

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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HOLIDAYS
MALDIVES STYLE
IN ZANZIBAR
PAGE 03 | ZANZIBAR



ZANZIBAR PORT
CHANGE IS
ON THE WAY
PAGE 5 | PEOPLE



DESIGN
COMEBACK OF
THE SUNBED
PAGE 06 | MY HOME



New holiday paradise for globetrotters and surfers: The Soul residential resort in Paje; a large man-made lagoon is still in the making (small photo)

SURF AND SOUL IN PAJE

First-ever residential resort The Soul opens first lot of apartments in Zanzibar

By staff writer

Hot new holiday spot fascinates with a completely new spin on tourism on the island - and lots of fun for global nomads.

Christo, the famous artist who wrapped buildings in material, would surely have loved it. A huge swathe of black fabric covering an entire block of new apartments dropped down with the precision of a stage curtain during the official opening of The Soul residential resort in Paje a few weeks ago. When the curtain fell, a dozen new



Teamwork: celebrating the moment, manager Milan Heilmann, timber specialist Thomas Just and owner Rik Viezee (from left)

homeowners from Tanzania, Kenya, UAE and from as far as the US and Canada cheerfully ran towards the building to examine and take possession of their African investment. "It's so beautiful, I don't want to live anywhere else", exclaimed an African-American lady from Panama, who said she is planning to spend her retirement in Zanzibar. The paint has not yet dried on the facade, ten more apartment blocks and a huge man-made lagoon are still in the making, but for Zanzibar, the holiday complex in the hinterland of kite-surfing hotspot Paje, is already making history. It is an entirely new player within the tourism landscape, a leisure project of many firsts: the first-ever residential resort on the island offering holiday apartments for sale. The first facility falling under a new condominium law entitling foreigners to buy property on the island. And thirdly, it implements environmentally-friendly wood technology still rarely used in multi-storey buildings. "Zanzibar is propelling itself into the ranks of leading timber builders all over the world with this project", says Thomas Just, 45, owner of Volks.house, the company constructing the timber houses at The Soul.

240 holiday apartments in total
With its modern, all-white look, industrial-type black window and door frames and many timber elements, The Soul resort will eventually consist of eleven terraced three-and-a-half storey buildings, each with about twenty apartments, making it a total of 240 fully serviced holiday apartments. Well-equipped flats with fitted kitchens and wardrobes range in

size from one to three-bedroom. Kids get built-in bunk beds, global nomads eco-working spaces on rooftops, kites their surfboard garages and everybody an organic restaurant. "This already feels like home" commented some of the new owners during the opening.

"This already feels like home"

Properly managed, wood is a fully renewable resource. Volks.house company, which employs more than 80 locally trained workers in Zanzibar, uses prefabricated timber frames for the house structure and cross laminated timber (CLT) for the ceilings at The Soul, timber expert Just explained. Only the foundation and the staircases are made of concrete for stabilisation and to keep termites away. High fire protection standards are ensured. Another huge advantage is prefabrication which minimises construction mishaps. The Soul is expected to be completed by the end of next year. Only a handful of units are still available. "We were literally overrun with interest", says Milan Heilmann, 31, the project manager. "The Soul stands for beach-life, freestyle, leisure-oriented living. Among our buyers are young entrepreneurs, surfers, people of all ages and nationalities looking for a second home or investment."

One bedroom units from \$75,900
Apartment prices range from at \$75,900 for a one-bedroom, ideal for singles or couples, to \$163,900 for a three-bedroom holiday flat. "Where in the world can you get a property near the beach for that money?" manager Milan Heilmann pointed out. The leisure complex, only about 300 metres walking distance to the beach, is a brainchild and joint development of CPS, the company also building Zanzibar's first eco city Fumba Town near the capital, and Dutch entrepreneur Rik Viezee. The Africa veteran who first came to Zanzibar in 1959 when there was no tourism at all, is quite a popular figure in Holland, has crossed the Sahara several times



Pre-fab miracle: walls made of timber technology are erected in a short time span. The Soul will be one of the most environmentally-friendly buildings in Zanzibar

and started trans-Africa overland tours before developing one of the biggest travel agencies of the Netherlands. The 75-year old adventurer loves Paje, for him "the right place at the right time." For all the partners involved in bringing The Soul to fruition, environmental solidity and community involvement plays an important role. "Green is a currency for us", said CPS CEO Sebastian Dietzold: "In Tanzania we need more than 300,000 new homes every year. We have to change the way we build in the future, in urban developments and in leisure projects." A growing number of holiday-makers, that's for sure, are eager to minimise their carbon footprint. The Soul will see to that.

THE BIG COUNTDOWN

News that will influence the country's future: tourism count, census and the Covid aftermath.

922,692

foreign tourists have visited Tanzania in 2021, a fast recovery from the decline during the Covid pandemic. Before the pandemic, 1.5 million travellers visited the country annually, Tanzania wants to raise that to 5 million per year. Tourism in Tanzania – the world's No 1 safari destination – creates 1.3 million jobs, and generates 18 per cent of the country's GDP. In Zanzibar 80,000 jobs depend on holidaymakers bringing in 80 per cent of foreign revenue.



August 2022 is the date of a countrywide census, a population count only conducted every 10 years. More than just a headcount, it presents an important socioeconomic snapshot. Even tourists should prepare themselves for a count on that day.

■ The last census in 2012 counted 43 million people in mainland Tanzania, and 1.3 million in Zanzibar

■ Today Zanzibar is estimated to have 1.7 million inhabitants, Tanzania more than 63 million

■ By 2038 Tanzania could exceed 100 million people

57%

of Zanzibari, more than half of the rural as well as urban population, have had a coronavirus infection, even before the new virus variant omicron appeared in late 2021. The infection was widespread over all districts of Unguja and Pemba. This was established by the first-ever official survey on seroprevalence by a Zanzibari-German team of researchers here. Implications for vaccination and protection policies are unclear. Only 5% of people in Zanzibar have been vaccinated. Herd immunity, the researchers said, had not yet been reached before omicron.

"PETER, DO YOU HEAR THAT MUSIC?"

President stars in "Royal Tour" documentary film



A very special, up close and personal journey: President „Mama Samia“ in „The Royal Tour“

Tanzanian president Samia Suluhu Hassan showed courage and acting talent as safari guide for her country.

The White House in Washington, Guggenheim Museum in New York and YouTube rolled out the red carpet for "Mama Samia" who played the leading role in a one-hour tourism documentary about Tanzania and Zanzibar. Dubbed "The Royal Tour", the film follows the president and award-winning US producer Peter Greenberg crisscrossing the country from a Taarab performance at the Old Fort ("Peter, do you hear the music?") to a secret ivory storage with 45,000 confiscated elephant tusks.

"I never expected to become president", she says about her new role in the film, and about her country: "Some still don't believe a woman can take such a top job." In her soft, deep voice the Muslim nation leader, who changes costumes with every scene but never appears without headscarf or lipstick, is a remarkable narrator. In one scene she drives Greenberg around the Serengeti evoking images of Queen Elizabeth on her typical Land Rover tours in Scotland: "It was the first time I drove a car in 15 years", Hassan said in Washington. Greenberg has made five Royal Tour TV specials, one of them in Rwanda. The new film has already revived support for Tanzanian tourism in America. Earlier, on a visit to France, the president successfully renewed economic ties with Europe. YouTube fans agreed: "Proud of you, Madame President!"

ADVERTISEMENT

MEMORIES OF ZANZIBAR
The Souvenir Emporium



LOOTED HISTORY RETURNS TO AFRICA

Discussion about repatriation of art intensifies worldwide

By staff writer

What will happen to art and other treasures taken from Africa during colonial times, is widely debated internationally. Tanzania is involved with an especially gruesome chapter.

Restitution is a buzzword, not only in collectors' circles and museums all over the world at the moment. The main question and topic of a heated cultural and political dispute: when and how will art, artefacts and – especially gruesome – even human remains looted during colonial times be returned to their countries of origin? Tanzania is part of the story, with "more than 10,000 cultural items thought to have been taken during the

German colonial occupation of East Africa", museum reports say. The sheer amount was "news for us" said curator Lilly Reyel, a member of a Tanzanian-German research group on the subject. A lot of African but also Asian and South American loot is being brought together at the Humboldt Forum in Berlin. It opened last year with 400,000 square metres of space to display and scrutinise colonial history.

