



### National Pg 3 Bank lauds Samia for 2023/24 FY Budget



### National Pg 4 TAMWA launches gender policy guidelines



### National Pg 6 Govt to build more health facilities



## France to expand language courses, seek EAC citation

By Felister Peter

FRENCH Ambassador to Tanzania Nabil Hajlaoui (pictured) has reiterated his country's commitment to support Tanzania's education sector, especially regarding strategies to enhance teaching of the French language.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday when launching a new campus of the French International School of Dar es Salaam, highlighting plans to make French another official languages of the East African Community (EAC).

In the event that also marked 30 years of the French School Society, he said that with the launch of the new campus; the aim is to reach more Tanzanians.

Upwards of 60 percent of students in the school are non-French speakers, of whom just six percent are Tanzanians," he said, noting that the diplomatic mission wants this to change.

"Tanzanian children need to have access to quality and standard education that would enable them to enhance their communication skills as well as be able to directly join universities and colleges to diploma and degree courses," he said.

Students also learn other languages including Kiswahili, Italian, Japanese,



**The school was founded in 1967 by a handful of parents and became an official institution in 1993**

English, German and Spanish in the French school, he said, elaborating that France wishes to increase its presence in the country in teaching the French language.

It is used by many people in countries that surround Tanzania such as the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Madagascar, while EAC members Rwanda and Burundi extensively use French as well, he stated.

The embassy will soon inaugurate a cooperation programme with the EAC to ensure French is added to its official languages as the matter has already been passed by the EAC Secretariat, he further noted.

Efforts are underway to expand France's presence at local universities through French learning programmes, he said, pointing out that for the past two years, the French school has experienced tremendous growth in terms of enrolment.

This led the French School Society and the school's management to start working on expanding its infrastructure, he remarked.

Eva Mosha, a senior education official in the regional administration, said the government appreciates the contribution of

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# 'Convert all govt vehicles to run on natural gas fuel'

By Getrude Mbago, Dodoma



This is how what Kinondoni municipal authorities are developing in Dar es Salaam's Mtwara suburb into a modern commuter bus station currently looks, complete with structures to accommodate shops and various other facilities. The scene was captured yesterday afternoon. Photo: Guardian Photographer

THE government needs to convert all its vehicles to natural gas fuel uses to reduce costs, cut carbon emission and save on fuel importation costs, an MP has suggested.

Grace Tendega (Special Seats-Opposition) made this appeal in the National Assembly yesterday when contributing to the debate on the state of the nation's economy in the wake of the central government budget estimates for fiscal 2023/24.

Experts say that natural gas is a relatively clean burning fossil fuel, as burning natural gas for energy results in fewer emissions of nearly all types of air pollutants and carbon dioxide (CO2) than burning coal or petroleum products to produce an equal amount of energy.

The MP said that rapid transit buses (BRT) in the city of Dar es Salaam ought to be converted to gas fuel and connected to natural gas refueling systems as natural gas is cheaper, significantly reducing operational costs for this component of public transport.

The government should similarly facilitate the construction of numerous filling stations to supply gas in buses, cars homes and factories, which needs intense commitment to encourage the public to adopt natural gas in various spheres.

Reducing imports of fuel will also promote employment growth, she said.



**Farmers are selling their crops at a very low price**

pointing out that a number of Dangote Cement trucks are installed with natural gas power devices, an operation the government can perform on its vehicles.

The country has an abundance of natural resources including gas, whose availability needs to be more utilized to spur development and fight poverty, she lawmaker declared.

Many countries are currently shifting and promoting the use of natural gas to promote eco-friendly transportation, she said, while Mwanahamisi Kassim Said (Magomeni) urged officers collecting taxes and levies to stop applying force. This kills businesses and reduces the pace of investments in the country, she said.

Felix Kavejuru (Buhigwe) urged the government to heavily invest in coffee farming by producing enough seedlings to promote crop extension. The current 20 million seedlings produced annually don't suffice and multiplying the number would help, he stated, underlining that "the lucrative crop has been injecting a lot of foreign currency" into the country.

Aleksia Kamguna (Special Seats) demanded that the government take measures to curb wildlife invasions in farms, especially elephants that invade settlements, destroying crops and properties.

Villagers in many parts of Morogoro Region have a difficult life due to regular invasion of elephants in their settlements and farms, impinging on daily activities and slowing economic growth.

Elephants are freely roaming in villages, destroying crops in farms and properties, she said, urging the government to come up with a viable solution to address the

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## Two Chinese firms sign up for 234.5bn/- Mtwara-Masasi road

By Guardian Correspondent, Newala

THE government has signed two contracts to start the construction of the Mtwara-Newala-Masasi road (160 km) and Mwititi Bridge valued at 234.512bn/- Works and Transport minister Prof. Makame Mbarawa officiated at the signing ceremony here, also attended by a number of members of Parliament and regional officials.

He said the road will relieve Mtwara residents of transportation hiccups by

improving the road network and bridges in the region, pointing at the transportation of industrial raw materials and produce.

Mtwara is a hub for transportation of coal and cement, food and agricultural products, livestock, fisheries, commercial products and forest products in an interconnected zone including Lindi, Ruvuma and Coast regions.



**Additional projects for the community are lined up, where contractors will build dispensaries, bus stands, schools, storehouses, provide ambulances and the x-ray equipment**

The minister urged residents to cooperate with the contractors and refrain from criminal acts hampering progress of the projects.

"Make sure you cooperate with the young people who will find work in this project," he urged, pointing at the habit of stealing equipment as a potential problem. Avoiding such problems will enable the project to be completed on time, he said.

He said the government is making efforts to open up Mtwara region, connecting Lindi region with neighboring regions with tarmac roads along with construction of railway lines and revamping ports.

"I have received requests for various roads," he said, pointing at the Newala-Mtama, Mtama-Tandahimba, Mtwara-Kilambo and Newala - Mbuyuni roads which need to be built at tarmac level.

Funds have been allocated while the feasibility study and detailed design are

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## Public Service Week: PSSSF delivers medical equipment

By Guardian Correspondent

The Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF) has handed over medical equipment to two health centres of Mkunguni-Kizimkazi and Dimbani, in South Unguja District, Zanzibar, as part of the Public Service Week.

Each June 23 Tanzania joins other African countries to celebrate the Africa Public Service Day, to appreciate the value and virtue of service to the community.

Key participants said it is also a platform to reflect and share



practical recommendations on women empowerment in public service nationally and across the continent.

In Tanzania the Public Service Week started on June 16 to end tomorrow, with this year's slogan as "The success of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) requires the management of the public service with a regional view."

Beatrice Musa-Lupi (pictured), the fund's director of finance was accompanied by the fund's manager in Zanzibar, Amina Kassim and administration manager Gloria Mboya.

She said the fund has decided to mark the Public Service Week by providing medical equipment to the health facilities in view of the immense contribution of public servants in the development and

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## 'Convert all govt vehicles to run on natural gas fuel'

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Edwin Swalle (Lupembe) urged the government to direct the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) to start purchasing maize from farmers at a fair price.

"Farmers are selling their crops at a very low price," he said, noting that this situation impacts on expectations. Farmers have big harvests which the government is prohibiting them to seek markets outside the country, he stated.

Those seeking permits to export the crops face huge obstacles from bureaucratic habits of such institutions, he said, to which Agriculture minister Hussein Bashe declared that the government hasn't banned export of crops.

He urged traders to first seek for clearance from the ministry to transport the crops, noting that from July 1, the government will start issuing the permits online so as to curb bureaucracy and other disturbances.

## Two Chinese firms sign up for 234.5bn/- Mtwara-Masasi road

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being pursued, he elaborated.

Col. Ahmed Abbas, the regional commissioner, said implementation of project connects will strengthen economic and social activities, reducing individual cost of living.

Mohamed Besta, the Tanzania Roads Agency (TanRoads) CEO, said that the agreements involve TanRoads and Wu Yi Co. Ltd, a Chinese construction firm, involving Minivata-Mitesa (km 100) and billed to cost 141.964bn/-.

China Communications Construction Co. Ltd will build the second part from Mitesa-Masasi (60 km) plus Mwititi Bridge at a cost of

92.5bn/-, he said, telling the minister that the agency will conduct proper supervision of the contractors to complete the road at quality standards.

Additional projects for the community are lined up, where contractors will build dispensaries, bus stands, schools, storehouses, provide ambulances and the x-ray equipment, he said.

Building the Mtwara-Newala-Masasi road (160 km) is part government plans to improve the road network, an important link to the main road from Mtwara to Mbambabay on the shores of Lake Nyasa, and connecting with the neighboring Mozambique.

## France to expand language courses, seek EAC citation

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France to the country's education sector. Tanzanian children need to learn foreign languages including French as it would greatly help them in essential communication for career pursuits, she said.

"Once our people are fluent in French they can communicate with greater ease at international forums. At our schools, students are also taught foreign languages to empower them in communication skills," she explained.

Caroline Martias, the school's director, said the number of students rose from 305 students in 2020 to 445 this year.

"After grade 12, students can choose from more than 17,000

higher education courses in France or join institution of their choice anywhere in the world," she said, noting further that the school's curriculum is defined and approved by the French Ministry of Education.

It is a member of the Agency for French Education Abroad (AEFE), which she said is the largest network of schools in the world with 566 schools in 138 countries.

It is administered by a management committee made up of volunteer parents, as parental involvement in key decisions is a vital principle in how the school is run, she stated.

The school was founded in 1967 by a handful of parents and became an official institution in 1993, the director added.

## Public Service Week: PSSSF delivers medical equipment

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welfare of the society.

The medical equipment will enable delivery of quality services to patients, tied to blood pressure (bp) monitoring, hygiene enhancing, diagnostics, wheelchairs and air coolers.

The various equipment will be used effectively and leverage positive changes in the health of the people, she stated.

The Public Service and Good Governance portfolio in the President's Office issued guidelines to public institutions to mark the week, meeting with civil servants in remote areas on the challenges they face.

Health care is an essential need, she stated, noting that improving health services uplifts the health of the community and protect the workforce.

She encouraged public servants to work hard and show commitment in their responsibilities to ensure that quality health care is available to every citizen.

Omar Mohamed Kasongo, Unga South district administrative secretary (DAS) lauded the fund's assistance, citing the aid as among stakeholders supporting health sector efforts of the Zanzibar government.

\* Photo on Page 4.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has a word with Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister Dr Angelina Mabula in the National Assembly in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: PMO

## Climate activists protest to demand an end to financing for fossil fuels

PARIS

HUNDREDS of climate activists protested in Paris yesterday demanding an end to the financing of fossil fuels as a summit for a new global financial pact begins in the French capital.

They are now calling for more meaningful commitments including a roadmap for what to expect from this year's meeting of the Group of 20 major economies and UN

climate conference.

"What makes us angry, and not just on the eve of the summit, is that companies like TotalEnergies, Exxon and Shell continue to break profit records every year, even though they have known for 50 years about the impact of their activities on the climate and biodiversity," said Soraya Fettih, the 350.org campaign manager.

The protests also attracted climate activists from Uganda who

are opposing the mega oil project and its pipeline terming it an environmental hazard

Patience Nabukalu is one of the climate activists and she has a message to the French President Emmanuel Macron, keep it in the ground, stop the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), and make polluters pay if we are to have climate justice. End fossil fuel finance. And the last one (my message, ed) is, from me... from

Uganda. We are watching you. Let this (the summit, ed) be a step you take for people like us, for people from countries like mine," said Patience Nabukalu.

Heads of state, finance leaders, and activists from around the world will converge in Paris to seek ways to overhaul the world's development banks - like the International Monetary Fund and World Bank - and help them weather a warmer and stormier world.



Dr Saada Mkuya Salum (C), Minister of State in the Zanzibar President's Office (Finance and Planning), pictured yesterday signing a loan agreement for 1.4 trillion/- from UK Export Finance for use in the implementation of road projects in the Isles. Right is Citibank Tanzania CEO Geoffrey Mchangila and left is the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## African Climate summit: Kenya and UAE to cooperate on climate action

NAIROBI

KENYAN President William Ruto and Dr. Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), COP28 President-Designate, have stressed the importance of bolstering their collaboration during the upcoming African Climate Action Summit and COP28.

Kenya is to host Africa Climate Week in Nairobi from September 4th to 8th, building momentum ahead of the 2023 Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly

referred to as COP28, held later this year in Dubai.

In a joint statement issued on Tuesday, the leaders underlined the significance of such events as they provide an opportunity for the international community to agree on future paths that focus on practical solutions to mend the climate crisis.

Both Leaders have called for continued action on the climate crisis, stating: "Climate change is one of the greatest challenges confronting the world today. Both the African Climate Action Summit and COP28 will be critical milestones in the year of the Global Stock take for the

international community to come together and provide a solutions-oriented path forward."

Adding: "We (President Ruto and COP28 President-Designate Dr. Sultan Al Jaber) are determined to work hand in hand to ensure COP28 and the African Climate Action Summit will deliver real and tangible results for the climate and for the people of Africa and the world."

The Kenyan president praised the UAE for its long-standing achievements towards sustainable development and climate action. The Emirates were one of a few countries that submitted a new Nationally

determined contribution (NDC) with hopes of a 31 per cent emissions reduction target ahead of COP27.

"We will work together to facilitate the highest possible ambition across every climate pillar at Cop28," shared president Ruto.

Dr Al Jaber highlighted the value of the African Climate Action Summit as a decisive moment for the continent as well as milestone on the road to Cop28 that will accelerate the energy transition and bring African solutions to the event later this year. "We are pleased to announce that Cop28 and Kenya will join forces to champion action towards the necessary tripling

of installed renewable energy capacity by 2030," Dr. Al Jaber said.

"We call on all parties, in every region, to join this effort and work together in order to mobilise a global movement of action." He added.

According to the statement, Africa has the potential to lead this transition and deliver enormous benefits for the region and globally.

Africa is home to one of the planet's most important carbon sinks, with significant untapped geothermal potential along its portion of the Great Rift Valley, hydro potential along the Congo and Nile rivers, and Solar potential throughout the

continent.

As energy prices soar and many suffer from lack of electricity, clean energy provides an opportunity to supercharge economic growth, improve lives and livelihoods. Though, clean energy investments on the continent represent less than 10 per cent of the \$120 billion a year required for sustainability.

"We must transform the way we deploy public, concessional and philanthropic capital to drive the private investment that is needed for climate action in Africa. [...] We need to fundamentally rethink the way financiers, governments, global institutions and technology providers engage with each other.

AGENCIES





Dr Jim Yonazi (L), Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament and Coordination), addresses media practitioners and representatives of various Zanzibar-based institutions in Dodoma city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

# Livestock products stakeholders fault lack of processing plants

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

LIVESTOCK products stakeholders in southern highlands region have complained about the lack of factories to process their products, the situation that denies them foreign markets that are more beneficial to them than domestic markets.

They also claim that the regions are among areas in the country with big livestock population that is of no benefit owing to the lack of processing plants.

In an interview with this paper at different times, they appealed to the government, in collaboration with the private sector to build processing factories, or invite foreign investors who can invest in the plants.

One of the stakeholders, Aloyce Shija, a trader in livestock said they have been producing hides and skins and other livestock products but many of these are thrown away due to lack of processing factories.

He said the situation is making them miss huge profits as compared to other products, including farm products

"If you go around the regions you will find many livestock - in Chunya, Mbarali, Momba, Sumbawanga and Songwe, what we sell in these area is milk and meat only," he added.

Shija said in other countries when the livestock are slaughtered there are many products needed in factories including hoofs, horns and skins for making other products, saying a huge percentage of these livestock products are simply discarded.

A cattle trader in various areas of the Southern Highlands Regions, Joel Amos said due to the high demand of meat in foreign markets, the government is supposed to create opportunities that will help

in processing the product.

He said in the regions there are adequate communication outlets to export the products including Songwe International Airport (SIA)

Dr Mpoki Alinanuswe, Livestock Officer from Tanzania meat Board (TMB) for the Southern Highlands Zone admitted the existence of the problem and that the entire Zone has only one processing plant.

He aid as for now herders in the Zone have been adopting modern livestock keeping practices, but the challenge is how to access foreign markets.

*"If you go around the regions you will find many livestock - in Chunya, Mbarali, Momba, Sumbawanga and Songwe, what we sell in these area is milk and meat only"*

# BOA (T) lauds Samia for better 2023/24 FY Budget

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa Tanzania has lauded President Samia Suluhu Hassan for coming up with a budget that will drive the country's economic development as well as empowering businesspersons and investors.

Adam Mihayo, BOA's managing director made the remarks in his analysis for the 2023/24 Budget read in Parliament last week by the Minister for Finance and Planning,

Dr Mwigulu Nchemba.

Mihayo and other senior BOA officials were in attendance in the National Assembly during the Budget speech.

He said the Budget contains the blueprint for the improvement of the business environment, and added that some of the steps already taken include the reduction of negative red tape in public institutions and the reduction of rates in some of taxes and levies.

He noted that the government also

continues with budget and financial policies that aim to empower the private sector, adding that the steps taken include the protection of the shilling and making sure foreign reserves are always adequate and reducing government's borrowing from commercial banks, the move that will give the banks more opportunity to serve production sectors.

Mihayo said BOA Tanzania is well mobilised through innovative investment, production of goods

that will improve the lives of many Tanzanians and spur economic growth.

He said BOA Tanzania endeavours to provide various better services and stresses in in empowering small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) in their various economic activities.

He also said BOA Tanzania continues to enjoy good capital backing of nearly 80.7bn/- and that its digital services continue to be strengthened to attract more customers.

# Govt to strengthen country's disaster management and response strategies

By Correspondent

Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

THE government will continue to strengthen the country's disaster management and response strategies to ensure Tanzanians are safe.

Charles Msangi, assistant director of disaster research, in the disaster management department at the Prime Minister's Office unveiled this here yesterday when opening the working session of experts who convened in Dodoma region to discuss and assess the country's ability to deal with disasters.

Msangi expressed that Tanzania has so far made great strides in dealing with disasters through setting an active operating system, as well as enacting the Disaster Management Law, No. 6 of 2022 and its Regulations of 2022.

"Among others, we also succeed in strengthening early warning systems, infrastructure, equipment and guidelines for disaster response and recovery," he observed.

"Our country has also made a significant progress in creating an enabling environment for investment in reducing disaster risks by preparing the National Disaster Management Strategy (2022-2027) along with national and sectoral guidelines, plans and

strategies," he added. The official informed that PMO in collaboration with the Food Program of the United Nations coordinated the assessment of the capacity of disaster management through a partnership known as the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) which includes 20 United Nations (UN)'s organizations and the other international organizations that deals with humanitarian services.

"It should be noted that the assessment was conducted on October 17 to 28,

2022, aiming to identify the state of existing capacity and the areas where relevant organizations can collaborate with the government to strengthen disaster management in the country," he expressed.

Deputy Resident Director of World Food Programme (WFP), Brian Bogart hailed the government of Tanzania for collaborating with the organization to ensure its citizens are living in a friendly environment, the situation which he observed was very necessary for the country's socio-economic thriving.

## Supply of Office Security Services

Established in 1983, WaterAid Tanzania is an international non-governmental organization focused on improving people's lives by providing access to sustainable safe water, sanitation and hygiene. It works on the basis that water and sanitation are human rights, and are essential services vital for health, education, and livelihoods. WaterAid Tanzania operates across the country working with partners to transform the lives of millions every year by improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Our mission is to transform lives through sustainable and safe water, sanitation and hygiene.

WaterAid Tanzania (WAT) operates as a Country Programme and functional office of WaterAid UK, within East African Region. The head office is in Dar es Salaam, Rufiji Street, Plot No.1469, Masaki Area within Kinondoni District.

**WaterAid Tanzania invites bids/quotation from interested Security Services Company to quote the following: -**

- 3 Normal guards (one during the day and two in the night)
- Trucking 2
- Auto Commercial alarm response 1
- Geo Tab response
- Fence Security services

**Following documents should be submitted:**

- Company profile that includes legal documents (Valid licenses and legal documentation to operate in Tanzania e.g., incorporation certificate, business license and relevant tax certificates,
- A list of recent performed contracts of similar nature including the names and addresses of the employers for verification.

Eligible interested bidders should send their bids to WaterAid Tanzania Office before **4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 by 10:00am** East African Time; through [watertanzania@wateraid.org](mailto:watertanzania@wateraid.org) Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director - WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No.1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked **"Bid for the supply of the security services"**. The bids Opening will be on **4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10:30am** WaterAid Country Office.

**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
Center for Communication Programs

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP-TZ)  
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P. O. Box 105303, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | +255-784 164 710  
Website: <http://www.ccp.jhu.edu/>

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO IMPLEMENT MASS MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024**

- 1. Background and project description**

The Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP), Baltimore USA, receives funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania project to implement social and behavior change (SBC) interventions.

The Tanzania Breakthrough ACTION is a social and behavior change (SBC) project designed to increase the practice of priority health behaviors and enable positive social norms, including gender norms, for improved health and development outcomes, with an emphasis on family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), HIV, maternal, new-born, and child health (MNCH), malaria, risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) and other infectious diseases as needed.

Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs wishes to identify and enlist reputable and registered suppliers and service providers to go through the prequalification process, and those selected will be engaged as potential preferred suppliers and service providers to implement mass media and social media activities for Breakthrough ACTION Tanzania project for the year 2023/2024 as stipulated below:

Request For Proposal #	Item Description
RFP 0012-2023	Mass Media & Social Media Implementation
- 2. Application Requirements**

Interested applicants may request a full RFP document to [ccptanzania@jh.edu](mailto:ccptanzania@jh.edu), and the deadline for requesting the RFP document is **26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 5:00 pm**. The deadline for application submission will be on **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 5:00 pm (17:00hrs)**.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF TANZANIA  
AT DAR ES SALAAM  
CIVIL REVISION NO. 7 OF 2017  
MALIASILI RESOURCES LIMITED  
WILLIAM L. KAZI  
ADRIAN M. TAYLOR.....APPLICANTS  
VERSUS  
GEOFIELD TANZANIA  
LIMITED.....RESPONDENT

**TO:**

- MALIASILI RESOURCES LIMITED
- WILLIAM L. KAZI
- ADRIAN M. TAYLOR

**"WHEREVER YOU ARE",**  
**TAKE NOTICE** that the hearing of Civil Revision will take place at Dar es salaam on 17 day of July, 2023 at 09:00 am.

If no appearance is made on your behalf by yourself, your pleader or by someone authorized by law to act for you in this Revision, it will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 13th day of June, 2023.

S. H. ROBERT  
FOR REGISTRAR  
COURT OF APPEAL



# 'Government has so far set up 41 SACCOS in 16 district councils'

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has established 41 Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) in 16 district councils in the country.

Deputy minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Deogratius Ndenjemi told the Parliament that the government would continue with the strategies in other councils.

He was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Sylvia Sigula (CCM), who had wanted to know when the government would help establish 136 SACCOS in 16 district councils as outlined in the CCM's 2020 election manifesto.

In response, the deputy minister said, the government had established 41 in the 16 district councils, three of them being in Kasulu District.

Last year, the government announced that the number of Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (Saccos) dropped by 638 in the third quarter of 2021.

This was after they failed to meet requirements of the microfinance law to register with the Bank of Tanzania (BoT).

According to a report by BoT, the number of Saccos dropped to 2,541 in the quarter to September 2021 compared with 3,129 during the same period in 2020.

This is according to the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance report for the quarter ending September 2021.

