

The Fumba Times

FROM ZANZIBAR TO THE WORLD – THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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COOL MUSEUMS ROCK LEGEND MERCURY NO 1

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ENTERTAINMENT THE DJ WITH A BAND

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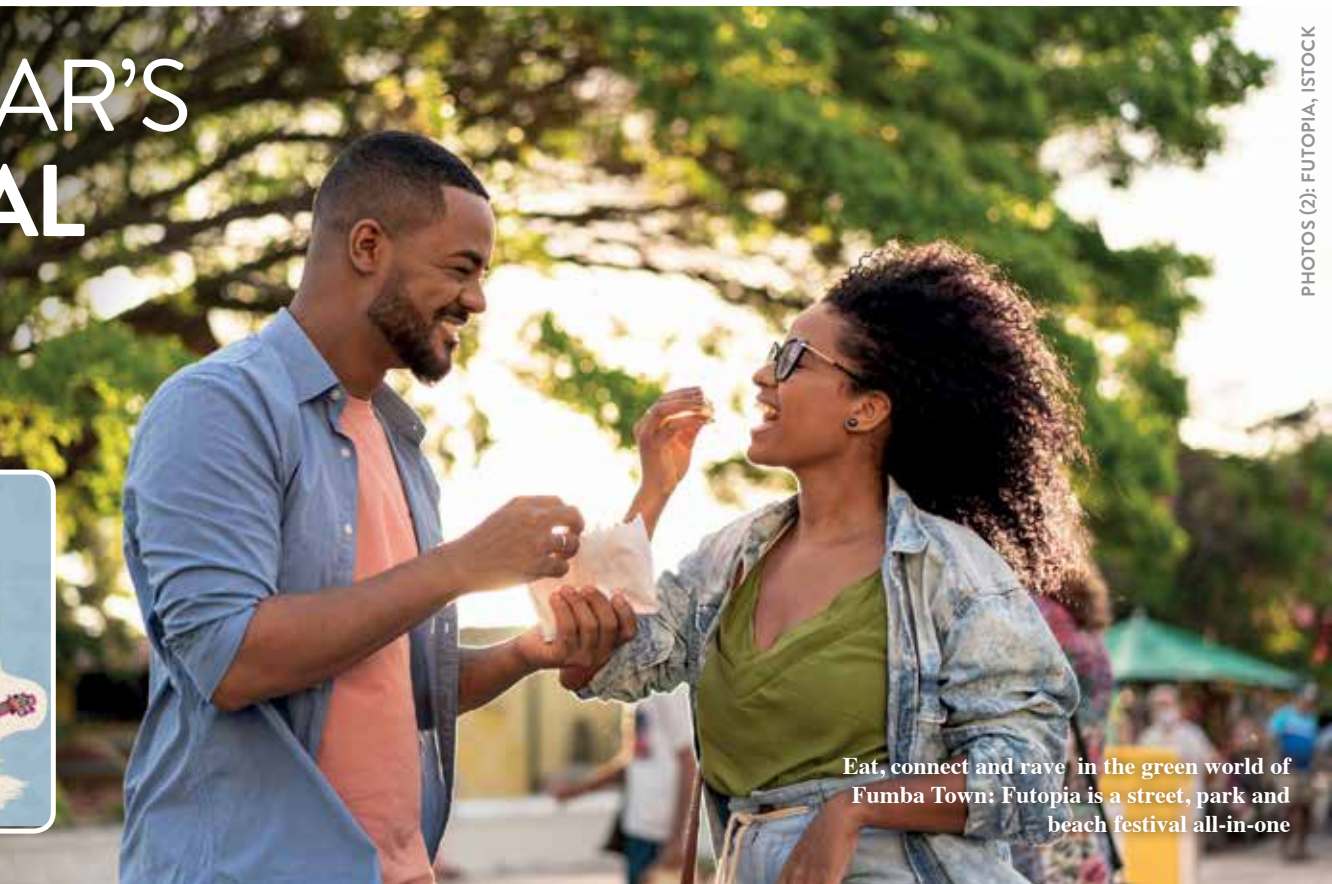
EXCLUSIVE A MINISTER'S SECRETS

PAGE 08 | MY WORLD



VISIT ZANZIBAR'S NEW FESTIVAL

Cheza Mania finals, nyama choma competition, live music - three-day fun at Futopia, a treat for all senses. The first interactive island experience will become an annual event - dive into it!



PHOTOS (2): FUTOPiA, ISTOCK

Eat, connect and rave in the green world of Fumba Town: Futopia is a street, park and beach festival all-in-one

100,000 TOURISTS PER MONTH

A record was broken with almost 100,000 tourists in July, the highest number ever. Most of the exactly 98,370 visitors came from Europe, namely Italy and France. Hotel occupancy rate was 80%; Zanzibar currently offers 900,000 beds, the Commission for Tourism reported in its latest statistics. If the upward trend continues, the isles will soon reach the one-million-tourist frontier per year, a goal set for 2035.

NO BANK NECESSARY

Wakala me! 63.2 million Tanzanians – which means almost everybody - used mobile money transfers in 2024, around 22 percent more than the year before, according to new statistics. Mobile transactions began in East Africa with M-Pesa in Kenya in 2007 and a year later in Tanzania. Sub-Saharan Africa has been a pioneer for mobile money worldwide. It is home to all 12 of the world's economies where more adults have mobile money accounts than a bank account.

URBAN PIONEER FUMBA TOWN

From vision to vibrance: green city for holidaymakers and residents in Zanzibar turns ten



By Andrea Tapper

First it was an idea few people believed in. Then it became the island's biggest real estate success. Now it is East Africa's fastest growing urban development. Fumba Town on the shores of the Indian Ocean is turning ten years old.

The story of the cosmopolitan African future city – for many Zanzibar's most unexpected highlight - began under a Mango tree in Nyamanzi. In 2012, village elders, government representatives and a German family started discussing a deal which would wake-up the sleepy Fumba peninsula forever. The deal was to develop houses to absorb Zanzibar's growing population. In August 2015 the agreement was sealed, and two show houses erected in the middle of nowhere. Spread out on 150 acres with 1.5 km of west coast seafront, Fumba Town is located 12 km south of the airport, only

a 30-minute drive from Zanzibar city. From the beginning it was meant to be an overflow for the capital, a model city for local and international residents, a mixture of investment, living space and holiday homes.

Since then, for the creators of Fumba Town there has been no looking back and "time has flown by", says Tobias Dietzold, 41, one of the directors of developer CPS, who brought the town to life in tandem with his elder brother Sebastian and wife Katrin.

To date, almost 1,400 apartments and houses have been sold. On any given morning, employees flock to their offices at the new Pavilion mall - completed in 2022; youngsters from Zanzibar City drive in at night to treat their girlfriends to dinner at the bohemian open-air restaurant "Kwetu Kwenu Chill" - opened the same year. Kids play at creative adobe playgrounds on colourful structures - the town's first communal offering in 2019.

Immense trust

"It's an awesome development", remarks Tobias Dietzold in his office on site, looking not without pride at his "urban baby" embedded in lush green gardens against the perfect turquoise backdrop of the ocean: "But from permaculture to a Hilton hotel in the making, we could not have invented it alone, it grew together naturally." His brother Sebastian Dietzold, 49, elaborates: "It was one of our biggest astonishments and joy, that international investors placed immense trust in us right from the start" (more of his memories on page 4–5.)

Pioneering legislation

The story of Fumba Town is a story of many firsts. For the first time, foreigners were allowed to buy in Zanzibar on the base of a 99-year-lease arrangement. Located in one of five Free Economic Zones, it offers attractive tax incentives. Fumba is "a pioneer for urban planning utterly needed in Africa with its high population growth", says Canadian economist and urban planner Kurtis Lockhart, a resident of Fumba.

In Zanzibar alone, the tropical holiday island in the sun, the population has grown by almost 50 per cent in ten years, from 1.3 million to two million inhabitants. Only half the size of, for example, Majorca, it has double the population of its Spanish counterpart. "Every year 10,000 new

homes are needed", says Lockhart, who has been instrumental in connecting Fumba to the academic world. This also has good reasons: Institutions of higher learning can act as "anchor tenants for urban development just like software in Silicon Valley and biotechnology in Boston have done", Lockhart explains. The prestigious West African School of Economics (ASE) has run a first master's course in Fumba. India's best university, the Indian Institute of

Technology Madras (IITM), opened its first international campus right in the neighbourhood two years ago - and just had its first graduates (see news item on the right).

To be a talent hub, to create jobs, to jump-start industries – all this is part of

the vision. Developer CPS and affiliated firms such as the Permaculture Design Company (PDC) - the green backbone of Fumba - and timber processing Volkshouse have opened-up more than 800 jobs.

Growth fosters variety

Tobias Dietzold explains: "First we were planning only 400 townhouses, the prototype white bungalows of Fumba Town. The current masterplan contains already 5,000 homes in 40 different designs, from budget studios to luxury villas, all benefitting from the common infrastructure and green concept. „While differing in size and price, all Fumba homes share high-quality living environments making use of local resources", explains Leander Moons, lead architect of Fumba.

CONTINUE on page 2

The town keeps growing



Same view, ten years apart: nothing but coral rag bushland and two lonely show units in 2015; a well-preserved mangrove coastline with a man-made beach and a variety of residential houses in Fumba Town in 2025



PHOTOS (2): CPS



Proud student, proud Education Minister Leila Mussa

India's best university has produced the first class of graduates in Zanzibar. "Salemalaikum" and "Namaste" were two greetings heard during the festive ceremony celebrating the successful ending of the first master's class by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) Zanzibar. The institute opened in Fumba in November 2023. 16 graduates received their degrees in data science and artificial intelligence. "It's a milestone for us", remarked director Preeti Aghalayam in the presence of education minister Leila Mussa who commented: "The first alumni not only earned a degree but laid the foundation for many more students to come." Established in 1959, the IIT Madras offers bachelor and master studies in data science and AI, chemical processing and engineering and – fittingly for Zanzibar – in ocean structure. Information: iitmz.ac.in

CAN A POOL BE ECO-FRIENDLY?



PHOTOS (2): BLUE OYSTER, TAPPER

200 sqm, 180,000 litres of water: hotel owner Simon Beiser and family (inset) took unusual steps before adding a pool to their hotel

For 25 years, Blue Oyster hotel, one of the oldest and greenest family hotels in Zanzibar, had no pool for environmental reasons. Now they do. How does that add up?

Among the biggest environmental concerns in Zanzibar is high water usage by tourists and hotels; village wells have run dry because of too many hotels around them. Following years of inconsistent water access in their area, the Blue Oyster and some other hotels in Jambiani chose a different path. They partnered with village elders

two years ago to finance a full sustainable water project serving hotels and villages.