Major conferences have been held on the topic. In Dar Es Salaam in 2016 the 'Humboldt Lab Tanzania' set the tone: "Enforced transfer of objects and items during the colonial wars cannot remain unchallenged." What's the status six years later? In 2020, the dialogue continued with another meeting in Dar es Salaam, "New Ethics for Museums in Transition". This time the focus was less on the hardware – masks, sculptures or traditional items of daily use

– but the software: how to describe and label these items, and even, how to name the museums collecting them?

What's in a name? Is a Natural History museum really so natural? Is Ethnological Museum the right name? The term "shared heritage" was immediately placed in the drawer of misleading wordings. "It has too often been used by the global North just to stay in possession of Africa's cultural objects. The African perspective must be heard", said Dr. Noel Biscoe Lwoga, Director of the National Museum of Tanzania under whose roof seven museums have come together. "One of the key issues facing museums in Africa is the absence of the greater part of its material cultural heritage", Lwoga said.

In Hamburg, Germany, museum director Prof. Barbara Plankensteiner has put herself at the forefront of an institutional restitution effort in Europe. She not only dug out from the museum's forgotten chambers 179 of most valuable royal Benin sculptures, but made herself a crusader for their return to Nigeria. The works were looted from the royal palace by British troops in 1897. Made of bronze, ivory and wood, and often grouped together under the term Benin Bronzes, the bust statues, chairs, thrones and even cooking pots, are to be restituted this year setting a precedent for future reparations. It is estimated that 5,000 Benin objects are still in 120 German museums.

Exhibition planned on Tanzania's history in Germany To make it clear to whom the Benin artefacts belong, considered the most valuable of all colonial lootings, Prof. Plankensteiner simply called a lawyer to her MARKK museum in Hamburg and signed the whole collection over to Nigeria. The Edo State in Nigeria is the successor of the former Kingdom of Benin, not the West African state of Benin. Next on the agenda of colonial heritage processing is a large exhibition about Tanzania's history in the Humboldt Forum in Berlin in 2024. German ambassador Regine Hess in Dar es Salaam recently shared with the public. "We are supporting a public discussion about colonialism and its consequences." How much and in which way Zanzibar was affected by colonial or otherwise plundering is another story yet to be



THE STORY OF MANGI MELI



In one of the most gruesome, still inexplicable and unresolved chapters of colonial history, Mangi Meli, the chief of Moshi, was executed by German soldiers in 1900. Meli had resisted the colonial powers and was hanged with 18 other chiefs of the region. After the execution he was decapitated and his head presumably shipped to Germany. It was never recovered. In Moshi, Meli's grandson Isaria Anael Meli has documented the tragedy and initiated an exhibition "Mangi Meli remains", now permanently installed opposite the Acacia tree on which Chief Meli was hanged.

Court Building, Tunduni, Old Moshi, Mon - Sat 8:30am - 4pm, Sun 10am - 1pm

Benin Bronzes, like this statue, are considered the most valuable

“Repatriation of artworks must happen”

Museums in Africa yet to be built The concerted bring-it-back action of well-meaning cultural experts on either side, North and South, can still be delayed, not by lack of will but another shortcoming: "We don't have a place yet to exhibit all our Benin Bronzes", said Abba Isa Tojani of the Nigerian museum commission and encouraged Europe to assist financing such a museum.



Stolen traditions: Zanzibari doors have been plundered, too, in large amounts - not by colonialists but antique collectors all over the world

TAKING GOOD CARE OF HOLIDAY HOMES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tourism was growing at a record rate of 15 per cent per year in Zanzibar before the corona crisis hit and is well on its way to regaining old strength. The island has hundreds of hotels in historical Stone Town and along its many beaches, from budget bed & breakfasts to five-star villas. The just opened The Soul in Paje is the first residential resort. Expected return on investments at The Soul are high, estimated around 10-15 per cent and above. "But rental and property management is very important

for investors, especially if they are absent", real estate experts say. Aspiring homeowners have many questions: how to keep a house, especially in the tropics, insect-free? How to avoid humidity and heavy rainfalls tampering with outdoor furniture? Will the garden still blossom after a long dry period? And, most of all, how to get the right paying guests? "Owners want flexibility but also com-

fort and safety", says Marianna Kisvardai. To ensure smooth runnings, an all-inclusive caretaking option has been developed by her and Florian Yankson. The Hungarian-German couple has worked in the hospitality, IT and management sector before. Furnishing packages (starting at \$5,800) with high quality casual-look furniture made in Zanzibar are meant to ensure a more uniform

style to rent out apartments at The Soul. Maintenance of apartments includes twice monthly inspections, dusting and pest control. "Leaving a flat empty can be problematic in a tropical climate", Marianna Kisvardai knows. A rental bundle takes care of everything from advertising to paying all the necessary taxes, so that the owner just deals with a net income. Maid services, parcel pickups, babysitting, even sim-card top-ups can also be booked. And what is the net worth for the owner? After taxes, utilities, service fees, they can expect more than half of the rent achieved as profitable income, initial calculations suggest.



Caretakers Marianna and Florian



Keeping your beloved SUP safe: maintenance and rental packages assist holidaymakers and investors at the new The Soul residential resort

5 BEST SWIMMING SPOTS...

... near Fumba Town (until we get a pier!)

CALAMARI BEACH VILLAS
Cool and chilled-out; large pool, small bar with food service.
Day pool use: \$10, kids \$5. Call in advance.
+255 779 125 938



FUMBA BEACH LODGE
Allows outside guests based on occupancy. Can also walk along the beach and swim in the ocean. Southern end of peninsula next to Safari Blue, Fumba Road 1. TZS 10,000 including towels.
Must call to confirm +255 675 187783 or +255 777 876298

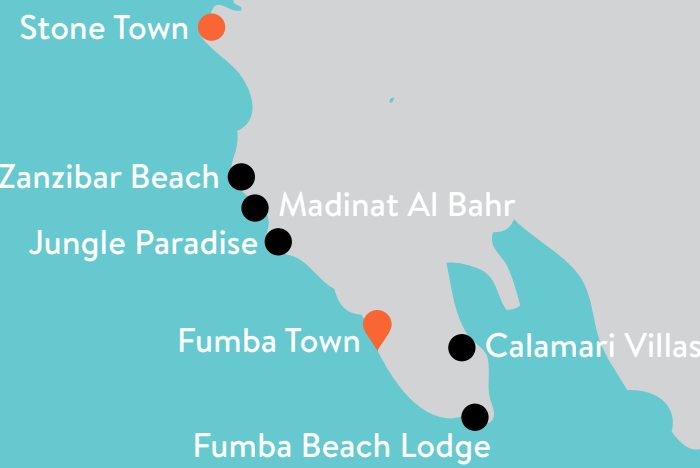


MADINAT AL BAHR
Explore the 5-star hotel in Mbweni. Large pool with bridge. Sea access. Mbweni Street. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children.
madinathotel.co.tz

JUNGLE PARADISE
Nice beach and pool, bar, restaurant and spa offering massage services, chilled drinks and snacks. Next to Madinat in Mbweni. \$10 USD entry coupon goes towards food & drinks.
beach-resort-zanzibar.com/



ZANZIBAR BEACH RESORT
Old-school, informal resort. Playground for kids and pool food service. Mazizini, Kilimani. TZS 10,000 entry +255 688 058365



PRETTY PRINCESS PAMUNDA

EXCLUSIVE How Zanzibar will turn small islands into big-time holiday spots



PHOTOS BY: TULIA



Spectacular: Maldives-type luxury sea villas are planned for Pamunda, manager Lukáš Šinogel (photo right) explains

By Andrea Tapper

19 small islands are to become prime luxury hideaways. THE FUMBA TIMES was given exclusive access to the amazing plans for the first of them, Pamunda A and B.

