of the island.** That would be indeed good news. One wonders actually why solar in Africa has been taking so long.

**You don't want to wait, so you are planning your own solar system?**  
I am planning a show unit with wind and solar energy for private houses, so that other owners can actually see what is possible. I sell solar systems in Germany, now I want to offer the same for any house type and size in Fumba Town.

**What are the costs?**  
It depends on consumption and unit size.

**Let's say for a three-bedroom...**  
If you use an average of 10,000 kilowatt hours per year, your electricity costs in Zanzibar are about \$120 per month.

**How much do I need to invest to go solar?**  
A relatively large solar system costs about \$12,000; for a smaller house a system of \$3000 - \$5000 can be sufficient. In both cases, in ten years your investment will have paid off!

Ronny's solar business  
WhatsApp +255 774 180 570

# EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE

Online shopping in Zanzibar made easy



By staff writer

"We deliver everything in less than three weeks", promises a new store for online shopping set up by two young entrepreneurs on the island of Zanzibar. THE FUMBA TIMES tested their service.

Just like the Oscar-winning movie of the same name, Zanzibar is rapidly connecting with global online shopping as customers want "everything, everywhere, all at once". Until recently, however, it was almost impossible to order products from everywhere to Zanzibar, whether it was Ikea, Zara or Dior. Choose a new mobile, fancy jeans or a romantic bedside lamp featured on Amazon and have it delivered to your doorstep the next day? No chance. The nearest Ikea outlet is located in Dubai, their only African venture in Cairo, and this will not change soon, a company spokesperson said.

Local day-to-day essentials are "what people order most", Saleh says, from "bottled water to plates to bed sheets." Their second pillar of business, however, has become online shopping via Amazon or any other UK retailer.

**London calling punctual every Tuesday**

The only prerequisite: Customers must order from a shop or website in Britain because the Fumba Store has established a well-oiled delivery chain from there to Zanzibar. "Every Tuesday our shipments go out from London by plane; we have about ten people working on our deliveries. That's how we can guarantee a delivery in less than three weeks", says Tawanda.

**From local kiosk to superstore**  
A young local start-up has now come to the rescue of frustrated online shoppers... "Tunakuletea", Swahili for "we deliver", promise Tawanda Nhamuro, a Zimbabwean living in the UK, and his Zanzibari business partner Saleh Hemed. They have made online shopping in Zanzibar their trademark. Within three years their small kiosk-type supply has grown into a superstore



Online shopping: Tawanda Nhamuro (left) and Saleh Hemed deliver everything from pakacha to Zara clothes

**Delivery to the doorstep**  
Three weeks, really? We venture to test the service with three items hard to get locally. A brand-name lipstick, some high-quality white lady trousers and an internet amplifier. The result: 2:1. Twice we succeeded, even saving money on top. We voluntarily withdraw, however, from the third order, "Yves Saint Laurent's Tropical Pink", when it turns out that the - already costly - lipstick would more than double in price before arriving at our door. "Perfumes and cosmetics are especially expensive because of customs duty", explains Tawanda.

On the other hand we manage to save money with a 'WiFi Extrabooster', a plug-in device to extend internet reach, when the Fumba Store advises us on a cheaper model than planned. It arrives in less than ten days and does the job. We are equally happy with a white Ralph Lauren trousers, punctually delivered to our Fumba door in 18 days - and only ten per cent more expensive than it would have been over the counter in Europe.

"We calculate all costs upfront for the client", Tawanda and Saleh say. One can always ask them for a more affordable product, a different supplier or simply send a link of a desired item to the specialists. Its a personal support rarely found in online shopping.

**Local vendors on board**  
The Zanzibar company also has a growing number of local vendors on board, from unique craft makers to about twenty Tanzanian manufacturers, and a special section for car parts. Furthermore, it manages the entire distribution of the popular green *pakacha* basket with fresh farm products in Zanzibar. It took a while to synchronise organic goods with high-tech delivery: "Sour milk and broken eggs were our typical birth pains", remembers Tawanda.