"This was largely associated with the ongoing licensing exercise of registering Saccos in line with Microfinance Act 2018, under which some of the Saccos were not qualified as per capital and other licensing requirements," the central bank stated.

According to the report, the membership number of Saccos, share value and loans issued decreased while deposit and savings increased relative to the similar period of 2020.

Number of members dropped from 596,974 in 2020 to 520,819 while outstanding loans increased from Sh422.7 billion to Sh436.4 billion.

During the same period the share value stood at Sh64.7 billion compared to Sh61.8 billion while in the quarter to September 2020, loans issued stood at Sh897.3 billion compared to Sh772.2 billion.

Savings stood at Sh191.5 billion during the month of September 2020 compared to Sh194.1 billion in September 2021 while deposits stood at Sh42.5 billion compared to Sh46.5 billion during the same

period.

The Microfinance (Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies) regulations 2019, some did not qualify due to either capital or licensing requirement where Saccos with Category A license shall commence operations with and maintain at all times a minimum core capital of Sh10 million while Saccos with Category B licence shall commence operations with and maintain at all times a minimum core capital of 200 million/-.

According to the regulations, every Saccos is required to maintain core capital of not less than 8 percent of total assets; institutional capital of not less than six percent of total assets; and net institutional capital of not less than six percent of total assets.

Where a Saccos fails to meet minimum capital requirements as provided under the regulations, shall, within sixty days of the shortfall, submit to the bank or delegated authority a capital restoration plan that shows the action to be taken by management to increase the capital back to the minimum requirement; time frame for restoration of capital to the minimum requirement; the level of capital to be achieved at the end of each quarter; and any other information as the bank or delegated authority may require.

Where Saccos fails to meet its minimum capital requirement and has failed to submit or implement a capital restoration plan, the bank or delegated authority may take such administrative measures as may be appropriate.



**This was largely associated with the ongoing licensing exercise of registering Saccos in line with Microfinance Act 2018, under which some of the Saccos were not qualified as per capital and other licensing requirements**

## Plans underway to connect more regions with natural gas - House

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PLANS are underway to connect more regions in the country with the natural gas, a move aimed at reducing reliance on erratic electricity, deputy minister for Energy, Stephen Byabato told the Parliament.

He said the intention of the government was to ensure that all regions were connected to natural gas for domestic and industrial use.

He said the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) has embarked on a grand project to provide infrastructure for connecting natural gas for domestic and industrial use in Dar es Salaam, Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

The deputy minister was responding to a supplementary question posed by the Special Seats MP, Mariam Kisangi (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government was doing to ensure other regions are reached with natural gas.

In response, the deputy minister explained that the government has increased budget for the purse in coming financial year.

"We have learnt that connecting one customer with the gas costs between 2-6 m/- and the government is now looking for investors who can help spread connectivity" he said.

Under the TPDC project, said Byabato, more than 50 industries have already been connected to natural gas, adding that almost all industries in the country will be connected to natural gas by 2046.

In May 2018, the government told the parliament that it was implementing a project to connect key industries in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam with natural gas as source of energy, reducing dependence on erratic electricity.

"The plan is to reduce dependence of electricity as the only source of power for production by the industries," said the deputy minister.



Vodacom Tanzania executive head (Dar es Salaam and Coast regions) Brigita Shirima (3rd-L) and senior sales manager Lwambano Kilumba present a set of gas stoves to freelance dealer Abdul Jumamosi (C) for registering a big number of customers buying airtime and bundles via M-Pesa. This is under the firm's nationwide loyalty programme campaign attracting a wide range of prizes, including health insurance cover, motorcycles, televisions, smartphones, mattresses, cash and a paid-for trip to South Africa in late October. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Minister removes RUWASA manager

By Augusta Njoi, Dodoma

THE visit of CCM Secretary General, Daniel Chongolo, in Dodoma Region had removed from his position the region's RUWASA manager, Eng. Godfrey Mbayaye for failing to perform well his responsibilities.

During his visit to inspect the implementation of the party's Election Manifesto, people from many areas were complaining on water shortages even though the government has been dishing

out lots of funds towards water projects.

According to a statement yesterday, Water Minister Jumaa Aweso took the step according to the authority vested on him under the 2019 Act (No 5) on Water and Sanitation Services.

Aweso instructed the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Nadhifa Kemikimba to form a team of experts to follow complaints over the implementation of water projects in Dodoma Region and provide solutions to eradicate the

complaints.

He also called on the team and the PS to make an evaluation on the work performance of all district RUWASA Managers.

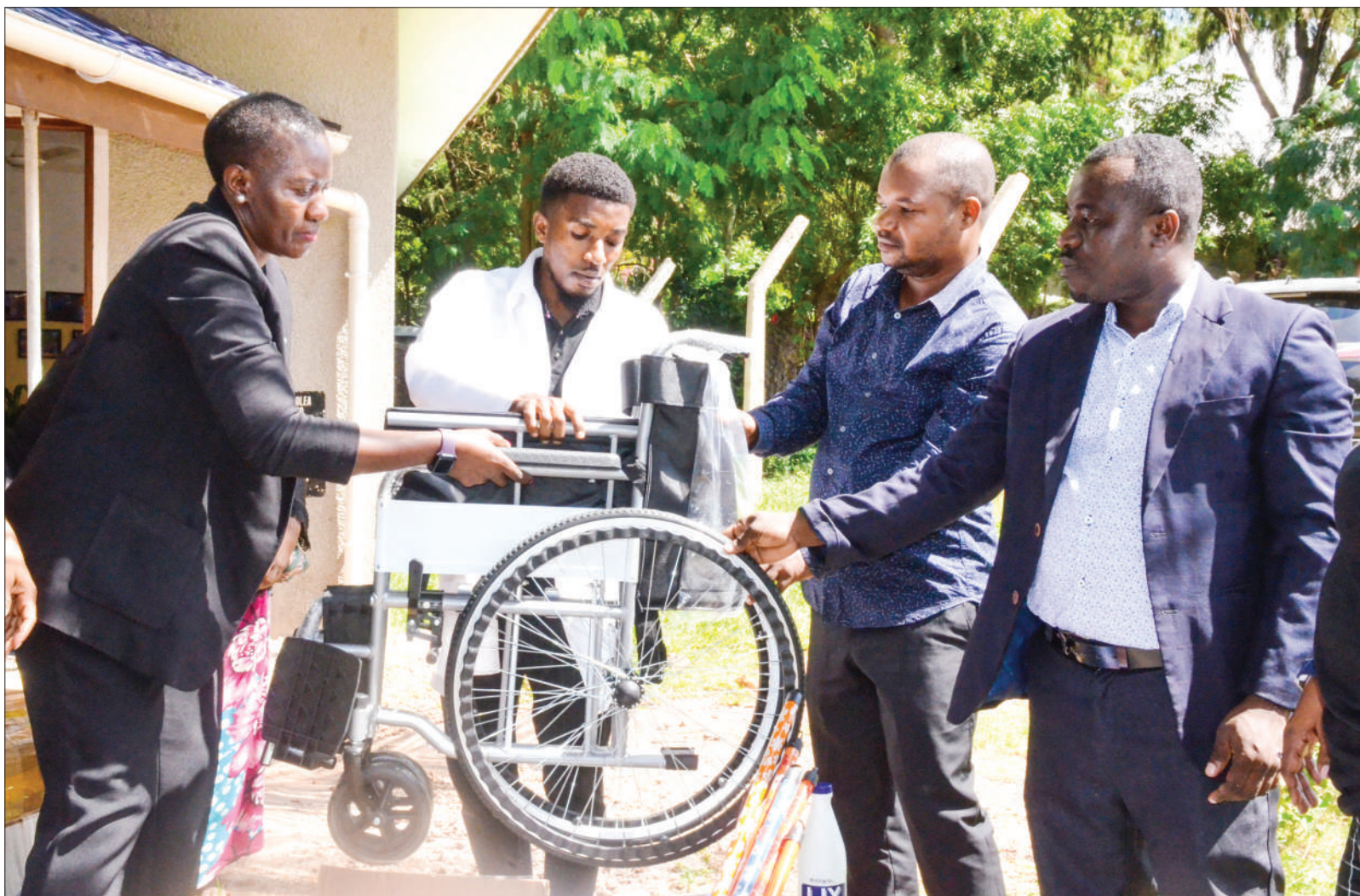
On Monday, during Chongolo's his visit in Chemba District, Chemba MP Mohamed Moni told him that there hasn't been a single water project initiated in the district and finalised, it is just empty talk.

Addressing residents of Mrijo Chini village, Chongolo stressed that he has not been satisfied at

all with water projects in entire Chemba District.

"I like to assure you that I have seen everything and I will go to work on the issue, I will go and tell the appointing authority on what is going on, I have gone through all areas in the district, but I am not satisfied at all," he said.

On June 15 this year whilst in Mpwapwa District, Chongolo called on Water Minister Jumaa Aweso to go to the district and solve the water problem in Lupeta village in the district and on the following day the minister was also called to visit Pwaga village for similar reasons.



Beatrice Musa-Lupi (L), the Public Service Social Security Fund director of finance, presents a wheelchair to Unguja South district administrative secretary Omar Mohammed Kasongo (R) when handing over medical equipment to two Mkunguni and Dimbani health centres in Zanzibar earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TAMWA-Zanzibar launches gender policy guidelines for media organs

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TANZANIA Media Women Association - Zanzibar (TAMWA-Zanzibar) has launched guidelines for the gender policy for media organs. The organs are free to adopt the guidelines so as to attain the country's and global goals on gender equality.

The event of the launch was held at TAMWA-Zanzibar offices and involved several owners of the media organs, journalists, editors

and government officials.

TAMWA-Zanzibar director, Dr Mzuri Issa said gender issues are being stressed worldwide, hence it is better for media organs, as stakeholders to boost gender equality establish policies and strategies for implementation.

"The guidelines have been divided in major areas including gender desk, sexual abuse and the origin of the guidelines are in their goals," Dr Mzuri said.

She said in addition to efforts in

bringing about gender equality, still there is no equality per se, especially in regard to leadership positions, economically and socially.

She said in leadership, researches worldwide show that women in leadership positions are still under 30 per cent and for Africa, Rwanda is leading in having women in leadership positions.

She said researches also show that news on women is not given prominence in media outlets due to the patriarchy system and for

many years, women were being left behind and for not utilising opportunities in the media organs.

"As sources for news, women are 30 per cent in the media outlets as many of those interviewed are men," she said.

She said they want equal 50-50 opportunities between men and women and that research conducted by TAMWA-ZNZ for the year 2021, only 27 per cent of news was attributed to women as sources.

Some of the participants at the event praised TAMWA for coming up with the guidelines in regard to the policy, saying it would be better for media organs to have a gender policy and gender desk to make sure women get their equal rights.





Tanzania Private Sector Foundation acting CEO Raphael Maganga makes remarks a Private Sector Budget Review meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo Correspondent Mary Kadoke

# 'Govt budget has given local businesses voice'

By Correspondent Mary Kadoke

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has hailed the recent proposed 2023-2024 national budget, saying it has given local businesses voice.

TPSF acting chief executive officer Raphael Maganga made the remarks recently during the winding up of the Private Sector Budget review meeting in Dar es Salaam.

The umbrella body described the

2023/24 budget as the budget for the private sector.

"It is the budget for the private sector and this due to the government's efforts in improving several policies with a view to taking the sector to new heights," he said.

Maganga added: "It is the budget for the private sector and this could be attested to the government's efforts in improving numerous policies with a view to taking the sector to new heights."

He said given that the Tanzania

Revenue Authority (TRA) is set to garner 26.4 trn/- that is approximately 85 per cent of the internal revenue.

"We expect to see increased efficiencies in local government authorities for the prosperity of the private sector, the huge burden will be borne by the private sector for it is the main taxpayer," he said.

He added that it is on those grounds that TPSF calls on the government to keep on improving the business environment, which

creates a room for companies to continue paying taxes and create more jobs and the country's development.

National Bank of Commerce (NBC) director and head of treasury and markets Peter Nalitoleta commended the government's efforts to create a friendly businesses environment.

However, he said for Tanzania to win investors' confidence, policies and reforms are inevitable.

"Let's have in place more attractions to bring in more investments and job creation. Let's do away with trade barriers," he underscored.

Despite the agriculture budget addition, stakeholders have urged the government to ensure that the passed budget is as approved.

# Construction of 103 kms of roads, Pemba Airport expected to lead to faster economic development

By Guardian Correspondent, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR minister of Jamal Kassim Ali has said the construction of the 103km of roads and an airport in Pemba will help the Isles economic growth.

He made the remarks on Tuesday at the signing event for the agreement on the construction of infrastructure, saying the projects are being implemented from the 1.4trn/- loan from UK Export Finance (UKEF), a British loans institution through Citi Bank and Deutsche Bank.

"The plan to seek the loan was made in 2020 after the Phase VIII Government came to power and it will be the biggest project in Zanzibar," he said.

He said that these infrastructure are of great importance for Zanzibar economic development.

For his part, the Minister for Works, Communications and Transport, Dr Khalid Salum Mohamed said the project will involve the 12km Pemba-Kisauni, 48km Tunguu-Makunduchi in both Unguja and Pemba, and the 43km Mkoani-Chakechake road for Pemba.

He added that Pemba Airport was built in 1973 and it was now outdated hence the government decided to build international airport, the step that will boost tourism and social services in the island.

For his part, the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, David Concar said the projects are of great importance for the people of Zanzibar for their economic development and social services provision.

"The British government hopes the project will benefit Zanzibaris in speeding up their economic and

social development," the UK envoy said

He added that he has high hopes that the firms awarded the project including Mecco and Propav will implement the project as per the agreements signed.

For his part, Tunguu Member of the House of Representatives who is also the Minister for Tourism and Heritage, Simai Mohamed Said said the projects are of great importance in boosting the tourism sector and reliable social services provision to the people of Zanzibar.

The agreement was signed by the Minister of State State House (Finance and Planning) Dr Saada Salum Mkuya and the UK High Commissioner to Tanzania David Concar at Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Conference Hall at Kinazini.

“...Airport was built in 1973 and it was now outdated hence the government decided to build international airport, the step that will boost tourism and social services in the island”

# New RITA officials call on staff to address people's complaints

By Guardian Reporter

FRANK Kanyusi, the Administrator General and Chief Executive Officer of the Registration, Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency (RITA) has called on the agency staff to mobilise themselves in order to reach out to people needing their services and address their complaints that have been on the increase.

Last week, when President Samia Suluhu Hassan was swearing in new RITA appointees including Kanyusi and his deputy, Irene Lesulie, the president cited reasons why she removed former officials including poor performance and infighting.

Speaking at RITA staff meeting after taking news responsibilities, Kanyusi called on all workers to work together, with solidarity and love in order to boost the agency's achievements through better services to the people.

He reminded them that RITA is a sensitive institution that provides services up to the grass roots level in the society, hence it is important to do away with frequent complaints from those they serve.

"In order to reach many people we must ensure to boost the use of ICT so that people from various areas of the country can access the services without having to come their offices," he said.

He said the issue of fast service delivery and at affordable cost will

be among issues they will address.

He also said the eRITA system used by the people in their applications for various services will have to undergo evaluation by experts to find out whether improvements are needed in order to perform better.


His deputy, Irene Lesulie called on RITA workers to understand and live by the agency's vision that stresses for justice and provision of better services in accordance with the governing laws and procedures.

She said workers are required to maintain official secrecy, high level of discipline and use good language to make sure people get satisfied with their services.

The chairman of RITA Workers Council Adam Nkolabigawa called on RITA workers to offer cooperation to the new officials appointed and work hard for to attain better achievements.



Latifa Khamis (L), the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) director general, has an audience in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Egyptian Embassy official Leila Adel on a products exhibition and business community meeting involving the two countries expected to be held in Zanzibar next month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



**MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC**

## NOTICE TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF MKOMBOZI COMMERCIAL BANK PLC

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc shall be held on **29<sup>th</sup> July, 2023** at Millennium Towers II, Mtana Hall, First Floor, Makumbusho, Bagamoyo Road, Dar es Salaam from 9.00 a.m.

**AGENDA**

- Confirmation of Quorum and Opening of the Meeting.
- Adoption of the Agenda.
- Confirmation of the minutes of the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- Matters arising from the Thirteenth Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.
- To receive, discuss and adopt the Directors' report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.
- To receive, discuss and approve the Bank's financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and adopt external auditor's report on financial statements of the Bank for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022.
- Appointment of Statutory Auditors.
- To receive, discuss and approve the proposal for migrating to Main Investment Market Segment (MIMS).
- To set a date for the next Annual General Meeting.
- Any other business.
- Closure of the meeting.

**Take further notice that:**

- A member wishing to attend the meeting must come with a copy of their receipt of purchased shares of the Bank or a Share Certificate of the same.
- A member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a PROXY to attend and vote on their behalf in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association. A PROXY FORM must be deposited at the registered office of the bank so as to arrive not later than three (3) days before the meeting. The form should be in the following format:

"Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc"  
I/We.....of ....., being a Member/Members of the above-named Company, hereby appoint..... of ..... as my/our proxy to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the Annual General Meeting of the bank to be held on the 29th July, 2023 and at any adjournment thereof.

Signed this .....day of .....2023

- All shareholders and/or representatives will be required to register before entering the meeting hall on the date of the meeting.
- The booklets containing financial statements and other information of the Bank will be available at the Bank's branches and the bank's website <https://mkombobizbank.co.tz/> a week before the meeting.

For further information contact the Bank's offices at:

**Mkombozi Commercial Bank Plc**  
Plot No.40, Behind St Joseph Church  
Mansfield Street  
P.O.Box 38448  
DAR ES SALAAM  
Tel.no. +255 22 2137806/7,  
Toll free no. 0800 750 040  
Email: [shareholders@mkombobizbank.co.tz](mailto:shareholders@mkombobizbank.co.tz)  
[info@mkombobizbank.co.tz](mailto:info@mkombobizbank.co.tz)

**PAULINA KUNJUMU**  
COMPANY SECRETARY  
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
JUNE, 2023



## Vodacom, TotalEnergies partner to support customer transaction

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM through M-Pesa and TotalEnergies Marketing Tanzania Limited have launched a strategic partnership that will allow customers to transact without cash safely and conveniently at all service stations in a move aimed to advance a cashless lifestyle in the country.

Through the new partnership, customers will enjoy compelling incentives including a 10 per cent cash back when they pay by M-Pesa for the next 15 days.

The offer will further extend to every Saturday for the next three months. Furthermore, through this partnership, customers can also attain M-Pesa merchant services for cash-in, cash-out and money transfer when at TotalEnergies service stations.

TotalEnergies and Vodacom M-Pesa partnership comes at an opportune time, not only giving Tanzanians a convenient and reliable alternative to cash but also sets to support the government's digitization ambitions to stimulate the transition to a digital economy as cash is still widely used and accepted across the country.

Speaking at the launch event that was held at TotalEnergies East Oysterbay service station in Dar es Salaam, the director of customer care operations at Vodacom Tanzania, Harriet Lwakatere reiterated how the company stands at the gates to support Tanzania's digitalization agenda and that the new partnership is a step towards the right direction.

"We remain committed to providing innovative digital solutions to ensure that we help millions of Tanzanians to join and

participate in the digital economy," she said.

She added "This is affirmed by the innovations we continue to make in support of the cashless agenda where M-Pesa plays an integral role by revolutionizing the way we transact. Our partnership will help TotalEnergies customers to conveniently pay via M-Pesa with just a few taps on their mobile phones as well access merchant services with convenience and safety of their transactions when at TotalEnergies service stations."

Total Energies marketing manager, Caroline Kakwezi said the company has been fascinated by Vodacom's efforts to expedite government's digitization adoption in fostering financial inclusion in Tanzania through M-Pesa.

She said the partnership further pushes the narrative by enabling customers to purchase fuel through Lipa kwa Simu and access M-Pesa Cash in and Cash out services.

"This new partnership aims to instill confidence in the use of digital financial platforms by minimizing the risks and burdens associated with cash handling. Both Vodacom and TotalEnergies remain committed to offering the best experience for consumers."

In the last decade or so, Tanzania has witnessed significant adoption of mobile financial services with platforms like M-Pesa leading the way in terms of payments digitization.

Moreover, the two companies believe that the journey towards a cashless economy is an ambitious yet crucial step for Tanzania's economic growth and they are both optimistic about the positive impact that the partnership will have on the lives of Tanzanians.

## 26,000 expectant mothers benefited from maternal Momcare programme

By Beatrice Philemon

MORE than 26,000 expectant mothers from regions of Manyara and Kilimanjaro have benefited from maternal care programme dubbed "Momcare" which facilitates safe delivery in 40 healthcare facilities.

Dr Heri Marwa, Pharm Access International, country director said yesterday while sharing the results of Momcare programme and how Tanzania can improve delivery of maternal care services and contribute towards financing the programme.

Momcare project is a three-year scheme (2019-2022) being implemented by Pharm Access International with funding from US based Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CHF), MSD for Mothers, ELMA Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

The programme is being implemented in Siha, Mbulu, Hanang, Babati Rural and Urban district councils in Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions in collaboration with 40 healthcare facilities and Manyara regional office.

The programme was designed to increase access to quality maternal and neonatal care for pregnant mothers and was officially launched in 2019.

Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CHF), MSD for Mothers, ELMA Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands donated \$3.6m to Pharm Access International Tanzania for the implementation of the programme which has changed lives for pregnant mothers.

Under the programme, pregnant mothers have been able to receive a Momcare Card from Pharm Access International and paid for all of the required maternal and neonatal care treatment during their pregnancy and are now obtaining the care they need, something that was not the case before.

"We are very glad to see what has been achieved so far because the number of pregnant mothers who went to the clinic for the first time when they were three months pregnant or before 12 weeks of pregnancy had increased from 11 to 27 per cent," he said.

Pregnant mothers are now assured of safe delivery because of the Momcare Card they have, and

are motivated to continue attending antenatal clinics to meet with healthcare providers and are now coming to deliver their babies at the health facilities something that was not the case in the past.

Also healthcare facilities have been able to utilise data collected from the Momcare project to make plan and budgeting that in turn had helped them to provide high quality maternal and neonatal care for pregnant mothers and women are now assured of safe delivery.

Netherlands Ambassador to Tanzania, Wiebe de Boer added that "We all know that maternal health services are free subsidised for 100 per cent for all women in Tanzania, yet we know that in reality for many low-income women, services and funds to support their pregnancy are often not available when they need them," he said.

These challenges are attributed to limited investment in quality of care, staff and commodities often not available and equipment may be dysfunctional.

He said this results in women being forced to go to private facilities to get some of the services which are not available at public institutions.

"Due to these challenges, many women, especially in rural areas often delay or forego seeking maternal health services," he said.

He called on health community and public and private sector to come together to address the challenges faced by pregnant mothers in accessing quality health care.

Pregnant mothers and their future babies need to get priority attention because good care during pregnancy is important for the health of the mother and the development of the child.

Dr Costa Ndunguru, Magugu Health Centre, Babati District Council medical officer in-charge hailed PharmAccess International for introducing the programme in Babati District Council.

So far more than 2314 pregnant mothers have benefited from the Momcare Programme in Babati district council, receiving birth kits and Momcare Cards.

Also the programme has helped healthcare providers understand how to use data collected from the Momcare programme for good decision making, plan and budgeting decisions.



Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) CEO Mohamed Besta (2nd-L) and a representative of China's Wu Yi Company pictured in Newwala District, Mtwara Region, yesterday exchanging documents on an agreement they had just signed on the construction of a 100-km road to link Mnivata and Mitesa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Govt says it will put up more health centres, dispensaries in FY 2023/24

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

The government will in the 2023/2024 continue building dispensaries and health centres in all the 184 district councils in the country, the Parliament heard yesterday.

Deputy minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Deogratius Ndenjemi said the government will continue building health facilities in all marginalised areas in the country.

He made the statement in response to a question raised by the

Tarime Urban MP, Easther Matiku (CHADEMA), who had wanted to know what the government was doing to build more health facilities in Tarime District.

This comes in just few days after the government issued such a similar response to another lawmaker who had wanted to know when the government would build such facilities in other areas too.

The statement was made in a written response by the ministry of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government to a question asked by the Mufindi South MP, David Kihenzile (CCM) who had wanted to

know when the government would complete building health centres in some two wards in his area.

"When is the government going to complete construction of health centres in Mbalamaziwa, Mningana and Mtwango wards?" he asked, adding that area residents find it difficult to access health services.

In response the government said the Mbalamaziwa health centre had been allocated a total of 50 million/- in the 2019/20 for the construction of a ward and already out patients department (OPD) building is also completed and has since been operation.

The statement further explained

that the Mtwango health centre received 10 million/- for the completion of OPD building, adding that the construction is completed.

On the other hand, the Mninga health centre received Sh20 million in the 2018/19 for the completion of OPD building which has been completed and construction of residential houses for workers is in progress.

"Honourable speaker in the 2020/2021, the government has prioritized the construction of health centres in all councils in the country in order to improve provision of health services" said the statement.



Children with health conditions including autism and Down syndrome, all from Gabriella Children's Rehabilitation Centre in Moshi municipality, participate in traditional dances in Hai District at the weekend in marking International Day of the African Child. Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

## Govt, stakeholders appoint task force to address challenges facing children rights

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu,

Kongwa

THE government in collaboration with stakeholders has appointed a task force to address the challenges facing children rights.

Joseph Mshana, Kongwa district acting community development officer said during the anniversary of the International Day of the African Child.

He said that in strengthening the protection of children, special gender desks have been established in the army and police which

receive complaints including challenges and acts of violence against children. So far the desks have been established in 421 police stations.

"These desks have been helping to resolve and receive information about those who commit sexual violence against children," said Mshana.

He further explained that, the government has signed various agreements with international organisations on human rights.

In addition, he has encouraged parents and guardians to allow children to participate in councils

and children's clubs in schools so as to build the child's potential of thinking, self-confidence and self-expression.

Pepetua Modestus, facilitator from the World Vision who facilitated the event in Kongwa asked parents to monitor their children on digital child safety.

Norini village chairman, Selvine Mdao has urged the children to point out all challenges facing them within their communities

to help the government arrest the criminals.

Apart from that, he has asked the parents to continue raising

the children by providing them all their needs and give them the best education that will help the children to be close to the parents and explain the challenges they face.

Headteacher of Matongoro primary school, Alexander Mtemi who is also acting Matongoro ward education officer said that children safety begin at home with his parents and the community that surrounds them thus urged the communities to ensure that them protect the them.

He said that there are children whose basic needs are not met thus asking parents to make sure they meet all the basic needs for children which will help children to be close to parents and explain to them the various challenges they encounter while at school or any other place.



## Ileje District authorities devise strategies to raise production of pyrethrum

By Guardian Correspondent, Ileje

AUTHORITIES in Ileje District, Songwe Region have set strategies to increase the production of pyrethrum from an average of 1,000 tonnes to 3,000 tonnes per year in the next farming season.

Farmers of the crop in various areas of the district are being trained to boost pyrethrum production by better agronomic practices and certified seeds.

Ileje District Commissioner, Farida Mgomi said during a visit to encourage pyrethrum farmers in various areas of the district.

She said that so far the government is encouraging farmers to form groups to cultivate large farms of the crop, which will be more productive than it is now where each farmer produces independently.

Mgomi said that currently the district ranks second in pareto production after Mbeya District which is leading nationally and that is the reason they are making efforts to ensure that production doubles.

"In collaboration with the district agriculture officers, we will ensure that next season's agricultural production increases to 3,000 tonnes, we believe that if we reach that level, even our farmers will get more increase their income and even the council will get revenue too," said Mgomi.

She said that currently the pareto produced in the district is sold to the Pyrethrum Company Limited (PCT) which has a factory to process the crop in Mufindi District. Iringa Region whose demand is 6,000 tonnes per year.

The DC said that the district sent experts to get training at the factory with the aim of increasing the skills they will use to motivate farmers.

Mgomi said the presence of the market will increase the pareto price from 3,500/-current per kilo up to 4,200/- and thus increase the farmers' production.

District agriculture officer, Herman Njeje said that in order to achieve the goals, they will form groups of farmers who will

be trained on the best farming practices of the pareto crop by following them in their areas so that they can increase production and get more yields.

He said that if they farm in groups, it will be easier for farmers to participate in price planning than it is now where the buying companies decide the price according to the criteria that they prepare themselves.

"We have negotiated with the PCT Company who are ready to increase the purchase price of pareto for the next harvest season and right now our task is to provide education to farmers about the best methods of production and drying," said Njeje.

John Power, PCT chief operation officer said that the demand for pareto per year is 6,000,000kgs but the production for farmers is low, which causes the factory to stop within six months without production due to the shortage of pareto.

"The factory processes 375 tonnes per month per year, 6,000,000 tonnes are needed to be able to operate, but the problem is that farmers produce very little," said Power.

He asked the regions that produce the crop to increase production productivity to enable factories to get resources in abundance and run continuously without stopping for several months.



**The factory processes 375 tonnes per month per year, 6,000,000 tonnes are needed to be able to operate, but the problem is that farmers produce very little**

## New centre to train young feminists in Dar es Salaam

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW feminist training centre for young women supported by other sectors has been established at Mbweni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam.

Nendiwe Feminist Wellness and Coaching Centre is set to provide, among other matters, feminist leadership coaching and mentoring for young women so that they become future change makers in their communities.

Speaking recently during a meeting with 25 senior leaders in the women movement, the founder of the centre Mary Rusimbi welcomed all the women from the private and public sectors to visit the centre and learn numerous methods.

"We aim to grow into a feminist centre that is known for its robust wellness and selfcare programmes, solidarity building work and feminist coaching, including transformative leadership", she said.

Rusimbi said that leadership coaching is essential for the next generation of women leaders.

The centre will also offer one-on-one coaching sessions, group workshops, retreats and a range of wellness practices such as meditation, yoga and mindfulness.

Risimbi said this is a place for those seeking space for solace, rejuvenation and connections since it is guided by firm principles of wellness, healing and coaching for women, girls and elderly persons.

Its another objective will be to foster a nurturing feminist environment for women, girls and stakeholders so that they can explore creativity, learn and pursue passions, she said.

"There will be interactive workshops and retreats that

enhance feminist knowledge and develop application skills for women and girls in different scenarios," she said.

"The workshops will be conducted by qualified experts in different areas of feminism and leadership."

A special feminism session dubbed 'Herstory' will feature prominently during workshops. The session aims to connect women's personal stories and struggles to the broader discourse of discovering their voices and experiences as part of their lifetime journey, allowing them to break their silence and air their emotions.

The centre's founder Rusimbi is the former Executive Director of the Women Fund Tanzania- Trust (WFTT) which was founded 15 years ago as the first activist and feminist fund in the country. It's vision has been grant-making at the local level and strategic coalition building at the national level.



**We aim to grow into a feminist centre that is known for its robust wellness and selfcare programmes, solidarity building work and feminist coaching, including transformative leadership**



Capital Markets and Securities Authority communication director Charles Shirima speaks at a seminar on the empowerment of small and medium enterprises held in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Pemba residents urged to show up for heart disease check-ups

By Correspondent Joseph

Mwendapole

PEMBA residents have been urged to show up in big numbers for check-ups and treatment of heart disease during a special medical camp that started yesterday at the Abdulla Mzee referral hospital located in Kisiwani District.

The call was made yesterday by Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) cardiologist Tulizo Shemu, when talking to journalists about the five-day medical camp that started yesterday.

Dr Shemu who represented the executive director of JKCI, Dr. Peter Kisenge said JKCI experts in collaboration with their colleagues at Abdulla Mzee referral hospital are providing excellent heart treatment services to the public and will ensure that all those who need such services get them on time.

"We want all people with heart problems to be reached so we have decided to follow them where they are because others fail to go to Dar es Salaam due to various life challenges," he said.

"We have been accompanied by various specialists, including those who treat and perform heart tests, if we find out that the patient is having problems, we treat him here and for those who will have serious problems, we will refer them to come and be treated at our institute", said Dr. Shem.

The head of training and research unit of (JKCI) Dr. Pedro Pallangyo, said that many people who go to the hospital to get heart treatment services have already suffered the effects of the disease.

Dr Pedro called on people to develop the habit of avoiding non-communicable diseases including heart disease and when they see there is a campaign to provide

testing and treatment services for various diseases, they should come forward to check up their health status.

"You can avoid heart disease by avoiding the use of tobacco products, excessive alcohol consumption, avoiding being overweight and for your heart to be healthy, exercise at least half an hour a day and eat good food including vegetables and fruits", advised Dr Pedro.

For his part, Dr Mohammed Faki Salehe said they were happy to receive experts from the Jakaya Kikwete Heart Institute who will collaborate with us to provide heart treatment services to the people.

Dr Salehe said that there are heart problems in the coastal zone and in the hospital, there are heart treatment services available, but they are not enough because they have one doctor who is in the clinic twice a week on Tuesday and

Thursday and patients who are reached are very few.

"Through this camp, many people will be reached by heart check - ups and treatment services and we have received people from outside Pemba, I am very grateful to President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan together with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for ensuring that people of Pemba Island are reached by experts, he said. "This service is provided free of charge, people undergo heart check - ups and those who are diagnosed with problems undergo laboratory tests, X-Ray of the chest and CT-Scan and are given medicines, ", Dr. Saleh.

Dr Zhu Yinjun, a cardiologist from the People's Republic of China who works at the Abdulla Mzee referral hospital, said the presence of the camp will help him share work experiences and treat many patients at the same time.



Bank of Africa managing director and CEO Adam Mihayo (2nd-L), head of finance Derick Lugemala (L) and head of marketing and communications Nandi Mwiyo (2nd-R) share a light moment with Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R) at the National Assembly in Dodoma city late last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Project to support adolescents, young adults, orphans inaugurated

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

A new project has been launched to support adolescents, young adults, orphans and those living in vulnerability of Dodoma and Dar es Salaam regions.

Dubbed 'Afyu Yangu' the humanitarian-based initiative which targets to attract a total of 500 beneficiaries, starting from the age of between 11 and 24, is concentrating to provide key healthcare services to the intended groups.

In an interview with The Guardian, the project's monitoring and evaluation officer, Elizabeth

Msuya, expressed that the on-going initiative has so far registered at least 4,25 in the two regions.

"During its preliminary stages, the project conducted a thorough research and established that the street children, orphans and the homeless older adolescents in the two regions are being denied any access to healthcare services besides the fact that they often get most dangerous diseases," she expressed.

To that end, she informed that the project has been tailored to help link the beneficiaries to the healthcare centres and hospitals so that they can attend for regular check-ups as well as receiving the much-needed treatment.

Msuya added that the ambitious project has developed a useful system of searching for the targeted groups, through door-to-door campaigns as well as support from other well-wishers who are close to the intended victims.

"We have so managed to register and compile useful data of the said 4,25 beneficiaries, being out of the intended 500, and we're continuing searching for the remaining number," she said.

For instance, he said the project's prior research had established that in Dodoma city, most of the vulnerable children and the homeless adult adolescents are having their make-shift roofless open-air homes at

different famous streets, including airport, Majengo and Makole.

"Apart from ensuring that the group is equally receiving vital health services, including reproductive health, the project also aims to impart them with the awareness over gender-based violence as well as protecting them from other negative forms of atrocities," she added.

In Dar es Salaam, according to Msuya, the project is being executed in the two districts of Ilala and Kigamboni whereby in Dodoma it is based in the Dodoma city, benefiting a total of 500 young and adult adolescents, orphans and those living in vulnerability.



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Taking A New Look  
At The News  
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epaper.ippmedia.comGovt's move on salaries  
has definite pluses but...

**C**ALLS are being heard to finally abandon policies inspired by conditions on loans sought from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for balance of payments difficulties and the World Bank for development projects, or indeed expectations. Some watchful stakeholders are saying that the government needs to have in place strategies for regular salary raises for public servants, putting aside IMF and WB policies followed for some four decades. It is a bit tempting.

An executive of a policy advice outfit registered as a community development volunteer group made a strident appeal in this direction when the outfit unveiled results of a study of salary conditions for over four decades. Not surprisingly, the group identified IMF and WB loan conditions as the black sheep for policies aligned in favour of employment in the public service, and salary increases. The policies clearly underscore the vast shortfalls in health, teaching sectors, chiefly.

The NGO, on the background of reaffirming regular salary increases for public servants, is pushing for complete disregard of IMF/World Bank policies in order to motivate public servants and presumably, enhance performance. There is an addendum that the government must review policies to boost the public sector, social services and workers' interests, as these policies had negatively affected the situation of public servants everywhere they were applied, in Tanzania too.

What was significant about the NGO's intervention was that to the policy forum group it was a matter of principle to restore regular salary rises and presumably, move to vastly increase public service positions. Ministerial data suggests that education as a whole needs upwards of 160,000 teachers,

and other cadres also go asking, thus the numbers are huge. The policy advisers are saying that the reason for these crying shortages is observing standard IMF/World Bank edicts.

Some of the circumstances the NGO director stated for having adopted those policies upwards of 40 years ago are that there was need to reduce the size and salary costs of the public sector, boost internal revenue collection and develop the private sector. Scarcely has any of these things disappeared in importance, and as recently as 2016 there was a vast drive on underqualified staff, even if they were doing a good job. They weren't detested but we needed savings there.

Each phase in policy and budgeting has its risks and pitfalls, as is periodic IMF-World Bank policy advice, for the reason that it often carries a 'one size fits all' mentality which proves either inapplicable or onerously costly. Example: there was a coffee price boom in 1976 where the government had some substantial surpluses, and the IMF said it ought to use the surplus to liberalise issuance of foreign exchange in importing goods. The government did so, but price vagaries set in; by the time the Amin war broke out late 1978, the coffers were depleted.

The 40 years of experience the NGO talked about haven't been wasted; the days where public sector employment is all there is are gone, despite that it is the best option for those leaving school. Meanwhile African economies are now much bigger compared to the past and Europe or America grow less rapidly than us, especially in population. They can't underline a large aid component in budgets, hence the vast public sector model is no longer applicable. We can't pay for it.

Africa should renew battle against  
infant malnutrition and stunting

**A**BOUT 130 infants die every day in Tanzania due to malnutrition related diseases. The causes of malnutrition and stunting among the children were due to lack of a balanced diet that contains vitamins and iodine salts. The strategies taken to fight malnutrition include sensitising food producers and packers to ensure their products are fortified with vitamin A, iron and zinc.

Tanzania, is ranked third among leading countries in stunting in sub-Saharan Africa after Ethiopia and Uganda. According to the African Development Bank (ADB) at least 216 million African children suffer from stunting and malnutrition. In sub-Saharan Africa, malnutrition is the second leading cause of death among children after malaria.

Poor nutrition remains a persistent problem within Tanzania and varies hugely throughout the country's regions. USAID reports that 16 per cent of children are underweight and 34 per cent experience stunted growth as a result of malnutrition. 10 regions house 58 per cent of children suffering from stunted growth while 50 per cent of acutely malnourished children can be found in 5 regions. Overall availability of food does not necessarily contribute to overall stunting figures.

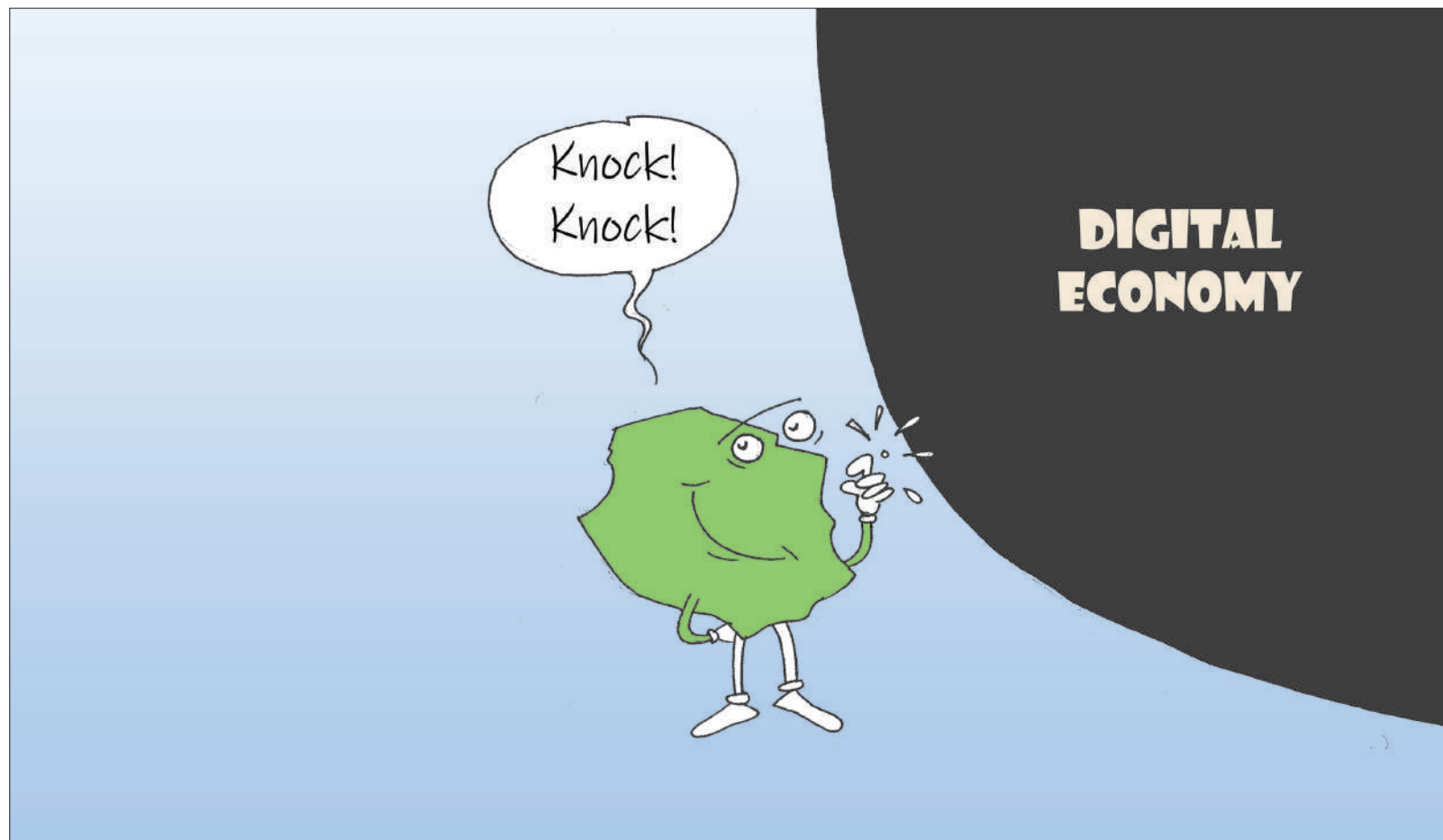
The Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre attributes these discrepancies to variance in maternal malnutrition, poor infant feeding practices, hygiene practices and poor healthcare services. Periods of drought have significant impacts on the production of crops in Tanzania. Drought in East Africa has resulted in massive increases in the prices of food staples.

Tanzania remains heavily agricultural, with 80 per cent of the total population engaging in subsistence farming. Rural areas are subjected to increased food shortages in comparison to urbanised areas, with a survey carried out within the country in 2017 finding 84 per cent of people in rural areas suffering food shortages over a 3-month period compared to 64 per cent of residents in cities. This disparity between rural and city nutrition can be attributed to various factors; increased nutritional needs due to manual labour, more limited access to food as a result of poor infrastructure, high-susceptibility to the damaging effects of nature and the "Agricultural Productivity Gap".

To end this situation African countries should step up actions for mobilisation both in Africa and worldwide. In 2016, the Bank launched the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) initiative as an advocacy tool that would enable African nations to work with partners to boost nutrition on the continent.

Backed by the African Union, the initiative also commits African governments to commit part of their budgets to reducing malnutrition. To demonstrate its commitment to combating malnutrition in Africa, in 2018, the bank also unveiled the Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan.

The plan seeks to mobilise additional financial resources for smart nutrition investments in the key sectors of agriculture, education, health, social protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene to reduce child stunting on the continent by 40 per cent through 2025.

Poll observers in Zimbabwe  
ought to observe but not act

By Special Correspondent

**T**HE Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has called for applications from organisations and individuals who wish to be observers for the August harmonised elections, a fairly routine process these days.

While ZEC has its own criteria, President Mnangagwa speaking for us all, has noted that he welcomes outsiders looking on if they wish, so that they can be happy that we know what we are doing, in both organising our polls and in voting.

It should be noted that outside opinions do not change elections, or for that matter make them more or less acceptable.

Our elections are decided by our voters, lining up patiently to decide just who they want, each and every one of them, for their local councillor, their local constituency member of Parliament, which also helps decide who their special women's representative and Senator will be, and of course their President.

No one else's views on which of these people should be elected is desired, and if we have any disputes among ourselves the courts have assigned large teams of judges to hear electoral petitions promptly, and have also set up priority magistrates to hear any charges of criminally interfering in elections or trying to stir up violence or being involved in the violence.

The large contingents put on standby, 35 judges and 75 magistrates, is partly that regardless of what happens, the judiciary can cope, but even if just one magistrate or one judge is activated, then that can be the magistrate sitting closest to where someone tried political violence, and the judge can be the one sitting closest to the constituency where there is a legal dispute, so everything can be sorted out very quickly.

We had this sort of large contingent set aside for that group of by-elections last year, and the fact that there were no electoral



Election observers are important for democracy, but few voters know what they do.

petitions and that the couple of minor incidences of violence in the campaigning seemed the result of an obstreperous drunk at a meeting showed that perhaps we are growing up.

Observers, although not part of the process, are not useless. Very often, if they do their job properly, they can say what they saw and even say how that fits into a normal election process.

This can help calm some people down. There are many losers, and we saw this in the last US Presidential election, who find it hard to accept that some people simply do not want to vote for them.

When sensible outsiders can state quite openly that they did not see any criminal or other dubious activity at a polling station, and between them at any polling station, this tends to move allegations from the realm of serious consideration to the realms of fantasy where they generally belong.

We always need to keep in mind that if something serious did happen, the appropriate authorities can intervene and that goes all the way up to the Constitutional Court which makes the final decision on any election petition for the Presidential election.

But observers can help make it clear that if someone is generating fiction in a corner that pretending

this has any truth value is not going to get other witnesses to agree.

There are some observers who have to be accepted. SADC, tired of fact-free disputes, has for several years now had a treaty that obliges the organisation to send a properly made up team of observers from the neighbours of each country for every set of national polls.

This means that the rest of the SADC leadership has some solid fact to base any decision on and when they give an election the all clear, after the local courts have intervened as they once had to do in Malawi, the winner thrown up by the polls is the winner the neighbours all congratulate.