Meet Lukáš Šinogel, the new prince of – well, not Zamunda – but Pamunda. The 34-year-old rightly feels like having entered a blockbuster, similar to Eddie Murphy as crown prince of the fictional African nation of Zamunda, a Hollywood mega success in the 80s. Šinogel's company, the owners of renowned 5-star Tulia Beach Resort in Pongwe Pwani, was given the much-fought-over green light to develop two tiny islands, Pamunda A and B, just south-west of the Fumba peninsula. Budget: 30-50 million dollars, coinciden-

tally just what Hollywood spent on making Murphy's "Coming to America". The uninhabited Pamunda isles – until now merely coral rag bush country – are two of ten small islands recently handed over to investors by the government for a total of 261.5 million dollars in expected investments. "This shall boost the blue economy and open up more investment opportunities for Zanzibar", a government spokesperson explained the purpose of the deal, happy about the cash flow. And because the initiative, which attracted over 50 affluent bidders, went so well, Zanzibar immediately decided to put another nine of his small isles up for grabs.

Zanzibar goes Maldives "But we do not sell them, we only lease them", Sharif Ali Sharif assured the public. The director of the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA)

and Investment Minister Mudrik R. Soraga are the driving force behind the island scheme. Strategic investment is the key word of the deal: the daring financiers, whether local or foreign, are promised wide benefits in return for their island venture such as a 50 per cent income tax exemption for ten years.

The envisaged small-island-tourism will bring a touch of Maldives to Zanzibar. Pamunda's winning design is not just luxury but upper-upper-luxury: a circle of stilted water villas will connect the two Pamunda islands of together six

hectares. A premium restaurant, bars and event space will be placed on the slightly elevated islands. The 16 water and seven coral villas, each ultra-spacious with more than 300 square metres, will form a private wellness world complete with a resident doctor, sauna, gym, spa and home office. Does the lady of the house require a hairdresser? "She'll be served in her private salon", envisages Šinogel. Guests will arrive by boat or helicopter.

No bling-bling, please! "Will have no bling-bling", insists the gentle, down-to-earth manager, who counts the Sultan of Oman amongst his clients: "Even VIPs can take their masks off with us." His visitors want "the real thing", he says, "genuine, natural, quality relaxation, hakuna matata, but with quality." The architectural plans for Pamunda are drawn, the environmental assessment studies done. "Zero harm to the environment", promise the developers; bungalows will be placed four metres above sea level facing east, taking tides, wind and yes, also global warming, into consideration.

All small-island-candidates, the ministry says, were tested but only a few found worthy of the projects after screening their financial and operational capacity.

All had to prove "ability to conserve the environment, biodiversity, cultural heritage and community development", lest no one would accuse the government of selling its assets. For cultural festivities Zanzibari still have access to the islands. Lukáš Šinogel and two investors behind him, all hailing from the Czech republic, passed the test without any hitches.

Green care learnt in Fumba The investors have learnt to master the game at the Tulia resort, opened in 2015 and one of Zanzibar's best five-star retreats. 16 bungalow suites, 125 staff, manicured gardens and a service so perfect one doesn't even notice it, are the backbone of the property. At Tulia, champagne is all-inclusive and so is a water-slide, rather unusual for a luxury hotel but much loved by children. Especially impressive is the green back-up, developed by the permaculture team of Fumba Town: 250 hens and 150 ducks happily roam around a huge ever-green farm in the back of the beach property which produces all there is to eat and enjoy by Tulia guests. Friendly maids mop shiny wooden villa floors with lemon grass concoction, a natural insect killer.

"Much of what we have learnt here, we will also put into practice at the future Pamunda resort", says the general manager. There, villas will start at \$3,200 - per night. For Šinogel and the government the ultra-luxury concept makes sense: presently, only one per cent of accommodation in Zanzibar is in the premium range.

Information for investors and holidaymakers: zipa.go.tz | Tulia Beach Resort, tuliazanzibar.com

MIND MY BUSINESS

LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NOTHING BETTER THAN GELATO

Thanks to Italians, Zanzibar has some superb gelato around. And what is your guess about the most popular flavour?

"Nutella flavour tops it all at the moment", says Luca Ronca, while he hands out a nice big scone to a customer over a modern wooden counter. The Mama Mia ice cream parlour in Stone Town, furnished with an industrial look and feel, could not be better located. Near the Old Fort, at the entrance to the Fordhani Gardens, everybody passes the place on the way to the ocean.

Three friends from Napoli

The story of ice cream in Zanzibar – and how it could be otherwise – is an Italian one. Domenico "Mimmo" Damiani, 45, Alfonso Nicola, 41, and his younger cousin Luca Ronca, 31, all hailing from the Amalfi coast near Napoli, have made Zanzibar their second home and never looked back. The story started in 2016, when Damiani, a former dealer in medical supplies, saw an advert from an Italian restaurant looking for a new proprietor in Zanzibar. Damiani knew the island from a vacation but did not know much about cooking. He asked his friend, professional chef Alfonso Nicola, to join him.

So Zanzibar it was: first in Nungwi, then in Stone Town. The breathtaking Nungwi location, overlooking one of the world's most stunning beaches, was a big score for Mama Mia.

Investing in a dream location

But even with the dream location, "we invested a lot", says Damiani who is managing the business, "at least 20 percent of our intake." The restaurant was refurbished recently. A new wood-fired pizza oven made in Napoli was brought in, local staff trained. Pasta, calamari,

octopus and salad recipes were spread up with regional ingredients. But there was still something missing, something special to appease to customers' sweet tooth: Alfonso called his cousin Luca Napoli, a third-generation pastry chef. Luca came, fell in love with Zanzibar, too, and the ice cream business was born.

Most important is a good gelato machine, Luca says, plus just the right blend of milk, sugar and fruits. "In Italy, we have entire schools for gelato making." Stored at minus 18 degrees, served at minus 14, Mama Mia's gelato is served in scones or compostable cups. Fresh vanilla comes directly from Zanzibar farms, as does mango for panna cotta and passion fruit for cheesecake. And the second most popular flavour, after Nutella, is homegrown after all: cocconut.

Another Italian artisanal ice cream producer in Zanzibar is "Frozen Italian Ice Cream" (ice-creamfrozen.com) - Homemade organic ice cream based on coconut produces former Fumba resident Lesley Gueno. Order per WhatsApp +1 312 544 9667

Mama Mia Gelato, 5x in Zanzibar, in Stone Town Ph. +255 788 947701
Mama Mia Restaurant in Nungwi Ph. +255 773 360584



Mama Mia owners Luca (left) and Mimmo: To save on calories take fruit sorbet, one ball has 104 calories, cream-based gelato 150

The Pavilion inaugurated

FIRST MALL IN FUMBA TOWN

The Pavilion has come to Fumba. The new commercial centre is expected to be a magnet for shopping enthusiasts, not only from Fumba but the entire island. The modern arc-like building with two storeys and 2,000 square metres floor space will feature a variety of shops, a roof top restaurant bar with a sea view, an ATM and other service providers. The headquarters of CPS, the developer of Fumba, will also be based here. It was announced that most businesses are expected to open in about three to six months, while interior decorating continues. The Pavilion was inaugurated on May 23. There's a lot to look forward to: a customised Zanfresh supermarket, a food court with ice cream. Swahili and Arabic food, a cheese deli and butcher. One of Tanzania's best interior shops, Dolson from Dar es Salaam, has also set sail for Fumba. The Urban Care clinic, which has been providing medical service in Fumba Town since 2018, will enlarge its facilities at the mall.



PHOTOS (2): CPS



Double ceremony in Fumba: the Uhuru Torch Race coincided with the inauguration of the first commercial centre: CPS CEO Sebastian Dietzold (small photo centre) and officials were joyful

WELCOME NOTE
LET'S GO BLUE



PHOTO: CPS

Katrin Dietzold is one of the founders and directors of CPS, the developer behind Fumba Town. She is married to CEO Sebastian Dietzold

As I write this, “Mama Samia”, our President, was on her internationally acclaimed Royal Tour of America, another step in Tanzania’s journey to present itself to the world as it sees itself - warm, ambitious, modern, confident. With great joy I follow the courageous paths of Tanzania’s first female leader and all her remarkable projects.

The country has indeed some smart answers to the challenges of our time. Fumba Town, I believe, is one of them. A lighthouse project tackling the challenges of urbanisation, population growth and climate change.

