

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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RESIDENTS THE BIG VISA CHALLENGE

PAGE 02 | NEWS



HERITAGE HISTORY AND HEALING

PAGE 03 | ZANZIBAR



CHUMBE ISLAND SECRETS OF THE NIGHT CRAB

PAGE 08 | MY WORLD



WORK & PLAY BY THE SEA

200 new holiday apartments for sale on the west coast



PHOTOS (4): KEEGAN CHECKS

Happiness made in Zanzibar: the tourism boom has brought first modern vacation homes like The Soul (photo) to the island, ideal for private holidays

By Andrea Tapper

Known as The Soul, Zanzibar's first residential resort continues its unique success story. After selling out in Paje on the east coast, the holiday apartments go west. In Fumba Town buyers can even opt for a new move-in-pay-later scheme.

It's one of the rare rainy days in paradise. Raining cats and dogs actually, when Milan Heilmann takes me around The Soul in Paje. Since 2019, the project manager of developer CPS has been supervising the construction of Zanzibar's first residential resort, only 300 metres walking distance from the famous kite surfing beach. Now it's almost complete. On sunny days the scene here looks

like this: young couples return from the beach, store their SUPs and surfboards before entering their lofty apartments through a garden door. Palm trees create a soft shade while a beautiful woman in her forties relaxes on her penthouse terrace, her husband mixing some drinks inside. And thanks to the monsoon rains, a lush tropical garden is already embracing the eleven apartment blocks in Paje's hinterland, most of them fully finished and rentable (see box), some under finalisation. Pointing at palm trees, colourful bouganivilla, banana trees and a gangling bamboo forest, project manager Heilmann, 32, summarises the resort's philosophy: "Modern living in tropical surroundings." The breaking news is, that after the completion of the east coast Soul, the residential resort will get a twin sister on the west coast in the urban setting of eco city Fumba Town. 200

holiday apartments - about the same amount as in Paje - with one to three bedrooms are planned.

The Soul is an entirely new player within the tourism landscape for several reasons. It's the first large-scale holiday apartment complex in Zanzibar. Foreigners are entitled to buy here. In Fumba Town, near the capital, buyers even get additional benefits: a residency permit and a five-year payment plan, starting at around 1,200 dollars per month. "You will be able to move into and enjoy your apartment even before finishing payments", explains Tobias Dietzold, one of the directors of developer CPS. Prices for 1-3 bedroom apartments and penthouses range from 67,900 dollars to 250,900 dollars. And there's another plus to the soulful holiday residences: designed by Spanish architect Lucas Oyteza, they implement a hybrid, sustainable wood construction technology, a big plus for climate-conscious travellers.

Enjoy now, pay later

Best holidays near Stone Town

Sold-out in record time in Paje, "we want to give holidaymakers of all ages now the chance to purchase a Soul apartment in Fumba", CPS directors Sebastian and Tobias Dietzold said when launching the look-alikes. Soul Fumba is close to the airport and Stone Town, embedded in urban infrastructure and has glorious west coast sunsets. CPS is a local company with German background and has sold more houses and apartments in Zanzibar than any other company.

Both Soul projects nestle around a large lagoon, the ultimate relax area exclusively for residents. The sale of the holiday apartments in Fumba Town

has just commenced, with first buyers coming actually from Paje - apparently convinced not only of the twin project's charm but similarities.

When launching the new touristic hot spot, Tobias Dietzold elaborated: "Fumba Town is a mixed-used urban centre and will now be complemented with the beautiful holiday apartments of The Soul which will add even more variety to the green urban community."

Eventually 20,000 people will live in the growing suburb along 1.5 kilometres seafront. Other than the north and east coast beaches, Fumba is only a 20-minute drive away from the airport and Stone Town. A sports centre is also planned on the sunset coast, where more and more developments are taking place. Go west! Booming tourism in Zanzibar, it seems, has found a new darling location.



The east coast in Paje, a kite surfers' paradise



The west coast in Fumba Town, a lagoon retreat close to Stone Town

LONGEST RUNWAY IN AFRICA MORE FASHION



A fashion extravaganza turns Stone Town into a runway in July. This year, the "Fashion Islands Week" has been set to take off on 9 July. Zanzibar's own top designer Waiz, who recently participated in the Fashion Week South Africa, has put together an impressive line-up of local and international designers for, what he calls, "the longest runway in Africa" at Forodhani garden, and more fashion events. Waiz, who owns a boutique in Stone Town, is a self-made designer and musician who started out as a street kid. The photo (above) shows him with local designer Amina Bilal Pira. Consult your social media for more schedule information.

MINIMUM WAGES

MORE MONEY

Minimum wages for the private sector have been raised lately in Zanzibar. It's the first increase in six years. Here an overview:

- General minimum wage TZS347,000
- Domestic workers starting from TZS100,000-TZS120,000
- Short-term skilled workers TZS30,000 per day

Foreigners employed in Zanzibar are to be paid at least \$1,000 per month. Labour representatives criticised the new rates, asking for a general minimum wage of TZS600,000 (or \$250). The increases were announced by the government.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

MORE ROADS

Fumba Town is getting long-awaited street paving inside the town. A specific paving block machine was bought to create a modern version of cobblestones, made of cement, aggregate chippings and sand. They allow rain water to drain into the soil whereas tarmac roads seal off the surface. Fumba Town also has a system of natural gullies, so-called green drains, to absorb access water. Every year, many roads in Zanzibar get flooded during rainy seasons.



Project manager Arshad Akber in Fumba with new paving stones

THE SOUL PAJE: READY TO RENT

The season can start! New Apartments in walking distance to Paje's kite-surfing beach:

- Short and long term rentals
- Fully furnished, fully serviced
- 1-3 bedrooms for singles, couples, families and friends
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FACELIFT IN STONE TOWN



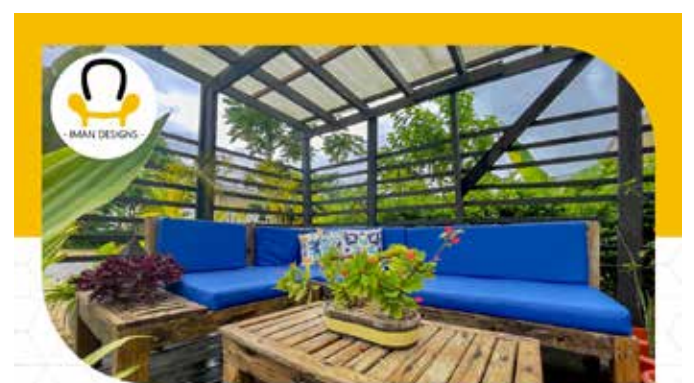
Historic and new: restored Tembo annex in Stone Town, souk in Darajani (r.)

The historic quarter of Zanzibar is visibly shaping up - for better or worse, is open.

Surely a welcome beautification took place in the centre of Stone Town on Kenyatta Road. What was a derelict government office in the heart of history for years was saved by neighbouring Tembo Hotel to create an annex with elegant rooms. The case is typical: Notably mostly the same players seem at

work in Stone Town, like local hospitality heavyweight Mussamil and Park Hyatt which recently acquired more historical seafront treasures. In front of Africa House, a hotel pool is being built for which an old girl's school had to vanish. The eviction of innercity schools for commercial purposes is sharply criticised by historian Parmukh Singh. A famous Darajani school is being demolished, he says, for the newly opened Souk with more than hundred stalls. Preservation of buildings in Zanzibar has no more lobby, he argues. The Department of Antiquities defends selling historic treasures as the only means to save them. But as we know from cosmetics, one facelift too many can ruin the appearance forever!

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“RESIDENCE PERMIT IS ON ITS WAY...”

EXCLUSIVE Hon. Minister Mudrick R. Soraga speaks out

By Andrea Tapper

Is this the end of a long wait? A stay permit for foreign home buyers will come and “nothing can stop it”, promises Mudrick R. Soraga, Minister of Labour, Economy and Investment. In a frank interview with THE FUMBA TIMES he revealed new incentives for investors, vast projects for Zanzibar and his soft spot for digital nomads.

Hon. Minister, THE FUMBA TIMES has lobbied for a “Golden Visa” for foreign homebuyers for quite some time. In September 2021 the new legislation



Open exchange: THE FUMBA TIMES editor Andrea Tapper with Economy Minister Mudrick R. Soraga in his office

seemed around the corner. Now hundreds of investors are still waiting, what happened? The real estate buyers’ incentives were rolled out for homebuyers investing a minimum of \$100,000 within a strategic investment project...

... such as Fumba Town...