"We drilled a well on public village land, safely distanced from the ocean to avoid salty water. We installed water pumps, lines and multiple public water points in the village", Simon Beiser, co-owner of the popular 18-room family hotel explains.

Contributing hotels pay a monthly fee based on consumption covering electricity, maintenance and salaries for people operating the system. A generator was bought. The effort was worth it, Beiser says: "We regularly test the water quality, it's excellent. Finally, everybody is happy, the villagers, the guests and us." Blue Oyster was the first hotel to win an official green certification in Zanzibar.

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PHOTOS (L-R): KEEGAN CHECKS, I-STOCK, SPICE ROUTE, TAPPER, FREDDIE MERCURY MUSEUM, TANZANITE



2 Spice Route
INTERACTIVE
TREASURE HUNT

How did Zanzibar become the spice island in the 19th century, its plantations fueling fortunes and luring traders from Europe, Arabia, and India? This ultra-modern museum, opened in August by Turkish entrepreneur Hatice Assalam living in Zanzibar, makes the entire global spice trade transparent. **Presenting a centuries-old trade in the most immersive fashion makes the museum really special.** It is meant to excite not only tourists, but locals, school classes and everybody keen on learning more about the global history of spices. Visitors meet historical figures like Vasco da Gama brought to life by costumed guides (photo). From Indian bazaars to Saharan camel routes, visitors of all ages find themselves treasure hunting through time.

The Spice Route Museum
Hamamni Street 454, Stone Town
Daily, 9 am - 5 pm



3 Sultans' Graveyard
200 YEARS
RELOADED

Sunlight filters through mango trees, dappling the moss-covered tombs of Zanzibar's former rulers. The small, new museum behind the presently closed Palace museum includes the freshly painted graveyard where nine of Zanzibar's former rulers are buried. The new, little known tourist highlight is part of the "Make-Zanzibar-beautiful-again"-campaign driven by Stone Town conservator Ali Said Bakar. Financed by Oman, which ruled Zanzibar for 200 years, a **modern exhibition in an air-conditioned little annex** elaborates on the life and death of 12 sultans of Zanzibar. Intricate Arabic calligraphy mark tombstones (photo), information panels detail tales of maritime power. Now restored, it's a solemn, beautiful place, an oasis of calm in Stone Town.

Sultans' Graveyard Museum
Behind Palace Museum, Stone Town
Daily, 8 am - 5 pm



4 Princess Salme
PRINCESS, REBEL
& MUM

The rustle of silk skirts and the scratch of a quill seem to linger here. Born in 1844, Princess Salme—later Emily Ruete—was a sultan's daughter who fled to marry a German merchant, eventually writing the first known autobiography by an Arab woman. The museum is set in the evocative Emerson on Hurumzi Hotel and features family portraits, period furniture, and letters that reveal her wit, independence, and political insight. It's a window into the world of a widow with three children who defied her era's rules and never stopped bridging cultures. A woman who was always good for provocation. The museum's curator, Said el-Ghelthy, also takes visitors around town on a "Salme promenade" sharing memorable episodes of her life.

Princess Salme Museum
Emerson on Hurumzi Hotel
Mon - Sat, 10 am - 4 pm



5 Natural History
DUSTY BUT
HEART-WARMING

It feels like stepping into 1925, when the museum first opened its wooden shutters – with the dust on the shelves having accumulated since then. Glass cabinets hold preserved fish and coral. **A stuffed leopard (photo) proves that these animals once roamed around on the isle.** Old maps show Zanzibar's changing coastline, a few specimens of butterflies still cling to the wall. You could be tempted to call the time-ridden collection poor, but you may settle for finding it heart-touching with its warnings about overfishing and mangrove loss. Generations of Zanzibari school kids have seen their first turtle (alive and outside) and snakes (dead and in bottles) here. The museum was recently overhauled but the creek of the floorboards is still part of the experience.

Natural History Museum Zanzibar
Creek Road, Stone Town
Mon - Sat, 9 am - 5 pm

1 Freddie Mercury SHY ROCK STAR

The sea breeze along Kenyatta Road carries faint echoes of "Bohemian Rhapsody." The unassuming 50s style Stone Town home, now bookable as holiday apartments by the Tembo Hotel, is where Farrokh Bulsara spent his boyhood before becoming Freddie Mercury. Queen's electrifying frontman. Step past the ticket desk and into a world of photographs, rare performance footage, flamboyant stage outfits, a grand piano, of course, and letters revealing the shy Zanzibari schoolboy behind the rock god. **The museum opened in 2019, 18 years after Mercury died of AIDS at the age of 45,** and has become one of the most sought after Instagram-able locations (main photo) in the historic quarter. Born 1946, the rock star spent most of his childhood in Zanzibar. His father, a Parsi and Zoroastrian by religion, had immigrated from India. He worked as a cashier at the High Court; the family being a typical

example of multicultural Zanzibar. From the island's spice-scented air to London's neon glare, the exhibits trace a journey of ambition, identity, and unstoppable music. The playlist? Naturally - pure Queen.

Freddie Mercury Museum
Kenyatta Road, Stone Town
Daily, 9 am - 6 pm



6 Kibweni Palace
INSIDE ROYAL
LIVING ROOMS

North of Stone Town, the whitewashed Kibweni Palace gazes out to sea as it has for nearly two centuries. Built as Sultan Seyyid Said's summer retreat in 1915, its rooms once echoed with royal banquets and political councils. Today, exhibits include carved Zanzibari furniture, the living rooms of several generations of the Sultans' dynasty, Persian rugs, and diplomatic gifts from around the world – including an original oil painting of Empress Sissy of Austria. **As long as the historic House of Wonder and the Palace Museum remain closed,** Kibweni is being used to showcase Zanzibar's collected treasures. Horse stables and the fine location (photo) are part of the museum's allure: A veranda offers a view of the same waters the sultan's shows once sailed.

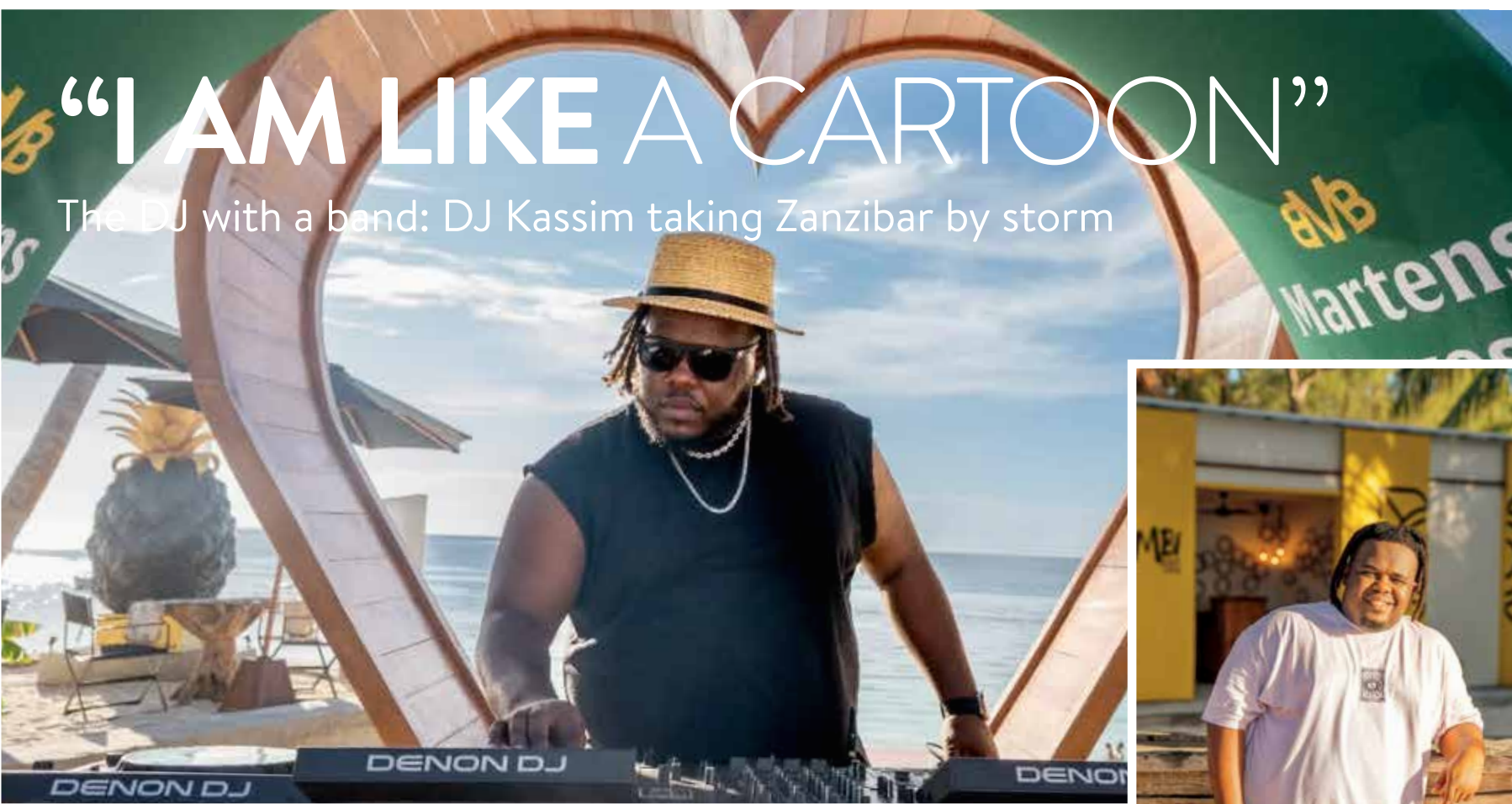
Kibweni Palace Museum
Kibweni, 4 km north of Stone Town
Daily, 8 am - 5 pm



7 Tanzanite
RARER THAN
DIAMONDS

A hush falls as you enter this free museum: deep-blue gems gleam beneath spotlights like droplets of midnight sky. Tanzanite, rarer than diamonds and found only in Tanzania's Mererani Hills, **was first discovered in 1967 and named by Tiffany & Co.** The tiny but attractive museum offers a learning journey about the stone's geological origin during which visitors find themselves in a cave-like replica mine (photo). The exhibition explains the stone's shifting hues (blue in sunlight, violet under lamplight), and displays some jewellery alongside raw crystals and mining gear - of course you may buy yourself a Tanzanite ring in an adjacent shop, or in dozen others in town. The museum is a lesson in geology, economics, and human obsession with beauty.