**Fumba.store**  
Ph +255 712 281868  
info@fumba.store

**Specialist for IKEA orders:**  
iCare Home  
faroukbaba@gmail.com

# LIFESTYLE NEWS DOREEN'S BLUE COLLECTION

Zanzibar's Doreen Mashika unveils new *kanga* designs.

The fashion designer's latest collection matches the island's blue economy. Made of *kangas* with blue, white and black patterns the modern dresses and suits are formal and casual at once, celebrating Swahili traditions in a unique way. The mix of contemporary styles and quality *kanga* material has become the local designer's trademark. Doreen Mashika was born and raised in Tanzania, studied and worked in Switzerland, and considers herself part of a growing homeward bound African diaspora. Recently the work of Zanzibar's most famous designer has been shown at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

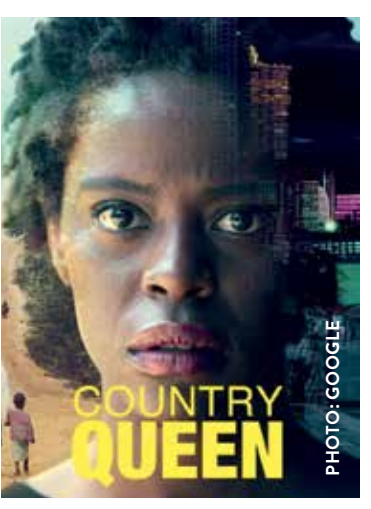
New *kanga* designs by Zanzibar's best known designer

Doreen Mashika (DM), opp. Park Hyatt Hotel, Stone Town

# COUNTRY QUEEN ON NETFLIX

Kenya's homegrown, and much celebrated, first Netflix series exposes the paradoxes of rural and urban life co-existing in contemporary Africa.

A Nairobi event planner returns to her village after ten years, where she confronts her past, the child she had to give up - and a mining company that threatens to destroy her home. In the tangled story of love, betrayal and power, modern urban and traditional rural society collide. Nini Wacera in the lead role plays next to Oliver Litondo, a former prominent TV moderator in Kenya, here acting as the crazy old man in the village. The short series has six episodes



Captivating: first Kenyan series on Netflix

# ACCOUNTING FOR THE DIASPORA

The Tanzanian diaspora's exclusive financial avenue, the so-called Tanzanite account, is prospering. More than 30,000 diaspora members across the globe have already subscribed to the service, the CRDB bank recently disclosed. The bank established its first diaspora unit in 2014. The initiative simplifies investment and transactions for Tanzanians living abroad; diaspora members who have changed

nationality also profit from the account. Remittances, transfers and pay-outs can be done in several currencies including British pound, US dollar, euro and Tanzanian shilling. CRDB's acting chief commercial officer Boma Bahalla said beyond practical banking, the Tanzanite account "acknowledges emotional ties with the homeland". He cited the example of a Tanzanian scholar who had received a Harvard scholarship while maintaining a CRDB account for salary reimbursement.

**Information:**  
CRDB, Ph +255 714 197 700, e-mail: [tanzanite@crdbbank.co.tz](mailto:tanzanite@crdbbank.co.tz)

## Unleash Your Brand's Potential with Zanziholics!

Unlock Growth • Foster Engagement • Achieve Success  
Choose Zanziholics for Marketing Excellence

+255 769 278 878 | [manager@zanziholics.com](mailto:manager@zanziholics.com)

## Our Services

- Design
- Development
- Marketing
- Social Media
- E-Commerce
- Help & Support

## ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

### PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST MALARIA

**Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:**

**Marlene Johansson, Sweden**

Dr. Jenny, we are preparing once more for a family visit to Zanzibar. My mother-in-law has just warned me, that there is a wave of malaria cases on the island. Should we take prophylaxis even if we are staying for longer? We thought malaria has been eradicated.