Yes! And these incentives include a residence permit every two years for the investor, his spouse and up to four children. They were approved by the Zanzibari government and cabinet in 2021. What we did not realise then was that we needed the union government on board to alter immigration laws. So we went back to the drawing board and after intensive discussions with the Minister of Home Affairs, reformulated the document. It is now awaiting signature and approval by the Attorney General. It’s a regulatory issue.

Can the residence permit still fail at this point? Nothing can stop it. There are no barriers.

So, when will it come? I can’t give you a date but expect it to be signed and implemented any time, surely this year.

What was the root of the problem? We already have a number of different types of residents’ permits. With any new permit a nation will and has to ask itself:

What does it do to our economy, to security, whom are we targeting? These are legitimate concerns even if we fully understand and support homebuyers’ wish for a comfortable stay.

Please explain the conditions for foreign homebuyers briefly.

The residence permit shall be granted repeatedly as long as you own property. I personally requested five years which, in my opinion, would have worked better for new homebuyers. But two years are a compromise. We will set up guidelines where to obtain the visa, either at the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) or Immigration. Costs will be \$500-\$2,000 depending on the type of residency, and maximum \$500 for dependants.

How important is foreign investment for Zanzibar? We are encouraging foreign investors.

WE LOVE ZANZIBAR!

One investor family standing for many: Mark and Marlene Bradley, retirees in their 60s, and their two sons Josiahe, 34, and Daniel, 24, holding their American passports - missing one important stamp: a residence visa. The family has recently immigrated from Maryland, USA, to Zanzibar. What brought them here? “Just read the headlines in the US, there is so much negativity”, says family patron Mark Bradley, a former government employee: “In contrast to that, we love the laid-back nature of East Africans.” After spending a grant on a three-bedroom bungalow in Fumba Town (photo), they require a residence permit for the family to stay and live in their property. “Our No 1 reason to invest was the promise of a golden visa”, the family says. But price also played a role: „In America we could not have afforded a house by the sea.”



Paradise Pamunda: Zanzibar will have 17 new luxury islands created by investors

We have reviewed the investment act to accommodate the blue economy and marine transport, and have brought down the strategic investment from 100 million dollars to 50 million dollars after weighing the arguments of investors. We have a new online system and one-stop-shop at ZIPA. All these measures are meant to create a conducive environment for investors. We want investors to feel safe, sound and secure.

“We want investors to feel safe, sound and secure”

How much foreign investment have you registered in 2022?

We had 260 new investments in two-and-a-half years, a total of 3.5 billion dollars that will create 13,000 new jobs. 60% in tourism, but also in fisheries, manufacturing and the development of the new port in Mangapwani where we are finalising a concession agreement with a major foreign partner...

Will the new port be built and run by Oman?

I can’t disclose it at this point, but we have already opened new petroleum storage facilities there. The new port is our flagship project and definitely coming; the present old port, part of the World Heritage Stone Town, will become a souvenir port, a tourism highlight.

Some major tourism ventures folded, the Amber project with villas and hotels was revoked by the government; the Polish Pili-Pili said to be a

Ponzi scheme. Do you have to screen investors and their concepts better? In the case of Pili-Pili we may allow them to re-open some hotels to pay the debts.

What became of your dream of starting luxury private islands like the Maldives? We have successfully given away concessions for about 17 islets within the Zanzibar archipelago, four have already started construction, among them Bawe and Changuu.

A ground-breaking move, which will earn Zanzibar \$261 million in leasing fees...

And enable us to invest heavily in infrastructure such as roads and traffic regulation. We are planning two flyovers in town in Mwanakwerekwe and Magogoni.

And the dream of your initiative “Silicon Zanzibar”? We have set-up a task force among others with Wasoko, a leading tech company already based in Fumba Town, to discuss needs and expectations. One result is that we may treat tech companies like strategic investors with certain tax benefits. In terms of special work permits for tech workers and digital nomads we will also find a solution, after all labour laws are also covered by my ministry.

Information on investing and buying in Zanzibar: Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) www.zipa.go.tz/online-portal/

Residence permits online: immigration.go.tz/

BOOMING ZANZIBAR

Zanzibar has fully recovered from Corona and gone back to pre-pandemic tourism figures. And all is looking up!

- Population 1.9 million
- 7% economic growth
- 2022: 538,202 tourists
- 2023-2025: 30% more tourism expected
- New airport capacity: 1.6 million passengers yearly
- Tourism: 80% of foreign earnings, 30% of GDP

VINTAGE SETTING, MODERN CARE



Aga Khan hospitals enjoy a top reputation in East Africa. Now Zanzibar can count itself lucky to have the first state-of-the-art polyclinic run by the community - moreover in one of the landmark historic buildings which is finally being put to good use again.

Tourism. Mohamed Simai, stressed during the opening earlier this year. It was a historical moment for a historical building.

Symbol of a twisted history

The Old Dispensary’s rebirth is a long-winded story, typical of Zanzibar’s twisted history. The foundation stone was laid in 1887 by Tharia Topan, a rich Ismaili merchant of Indian origins, to mark Queen Victoria’s golden jubilee in far-away Britain. But Topan died before its completion, the dispensary was acquired by other merchants and indeed used as a charitable pharmacy of sorts until it fell into complete disarray after the 1964 revolution, when Zanzibar was merged with Tanganyika to become Tanzania.

Beautiful harbour view for waiting patients

It has taken the Aga Khan and its many trusts and services, who also



“Affordable and equitable healthcare”, promised Princess Sarah Aga Khan (left), the eldest daughter of the Ismaili leader, when jointly opening the new polyclinic with Zanzibar’s First Lady Mariam Mwinyi

restored the Forodhani seafarers area, a lot of patience, funds and painstaking repairs of repairs to bring it back to life.

Although loving attention was given to many details from brass sign boards to a stuffed owl in the eye clinic, the recent make-over cost “only” \$800,000 including new medical equipment, it was disclosed. The engagement comes with symbolism: Zanzibar is “almost

holy ground” for the Aga Khan, as once noted by the late historian Erich Meffert. It was here that the Ismaili with 20 million followers first set foot on African soil - in the entourage of Sultan Said’s African conquests. The Aga Khan Health Services operate 14 hospitals and 400 health centres from Pakistan to Uganda. In Zanzibar they have now applied demonstrated that one can revive a heritage site with a contemporary function not by ruining but carefully preserving it. One would wish that principle to be applied more often in Stone Town. A. Tapper

AGA KHAN: NEW PARTNER ON THE ISLAND

How will the new Aga Khan Polyclinic complement other doctors and hospitals on the island?

The polyclinic, which so far accepts outpatients only, will “refer to any clinic in Zanzibar, and co-operate with doctors here”, said Dr. Judith Mwijage, the medical officer in charge. Meanwhile, first collaborations have been formed such as between the Urban Care Clinic in Fumba Town and Aga Khan, especially for technical support. “The Aga Khan’s excellent radiology department, the optometrist and the soon-to-be-operational dialysis centre complement the needs

of our patients for comprehensive diagnostics and care”, said Dr. Jenny Bouraima, founder and director of Urban Care. “We are very happy to have found a new partner on the island to support each other’s range of services”, she added. Urban Care in Fumba offers inpatient facilities, cardiac laboratory diagnostics, dermatology, psychology and antenatal care services, also for referred patients. Low fees for medical service at Aga Khan, especially in radiology, have been welcomed by doctors in Zanzibar. Dr. Bouraima commented: “The pricing of Aga Khan Zanzibar is excellent. Access to essential healthcare is a basic human right”, she stressed.



Cost-conscious: A state-of-the-art CT X-ray at the new clinic costs patients TZS150,000, said Dr. Judith Mwijage (photo), consultation fees start at TZS25,000

MIND MY BUSINESS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Home catering by Arnold: ideal for a party

SELF-MADE CAREER WITH FISH & CHIPS

From Forodhani to Jambiani - Arnold’s Seafood is everywhere

“You can do it if you really want”, is Arnold’s motto. It has brought him quite far.

Zanzibar holds a sad record of 33 per cent youth unemployment. Arnold Kabagubwe, to friends simply known as Arnold, pulled himself out of the statistics - with fish and chips. Now employing five part-time helpers including his girlfriend Neema, one can find the grinning 27-year-old, wearing his trademark white chef’s hood, daily from 6-11pm behind his stand “Arnold’s sea food” at the Forodhani night market. One can also book him for private catering.

lodge with well-meaning proprietors, “that’s where I learnt everything”, the young man born in Bukoba recalls: from buying ingredients wholesale, to price calculations to the art of “frying tempura-style”. More important than cooking tricks is his attitude to “absorb everything I see”. Starting capital? “If you have an interest, you will find the money”, he is convinced. Days off? “Too early”, he says.