At the moment, Zanzibar is placing particular emphasis on its blue economy, the marine-related job sector. With this edition, THE FUMBA TIMES goes blue, too. Several of the

features and reports are water-related. Our cover story tells you more about our own first residential resort at the East Coast, The Soul in Paje, which we are building with innovative timber technology. At the Zanzibar port, a new management is set to turn things around - see our exclusive report on page 5. And another blue story captures the amazing awakening of Zanzibar’s small islands on page 3.

Tanzania has everything it needs to be at the forefront of harvesting green energy. Sun, wind, water and, above all, great people with enthusiasm for their development.

To end on a personal note, let me share some of my feelings with you about finally having moved to Fumba on page 6. Karibuni nyumbani yangu! And: Karibuni Zanzibar!

GUEST COMMENT
ARE YOU LIVING
IN A SALAD BOWL?



Intercultural coaches Jochen and Christine Schuppener about their first days in a community where different nationalities live together.

“At the age of eight we have learnt 80% of our values”

We love to sit in the Kwetu Kweni Cafe and observe people dropping in or passing by. The way they move, the tone of voices, the language, the clothes makes us smile. We love variety. People from more than 50 countries have bought property in Fumba Town. So have we.

As a family we have lived overseas for eight years. For more than thirty years we have been involved in cross-cultural work. 15 years ago, we started our own intercultural consulting firm with executive coaching, international team development, conflict management, mediation as well as family coaching.

We have clients from many different countries. We are curious, interested and thrilled by the uniqueness of individual people. And likewise, by the diversity that springs out of it.

Our oldest daughter once said: “I am glad I did not grow up in only one country.” I responded: “Why?” - “I would have known only one way of doing things, only one set of values. Living in different countries I learnt to appreciate different perspectives. That has enriched my life.” she answered. This is so true.

Living in Fumba Town – at least part-time – we are provided with the most amazing opportunity to look beyond our own fences. Zanzibar itself is mirroring

that. People from various backgrounds have been living here for centuries.

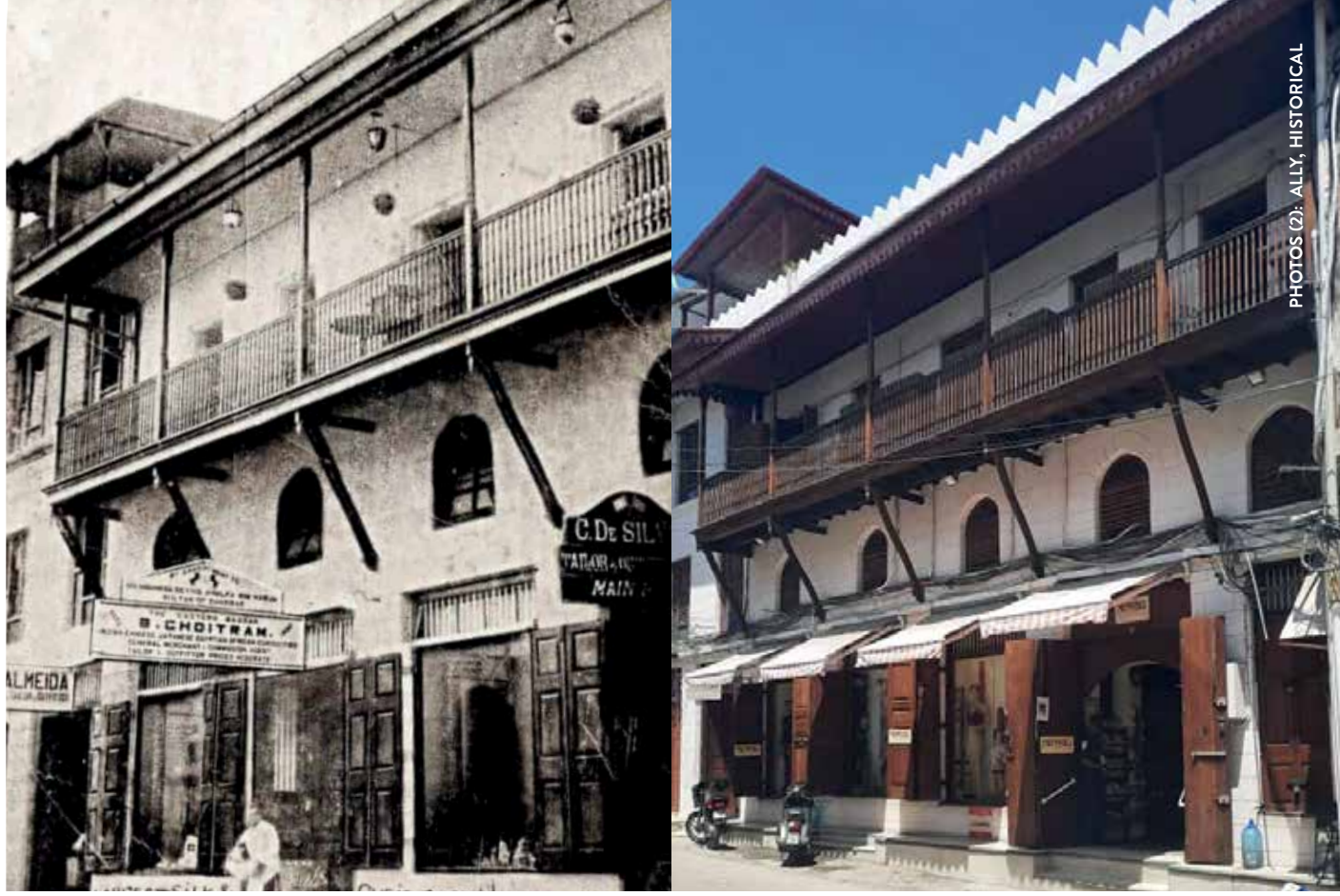
However, unity in diversity does not happen automatically. An example we like to work with in intercultural trainings is the salad bowl versus the smoothie. People can live together in one country or place like Zanzibar or even Fumba Town as in a salad bowl. Leading their different lives rather side by side. Or they may intersperse like in a smoothie. There is no better or worse, it’s just different.

No matter where we come from, our parents, our culture, our neighbours, our village teach us from birth on what is right and wrong, appropriate and despicable, good or bad. Until we are eight years of age, we have learned 80 per cent of all values of our “home-culture”. Most of the time we are unaware of these. They only become apparent when we meet people with different beliefs and values.

The challenge is to accept and embrace. Actually, if we really want to live together, we need to create a corporate culture. That means we have to compromise. Let go and gain at the same time. I promise: The gain outweighs the let-go’s.

Contact us:
Schuppener-Global-Transitions.com
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NOW & THEN



PHOTOS ©: JULY, HISTORICAL

Different shops, same allure. A prime shopping location in the heart of Stone Town is busy Kenyatta Road. Since as early as 1900, upmarket shops often owned by Indian immigrants have been common here, according to the late historian Erich F. McFerrit. Among them: trader Chaitram (photo left), then advertising itself as “best and cheapest shop in town of silk and curios”. Now, Memories, Zanzibar’s large souvenir emporium, offers everything from scarfs to Kangas, from green Inaya cosmetics to coffee, spices, Tanzanite jewellery and clothes here. Brother and sister Abdul Rahim and Sherbanu A. Ismail opened the shopping paradise on 332 sqm 22 years ago under the motto “All under one roof”. Expats say about the one-stop shop: “If you can’t get it anywhere, get it at Memories.” The well-kept facade of the house with characteristic wooden balconies has largely remained unchanged.

THUMBS UP FOR
UNDERWATER LAB

Coral reefs are the rainforests of the sea. And yet, in Zanzibar they are diminishing at an alarming speed. In Mnemba, corals are now artificially re-grown.

worldwide 30,000 euro were awarded to the Zanzibar group of Dr Tessa Hempson, a marine biologist, diver and special representative of Mnemba owner and Beyond. The activist said: “We are thrilled to receive this funding that will have far-reaching benefits across marine research and education in Zanzibar.”

underwater. To create the artificial new colony, corals were collected from a variety of sites around Mnemba Island. The GPS location of every small part is recorded before it is glued with cement to the so-called coral table. To ensure healthy growth, algae is brushed off each coral piece. The fragments, a mix



PHOTO: ANDREYOND

Marine rangers check a new underwater coral nursery in Zanzibar

More pressure by more hotels?