Dear Marlene, Over the past months there has been a slight increase in malaria cases on the island. This is due to the fact that we are just coming out of the rainy season. Additionally, irregular rain over the previous months has led to a larger than usual mosquito population, adding to an elevated incidence rate of vector-borne diseases compared to previous years. These facts however should not negatively impact your travel plans. I will share with you a few simple measures you can take to make sure that you enjoy your holiday without worries.

It is recommended to take chemoprophylaxis in the form of tablets, since malaria tends to be more severe in patients not living in a malaria-endemic area. Please make sure to consult your family physician or tropical medicine institute in your home country before traveling; chemoprophylaxis needs to be started before you travel into an endemic area in order to be effective from day one. Additionally, protection to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes altogether is advised: sleeping under mosquito nets, nets on windows, applying mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeve shirts and trousers. Prophylaxis is usually advised for a stay of up to four or six weeks. If you stay longer or even become a resident in Zanzibar, the side effects of prophylaxis could outweigh the benefits. In that case, you'd better protect yourself against mosquitoes as advised and get yourself tested if any symptoms occur. If you develop a fever during your stay in Zanzibar, a simple MRDT (Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test) that is available at most clinics across Zanzibar, is a quick and simple way to rule it out. If you develop a fever in the months after your stay in Zanzibar, it is important that your treating doctor is notified about your recent travel so that they can consider vector-borne diseases as a differential diagnosis as well. All the above measures combined provide very good protection against malaria and in case you should fall ill, early diagnosis will ensure timely treatment and recovery.

## Happy & Healthy

### URBAN CARE CLINIC

Urban Care is situated at the The Pavilion in Fumba Town. For any health or lifestyle questions, write to us at: [DrJenny@fumbatimes.com](mailto:DrJenny@fumbatimes.com)  
Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011  
Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 8pm | Saturday and Sunday on call, [www.urbancareclinic.com](http://www.urbancareclinic.com)



# FIVE OF AFRICA'S BEST

PHOTOS (5): CBABYLONSTOREN, MAMOUNIA, ELEWANA COLLECTION, CENZIZARO, OIJOGI

## SAFARI WITH A VIEW

Open terraces, retro design and a waterfall-spa in the midst of the Laikipia wilderness – the over-the-top private conservancy Ol Jogi in Kenya was picked as one of the ultimate safari experiences [oljogi.org](http://oljogi.org)

By Andrea Tapper

Dream hotels: what a quarter of million readers worldwide voted for, can't be wrong. Two Zanzibar deluxe beauties made it into the ranks of Africa's best.

There are dubious rankings in tourism – and there are real rankings. With some, you can buy your way into the Top Ten, others have a trusted history of fact-checking and a refined nose for trends. In the latter category falls the Condé Nast Traveller (CNT), the online travel platform of the renowned publisher of The New

Yorker, Vogue and GQ, active in the US, Europe and Asia. The travel compass full of inspiration, hot lists and well researched travel news, draws millions of avid globetrotters and has become synonymous with wanderlust. "We do not accept industry freebies", said founder Sir Harold Evans when he coined the motto "Truth in Travel".

### Most quoted rankings

Among the most quoted rankings worldwide is CNT's annual readers' choice. A quarter of a million readers voted for "The top 15 resorts in East Africa" in 2022 (2023's list was still being compiled when THE FUMBA TIMES went to print). Two Zanzibar resorts made it into the ranks of the best in East Africa: boutique hotel

Kilindi in Nungwi and The Residence in southern Kizimkazi. Tanzania's baroque Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, described as "Massai meets Versailles", was placed fourth position. The overall winner also came from Tanzania: Oliver's camp in Tarangire National Park, for three decades one of the most sought-after safari havens in East Africa.

In the overall category 'The Best of Africa', typically a mix of safari lodges, South African novelties and timeless Marrakech can be found - with the Mamounia in Morocco often No.1. Any ranking is inherently unfair, disadvantaging equally gorgeous locations – and certainly so in Zanzibar. But there is also fun to it: Forbes magazine, for instance, lists as the world's

best tourist attraction the neo-gothic Hungarian parliament in Budapest (second position Disneyland Paris) and the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles as the worst ("unsafe"). Among the most loved travel destinations are Paris (world's No 1) and Mexico, according to UN statistics. Sometimes even a tiny, dedicated blog can guide you to wonderful places as long as you share its outlook on life. It's just like with movie or book reviews - you know whom to trust. Lack of transparency and limited data are the biggest warning signs in rankings. To avoid falling for dubious hot lists, seek information from reputable sources, like official tourism boards and trusted review platforms. Then pack your bag - or start dreaming!