Meanwhile Arnold has added organic veggie tempura and steak burgers to his oeuvre, served in trendy paper bags. He bought a used car to get him to Paje Farm-

Arnold’s Seafood arnoldis-seafood.com info@arnoldis-seafood.com Ph +255 747 704462 Forodhani night food market, Stone Town



his seafood at his stand. Instead, with time, he invested in a large, chargeable cooling box, a chips machine “to reduce cutting time and to absorb less oil”, a sandwich maker, and his own garlic-mayonnaise and ginger-soy sauce creations. How did he get here from nowhere? Starting out at 13 as a kitchen boy at the Hakuna Matata

er’s market, Shambaland to private caterings. His eyes are already set on the next goal: “A real food truck.” Knowing Arnold, he might just get it.

HOMEOWNER NEWS • HOMEOWNER NEWS • HOMEOWNER NEWS • HOMEOWNER NEWS • HOMEOWNER NEWS • HOMEOWNER NEWS



INFRASTRUCTURE
“WE HAVE LOTS TO DO”

NGO consultant Hashim Pondeza, 40, from Zanzibar has been elected first chairman of the new Home Owner’s Association (OA) in Fumba Town, the green model city just outside the capital. More than 1,200 apartments, townhouses and villas have been sold here, about 500 units handed over and a lively community by the sea has been established. The most “pressing issue is to make Fumba Town even more comfortable”, Pondeza expressed. Half demanding, half promising he said: “In areas where people already live, infrastructure such as roads, lighting, landscaping and car parks are to be completed fast.” The new town is expected to grow to 20,000 people. Solar energy is also on the agenda for the green city. On residence permits for foreign homeowners (see main article on this page), the Zanzibari NGO expert commented: “The stay permit is very important. It

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TWIN BUSINESS
FINE HOMES & DESIGN

It is not often that businesses with common interests join in my opinion, would have worked better for new homebuyers. But two years are a compromise. We will set up guidelines where to obtain the visa, either at the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) or Immigration. Costs will be \$500-\$2,000 depending on the type of residency, and maximum \$500 for dependants.

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BESTSELLER
ZANZIBAR AS A BRAND

In the prestigious Sarit Centre in Westlands in Nairobi, a traditional Zanzibar door opens to a very different shopping experience. Walk-in shoppers have entered the spacious showroom of developer CPS of the first floor and left 250,000 dollars or so poorer - but beaming with joy - proud new owners of a prime property on the tropical island of Zanzibar. “In 2019, Kenyans were the third-biggest buyers in Fumba Town and of The Soul holiday apartments in Paje”, recounts Kevin Kibe, “and they are still going strong”. The 39-year-old, who loves to dress in three-piece-suits, is the most outstanding veteran seller of CPS. He has sold dozens of studios and villas to his fellow compatriots and others since the birth of Fumba Town in 2015. Oner buyer described the very beginnings: “There was coral rock land and Kevin, and nothing else.” Typically, clients stroll into the cosy CPS lounge at the Sarit after lunch at the Java coffee shop. Ani-

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WELCOME NOTE MY SONS IN AFRICA



Ruth Dietzold, mum of the Fumba Town directors, talks about her sons in Africa, how it all started and why she likes to visit

When I walk through Fumba Town today, seeing the shining white houses and the blue ocean, my hearts skips a beat. It's like a dream. But this dream certainly has a prelude – let me tell you about it. It was exactly 33 years ago when my husband, a pastor, walked into my kitchen in a tiny village in Eastern Germany and out-of-the-blue addressed the family: "Do you want to come with me to Tanzania? I have been offered a job as pastor there." All of us shouted "Yes!" without hesitation, even little Tobias who was only six years old.

Maasai land became our home, first at the foot of the Ngorongoro crater, later on the plains between Arusha and the Kenyan border. While the children attended the International School near Moshi, my husband and I lived in the countryside with no electric light, no internet, just a paraffin lamp. He was the cleric, I was the organiser. Looking back, I find the progress Tanzania has made in less than three decades truly remarkable. Did I expect my sons to return to Africa? Somehow it was only logical. After their graduation as engineers, and their first achievements in real estate, they longed to do something larger. To give back. My boys have the same mentality as me: If you fall, get up and continue. And, as sons of a Christian pastor, honesty is engraved in their DNA. I would say that also helps. Now, 33 years after we first stepped into Africa as a family, they are building a town for people of 60 different nationalities in Zanzibar. As a mother, nothing could make me more proud.

GUEST COMMENT ZANZIBAR IS A PERFECT MUSE

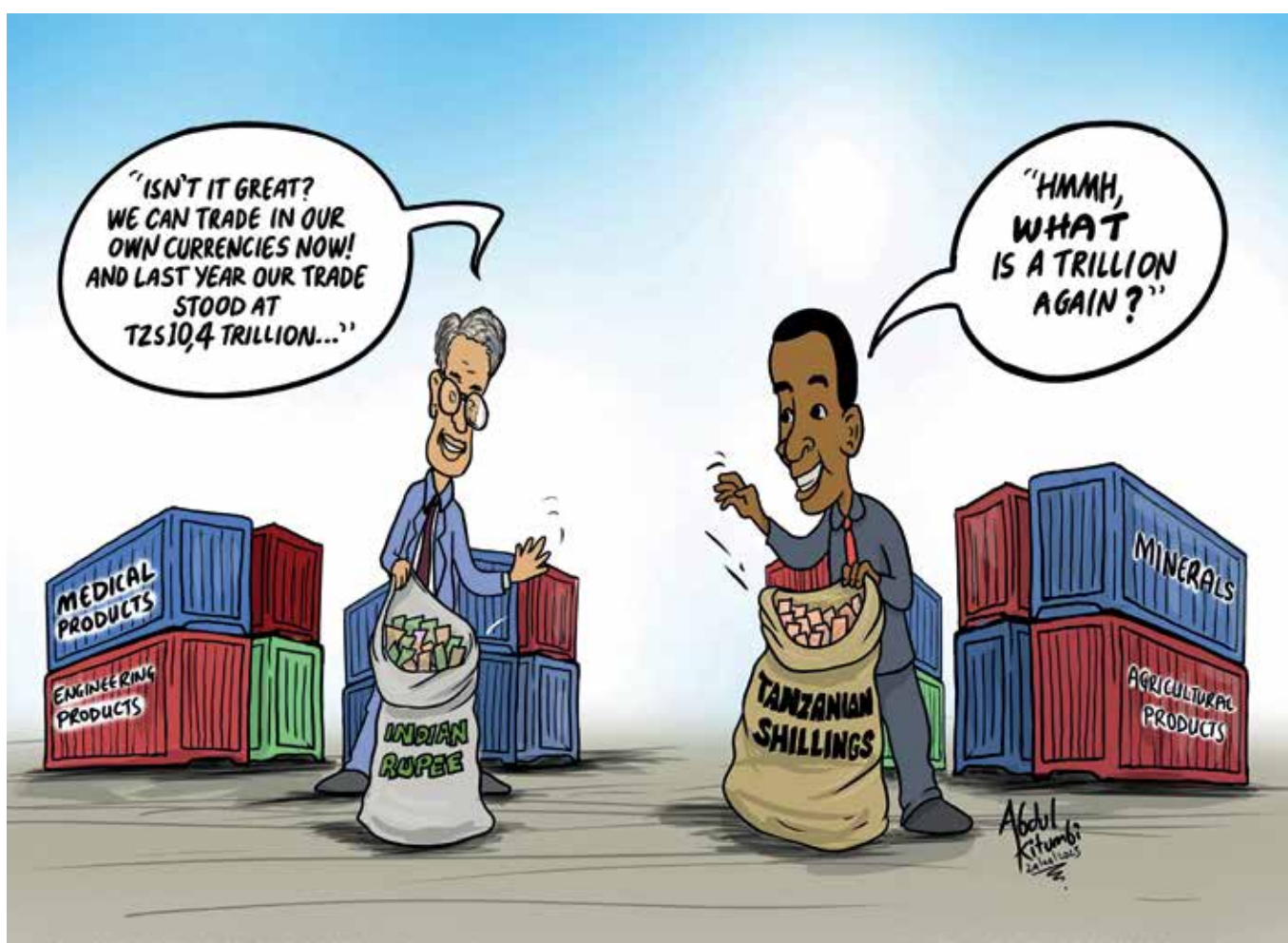


Some resorts in Zanzibar provide artist-in-residence space to inspire creativity. Giulia Loli, an Italian-Egyptian-American artist, describes her experience