But what about the on-going pressure on the reef by ever expanding tourism on the island? Directly opposite the quiet Mnemba private island with its small barefoot luxury retreat, a large new hotel and villa project with more than 1000 beds are being built on mainland Zanzibar. “The andBeyond team together with the marine conservation department in Zanzibar are keeping a close eye on these developments to ensure no further negative environmental impact”, the company said.

The reef rebirth in Mnemba is one of the daily activities undertaken by “Oceans Without Borders”. Three days a week marine rangers go underwater to check on the coral nursery. It’s a scientific task almost like a space mission – but

of different species ensuring genetic biodiversity, take between 25 and 40 weeks to grow into a transplantable coral colony.

Local reef custodians

A team of local marine rangers, headed by coordinator Nancy Iraba, collects the research data. School learners, boat operators and fishermen have already been brought onboard. They are involved in beach erosion surveys and spend plenty of interactive community time. They also see how the artificial coral nurseries are being created, and learn from it. The next phase of the project will create a full additional reef. Fishers, tour guides and school children will become local reef custodians – of a healthy sea in Zanzibar.

A NOBEL READER

Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah holding a copy of THE FUMBA TIMES where he was featured (THE FUMBA TIMES, No. 10). He was seen in Zanzibar recently at an event called FESTAC, a tourism promotion with roots in Nigeria. Riding in a small open cart, Gurnah, 73, seemed to be at ease on the island. Zoomed in online was another Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka, 86, from Nigeria, who was the first African to win the prize in 1986. An announced public conversation with the Nobel writers did not take place.



PHOTOS: JHEMED

Abdulrazak Gurnah with THE FUMBA TIMES in Zanzibar

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PHOTOS ©: KEEGAN CHECKS

THE MAN WITH
A MASTERPLAN

A big overhaul at the Zanzibar port is underway

By Andrea Tapper

Cargo delayed for weeks or months, ships queuing in the sea, clients searching for their containers. Utter the word port and the majority of Zanzibari will just moan. “Not to worry, everything will change”, promises new deputy director of the port, Akif Khamis.

Where to start? When I visit Akif Khamis in his office on a Saturday, the new deputy director general of the Zanzibar port is the only person in the building. I have arrived loaded with statistics (worldwide median turnaround time...) and questions (How long does the off-loading of a ship take in Zanzibar?). First pleasant surprise: 30-year-old Khamis has got the answers. All of them. 0.97 days – less than one day – is the worldwide average turnaround

time of a big cargo ship; containers are even a bit faster. Oman currently holds the world record in turnaround and clears container ships within only 12.5 hours, says a recent report by the United Nations agency UNCTAD. In Zanzibar “it takes an average of three to five days, and sometimes even 15 days”, Khamis admits. It’s not that Zanzibar does not work hard: every ship that does arrive gets offloaded immediately, but capacities are scarce and outdated. Waiting time at sea can be three to ten days.

“Zanzibar has outgrown its port by population and economic growth”, Akif Khamis sums up the situation. 95% of Zanzibar’s import and export as well as passengers go through the maritime port in Malindi, built in the 1920’s. Most ships calling here don’t come from afar but are so-called feeder vessels mainly from Mombasa, Kenya and some direct charters from Dubai.

So – what’s the plan?



Man and machine: humans look tiny compared to the giant equipment used at the port, but more of it is needed to speed up service

“We have identified not one trouble area, but several”, says Khamis, who has a degree in automation engineering from Malaysia and a master in energy economics and finance from Aberdeen in Scotland: “And for a long time nothing was done about it.” But now, port director Nahat Mhifudhi and his deputy have a clear presidential mandate: to improve the chronically congested bottleneck of the island’s economy until Zanzibar’s new port terminal in

“Not one trouble area but several”

Mwangaipani is ready.

The planned giant multi-purpose port for containers and dry bulk cargo - financed with the help of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Oman (THE FUMBA TIMES reported) - “shall be built by 2025”, Khamis said. The super port will be capable to handle one million 20-foot containers annually, the port in Malindi presently handles 80,000. The government “is currently in engagement with prospective private investors about the project”, he adds. In the meantime, interim solutions to improve the situation in Malindi are in the making. An additional inland container storage facility would greatly help to win space, yet it is controversial since it would bring lots of heavy traffic on the road. Another urgently needed relief for the Malindi port would be the digitalisation of processes. “We are working on both”, says Khamis.

What are the real trouble spots at Malindi port?

EQUIPMENT: The devil is in the detail, the saying goes. Malindi has only one specialised automatic harbour crane (a 64-ton Liebherr model) and rarely spare parts for it. Instead, Zanzibar uses manually operated cranes and the vessels’

own cranes. That delays the work. Specialised tractors (“reach-stackers”) are missing, too. “Even one more super crane would offload 15 instead of three containers per hour”, explains Khamis, while he is taking me around. Good news: Heavyweight additional technical equipment including a digitalised weighing bridge has now been procured to finally overcome the most notorious constraints.

LOCATION: Containers are dangling dangerously close over our heads; enormous tractors are manoeuvring in very little space. Just next door, hundreds of passengers are streaming into the ferry terminal where not even a drop-off zone for cars exists. “Congestion is another major cause of inefficiency at the Malindi port”, says the port manager.

It is also a heritage issue: The historic location with its beautiful warehouse-type buildings is UNESCO-protected and cannot be changed. “It would be ideal as a scenic leisure port with curio shops, yachts and shows and add value to the tourism market”, says Khamis

– and the government is planning to do just that. There are also plans to decentralise ferry services in Zanzibar. For now, because the port quay is only 200 metres long, only one large container or cargo vessel can enter at a time. Containers are off-loaded at random, making it difficult to locate them when customers come to collect their freight. Empty containers are shifted at night to Bwawani for interim storage. Everybody in Zanzibar has seen the huge towers of rusty containers “parked” there. Khamis’ count on a given day in May: 2,300 of them

Still, I don’t understand: Why do they remain there, and for how long? “The container pile was caused because shipping lines offload more containers than they take back to reduce their turn around period”, Khamis explains the calamity. But also here, there is

A man for the heavy stuff: Akif Ali Khamis, new Deputy Director General of Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) getting the figures right and talking to workers



Vessels of up to 200 metres length can dock in Zanzibar but only one at a time. The port handles around 160,000 tons general cargo per year

light at the end of the tunnel: “The port management has successfully negotiated with shipping liners. They have now accepted to take the same amount back as they offload”, says the manager.

HUMAN FACTOR: As we watch in awe a worker placing one 20-foot-container on top of another with the precision of a ballet dancer, I am shocked to hear that the man who is obviously a specialist is paid just a worker’s minimum. “A modern port needs a modern salary structure; wages have to be adjusted”, says Khamis. 600 people work in the port 24/7 in three shifts.

Another trouble area: some customers “use the port as storage facilities”, says the manager. To improve the situation, a one-stop service centre is planned to streamline the entire

documentation process. An e-system would give customers clearance deadlines. In return they’d “have to provide advance documentation and pay advance clearance tax”, explains Khamis. A team from Zanzibar has been sent to Turkey to test a digital port system there. But there is something else lacking: “Mentality must change from government operation to corporate thinking”, Akif Khamis is convinced. Even private stakeholders may be brought on board.

When all this will happen, remains to be seen, but the port manager is confident: “Once we are modernised, people will appreciate our contribution to Zanzibar’s economic growth.” And with a smile he adds: “Then everybody will start liking us, instead of shouting at us.”

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

THE JUNIOR CAPTAINS OF FUMBA

Fumba can pride itself on some skillful youngsters building mini dhows, larger than a tiny toy but smaller than real boats. Their role models: village elders.

One can see them when the sun is about to go down. Young boys treading towards the sea, passing the new Pavilion shopping centre, crossing over to Fumba Town B, heading straight to the ocean. Where they can set sail with their big and beautiful self-made replicas of Zanzibari dhows, depends of course on the tide. The coastline here is rocky and full of mangroves.