Tanzanite Museum Zanzibar
Shangani Street, Stone Town
Daily, 9 am - 8 pm, free entrance



In demand everywhere: from popular Nanasi Beach Club (photo above) to the exquisite private beach area of Zuri Hotel in Nungwi (small photo), DJ Kassim aka DJ KCM is one of Zanzibar's most wanted entertainment artists

By Andrea Tapper

When turntables alone started boring him, he looked for some musicians. And formed Zanzibar's best band.

We have a date and he is punctual to the minute. We have been wondering where to do the interview, and he has prepared a comfortable setting in his mini bus taking us to his beach gig at one of Zanzibar's most upmarket hotels, the Zuri in Nungwi. Nowadays, Kassim Barak Harith, better known as DJ KCM, has to juggle appointments

like a top manager. The 34-year-old, instantly recognizably by his warm smile and room-filling stature, nods to his size: "I'm like a cartoon", he frankly remarks while I take out my notebook, "short dreadlocks, a little bit fat, it's easy to make a drawing of me." Here's a man at ease with himself. He is in demand, he is popular and he is capable. And we have not even talked about his beats yet! No wonder, DJ Kassim is the most booked group on the isle (and is also performing at the new Futopia festival). Sometimes he shows up alone, sometimes with a nine-man band, sometimes with just four musicians - it's a matter of payment, he confesses to me. Even with a band of their stature and appeal, musicians can be happy to receive fifty dollars each

for a full night performance here. KCM's sound is rooted in Afrobeats, swelling in waves like a rising tide, filling up beach bars and dance floors from Fumba Town to the East and West coast. Like listening to a hummingbird coming closer, fascinated audiences stop chatting and start following his sound as soon as he is at the mixing desk. Similar to early Café del Mar tunes, his music lulls you in, embraces lonely souls with a warm acoustic shawl on a chilly night. One of his best tunes, "Move On", is underpinned with famous Denzel Washington lines: "If you are rejected, accept it." Is Kassim sentimental? "No, I'm quite rooted", says the father of three dryly, a Zanzibari to the core.

him than just an appetite for electronics. "My dad has always been into Latin jazz and reggae, it was playing at home all the time, that kickstarted my interest in music", the DJ says. The result of his fusional upbringing, so to speak, is not surprising: "I'm a traditional man but also a techno man", he says and points to a ganun, a harp-like typical Zanzibari instrument crafted by his father, holding a place of honour in his high-tech studio.

As a qualified IT-Manager, sound engineer and producer, Kassim Harith is interested "in any new technology", he says, a talent which has helped him to earn his daily bread. He has set up sound systems all over the island, the latest at the popular Nanasi beach club in Nungwi. Simultaneously, his artistic side matured: "Already as a teenager I took my laptop everywhere. One day my friends brought me to Mende beach, the DJ was drunk and I took over", he joyfully remembers: "When I was twenty, DJ Kassim was born."

"I'm a traditional man but also a techno man"

Meanwhile, the turntable master with beats as well-rounded and inviting as his personality, has played in Berlin, Frankfurt and in the Dubai Marina "but only on private holidays", as he modestly adds.

Greedy DJs
Of late he has been struggling with his art. "What is a DJ?", he asks. "In



Kassim and his band performing in Fumba Town against the backdrop of a spectacular sunset at Kwetu Kwetu Chill

THE LUXURY RACE: WHO WINS?

By staff writer

Should Zanzibar become like the Maldives? The government says yes. Names of newly planned high-class tourism attractions come up constantly. Three ventures seem to stand the best chance of realisation – we have checked-in with their creators.

The Burj
WORLD'S
TALLEST TIMBER
TOWER

The highest-priced units were gone first. If you have been dreaming of a lavish penthouse with pool and roof garden on the 20th or 21th floor, high above Zanzibar – too late! At \$1.15 million each, they've already sold out. But a few beautifully furnished studios (from \$152,000), one and two-bedroom apartments, and a little-less posh penthouses at half a million dollars are still available. Launched at the end of 2022 in Muscat, the green super tower almost 100 metres high – part of eco city Fumba Town at the west coast – is expected to be breaking ground at the beginning of next year, developer CPS announced. More than 50 per cent of 136 apartments have been sold.

Canopy by Hilton is to occupy seven floors with 160 rooms at the bottom. The young, more casual brand is included in Hilton's 173-million member guest loyalty program, which could bring a substantial new wave of upmarket guests to Fumba and Zanzibar. Once realised, Burj Zanzibar would be Africa's first high-rise ever in innovative hybrid timber technology. Any doubts? "We have secured a top international building consortium" assures CPS CEO Sebastian Dietzold, "we are ready to go."

Budget: \$90 million
Expected completion: 2028

Anantara Zanzibar
TWO
WEEKS PER
YEAR FREE

The future Anantara Zanzibar is showcasing its terraced lagoon property with a large 3D-model in the departure lounge of Zanzibar's airport. It's not clear how many buyers have discovered the luxury project here, but developer Samuel Saba from Dubai – who recently became known through his Stone Town conservation efforts – said that half of the planned 255 rooms, apartments and villas have been sold to a "surprisingly international crowd from Ireland to Dubai, India to Brazil." Although construction has just started, he is targeting a 2027 debut. **A show unit will be ready this year,** he said. The densely built Anantara luxury units will occupy 12.7 hectares near Mnemba island on the north-east coast of Zanzibar. Prices begin at \$350,000 for a suite to \$2.5 million for a villa. Investors can bank on high returns and spend two weeks per year for free in their property fully managed as a hotel by Anantara; the resort plans six restaurants and bars.

Budget: \$170-200 million
Expected opening: 2027

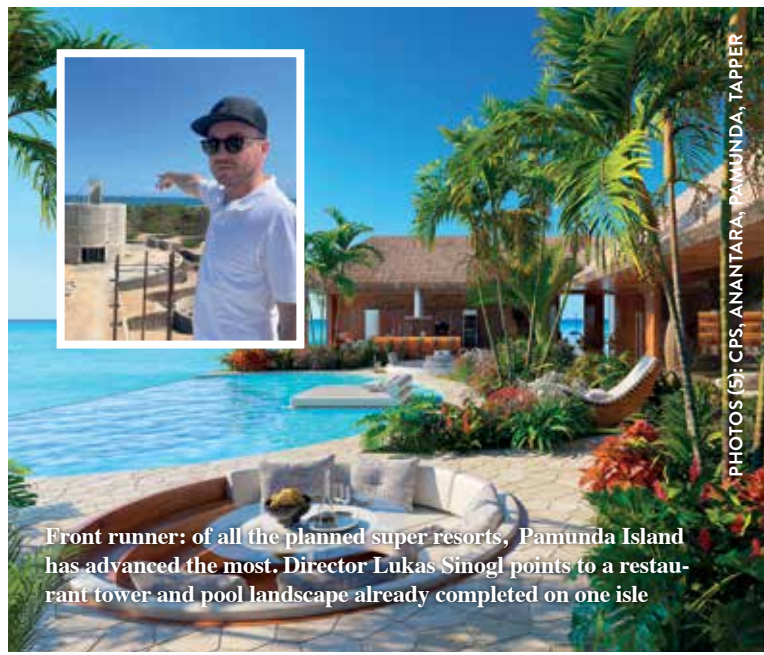
Pamunda Islands
ZIP-LINE FROM
ONE ISLAND TO
ANOTHER

On Pamunda, total privacy is the real luxury. A cigar lounge is ready, a desalination plant underway, as are 5,000 square metres solar panels. On Pamunda A and B, connected via a zip-line and a string of water villas, 240 staff will take care of maximum fifty guests on 11 hectares of land. When visiting Pamunda, one can already see the massive concrete pattern of a pool landscape covering an entire island, framed by fortress-like bungalows on the edges. We are standing on top of a three-storey bar tower, below us unfolds the holiday world of the future.

Budget: \$50 million
Expected opening: 2028



Privacy à la Anantara: Bungalow-type lagoon suites feature a complete glass front, explains developer Samuel Saba from Dubai



Front runner of all the planned super resorts, Pamunda Island has advanced the most, Director Lukas Sinogl points to a restaurant tower and pool landscape already completed on one isle

“GREEN IS OUR CURRENCY”

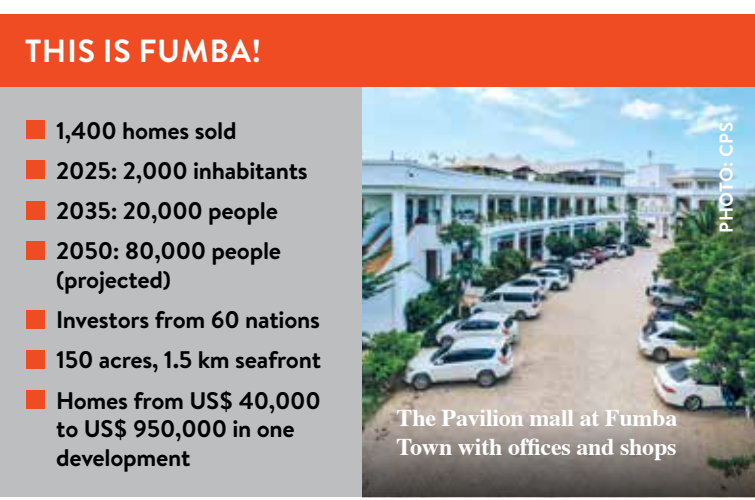
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Ten years Fumba Town: A lot of progress has been made but there were (and are) also manifold challenges. Endless bottlenecks at the port for construction material, mishaps with contractors. The

aggressive tropical climate eating away at facades which had to be repainted earlier than thought. Street lights are still in the making, as are street names, but an artificial beach with ocean access and a pool have been created – much to the pleasure of residents. And the vision remained intact: "It was always clear that we wanted to

be different from any conventional housing projects. To be green and family friendly is our currency", says Katrin Dietzold, mother of four and a political scientist by profession. The eco approach is ubiquitous: ten years after the start, a canopy of 150 local plant and tree species covers the town, and has grown to about five metres height, cooling down temperatures by up to six degrees. A growing number of houses built with engineered timber are binding Co2. In-house composting and recycling with affiliated companies take care of around 80 per cent of

household waste. Permaculture masterplanners Franko and Bernadette Goehse, from Germany and the Philippines respectively, have carved the very foundation of Fumba Town practically out of mother earth. "We crushed coral stone, shredded bush and spread out cardboard to turn it into soil", they recall the early days. And the biggest green highlight is yet to come: the 27-floor Burj Zanzibar, aspiring to become the highest engineered timber tower in the world. Breaking ground is expected next year. Fumba Town seems ready for the next chapter.