I was invited to an artist residence in Zanzibar last November after I had met the host and did a DJ session for him in Dubai. I only realised when I got to Zanzibar what a stunning resort he calls his own (the name of which he does not want to be disclosed here). Once there, I fully submerged myself in the experience of creating while enjoying the privilege of being hosted. One can find artist-in-residence places practically all over the world, often in exceptional holiday spots or trending urban locations from Venice to California. Neither is the idea new; just think of Frédéric Chopin's and George Sand's world-famous stay at the Vall-demosa monastery in Mallorca. They had hoped that Chopin's tuberculosis would improve in the Mediterranean climate, however, the winter was hard and they returned to France with quite some frustration. That was surely different with me. The only frustration I experienced in Zanzibar was trying to translate the indescribable beauty of the ocean's crystalline to oil on canvas. Turquoise-crystal, tourmaline, fluorescent-olive, ultraviolet, pastel cerulean... I was joined by two other wonderful artists: Joni Murphy, a writer from New York, and Eduardo Cassina,

an architect and urban planner from Spain. The wild nature of the remote little resort and the coast fuelled our dreams. Its mythical and geological environment was eye-opening. It was firing my imagination with visions of iridescent mermaids and the legend of Atlantis. The idea of an artist-in-residence is that you are given the space and time to create freely, out of your usual context and inspired by the location. So, I began my days writing at the breakfast table followed by exercise en plein air and sketching. A concept I had already been working on and dewatered into, was a series of "Portraits of the Unsung Who Make Things Run" – from Lilian, the lovely waitress, to the residence's co-owner himself. He would glide through the scene every evening as if wearing roller skates under his kaftan, followed by a bunch of imposing Rotweiler-mix devotees. Spiritual and artistic processes go hand in hand. The ocean was alive and in constant motion like life itself; the stay an unforgettable and life-changing inspiration with long-lasting repercussions. The takeaway, for me, is an appetite: hoteliers, do invest in artists! We ferret out grounds and fill the air with creativity that is palpable.

Giulia Loli is currently working on what she calls a "Pan-African Sci-Fi Religious Art project" connecting Tanzania & Egypt. She also started a water fund for a Maasai village on the mainland: https://www.eppela.com/projects/9768



INDIA-TANZANIA ON NEW TRADE TERMS - CARTOON BY ABDUL KITUMBI

WHAT CHAT-GPT KNOWS ABOUT FUMBA TOWN

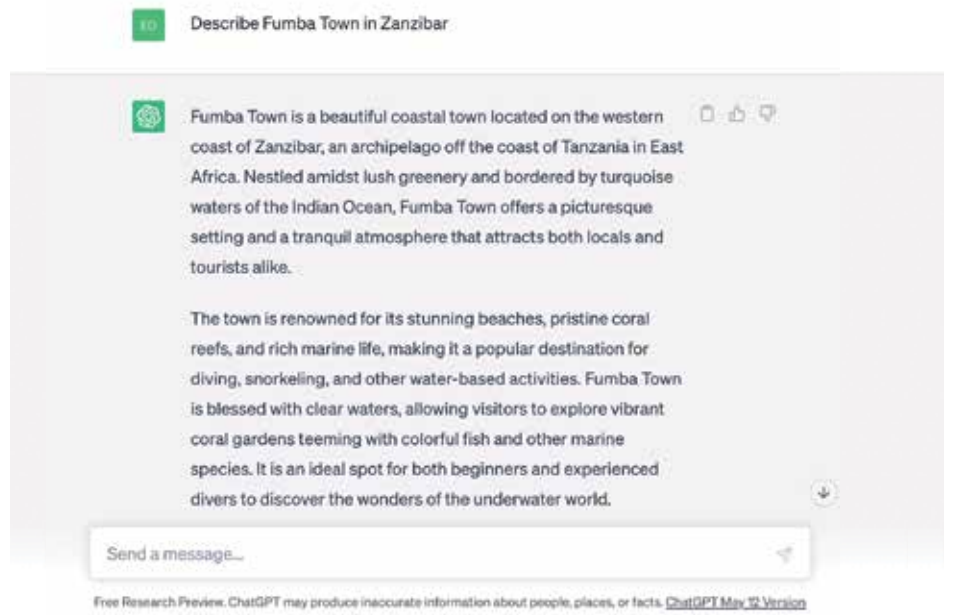
By Andrea Tapper

Will journalism, even the whole media, soon be replaced by robots? The Reuters Institute in London says no - for a number of reasons. After testing a chatbot, THE FUMBA TIMES, agrees (with a sigh of relief). For now.

I remember very well when the internet and with it, online research was born, how we first reacted to it at our newsdesks and in magazine offices. Why dive into a diffuse digital world, when we know where to get information, journalists wondered? If I need data on rent increases I shall call the homeowners' association. If I want a statement of Mama Samia on women in Dodoma, I'd approach her press spokesperson. If I want to know what she said about women ten years ago, I check the archive. We were sitting at our news desks surrounded by directories, statistics, maps, telephone numbers, encyclopaedia and, most importantly, our own notes. We all know where it ended.

Of course we all do research online, quicker, comprehensively, instantly and worldwide. Ten best recipes for a cheesecake? Throw the cookbook away, Google knows better! But we have entered a next stage. When will our news, stories, whole newspapers not be researched but artificial intelligence (AI)? Will AI know more and say it better than Christiane Amanpour at CNN, or replace Anne Wintour at the helm of Vogue magazine with five trend forecasts for the spring fashion?

Since the phenomenal ChatGPT – itself powered by AI – was launched back in November, discussions everywhere about artificial intelligence have intensified. Who will be replaced by the rise of generative artificial intelligence? Is ChatGPT a threat or an opportunity for the media? The prestigious Reuters Institute in London has asked experts and analysed the situation, and comes to some surprising but also comforting conclusions. ChatGPT does not know everything. Because it misses a few important human traits.



"Stuning beaches in Fumba Town, popular for diving..." - dear ChatGPT, you got it wrong!

1 It's not original Says Madhumita Murgia, the newly appointed AI editor at the Financial Times, a new position at the paper. She believes generative AI as we see it today is missing some key skills that will prevent it from taking on a more significant role in journalism. "Based on where it is today, it's not original. It's not breaking anything new. It's based on existing information. And it doesn't have that analytic capability or the voice," Murgia says, "that journalists have."

2 It makes mistakes Automating data-driven news stories, such as financial reports or sports results are already compiled in the media. But with generative AI we can ask a chatbot to write an opinion piece from a particular standpoint. We could even ask it to do so in the style of a well-known writer. In the last months many journalists themselves have been testing the capabilities of chatbots to write and edit – and so did we at THE FUMBA TIMES, you see the result above.

3 It needs an editor The factual mistakes ChatGPT often makes are the biggest challenge, the Reuters report says. While the super speedy robot thinker can indeed - we tested it! - work wonders with generic pieces

the likes of best-tips-against-tired-legs, "it has difficulty generating accurate information on current events and is unsuited to breaking news reporting, a complex operation that requires careful fact-checking." It needs an editor or a reporter on site to compare the AI report with the real facts. ChatGPT itself seems to agree. "As an AI language model I cannot replace journalists", it says.

4 It does not know context Reuters mentions journalists' role in putting news into context, even identifying the story in the first place, something ChatGPT is incapable of. Still, in the near future many media will experiment with AI. The New York Times used ChatGPT to create a Valentine's Day message generator. The Italian newspaper Il Foglio announced, it will publish short texts written by AI. Readers who correctly identify them can win a subscription and a bottle of champagne.

Some experts predict that by 2026, 90% of online content could be machine-generated. "We don't need more, but less information," the Reuters analysis counters, "machines that filter out noise, distinguish fact from fiction."

So what's the future? Reuters suggests, journalists themselves should teach AI certain work ethics, such as counterchecking facts or ignoring lousy sources on the net. Then, maybe, Fumba Town, as described by AI, would not have as many beaches and beautiful hotels...

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THE LET-GO FESTIVAL

Persian New Year in Makunduchi

EVENTS

By Michael Clarke

One of the craziest events in Zanzibar takes place on or around 23 July. Bring all your grievances with somebody to an end – beat them up!

Yes, this is known as a festival, and I guess in its broader sense it is a festival. There are lots of happy people (strangely enough) and there is singing and running around and it's in a big field. In the evening everyone gets pretty drunk, tries to get lucky and there is very loud music, so yes it has all the hallmarks of the kind of festivals I am used to. The only thing that is a tad different however, is that there is quite a lot of people quite intent on beating the heck out of each other and then something gets sets on fire at the end. This is all completely normal.