The SADC policy is not to decide who runs a member country. That is the function of the voters in that country since we are all democracies now. Some winning Presidents are friends of others, some are not, but no President has ever said their good friend deserved to win. They all, in unison, congratulate the winner as soon as that result is confirmed.

SADC leaders have even, for example when the DRC was still making its last moves back into the democratic camp, helped the political classes in a country accept the results and work out how to implement them. Again it was the result, not the personalities, who were important.

The Africa Union has a recognition role in all African

elections. We all these days must have an elected government to be a fully-participating AU member, but while the AU likes a presence, generally the regional organisation does more of the formal observing.

There are many other observers. A number of internal church organisations like to have a presence for example, and they probably keep tempers calmer than most. Most embassies as part of their work do tour polling stations for their reports back home, and fair enough.

But the main point for all observers is that they are there to "look not touch" to quote the sort of cries parents make when their children rush forward.

Observers are not participants in the process, they are watching the processes, and this is where some may become tempted, and there are strong suspicions that there are some who plan to interfere from an early a stage as possible.

This happens in some other countries. Again recent American elections have brought up criticism of some of what the far-out political groups do or say.

We also have those outside the country who assume that only their friends can possibly win a fair election, and then in an inverted piece of logic define any election their friends do not win as an unfair election.

The whole point of having observers is so that everyone can see the process, and then when the results come in simply write these off as to what Zimbabwean voters wanted.

Everyone in their heart of hearts wonders at times how some political leaders are elected almost everywhere, but the discussions should be where there are free processes on what they offered their voters and why their voters decided to back them.

Anything else leads into very dangerous and dictatorial territory.

So ZEC can be reasonably free with accreditation, but needs to make it clear that observers observe, not act, and if they cannot keep their actions to themselves they should not bother applying.



# Making geography, biology optional in secondary schools can backfire

It is the nature of human beings to always look for ways of improvement. One of the things which do not please a rational human being is repetition of the same task without changes in results or acquiring new gains. It is the boredom resulting from repetition of the same work that has compelled education expert to propose geography and biology to be optional subjects in secondary schools.

This proposal has been informed by the hope that the contents for these subjects can be covered in primary school in the subjects of science and geography in the new curriculum expected to start in 2024 if other factors remain constant.

Although the argument by experts who proposed this is valid in some ways, they should not forget that revision or repetition is the mother of study. Learning does not take a straight path in all cases as sometimes it experiences ups and downs in the course of study. It is sometimes possible for a teacher to despair when a learner performs poorly but suddenly the same person registers good results that shock everybody.

We can recall those candidates who do not register pleasing results as they complete standard seven but they come to defeat

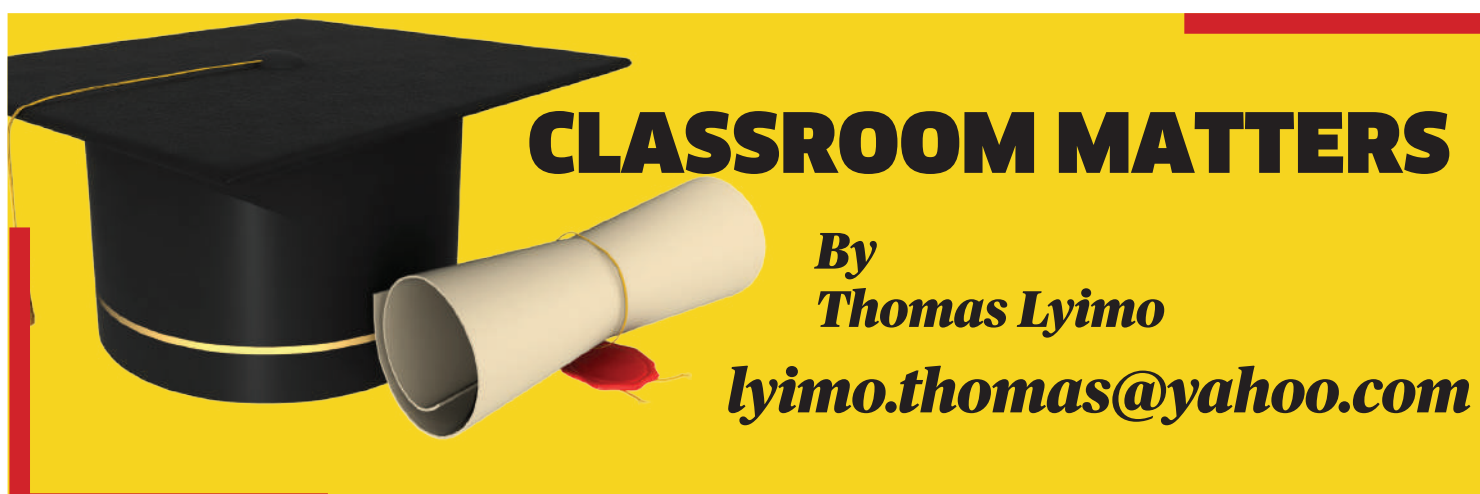
their fellows who registered good results in primary school leaving examination when it comes to secondary education examination in form four. This is a clear indication that some pupils master what they are taught at school when they get a chance to repeat and repeat.

In addition to repetition as a way of mastering educational contents, there is a difference in terms of contents between the science that is taught in primary schools and the biology that is taught in secondary schools. This means there will be deficiency in terms of understanding for pupils who complete form four without studying biology and geography.

Geography and biology are the subjects which enable learners to fully understand themselves as they dwell on the environment and human body respectively. It is impossible for someone to say that they have mastered themselves without understanding how their body functions and the environment they live in.

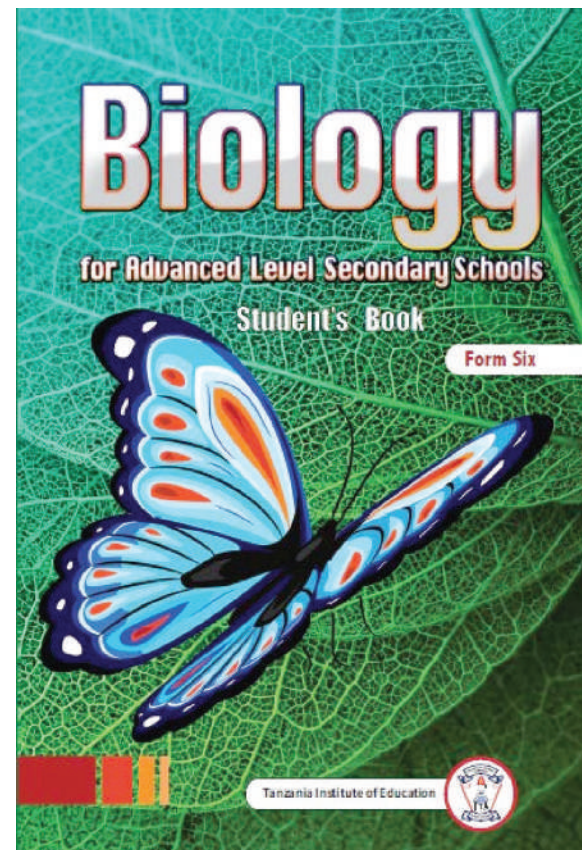
As secondary education is to be amalgamated with primary education to form elementary education, it is very important to make sure that the basic understanding of the makeup of a human being and the environment is taken into account.

Development starts



with self-awareness. The act of congratulating those who prepared the proposed curriculum should go hand in hand with giving opinions on areas to improve because if we have got something better, then all our eyes should be on the best. We should avoid failing before we start by making sure that geography and biology continue to be compulsory subjects in secondary education because the subjects are crucial in the following ways:

First is improvement of health. We all know that prevention is better than cure. This means that we should not allow diseases because we know that there is treatment since treating some diseases leads to emergence of other diseases. If pupils can internalize the basic health principles taught in biology, they can be in a good position to avoid diseases whose treatment



hugely costs the government.

Second is agriculture development. Geography

and biology have a significant contribution to development of agriculture. Aspects such as plant

growth, pests and diseases, soil components, processing of agricultural products among others are taught well in geography and partly in biology.

Science and geography subjects in primary schools cannot teach pupils main aspects to a satisfactory level when we take into consideration the fact that most pupils start their lives as independent adults without further training after completing form four.

Therefore, it is worthy including geography and biology as compulsory subjects so as to enable secondary school leavers engage effectively in agriculture which is the backbone of the economy and an easy activity to engage in because of the large arable land that the country reserves.

Third is internationality of our education. Health and economic production are an international agenda and both are taught in

biology and geography. Depriving some pupils of their right of embracing internationality in the knowledge that they retain by making geography and biology optional in secondary schools can limit their international interaction capacity which is necessary for development. This is due to failure to speak the same language in international fora.

Fourth is protection from environmental hazards. Several reports and on-going research propose that the world is going to face adverse effects of climate change. This is a sign that citizens of the world should be aware of changes that are likely to occur in the environment and how they should go about mitigating them.

The environmental aspects such as climate change are taught in geography. If pupils are allowed to skip geography, how can they go about these changes that are to affect the entire world? We do not have another planet to relocate folks who lack knowledge on climate change and its effects.

The idea of reducing workload for pupils is good but it should not deprive them essential knowledge. Ignoring biology and geography in secondary schools is for our own loss but the good thing is that we still have time to avoid a false start.

BY FRANCIS KAJUBI

## Volunteer teachers: Govt's option to address acute shortage of educators

THE government has admitted the impossibility of addressing shortage of teachers in secondary schools in the short run as it develops a new volunteering guideline manual to contain the challenge.

The teachers' volunteering guideline manual that came out last week describes the modality of how volunteering teachers shall be obtained, their job description and payment arrangements.

The manual is not confined to addressing shortage of teachers in secondary schools but also in pre-primary and primary schools and in Folk Development Colleges (FDCs) at large.

The guideline came out when current data by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology show that as of March 2022, there were 14,853,242 learners in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools and in FDCs.

The data further show that of the total number, there were 2,530,651 registered pupils in secondary schools, a total of 1,433,779 pupils in pre-primary schools, 10,873,782 in primary schools and 15,030 students in FDCs.

However, in the same schools and FDCs, there were only 270,614 teachers. Of these teachers, 89,500 are in secondary schools, 10,134 in pre-primary schools, 170,730 in primary schools and 250 in FDCs.

This is the case although the National Education Policy 2014 on teacher-student ratio requires 1:25 in pre-primary schools, 1:45 in primary schools, 1:45 in secondary schools and 1:20 in FDCs.

The guideline manual is designed with the intention of ensuring that the stipulated teacher-student ratio is realized by the end of 2025 as per the National Development Vision 2025.

Data also show that the total requirement of teachers in pre-primary, primary and secondary schools and in FDCs stands at 538,060 while the current availability teachers are 270,614.

That is to say, the total teacher shortage stands at 267,446 which is equivalent with 49.7 percent. The shortage of teachers' bites as data shows that student's enrollment has been exceeding targets since 2020.

For instance, pre-primary school enrollment topped 103.52 percent in 2022 compared to 86.07 percent in 2020. In primary schools, enrollment increased to 108 percent in 2021 compared to 97.49



percent in 2020. In secondary schools, enrollment topped 88.60 percent in 2021 compared to 87.69 percent in 2020.

Margaret Musai, Assistant Director of Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said when more classrooms were built in 2016 and 2017 following the introduction of the fee-free education policy, the number of pupils increased gradually as years passed by.

"The initiative was a success and now we have encountered shortage of teachers," she said.

"Towards bridging the gap on teacher shortage, the government has decided to engage graduates who are willing to volunteer to teach in our schools," reads part of the guideline manual.

Angellah Kairuki, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) in April this year announced new 13,130 teaching posts in primary schools for graduates to apply.

Prof Adolf Mkenda, Minister for Education, Science and Technology defended the move, saying that the engagement of volunteer teachers is inevitable due to the current deficit that according to him, might take years to fix.

"Due to the noticeable contribution of volunteer teachers in the country's edu-

cation system, the ministry decided to develop a guidelines manual that will facilitate the process of obtaining them and monitoring of their daily duties," he said.

Data further show that as of July 2022, there were 17,237 volunteer teachers of which 10,373 were in primary schools, 6,542 in secondary schools and 322 in FDCs.

According to the guidelines, the employer of the volunteer teachers will be primary school committees and secondary school boards who will negotiate monthly allowances for volunteers.

Recruitment adverts will be plotted on district commissioners offices, village and ward offices for the willing teachers to apply. The adverts will also be available at FDCs across the country.

Applications shall be filed and addressed to the district executive directors. Every selected volunteer shall sign three copies of contract to be submitted to the district executive director, the headmaster and the volunteer teacher shall keep copy.

Teachers will work in their respective areas of residence to avoid relocation costs. Financial resources will be mobilized from districts or council revenue sources, education stakeholders and parents. There will be routine capacity build-

ing workshops from mentor teachers with reasonable experience in teaching.

Richard Mabala, education commentator and HakiElimu Board Chairperson said that a lot of research has been done so far proposing different approaches towards improving the quality of education and it is time to align them with policy development and amendments.

Debating estimates of the 2023/24 budget for the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in the National Assembly last month before it was approved, members of parliament expressed unhappiness with the shortage of teachers in both primary and secondary schools.

Their concern was built on the argument that despite the steady increase in the education budget in the past three consecutive financial years, education quality keeps on deteriorating.

The next financial year's education budget has increased by 18 percent to 1.67trn/- from the 1.50trn/- allocated in the just ending 2022/23 budget. Legislators demanded that the government comes up with an urgent action plan to address the crisis.

Husna Sekiboko, Special Seats legislator said the acute shortage of teachers in public schools impedes effectiveness of teaching and learning.

"The shortage of teachers in primary and secondary schools causes mass failure of students in national exams," she said.

Neema Lugangira, Special Seats MP was of the view that improving provision of education should go abreast with school feeding especially in pre-primary and primary schools. She argued that spending a whole day without food affects children's learning ability.

"Members of Parliament contribute to the problem of perennial mass failure by not instituting legislation on school feeding," she said.

Education is one of the fundamental duties of the government to be delivered to people as a basic right as stipulated in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

Article II(3) of the mother law states that: "The government shall make efforts to ensure that all persons are afforded equal and sufficient opportunity to pursue education and vocational training in all levels of schools and other institutions of learning."

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) there is a worldwide deficit of 69 million teachers as of this year.

The shortage of teachers is most acute in Africa and Southern Asia, where enrollment numbers are soaring as a result of demographic change and the efforts to promote greater equality which means that more girls and women are pursuing education.

In addressing the challenge the UN agency is leading the Secretariat of the International Teacher Task Force for Education 2030 (TTF). Created in 2008 as part of the Oslo Declaration, the TTF is a global independent alliance of over 150 country members working to narrow the gap in terms of the quality of teachers and the quality of teaching practice.

On the other hand, the 2021 United Indian School (UIS) annual report states that the chronic shortage of trained teachers in Africa jeopardizes progress towards Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 on education.

"Before the Covid-19 pandemic, only 64 percent of African teachers were trained at the primary level and 58 percent at the lower secondary level," reads the report in part.

"In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, less than three-quarters of pre-primary and half or upper secondary school teachers are trained."



# Uruguay: Where drinking water is scarce yet abundant

BY DÖRTE WOLLRAD

**D**RINKING water is running out in Uruguay – this headline got the small South American country onto international news. Prolonged drought has brought the reservoir and river that supply the capital Montevideo down to 10 per cent of their normal water level. Unless the rain comes, there is sufficient water only until mid-June, at best.

Paradoxically, Uruguay is located in a region that holds more than 30 per cent of the world's freshwater reserves. So, there is groundwater. But the fact that drinking water is available only to those able to buy it in bottled form highlights rather different political priorities. Amidst the climate crisis, short-term economic interests have been prioritised over prevention, mitigation and adaptation.

## Economic interests prevail

Water supply is not a new issue in Uruguay. As early as 2004, 65 per cent voted in favour of a referendum on a constitutional amendment to establish access to drinking water as a fundamental right. It also gave the state exclusive responsibility for water treatment and supply.

Experienced in direct democratic procedures, Uruguayans thus prevented the participation of French and Spanish companies in the public water utilities and a possible privatisation, as was the case in other countries in the region.

Uruguay's economy depends on commodity exports: cellulose, beef, rice and soya, to name a few. In all these sectors, the production is highly water-intensive. The latest drought has caused enormous losses in recent months, but this is not an isolated incident. Meteorologists have been warning of a huge reduction in precipitation for more than three years now.

That is why outgoing President Tabaré Vazquez passed on construction plans for another reservoir to Luis Lacalle Pou's newly elected government in 2020. The aim was to avoid foreseeable supply bottlenecks. But the reservoir was never built. Also, discussions on a transformation strategy for a development model that, due to climate change, has a foreseeable expiry date did not happen.

Instead, the new neoliberal government approved foreign investment projects that are extremely water-intensive and fed by groundwater wells. For example, in 2021, Google started the construction of a gigantic data centre, which requires 7 million litres of fresh water every day to cool the servers.

In 2022, an agreement was reached with a German firm on the production of green hydrogen in northern Uruguay, which requires 600,000 litres of fresh water a day. There was no parliamentary vote on either project and thus no democratic participation.

Despite the recent lack of rainfall, there has been no attempt to tap into the groundwater to obtain drinking water. Instead, since early May, estuary water from the Rio de la Plata has been mixed in with remaining reserves. As a result, drinking water now considerably exceeds the sodium and potassium levels laid down by the Health Ministry. And people only became



Unless the rain comes, there was sufficient water only until mid-June, at best. Uruguay is suffering from a drinking water shortage. To prevent this from becoming a permanent issue, the country's economy must change fundamentally. Credit: Canva/Ernesto Velazquez

aware of this because the water was now noticeably salty.

After contradictory messaging on whether tap water could be drunk, finally, the Ministry recommended that old people and invalids stick to bottled water. It remains to be seen how hospitals, schools and day-care facilities will obtain the drinking water they need.

When asked what the poor are supposed to do (10 per cent of the population live beneath the poverty line), the deputy chair of the state-owned water company said that people should give up Coca-Cola for water. Marie Antoinette sends her regards.

## A government feeding lies

Trade and industry were the next to suffer from the problems of water quality. Can saltier water be used in certain production processes without damaging machinery? Can bakers raise bread prices to cover the cost of drinking water without suppressing demand, already hard hit by Covid-19?

As in Europe, Uruguayans are also grappling with high inflation, which reached double figures before stabilising at 9 per cent. But even this level is unlikely to be maintained. The government broke its promise

to keep the price of bottled water under control.

In many places 'Blue Gold' is out of stock and, where it is available, priced the same as Coca-Cola. Now, there are plans afoot to import bottled water from neighbouring countries.

Despite being under increasing pressure, the government knows how to use the situation to its advantage. It feeds the neoliberal narrative that public companies are incompetent. What's more, salty drinking water makes it easier for the government to gain acceptance of its ongoing negotiations on building a river-water desalination plant. The 'Neptuno' project is facing strong protests, highlighting its potential environmental damage, high costs and de facto partial privatisation of water as a resource.

But the problem is not new. Previous governments formed by the progressive coalition Frente Amplio also failed to focus consistently on transforming the development model. Although the energy matrix has been almost entirely converted to renewable energies in only a few years, soya cultivation and pasture lands, as well as eucalyptus plantations for cellulose production grew even under progressive rule.

The renovation of old pipelines was also delayed so that now 50 per cent of drinking water just seeps away. There are no incentives for more frugal private water use, either. Only now are radio commercials calling on people to refrain from washing their cars or watering their gardens have started to be broadcasted.

However, one thing was guaranteed during the 15 years of the Frente Amplio government: the state's responsibility for water and other essential goods. Today, the citizens no longer even believe the waterworks with regard to the measured values of the tap water. The loss of trust in the state's duty of care is enormous.

The effects of climate change on the water supply are also discernible in Europe. Just look at the crisis in Spain's agricultural sector or the drying up of whole bodies of water from the Aral Sea to Lake Garda. Nevertheless, few people in Europe can imagine a day they might turn on the tap and no water comes out.

But the battle for the Blue Gold has long begun. Fresh water is not the gold of the future but of the present. And as with any resource allocation conflict, it needs political and legal regulation. This applies in particular to the governments and parliaments of the countries concerned. But criti-

cising mismanagement in the Global South is pointless in isolation.

Climate change knows no borders. That's why we need to challenge our own national and community policymakers on this issue. What signal do trade agreements send that reinforce Latin America's role as a raw materials supplier?

How can food security be ensured while conserving water? What guidance, investments and technologies do the production countries need? And what incentives would facilitate change away from consumption and thus demand?

Global public goods such as fresh water need global protection and international regulation. Unless we think about and promote socio-ecological transformation in global terms, climate justice will remain a pipe dream and the rule of the market will dominate resource distribution. Our joy at sourcing green hydrogen from Uruguay in place of wind turbines down the road is thus likely to prove short-lived.

Dörte Wollrad heads the office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in Uruguay. Previously, she led the foundation's offices in Argentina and Paraguay.

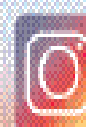
IPS UN Bureau

# CAPITAL RADIO

# RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS  21:00-23:00HRS MALLUMBANO YA HQJA  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 (DJUNIANI) 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMUJAWYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI  22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI  09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MDELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI  01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI (MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO



# If current trends continue, world's poor may not achieve a single development goal by 2030

UNITED NATIONS

When the 193-member General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development back in September 2015, it was aimed at transforming the world into an idealistic state of peace and economic prosperity.

But eight years later, most of the world's low-income countries (LICs) have been struggling to achieve even a single goal, including the two key targets: the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2030.

In a new report released June 21, the United Nations has singled out some of the key achievers – the top five, among the world's high-income countries (HICs), which are led by Finland, and followed by Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Austria.

European countries continue to lead in the SDG Index – holding the top 10 spots – and are on track to achieve more targets than any other region, with Denmark, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, and the Slovak Republic as the top five countries that have achieved or are on track to achieving the largest number of SDG targets this year.

By contrast, Lebanon, Yemen, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, and Myanmar have the largest number of SDG targets moving in the wrong direction.

The findings are listed in the 2023 Sustainable Development Report (SDR) and Index, which ranks the performance of all 193

UN Member States on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is produced by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

There is a risk that the gap in SDG outcomes between HICs and the LICs will be larger in 2030 than when the goals were universally agreed upon in 2015, warns the report.

Based on the current pace of progress since 2015, none of the goals will be achieved by 2030, and on average, less than 20% of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved.

Government effort and commitment to the SDGs is too low, and notably, LICs and LMICs (low middle income countries) obtained a higher average score than HICs on political and institutional leadership for the SDGs.

Among the G20 countries, average scores range from more than 75 percent in Indonesia to less than 40 percent in the Russian Federation and the United States.

Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Germany, Jamaica, and Seychelles obtained the highest score on a new pilot index for their efforts to promote multilateralism, yet no country obtains a perfect score.

The report includes the first pilot index of multilateralism that captures the overarching dimensions of support for multilateralism and comparisons of countries, including countries' efforts to promote



and preserve peace, percentage of UN treaties ratified, international solidarity and financing, membership in select UN organizations, and the use of unilateral coercive measures among other indicators.

Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Germany, Jamaica, and Seychelles obtained the highest score for their efforts to promote multilateralism, yet no country obtains a perfect score.

The report was released just ahead of the June 22-23 International Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.