THIS IS FUMBA!

- 1,400 homes sold
- 2025: 2,000 inhabitants
- 2035: 20,000 people
- 2050: 80,000 people (projected)
- Investors from 60 nations
- 150 acres, 1.5 km seafront
- Homes from US\$ 40,000 to US\$ 950,000 in one development

The Pavilion mall at Fumba Town with offices and shops

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First floor, left Wing
The Pavillion, Fumba Town

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TIMELINE ISLAND CITY RISING

It's official: launch of Fumba Town, first show units, sales start. Permaculture takes off in Fumba and Zanzibar

2016

Party time! First Open House Day attracts large crowds with artists performing on the construction site

2017

Emotional: First house handover by Zanzibar's former president Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein to a UK couple; first residents moving in, Fumba comes alive

2018

We like infrastructure: Urban Care Clinic, playground, and cafe Kwetu Kwenu Play open

THE FUMBA TIMES launched, The Soul Paje goes on sale

2019

Corona : virus closes down Zanzibar - but only for 3 months; Fumba Town survives with virtual handovers

2020

Market time! 1st Kwetu Kwenu community market, now taking place every first Saturday of the month

Building diversifies: first Mwangani apartments handed over

500 units sold, 200 residents live in town

2021

Milestone: 1,000 units sold! Pavilion mall and beach restaurant Kwetu Kwenu Chill open

2022

Burj Zanzibar, with 27 floors to become the highest timber skyscraper in the world, is launched

Sauti za Busara music festival gets first spin-off in Fumba

2023

First supermarket opens

2024

1,400 houses sold, 800 built, 2,000 people live in Fumba Town

First Mural Festival

2025

Good news for foreign buyers: residence permits granted for investments above US\$ 100,000

Paje Square goes on sale

“HOW IT ALL STARTED...”



One family, one team: the board of developer CPS with Sebastian Dietzold, his wife Katrin and his brother Tobias

By Sebastian Dietzold

For him and his family Fumba is not just a project but a matter of the heart. The CEO of developer CPS remembers how it all began - on the wild peninsula of Fumba in Zanzibar

There were no tourists, few houses, no roads, hardly anything to talk about in Fumba ten years ago. When you told someone in Stone Town that you were going to the peninsula which is, by the way, exactly the size of Manhattan, they'd dismiss the idea: "What do you want there? There is nothing!" Tourism had started late



This is where the Fumba story begins. Two show bungalows on barren soil, but with sea views. Sceptical visitors asked: "Are you really gonna build a town here?"

2016



The Permaculture Institute is standing, the cradle of a whole green movement in Zanzibar

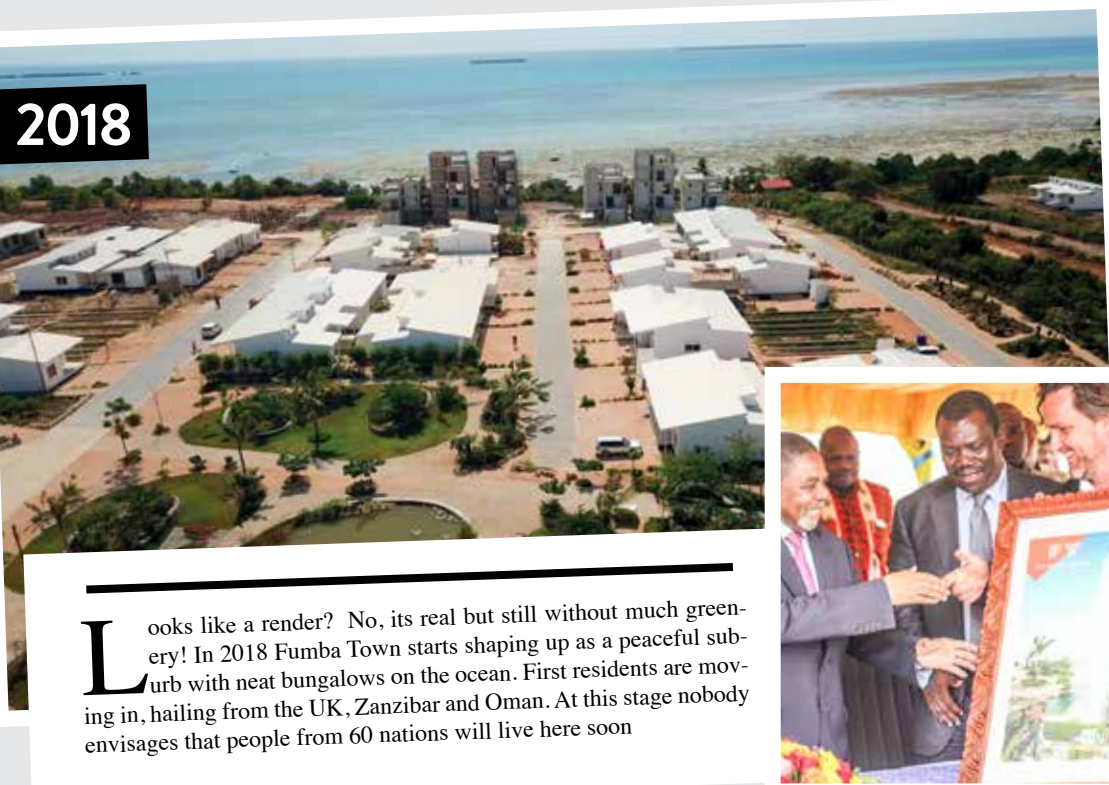
2017



Wow, a fountain pond! Sebastian Dietzold taking VIP visitors around during Open House day

From the start, Fumba has been a cultural town, supporting arts and music on many levels. During the first Open House day in 2017, construction sites turned into studios with late architect Arnout van Marmeren and his wife showcasing paintings (photo above) and drawings

2018



Looks like a render? No, its real but still without much greenery! In 2018 Fumba Town starts shaping up as a peaceful suburb with neat bungalows on the ocean. First residents are moving in, hailing from the UK, Zanzibar and Oman. At this stage nobody envisages that people from 60 nations will live here soon

Former president Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein (photo, left) hands over the first house in Fumba and gets a gift

fishermen, now proudly working for our security firm "Fortitude Total Security" (FTS)!

But to talk about how it all started, I have to rewind even further. My brother Tobias, my sister Friederike and I grew up in East Africa. We moved to the slopes of the Kilimanjaro with our parents shortly after the fall of the wall in Germany. As a pastor, my father had been active in the famous Monday protests in Germany eventually leading to reunification of the country. And only when that happened, could he leave East Germany.

Learning Swahili in Arusha

Him and my mum accepted a missionary posting near Arusha - we learnt our Swahili there and went to the international school. I was 15 years old, my brother seven - the years in Africa have obviously shaped us. We eventually returned to Germany to study civil and electrical engineering, made our first money in real estate, but the pull of Tanzania brought us back to Zanzibar in 2011, with a vague idea to build real estate here.

Faced with the geopolitical changes, Zanzibar had received its own wake-up call at the time, opening up to tourism. When the government approached us to develop an affordable housing project for the rapidly growing population in Zanzibar - it was like a dream come true! Exactly what we had in mind! Fumba, mostly without beach but a typical mangrove and coral cliff west-shore coastline, had been earmarked as a free economic zone conveniently placed near the capital.

Months under a mango tree

Our first negotiating partner was Salum Nassour, ex-boss of the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIIPA), an institution we are still dealing with today. Days, weeks and months we spent

under a mango tree - still standing at the entrance road into Fumba - discussing conditions with village leaders and former Sheha Katibu Ame. During these years from 2012 to 2014, I was certainly glad that I had learnt Swahili in Arusha!

On 31 August 2015 the deal stood - the most important passage: We could "sell to Tanzanians and anybody else on the basis of 99-year lease title deeds". A huge step forward! Legislation was changed for that, and many times after. I think it's correct to say that the government and us developed many crucial improvements for real estate and foreign investment in Zanzibar together. It has been a huge learning curve for everybody, maybe slow at times, but we are deeply thankful for the support given, all the doors opened. We even negotiated for a ferry to operate between Fumba Town and Dar es Salaam, a highlight we are still waiting for...

Have we ever expected the "housing project" of the early days to become a full blown town? Well, we grew into it. Paying compensation to each and every one of 154 small scale farmers on the land, test-drilling to check the ground and water quality, erecting the first two show houses, one in stone, one in wood - these were the early days, with cornerstones of our philosophy already visible: an equitable, all-inclusive, green urban development. The trust people gave us was overwhelming. I remember my first sales tour to Muscat - an obvious destination given the long

history of Zanzibar as an Omani sultanate. Omanis were lining-up to sign purchase agreements, they trusted a German developer! Events speeded up: the first house hand-over in the presence of the former President Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein; the palpable excitement of the new owners, an Omani couple from the UK. Our first Open House day showcasing the construction site to the public. Bands performing on house foundations: a clear omen of Fumba becoming a major cultural magnet.

The opening of the much-loved Kwetu Kwenu café at a newly built roundabout. Hiring staff with job descriptions unheard of: "permaculture gardener", "assistant town manager", "sales receptionist". It's impossible for me to name here all the true companions found, friends made, colleagues and employees won in the process. Fact is, we were not only working, but actually living together. We opened our first offices in townhouses, improvising every day.

Our growing CPS family has always had a knack for parties, missing no occasion to celebrate, marking every milestone. In the early days, everyone knew everyone in town, a new car entering the vicinity was eyed suspiciously. We held family and company barbecues right on the Kwetu Kwenu roundabout! We used the impressive backdrop of the Mao Zedong football Stadium in Michenzani for a glamour event to introduce our newly designed CheiChei apartments - a low-price gem for local Zanzibari. When we

2019



"To be green and family friendly is important for us", says Katrin Dietzold, wife of Sebastian Dietzold and one of the three directors of developer CPS. Community services started early: children explore adobe playgrounds, the new Urban Care clinic organises first blood donations in 2019

VIPs come calling: world famous environmentalist Jane Goodall holds a lecture in Fumba, residents, young and old, love her

had sold 1,000 units, we booked a brass band.

New ideas, new houses! Mwangani apartments followed townhouses when it became clear that we need to build with more density for more inhabitants. Timber Vizazi Homes complemented Bustani villas when luxury developed into green luxury. Of course: there were endless challenges and mistakes made. Contractors who did not live up to quality standards. Building sand turning a scarcity for years; window frames stuck at the port for months. Corona leading to virtual handovers!

But we are still here and we are growing by the day. With our most ambitious project yet in the pipeline - the 27-floor Burj Zanzibar, an engineered timber construction to become the tallest timber building in the world - we are certainly neither running out of ideas nor at the end of our mission! The future challenges of Fumba Town? In my opinion, the task is threefold: to continue creating a proper framework for decent urbanisation in Africa, to invite other developers to join the effort, and to keep focussing on green technology for affordable homes.