The Mwaka Kogwa festival, as it is called in Swahili, freely translated means "the year to be clean" and is the traditional Shirazi or Persian New Year celebrations. Although it has its origins in the Zoroastrian religion, the Zanzibaris have certainly taken it to heart.

Shirazi Persians were among the first foreigners to settle in Zanzibar, among them the forefathers of late pop star Freddie Mercury, who was born in Zanzibar City. Nowadays there is just one Zoroastrian family left in Zanzibar, it is said, but the little town of Makunduchi on the south-east coast was once the centre of the Shirazi-Persian culture. Every year around the third week of July the traditional festival takes place there. It has been going on for years, the first time I was there was 15 years ago and it has got bigger and bigger ever since and puts Makunduchi on the map, although our brilliant Tanzanian president Mama Samia has already done that! She was born in here in 1960, probably in the better days of the town.

Mwaka Kogwa is a combination of traditional rituals and elements of Zoroastrian fire-worship. So, the idea is this, although it's all got very distorted and people get very excited. Every year, the discrepancies and disagreements of the previous year between the village will be settled by a good old fight, and after the fight the score will be settled and everybody goes to bed. It's a kind of pre-emptive strike for not fighting by fighting.

People used to use sticks back in the day but it all got a bit bloody so the government stopped it but said you were only allowed to use banana leaf stalks. Getting hit with a banana tree stalk is nowhere near as sore but it



Fire, smoke, dancing and beating: The strange festival gets rough, but generally it's a friendly affair

also isn't just a pillow fight! The day starts with everyone congregating at the sports field. The women in very colourful kangas slowly run around the field singing songs about family and love. There is a grass hut constructed in the middle by the local witch doctor, or mganga in Kiswahili. Makunduchi is still known as a centre of witchcraft in Zanzibar today. After the women, it is the turn of the men, up to a thousand come into the centre of the field, the fight begins, and it's pretty hardcore. Watching from the outskirts you just see a dust bowl arise and the flurry of arms and

banana sticks flying around the place. Trucks full of banana stalks roam the field ready to replenish ammunition. At the end of the proceedings the hut is burned. Through the direction the smoke blows, the witch doctor determines the fortunes of the village in the coming year.

People then go to the beach and have a communal lunch of pilau before a few sound systems playing bongo flava and other Swahili greats pop-up and people dance and drink the night away. The festival is open to everyone and definitely worth a visit.

Although it doesn't sound like it, it is a very friendly event. Just be advised not to get in the thick of it!

Mwaka Kogwa Festival 2023 Date: 23 July 2023, tbc

Accommodation: THE ONE Resort, huge pool, nice rooms, on the beach www.theonezanzibar.com

Sightseeing: Stroll around Makunduchi with its old post office, austere flats and the oldest mosque in Zanzibar

80 NEW FILMS TO WATCH

Watch out for the 26th Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) taking place all over the island. For the first time, Fumba Town has been added as a venue.

Dates: 26th Zanzibar International Film festival (ZIFF) 24 June – 2 July 2023, 28 June – 1 July, Ziff@Fumba

A well-established African film showcases more than 80 films, live music and workshops this year and brings top actors to Zanzibar. "The theme this year is identity", explains festival director Prof. Martin Mhando, Zanzibar's own veteran filmmaker. Among the standouts: German-Omani production 'A House of Wonders' investigating historical relations between Oman and East Africa; contemporary blockbuster 'Married to Work' (Kenya), 'Wandogwa' (TZ), 'Body Politics' (USA), 'Samsara' (Spain). The latter is a thrilling experimental psychological journey. Renowned German filmmaker Friedrich Kluttsch has produced major documentaries for German TV. In his eagerly expected 103-minute long documentary, the Beit al Ajab, the sultan's palace itself, takes the unusual role of narrator. The film covers a span of 150 years, and yet it's current. The partially collapsed national monument is well visible from the festival stage at the Old Fort. 18,000 film and music fans watched ZIFF last year. Prof. Mhando said. ziffestival.



History revisited: Scene from the film "A House of Wonders"

HMMH - SOOO FRESH!

Learning African cooking tricks at the Msonge Farm

By staff writer

No more excuses not to prepare your own chapati! Swahili cooking classes will teach you just that and much more.

Onions, tomatoes, carrots and spinach have been cut, fish is marinated and six outdoor chairs have been neatly arranged around a dining table on a farm. Across the lawn, a young helper is peeling cassava, pushing it through a grinder to produce cassava flour.



Ingredients fresh from the farm: Chef Nachum preparing for the class



Tasting ugali with coconut chicken: a group of Amerian visitors

Nachum, the chef, has prepared garlic, turmeric, coriander, peppercorns, mustard and ground curry leaves for the meal she is about to cook. Dr. Mwatima Juma, farmer and agronomist, has opened-up more facets of her multi-enterprise Msonge Organic Family farm to the public. The latest are cooking classes in her outdoor kitchen. And we are here to attend one of them.

"When we started the classes, we had customers doing all the cutting and cooking, but it turned out better to have a show kitchen and let the guests observe, question and take notes", the 65-year old farmer explains. And observe they do.

Today on the menu: fish curry with a rather unusual pre-fried fresh catch, spinach in coconut, cassava and maize ugali. Today's aspiring African-cuisine-novices: American travel agents sampling activities for their Zanzibar-bound travellers. African-Americans are a growing group among Zanzibar tourists. What Ghana was in the 80s, has now become Zanzibar.

No food is wasted All products of the 15-acre family farm are organic and locally grown, leftover food is fed to the chicken, waste is converted to biogas. "Our food is seasonal", explains farmer Juma, "and the preparation traditional." Besides being a hands-on farmer, the well-spoken mum and grandmother is agronomist. Recently she was appointed to the "Presidential Food and Agriculture Delivery Council", a forum for food security and productivity. Juma advocates for the 200,000 Zanzibari farmers to play a more important role in hotel supplies. "It makes no sense that hotels import 80 per cent of their food while Zanzibar farmers are poor and not harvesting enough", she says, adding: "Things are improving slowly."

A mild breeze cools down the midday heat. Chickens cluck, cats meow; meanwhile the class is ready to enjoy the self-prepared meal. "People have lost the taste for cassava ugali, once a staple food in our diet", Dr. Mwatima Juma tells her guests about the two different types of starch offered. The white, softer ugali, made of corn meal, has overtaken the tougher cassava mix, just like, at some stage, white bread was more fashionable than brown bread. But that has changed again.

The cooking classes can be booked individually, even by one person, a family or friends. The other day, a husband was sent to the farm by his wife to learn how to prepare maharagwe, a popular bean dish. "And he did learn it", Dr. Juma says with a bright smile. "His wife called me, he is now cooking it for her all the time."

BOOK A FARM EXPERIENCE! Cooking classes, upon individual appointment, \$30 per person incl. meal and fresh juices, Farm-to-table Sunday luncheons, TZS 30,000 (\$15 p.p.) kids under 10 free Msonge organic family farm Insta: Msongeorganic Ph +255 754 536630 www.msonge.co.tz

RECIPES FRIED FISH IN COCONUT MILK



Ingredients: Fish marinating spices (ginger, turmeric, garlic, coriander, black pepper, chillies)

Preparation: Cut and wash fish, add marinade to fish. Then add lime and salt. Leave for 20 minutes. Fry in frying pan so that you can turn the fish as it cooks. Make sure your oil is hot

Ingredients for the coconut milk: tomatoes, onion, leftover of the marinade, carrot, okra, green pepper, mlilmbili. Mix all ingredients excluding coconut milk and boil for few minutes. Add coconut milk, fried fish and let it simmer for a few minutes.

LOCAL HEROES

RICH OR POOR, FAMOUS OR UNKNOWN - THE FACES OF ZANZIBAR



A bright smile, and always ready to assist: Doris Ishende

A LONG ROAD FROM CHINA TO FUMBA

It takes a village to raise a kid, the saying goes. But it takes women like Doris Ishende to manage a village.

You may call her job a rather ungrateful one. 10pm, power blackout? Of course, Doris Ishende will get up, send a notification to the town's chat group while engineers and workers frantically start searching for the root of the problem. Electricity cables and water pipes in coral territory are not the easiest circumstance for debugging. When Doris finally sends a cheery all-clear ("Hello everyone, the power is back") to the chat, the night may be over.