As the UN nears the midpoint of the SDGs and ahead of the Paris Summit, the report provides timely insights on the chronic shortfalls of SDG financing to developing and emerging economies and offers six priorities for reform of the Global Financial Archi-

ture. The report also features a new pilot Index that gauges countries' support for multilateralism and a new Index to track government efforts and commitments to the SDGs.

Despite the grim news, the report demonstrates that while the world is off track at the mid-point of the SDGs, now is the time for countries to double down on SDG progress by endorsing deep reform of the global financial architecture and implementing the SDG Stimulus to close the significant financing gap facing developing and emerging countries.

Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, President of the SDSN and a lead author of the report, says half way to 2030, the SDGs are seriously off track – with the poor and highly vulnerable countries suffering the most.

"The international community should step up at this month's Summit for a New

society Spotlight Reports before.

However, the message that the SDSN Report conveys with the SDG Index is absolutely misleading, he pointed out.

"It suggests that the Western industrialized countries at the top of the ranking are on the right development path. But this is only because it ignores the negative externalities of their consumption and production patterns and their economic and financial policies. For good reasons, SDSN has therefore also developed a Spillover Index, but this merely complements the SDG Index," he noted.

The emphasis on the SDG Index, with its positive ranking of Western industrialized countries, sends the wrong political message, said Martens.

"To reduce growing global inequalities, governments in the UN must address the structural causes of these inequalities".

First and foremost, he argued, this requires fundamental reforms in the global financial architecture. The SDG Summit 2023, the Summit of the Future 2024, and the Fourth FfD Conference 2025 provide pivotal opportunities to initiate these reforms, he declared.

Chee Yoke Ling, Executive Director, Third World Network, Malaysia, told IPS the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with its 17 SDGs

has fallen victim to the failure of means of implementation – new and additional financing as well as appropriate technology transfer to developing countries.

"We see the same fate for the climate and biodiversity treaties".

At the same time, she said, the barriers in the external environment have worsened. "So, we see alarming debt burdens because the international financial architecture remains stacked against developing countries, while public funds and governments are pushed to take on a "de-risking" role to shore up private creditors".

Look beyond, she said, the buzz of the World Bank's Evolutionary Roadmap and the Macron New Global Financing Pact and "we see a fundamentally similar and even stronger set of policies and measures to maintain the status quo and further subject countries to financing sources beyond public control.

Meanwhile middle-income countries and even LDCs are faced with private creditors who refuse to do their part in debt reduction, and G7 governments do not want to rein them in either.

IPS UN Bureau Report



(L-R) Rémy Rioux, CEO of Agence Française de Développement; Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank; Muhammad Al Jasser, chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Group; Abdulhamid Alkhalifa, OPEC Fund director general; and Stéphanie von Friedeburg, managing director, Public Sector banking, Capital Markets at Citi, who moderated the session.

By Special Correspondent

GLOBAL development financiers attending this year's Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund's forum in Vienna, Austria, have pledged a strong commitment to remodel their investments to support green projects at scale.

The delegates, representing multilateral development banks and intergovernmental institutions, said business and political leaders must do more to stimulate capital deployment from the private sector.

Muhammad Al Jasser, chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Group, cited the Desert-to-Power flagship renewable energy initiative led by the African Development Bank as "a great pioneering project."

Al Jasser said the Islamic Development Bank is fully committed to financing green projects while balancing it with support for poverty reduction.

African Development Bank

## 'De-risking capital is key to scaling up development finance', says Adesina

Group president Akinwumi Adesina called for new ways of project preparation and de-risking of projects to mobilise private sector investment at scale for sustainable development.

"We've got where the private sector is. We've got US\$ 145 trillion of assets under management (and) by 2026 it's going to be there... but the issue here is that we need new ways of aggregation to prepare the projects, to de-risk the projects and lower the transaction cost for those deploying capital," Adesina reiterated.

The African Development Bank chief cited the Africa Investment Forum, initiated by the Bank and seven partners, as a leading conti-

ental platform that is aggregating bankable projects to reduce fragmentation and make it easier to attract institutional investments.

"It [the Africa Investment Forum] has become today the premier investment platform to do anything on investment in Africa, and in the last four years, we have been able to leverage about US\$ 142 billion of investment interest into energy, water and sanitation, infrastructure, and transport corridors," Adesina said.

He added that the African Development Bank and its partners are also creating opportunities for the private sector to invest in agriculture through special agro-industrial processing zones, which are being established across the continent.

Adesina said: "We are bringing in private capital into agriculture that will create opportunities for the private sector to go into rural areas close to where the farmers are producing – they can buy food, they can process food, they can package food, they can export food and have a greater competitiveness for various value chains."

Rémy Rioux, CEO of Française de Développement, called for a consensus in redefining development finance.

He said: "We need a new narrative. We need to work on a framework to finance what nobody is financing – the most vulnerable communities. This is our core mandate, and we must be allowed to allocate part of

the precious concessional resources to mobilize, to lower emissions, to go the private way."

Rioux said he looked forward to this week's summit for a New Global Financing Pact to pin down a roadmap for easing the debt burden of low-income countries, while freeing up more funds for climate financing.

The Paris discussions will include the reallocation of International Monetary Fund special drawings rights (SDRs), Rioux said, acknowledging Adesina's advocacy for the African Development Bank to be the conduit for redeploying the SDRs to Africa.

Frannie Leautier, expert chair of the Independent Review of Multilateral Development Banks' Capital

Adequacy Frameworks, outlined areas that her committee identified to maximize the impact of their capital.

She cited these areas as including recognizing callable capital as a powerful instrument of shareholders' commitment; adopting more financial innovations in capital deployment; enhancing dialogue with credit agencies; and undertaking reforms to enhance transparency.

Prime Minister Lotay Tshering of Bhutan paid tribute to multilateral development banks for their support, particularly for vulnerable and low-income countries. He said: "You are the group of people working beyond avenues for profit. You embrace countries beyond that of your own."

OPEC Fund Director-General Abdulhamid Alkhalifa highlighted the need for development financiers to remodel their operations to attract other resources to close the huge finance gap.









# Global merchant banking to reach \$122.4 billion by 2029

NEW YORK

The global merchant banking services market size is expected to reach \$122.4 billion by 2029, rising at a market growth of 17.4 percent CAGR during the forecast period.

According to the recent report by Reportlinker.com, Asia Pacific is one of the major contributors to merchant banking services because of the rising income levels, favorable demographics, and expanding local enterprises might be used as justifications for the growth.

Consequently, APAC is expected to witness more than 29 percent share of the market by 2029.

Foreign direct investments in greenfield projects in the region increased significantly in 2021, according to the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Annual Report.

Famous merchant banking service suppliers have increased their offerings in Asia Pacific after spotting growth potential.

The major strategies followed by

the market participants are partnerships as the key developmental strategy to keep pace with the changing demands of end users.

For instance, In April, 2023, RBC partnered with Conquest Planning to transform financial planning by offering customized and convenient advice.

Under this partnership, RBC would bring next-generation financial planning ability to its financial planners and clients.

Additionally, In February, 2023, DBS Bank India came into partnership with eSamuday to meet the requirements of SMEs and MSMEs and at the same time conduct business via Open Network for Digital Commerce and broaden its digital solutions across traditional banking.

Based on the Analysis presented in the KBV Cardinal matrix; JPMorgan Chase & Co. and The Bank of America Corporation are the forerunners in the Market.

In March, 2022, Bank of America extended its agreement with Alaska Air Group Inc., a U.S.-based airline holding company.



This agreement solidifies a partnership that meaningfully broadened guest benefits and boosted both Bank of America and Alaska Air Group's strategic growth plans in Crucial West Coast regions.

Companies such as DBS Bank Ltd., Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, HSBC Holdings plc, and Royal Bank of Canada are some of the key innovators in Market.

Market growth factors

According to the Investment Trends Monitor report that was published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in January, global foreign direct investment (FDI) volumes displayed a strong rebound in 2021.

The values climbed to 77 percent to a predicted \$1.65 trillion than \$929 billion in 2020 and exceeding their level prior to the COVID-19.

The increase in investment flows

to developing nations is positive.

By far, the largest increase was seen in developed nations, with FDI reaching a projected \$777 billion in 2021 - three times the abnormally low amount in 2020.

Therefore, the growing flow of FDI is beneficial for the growth of the market.

Expansion of corporate financing operations

Every business decision has a financial impact, and any choice involving money usage falls under the corporate financial decision category.

The most efficient method of acquiring and employing financial resources is through corporate finance.

Controlling the necessary cash and the sources of those funds is an essential part of managing a company's finances. Corporate finance divisions are in charge of directing and supervising their companies' financial operations and capital investment choices.

These choices range from whether to proceed with a proposed investment to how to finance it—with

equity, debt, or both—and whether shareholders should be paid dividends. Therefore, the market will expand as more companies expand their capital investments.

High cost of merchant banking services

The high expenses connected with merchant banking services make them expensive compared to traditional banking services.

Utilizing merchant banks carries several hazards, chief among them the possibility of conflicts of interest, the expense of doing so, and the complexity of such services.

Merchant banks typically require significant capital to execute their activities. They may need to deploy substantial funds for underwriting commitments, investments, and financing arrangements.

Capital-intensive operations entail costs associated with capital maintenance, liquidity management, and risk management, contributing to the overall cost structure. Hence, the high cost of these services is the primary factor hampering the market's growth.

## Citibank partners with TechnoServe for financial literacy to retailers

By Guardian Correspondent

Citibank Tanzania and TechnoServe have partnered to roll out financial literacy, book keeping and customer services programme skills to small scale retailers as part commemorating global community day.

As part of commemorating, Citi volunteers have come together all around the world to help drive progress in the communities it serves.

"While the pandemic may be behind us, many societal issues persist. It has been important for us to stay connected and continue to reignite the ways we can make a positive impact in people's lives with the opportunities that matter most to them and their communities," the bank said in a statement issued yesterday.

This year, the bank says has reinforced its commitment to addressing the evolving challenges the communities are facing and show how volunteerism plays a meaningful part in helping communities grow and progress.

Citi does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions, providing corporations, governments, investors, institutions, and individuals with a broad range of



**Kinondoni Municipal Major Songoro Mnyonge (R) hands over a certificate of appreciation to Citibank Tanzania Chief Executive Officer, Geoffrey Mchangila following the bank's donation of various facilities to Kijitoyama Kisiwani primary school in Dar es Salaam Photo by Guardian Correspondent**

financial products and services.

TechnoServe is a non-profit organization operating in twenty-nine countries, working with enterprising men and women in the developing world to build competitive farms, businesses, and industries.

On its part, the Citibank Tanza-

nia participated in two sessions organized for coaching opportunities in partnership with TechnoServe Tanzania through the sixth phase of PAYED Program.

During the event, thirty Citi volunteers visited small scale retailers at their shops to share knowledge and expertise in fi-

ancial literacy, bookkeeping and customer service.

The bank also donated one hundred school desks to Kijitoyama (Kisiwani) Primary School, fifteen chairs for the teaching staff and provided educational talks to boys and to the girls.

Dignity packs were distributed

to standard seven girls - aiming to address the issue of missing out in school when on menstrual cycle.

The handover ceremony was graced by the presence of Kinondoni Municipal Mayor, Songoro Mnyonge.

In addition, there was representation from office of education, teachers, and school committee.

Speaking at the event Citibank, Tanzania's Chief Executive Officer, Geoffrey Mchangila said 'I am proud to take part in this campaign, with you, to make a positive difference in our communities. This year is a compelling reminder that as the society continues to grapple with the impacts of a range of humanitarian crises, we can work together through small and large actions to make a significant difference.'

The Kinondoni municipal Mayor Songoro Mnyonge thanked Citi and mentioned the importance for institutions and corporates to partner with the government to manage the community needs.

He encouraged the bank to continue to play a part in key sectors such as education and health when undertaking corporate social responsibilities.

## Kenya household deposits in banks hit record Ksh2trn

NAIROBI

The Kenya household bank deposits have crossed the Ksh2 trillion mark for the first time pointing to increased cash holdings by individuals over time.

New Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data show the deposit holdings by the households rose by 6.9 percent in the opening quarter to March 2023, reaching Ksh2 trillion from Ksh1.876 trillion in the year ended December.

The growth in household deposits comes amid a tough going macroeconomic environment, which has been defined in most part by runaway high inflation over the last month.

The rate of inflation has, for instance, remained outside the government's range of 2.5 to 7.5 percent since last June and was at eight percent at the end of May, mirroring pressure on households from reduced purchasing power.

While the CBK has not provided attribution for the growth in household deposits, a rise in foreign currency holdings at 9.2 percent was the leading contributor to the expansion.

Households' foreign currency deposits reached Ksh350 billion in the quarter from Ksh320 billion in three months to December 2022.

The growth in foreign currency deposits is, however, partly masked by the depreciation of the local currency where the same value of hard currency held over time becomes more valuable in local currency terms.

Household demand deposits, which represent cash held in current and savings accounts rose by 9.1 percent to Ksh730 billion from Ksh669 billion at the end of 2020.

The deposits have marked an expansion under all categories with time and saving deposits which cover holdings in fixed deposit accounts growing by 4.5 percent to Ksh927 billion in the three months.

Despite implying an increase in consumer deposits, analysts state the growth in the deposits is partly due to increased credit to individuals and households over the past year as consumers turn to loans to weather the current operating environment.

Borrowing by the private sector usually sits on bank balance sheets as credit even as the disbursements are debited to borrower accounts as deposits.

"If credit was falling and deposits were rising, one would attribute the rise in deposits to increased savings," noted a banking sector analyst.

"When deposits grow at the same time as private sector credit, this growth is likely traceable to the growth in private sector credit and implies that households have been more reliant on credit to stay afloat."

Private sector credit growth has been on the recovery trend since the end of the interest capping regime and reached a double-digit rate of growth in March last year, for the first time since June 2016.

The private sector lending has found anchoring from the higher risk-adjusted returns, which has seen lenders bail out from increasing holdings in government securities.

## Mastercard launches global plan to recycle credit cards

LONDON

Payments Company Mastercard on Wednesday launched a global project to recycle credit and debit cards as part of a plan to save the billions of cards in circulation across the industry from landfill.

Initially partnering with British lender HSBC Holdings Plc in eight branches in Britain, Mastercard said banks across the world, some of which have launched local initiatives, would be able to join the programme and help build economies of scale.

"We are inviting all card issuers around the world to partner with us, no matter what region they are in, and offer card recycling to their customers," said Ajay Bhalla, president of cyber and intelligence at Mastercard Inc.

Under the plan, Mastercard will provide shredding machines to HSBC, each of which is capable of holding 10,000 cards, equivalent to 50 kg (110 pounds) of plastic. Once full, it will be transferred to a plastic recycling facility.

Financial details about the plan were



Mastercard Inc. credit cards

not disclosed. The pilot project, which will run for an initial six months, will allow customers to recycle any plastic card, including those from rivals.

"This recycling pilot will provide us with some very important insight and will inform our longer-term plans," said Jose Carvalho, head of wealth and personal banking at HSBC UK.

Currently, Mastercard said it has around 3.1 billion cards in circulation.

Each year, it estimates around 600 million cards are produced by the industry, each with a life span of around five years.

The Nilson Report, which analyses the industry, put total cards in circulation at nearly 26 billion in 2022, and forecast that could rise to 28.4 billion by 2027.

Soaring plastic use has created one of the world's biggest environmental challenges, with plastic waste buried in landfills or polluting rivers and oceans. The

manufacturing process for plastic is also a major source of planet-warming greenhouse gas.

In its annual report for 2022, Mastercard is targeting connect 1 billion people to the digital economy by 2025 and connect 50 million micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to the digital economy through card acceptance by 2025, from 2020.

It is also targeting to provide 25 million women entrepreneurs by 2025 with solutions that can help them grow their businesses, from 2020.

The company is also targeting to support those impacted by the pandemic, provide \$250 million to support small businesses and their employees with financial, technology, product and insights assets by 2025, from 2020.

"Since our commitment in 2020 to support small businesses and their employees affected by the pandemic, we've provided \$244 million in financial, technology, product and insight assets to support resilience and recovery," it says.



# CROWDFUNDING: THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY FOR BANKS? - PART ONE

By Kelvin Mkwawa

Crowdfunding is a way of raising finance by asking a large number of people to contribute a small amount (reasonable) of money. Crowdfunding can also be defined as an effort by various parties to pool their resources together to support/invest in a project/business initiated by an individual or an organization. Crowdfunding has been gaining more and more ground in recent years as it quickly becoming a tool to recruit and maintain a client base across multiple industries.

Crowdfunding has become one of the most popular ways for individuals to raise money for a cause, project, or event.

The global crowdfunding market size was valued at \$1.67 billion in 2022 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.7 percent from 2023 to 2030 per a Market analysis report by Grandview Research firm based in California, USA. Transaction value in the crowdfunding segment is projected to reach \$1.10bn in 2023 according to Statista.

The simplicity of digital payment options and easy access to the internet is the driving force behind the crowdfunding



Kelvin Mkwawa

boom. Through crowdfunding, general consumers can now invest in local, small, and medium enterprises from their smartphones. This enables the entrepreneurs (business owners) to reach out to more potential funders. The rapid use of crowdfunding is filling the gap created by the bank's reluctance to take the risk of

lending to micro and small businesses. Therefore, crowdfunding appears to be filling the gap for micro and small businesses which are deemed too risky to obtain financing through traditional banking methods. In this series of two articles, I will discuss whether crowdfunding is a threat or an opportunity for banks.

Whether crowdfunding is a threat or an opportunity for a bank depends on the bank's willingness to embrace change. Those banks that will refuse to adapt will suffer the repercussions but those who will adjust will be in a good position to collaborate with crowdfunding platforms.

Thus, it is the choice of banks to decide whether crowdfunding should be regarded as a friend or foe hence competing or collaborating with crowdfunding platforms. First, let me discuss the threat part of crowdfunding to banks; It is conceivable that crowdfunding could replace some of the conventional banking functions. One of the major advantages of crowdfunding is that it combines financing and marketing in one package from a customer's perspective.

Also, in crowdfunding, the funders

are the biggest cheerleaders and tend to know the features of a product being offered.

Through the founders, crowdfunding products can be reached many prospects faster and more effectively. Since some of the functions of the products are similar between banks and crowdfunding, some banks' customers might be tempted to try crowdfunding products.

Crowdfunding has many sectors but the investment, lending, and equity-based sub-sectors are a threat to banks. The lending platform gives borrowers more options than traditional banking platforms by providing borrowers with access to lenders who can organize themselves to provide funding for lower interest rates compared to banks.

Another popular crowdfunding platform that is a threat to banks is equity-based. On this platform, funds are provided by a group of individuals rather than investors or business angels. This empowers the consumers rather than the platforms which sit well with consumers and might be attempted to seek equity products from crowdfunding platforms than from banks.

Nonetheless, I do believe that crowdfunding poses no real threats to banks. Why? Because banks have established a solid foundation and history which is widely known Worldwide by most consumers. Even though consumers may not always trust banks, they are more comfortable with banks than crowdfunding just because in today's market (especially in Tanzania), less is known about crowdfunding.

Also, the crowdfunding industry is still in the early stages, and questions about whether the crowdfunding model can handle a variety of lending scenarios like banks still linger. In addition, investors are more exposed to risk in crowdfunding platforms compared to traditional models(banks) as they are solely responsible to determine good or bad investment choices and this may be enough to make them stay with banks.

Next week I will discuss crowdfunding platforms as an opportunity for banks.

**Kelvin Mkwawa (pictured) is the seasoned banker based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached through email address: Kelvin.e.mkwawa@gmail.com**

## TRA sought to collect 71bn/- in 2022/23 in Iringa

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Iringa Region is aiming to collect revenue of 71bn/- for the financial year 2022/23, which includes domestic revenue and custom duty, and so far the collections have reached 62 billion shillings.

Speaking to a Guardian newspaper reporter in a special interview on Tuesday, Iringa Regional Revenue Authority Manager, Paul Walalaze said during the last financial year ended in June 2022, a total of 59bn/- was collected.

"We have so far we have collected 62bn/- and by June 30 this year we will have reached the remaining target of 9bn/-,"

he said.

Walalaze explained that June is often a peak revenue collections month, due to the closure of the government financial year, thus asking the citizens of Iringa region to come out in large numbers to complete their taxes obligations for the second phase where June 30, 2023 is the last date to pay.

"This June, we are happy to be visited by the officials of the taxpayer education and services department from the headquarters in Dar es Salaam, who have come to sensitize the people of Iringa to pay taxes," he said.

Walalaze said that the revenue authority in Tanzania implements four main pillars of tax payment, one of the pillars is tax payment from the



Iringa TRA regional manager, Paul Walalaze

people of all walks.

He said that the campaign also aims to remind all taxpayers to pay the second tax installment, which must be paid

at the end of June 30 this year.

"The first phase of tax payment starts from January to March 31 this year, we encourage all citizens in the Iringa re-

gion to show up in large numbers to pay their taxes for the second phase," said Walalaze.

In addition, he said that the tax is paid due to business cycle or sales (turnover), adding that tax is not charged on capital, that tax is based on sales and not capital.

"Let's remember to claim receipts when we make any purchases and give receipts when making sales and don't use receipts as part of tax evasion, i.e. discount, that if you don't claim a receipt you get a few shillings off, that's tax evasion..." Walalaze warned.

Walalaze added that a person who is eligible to use an electronic receipt machine (EFD) is one who has annual sales of 12mn/- onwards and for small businesses they must use a regular receipt book during transactions.

## Nigerian President all for friendly business environment

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has assured prospective investors in Nigeria that his administration will provide a better business climate for them to thrive.

President Tinubu made the commitment on Monday during an audience with the Founder and Global Chairman of BHARTI AIRTEL, Sunil Bhatti Mittal, Africa Group Chief Executive, Mr. Segun Ogunsanya, and their team at the State House, Abuja.

While receiving the Airtel delegation, President Tinubu recalled his historic connection with the telecommunication company when it started as Econet Wireless while he was Governor of Lagos State, stating that he facilitated and supported the entry of the company into Nigeria to liberalise the telecommunication industry.

The Nigerian leader praised the growth of the company and welcomed the offer of partnership to further deepen economic growth and eradicate poverty among Nigerians.

He also commended the economic strength of India in Asia, noting how technology had helped the largest democracy in



Nigerian President Bola Tinubu (7th R) in a group photo with Bhatti Airtel delegation, led by its founder Sunil Bhatti Mittal (6th L). Photo by Courtesy of Nigeria State House

the world to pull millions out of extreme poverty.

"I have a connection with Airtel. We brought Econet to Nigeria when I was governor of Lagos State. I was a main promoter then because we needed to liberalise the telecom industry. The economy of Asia headed by India is very phenomenal because of reforms. We are ready to copy India.

"Digital economy is very crucial. We are not ashamed to copy any model that works. I congratulate Airtel for the growth of your business in Nigeria. We are looking forward to the

growth and expansion of your 5G network in Nigeria. Airtel should continue to promote Nigeria.

"I assure you that your investment is very safe and will continue to grow. We are working to improve business environment for all investors," the President said.

In his presentation, the Global Chairman of Bhatti Airtel, Mr. Mittal, congratulated President Tinubu and offered him the goodwill of his company and that of his country, India, noting that besides being a businessman and investor in Nigeria he is a member of Business Advisory Council of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mittal showered encomiums on President Tinubu for the key decisions he has taken within just three weeks in office, which

have put Nigeria back on global business reckoning.