What is best in Fumba?

People often ask me: What is the best of Fumba? "The fact that children can safely play in the neighbourhood without any supervision", a resident mum once told me, and my wife would agree. My wife Katrin, my brother Tobias and I have steered the evergrowing ship named Fumba Town (and Paje, and other projects) together and I am hugely thankful for it. Also for the never-waning support of our parents, our sister Friederike and of many friends. What is best in Fumba? People from over 60 nations living peacefully together, some say. The evening breeze. The sunset. Safety. Residence permits for foreigners. Investment possibilities. An ecological future. I'd say: If Fumba stands for all that, we can't be wrong.

2020



Of course, a town can't exist without a cafe! Kwetu Kwenu kiosk becomes the social heart of Fumba; permaculturists Franko and Bernadette Goelbe nurture the community with organic juices while elegance moves in - the first chic Bustani villas go on sale

2021



CPS is always good for unusual ideas and a warm smile: employees wearing Emirati hats during a grand reception to launch CheiChei houses at the Mao Zedong football stadium, while first timber Vizazi homes get ready.

2022

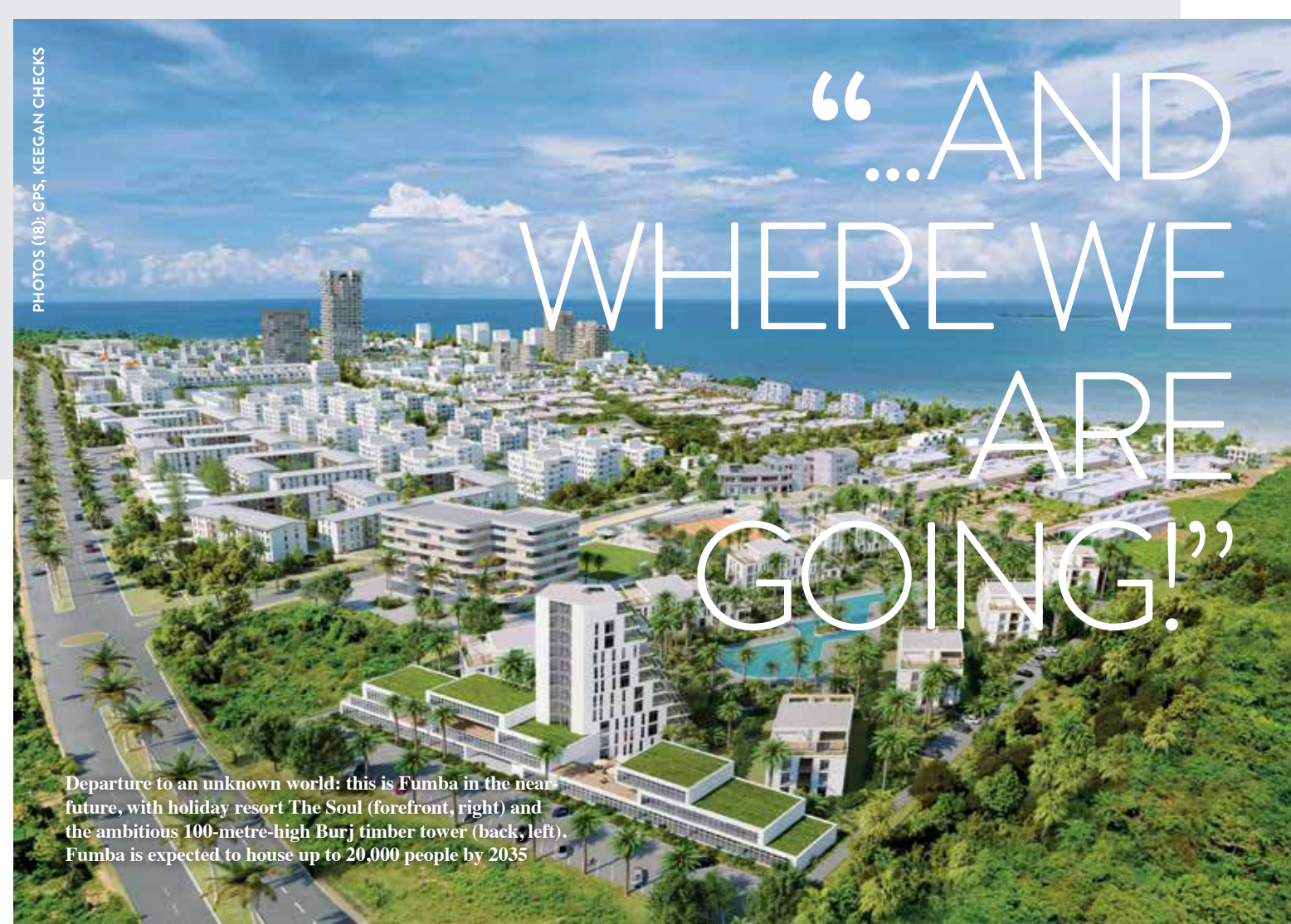


2025



Progress has many faces: the long awaited Pavilion mall opened in 2022. Quirky beach restaurant KK Chill, constructed with a wooden deck above the ocean in the same year, is today one of the main attractions in Fumba Town for visitors from near and far

PHOTOS (l-r): CPS, KEEGAN CHECKS



Departure to an unknown world: this is Fumba in the near future, with holiday resort The Soul (foreground, right) and the ambitious 100-metre-high Burj timber tower (back, left). Fumba is expected to house up to 20,000 people by 2035

“...AND WHERE WE ARE GOING!”

READER'S LETTERS

“Where are you?”

Of late, we have not seen THE FUMBA TIMES at some of our favourite restaurant spots on the East coast, although we love reading it and get all our local news from it. What happened?

Susan and Ali the bear, Bwejuu

Dear Susan and Ali, sorry to hear that, we are aware of copies taken quickly (which we like) and have initiated faster replacement - Ed.

Always grateful!

We are always pleased to receive THE FUMBA TIMES for our customers and for ourselves. We can't imagine being without it. Best reads are tourism news and people stories. Keep it up! Management, The Box



News for guests at The Box

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CRAFTING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Neema: built on empathy and good taste

PHOTOS (L-R) NEEMA, NDEVU, ROCKY, AT

Creative chances: disabled workers at Neema Craft in Iringa produce some of the finest and most sought-after furniture in the country



Local design

By staff writer

Looking for cosy cushions, stylish lamp shades or casual furniture for your home? Once you spot the label “Neema”, don’t go any further.

In Iringa’s ochre-light afternoons, a low hum of looms, lathes and laughter spills from Neema Crafts - a workshop where modern Tanzanian design is crafted exclusively by workers with disabilities, and where good taste doubles as social change. The company, founded as a church project in 2003, employs more than 115 male and female craft talents in their centre in central Tanzania, in weaving, tailoring, carpentry and paper workshops. Neema design is popular all over the country, it’s a success story built on empathy, commitment and good taste. Over the years, it has become financially self-sustaining, its wages and overheads covered by sales.

Empathy & good taste

It all started in 2003 when a British couple, Susie Hart and her husband Andy, affiliated with the Anglican Diocese of Ruaha, recognised the need to provide training and employment for people with physical disabilities. Susie Hart herself was born with a disability and had spent much of her youth in a wheelchair. They began training three young deaf artisans, pulping maize leaves and elephant dung into beautiful handmade paper for the first Neema product. After the Harts, directors Ben and Katy Ray shepherded more than a decade of product expansion, and today Joseph and Hannah Adams are refining operations at Neema with an engineer’s eye and a designer’s heart.

The paper cards made out of elephant dung are still a bestseller but “meanwhile we use our screen printing for lots of inhouse fabrics”, explains Hannah Adams, as she takes visitors around. Neema has become more than a shop. It is a destination. The centre’s café, Iringa’s unofficial living room, serves coffee and simple lunches on a balcony; the adjacent guesthouse invites slow travel with conscience. Visitors shop, eat, stay, and, crucially, meet the makers whose names are on the tags.

Textiles by the metre

Home-design aficionados head straight to the carpentry department, established in 2012. Think sculptural lamp bases, fabric-diffusing shades, and tables that lean into clean lines with subtle Zanzibari carving. Textiles, which can be bought by the metre, are very popular and can be used for wall screens, upholstering or whatever material dream you may have for your home. Screen-printed cushions pop with contemporary patterns; woven throws deliver chunky texture. Neema - meaning grace in Swahili - has become a full-fledged design house and community hub, living proof that inclusion can be both elegant and entrepreneurial.

You find Neema shops in Iringa, at Slipway in Dar es Salaam and online. The boutique Kurniko in Stone Town also sells Neema products (neemacrafts.com)

Bestsellers: lamps and cushions in subtle colours and design

A good match: handcrafted Neema chairs, with naturally-woven non-scratchy seat cushions - a modern and refined look

NDEVU: FINE FURNITURE IN FUMBA



Trendy round sofas, now available in Fumba Town

From Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar: Jesse Clemence, owner of Ndevu Furniture, known by regular customers for his versatile home furniture and cool accessories, has just opened Fumba Town’s first furniture shop. Bringing his trademark “everything can be customised” philosophy to the Pavilion mall, he showcases rounded bouclé sofas, wood furniture, wickerwork sideboards, cute lamps, great bedsheets, towels and much more. Décor pieces are sold on the ground floor. Any furniture piece can be varied in shape, format and material and made to order, explained the designer, who produces in Dar and purchases from Turkey and Dubai. Fair prices and short delivery times of only two to three weeks are bound to please not only Fumba residents!

Ndevu Furniture, WhatsApp +255 658 470 470

ROCKY: FROM DHOWS TO MODERNITY



Furniture and deco heaven: Rocky's shop in Mpendae Mall

There can hardly be an interior fan who has not yet bought one of the small signature side tables made of a tree trunk at Rocky furniture. A longtime regular at the monthly Kwetu Kweni community market, designer and carpenter Dickson Wilfred Kaaya, 32, simply known as Rocky, now runs a fully stocked one-stop interior showroom at the Mpendae Mall in Mombasa. He was recently chosen to create interior design for The Soul holiday apartments in Paje. Originally an electrician by profession, he can also help with light installations. From sunbeds, dhow-furniture, fifties-style side boards to artsy modern-chairs with rattan or strings – Rocky’s got it all. A quality teak sideboard with sliding doors, for instance, comes at a price of TZS 800,000.