But there is no hesitation for the boys. “Once I have completed crafting my dhow, I must join my friends in a race”, says Hamiar Hassan Ab’Rab. “It makes me happy when my boat can withstand the ocean waves.” The 17-year-old, born and raised in Zanzibar, belongs to a group dubbed “Tunasubini Bei” (Swahili for “We wait for the price”) of around twenty youngsters - the junior captains of Fumba.

They all live in and around Ndambani and Nyamanzi, two villages in the immediate neighbourhood of Fumba Town. What makes their play-boats unique on the island is the sheer size: About one to 1.20 m long, a small kid could almost really sail away with them. The boats are much larger than the miniature toy dhows one can find in souvenir shops. “It took me one year to learn how to

shape wood planks, to cut a mast and some plastic or cotton as a sail. Our village elders were of great support to us”, says Hamiar, who has five siblings and attends Kombeni Secondary school: “But now, in three to four days my dhow is ready.” His best friend Ali Maulidi Muhammad, 15, was ten years old when his grandfather took him sailing for the very first time. “At first, it was terrifying, but at the end of the day, I felt thrilled.”

Sometimes Hamiar and Ali manage to sell their boats, “mostly to foreigners”. Prices vary by size, the boys have learnt, from TZS 50,000 to 100,000. But with such strong grandfathers as role models they are not willing to sell their dreams: “One day we will be one of the great fishermen in Zanzibar.”

Baraka Mocha



PHOTOS ©: KEEGAN CHECKS



Proud boat designers: As soon as their little ngawala are ready, cheerful youngsters test them in the waters of the Indian Ocean



PHOTOS (4): ISTOCK, GREEN ROOM

LET'S GO OUTSIDE
Latest trends in outdoor furniture - some made in Tanzania

By staff writer

Smarten up your outdoor space, here are the latest furniture and deco ideas. The new darling is dining al fresco.

#1 Dining al fresco
In previous years outdoor sofas brought the living room out in the open; in 2022 everybody's darling is the outdoor dining room which invites you to socialise in fresh air. Weather-proof, elegant tables and upholstered armchairs steal the show from indoor tables. A beautiful African alternative are foldable safari chairs – just add extra pillows and consider a repaint. "If space is limited, an outdoor sofa with side tables can double up as an eating and entertaining space", suggests Elmarie von Heerden. "Some clients love to eat al fresco year round in our warm climate."

#2 Comeback of the sunbed
Is sunbathing still popular in 2022? Apparently yes. "It could be the longing for the familiar and loved ones that makes us relax on classic sun loungers in these turbulent times", says designer Clichy. Many new sunbeds in natural or high-tech fabrics are on the market, but prices for quality brands are steep. A simple Zanzibar string bed topped with a foam layer in a washable white



Outdoor time: terrace furniture is getting ever more comfortable

or dark blue plastic cover and fluffy white pillows is an alternative – but has to be kept superclean at all times, not to look tired. The same goes for a traditional carved bed either with mosquito netting or white linen curtains to substitute for a chaise longue.

#3 Outdoor cocktail
Show your creativity by mixing materials; aluminium is hot and does not rust. Complement bamboo chairs with a metal bench and a solid stone table – very much the "in" thing. Think *baraza*! "Locally grown teak is our favourite for pieces to stand the test of time and weather", says van Heerden.



Relaxing zone at home: sunbeds made of wood are nicer and if well kept more durable than plastic furniture

WHERE TO BUY:

- Stylish and sustainable furniture handmade in Tanzania: Thegreenroomtz.com
- The best in decoration: dolsoninteriors.com
- Safari chairs and more from Scanza: cocoowood.com

Terrace furnished by The Green Room, design by Briontelle Interiors, soft furnishings by Dolson Interiors

INSIDE FUMBA TOWN
TRUE STORIES OF NEW RESIDENTS



PHOTO: OLGA KEGAN CHECKS

Katrin and Sebastian Dietzold: content in a Mwangani flat

“WE ARE HAPPY RESIDENTS NOW”

Fumba's newest residents are quite famous here: they are the founding couple and directors of Fumba Town. How it is to live in your own project, we asked Katrin Dietzold.

We see, you like reading?
Oh yes, I'm a real bookworm. I finish about three books per month; the last was "Lost paradise" by Abdulrazak Gurnah, very fascinating. We brought a big bookshelf into the new flat.

Did it fit? It's very unusual for a boss to live in a place of only 63sqm...
It's a 2-bedroom, and for the time being it's perfect for us. The Mwangani flats don't have large corridors, so the living room has much more space. Three of our kids attend school in Dar es Salaam where we have another home, our eldest daughter studies abroad. But even if we are all together, we'll fit. We have placed a 140 cm wide bunk bed in the second bedroom plus a cot for the youngest.

What do you see first when you wake up in the morning?
From the second floor where we live we look straight into a growing park. It's such joy to wake-up and watch the gardeners already busy attending to it and everything growing so fast.

How does it feel to finally live in the town you founded seven years ago?
It feels great. Some of our wonderful team might find it a bit strenuous though, because we suddenly see and hear everything live here...

Bad or good?
Not bad, in fact I believe our living here has led to some improvements already. We immediately felt, that power and internet needed more back-up. We have joined the lobby of residents now!

What do you like most about Fumba Town?
How lush the town's greenery has become. Some was planted only three years ago and thanks to permaculture it's blossoming. Next, we'll turn dust roads into beautiful cobblestone streets; we have just bought our own machinery for that.



Grand chair for the reader: Katrin Dietzold likes books

HOW TO FILTER YOUR OWN DRINKING WATER

Clay pots are the clue to clean water

TOGETHER GREENER



Bernadette Kirsch, head of Permaculture Design Centre, shares smart ideas

Water is an issue in many ways: pollution, environment, urban development and even government policies all get in the way of our prescribed dose of at least one litre fresh drinking water a day. Half of the Zanzibar population still has no access to piped fresh drinking water, 60 percent water loss occurs because of out-dated pipes.

When Fumba Town was started in 2015, an independent water supply for the new town was established, with the neighbouring villages Nyamanzini and Dimani also benefiting from it. Starting in September this year, Fumba Town will be additionally connected to the municipal lines of Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) who will then have to conduct regular quality tests. Good news: the water price is expected to go down. All water in Zanzibar, whether private or public, comes from boreholes. But whatever the source, to be on the safe side, filtering drinking water with clay

AVOID PLASTIC BOTTLES!

- Bottled water is 300 to 2,000 times more expensive than water from your home faucet
- Two-thirds of 50 billion plastic bottles a year worldwide still end up in a landfill
- Zanzibar's bottles are shipped to Kenya for recycling. While this is good, production and transportation are still hurting the planet
- Chemicals leaching from the plastic can affect the hormone system, scientists warn



Tested in Fumba: SWCEA filtering system consisting of a bucket and clay filter, handmade in Arusha (right)



PHOTO (4): KEGAN CHECKS, OTHER

filters is a good idea for your home consumption - and a perfect way to replace buying bottled water. We all use still far too much bottled water. Entire aisles at the grocery store are full of it. While most people know that bottled water is not a good idea for many reasons (see box), we continue to purchase it anyway.

Clay is clean!
The use of sand filtration can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians. In 1804, the first clay pot filters were used to purify the water supply in Paisley, Scotland. The ceramic water filtration system has been cited by the United Nations' Appropriate Technology Handbook, and hundreds of thousands of filters have been distributed worldwide by organisations such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

For use in Zanzibar I recommend "Maji Salama" fabricated by Safe Water Ceramics East Africa (SWCEA). We have used this system for more than five years at the Permaculture Design Company (PDC) and the Kwetu Kwenu kiosk in Fumba Town.