"I came here to make a request, but I have to say thank you first. We are grateful for what you have done with the removal of fuel subsidy and fixing the foreign exchange. This will open a floodgate of foreign investments. You have taken these bold steps. It is important to stand firm. Airtel is a robust telecom company and we are ready to serve Nigeria," Mittal added.

The Special Adviser to the President on Monetary Policy, Mr. Wale Edun, in his remarks, said President Tinubu had always recognised the transformational power of technology and telecommunication for economic growth since his time as governor of Lagos State.

On the challenge of vandalism of telecom infrastructure, the Ogunsanya pleaded with the President to prioritise it as national security issue that should be addressed:

"It is in our interest to provide better service but we are always faced with the destruction of our infrastructure, especially our fibre optic cables. Telecom infrastructure should be taken as critical national assets that must be protected.

"We believe in digital transformation of Nigeria. I am committed to this country because I am a Nigerian and this market is the biggest under my portfolio. We can take millions of our people out of poverty with digital transformation of our economy."

## Bitcoin hits a six-week high as financial titans step up crypto

NEW DELHI

Bitcoin climbed to the highest level since early May, buoyed by crypto initiatives involving major players from the traditional financial sector.

The largest digital asset rose as much as 3 percent and traded at \$28,720 as of 11:10 a.m. in Singapore on Wednesday, lifting the token's rebound this year to 74 percent. Smaller coins such as Ether, Cardano and Solana also posted gains.

Crypto investors have drawn succor from the start of a digital-asset exchange, EDX Markets, backed by firms including Citadel Securities, Fidelity Digital Assets and Charles Schwab Corp. Separately, BlackRock Inc. and WisdomTree Inc. have applied in quick succession to launch spot US Bitcoin exchange-traded funds.

Those moves dissipated some of the gloom caused by a US Securities and Exchange Commission crypto crackdown that includes lawsuits against exchange operators Binance Holdings Ltd. and Coinbase Global Inc. The agency in the process designated a raft of digital tokens as unregistered securities.

"The rally is backed by institutional demand," said Hayden Hughes, co-founder of social-trading platform Alpha Impact. "The BlackRock announcement on a Bitcoin ETF, plus EDX Markets, gave Bitcoin a boost on hopes that traditional institutions will add depth to the crypto market."

SEC Hurdle

WisdomTree is trying again for permission to start a spot US Bitcoin ETF after being rebuffed in the past. BlackRock made its filing on June 15. The SEC has resisted allowing such spot funds but BlackRock's attempt carries the heft of the world's largest asset manager and its track record of winning approvals.

"The BlackRock filing changed everything, that reignited the race," said Eric Balchunas, senior ETF analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence.

BlackRock's application landed amid Grayscale Investments LLC's legal battle with the SEC to convert the Grayscale Bitcoin Trust into a physically backed ETF. The trust's discount to net asset value has narrowed sharply on speculation BlackRock's step could end up bolstering Grayscale's case.

Meanwhile in Europe, Deutsche Bank AG has applied for regulatory permission to operate a custody service for digital assets.

"It is extremely unlikely it would go through the cost of doing this unless it had received sufficient expressions of interest from its large clients," wrote Noelle Acheson, author of the Crypto Is Macro Now newsletter.



# China's interest rate cut could hurt banks

BEIJING

China's central bank is likely to cut lending rates further in a bid to revive the economy but reluctance among private firms and households to borrow means continued policy easing could end up hurting banks already battling margin pressures, analysts said.

Small cuts in rates will not have a big impact on demand for loans as families and businesses repair balance sheets damaged by COVID and repay debts, economists said, forcing Beijing to rely on fiscal stimulus and other policy tools to spur demand.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) cut its benchmark loan prime rates (LPR) for the first time in 10 months on Tuesday, with a smaller-than-expected 10-basis point reduction in the five-year LPR, which influences the pricing of mortgages.

Most economists expect another modest 10 bps LPR cut in the second half - on top of a 25 bps cut in banks' requirement ratio (RRR). The PROC last cut the RRR - the amount of cash that banks must hold as reserves - in March, by 25 bps.

To help create room for lending rate cuts, Beijing will have to let banks lower rates on deposits, a key source of funding for the lenders, with their net interest margins - a key gauge of profitability - at record lows.

Chinese banks' NIM shrank sharply from 1.91 percent at the end of last year to 1.74 percent last quarter.

"It is possible to see further LPR cuts in the second half of this year ... That will again bring cost pressure on banks," said Wang Yifeng, a banking sector analyst at Everbright Securities Co.

"I think banks are likely to take measures in the fourth quarter to control the costs of liabilities, such as further lower interest rates of some deposit products," Wang said. "Pressure on banks from narrowing NIM still persists."

Each 5 basis points LPR cut could reduce pre-tax profits of major



banks by as much as 1.8 percent, China Merchants Securities said in a report.

But lowering of both lending and deposit rates will not help banks if demand for credit doesn't pick up.

A round of deposit rate cuts by banks since September have so far failed to spur consumption, and further cuts may be counterproductive as savers are hurt by weaker returns, analysts said.

New household loans, mainly mortgages and consumer loans, accounted for just 14% of total new loans in the first five months, down from 18% last year and 40% in 2021, while the bulk of new loans went to companies, central bank data showed.

"A small rate cut is a use-

ful painkiller for symptoms but cannot alleviate the real problem," said Gary Ng, Asia Pacific senior economist of Natixis.

"Households and corporates are uncertain about the economic outlook and policy predictability. It means the government needs to untangle the knot on regulations and provide more breathing space beyond monetary and fiscal policies."

## CONFIDENCE WEAKNESS

As private sector business confidence remains depressed, more credit could be channeled to state firms and infrastructure projects. However, that could in turn fuel bad debt risks in the banking

sector and structural distortions, economists say.

"Credit demand for privately owned businesses has remained rather weak over the past few years since COVID," said an executive at a major state bank, who did not want to be identified as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

"And now that businesses are repairing their balance sheets after the COVID restrictions were ended (in December), it's unrealistic for them to borrow money to build up factories and expand capacity."

China remains on track to hit its modest 2023 growth target of around 5%, but a deeper slowdown in the coming months could stoke more

job losses and fuel deflationary risks, further undermining private-sector confidence, economists said.

On Friday, China's cabinet discussed policy measures to support the economy. Policy insiders expect measures to be focused on quickening infrastructure spending, supporting consumer and private firms, and easing property sector curbs.

Beijing should quickly implement a package of economic policies to eliminate the output gap, which measures the difference between an economy's actual and potential output, said Zhang Ming, a senior economist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a top state think tank.

# Ghana seeks to exempt Afrexim loans from debt restructuring

ACCRA

Ghana aims to exempt loans from the African Export & Import Bank (Afreximbank) from being restructured, finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta said, as the country seeks new terms on \$20 billion in external debt and recovery from a deep economic crisis.

The gold-, cocoa- and oil-exporter, which defaulted on most external debt in December, aims to reduce its external debt repayments by \$10.5 billion over the next three years to qualify for the next tranche of a \$3 billion loan deal from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"I have to find a way to do it. It's difficult but we will force and we will see," Ofori-Atta told Reuters in an interview, adding the bank had helped the country through its most difficult period.

The West Africa nation se-



**So, they (are) just respecting, complying with their own law because Ghana has adopted, ratified and gazetted the treaty**

cured a \$750 million loan from Afreximbank in July 2022, when it was locked out of global capital markets after yields on its international bonds soared, its credit ratings were downgraded and its currency collapsed.

Afreximbank has said it should be classed as a multilateral development lender, whose loans usually are not subject to writedowns during debt restructurings.

Benedict Oramah, President and Chairman of Afreximbank, told Reuters in May that the treaty establishing the bank, which Ghana signed, prohibits all countries from subjecting its loans to moratoriums and restructuring.

"So, they (are) just respecting, complying with their own law because Ghana has adopted, ratified and gazetted the treaty," he said.

Afreximbank is considered a commercial creditor, said an official with the Paris Club, which coordinates developed creditor nations.

"We are not looking at such detailed points so far. This is something that we will address in the creditor committee," the official said, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of negotiations.

"The multilateral thing has been defined to mean something like Washington-based, but we will see," said Ofori-Atta, referring to the Washington DC-based IMF and World Bank.

Ghana's debts to countries including China and Paris Club members were \$5.4 billion of the \$20 billion external debt due for restructuring, as of the end of 2022, a government presentation to investors showed. The total external debt stock was about \$30 billion.

Ofori-Atta told a news conference on Sunday that Ghana aimed to reach agreement with bilateral creditors in "the coming weeks".

The Afreximbank loan Ghana took out last year was for up to \$750 million, with a seven-year tranche split into 100 million euros (\$109.3 million) with a total interest rate of 6.49 percent including fees, and \$101 million at 9.55 percent.

A second 10-year tranche of \$350 million had a rate of 9.33 percent, according to a report by a Ghanaian parliamentary committee when the loan was approved last year.

# Higher UK inflation raises pressure for rate hikes

LONDON

UK inflation remained higher than expected for a fourth month, leading to a fresh flurry of bets on higher interest rates as consumers struggle with soaring mortgage costs.

The Consumer Prices Index rose 8.7 percent in May, the same as the month before, the Office for National Statistics said Wednesday. Core inflation, excluding food and energy, accelerated unexpectedly to 7.1 percent from 6.8 percent. Economists had expected a headline reading of 8.4 percent and core to remain unchanged.

The figures raise the specter of the Bank of England opting for a bigger rate increase on Thursday in the quickest monetary tightening in four decades. A separate report showed government debt now exceeds the size of the UK economy for the first time since 1961, imperiling Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's promise to restore health to the public finances and cut inflation.

"It is looking increasingly likely that it will require a recession to finally get the inflation genie back into the bottle," said Stuart Cole, chief macro economist at Equiti Capital in London. Traders piled into wagers for more BOE interest-rate hikes. Money market pricing fully priced its key rate hitting 6 percent by December. Investors see around a 50% chance officials will opt for a larger half-point hike Thursday.

"May's surprise rise in core inflation will cast a large shadow over the Bank of England's June meeting. While we still think a 50 basis-point hike is unlikely, there's now a good chance of a minority vote for a bigger move. The central bank's messaging is also likely to be more hawkish, though we think any tweaks are likely to be fairly measured - rate expectations have surged since the BOE last met, but it's not clear they need another nudge higher," Dan Hanson and Ana Andrade, Bloomberg Economists.

The BOE has raised rates at 12 con-



secutive meetings from 0.1 percent to 4.5 percent and is expected by economists to lift them by at least a quarter point to 4.75 percent on Thursday.

"It is possible that the Bank will raise rates by 50 basis points tomorrow and will need to hike rates above 5.25 percent to get on top of core inflation," said Paul Dales, chief UK economist at Capital Economics. "The acceleration in core inflation leaves the UK looking increasingly like the global outlier and the stagflation nation."

Used car prices along with airline tickets and the cost of recreation and culture drove the increase, suggesting that price pressures have moved beyond food and energy into the rest of the economy.

"The cost of airfares rose by more than a year ago and is at a higher level than usual

for May," said Grant Fitzner, ONS chief economist. "Live music events and computer games also contributed to inflation remaining high. These were offset by a fall in the cost of petrol. Food price inflation remains high, but the rate has eased slightly."

Britain remains an outlier among major economies with prices rising more than four times faster than the central bank's 2 percent target. BOE Governor Andrew Bailey is concerned about signs inflation is remaining more persistent despite the quickest round of rate hikes in four decades.

"High headline inflation piles on the pressure for more rate hikes," says Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG UK. "Today's data will likely leave the Bank of England with no choice but to opt for another increase in

the base rate tomorrow."

Two price measures being closely watched by the BOE for signs of domestically generated inflation picked up again. Core inflation - which excludes volatile food and energy prices - unexpectedly accelerated to a fresh 30-year high of 7.1 percent while services prices increased by 7.4 percent, up sharply from a rise of 6.9 percent in April.

In a separate report, the ONS said government debt climbed above 100 percent of GDP for the first time since 1961 after the government borrowed a greater-than-forecast £20 billion (\$25.6 billion) in May.

The deficit, second highest for the month since modern records began in 1993, was up from 9.4 billion a year earlier. The increase was driven by cost of living payments including energy subsidies and higher staff

costs.

The figures make it hard for Sunak to deliver the big tax cuts many Conservatives say are needed if the party is to avoid a defeat in a general election expected to be held next year.

High inflation and rising interest rates are weighing heavily on the public finances as well. Debt servicing costs for May alone were £7.7 billion, £700 million more than the Office for Budget Responsibility forecast.

Public sector strikes as workers demand pay keep up with prices have delivered bigger pay deals than the government had planned.

As a result, staff costs for May were £3.4 billion higher than last year - largely due to the NHS pay deal. Support for household energy bills cost £3.6 billion in May, £1.4 billion more than last year. Inflation also added £2.9 billion to welfare spending, as benefits were uprated in line with inflation in April.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt said the priority is to fight inflation.

"We will not hesitate in our resolve to support the Bank of England as it seeks to squeeze inflation out of our economy, while also providing targeted support with the cost of living," Hunt said in a statement. "We know how much high inflation hurts families and businesses across the country, and our plan to halve the rate this year is the best way we can keep costs and interest rates down."



## WORLD

## Hunter Biden agrees to plead guilty in tax, admit gun offence

WASHINGTON

HUNTER Biden, the son of US President Joe Biden, has agreed to plead guilty to two federal criminal tax charges and admit to illegally possessing a firearm, according to a court filing on Tuesday.

The US Department of Justice said in the court filing that Hunter Biden will plead guilty to two misdemeanor counts of failing to pay his 2017 and 2018 taxes on time. He has been under federal investigation by a federal grand jury in Delaware since 2018.

The president's son also agreed to enter

into a pretrial diversion agreement regarding a separate charge of possession of a firearm by a person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance.

"The President and First Lady love their son and support him as he continues to rebuild his life. We will have no further comment," White House spokesman Ian Sams said in a statement.

Hunter Biden "would get about two years probation and enter a diversion program", The Washington Post, the dominant newspaper in the US capital, reported, citing people familiar with the negotiations.



Hunter Biden, the son of President Joe Biden, speaks to guests during the White House Easter Egg Roll on the South Lawn of the White House, April 18, 2022, in Washington. (PHOTO / AP)

Any proposed plea deal would have to be approved by a federal judge, said the report, adding that both the prosecutors and the defense counsel have requested a court hearing at which Hunter Biden, 53, can enter his plea.

The report noted that the plea deal will likely become grist for the 2024 US presidential race, as the nation's two main parties once

again debate the influence of politics on law enforcement, and the effects of law-enforcement investigations on political campaigns.

Former US president Donald Trump and House Republicans have been quick to criticize the Hunter Biden plea deal, and are using it as the latest example to argue that the Justice Department is weaponized, CNN reported.

## In US, PM Modi meets experts from health sector, academia, tech, economy

NEW YORK

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi met a group of leading experts from the health sector, industry, entrepreneurship world, technology, economy and others in New York on Tuesday (local time) and held relevant discussions with them.

PM Modi is in the US on a State visit at the invitation of President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden. During his meeting with a group of experts from various think-tanks, PM Modi discussed geopolitics, the global economic situation and terrorism among other relevant issues.

PM Modi tweeted, "Met a group of people associated with key think tanks. We talked about different aspects of policy making and the emerging global trends. Emphasised on the positive changes in India and how they are being powered by our youth."

Among those he met included Michael Froman, President-designate and Distinguished Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), New York; Daniel Russel, Vice President for International Security and Diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, New York; Max Abrahms, Associate Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University, Boston; Jeff M. Smith, Director, Asian Studies Center, The Heritage Foundation,

DC; Elbridge Colby, Co-founder of "The Marathon Initiative", based in Washington DC and Guru Sowle, Founder-member, Director (Indo-US Affairs), Indus International Research Foundation, Texas.

The PM also met CEOs, economists, scientists, scholars, entrepreneurs, academicians, and health sector experts.

Prime Minister and the experts discussed various matters pertaining to the health domain, including the use of digital technologies for quality healthcare, a greater focus on integrative medicine and better healthcare preparedness.

"Had an informative discussion with a group of healthcare experts. They shared their rich perspectives on ways to augment healthcare capacities in India. I told them about the work we have done in integrating the latest technology in the sector and our efforts like TB elimination," PM Modi tweeted.

Those who met PM Modi include Dr Peter Hotez, Founding Dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, Texas; Dr Sunil A David, CEO of ViroVax based in Texas; Dr Stephen Klasko, Advisor to General Catalyst; Dr Lawton R Burns, Professor of Healthcare Management, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; Dr Vivian S Lee, Founding President, Verily Life Sciences; Dr Peter Agre, Physician, Nobel laureate and molecular biologist, at the Johns Hopkins Bloom-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by members of the Indian community upon his arrival in New York on Tuesday. This is the first leg of his official State visit to the United States. NIA

berg School of Public Health and Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Meanwhile, PM Modi also met a group of eminent US academics in New York. The academics hailed from diverse fields of agriculture, marketing, engineering, health, science and technology.

"In New York City, held an extensive interaction with a group of academics. They shared their views on how to further strengthen the education sector in India with a focus on skills and innovation. I talked about the transformative potential of our National Education Policy," tweeted PM Modi following their meeting.

They discussed the possibilities

of enhancing research collaborations and two-way academic exchanges under India's New Education Policy.

Academics shared perspectives and experiences from their respective areas of expertise with the PM. The experts and PM Modi discussed a range of developmental and geo-political issues.

Among those who met PM Modi include Chandrika Tandon, Chair of the Board, NYU Tandon School of Engineering; Neeli Bendapudi, President of Pennsylvania State University; Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor, University of California, San Diego; Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo; Pro-

fessor Jagmohan Raju, Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania; Madhav V Rajan, Dean, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago; Professor Rattan Lal, Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science; Anurag Mairal, Adjunct Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, Stanford University.

Prime Minister invited them to enhance their presence in India as it embarks on its transformation during the Amritkaal.

After attending Yoga Day celebrations at the UN headquarters later today, PM Modi will travel to Washington DC and will receive a ceremonial welcome at the White House on June 22.

US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will host a State Dinner in honour of the Prime Minister the same evening. The Prime Minister will also address a Joint Sitting of the US Congress on the same day.

On June 23, the Prime Minister will be jointly hosted at a luncheon by US Vice President Kamala Harris and the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. In addition to official engagements, the Prime Minister is scheduled to have several interactions with leading CEOs, professionals, and other stakeholders.

He will also meet members of the Indian diaspora.

ANI

## West has no desire to help Baku, Yerevan reach peaceful settlement – Lavrov

MINSK

BOTH Baku and Yerevan understand that the West has no real intention of promoting a peaceful settlement between them, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday.

"Regrettably, what the United States and the European Union are now doing demonstrate little desire to help them reach an agreement but rather reveal their plans to win a foothold in the region, edge out Russia's legal interests and establish themselves as a force that will play a decisive role here," he said after a meeting of top diplomats from the member countries of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

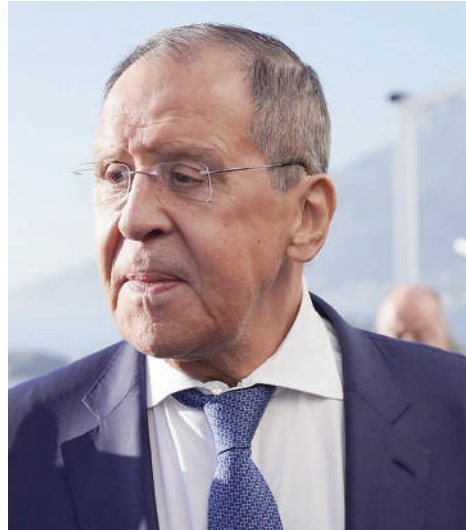
Such actions, in his words, reflect the

West's plans to reach regions that are located far from NATO and EU borders. "And this has little to do with any sincere desire to help stabilize the situation," he noted.

"Our partners both in Yerevan and in Baku, I hope, understand this. At least, we discuss the developments with them quite openly," he added.

"We are not against other international players trying their hand at mediation," he pledged, but warned, "the most important thing is to ensure that this mediation is geared toward agreements that reflect a balance of interests between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples, the Armenian and Azerbaijani states."

"Any agreements are only possible within the framework of the trilateral agreements



that were signed by the presidents of Russia and Azerbaijan, and the Armenian prime minister," Lavrov stressed.

He recalled that the groundwork for the normalization of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan was laid thanks to Russian President Vladimir Putin's personal involvement in November 2020, when the first trilateral statement on the settlement's principles was signed.

This statement was followed by several more top-level trilateral statements on various aspects of what efforts are needed to normalize the situation. "They are the unblocking transport corridors and economic relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and in the South Caucasus in general," he added.

Agencies

## Coast Guard: Titanic submersible searching detects sounds

CANADIAN aircraft detected underwater noises in the North Atlantic in the search for a tourist submersible that vanished while on a voyage to the wreck of the Titanic, the US Coast Guard said.

The discovery on Tuesday led search teams to relocate their underwater robotic search operations "in an attempt to explore the origin of the noises," the Coast Guard said in a series of tweets early on Wednesday.

The newly relocated searches by ROV (remotely operated vehicles) came up empty handed but will continue, the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard did not detail the nature or extent of the sounds that were detected, or how they were picked up.

But CNN and Rolling Stone magazine, citing internal US government communications, independently reported late Tuesday that banging sounds were detected by Canadian aircraft at 30-minute intervals in the search area.

Rolling Stone, the first to report the news, said the sounds were detected by sonar buoys deployed in the area "close to the distress position" and that additional sonar picked up more banging four hours later.

CNN cited a US government memo also as saying that additional sounds were heard about four hours after initial banging were detected, although the news channel said the second occurrence of noise was not described as banging.

"Additional acoustic feedback was heard and will assist in vectoring surface assets and also indicating continued hope of survivors," CNN quoted the updated government memo as saying.

It was not immediately clear if the news reports were based on the same source.

The Titan, operated by US-based OceanGate Expeditions, was built to stay underwater for 96 hours, according to its specifications - giving the five people aboard until Thursday morning before air runs out.

One pilot and four passengers were inside the miniature sub early on Sunday when it lost communication with a parent ship on the surface about an hour and 45 minutes into its two-hour dive.

## Search zone as big as connecticut

The wreck of the Titanic, a British ocean liner that struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage in April 1912, lies about 900 miles (1,450 km) east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and 400 miles (644 km) south of St John's, Newfoundland.

US and Canadian aircraft have searched more than 7,600 square miles of open sea, an area larger than the state of Connecticut, US Coast Guard Captain Jamie Frederick told reporters at a press conference on Tuesday.

A commercial vessel with a remote-controlled deepwater submersible was also searching near the site, Frederick said.

Separately, a French research ship carrying its own deep-sea diving robot vessel was dispatched to the search area at the request of the US Navy and was expected to arrive Wednesday night local time, the Ifremer research institute said.

Those aboard Titan for a tourist expedition that costs \$250,000 per person included British billionaire Hamish Harding, 58, and Pakistani-born businessman Shahzada Dawood, 48, with his 19-year-old son Suleman, who are both British citizens.

French explorer Paul-Henri Nargeolet, 77, and Stockton Rush, founder and CEO of OceanGate Expeditions, were also reported to be on board. Authorities have not confirmed the identity of any passenger.

Rescuers face significant obstacles both in finding the Titan and in saving the people aboard, according to experts.

In the event of a mid-dive emergency, the pilot would likely have released weights to float back to the surface, according to Alistair Greig, a marine engineering professor at University College London. But absent communication, locating a van-sized submersible in the vast Atlantic could prove challenging, he said.