Rocky furniture: 0762 763 454

IMARA: A STYLISH TOUCH



Outdoor flare: Horizon show unit in Fumba Town with Imara design

Her new shop is an instant eye-catcher on Airport Road. Tiny as it is, Imara Boutique with its notable wooden front design, probably houses Zanzibar’s most warm and timeless décor collection. Zanzibari owner Sameera Al-Mugheiry curates and purchases her lovable deco items - from classy black and white ceramic vases to lemon-themed accessories - in Dubai as well as Tanzania. “My collection is built with heart and soul”, she says. “Imara was born from a long-held dream to bring softness, scent, and serenity into everyday spaces.” Every item, from incense burners to stunning makrame cushion covers “will help people to feel grounded, inspired, and at peace in their homes.” Sameera launched her business a year ago – for fans of home design it has since become a must-stop. Imara design also shines at new show units in Fumba Town.

Imara, Kiembe Samaki, 0712 051 469

TWO PERFECT WEEKEND ESCAPES

Travel tips for 48 hours in Nungwi and the East Coast



PHOTOS (L-R) Z HOTEL, APPER, EDUYS, BASIL, NURU

#north

By Cristina Franco and Andrea Tapper

There’s nothing like a change of scenery – even in beautiful Zanzibar. With lots of new places and improved roads, it’s time to explore.

Zanzibar’s two most noteworthy coastlines – the North with Nungwi and Kendwa, and the South-East with about 30 km of beach from Jambiani to Michamwi – have a distinctively different flair and atmosphere. Let’s begin at the wild, wild north - a mix of corporate reign, action-packed Nungwi and almost tide-free ocean bliss. Nungwi has a shining new star: the Z2 hotel, a second-row annex to the classic Z (soon to also open a lodge in Serengeti) is a destination in itself. Bali bamboo beds, a deep-blue natural tanga stone pool and great horse riding - let yourself be absorbed by the Z cosmos. We start the weekend with fine dining at Sexy Fish, have a good 5 km walk to Kendwa the next morning (only at low tide) and book a fisherman boat back. Enjoying a make-over at Z’s sky spa in the afternoon, we happily dose off during our outdoor manicure. Afternoon shopping at modern Morocco Lounge elevates us from Zanzibar’s unbearable look-alike street shops; we stock up on playful necklaces. For sunset, we hurry to Mama Mia’s wooden sundowner terraces, winding up with delicious Tuna Tataki. Come Sunday, we’re ready to face the rest of the world, settling onto super-comfy sunbeds at Nungwi’s Nanas beach club – just remember to close your eyes and ears when the notorious jet ski approach to spoil the beauty.

OUR NORTH COAST PICKS

SLEEP
Z2 hotel

EAT
Fine dining @Sexy Fish; Mama Mia, Badolina

SHOPPING
Morokko Lounge
Nungwi Park & Coffee Bar (plus a real bar!)

ENTERTAINMENT
Nanasi Beach Club
Sunset@Mama Mia

#east

Paje (most advanced), Jambiani and Bwejuu. At lunchtime, Babu welcomes us back for a swim and siesta. In the afternoon it’s facials’ time at Nuru Spa, Zanzibar’s most casual spa. Glowing, we head for dinner at Shanga, a trendy beach restaurant cum club. Last on our list is shopping at Cilantro and a bite at the new Jambiani Bazaar, before hitting the great new road back to town.

OUR EAST COAST PICKS

SLEEP
Babu Villas, Blue Oyster, The Soul

EAT
Basil, Bamboo, Boho Social (Michamwi)

ENTERTAINMENT
Shanga (good food AND fun!), B4, Bento food court

RELAX & STAY FIT
Nuru Spa, Malum cave, Muscle Beach

Going east: more privacy, more cosy - that’s the East Coast. You can rent private seafront properties like the comfortable Babu Villas (photo left) at affordable prices directly on the beach. New Basil Asian restaurant by Kim Nguyen from Vietnam (photo centre) and just relocated Nuru Spa are a must!



INSIDE FUMBA TOWN TRUE STORY OF NEW RESIDENTS



PHOTOS (L-R) KEEGAN CHECKS, TAPPER

At home in Fumba: Stephanie Amerman and her son Xavier, 3, at the spacious kitchen counter of her seafront villa

“ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES”

Middle East, Asia, Africa: Stephanie Amerman, 37, certainly has a travel gene in her DNA. But in Fumba, she found a home for her family.

What brought you to Fumba Town?

When my husband was hired by a hotel in Uroa, I applied for a position in Fumba and The Soul in Paje, and got the job. I was so happy, it seems it was meant to be! Before I was working at the well-known Nomad’s in Kenya, also a lovely place.

What’s your profession?

I graduated in business and finance in 2015, and have worked in the hospitality sector ever since. Here in Zanzibar, I am head of operations within the new town management of Fumba and The Soul.

Born in Florida, you have lived mostly abroad. Why?

Indeed. 15 years in the Middle East, Asia, Africa. I met my husband, who is Italian, in Doha. I guess I just like to keep moving! But now as a parent it’s also wonderful to carve a home for my family in Zanzibar.

Was it difficult to leave your friends behind during all your travelling?

When you connect as an expat, it’s different. You form friendships for life. You keep visiting each other. The hardest part really is family. I miss them.

What stands out for you in Fumba?

You can make an impact here.

And on the private side?

It’s a great place to raise a kid. The library, the playground.

Like mother like son: Stephanie and her boy love swimming in their pool in Fumba

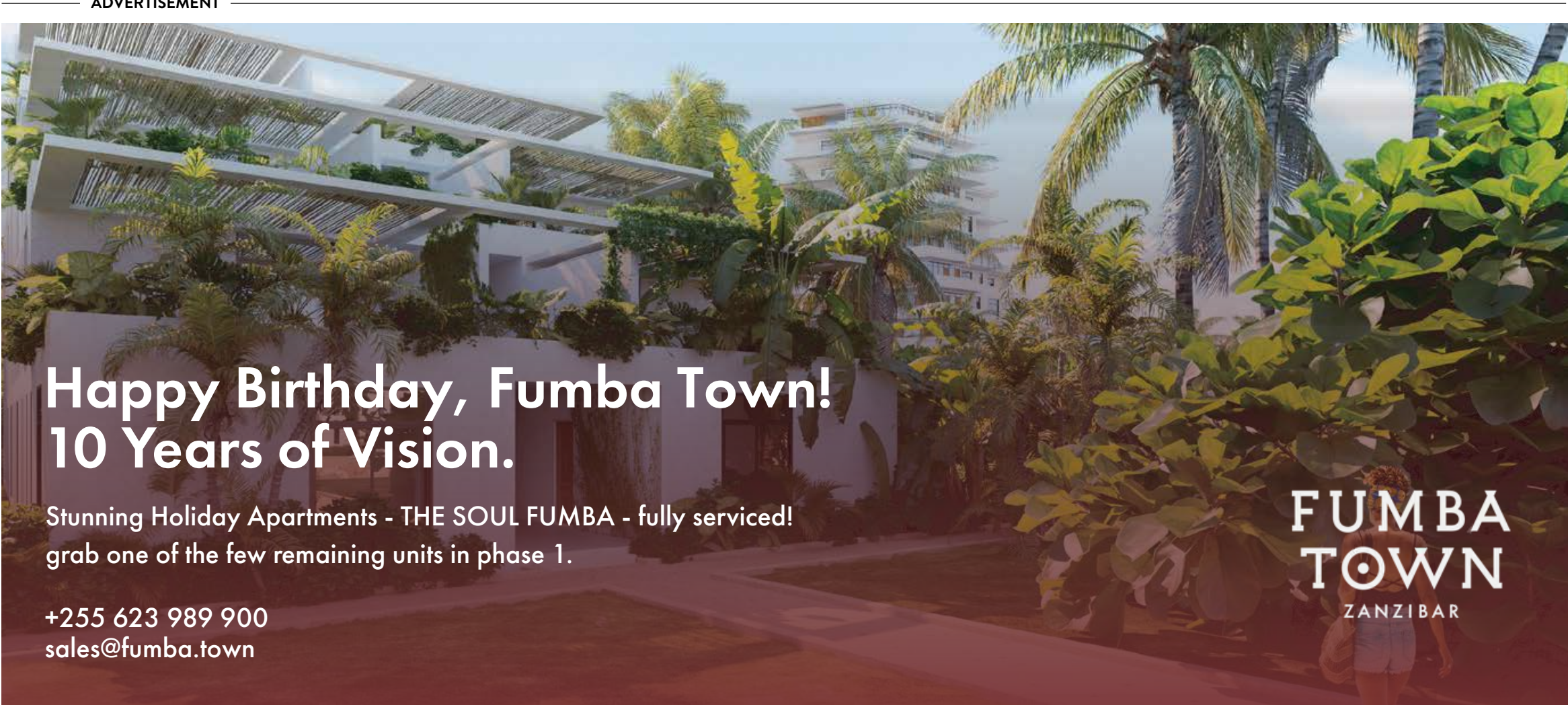


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READERS' QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY OUR OWN MEDICAL EXPERT

A NEW DENTIST IN TOWN

Samantha Rubin, 42, Fumba Town

Dear Dr. Jenny, I usually have my annual check-up and dental hygiene appointments in England during my home visit. Now I heard that we have a top dentist in Fumba Town who can do all that! This would relieve me of some very unwanted but necessary dental dates when on home leave. Can you kindly specify?

Dr. Areti Arvaniti answers:

Dear Samantha, Thank you for reaching out to us and welcome to our dental office in Fumba Town. My name is Dr. Areti Arvaniti and I am a qualified dentist originally from Greece. I have been practising for a long time in Kiwengwa and I have now added my services in Fumba, too. To answer your question right away: You don't have to travel all the way to England to get your check-ups and professional cleanings done because we provide a wide range of high-quality treatments in a calm and caring environment, using both modern techniques and holistic approaches.

Annual check-ups

From annual check-ups, professional cleanings and bleaching to fillings, root canals and periodontal treatments (inflammation of the gums and bone) - we cover it all. Regarding payments, most insurances cover pain management and simple treatments. A professional cleaning of the teeth costs USD 90 with us. If you are in need of a crown or a tooth needs to be extracted and the gap closed with a bridge or an implant, you also are

in good hands at our dental office. We work with laboratories and surgeons in Europe and in Dar es Salaam to meet the high standards and expectations of all our patients. On top of that we are also specialised in orthodontics, aesthetic and functional dentistry as well as acupuncture and naturopathy. If you have any questions or require treatment concerning straight teeth, veneers or suffer from temporomandibular joint disorders (TMJ

disorders such as grinding, clenching, pain in jaw, etc.) please feel free to contact us.