How do clay filters work?
SWCEA is a small family-run business in Arusha; their ceramic water filter has proven to remove 99% of all known pathogens, including those that cause cholera, dysentery, and stomach upsets. A combination of clay, sawdust and colloidal silver is used to form the initial shape of the handmade pot. Colloidal silver is the key (and also expensive) ingredient that kills bacteria. The pot is burnt at 900 degrees in a kiln for about 24 hours, followed by a cooling and drying process over several days. Regular tests,

Producing safe water at almost zero costs: a variety of clay filters in all shapes and sizes are used worldwide and recommended by health specialists

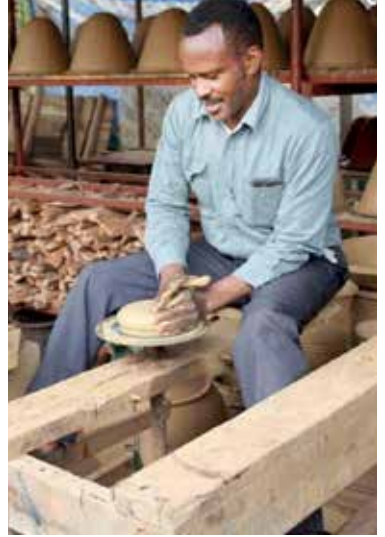
conducted at a local clinic, establish if the water flow is as expected (two-four litres per hour) and bacteria-free.

Using the clay filter at home
It is simple and easy to use. Each ceramic filter comes with a food grade plastic bucket with a cover and tap. It can filter four litres per hour and 36 litres per day. A brush for scrubbing and cleaning the filter every three months and a cleaning instruction are included. The filters have a life span of five years. A slight disadvantage is the slow process of filtering. I have made it a habit to let the filter run all the time and store the water in glass bottles in the fridge and outside.

For the first two times that we ran the filter it had a clay taste. Thereafter, it tasted fresh, as charcoal produced from the burned sawdust restored natural water taste. To pep up the taste, I often add a slice of lemon, mint or lemongrass.

Available in Fumba Town: "Maji Salama" clay filters

Order and pick up at the Kwetu Kwenu kiosk, or at the community market every first Saturday of the month in Fumba Town. From \$63 Information: +255 776 055 801 watercarlton.org/partners-1



Coast Discoveries

HANOI IN PAJE



PHOTO: KEGAN CHECKS

Quiet oasis on the East Coast: Kim Anh Nguyen's tiny Hanoi House Café

Surely an enrichment for Zanzibar is Kim Nguyen's Vietnamese kitchen and style on the East Coast.

When a Vietnamese has a lot of work, he feels blessed. When a Zanzibari is busy, people say "pole sana", sorry. It is for such words of wisdom, peaceful Buddhist vibes, Vietnamese all-day-breakfast, coffee with condensed milk and for Pho soup, of course, that people love to visit Kim Nguyen at her two premises on the East Coast.

The new Hanoi House is a tiny café on the main road in Paje. Renovated along Zen principles with the entrance

facing east, it is a quiet oasis on a very busy street. Kim, 33, came from Hanoi to Zanzibar in 2019, and stayed. "I only learnt here how to cook", she says. Her Duyen beach restaurant at the Sherazad Hotel in Jambiani is another big draw. "Zanzibar reminds me of my childhood in Vietnam", the former social worker says. Homestyle cooking is her trademark, herbs like basil and coriander she finds here, but she imports Asian noodles. "Eat them with chopsticks", Kim Anh advises with a smile, "it makes you more mindful."

Hanoi House Café, Paje,
Ph. +255 772434 995
Duyen beach restaurant
@Sherazad hotel, Jambiani,
11:00-22:00, Mondays closed

CHILLING AT BALI CAFÉ

Bali Café is a new, almost European looking roadside stop and the latest addition to the bubbling East Coast. Just before reaching the beautifully re-launched, all-time favourite Upendo Beach Club in Michamvi, the Bali Café on the right side is a cosy, nicely designed lounge with a modern vibe. Customers can smoke shisha, eat cakes or snacks, have a beer, juice or coffee from morning to 10pm. Some say, it's the perfect hideaway for a date.



Open courtyard, stylish furniture: the new Bali café

Bali Café,
Dongwe, Ph. +255 773 100707

DELICIOUS ITALIAN PASTRY

Strange developments sometimes set free hidden talents. When "Pili Pili" entrepreneurs bulldozed in from Poland to buy half of the East Coast, the owners of Seconda Stella, a longtime pizza favourite, gave up their restaurant and opened two smaller premises instead: "Un'Altra Storia", a food, pizza & pastry confectionery on the main road, and the idyllic "PETER Pan Beach Restaurant & Lodge", both in Kikadini, at the southern end of Jambiani. The Polish scheme, after a spectacular belly flop, seems halted, but the Italian deli is just what Jambiani was looking for. Fluffy cream puffs, cannocini, wholegrain breakfast buns,



extravagant cream cakes, juicy takeaway pizza slices, cappuccinos, latte and even freshly made pasta are worth the extra mile when you are in Jambiani. The latest addition to the shop is a small outdoor seating section.

Un'Altra Storia,
Ph. +255 773 829 062
Open 7:30 – 22:00
FB: [unaltrastoriajambiani](https://www.facebook.com/unaltrastoriajambiani)

GO VISIT:
WWW.MAMAMIARESTAURANTZANZIBAR.COM

BUONISSIMO

THE HEAVENLY TASTE OF MAMA MIA IN ZANZIBAR

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KENDWA, KIWENGWA,
PAJE

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OPENING HOURS:
9:30 TO 23:00
PH. +255788947701

MAMA MIA RESTAURANT
NUNGWI
OPENING HOURS:
10:30 TO 22:00
PH. +255773360584

Happy&Healthy

ASK DR. JENNY BOURAIMA

READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

Latifa Khalid, Mweni

Dear Dr. Jenny, we are Zanzibari and soon our abroad-living son and his elderly mother-in-law are coming to visit. All are concerned about health especially regarding the two children, 6 months and 5-year-old. What is your advice for travellers?

Dr. Jenny Bouraima answers:

You must be excited to have your family visiting and I understand that relieving them of their worries is important to you. For children, regardless of your travel destination, it is a good idea to carry a first aid kit with you, so you can easily attend to minor accidents such as cut wounds. That can also help the parents to assist their child in case they have stepped on a sea urchin. Wearing water shoes can, however, prevent such injuries altogether, and are a good idea for the whole family. Bad stomachs or so-called traveller's diarrhoea is something that we frequently see in our clinic as well. It can be prevented to a certain extent by observing the basic rule "Cook it, peel it or forget it" and by showing good judgement when it comes to choosing places for eating out.

However, a runny stomach cannot always be prevented. Since replenishing lost fluids and minerals has first priority, Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) should be on your family's packing list as well. In most cases no further intervention is needed. In case the number of liquid bowel movements exceeds ten per day, the patient gets a fever or becomes increasingly weak, visiting a doctor is recommended. For the children, especially the youngest, alerting a doctor in the first 24 hours of a severe diarrhoea is advised. Even if initially you choose to receive a remote consultation, it will give your family peace of mind and a clear course of action.

Mosquito repellent useful
Even though we do not have a large number of malaria cases in Zanzibar, malaria prevention is necessary since there are always seasonal peaks. This includes the use of repellents, mosquito nets and long-sleeve clothes after dawn. Discuss the need of a malaria prophylaxis with your local tropical institute before starting the journey. At that visit, vaccines can also be refreshed according to current guidelines.

Overall, visiting Zanzibar with two young children can be beautiful and enjoyable just like any other travel as well. Taking the above extra precautions tailored to our context ensures that also the parents will be able to enjoy quality time with the family.

5 must-do's for families:

- Wear sunhats or similar against the sun
- Buy water shoes for the whole family
- Bring some packs of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS)
- Protect against mosquitoes
- Inquire beforehand about vaccines

WRITE TO US!

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

COFFEE FARM 3.0

Ultimate coffee experience at Utengule farm and lodge in Mbeya

PHOTOS (5): UTENGULE, TAPPER, ISTOCK



Recipe for a coffee cocktail
SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED
Espresso Martini by barman Timothy Richard from Utengule

3-4 ice cubes,
100 ml Vodka,
single Espresso
single Kahlua or Tia Maria
3 coffee beans
Shake or blend it for
6 seconds, enjoy!

Green paradise: only about half of the Utengule coffee farm’s is cultivated, the rest is a nature reserve with over 200 birds. The lodge offers romantic open-air dining overlooking the Rift Valley

By Andrea Tapper

1400 metres above sea level, where the air is cool and clean, we discovered absolute tranquillity, upcountry vibes, waterfalls and all we ever wanted to know about these brown beans of pleasure.