The submersible is sealed with bolts from the outside, preventing the occupants from escaping without assistance even if it surfaces.

Agencies



US Coast Guard Captain Jamie Frederick speaks during a press conference about the search efforts for the submersible that went missing near the wreck of the Titanic, at Coast Guard Base in Boston, Massachusetts, on Tuesday. AFP

## China-invested industrial park brings tangible benefits to local communities in Indonesia

THANKS to the establishment of a China-Indonesia economic and trade cooperation zone, Bahodopi village in Morowali Regency, Central Sulawesi province of Indonesia, has turned from a small fishing village with just a few thousands of residents into a prosperous town with a population of more than 200,000, where row upon row of fruit, garment and grocery shops line the main street bustling with motorcycles and pedestrians.

The Indonesia Morowali Industrial Park (IMIP) project was signed under the witness of Chinese President Xi Jinping and

then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono when Xi was paying a state visit to Indonesia in October 2013.

The construction of the industrial park has brought the economic development of Morowali Regency onto a fast track.

Former speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Marzuki Ali noted that the IMIP vividly demonstrates the high-quality co-construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) between Indonesia and China, and it has brought tangible benefits to the local people.

Machines are always grum-

bling in the industrial park, where heavy-duty trucks, tower cranes and barges work in close cooperation in a well coordinated manner.

It is learned that some 40 enterprises have opened in the industrial park, which are mainly engaged in the nickel-iron, stainless steel and new energy vehicle battery material industries. The industrial park has grown into an important production base of stainless steel of the world, with total agreed investment of over \$15 billion.

"I've been working here for almost 10 years. Every day the

industrial park looks different," said Miss Marwati, an Indonesian employee with the comprehensive management department of the IMIP.

Marwati quit her job in Jakarta in 2013 after she learned that a China-invested industrial park would be built in her hometown. Today, she is already a key employee of the comprehensive management department, which she attributes to the broad platform offered by the IMIP and the assistance from her Chinese colleagues.

"I'll make every effort to do a good job and work with my colleagues to develop the industrial

park. I believe our life will only get better," she said.

Taslim, the head of Morowali Regency, noted that the regency owns rich resources of nickel mines, and the IMIP has turned these mines into projects that bring tangible benefits to the people.

According to him, the fiscal revenue of the regency has doubled since 2018 to reach 384 billion rupiah (\$25.6 million).

"With this money, we are allowed to expand our investment in education and public services to improve the living standard of the people," Taslim said.

While pursuing its own development, the IMIP is actively fulfilling its social responsibility. It has built 42 kilometers of medium-voltage power transmission lines that enables 24-hour power supply for surrounding villages, which put an end to the old days when sunset equaled to complete darkness in local communities. The industrial park helped local communities build kindergartens, middle schools, soccer pitches and vocational schools. Besides, it has also launched tree planting and coral reef transplanting and conservation activities, planting over 11 hectares of mangrove trees

and restoring more than 270 hectares of vegetation on mines.

Today, Morowali Regency is one of the most dynamic places in Indonesia when it comes to attracting investment and creating jobs.

The Sari Rasa Restaurant near the IMIP is a vivid example. It was still a small restaurant in 2018, but today it has turned into a gigantic complex comprising a ship-shaped giant log cabin whose facade is decorated with colorful wood carvings, a two-storey B&B hotel, a much bigger restaurant and a starred hotel under construction.

People's Daily



# G20 delegates perform Yoga on 9th International Yoga Day at Raj Bhawan in Goa

PANAJI

G20 delegates perform Yoga along with Goa Governor PS Shreedharan Pillai, Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, Minister of Tourism and Defence Ajay Bhatt on the occasion of International Yoga Day at Raj Bhawan in Goa yesterday.

While addressing the media, Goa Governor PS Shreedharan Pillai said, "The country achieved great success because more than 180 countries and we are observing this day. In the UN also our prime minister is participating. This is for the prosperity of the Indians."

"Concept of Vasudeva Kutumbakam is there. So, for PM Modi, for the unity of the country and for the unity of the entire universe, all creatures in the world, that is our concept that is spreading," he added.

He said, "This is very much helpful and international thinking that adhere the universe is one, that concept also is a good thing. And I am very happy that this time because of the G20 delegates from various countries they came all the way to Raj Bhawan and we can proudly say it's a perfect moment in our Raj Bhawan's life."

G20 delegates also shared their experiences and said yoga is good for

relaxing and focuses on the spiritual side.

Speaking with ANI, Dieter Janecek, Coordinator for Tourism from Germany said, "It's my first time experiencing here being in Goa and being part of a yoga session, and I really much appreciated that. It's very good for relaxing. It's bringing some sports to my body. And that's one thing I very much appreciate. So thank you very much."

"Well, this was my first time ever that I did some yoga sessions. So it was quite unusual but very fast could get into relaxation, and I liked the way it was introduced and so I think I will do it again", Janecek added.

Ji Eun Park, Republic Of Korea expressed her gratitude to the Indian government for organising the yoga event and said that she feel very honoured and privileged to practice yoga in India on the 9th International Yoga Day.

"I feel very honoured and privileged to practice yoga in India on this special day of International Yoga Day. So thank you to the Indian government for organizing this event. This is my first time practising yoga and it has been on my bucket list ever since I got here in India," she said while talking to ANI. "I want to emphasize that it has a spiritual side not only just focuses



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann along with AAP MP Raghav Chadha performs yoga during the CM's yogshala at the PAP grounds, in Jalandhar on Tuesday. ANI

on the body, but also on the mind. So that's something different from yoga everywhere else", she added.

Cameron MacKay, Canada's high commissioner in India said that he feels energetic and relaxed after performing yoga.

"I'm delighted to be here in Goa for the first time for the G20 Tourism ministers meeting. Today's International Yoga Day, of course, we

started off the day with a yoga session. Just a terrific way to begin the day. I'm feeling energetic and relaxed all at the same time. Thanks to yoga," he said while talking to ANI.

"Yoga is very popular in Canada, and I've certainly performed yoga in Canada as well and my wife is an even bigger fan," Mackay added.

Every year International Yoga Day is cel-

ebrated on June 21 worldwide. It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the numerous benefits of yoga and promote its holistic approach to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

ANI

# Dubai International Chamber opens new office in Johannesburg

DUBAI

DUBAI International Chamber, one of the three chambers operating under Dubai Chambers, today marked the official inauguration of its latest international office in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The new office further strengthens the UAE's growing trade links with Africa and will seek to boost the level of bilateral investments between Dubai and South Africa.

The Johannesburg office brings the chamber's total number of international representative offices to 21, five of which are located in Africa.

The opening further consolidates Dubai International Chamber's growing presence on the continent following the launch of representative offices in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Ghana.

These play a crucial role in facilitating trade and investment flows between Africa and Dubai, as well as unlocking opportunities for Dubai companies in African markets.

Dubai International Chamber will focus on providing comprehensive support to the South African business community and building strong relationships with key public and private sector stakeholders.

The team at the office will deliver on-ground assistance to South African companies seeking to enter the Dubai market and expand internationally through the emirate.

Mohammad Ali Rashed Lootah, President and CEO of Dubai Chambers, said, "The new office in Johannesburg is yet another example of our commitment to positioning Dubai favourably in Africa, strengthening trade links with this vital continent and unlocking two-way investments."

In line with our strategic priorities and the emirate's foreign trade plan, we are anticipating further growth in Dubai's non-oil trade with South Africa and other key African markets, together with increased strategic investments from businesses on both sides."

The UAE is the largest trading country and top host of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the MENA region, while South Africa is the UAE's top trading partner on the African continent and the second-largest FDI host in Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to Dubai Customs statistics, non-oil trade between South Africa and Dubai achieved year-on-year growth of 11.5 per cent in 2022 to reach a total of AED22.3 billion.

ANI

# Countries back contested EU nature law, seek more funding

LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN Union countries' environment ministers struck a deal on Tuesday over a landmark bill to restore deteriorating natural habitats after watering down parts of the proposal and agreeing to find more EU funding to restore damaged environments.

The EU proposal to turn around the ailing health of Europe's natural habitats - 81 percent of which are classed as in poor condition - has sparked a fierce political debate, with EU lawmakers and some governments opposing the bill and questioning whether the EU is piling too much environmental regulation onto industry.

EU countries backed the bill but only after the European Commission, the bloc's executive, agreed to propose EU financial support for measures to revive nature, if it were found to be needed.

Hungary, Italy and Romania were among the

countries seeking increased support, while Germany had opposed the creation of a new EU fund. Countries weakened parts of the Commission's original proposal.

One change would scrap an obligation to ensure that the health of mudflats, grasslands, forests and other habitats does not worsen, replacing it with an aim to "endeavour to put in place necessary measures" to prevent this. Another would weaken targets to revive drained peatlands at the request of countries including Ireland, where dried bogs are farmed upon and peat used as fuel.

Irish climate minister Eamon Ryan welcomed the compromise, saying it gave hope that "the destruction of nature is not an inevitable certainty", while avoiding restrictions that would prevent countries from developing their economies.

Still, the densely-populated Netherlands opposed the deal, having raised concerns it would slow the expansion of wind farms and other economic activities.



In this file photo dated Nov 14, 2022, a man takes a walk on a sunny autumn day the Tegel forest in Berlin. (PHOTO / AFP)

Sweden also opposed it. "We can't do everything at the same time and in the same limited space," Dutch

Nature Minister Christianne van der Wal said.

EU climate chief Frans Timmermans told reporters he was not worried by countries' tweaks to make

Political pushback

the law more flexible. But he criticized lawmakers in the European Parliament who are trying to block the law and are refusing to negotiate.

EU countries and the European Parliament must both approve the final bill.

"It makes me really sad that some are trying to draw climate policy to the culture wars. Because then you create sort of a tribal opposition. And once you get into a tribal opposition, facts don't matter," Timmermans said.

The EU Parliament's biggest lawmaker group is leading a campaign to reject the law, arguing that making more space for biodiversity-boosting features on agricultural land would threaten food production. More than 3,000 scientists have rejected those claims, but the law's future still looks shaky. A motion by EU lawmakers to reject the entire proposal last week failed by a razor-thin margin, ahead of a full EU Parliament vote in July.

ANI

# To create secure, peaceful environment for realising human rights

CHINESE President Xi Jinping recently sent a congratulatory letter to the Forum on Global Human Rights Governance.

Noting that China advocates safeguarding human rights through security, Xi (pictured) stressed the need to respect all countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity, jointly follow the path of peaceful development, act on the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and create a secure and peaceful environment for realizing human rights.

Xi's remarks profoundly expounded on the relations between security and human rights, and emphasized the significance of acting on the GSI for realizing human rights, offering a Chinese plan for maintaining a secure environment for safeguarding human rights.

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person, said the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Peace and security is the basic prerequisite for the promotion and protection of human rights. Without peace and security, all human rights cannot be realized.

At present, global human rights governance is facing severe challenges characterized by emerging threats against world peace and security. Regional security hotspots keep flaring up, local conflicts and



turbulence occur frequently, and traditional and non-traditional security threats are entwined.

At a time when humanitarian crises created by wars and conflicts are still troubling Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and other countries, a few countries are arbitrarily instigating confrontation, creating contradictions and intensifying conflicts, bringing new security threats to the world.

"Security is the precondition for development. We humanity are living in an indivisible security community," Xi said in a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2022 in April last year.

In the speech, he solemnly proposed the GSI, stressing that the world should stay committed to the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and work to create a new path to security featuring dialogue over confrontation, partnership over alliance and win-win over zero-sum. What he said has been broadly recognized and supported by the international community.

In February this year, China officially released the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper, which systematically explains the core ideas and principles of the GSI, and identifies the priorities, platforms and mechanisms of cooperation.

The GSI provides ideas for solving global security issues and demonstrates China's wisdom in improving global human rights governance through maintaining world peace and stability.

Ong Tee Keat, chairman of Malaysia-based think tank the Center for New Inclusive Asia, noted that the universal and inviolable value of human rights is being endlessly and severely tested in global governance today. He believes the GSI addresses both traditional and non-traditional security issues, and lays a foundation for building a new security framework.

It is China's distinctive aspiration to achieve lasting world peace, so that all countries can enjoy a peaceful and stable external environment and their people can live a happy life with their rights fully guaranteed.

China's efforts to implement the GSI and build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture are expected to create a more peaceful and secure environment for the world and ensure a realistic basis for protecting and realizing human rights.

On the Ukraine crisis, China always stands on the side of peace. Its core stance is to facilitate talks for peace. It advocates for jointly improving the humanitarian situation in the regions and has offered batches of humanitarian assistance.

The country has worked to help Saudi Arabia and Iran resume bilateral diplomatic ties, which has promoted reconciliation in the Middle East and offered a rare opportunity for alleviating humanitarian crises in Syria, Yemen and other countries.

China supports the peaceful reconstruction of Afghanistan, continues to assist within its capacity for the reconstruction and development of the country, and helps to solve Afghanistan's humanitarian and refugee issues.

These concrete actions to maintain world peace and stability demonstrate that China is a responsible major country in improving global human rights governance.

The common interest of all mankind is in a world united and peaceful rather than divided and volatile, which helps protect and promote human rights.

People's Daily

# Blinken meets Ukrainian Foreign Minister, underscores support for Kyiv's economic recovery

LONDON

UNITED States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, on Tuesday, met his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba in London during his visit to the UK and underscored Washington DC support for Kyiv's economic recovery.

In a statement, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, "Secretary of State Antony J Blinken met with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba today in London on the margins of the Ukraine Recovery Conference."

Secretary Blinken underscored the United States' support for Ukraine's economic recovery and the importance of continued close collaboration through the Multi-agency Donor Coordination Platform." Blinken also noted the US commitment to working with the private sector to enable Ukraine's modernization and revitalization.

"They discussed the need for Ukraine to continue to implement reforms in order to establish an environment for investment and sustained economic growth."

The Secretary briefed the Foreign Minister on his trip to the People's Republic of China and discussions with officials there about Russia's war in Ukraine. They also discussed the United States continued economic and energy support and security assistance for Ukraine," Miller added.

In a joint conference, according to the State Department, Blinken said that to support Ukraine, over 50 countries came together. The nations came ahead to "help Ukraine rebuild so much of what has been destroyed by the Russian aggression, to make sure it emerges from this aggression is not only successful on the battlefield but also successful in having a strong economy integrated with Europe, with investment coming in, and with

all of the necessary efforts being made to strengthen its democracy and to help it be inviting place for business - all of that is what we're here to work on, to talk about."

"And I think it's a demonstration with more than 50 countries, Dmytro, of the powerful and enduring support for Ukraine, not only militarily but also economically and also in everything we're trying to do to build the strongest possible democracy. So we're very pleased to be part of this and very pleased that Ukraine and our friends here are hosting this conference," he added.

In London, the Secretary is expected to attend the Ukraine Recovery Conference to help mobilize international support from the public and private sectors to help Ukraine recover from Russia's brutal and ongoing attacks. While there, he also met with counterparts from the United Kingdom, Ukraine, and other partners and allies.

ANI





# Five big moves that could happen for Simba SC, Yanga, and Azam FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

**T**HE 2022/23 campaign may have only just finished, but clubs are already preparing their transfer business ahead of the upcoming window.

Several high-profile transfers have already been agreed upon, including Feisal Salum 'Fei Toto's move to Azam FC.

Still, there are bound to be many more deals taking place between now and the end of the window.

Here are five big transfers that could happen in the coming weeks for the big three of Simba SC, Young Africans (Yanga), and Azam FC.

## \*Ranga Chivaviro - Marumo Gallants to Yanga

On the back of a splendid season, ending with the forward netting an impressive 17 goals from 29 games across the domestic league and the CAF Confederation Cup, Ranga Chivaviro has emerged as a hot property both in South Africa and abroad.

The well-built South African striker played a pivotal role in Marumo Gallants' run to the 2022/23 CAF Confederation semi-finals, producing a string of stellar displays and netting six goals in the process.

Yanga is being touted as a potential suitor, with the Jangwani Street side supposedly keen to bolster their attacking options.

Chivaviro's contract with relegated Marumo Gallants expires at the end of this month.

However, Chivaviro has been reported to have penned a pre-contract with another DStv Premiership club, Richards Bay, before becoming an instant hit though



South Africa's Marumo Gallants goal-getter, Ranga Chivaviro (L), is pictured avoiding a tackle by Tanzania's Yanga center-back, Dickson Job, as midfielder Stephane Aziz Ki offers support for Job when the outfits took on each other in the first leg of the 2022/23 CAF Confederation Cup last-four duel which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on May 10. Yanga defeated Marumo Gallants 2-0. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

his representative has vehemently denied it.

## \*Fabrice Ngoma - Al Hilal to Yanga / Simba SC / Azam FC

Political unrest in Sudan has halted professional football in the country forcing foreign players to consider moving away from prominent sides, Al Hilal and Al Merreikh, ahead of next season.

Fabrice Ngoma who joined Al Hilal in January is one of the players fleeing Sudan.

A week ago, it was reported Ngoma and Al Hilal have reached an agreement to part ways with immediate effect for the player to continue his career elsewhere, walking away from a lucrative three-year deal.

Yanga is purportedly willing to secure Ngoma's signature. However, with Kaizer Chiefs, Simba SC, and Azam FC also interested, who knows where the Congolese will end up?

## \*Makabi Lilepo - Al Hilal to Yanga / Simba SC / Azam FC

Makabi Lilepo was one of the standout strikers in the 2022/23 CAF Champions League Group Stage as he demonstrated his ability in front of the goal for Al Hilal.

It is no surprise he is coveted by many African clubs including the Tanzanian big three who are all trying to take advantage of the Sudan crisis.

The Congolese forward is another foreign player in talks to leave Al Hilal. Lilepo has a year remaining on his contract and will be targeting a place in the DR Congo squad for the 2023 African Cup of Nations slated for next year in Ivory Coast.

Simba SC, which pride themselves in having good relationships with Al Hilal have registered their interest in signing the Congolese striker, although figures have yet to be discussed.

Lilepo is also on Yanga and Azam FC's wishlist though his big wage is an issue all three clubs are mulling a way to cir-

cumnavigate with a loan deal being the preferred option.

## \*Che Malone Fondoh Junior - Coton Sport to Simba SC

Even though Cameroonian side Coton Sports was this season's CAF Champions League Group Stage whipping boys after losing all six games against Al Ahly, Al Hilal, and Mamelodi Sundowns, center-back Che Malone Fondoh Junior stood out as a rare bright spot in a poor campaign.

The 24-year-old Cameroonian defender is bound to join Simba SC. The deal is not yet complete and there remains work to be done but the expectation is that the Cameroon international will leave Coton Sports having played 68 times for them and won two Elite One titles and the FA Cup.

The fee between the two clubs is yet to be agreed upon but is not expected to be an issue which is why Simba SC has reportedly parted ways with Burkina Faso international Mohamed Ouattara.

Marlone comes as a direct replacement for Ouattara who was signed from Al Hilal at the start of the just-ended season.

## \*Milton Karisa - Vipers SC to Simba SC

Multiple reports suggest that Simba SC head coach Robert Oliveira 'Robertinho' has identified winger Milton Karisa as a potential target, and made no secret he would like to sign the Ugandan international.

Robertinho understands Karisa from his previous spell as Vipers SC head coach where the duo won the Uganda Premier League title in 2021/22.

Ideally, the player and the coach would want to reunite at Simba SC but that aspiration may come up against the reality of the amount Simba SC would be willing to buy out of his contract with Vipers SC.



Taifa Stars' Simon Msuva (front) shoots past Niger's defenders when they met in a 2023 Africa Cup of Nations Qualifiers' Group F tie at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. Taifa Stars won 1-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

# Serengeti upbeat about Taifa Stars qualification for 2023 AFCON finals

By Guardian Correspondent

TANZANIA's soccer fans, on Sunday, were thrilled after witnessing the senior national football team, Taifa Stars, notch a 1-0 win over Niger in a 2023 African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying tie that took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

It has moved Taifa Stars even closer to qualifying for the AFCON finals slated for next year in Ivory Coast.

The senior national football team which is being sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) is now one point away from qualifying for the AFCON showpiece.

The victory earned Taifa Stars seven points, making the team cling to second place in the Group F standing.

The win was received with cheer and excitement by soccer fans across the country, with high hopes of seeing the team qualify for next year's AFCON finals.

Football commentators commended the team for a good game, with the team's head coach Adel Amrouche praising his charges for putting in the good work during the match.

"We need a victory, and what my players have done is commendable because it was not an easy match because Niger also played well," Amrouche disclosed after the duel.

"Our focus is now for the last match against Algeria which is slated for September," the Belgo-Algerian coach added.

Taifa Stars' win over Niger can be attributed to the team's dedication and hard work.

Apart from having a talented team, the national team needed financial muscle for day-to-day operations such as players' salaries, coaches' payments, practices, and kits.

Realizing the importance for the national team to have financial security and focus on football, SBL has injected a whopping 5.1bn/- to sponsor Taifa Stars from 2017 when the beer manufacturer started supporting the Tanzanian national team.

Speaking of Taifa Stars' win and SBL's involvement with the national

football team, SBL Managing Director, Obinna Anyalebechi said seeing the win in person was not only thrilling but also encouraging for SBL.

Anyalebechi had turned up at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium to watch the nail-biting qualifier between Taifa Stars and Niger.

The SBL Managing Director stated it substantiates that the financial support towards the team went to a well-deserving team of dedicated football professionals.

"We have injected billions of shillings into sponsoring the Tanzania national football team, Taifa Stars, this was an initiative geared towards supporting the development of football in the country and when we see the team performs to this level where they are so close to qualifying for the continental championship," the SBL boss noted.

"It is encouraging and SBL as the sole sponsor of this team, we couldn't be prouder. At this point, we are quite upbeat about their performance and we are proud to have supported this team and football at large," Anyalebechi added.

Taifa Stars opened its campaign in the ongoing qualifiers promisingly, managing to notch a 1-1 draw with Niger at Stade de l'Amitié in Benin on June 4 last year.

The Tanzania squad, later, went down 2-0 to the group favourites, Algeria, at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on June 8 last year, before bouncing back in the third tie against Uganda.

The third clash witnessed Tanzania defeating Uganda 1-0 at Suez Canal Stadium in Egypt on March 24 this year.

Efforts by Tanzania to inch closer to qualification for the AFCON finals experienced a setback following the 1-0 loss to Uganda in the fourth duel that took place in Dar es Salaam on March 28.

Apart from sponsoring the football national team, SBL is also the sole sponsor of Mainland Tanzania's Women's Premier League, which is dubbed Serengeti Lite Women's Premier League.

# Lions cricketers notch first win in 2023 DC Division C League

By Guardian Reporter

LIONS C team edged Caravans D by three runs in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division C League clash which took place at Leaders Club in Kinondoni recently.

"It was a big win as Lions C had lost all its previous games and they were to blame in at least three of those games which should have been easy victories," Lions Cricket Club's Chairman, Atif Salim, revealed.

"Often in Division C teams are termed as not that serious but, for our Division C team, is the stepping stone for many youngsters whom we are developing in our academy," Salim noted.

Salim said: "We are very proud that we have three to four permanent players in our senior side now who have come from this development and we will continue to give chances to youngsters at the lower level to see how we can help them develop their game."

In a clash bringing together lowly positioned teams in the showdown, the Caravans D outfit elected to field after winning the toss, limiting Lions Cricket Club to 116/5 in the 20-over duel.