Within a team of equally dedicated colleagues, the 34-year-old town operations supervisor in Fumba Town took her seat behind a humble desk in the town office two years ago – and has never looked back since. She recalls she was "interviewed and hired" the same day, qualified with a bachelor's in PR and a master's in business administration. What is special about Fumba? "Talents are scattered here. Potential of people is explored here sometimes even before people themselves have discovered it".



Fun for kids: Doris Ishende (in the back) organises youth events

GARDEN GLAM

Unleash your creativity outdoors

Is your garden in need of a dazzling transformation? Discover how to turn your simple outdoor space into a stunning nature paradise - by organic means.

With everything growing like mad in tropical Zanzibar, one would be foolish not to cultivate a lush beautiful garden. And the big advantage: Whether in Fumba Town or elsewhere on the island, you can literally dig into that task with or without professional help. Creative gardeners of the Permaculture Design Company (PDC), based in Fumba Town, have worked out special rates for the community (see box) but also create green concepts for private and commercial clients from the north to the south coast.

"Especially for vacation places, when you are not always present to water your green space, a xerophytic garden can help", says Bernadette Kirsch, one of the directors of the PDC. "This is a low-water-use garden for instance with succulents and cacti."

Some like their garden natural, others prefer glam. Some like it neat, others wild. Either way, many people are tired of sacrificing beauty for functionality or vice versa. "We can give hands-on advice how to let your garden shine", says Catherine Decker, head of operations at the PDC. Here the best do-it-yourself tips for incorporating organic practices AND beauty in your tropical garden:

1. Embrace sustainable irrigation: Opt for a drip irrigation system to minimize water wastage and ensure efficient hydration for your



Surely not everybody's taste, but what a show-stopper! Bougainvillea in hearty honeymoon shapes seen in Dubai

plants. By delivering water directly to the roots, you not only conserve water but also promote healthier growth. Consider using a timer to automate watering schedules and prevent over-watering.

2. Create your own compost: By collecting organic waste such as kitchen scraps, leaves, and grass clippings you can start your own compost. If in doubt about how to do it, attend a compost workshop at the PDC. Composting not only reduces waste but also provides nutrient-rich soil for your tropical plants. Use the compost as a natural fertilizer to enhance the health and vibrancy of your garden.

3. Choose native and low-maintenance plants: Selecting tropical plants that are native to your region ensures they are well-suited to the local climate, requiring less maintenance and water. Some examples include:

- Banana plants and lemon trees: perfect, if you'd want a productive garden.
- Hibiscus (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis): with its large, vibrant blossoms, hibiscus brings a burst of colour and a tropical vibe to your outdoor space.
- Plumeria (Plumeria spp.): famous for its fragrant flowers and also called frangipani, it offers a variety of colors and a sweet scent.
- Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea spp.): these vigorous climbers showcase a profusion of colourful bracts and are well-suited to tropical climates.

Garden experts Bernadette Kirsch and Catherine Decker



Garden wisdom: Frangipani (left) adds fragrance. A young coconut tree is supported for three months by sticks until it grows straight on his own



Permaculture Design Company (PDC)
info@permaculturedesign.africa
+255 757 334 156
www.permaculturedesign.africa

GET A HELPER!

Garden maintenance in Fumba includes weekly visits by the gardening team to trim, clean, fertilise and water. Here are the monthly rates:

- Seafront, front and backyard TZS 60,000
Town house incl. terrace pots TZS 35,000
- Town house, front and back TZS 45,000
Mwangani flat, private garden TZS 30,000
- Horizon, front and back TZS 45,000

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



Living and working together: Deborah, Doreen and Imelda with their supervisor Mary Kimonge, a surveyor in Fumba

THREE GIRLS, ONE HOME

With home allowances in place, more and more people working for Fumba Town have also started living there, including three young female engineers.

You are working and living in Fumba?
Yes, and we are extremely happy to do so. We are part of a special program called STEM supported by Fumba developer CPS to promote women in science

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics. What do you do?
We are all engineers, there is a fourth girl in our group who is not staying here because she has family living nearby.

Is your internship tough?
Not tough but intensive. In the nine-month internship we have learnt a lot in a short time.

Women in science are still rare. Unfortunately so. But we have learnt from our own mums that family, marriage and work can go together well. And why should it not?

How were you chosen as the lucky few for an internship here?
We applied immediately when we learnt about the program from our lecturer. There is no way we would have missed that.

Your Fumba flat has two bedrooms and a small kitchen, how do you organise your daily life?
Two of us share. We all cook, we don't have a strict schedule but we

take turns. We buy fresh veggies, chicken and meat once a week at Darajani market.

And weekends?
Watching videos, chilling, taking walks around...

What is best here?
Imelda: I like getting up and seeing people going to work outside. Fumba has privacy but still you never feel alone. It's simply *ishuani*, as we say in Swahili.

Ushuani means?
Debbie: ...meaning push! I love the greenery, the sea view and that all houses are painted white.

Stairways to success: Fumba's STEM interns with director Katrin Dietzold (back right)



Stairways to success: Fumba's STEM interns with director Katrin Dietzold (back right)

PHOTOS: AT, CPS

PHOTOS: DEKA, CHECKS, BROCKAT

LIVE YOUR DREAM

New multi-purpose architecture in Zanzibar



Live like a queen but save money: new house designs in Zanzibar are space wonders with huge terraces

Flexibility in living is a significant trend in urban developments and housing worldwide. "Many people dream about houses far too big for their needs", knows architect Leander Moons, "and when the children have left home, the remaining parents are left with lots of unused space." Especially in Africa, palaces of monstrous show-off-sizes are still constructed by the lucky ones who can afford it. "But to save money and space, and to win flexibility, it's important to create living room that can accommodate changing lifestyles", the architect knows.

Choose your location
24 of the new buildings with huge windows, terraces and open floor

generations in Swahili - use hybrid timber technology, an ultra-ecological way of construction. One of the many advantages: prefab wood houses are mounted in no time, a huge plus for Zanzibar where disruptions in supply chains have caused substantial delays in the building industry in the past.

plan are planned for Fumba Town and have gone on sale now, the developer CPS announced. There are three different locations earmarked for the tropical version of Victorian row houses: ocean front, uphill and urban, the latter located in the midst of the green pioneering development which started in Zanzibar in 2015 and has evolved into a neat little community. Fumba is located just outside Zanzibar city on the west coast.



Stunning, practical and cosy: 3-storey Vizazi Oasis villas in Fumba Town in Zanzibar start at less than \$200,000 with garden

Especially for Zanzibar he has now designed "Vizazi Oasis", modern row houses with three floors, which grow or shrink with the family, for instance by adding your company office on the ground-floor or using exactly the same space for visitors, your elderly parents, when you want them near, or even for rentals. And the best: Vizazi - meaning

As mixed as the growing community are building styles here, created for any budget and taste. Architect Leander Moons, an urban planner from the Netherlands, has been with the project from the start, having designed the practical community row houses called Moyoni Homes, luxurious Bustani Villas, and a larger version of the Vizazi houses. About the new and more narrow Vizazi Oasis he says: "It's a space-efficient design having people's budget in mind." However, being real space wonders, the houses still have a lofty, opulent feel. With 100 square metre on three floors and an extra 20 square metre for huge terraces they include a super-private roof top, optional even with a jacuzzi. With up to three bedrooms, prices start under \$200,000 in six layout options, the architect explained.

Fumba Town has already a good number of timber bungalows alongside conventional stone houses. Developer CPS banks on wood technology as a sustainable building means. Timber is the oldest building material in the world. As timber technology it currently enjoys a worldwide renaissance because of its environmental benefits. The next extraordinary project to be realised in Fumba Town is the world's highest timber apartment building. Called Burj Zanzibar, with 28 floors and 96 metres height, the ambitious project is already gaining worldwide attention.

Lots of privacy guaranteed
Who should go for Vizazi? "It's an ideal family home, or a home for professionals who want to live and work in one space", says Moons: "Privacy was very important for us." Although blocks of four houses form one greater building, each unit feels like a house on its own. The homes are set in lush gardens, alternatively facing sea or garden view, "built in a way that your neighbour cannot look into your privacy", Moons emphasised.

Vizazi Homes
www.fumba.town

LIFESTYLE NEWS WHICH SCHOOL FOR MY KID?

Finding the ideal school for children can feel like an overwhelming challenge for parents. Now that its time to enrol (or change schools) here a pick of five good ones.