For patients who prefer a more natural or complementary approach, we offer dental acupuncture and naturopathic support. These treatments can be helpful for managing pain, reducing anxiety, and supporting overall wellness.

Special treats for kids

Last but not least we are off course well trained in taking care of our little patients by meeting them with patience in a calm and friendly environment. So, whether you are coming in for a routine visit, cosmetic improvement, or a holistic consultation, you will receive care that is thoughtful, professional, and personalised. We are looking forward to meeting you in our dental office!

BEST DENTIST AT URBAN CARE CLINIC

The Urban Care clinic is situated at the Pavilion in Fumba Town and provides medical services 24/7.

Dentist appointments
Dr. Areti Arvaniti
Urban Care Clinic
Phone: +255622820011
contact@urbancare.clinic

PHOTOS (L-R) STOCK, URBAN CARE



PHOTOS (7): HORSE SAFARIS, DANIEL SACK / THE EQUATORIAL, K.CHECKS, TOURISM & INVEST. SHOW

“MY ISLAND IS FASCINATING”

My ZANZIBAR

In this column, THE FUMBA TIMES asks residents and prominent fans of the island to show us Zanzibar through their eyes – from personal happy places to must-try-restaurants and standout attractions. This time we present insider tips by none other than Zanzibar’s Tourism Minister Mudrik R. Soraga

Tourism Minister Hon. Mudrik R. Soraga

Horseriding, sky-diving, scuba diving – Zanzibar’s young and agile Minister of Tourism and Heritage is a sports fan. Before becoming tourism minister one-and-a-half years ago, the father of three children was investment minister and created a resident permit for foreign investors who buy a house above \$100,000 here. The 40-year-old started his career as a diplomatic attaché in Comoros in 2009. He studied political and economic development in Idaho, US, and Arusha. For us, he parted with his best-kept secrets about top spots in Zanzibar! His office website: www.utaliismz.go.tz



#01 SWIMMING WITH TURTLES

This is my place to relax. The Salaam cave in Kizimkazi takes care of turtles and oversees the hatching of their eggs. Visitors can swim with the big gentle creatures in crystal clear water. It’s an excellent conservation project, and Kizimkazi at the south end of Zanzibar is a nice snorkelling area. We have celebrated several birthdays of our kids here. salaamcavetours.com



#02 HOME, SWEET HOME

I live with my wife Bahati and our three children in a new green city called Fumba Town near the capital and airport. Especially here in Africa, some people are surprised when they hear that as a minister I don’t live in a golden villa but in the midst of a colourful international community. My wife and I feel it’s ideal for us! We love the safety and playgrounds for our kids, the clinic and supermarket within. For us it’s authentic! And of course, as the Tourism Minister, I’m happy that many foreigners buy beautiful holiday homes here. fumba.town



#04 CULTURE CLUB

Here you see my daughters Jasmin, 10, and Leyla, 7, practising violin. Only our five-year old boy Jahim has not yet learnt to play an instrument. The other day I took them to a concert of a Russian violinist at the Hyatt. They were impressed. It’s important to expose kids to culture. And there’s lots of it in Zanzibar. For holiday makers, I’d suggest visiting the Dhow Countries Music Academy, our hot annual music festival Sauti za Busara in February and the film festival ZIFF. We Zanzibaris do love our heritage! busaramusic.org



#05 SPORT FOR EVERYBODY

I try to run five kilometres in the morning - well, I don’t succeed every day. I love snorkelling with my girls at high tide in Fumba. Kitesurfing is the big thing to do in Paje, since the sea is shallow, even beginners can’t fail. We have new padel courts in Nungwi near the airport and are building one right in Stone Town. Some travellers love spearfishing. I tried scuba-diving to understand more about overfishing – but I must admit, I like any sport!

#03 SUNDAY PICNIC ON THE FARM

I grew up on the Msonge Family Farm just outside Zanzibar City where my mum organises the most amazing Sunday picnics for visitors, with abundant organic food and a violinist playing serenades. People come from all over the world to the traditional farm-to-table feast, sitting on woven mkekas, sipping coconut water and trying original Swahili recipes from mchicha ya nazi (spinach in coconut) to barbecue chicken. Growing-up in an extended family taught me many life lessons: commitment, hard work, discipline. “Stick to the task” my mum and dad, whom you see on the photo, told us every day, a quality which has served me well even as a minister! And I learnt to care for the environment on the farm. My mother has invented a green delivery service called pakacha for Zanzibar and heads the Practical Permaculture Institute where she teaches out-of-school girls organic farming. But I know she is most happy when she can sit on the lawn on Sundays and chat with everybody! Ig: [#msongeorganicfarm](https://www.instagram.com/msongeorganicfarm) +255 754 536630



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We are sustainable, soulful., stunning - be with us.

29 - 31 August 2025
in Fumba Town, Nyamanzi



Music

Be prepared for a sound and visual explosion at Futopia, with hotly contested Cheza Mania finals, live music across three days and an upcycling fashion show.

There’s an old Swahili saying: “When the flute plays in Zanzibar, all of Africa dances.” - “I always feel inspired by the island”, says one of Tanzania’s best musicians with four albums under his belt, Damian Soul, who will bring soul and Afrohouse to the stage in Fumba on Friday. Speaking to THE FUMBA TIMES, he disclosed that he is presently building a house in Jambiani - as a holiday home and recording studio: “One of my biggest hits Tudumishe was shot here, I know Zanzibar and Fumba quite well”, said the singer with roots in Sinza in Dar es Salaam. Headliners Ben Soul from Kenya and rap activist Rosa Ree from Dar are set to get the crowd raving on Saturday, together with about a dozen top bands in total (see main stage program on the next page).

Competition is hot at the finals of mega popular nationwide dance show Cheza Mania on Sunday; six dance groups are competing, four from mainland and two from Zan-

zibar; the winner gets ten million shillings. The dancing competition is streamed live by Tanzania’s top-rated radio and TV station Clouds - with 9.4 million followers! Clouds stars Chino Kidd, Miss Loloh and Baby Drama are in the jury. Expect visibility! On a more humble note, the winners of various Futopia competitions - kid game, nyama choma grillers - are also crowned on Sunday. A fantastic ReUzi upcycling fashion show rounds up the three-day-event. What makes Zanzibar such a muse for artists? Damian Soul has an answer: “It’s the magic of the island, it brings out the talent in people.”



The Clouds dance show has 9 million viewers - finals are in Fumba!



Wellness

Wellness at a festival? How does that work out? Dr. Jenny Dietzold and beauty entrepreneur Cheherazade Cheikh explain the concept of “body positivity”.

THE FUMBA TIMES: What is body positivity?
Dr. Jenny: Body positivity goes back to the 1960s, but recent movements in the social media era - body positivity to body neutrality to fat acceptance - have brought it into mainstream focus. It’s a global conversation about accepting all body types, shapes, skin tones and physical abilities.

Cheherazade: It also encourages a positive mindset about aging celebrating the body’s capabilities at any age, and valuing our resilience and experiences.

Isn’t body feeling also a matter of culture?
Dr. Jenny: Absolutely - beauty standards vary but globalisation is leading to a mix-and-match. Just one example: unusual treatments like the Korean glass-skin skincare with ingredients like snail mucin are in demand globally.

Cheherazade: Most important is, to not feel pressured to look a certain way regardless of any culture.

Which food or habits benefit my skin?
Dr. Jenny: Focus on a healthy and balanced lifestyle not forgetting the daily cleansing, to drink enough water and your sunscreen.

Tell me a body-positive habit of yours?
Dr. Jenny: Self-care Sundays lived in slow-motion - including extended yummy breakfasts with the family and goal setting for the week.

Cheherazade: I like to use Saturdays for haircare, skincare & as a nail day! It’s my “Me” time.



Cheherazade Cheikh & Dr. Jenny Dietzold



Games

How to play Bao

There are sport games, kid’s games and Asili (“traditional”) games at Futopia. Ever wondered how to play Bao, the old Zanzibar pastime? Listen to Lodi here.

I like playing bao because it’s both relaxing and challenging. I enjoy the strategy behind moving the kete - the little stones or coins used for playing. Like in chess, you have to try to think a few steps ahead, figuring out the best moves. It’s a social game, so I like the conversations and laughter that happen while playing.

Now, how do you play it?
The main aim is to capture more kete than your opponent. The core rule is that players take turns picking up kete from their own side of the board, sowing them counterclockwise, one by one, into the pits. If the last kete you drop lands in an opponent’s pit that already has kete, you capture those and continue sowing with them — this is where the strategy comes in. So, the heart of the game is, to capture your opponent’s kete whenever possible. To try to control the board and end up

with the most kete. Its actually quite fun to play Bao. And men love sitting on barazas in the street spending hours with it. Some people have asked me, why do we see only men playing Bao? Well, that’s a tricky question. In coastal East Africa tradition and social customs are hard to break. Women, by custom, often spend more time in the home. In Swahili communities, public leisure activities are considered more appropriate for men while women’s roles is still tied more to domestic life. But having that said, I think that today, with shifting social norms, things should be and are changing. After all, honestly, the real question is quite simple: who has got the time to play?



Mohammed Lodi, Street Food Tours

Welcome to FuTopia!



Zakia Lulu,
FuTopia management

Imagine the Notting Hill Festival in London. The carnival in Rio. Any street or borough festival in the given city of your choice. Grill stations, second-hand markets, open mics, happy crowds on the streets. Even visualise our very own Forodhani re-loaded.

Well, we in Zanzibar are neither London nor - for heaven's sake - Rio, nor do we aspire to be. But we felt that we surely have enough local and international talent to showcase creativity and to take it to the streets. And, luckily, we have a town here in Zanzibar supporting culture. That's how FuTopia, our brand-new festival was born.

It's more than a street festival - it's a beach, street and park festival all-in-one. Set against the turquoise backdrop of the ocean, embedded in the green gardens of Fumba Town, in the midst of urbanity.

There are no onlookers at FuTopia. You are part of the fun. You are creating fun.

Barbecue your best in our nyama choma competition. Beat your girlfriend playing Bao, one of Zanzibar's traditional games. Stimulate your senses during sunset yoga. Explore new terrain in the eco village. Shop till you drop with hip local vendors. Indulge in delicious African and global organic food.

The team behind Futopia are the trusted organisers of the iconic Sauti za Busara music festival, who have been reliably

staging African beats in the heart of Stone Town for 23 years. FuTopia is created in partnership with CPS and Fumba Town and their vision of sustainable urban living.

Join us on this new journey of a city-wide celebration. Of turning a quiet suburb into an all-cultural playground. With Futopia we'd like to give you more than music - an immersive festival merging tradition and innovation.