Caravans D team was all out to ensure Lions C hardly amass a convincing score, dismissing the latter's opener John David in the first eight overs, the promising cricketer managing to notch six runs.

The fellow opener, Mohamad Shabib, displayed his resilience and ended his stint with 37 runs whilst cracking six fours.

There were thereafter setbacks for Lions C as top-order performers Rehaan Atif and Salman Yasser could not last long, recording five and four runs respectively.



Cricketers making Lions C outfit in group picture when they took part in one of the recent 2023 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Division C League matches. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

Top-order cricketer, Rehaan Rafiq, attempted to improve the batting squad's total with solid knocks, which ended with the cricketer scoring 29 runs not out including four fours.

The cricketer ended his outfit's innings impressively, setting an unbeaten partnership with Chetan Borkhataria.

Borkhataria was also impressive once the cricketer went in, given the performer chipped in with 22 runs not out which included four fours.

Eleven extras given away by the Caravans D squad moreover to some extent boosted Lions C's score.

Kiran Madhu ended as the performer with the most wickets during the Caravans D team's turn with the ball, notching three wickets whilst leaking 12 runs in four overs.

Madhu ended with one maiden over his bowling stint, registering a 3.00 economy rate. Abhijit too had a notable contribution given the cricketer chipped in with two wickets giv-

ing away 21 runs in four overs.

In response, the Caravans D side batted with plenty of zeal seeking to successfully reach the 117-run target, they though could not live up to expectations after posting 113/9 in their 20 overs.

Caravans D squad's run chase experienced a knock during the early stages following the opening cricketers' early exits, leaving the side with less than 20 runs on the board.

Satheesh Kumar could only notch eight runs, making his way back once he was dismissed by Lions C's Borkhataria within the opening two overs.

Abhijit was David's victim, having been bowled by the youthful all-rounder after mere six shots.

The other top-order batsmen, Madhu and Vivek Goyal, ended with two-digit figures having recorded 11 runs apiece which slightly pushed the total.

Team captain Dhaneesh Dharmajan was the cricketer with significant contribution

in the chase, returning with 33 runs that included five boundaries.

The skipper's efforts boosted the Caravans D team's score to 85 runs in the 14th over, exiting after the performer was dismissed by Lions C's Salman Yasser.

Raneesh Ittipattavalappil and Rahul Nair also ended the batting stint with two-digit scores, notching 10 runs and 14 runs not out respectively as their team fought to stay within reach of a successful chase.

Rehaan Atif and David were the bowlers who orchestrated the Lions C outfit's successful attempt to foil the Caravans D team's fightback.

Atif ended his bowling stint with two wickets (nine runs), as was the case with David, the former posting a 4.50 economy rate.

Mohamad Shabib was voted the Best Player of the Match based on his impressive knocks which saw the cricketer register 37 runs.



## Mane strikes twice as Senegal beat Brazil in friendly

LISBON

SADIO Mane scored two goals as African champions Senegal came from behind to defeat Brazil 4-2 in an international friendly in Lisbon on Tuesday.

Five-time World Cup winners Brazil are still without a coach after the departure of Tite last year, while Neymar remains sidelined by an ankle injury suffered in February.

Lucas Paqueta headed the South Americans ahead from Vinicius Junior's cross 10 minutes in, but Senegal equalised through a thumping left-foot volley by Strasbourg forward Habib Diallo.

Marquinhos put Senegal ahead early in the second half when the Paris Saint-Germain defender inadvertently turned the ball into his own net.

Mane, who missed the World Cup with injury and endured a tough first season at Bayern Munich, added a third minutes later with a superb curling shot into the top corner.

Brazil halved the deficit when Marquinhos this time scored at the right end, looping a mishit effort over Senegal goalkeeper Mory Diaw.

But Mane wrapped up Senegal's victory deep into stoppage time as he grabbed his second goal of the game from the penalty spot.

AFP

## Harry Maguire among England players facing 'hugely important' summer

By Matt Law

GARETH Southgate believes England are facing a "hugely important" summer transfer window with as many as nine of his stars potentially on the move.

Harry Kane, Harry Maguire, Declan Rice, Mason Mount, Kyle Walker, Conor Gallagher, James Maddison and Kalvin Phillips have all been linked away from their current clubs.

Southgate has admitted that the players in his camp have been tapping each other up while on England duty, ahead of what promises to be a flurry of moves.

While some England players, such as Maguire, need moves to play more regularly ahead of next summer's European Championships, others are hoping to step up a level.

Phillips wants to stay at Manchester City, but the midfielder is an example of the risks players take when moving to a bigger club.

England's players finally completed their season with European Championship qualifying victories over Malta and North Macedonia, and can now focus fully on their futures.

"We have got a few players with a lot going on, really," said England manager Southgate. "They have managed to park that brilliantly in their period with us, but there are potentially quite a few moves this summer that would be hugely important for their own careers and for us."

"It's hard to know, especially with the league as it is at the moment, what is a good move. As a player, you are always going to back yourself and you are always going to try and make the best decision with the information you have got but every move comes with risk."

"You are going from an environment where you are doing well to an environment where new ideas, new training schedules, new tactical requirements so you might have to move house, your family might have to move so nothing is guaranteed."

"But, as a player, you definitely need and want to play and we have players who are good enough to play at the highest possible level. But in the biggest clubs there is also amazing competition for places and you have to accept that if you want to be at a big club, there is competition every week to play."

Maguire started both of England's games, despite spending last season out of favour at Manchester United, and Southgate said: "He is captain of an incredible football club so that is a difficult situation, he will obviously be frustrated not to play as much as he would like but I think he has handled that really well, he has publicly talked well about supporting the team."

Southgate gives backing to Sterling

Other than Phillips, Raheem Sterling, who has not played for England since the World Cup, is a player who suffered a tough season at a new club following a big-money move last summer.

Bukayo Saka, Marcus Rashford and Jack Grealish have moved ahead of him in England's pecking order, while he also faces pressure from James Maddison and Eberechi Eze.

Southgate, however, expects Sterling to bounce back at Chelsea and put himself in contention for a place in England's squad for next summer's Euros.

"He's a fighter," said Southgate. "What we know is he's scored an incredible amount of goals for us, important goals."

THE TELEGRAPH

# Africa Cup of Nations qualifying: Five talking points

JOHANNESBURG

**F**IVE-TIME Champions Cameroon will be among 16 teams chasing nine finals places in the last round of 2023 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying during September.

While only Egypt, with a record seven titles, have been more successful in the continental showpiece, Cameroon must win at home against Burundi to be certain of qualifying.

A draw would leave Cameroon, Burundi and Namibia level on points and goal difference in Group C and tie-breakers would come into play to decide which two countries go to the Ivory Coast.

Cameroon had a bye this month as Kenya were disqualified by FIFA before the first matchday last June due to government interference in the sport.

AFP highlights five talking points after the latest matchday, with 22 qualifiers delivering 52 goals and the number of qualifiers rising from seven to 15.

- Osimhen sparkles - Napoli star Victor Osimhen is the leading scorer in qualifying with seven goals, and there is the prospect of more to come from him when Nigeria host Sao Tome e Principe in the final round.

The leading scorer in the Serie A season with 26 goals as Napoli ended a three-decade title drought netted four times in a 10-0 away triumph over Sao Tome last June.

Sao Tome are ranked 184 in the world and have the worst defensive record in 2023 qualifying, conceding 20 goals.

- 'Homeless' struggle - Playing home matches on foreign soil was not a rewarding experience for the 11 countries that



Coach Baciro Cande has taken Guinea-Bissau to four consecutive Africa Cup of Nations tournaments. (Agencies)

had to do so in matchday five due to sub-standard stadiums or civil war.

Only Burundi, who do not have an international-quality venue and spectator facilities are among areas looked at.

- Guinea-Bissau transformed - Guinea-Bissau, for decades one of the weakest teams in the continent, have booked a fourth

Confederation of African Football official Lux September said "pitches, dressing rooms and spectator facilities are among areas looked at".

- Guinea-Bissau transformed - Guinea-Bissau, for decades one of the weakest teams in the continent, have booked a fourth

consecutive appearance at the biennial African football showcase.

After an unsuccessful first spell in charge of the 'Wild Dogs', local Baciro Cande returned as head coach in 2016 and transformed a side lacking any stars into consistent qualifiers.

The best known Guinea-Bissau footballer of the modern era is 20-year-old Barcelona forward Ansu Fati, but he chose to represent Spain after gaining citizenship.

- Beasts' tall order - The Central African Republic could qualify for the first time despite a 2-1 loss to Angola after having goalkeeper Dominique Youfeigane sent off midway through the second half.

But the 'Wild Beasts' must win their final-round match in Ghana to reach the finals -- a tall order given the star-laden 'Black Stars' boast a 100 percent home record in 2023 qualifying.

Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Lesotho, Sao Tome, Seychelles, Somalia and South Sudan are the other nations that have never played at the Cup of Nations.

- Perfect Algeria - Two-time champions Algeria are the only team boasting five victories heading into matchday six, and with a home match against Tanzania to come they are set to maintain a perfect record.

The Desert Foxes are seeking a second title in three Cup of Nations after edging Senegal 1-0 in the 2019 final in Cairo, before bowing out after the first round in the following edition.

Senegal have the second most impressive record with four wins and a draw and Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Nigeria and Zambia have all won four matches and lost one.

AFP

# Paris 2024 Olympics HQ searched in third consecutive Summer Games scandal

PARIS

FRENCH police searched the Paris Olympic organizers' headquarters on Tuesday as part of corruption investigations into contracts linked to the Games, according to prosecutors, the third straight time graft allegations have dogged a Summer Olympics.

The Paris organizing committee said in a statement that a search was carried out at its headquarters in the suburb of Saint-Denis and it was cooperating with investigators. It defended what it called "stringent procedures" around several hundred contracts it has awarded for the Games.

Tuesday's search and other related raids were linked to two preliminary investigations of the Paris Olympics, according to an official with the financial prosecutor's office, who was not authorized to be publicly named according to office policy. One probe was opened in 2017 - the year Paris was picked by the International Olympic Committee as the 2024 host - and the other began last year.

Neither investigation had been made public until Tuesday.

Corruption allegations have hung over the world's biggest sporting event many times - from accusations surrounding how the Games were awarded to how contracts for construction, sponsorship and team services were handed out.

Accusations of vote buying linked to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and the Tokyo Games in 2021 led to the removal of several members of the IOC. Scandals around the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Games led to reforms that limited IOC members' contact with candidate countries, though did not entirely remove the scope for corruption.

But Paris 2024 had

gone to lengths to prove it would be different. The biggest event France is hosting in decades, the Games are being billed as a celebration of openness after two Olympics closed off by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as an example of democratic celebration after two World Cups tainted by human rights concerns in Qatar and Russia.

The organizers and Paris city hall have stressed a spirit of transparency and social justice - including planning an opening ceremony outdoors along the Seine River that will be free for up to half a million people. The Games are scheduled for July 26-Aug. 11, 2024.

Saccage 2024, an anti-Olympics group that argues that the Games cause widespread ecological and social damage, said it was "very pleased" the raids took place.

"For us, an event of Olympic proportions cannot be held without corruption," the group said in a statement. "It's the size of the event that makes it necessary, whatever the country."

The probe opened in 2017 is looking into suspected embezzlement of public funds and favoritism, and concerns about an unspecified contract reached by Paris organizers, the prosecutor's office said.

The 2022 investigation



FILE - The Olympic rings are set up in Paris, France, Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 at Trocadero plaza that overlooks the Eiffel Tower, a day after the official announcement that the 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be in the French capital. An IOC inspection team has given a resounding thumbs-up to Paris' preparations for the 2024 Olympic Games. The IOC said Wednesday that Paris organizers are where they should be in their planning with 415 days to go before the opening ceremony. (AP Photo)

about cost overruns and potential white-elfant venues, Paris bid leaders insisted during their campaign for hosting rights that their project was in line with IOC recommendations encouraging the use of existing facilities and infrastructure to save money.

More than 70% of the proposed venues in the Paris bid were existing facilities, with a further 25% being temporary structures. But the overall budget, including the cost of building and renovating venues, is about 8 billion euros (\$8.2 billion) and has already gone up from its original estimate, in part because of high inflation.

The runup to the 2024 Games has seen turmoil in French sports.

Just last month, the president of the French Olympic Committee resigned following a period of intense infighting.

Also, Noël Le Graët resigned as president of the French soccer federation in February after a government audit found he no longer had the legitimacy to lead because of his behavior toward women and his management style. Bernard Laporte resigned as president of the French Rugby Federation in January after he was convicted of corruption and illegally acquiring assets and handed a suspended prison sentence.

Last October, Claude Atcher was fired as chief executive of the Rugby World Cup. That event opens in France in September, and also will serve as a test of France's security preparations for the Olympics. Atcher's removal followed an investigation by French labor inspectors into his workplace conduct.

The IOC said in a statement that it was informed by the organizers that they are cooperating with authorities. It did not comment further.

The raids unfolded as the IOC executive board began a two-day meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

IOC president Thomas Bach told reporters early Monday the meeting "of course will be about Paris, where we have some good news after the visit of the coordination mission and after my visit to France, to President Macron, and also the organizing committee."

Paris was awarded its Olympics six years ago - and at the same time the IOC also rewarded its only remaining bid rival, Los Angeles, with the 2028 Summer Games.

Avoiding a contested vote removed the scope for vote-trading and bribery in a process that has since changed again to effectively shut down public campaigning. Brisbane was picked two years ago as the 2032 Summer Games host after being pre-selected by the IOC to get exclusive negotiating rights.

With the IOC hugely sensitive

AP

**Gwiji** by David Chikoko

WASWAHILI SAY 'KUMPIGA CHURA TEKE...'

ADDED MILEAGE

ADDED C.V.

...KICKING A FROG...



# SPORT

**Africa Cup of Nations  
qualifying: Five talking  
points**

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Singida Fountain Gate FC's Ugandan left-back Shafik Batambuze. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SINGIDA FOUNTAIN GATE FC

## Ugandan defender weighs in on NBC Premier League's achievement

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SINGIDA Fountain Gate FC left-back Shafik Batambuze has broken his silence on why the NBC Premier League is miles ahead Uganda Premier League in recent years.

The 29-year-old roving left-back, that is as well a member of Uganda Cranes, disclosed that the StarTimes Uganda Premier League has moderately improved over the years, but there is a need to go a step higher like other leagues, especially the Mainland Tanzania Premier League.

"Tanzania's league has been on the rise, unlike our (Uganda) league has improved over the years, but I think it still has a few things they have to iron out for the league to blossom like some clubs fulfilling their contractual obligations with players," Batambuze noted.

The footballer noted: "If all clubs paid players on time, supported them to regain their fitness after injuries, and also the Government provided more facilities, it would go a long way because that's the difference with other top leagues."

In February 2023, the International Federation of Football History and Statistics (IFFHS) ranked the Mainland Tanzania Premier League as the fifth strongest league on the continent, coming before Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, and Sudan.

South Africa's Premier Soccer League came in sixth, while Angola, Tunisia, Nigeria, and Zambia completed the top 10 list accordingly.

Batambuze had featured prominently for Singida Fountain Gate FC as the club finished in fourth place in NBC Premier League.

The club also reached the semi-finals of the Azam Sports Federation Cup and lost to compatriot Khalid Aucho's Young Africans SC, alias Yanga.

"We did well last season, our first in the Tanzanian top flight, also credits Ugandan coaches Mathias Lule and Steven Billy Kiggundu for their effort during the season," he disclosed.

"I also felt good working with my Ugandan coaches, who did a great job, we are now going to play continental football which is huge," he noted.

Mathias Lule, the former Mbeya City FC head coach, and Uganda Cranes assistant coach, serves in the same capacity at Singida Fountain Gate FC, while Steven Kiggundu Billy is the goalkeeping coach.

Singida Fountain Gate FC will be making its CAF Confederation Cup debut next season, starting in the preliminary stages of the competition.

They also have the semi-finals of the Community Shield before the start of the league as the Premier League and the Azam Sports Federation Cup await next season.

# Flashnet Pak Stars seals thrilling victory over Azania Bank Upanga SC in 2023 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup



Flashnet Pak Stars' cricketer, Muhammad Bilawal (L) receives the Colourflex Man of the Match award from Anoop S. Kumar, CEO of Petrofuel, following the 2023 Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament's Super4s tie between the outfit and Azania Bank Upanga SC last Sunday. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CARAVANS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

FLASHNET Stars emerged victorious against Azania Bank Upanga SC in a closely contested tie of this season's Petrofuel Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup Super4s at the Leader's Club on Sunday.

After having won the toss and elected to field first, Flashnet Pak Stars were hoping to restrict their opponents to a manageable total.

The decision proved effective as they managed to keep the Azania Bank Upanga SC's batsmen in check in the gripping encounter.

Azania Bank Upanga SC had a shaky start to their innings, losing opener Kishen Kamania for a duck after facing just three deliveries.

The other opener Yelda Reddy tried to settle the nerves early on by scoring a commendable 35 runs off 30 balls.

However, Mukesh Mukech was the cricketer who played a crucial role in steadying the ship for Azania Bank Upanga SC.

Mukesh contributed a vital 52 runs off 34 deliveries, providing the much-needed impetus to their innings.

With his innings, Azania Bank Upanga SC managed to post a total of 147 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in their allotted 20 overs.

For Flashnet Pak Stars, Muhammad Bilawal, Muhammed Mudasser, and Basit Raza stood out with the ball, each picking up two wickets.

Their disciplined bowling efforts restricted Azania Bank Upanga SC from posting a more challenging total.

In their pursuit of the target, Flashnet Pak Stars also struggled to establish substantial partnerships, losing wickets at regular intervals.

Zafar Khan showed signs of getting into the groove with a quickfire 28 runs off 14 balls before falling victim to Suraj Pala's bowling.

As the game appeared to be slipping away from Flashnet Pak Stars, Zamoyoni Ramadhani delivered a solid performance, providing his side with a glimmer

of hope.

Ramadhani's unbeaten knock of 45 runs off 42 deliveries held the innings together and kept Flashnet Pak Stars in contention and earned him the Rickshaw Game Changer of the Match award.

With the match hanging in the balance, Muhammad Bilawal stepped up to the challenge for Flashnet Pak Stars.

Bilawal remained unbeaten, guiding his team to victory on the very last ball of the innings by scoring a boundary.

He accumulated 29 runs off 16 deliveries, ensuring the successful chase for his team and earning himself the Colourflex Man of the Match award.

Flashnet Pak Stars finished their innings with a total of 148 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in their allotted 20 overs.

For Azania Bank Upanga SC, Suraj Pala and Asuri Rajendra picked up two wickets each, but their efforts fell short in the end as Flashnet Pak Stars clinched the thrilling win.

The match showcased the unpredictable nature of T20 cricket, with both teams fighting fiercely until the last ball.

Flashnet Pak Stars displayed resilience and determination in chasing down

the target, while Azania Bank Upanga SC put up a valiant effort with the bat.

The game provided the spectators with a roller-coaster of emotions, adding to the excitement of the Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup.

The Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup is an annual T20-formatted cricket competition organized by Caravans Cricket Club.

Petrofuel is the title sponsor of the showdown. Other sponsors include Alliance Insurance, Colourflex, TATA Africa Holdings, ASAS, Rickshaw Travels, RAS Logistics, Pepsi, e-Parking, Remax, Flashnet, and Aurobindo.

Others are Azania Bank, Jiuzhou, All Season Hotel, General Petroleum, UMC International, Automark, Hisense, Oman Air, Ashton Media, Mo Assurance, Aucom & Harmonic, and Car & General.

Horizon Teleports, Aone Bottlers, Samsonite, Bank of India, Canara Bank, Euro Cables, VL Smart Solutions, Mobidoc, GI Logistics, Delta Africa, The Works, and Tanzania Assurance wind up the sponsors' list.

Alliance Caravans lifted the 2022 Petrofuel DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's trophy following the outfit's four-wicket drubbing of Aurobindo Aga Khan SC in the final.

## Aucho expresses gratitude after receiving Player of the Year prize

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA's Ugandan midfielder Khalid Aucho has finally received his 256 Footballer of the Year award for the previous season, months after being voted as the season's prize winner.

To receive the coveted accolade, the colossus midfielder, also Uganda's Cranes assistant captain, beat Mamelodi Sundowns goalkeeper Dennis Onyango and Vipers SC talisman Yunus Sentamu.

Aucho, a top contender for the award this year, has had a career renewal since joining Yanga after an unsuccessful attempt in Egypt.

"It's an honour to receive this award, it's evidence that my hard work is being seen and recognized," Aucho said.

"I really would like to thank my fans in Uganda and at Yanga for voting me the best player, I can only promise to repay them with more work," the footballer noted.

"Last year, as a team we worked hard and won a lot. We have done the same thing and hopefully, I can win the award again," Aucho added.

Aucho had a hugely successful 2022 with his side, Yanga as he steered them to the 2021/22 Mainland Tanzania Premier League, the Com-



Khalid Aucho. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

munity Shield, and the Azam Sports Federation Cup.

He repeated the feat in the preceding season with Yanga, which also had them making it to the final of the CAF Confederation Cup for the first time in history.

Previously, the award was clinched by midfielder Allan Okello in 2019, fullback Nicholas Wadada in 2020, and midfielder Taddeo Lwanga in 2021.

This year, following Pulse Sports Uganda's acquisition of the Football 256 prize, the award will be rebranded for the forthcoming editions.

The award recognizes outstanding Ugandan players that trade their game in and out of the country.

In another development, Simba SC has parted company with Nigerian defensive midfielder Victor Akpan after one season at the club.

Since joining Simba SC, Akpan could not secure regular playing time, having signed a two-year deal at the club last season.

The midfielder was sent on loan to another Premier League team, Ifehu SC, for the remainder of the season.

The Msimbazi Street club has, via its website on Monday afternoon, insisted that Akpan will not be part of the team next season.

He is, therefore, the second foreign player to have publicly said farewell ahead of the upcoming action-packed campaign after Ghanaian Augustine Okrah left last week.

Akpan signed for Simba SC from Coastal Union on a deal worth 100m/- after his stellar performance with the Tanga-based team.

In Akpan's stint at Coastal Union, the midfielder played a vital role in the club's progression to the 2021/22 Azam Sports Federation Cup final and played against Yanga.

In one of the Nigerian midfielder's memorable showings for Coastal Union, the footballer scored through a spectacular, long-range strike when the team faced Simba SC in a 2021/22 Premier League duel that saw the midfielder's club lose 2-1.

The Nigerian midfielder made it clear that he does not intend to go out on loan again after he lost his place last season.

He landed at Simba SC as a second signing after the signing of Zambian striker Moses Phiri from Zanaco FC.

However, Simba SC recently announced making several adjustments to the club to make it competitive in the 2023/24 season.

A strong squad will help the Msimbazi Street squad do well in the approaching CAF Super League clashes and domestic competitions.

With the club's official statement pending, some names of the side's foreign players put on the list of players set to be offloaded are Ismail Sawadogo, Nelson Okwa, and Mohamed Ouattara.

Ouattara is now a free agent and will soon decide his destination. After failing to impress in his short stint at Simba SC, Sawadogo has left the club and would not be part of the squad next season.

Both parties feel the need not to continue their working relationship together.

Okwa's failure to impress on loan at Ifehu SC will also end his tenure with his parent club.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

A GOOD CLIENT  
CAN EASILY  
BECOME A FRIEND

...BUT A FRIEND  
MAY NOT END UP  
TO BE A GOOD CLIENT