Coffee enthusiast: Hans Faessler is the founder and owner of Utengule Companies

Coffee, coffee, coffee as far as I can see. Rows of perfectly trimmed coffee bushes stretching out on wavy land at the foot of the impressive Mbeya range in Southern Tanzania. Did I know that the term coffee beans is actually wrong for the most important ingredient in almost everybody’s favourite morning drink? “In reality they are berries”, tells me Aggrey Nyange, long time loyal field manager of the Utengule coffee farm. I had flown in at midday, joyfully escaping Zanzibar’s relentless heat, and noticed thousands of silver dots from above. Coming closer they turned out to be shiny rooftops of local houses scat-

tered on the green hills. Upcountry life surely looks and feels different. “It rained the whole night”, says manageress Debbie Bacon, who welcomes me and has been running Utengule lodge – the traveller’s wing of the coffee farm - for several years. 1400 metres above sea level, warm summers and fresh winters perfectly combine with seasonal rains here. The landscape of dormant volcanoes, rivers, springs and waterfalls has been a coffee growers’ paradise for more than a century.

The rustic, immaculately kept, bungalow-type lodge is a child of the 80s. A dining room winds around a living tree, chandeliers twinkle above an old-fashioned bar. While red-and-green tablecloths are being laid out and a fire is lit in the open fireplace, the sun dramatically sets above the Rift Valley. Baobabs, orchids and rose bushes shimmer in the twilight, definitely orchestrated by a man with a green thumb in the lush garden around a generous swimming pool. I can hardly take my eyes of the view from the wooden terrace of my country-suite, one of 16 rooms at the lodge, but tomorrow is my early-rise coffee farm day.

Aggrey Nyange awaits me at the 300-hectar-farm, only a short drive away from the lodge, founded by Swiss missionaries in 1919. And so does the farm owner himself, Swiss-born Hans Faessler, a dedicated coffee gourmand, grower and trader for

38 years. His business has taken him all over the world. With his green safari hat and winning smile, Faessler looks like an actor straight from “Out of Africa”. Key figures are quickly gathered: Utengule produces around 130 to 150 tons of exquisite coffee every year. It is roasted in Dar es Salaam; 50 per cent for export, the other half for the local market, which is a distinct feature of Utengule. In many coffee-producing southern countries of the world, the best coffee goes abroad leaving locals with mediocre instant coffee. Not here: “Our export and locally available coffee has the same quality”, Faessler says.

November to May is the rainy and therefore planting season in Utengule; May to August the fields spring to life when the red, ripe cherries are picked, washed and dried in the sun. After resting for two months, the coffee beans are roasted, blended and packed.

Coffee is a durable fellow. Hundred-year-old plants are still productive in Utengule. Walking over to the nursery, Nyange explains that the farm’s high-quality Arabica seedlings are grown here without pesticides and fertilisers. “Snails are our worst enemy”, says the field manager. The trees around us are thickly covered with moss, carefully we cross tiny streams, trying to avoid slipping off improvised

wooden footbridges. Gumboots are not a bad idea for a visit to Utengule!

We don’t meet many workers on the plantation now, but during harvest hundreds are hired. Harvesting is manual work; afterwards a wet mill of newest technology will pull the pulp of the berries and spit out clean beans into a water basin before they land on drying tables for several days. “It’s not the quantity which counts in African coffee, but the outstanding quality”, Hans Faessler explains to me.

Tanzania’s coffee ranks high on the world market. The bourbon varieties are especially renowned for their smooth flavour and just the right acidity. “Our soil is rich in minerals from volcanic eruptions millions of years ago”, Faessler explains.

What’s so special about coffee? “Like wine, coffee is a gourmet product associated with the pleasant sides of life”, the 64-year-old answers with a tiny trace of a Swiss accent. “It’s versatile and refined just by cultivation and processing.” He first came to Tanzania as administrator and bought the farm in the 80s, when he added the lodge. In 2005 he opened the Zanzibar Coffee House with its beautiful rooftop in historic Stone Town. “Consistency and endurance”, Faessler says, is most important in a business with ever-changing prices, and for him that includes sustainable, favourable conditions for his staff and the community.

For the rest of my time at the coffee farm, I drink cafe latte in the morning and Vanilla Ice Coffee after an afternoon swim in the garden. I eat “coffee-flavoured pulled pork” for dinner and have a Cappuccino-Amarula cocktail as sun-downer. At 6pm, at an altitude above the clouds, I am definitely high on coffee.



Coffee country, pool delights: The famous Rift Valley coffee comes from here; the beans hide in red berries



A STAY AT UTENGULE

- **How to get there:** Utengule Coffee Farm and Lodge are located 20km from Mbeya town and airport
- **Accommodation:** Rooms, suite, private bungalows from \$80-\$205; also camping
- **Activities:** plantation tours, crater lake excursions, mountain hikes; excellent restaurant
- **Travel arrangements:** utengule.com; rickshawtravels.com

JUST DISCOVERED BLUE OYSTER HOTEL IN JAMBIANI

THE FUMBA TIMES TEST



The Indian Ocean at your doorstep - that is Blue Oyster Hotel

AS GREEN AS IT GETS

✓ USP: First Responsible Tourism Hotel	✓ LOCATION: Right on the beach in Jambiani
✓ COMFORT: 18 sea view & garden rooms	✓ THE BOTTOM LINE: Personal atmosphere counts!

It’s not the label, which makes a place green but the content. This certainly applies to the Blue Oyster Hotel, a family-run, popular hide-out with 18 rooms in Jambiani. The hotel, opened in 1999, can pride itself of being the very first in Zanzibar to receive the “Responsible Tourism Tanzania Certification” (RTTZ) at the so-called ‘tree level’ and is now set to reach the next and highest level. “We had to fulfil 272 criteria for that in an auditing process”, says Simon Beiser, who together with his brother Anwar runs the beach property founded by their father, the late Klaus Beiser.

Sorry, no pool
There is no pool and no air conditioning. Instead “we have the ocean on our doorstep, coastal winds and fans in the rooms”, says Anwar Beiser. Four simple solar panels provide hot water for the entire hotel, a natural basin filters grey water for gardening use. All waste is collected and recycled. Staff are encouraged to bring their trash from home to learn how to separate it. “It’s the simplicity of most ideas which strikes me most”, says manageress Louise Tinning, 29, who holds a bachelor’s degree in sustainable tourism.

Staff from the neighbourhood
Other pillars of green success include fresh seasonal dishes. No endangered fish, but a local catch, fruits, veggies and meat from local farms. “Aware and well-trained staff”, says Tinning, is also very important. Many of the thirty or so staff members come from neighbouring villages, all are properly health insured. Blue Oyster has started a foundation for school and maternity support. Captain Zapi, a former fisherman, takes



Simon Beiser in front of his solar water heating (top), Captain Zapi (below) is ready to go diving

Blue Oyster Hotel
Jambiani, East Coast
Rooms \$56-\$205
Ph. +255 783 045 796
or +255 779 883 554
blueoysterhotel.com

A shining example of environmental care



PHOTOS (4): BLUE OYSTER, K. CHECKS

AFRICA’S BEST ARCHITECT

Prestigious award goes to an African master builder for the first time

The Pritzker prize for architects is what the Oscar is for Hollywood stars. In 2022, for the first time an African architect won the most prestigious award. Diébédo Francis Kéré from Burkina Faso is known for innovative buildings made of ancient material such as clay and wood and for his sense of “giving back to the community”. 57-year-old Kéré studied carpentry and architecture at the Technical University of Berlin, a city where he owns an architecture firm until today. After his studies one of his first designs was for a school in his home village in Burkina Faso, where he grew up as one of 13 siblings.

In 2017 he designed the Serpentine Pavilion at Kensington Garden in London; in 2019 one of his most iconic buildings, a wooden parliament for Benin, a project still in planning stages. It is inspired by the concept of the Palaver Tree, a traditional place in Africa to gather under a tree to make consensual decisions. Kéré has received multiple awards for his contribution towards ‘architecture for humans’; including the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture. His work is spread across four continents and in numerous countries such as Mali, Yemen, China and the United States of America. The Pritzker Prize was established in Chicago; architecture stars including Norman Foster and Zaha Hadid have received it.



A parliament like a tree house, designed by Kéré (small photo) for Benin




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