- During the day, FuTopia will offer free daytime activities across its 6 themed zones (see the zone descriptions below and on the map)
- At night, FuTopia comes alive with an unforgettable blend of music, fashion, and dance by the Fumba Town beach

Come and celebrate with us in the streets, in the park and under the stars. I'll meet you there.

[Signature]

What's in a name?

FuTopia stands for future and utopia ("an imagined perfect place", Oxford dict.), or, if you'd wish, for Fumba and utopia. A vision of the world we would like to live in. A young festival on ancient African soil. The word came up when we brainstormed for the festival's name - and stuck with us.

Do you like it?

FUMBA TOWN

Daytime area

Sa 30 & Sun 31 Aug 10am - 5pm

THE PAVILION

ENTRANCE

PARKING DAY TIME VISITORS

1 KWETU KWENU MARKET ZONE

2 AFYA ZONE

3 ECO VILLAGE ZONE

5 KIDS ZONE

6 FOOD ART STREET ZONE

4 ASILI GAMES ZONE

PEDESTRAIN WALKWAY TO MAIN STAGE

PARKING MAIN STAGE

TICKET LANE

FIRST AID

1 FUTOPIA FOOD AREA

2 MAIN STAGE

3 V.I.P AREA

4 FUTOPIA BAR

MOBILE TOILETS

KK CHILL BEACH CLUB

LOCATIONS

Daytime area

1. Kwetu Kwenu Market Zone
2. Afya Zone
3. Eco Village Zone
4. Asili Games Zone
5. Kids Zone
6. Food Art Street Zone

Main Stage area

1. FuTopia Food area
2. Main Stage
3. V.I.P area
4. FuTopia Bar

First Aid station

Main Stage area

Fri 29 - Sun 31 Aug 6pm - late

Spotify

THE FUMBA TIMES
FuTopia Playlist



SCAN AND PLAY

FUTOPIA ZANZIBAR Festival Map

What you need to know

- **Free Daytime Activities: SAT & SUN 10am - 5pm**
- **Ticketed Main Stage: FRI, SAT, & SUN 6pm - late**
- **Buy Advance Tickets online or buy tickets in Fumba**
- **Ride easy to FuTopia by Bus Shuttle, from Forodhani or Kisonge and back (TZS 2,000)**
- **Info, tickets and more: futopia.africa**

Creative Stage Program

Saturday 30th August

Assalam Sufi Band	11:00 - 11:45
Open Mic	12:00 - 13:30
Ngoma World	13:45 - 14:30
Story Telling	14:45 - 15:05
Zanzibar Comedy Club	15:20 - 17:00

Sunday 31st August

Feel Good Panel (Wellness)	11:00 - 11:45
Open Mic	12:00 - 13:30
Acrobatic	13:45 - 14:15
DCMa Young Stars	14:30 - 15:15
JimmyTheDrummer	15:30 - 16:15
Drum Cycle	16:25 - 17:00

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FuTOPIA Zooming into the Zones



KK MARKET ZONE

Whether you are a regular or a newcomer, the street market fever will get you! The KWETU KWENU MARKET ZONE is an elevated special of the usual market, an artisan space unfolding on the drive-way after the gate. Up to a hundred vendors are expected featuring handmade crafts, organic produce (even strawberries!), and many more unique, locally sourced goods from all over Tanzania. Everything is conveniently sold in one spot, from honey to jewellery, from locally designed unisex fashion to vintage beauties.

On another note, a community event has been prepared: the proceeds of a special mtumba section - second-hand clothes and items - will go towards English and science tutoring in neighbouring village Dimani. Running strong for five years and founded by Bernadette Kirsch, the Kwetu Kwenu community market, is by far the largest artisan market in Zanzibar. Taking place every first Saturday of the month (and on special occasions like at FuTopia!), it's the time and place to catch up with friends!

HIGHLIGHT: Did you know, that some local fashion designers were first discovered at Kwetu Kwenu markets (Swahili for "mine is yours")?



AFYA ZONE

Sunset yoga with a totally new perspective (on the rooftop of the Pavilion). Facials with a clear purpose - to make you look your best! The AFYA ZONE in Fumba's public gardens is dedicated to your health, wellness and beauty: young and old, women and men are welcome. Created and curated by Dr. Jenny Dietzold, founder and director of the Urban Care clinic in Fumba Town, and Cheherazade Cheikh, founder and owner of Zanzibar's most successful beauty brand Inaya Zanzibar - visitors can expect only the best. Healthcare, nutrition and skin advice, but also playful and practical on-the-spot sessions, from smoothie production to foot massages and much more. During a moderated panel the experts will answer healthcare questions at the creative stage on Sunday 11am. Our suggestion: Make yourself familiar with the Afya Zone once you arrive, and choose the activity or products bringing out the best in you. And don't miss the sunset yoga with Zanzibar's top instructors Salha, and Ayda of Uzima/Sasik.

HIGHLIGHT: Always wanted to try an innovative beauty treatment like needling, a facial with the injection of serums? This is your chance to test it at a discounted price.



ECO VILLAGE ZONE

Do you have a green thumb? Even if not, discover the fun of just digging into that soil, of crafting things with your hands. The ECO VILLAGE ZONE is a community-driven space with Zanzibar's best green talents, among them:

- Beetopia - building bee hotels
- FlipFlopi - recycling plastics
- Assalam Foundation - pottery and eco-printing
- Kawa Training School - recycling waste
- Chako - recycling glass
- Ozti - recycling plastics

Fumba Town's permaculture pillars, Franko Goehse, his wife Bernadette and Catherine Decker share green tricks for waste separation, composting and using recycled materials in a plant nursery. Kids and youth will experiment with their own special tasks such as a Petting Zoo and urban gardening for kids. "We invite all to learn, create, and connect with nature", our chief gardeners say - and believe us, they know what they are doing, they have built this city from scratch... and on rock'n'roll!

HIGHLIGHT: Collect free gifts from Fumba PDC gardens: seeds of marigolds, celosia, candle bush, Moringa and cuttings from tree spinach (chaya) are waiting for you.



ASILI GAMES ZONE

At the heart of Zanzibar's heritage lies the joy of play. At the ASILI GAMES ZONE you can experience it yourself. Picture this: a gentle fountain bubbles in the leafy community garden, around it, FuTopia has created some comfy seating with mekaks and benches under lovely Bougainvillea arcades. "Many of our Zanzibari games were traditionally played in public spaces like barazas - the benches outside houses", explains Mohammed Lodi, our game master (see article on previous page). He will be around to teach and play with you!

Zanzibar has a rich tradition of games and pastimes, many of which are tied to Swahili culture and coastal life. Besides bao, you'd find:

- Zumna (dominoes)
- Karata (local card games)
- Keram ("pool" played with fingers): A traditionally Indian game similar to pool/billiards but using fingers and discs like checkers
- Draft (checkers)

HIGHLIGHT: Learning to play Bao with Lodi, you will be transported right into the Zanzibari magic.



KIDS ZONE

KIDS ZONE is a vibrant space between the Fumba Town library and the playground where children of all ages can learn, read, and express themselves through face painting, creative arts, reading sessions and much more. Kids can come alone or with their parents who will be invited to participate in dedicated sessions, creating an open environment for sharing feelings and fostering better understanding between generations. For our young science talents of the future, hands-on STEM activities are organised that build on children's curiosity.

Children can choose from the following activities:

- Reading stories in English and Swahili, creating art and crafts related to stories - the best of which will be presented at the final stage showdown on Sunday and winners will be presented.
- Children are invited to play group games, experiment with different musical instruments provided, choreograph a dance. And of course, the obligatory jumping castle, will not be missing. Let yourself be surprised!

HIGHLIGHT: A colourful, curious, joy-filled zone for kids—need we say more!



FOOD ART STREET ZONE

With people from more than 60 nationalities moving to Fumba, it was waiting to happen: a nyama choma competition! American BBQ, South African braai, home-made nyama choma, German grillwurst - there are many grill masters in the neighbourhood. Strict rules have been established by Fumba's own F&B specialist Aretha Pearson ("2 different meats, 1 plate for the judges"). At 11am sharp on Sunday the competition will heat up, by 3pm the winner is chosen and tasting begins. If grilling is not your cup of tea, the FOOD ART STREET ZONE offers a flavourful journey through culture and creativity, where every plate tells a story. Visitors get to explore a variety of dishes from different places like Mexican food, local fish and chips and much more. Try out new recipes, and experience the art of cooking. Fumbanos had a joint Christmas street dinner last year and loved it. Now the circle is being extended to visitors of FuTopia who, after purchasing local and international food from different vendors, can take place and eat at the communal table.

HIGHLIGHT: A long communal feasting table in the middle of the food vendors to bring up that sense of community.

Main Stage Program

Friday 29th August

DJ KCM ZNZ	Live	18:00 - 19:00
Fumba 10 Years Celebration		19:05 - 19:45
TRYPHON EVARIST ZNZ	Taarab Fusion	19:50 - 20:40
WARRIORS FROM THE EAST TZ	Reggae	21:00 - 22:00
DAMIAN SOUL TZ	AfroSoul	22:20 - 23:20
WAMOTO MUSIC TZ	Singeli	23:40 - 00:30

Saturday 30th August

DJ YUSUF ZNZ & UK	DJ	17:30 - 18:45
UWARIDI FEMALE BAND ZNZ	Acoustic Vocal	19:05 - 19:55
HUMPHREY MUBBA TZ	AfroJazz	20:15 - 21:05
BONJ SA	House & Soul	21:25 - 22:15
BENSOUK KE	AfroSoul	22:35 - 23:35
ROSA REE TZ	Trap/Rap	23:55 - 00:55
TRIBAL NATIVES ESW	AfroTec	1:00 - 2:00

Sunday 31st August

DJ Show	18:00 - 19:00
1st Round Cheza Mania: 6 Groups	19:00 - 19:40
FuTopia Award & Presentations	19:40 - 20:00
2nd Round Cheza Mania: 6 Groups	20:00 - 20:40
FuTopia Upcycling Fashion Show: Part 1 Dance Performance	20:40 - 20:55
FuTopia Upcycling Fashion Show: Part 2	20:55 - 21:05
3rd Round Cheza Mania: Best of Four	21:05 - 21:20
Surprise Artist Clouds	21:20 - 21:45
4th Round: Final Battle of Three	21:45 - 21:55
Cheza Mania Winners & Busara Moment	21:55 - 22:15
Performance Chino	22:15 - 22:40

ZANZIBAR, ARE YOU READY?

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Fumba: D11-04, Fumba Town, Zanzibar
Jambiani/Paje: Kijani Commercial Park, Jambiani, Zanzibar

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