Zan Coastal Academy:
Situating just 500 metres from Fumba Town, Zan Coastal Academy is a properly authorised Cambridge international school teaching both Tanzanian (NECTA) and international curricula from primary to A level, so students have the choice. Founding principal Harith Omar Ally describes Cambridge education as a "clear and flexible learning pathway". Outdoor learning is part of it. Several Fumba Town kids have won accolades at the neighbourhood school.
zaca.ac.tz

International School of Zanzibar (ISZ): The undisputed champion of schools in Zanzibar has a solid 30-year experience offering world-class education, set in a beautiful compound with a school pool in Mbwani. With a claim of warming-up kids towards a "global perspective" from pre-Kindergarten through 13 school years, ISZ delivers comprehensive education and networks for a life-time.
isz.co.tz

FEZA School: Conveniently located just eight kilometres from Fumba Town, the school is attended by local and international kids stirring them to "creative thinking and moral responsibility". It accepts students at the beginning of the academic year and throughout the year, based on space availability. "Well-mannered kids make a positive difference in



School is on! Zanzibar has several good learning institutions the world", is one of the credos. jezaschools.org

Leera Schools: Located in Mbwani, 14.5 kilometres from Fumba Town, Leera School was founded by three Zanzibari women from diverse backgrounds describing it as a "safe, productive, and engaging space" where learners are encouraged to reach their full potential up to O level. Using "contemporary teaching methodology" is a welcome innovative approach for Zanzibar.
leeraschool.ac.tz

South East Coast International School: Joyful learning is the key to the warm-hearted coastal school which has been and still is growing with its pupils on the east coast in Jambiani. Being welcoming and diverse, kids get a well-rounded education here from nursery to lower secondary. Empathy and critical thinking are encouraged, the guidelines say. The school uses the British national curriculum.
seccanzibar.com
Baraka Moshal Tracey Manda

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY

How to insure your property



Your home is more than just a structure; it's a sanctuary, a place where memories are made and cherished. Two lady expert brokers explain options to protect your property.

Accidents and disasters can strike when you least expect them - in holiday homes and residences. From fires to burglaries, the unexpected can leave you reeling. "That's where comprehensive house insurance steps in, providing the financial safety net you need to recover from such unforeseen events", say Nilufar Manalla and Irene Nko, two young expert insurance brokers from Dar Es Salaam. With their company Cizass they assist in finding the right insurance and are at a client's side in the case of a claim.

For THE FUMBA TIMES they outline how to get vital protection, and how much it costs. In Fumba Town property insurance is obligatory.

Don't gamble with your home
No one plans for a disaster, but having house insurance means you're

prepared. Whether it's a burst pipe or a fierce storm, the cost of repairs can be daunting. With a proper insurance, you'll have the funds to fix or replace damaged property, from the walls to your beloved vintage record collection.

House insurance isn't just about the physical structure—it also covers your furniture, appliances, electronics, and personal belongings. So, in the unfortunate event of a break-in, theft or vandalism, you won't be left empty-handed. As a rule, to insure structure is less expensive than content.

Liability counts!
Always check if liability coverage is included in your house insurance. Accidents can happen even within the safety of your home. If a visitor is injured on your property due to negligence or unsafe conditions, you could be held legally responsible. But it's not just about visitors—your neighbours are covered too. If a tree on your property decides to do a somersault and damages their house, liability coverage can come to your rescue. "It creates harmony among neighbours", says Manalla. It all sounds comforting, but there

are also possible "traps" to watch out for: How fast will the insurance pay out in case of a damage or loss? "Tanzania has improved in that matter", the brokers know from experience. "Within one to three weeks in most cases one gets at least an acknowledgement by the insurance of a first settlement." If clients want to fix a damage such as a broken window by themselves, "they get reimbursed", the broker says.

The most uncomfortable "trap", however, is the so-called deductible, the amount an insured person has

to pay himself or herself in case of damage "It is often 5,000 dollars or ten per cent of a claim", the brokers point out. Their advice: one should look at these clauses at the beginning and choose an insurance accordingly. There are 27 registered insurances in Tanzania, among them Sanlam, Alliance and Jubilee. By law, all insurances need to be re-insured; there is also a public ombudsman in case of a disagreement.

Information:
cizass.co.tz



Insurance brokers Irene Nko and Nilufar Manalla

HOW MUCH IS A HOUSE INSURANCE?
Generally, one insures the market value of a house, the price one would or could sell it for tomorrow.
Sum insured \$50,000 - yearly insurance incl VAT \$86
Sum insured \$165,000 - yearly insurance incl VAT \$190
Sum insured \$250,000 - yearly insurance incl VAT \$431
Sum insured \$460,000 - yearly insurance incl VAT \$793

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

HEALTHY TEETH, HAPPY PEOPLE

Simon Kituli, Zanzibar

Dear Dr. Jenny
I heard you have a new full-time dentist at your Urban Care Clinic in Fumba? Please tell us more about who she is, what services are offered and if you have any special offers for the start. Also, if all insurances are accepted. Thank you.

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

Dear Simon, we are indeed very excited about this great addition to our team, which brings us another step closer to offering comprehensive and encompassing healthcare services in our community. Our dental department runs under Dr. Areti Arvaniti, who has her main office in Kiwengwa. Many of our existing patients know and love her (including the kids!) and are very happy about the collaboration. Dr. Rebeca Donea is the one overseeing daily activities and we are excited for another additional dentist to start soon to extend our

dental outreach activities to the local communities around Fumba Town.

Our dental department started operating at the beginning of May and for the first two weeks offered a 50 per cent discounted dental cleaning - something that should be included in your and your children's yearly check ups. We are sure that we will have more special offers in the near future so that you can get to know the dental services a bit better.

The dental services currently offered include but are not limited to: cleaning, different fillings, sealings, fluoride treatment, bleaching, root canals and extractions. Our dentist

is available during weekdays during regular office hours and on Saturdays upon appointment. For dental services we would accept the same insurances as we currently do. Coverage however depends on your individual policy which tends to vary a lot especially in regards to dental care. I would recommend to individually get in touch with our reception to find out if and what is covered.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your family to our dental department and preserving your beautiful smiles!



More service:
Dr. Jenny Bouraima

Happy & Healthy



NEW DENTIST DR. REBECA DONEA

Dental care is available at the Urban Care clinic in Fumba Town during regular clinic hours. Saturdays upon appointment. - For any health or lifestyle questions, contact us!
Please e-mail: DrJenny@fumbatimes.com
Urban Care, Fumba Town, +255 622 820 011
Opening hours: Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm | www.urbanancare.clinic

PHOTOS: DJ, URBAN CARE

THE SECRET OF THE NIGHT CRAB

Discovering nature on Zanzibar's most natural island



PHOTOS (C): CHUMBE ISLAND



For a great weekend or a longer get-away: Only a few kilometres off the west coast of Zanzibar, the lighthouse island Chumbe takes you into another, unspoiled world - above and under water (right)

By Andrea Tapper

Is the night crab a killer? Are corals plants or animals? How romantic is star gazing? It takes a weekend to unveil the secrets of magical Chumbe Island.



Up to one metre long: the coconut crab

It's low tide. We are 14 guests, walking in rubber shoes to a speed boat and before we know it, three beautiful dolphins pop up to accompany us on our 15-minute passage from Zanzibar's western shore to the famous island with the lighthouse. Only six kilometres off-shore we arrive on a sandbank - feeling lightyears away from civilisation. Green jungle, coral rocks and silence surround us.

Vera, the lovely Kenyan manager, quickly lays out the day's schedule: 11:30 jungle walk, 12.30 eco lunch; 19.30 candlelight dinner. What awaits us? An ancient mosque, a history-laden, rusty lighthouse of 34m in height, a private beach and our own Robinson-Crusoe-type double-storey thatched hut in the shape of a sailing boat. When the yawn, slurp and rustle of the night falls over Chumbe Island, Vera says, we shall assemble to track down the rare coconut crab.

With only seven huts on the 55-hectare island, each equipped with a swing bed, woven floormats and a cosy sleeping area upstairs, solitary time is an option. But during organic luncheons and dinners in the rustic common restaurant we mix and mingle happily with fellow guests. There are never more than 18 tourists on the island the size of a large resort

"to limit negative impacts of humans on the nature", explains spokesperson Diana Koerner. The biggest challenge, for most, is the compost toilet in each bungalow. Is it really necessary? "Advanced composting toilets ensure no human waste enters the environment", we learn.

Rain water is collected from our huts' roofs' and stored in a large underground cistern to feed comfortable showers. All waste is recycled or re-purposed; waste water is channelled through sprinkler systems into enclosed clay-lined gardens. All food, bedsheets and maintenance products are sourced locally. Everything is fuelled by 100 per cent solar energy, including mobile charging stations and yes, we are online. Even climate activist Greta Thunberg would feel in heaven here.