## THE ART OF SIMPLICITY

When I first visited Babylonstoren in 2013, the historic farm turned home & garden paradise by a former Elle decoration editor had just opened. Today, Condé Nast lists it as No 1 in South Africa. Imagine the place as a nex-level Kwetu Kwenu experience: beautifully laid-out gardens, a deli, a bakery, a butchery, a fragrance store, a world-class wine centre and a top eco-hotel. Situated near Franschoek, Babylonstoren has made simplicity an art. [babylonstoren.com](http://babylonstoren.com)



## ORIENTAL TEMPTATION

Celebrating its 100th birthday this year, La Mamounia in Marrakech is as popular as ever. Considered one of the most elegant palaces in the world, it has repeatedly been voted 'Best Hotel in Africa'. Timeless refinement has drawn celebrities, politicians, artists and royalty to the opulent gem with a 2,000 square metre pool in the midst of the red city. Every evening candles and lanterns convert it into a tale of a thousand and one nights. [mamounia.com](http://mamounia.com)



## TAKE A CHANCE ON ME

And here come the two Zanzibar properties best loved. Originally designed for Benny Andersson - a member of the 1970's pop group Abba - Elewana Kilindi feels like a private recluse. "Not since the last Sultan's palace has there been anything more stylish on the isle", says Condé Nast. Readers placed Kilindi with its 15 whitewashed domes in the forests near Nungwi at position No. 2 of East Africa's top resorts. [elewanacollection.com](http://elewanacollection.com)



## CLASSIC, COOL, IMPECCABLE

Another Zanzibar classic, The Residence made it to position 11 among Condé Nast's Top 15 resorts in East Africa. The well-hidden beauty on the southern Kizimkazi tip, with 66 villas scattered over a 32-hectare compound has many devoted repeat guests. All villas come with butler service and plunge pools; some open onto a long white sand beach flanked by coconut palms. The two Zanzibar resorts were the only beach hotels in the ranking, the rest safari lodges. [cenizaro.com](http://cenizaro.com)

# ART, JAZZ & WINE

A new monthly show unites art and music at Stone Town's historic city beach restaurant Livingstone's.

Wondering where the action is in Stone Town? Head to the Livingstone's Beach Restaurant every last Friday of the month. Long-time Zanzibar residents Leslie Gueno and Sara Hemed are bringing new spark to the former British consulate with their expertly curated blend of art, music and top wines. "With the upscale monthly events we want to celebrate the island's rich artistic tapestry and network

with the creative community", interior designer and photographer Hemed said. Livingstone, with its puristic bar and beautiful beach garden, has been a long-time supporter of the local cultural scene. Proprietor Abeid Karume staged the well-known and VIP-attended Jahazi Literary and Jazz Festival from 2011 to 2019.

The new monthly art soirees, reviving the Jahazi spirit, kicked off with Wakorofi Jazz Trio and Stone Town RockerZ. A mini Jahazi literary and jazz weekend was set for 1 and 2 September. "As artists ourselves, we realised the island needs a platform to showcase talents" explains Leslie Gueno, a poet and visual artist. For the coming months, the dynamic duo intends

to stage a photography exhibition and a fashion pop-up alongside the music and art events, definitely a new cultural highlight.

