

## BIG NEWS

# GEMSTONE JACKPOT

**A MINE owner in Tanzania has hit the jackpot after discovering the largest tanzanite crystals ever recorded.**

The two huge stones, which together weigh more than 15 kilograms, were found in a mine belonging to Saniniu Laizer. Last week, Mr Laizer became a millionaire overnight, by selling the stones to the government for £2.7 million! They are going to be displayed in the country's national museum.

Tanzanite is a precious stone that is rarer than diamond. It is only found in one small area of Tanzania, Africa, near the base of Mount Kilimanjaro. It was discovered in 1967 by a local tribesman. Tanzanite gems are prized for their colours, which vary between blue, violet and purple.

Mr Laizer has plans to help his local community – after having a big party, of course! He told the BBC: “I want to build a shopping mall and a school. I want to build this school near my home. There are many poor people around here who can't afford to take their children to school.”

He also intends to share 10% (one-tenth) of the money with the miners who found the crystals. Mining is difficult work. One of the mine managers explained to *The Guardian* newspaper:

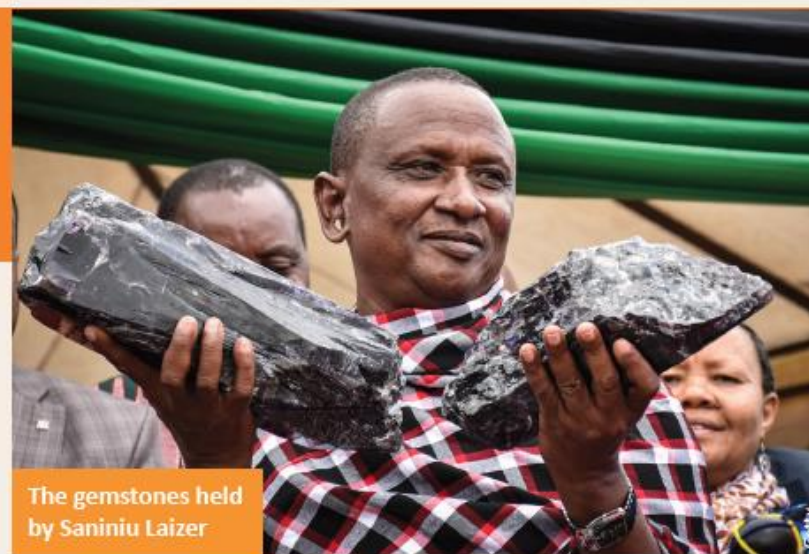
“It's a really challenging experience. It's tough of course, working in this dusty area. We inhale a lot of dust and get sick, but we haven't lost the determination to work. We feel grateful that our boss has finally got these stones. We are planning to have roast meat together when we return to the mining site.”

## HOW DO I SAY?

**Tanzania** – “tan-zan-ee-a”

**Tanzanite** – “tan-zan-ight”

**Kilimanjaro** – “kill-ee-man-jar-oh”



The gemstones held by Saniniu Laizer



Cut and polished tanzanite gems

## Questions on: 'Gemstone jackpot'

1) Where, exactly, is the only place on Earth that tanzanite can be found?

2) This precious stone was only discovered in 1967. Why do you think it was named 'tanzanite'?

3) Why is this gem so highly prized and so expensive?

4) Fill in the details of the crystals found recently.

Number of stones found:	
Total weight:	
Total value:	

5) Look at the first two paragraphs. Find two phrases (group of words) that show that the stones made Mr Laizer rich **very quickly**.

1: .....

2: .....

6) Do you think Mr Laizer found the stones himself? If not, why is he the one that gets the money? Do you think this is fair?

7) What does he plan to do with his money?

1: .....

2: .....

3: .....

8) Which two people are **quoted** in the news report?

1: .....

2: .....

Why do you think the journalist included the **second** quote that finished the report?