Founded 32 years ago by German explorer Sybille Riedmiller, Chumbe Island Coral Park, is the world's only self-sustaining eco-island and marine park. The archaic retreat is a trailblazer in holistic eco-tourism and has won multiple distinguished awards. Most nature parks require public funding to be maintained. Chumbe Island is kept alive solely by its visitors. 300 to 350 local school children explore the island every year on snorkel tours with environmental



Robinson Crusoe feeling: The private reserve includes a protected coral reef, a forest reserve, education centre and a state-of-the-art ecodge

educators. Fishermen are taught to avoid harmful fishing methods; the spill-over effects are abundant fishing populations and intact corals. Knowing that, one understands why the rates for a simple weekend get-away in Chumbe - albeit with delicious eco-gastronomy, top cleanliness and super attentive staff - mirror those of a five-star-hotel.

In the afternoon a snorkel excursion is a perfect pastime. Paddling in the warm ocean at the edge of a pristine coral reef sanctuary hosting 90 per cent of East Africa's hard coral and over 400 reef fish species, we are surrounded by swarms of colourful parrotfish, batfish, lobsters and bluespotted stingrays. Corals are animals, we learn. The animal is called polyp, many polyps form a coral colony, many colonies form a reef so large they can be seen from space. One copuld stay for hours in the water, happy like a fish!

A labyrinth-like jungle walk to the island's centre takes us to an intertidal pool in a cave with huge baobabs and tree trunks thin like bamboo on its edges. I love historic places, and Chumbe has seen its fair share of world events, not always peaceful. 132 steps up we go in the light-house, built by the British in 1904, and are

rewarded with a superb view bringing history alive: World War One broke out here, when the German ship SMS Königsberg anchored near the island to launch a surprise attack to sink the British war ship HMS Pegasus. The Chumbe lighthouse keeper, it is said, feared for himself, escaped to the forest and did not sound any alarm when he noticed the Königsberg hiding near the island.

At night, in the dense forest of Chumbe Island, after dinner around 9pm - some of us with head torches, others simply with their mobile phones - we finally spot them: two slow-moving coconut crabs. Only when the sun goes down, do the omnivores come out. Some climb up coconut trees to cut down the nuts. Is the night crab a killer? No, "but it could easily chop your finger off with its front claws", expert says. The blue or red creatures can grow the size of one metre from leg-tip to leg-tip. But the two chaps we see here tonight are much smaller. For the best, we think a bit later, when we open the thatched roof of our Robinson Crusoe hut, star-gazing from our wooden bed, carried away by the sound of the ocean. For sure: whatever you do here is completely natural.

Our stay has zero impact on the environment

GOING TO CHUMBE

The entire value of your day trip or overnights at Chumbe Island support conservation and education programs. On average guests stay 2-4 nights.

Day-trips \$110 incl boat transfer, guided activities, equipment, lunch.

Overnights incl. full board, snorkelling trips, tuition, guides start at \$280 p.p./night. East African resident rates available.

Bookings: Book@chumbeisland.com Ph. +255 (0) 777 413 232

Information: chumbeisland.com

JUST DISCOVERED HOTEL RIU JAMBO

PHOTOS (C): RIU, AT



A hotel like a cruise ship

BIG, BIGGER, RIU

- ✓ **LOCATION**
Prime beach in Nungwi
- ✓ **ROOMS**
461 rooms on 8 floors
- ✓ **STANDS FOR:**
2nd generation of tourism in Zanzibar
- ✓ **THE BOTTOM LINE**
All-inclusive in another dimension

The view from the 8th floor is breathtaking as only a view from that height can be. In the morning the Indian Ocean, here largely unaffected by tides, gently ripples its surface. At night when spotlights illuminate the water, it looks like a huge aquarium. During sunset, the entire panorama turns golden, from the palm-fringed beach to the wooden jetty with restaurants. To inhale all this beauty, I have not even stepped out of my room, except onto the balcony

Everything is a matter of perspective. No hotel demonstrates this better than the recently opened RIU Jambo which replaced Italian pioneer Gemma de l'Est, next to the smaller RIU Palace. RIU is a giant, by all means. Starting as a tiny fishermen's family hotel in Mallorca in 1953, it has become one of the world's most successful tourism chains with 100 hotels in 20 countries, 2.3 million guests and 25,000 employees. "Once RIU, always RIU", many repeat guests say.

Rooms and facilities: From outside, the new RIU in Zanzibar, with its colossal structure reaching easily 300 metres into the hinterland, has provoked criticism: How big is too big? Experienced from within, the world looks different. Almost 900 happy guests per day "can't be wrong", says General Manager Carlos Santos, 43, from Portugal; the hotel has been 95% booked ever since opening last year. Every day. Nobody here expects a boutique feel, but cleanliness, efficiency and entertainment, and RIU delivers.

Service: The moment I arrive in my comfortable room the telephone rings - a perfectly timed control call: Is everything alright? Do I

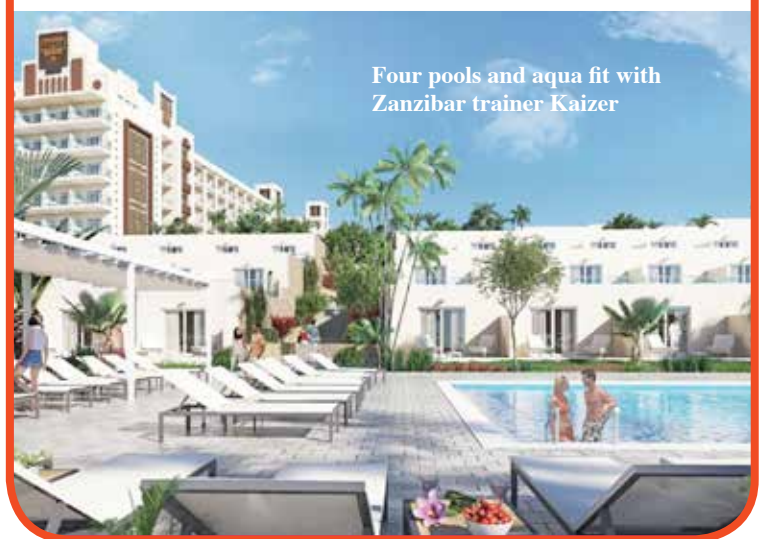
have any questions? The check-in took exactly two minutes. Wifi reaches everywhere, even into the sea! Food in buffet areas is constantly freshened-up.

Greenness: The gardens are not yet mature, but flowerbeds colourful and 9,000 coconut trees have been planted. 100% of grey water is recycled and reused. 30% of electricity comes from solar panels. The makuti-roof above the jetty is a fire-proof substitute from South Africa. Until my departure I ask myself is that now good or bad news? (AT)



Perfect rooms, a content GM Carlos Santos, the hotel is full

Hotel RIU Jambo ****
4 restaurants, 5 bars, 4 pools, west facing beach in Nungwi
www.riu.com



Four pools and aqua fit with Zanzibar trainer Kaizer

FEISTY, FUNNY, SURPRISING

Two new books by and about Zanzibar women.

A deeply personal approach stirs Zanzibari musician and author, Salha Al Busaidy, in her debut novel 'The End of Summer'. Summer is the novel's protagonist, a feisty, funny, millennial Muslim woman, who realises - in the opening pages of the book - that she is dead. Delving deep into the story of her intercultural family, the author, 50, who has lived in London, explores challenging and sometimes even dark issues. But by telling the story through Summer's humorous perspective, the reader develops empathy. A thought-provoking contemporary read, well-received by

a sizable crowd at a reading launch with the author in Fumba Town recently. "Enthusiasm for the novel was palpable", said moderator Tracey Cripps-Manda who has taken a library project there under her wing.

"I am proud to be a woman from Zanzibar", says Family Minister Riziki Pembe in another new Zanzibari publication 'Female footprints', profiling more than 20 women shaping the island's past, presence and future. In the coffee table book with many photos, women from sports to politics, from entrepreneurs to community workers reveal their daily life and issues, like "broadening men's perception of their wives", as politician Asya Mohamed puts it. Publisher and author Hanna McCarrick herself moved to Zanzibar from Sweden three years ago.

If you want to buy a book contact the authors by WhatsApp Salha Al Busaidy + 971 504 4780628 Hannah McCarrick + 46 765 6528236. 'The End of Summer' will be available to borrow from the Fumba Library



PHOTOS (C): PRIVATE

'Female footprints' (left) portrays power women of Zanzibar. 'The End of Summer' is the debut novel of Salha Al Busaidy (right)

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