Livingstone's Beach Restaurant every last Friday of the month



Zanzibar painter Bayuu and the Wakofi Jazz Trio are among artists exhibiting and performing at Livingstone



PHOTOS (2): PRIVATE

## JUST DISCOVERED

### SAFIRA BLU LUXURY RESORT & VILLAS



A hideaway built on black rock and white sand



## THE UNKNOWN SIDE OF ZANZIBAR

✓ **LOCATION**  
Most secluded in Zanzibar

✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE**  
Feel like a VIP by the ocean

The road maybe rocky, but the destination rewards us for travelling it. Like a Fata Morgana, white modern villas suddenly become visible high above the sea, a wooden deck with neatly arranged cabana-like double sunbeds leads to an endless three-tier pool. And ahhhh, the ocean in turquoise perfection is nibbling at a white virgin beach. Safira Blu is probably the most secluded resort property in Zanzibar. From Kendwa Rocks we drove on a dust road 3.8 kilometres straight across the island to the north east coast. And here, between Nungwi and Mnemba island, at one of Zanzibar's most undiscovered coastal stretches, you'll find the new Safira Blu resort & villas.

night or two, or longer - in the villas. With a private pool, butler service, a sea-view bathroom and even a powder room, the double-storey units are extremely tempting.

### Father-daughter team

How did it all start? Explorer Sir Richard Francis Burton called the African shore "the sea of purest sapphire" in 1876; Safira Blu is a Swahili variation of his words and the branchchild of an extraordinary Zanzibar family. Alnoor Jinah immigrated to Canada in the 1970s where, together with his wife Shahida, he began opening hotels in quaint small towns. Inspired by her parents, daughter Ayesha became an interior architect and, upon their recent return to Zanzibar, the father-daughter team designed and build the unique property together.

### Tender beef and meeze

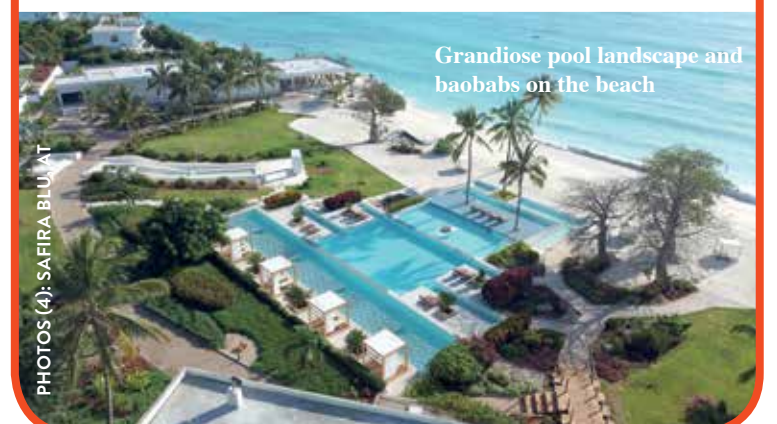
It's a private paradise with 12 modern villas, an amazing pool, Baobab trees on the beach and 1.5 kilometres of unspoiled beach front. Outside guests are welcome for lunch and dinner at the Drunken Monkey bar and the BluFire restaurant. There used to be day passes with access to the main pool and beach but this has been discontinued. On Sundays, however, the resort stages a brunch and treats visitors with a free round of bubbles. We indulged in the most delicious cuisine with bites of tender beef and octopus, roasted beetroot and grapefruit salad, sushi and meeze platters, sipping exotic drinks like Island Manhattans with Cinzano Rosso or non-alcoholic mocktails such as pineapple hibiscus. Service is great and the chef even came out to let us taste different menu items. Visiting here, one obviously is tempted to book the real package - a



Exclusive: Spacious villas, bathrooms with sea views

### Safira Blu Resort & Villas

Villas start at \$953 per night per couple. Outside guests are welcome in the restaurants. Drunken Monkey 10.30am to 10.30pm. Dinner at BluFire 6.30pm to 10.00pm. Sunday Brunch with bubbles 11:30am to 3.00pm. Ph +255 623 788 650 safirablum.com



Grandiose pool landscape and baobabs on the beach

PHOTOS (4): SAFIRA BLU LUXURY

## ADVERTISEMENT

START YOUR LIFE IN FUMBA

Apartments & Houses

To rent from 250 USD

To buy from 44,900 USD

www.fumba.town +255 623 989 900